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AYCLIFFE REME SOLDIERS SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN



BATTALION WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

102 Battalion The Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (REME) has won the Gardiner Trophy for 2010. The trophy is awarded to the REME TA Battalion that has put in the best performance during the year; categories include fitness for operational role, recruiting and retention, technical ability, trade qualifications and equipment husbandry. The trophy was inaugurated in 1987 by Mrs Norma Gardiner to commemorate the service of her late husband Colonel Derek Gardiner. Derek was a man who gave a great deal to the Territorial Army (TA). He was held in high regard by all who knew him and was renowned for his keen sense of humour and esprit de corps. Competition for the trophy is fierce and the unit that wins can certainly be proud to have done so. 102

Battalion is certainly a unit that everyone can be proud of, not least the soldiers who have helped to make it to the elite REME TA Battalion in the British Army. The Battalion plays a large part in supporting the regular REME units. The trophy was last won by the Battalion in 2005. This year 11 members of the Battalion are serving on operations supporting 1 (CS) Battalion REME in Afghanistan. A further 23 have volunteered to deploy

with 2 Battalion REME when they complete their Afghanistan tour in 2011. If you would like to become part of this outstanding team, learn valuable trades, leadership skills, have fun weekends away and get paid, then call Captain David Hamilton (Telephone: 01325 375012) or visit the Aycliffe Armoury on Northfield Way any day of the week or on a Tuesday evening between 7.30pm and 9.30pm.

PETITION TO SAVE SHAFTO HOUSE

Durham County Council have acknowledged receipt of over 3000 signatures from Newton Aycliffe residents petitioning the retention of Shafto House Care Home. The petition has been formally accepted as part

of the consultation process which is now at an end. We now await the decision of the Cabinet meeting scheduled for July. The meeting was perhaps carefully chosen to gauge the impact of Government cuts on Council spending which could affect the final decision.

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ARMED FORCES DAY



Newton Aycliffe showed its support for our Armed Forces by flying the flag at the War Memorial outside St. Clares Church. Our Mayor Dorothy Bowman accompanied by her Grandson Consort helped raise the Union Jack watched by members of the British Legion. The flag raising ceremony was carried out throughout the U.K. to indicate public support for all those serving their country in the armed forces.

NEW ENFORCEMENT RULES GOOD NEWS FOR TENANTS

Durham County Council is set to launch a new enforcement policy aimed at raising standards in private sector housing. The council's Cabinet (June 16) is being asked to approve a report which will provide more protection and higher housing standards for tenants and clear direction over the rights of the home owner. Head of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection, Joanne Waller, explains how it will work, "The policy sets out how the Council will enforce relevant housing legislation in a way that offers a better balance between the rights of landlords and the need to provide residents with homes which are safe, healthy and up to modern standards. "We already have a wide range of enforcement powers and this is all about consolidating those and ensuring a fair, consistent and transparent approach." Statutory enforcement powers available to address issues relating to private sector housing standards and conditions include: ENSURING the health and safety of occupants SECURING empty properties and dealing with dangers to public health REMOVING accumulations of refuse and other public health nuisance DEALING with disrepair and dilapidated properties IMPROVING the appearance of derelict buildings and land OVERCROWDING, filthy and verminous premises

LICENSING of houses in multiple occupation TACKLING certain anti social behaviour e.g. statutory nuisance. Environment Cabinet Member, Cllr Bob Young, says it's important everyone understands the powers the authority has, "Many of the enforcement powers allow us step in and carry out works in default, where the owner fails to do so within the required time period, and we can then recover those costs from the owner. "Cabinet is being asked to approve applying a reasonable charge of £225.00 for certain types of enforcement actions including improvement notices, prohibition orders, hazard awareness notices, emergency remedial action, emergency prohibition orders and demolition orders issued under the Housing Act 2004. "It is only right and fair that council tax payers don't have to bear the burden of dealing with these issues and introducing charges should encourage owners and landlords to adopt a proactive approach to the maintenance and repair of their properties quickly." The council believes effective and efficient use of the appropriate enforcement tools will improve housing standards and protect the safety, health and welfare of occupiers. That higher standards of housing, particularly in the private rented sector will: - FACILITATE longer and more stable tenancies AVOID properties becoming empty for long periods and becoming a target for anti social behaviour IMPROVE community spirit

BECKHAM MEETS AYCLIFFE TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN



Aycliffe based soldiers serving in Afghanistan are used to receiving visitors in Camp Bastion. Politicians (recently Mr Cameron), entertainers, celebrities and just occasionally the odd sports personality are all infrequent visitors to Camp Bastion in Helmand Province. Lance Corporal Owen Tullan of 102 Battalion REME (V) which has its Headquarters in The Aycliffe Armoury could not believe his eyes when he bumped into David Beckham during a surprise visit to theatre in the last week of May. Owen is one of 11 soldiers from 102 Battalion REME (V) who is supporting 1 (CS) Battalion REME normally based in Catterick, but now completing a 6 month tour in Afghanistan. Owen said, "I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw David, he was absolutely brilliant with the guys and was really interested

in seeing the kit and finding out what we are doing here." The TA soldiers are now half way through their tour and have been extremely busy servicing the wide range of vehicles and equipment used in theatre, including the Army's Mastiff and Ridgeback vehicles which replaced the older and more controversial "Snatch" landrover last year. 102 Battalion REME (V) are proud to support the regular army and already a further 23 TA soldiers have volunteered to support 2 (CS) battalion REME when they deploy on operations in 2011. If you are interested in finding out more about TA service with REME (V) then why not drop in and see us between 9 am and 4 pm Mon - Fri at the Aycliffe Armoury, or ring Captain David Hamilton on 01325 375012 for an information pack.

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MARATHON CHARITY EFFORT

Two members of Newton Aycliffe running club braved the blazing heat to raise money for two different charities on Sunday 23rd May. Making her debut in the field of marathon running, Catherine Lowden, put her 6 months training to the test. Facing heat of 78F she battled her way through the scenic sights of Edinburgh and raised £100 for Guide Dogs for the Blind. She crossed the line in 5hrs and 59mins. Penny Johnson tackled the route for the second time and was just outside her target time with 4 hours 23mins. She raised £500 for Epilepsy Research UK. Dave MacKenzie, (O60) faced his first race for nearly 6 months.

He too faced blistering heat on 23rd May in Hull. He took part in the Hull 10K, which is part of the Jane Tomlinson series. The weather proved more of a challenge than expected and Dave crossed the line in an all time worst time of 57.42!! NAAC runners were out in force over the bank holiday weekend at Raby Castle. Many preferred the 5K than the 2 lap 10K course, and conditions were better for running even though the course was quite challenging. Ever improving Craig Robinson gained a 5K PB with 29.13 and was first home for the club.

Other results as follows: Lynn Gibson 30.38 Tracey McKenna 31.27 Colin Gibson 31.45 Hilary Know3 35.26. The 10k route was tackled by nearly 400 runners this year and first home for NAAC was Martyn Knox with an excellent time of 47.46, closely followed by Simon Robinson 48.57 Trish Kay 52.29 Michelle Scott 55.17 and Gareth Richardson 55.21. If you would like to catch the running bug and want an event to kick start you, then come to Newton Aycliffe 10K and Fun Run on Sunday 20th June. All event details can be found on newtonaycliffeac.org.uk

New Vision for Libraries

Library users are to have their say about a new vision for Durham County Council's library service. A new draft library strategy has been drawn up which aims to create a dynamic and exciting service that is open, flexible and modern. Service users, professional bodies such as the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and the Society of Chief Librarians, as well as potential partners in health, will be included in the consultation on the vision and six aims. The consultation will run through July and August. The draft strategy, which will be considered by Durham County Council's Cabinet on Wednesday, June 16, has six main aims - TO inspire a community of reading and learning TO create community libraries that are centres for community and social activities TO be modern and responsive TO improve access through innovation and technology TO have partnerships at the core of service delivery TO have a well managed and efficient service The County Council's libraries currently stock 750,000 books and over 14,000 talking books. During 2009-10, 3,393,167

books were borrowed, 154,477 non-book items were issued, 592,451 computer sessions were facilitated and 356,509 requests for items were handled. The service has 284,505 registered customers and handled over one million inquiries in the last year. A report to Cabinet says that following the consultation, the draft strategy will be brought back to Cabinet next October with details of any proposed changes.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL
Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings
of the Town Council and its Committees
Wednesday 7th July 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.
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FROM OUR MAN IN PARLIAMENT

The Budget on June 22nd will cost jobs. The Government is cutting too far and too quickly. We all agree that the deficit needs to be cut, but it needs to be done in a way which is both credible and fair.

The Government's newly created quango, the Office of Budget Responsibility has said under Labour's plans growth would be greater than under George Osborne's budget proposals. Growth is important because with it comes more jobs and higher tax revenues.

The Liberal Democrat Conservative government keeps saying we are all in this together, but payments to those receiving benefits including tax credits are to be cut by £11 billion, while the bankers, who created the problems we are facing will only pay £2 billion. Labour raised more under its tax on bankers.

And then of course there is the increase in VAT from 17.5% to 20%. Cameron said during the election that he had "absolutely" no plans to increase VAT. Nick Clegg said

VAT was a Conservative secret tax they would introduce in Government. How right he was. Only he and the Liberal Democrats are helping the Conservatives to introduce the VAT hike which will raise £13 billions. VAT is a regressive tax, which means those paid the least pay the most. The Conservatives introduced the tax in the 1970s and have increased it on several occasions since then.

We all agree that the deficit is cut, Labour's plan would have cut the deficit in halve over 4 years, but not before ensuring growth in the economy was locked in. The argument with the Government is not over cutting the deficit it is about how and when.

But I believe the one lesson voters have learned since the election is vote Liberal Democrat and you end up with the Conservative. It was something I warned people on the doorstep about during the election and unfortunately it has happened. How can the Liberal Democrats be trusted again? Phil Wilson M.P.

Activities at St. Mary's School



St. Mary's School children have been taking part in Green Week where they have planted flowers in tubs outside their classrooms as an extension of the school garden and taking part in activities to learn about

our world, how we can take care of it, and how we can improve our school environment. The week culminated in Class 4 presenting an assembly on Friday 18th June, our Green Day. They showed us ways

we can recycle and save water, and how important plants and trees are to our world. All the children were invited to wear something green, from hair ribbons, socks to jumpers for a small donation.

The money raised will be sent to Greenfingers charity who create magical gardens for children who have to spend time in hospices. It was through this charity that we won our Butterfly Border for our school garden. Many thanks to everyone who has made a square for St. Mary's Jubilee Quilt. May I please have all finished squares delivered to St. Mary's Meeting Room at the back of church as soon as possible please, and no later than Wednesday 21st July. Our meetings are still going ahead on Wednesday's 1.00-3.00pm and we need to start arranging the squares to sew together. We hope to continue the sewing group and take part in other projects in September. Please feel free to come along on Wednesdays. If anyone is unable to deliver their square please contact me, Mrs Catherine Clausen, at St. Mary's School, 300339, and I'll arrange to pick your square up. Thank you.

Amateur Actors Wanted!

Following the success of the play 'Kissing Sid James' at St. Clare's Church, Stage One Productions will be holding auditions for their next production 'A Kick In The Bables' which is a festive comedy play by local playwright Gordon Steel.

Producer and Director William Gibson is looking to complete the casting for this NEW and exciting comedy play that might just jingle your bells!

Auditions will take place on Sunday 18th July at St. Clare's Church. To audition please register by calling 01325 324932 or download a form from www.stage-one-productions.co.uk

SURGERY MANAGER MICK RETIRES



Mr Mick McDermott left the Bewick Crescent surgery after 20 years of service. Some of Mick's highlights' included computerising the surgery and winning an award for investors in people. He will be sadly missed by colleagues and has already taken up some new hobbies - bowling and painting. Photo shows Dr Ferguson presenting Mick with a new watch.

The new practice manager Mrs Helen Hobson joined 8 weeks ago and has had a 5 week handover period with Mick. She hopes to bring in the use

of new technology such as on line prescription ordering to help patients receive an improved service. Her first priority is to improve the appointments system so that patients are not having to phone up before 9am.

Helen has two children and lives in Barnard Castle where she previously worked for GSK, she has a degree in applied biology and is thoroughly enjoying the challenges the new role brings. She wants to re-establish the patient forum meetings and understand more fully the needs of the patients in today's world!

COME ABOARD 'HMS PINAFORE'

Escape from World Cup mania and come along to Greenfield to see some live theatre with period costumes, colourful scenery and a full orchestra.

Aycliffe Musical Theatre supported by past and present members of Opera Nova will perform Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera HMS Pinafore in Greenfield Arts and Community Centre on Wednesday 30th June, Friday 2nd and Saturday

3rd July commencing at 7.30pm. Tickets £7 (under 12's £3.50) available from the Arts Centre on 01325 379048 or from Trevor Fenwick on 01325 318968.

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Better Consultation with County Council

A new framework for consulting local people has been drawn up to ensure all communities in County Durham can have a voice.

Durham County Council's Cabinet is to consider a new consultation and engagement strategy which sets out key changes to the way in which the council consults with communities when it meets next week. (June 29)

Over the last year, the council has given the highest profile to setting up 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) across the county which are now setting local priorities for action and providing a local contact point for residents to raise neighbourhood issues.

The council wants to ensure that consultation is carried out well and is purposeful, is co-ordinated and of a consistently high standard to enable it to respond to the needs of local people and provide the most efficient services.

Five objectives of the new framework are –
TO ENSURE there is a clear understanding of, and commitment to, consultation and engagement

VIEWS OF local people are used to set priorities and influence policy and decision making

THAT consultation is inclusive, well co-ordinated, achieves good value for money and meets high quality standards

PROVIDE clear and timely

feedback
ACHIEVE continuous improvement by learning from the evaluation of all significant consultation

"In the first year of the new unitary council, improvements have taken place resulting in a significant increase in the number of ways it is giving more influence to local people," said Gordon Elliott, the county council's head of partnerships and community engagement. "We recognise, particularly in times of financial restraint, that we need to improve continually and ensure that local people are fully engaged in the way we plan and deliver services."

New Indian Restaurant

Dear Editor,
Following your front page article on the new Indian Restaurant at St. Elizabeth's Close, Woodham, my wife and I decided to give it a try in the early evening of Tuesday 22nd June. We enjoy Indian food and found an interesting menu with some adventurous and new (to us) dishes. The welcome was warm, the premises spotlessly clean with nice furniture and tableware.

The service was excellent and the prices fair. We shall be returning and we can thoroughly recommend it to your readers. Daedalus.

Fathers' Day on the Run!

What a way to spend Father's Day! Many people gathered on Sunday 20th June in Newton Aycliffe for the annual 10k and Fun Run Event.

Now in it's 13th year, this fast and flat 3-lap course on the outskirts of Newton Aycliffe still attracted hundreds of runners.

With the route accurately measured and clearly marked, many spectators turned out to cheer on the runners during the warm Sunday morning.

First race of the day was the 3K Fun Run. The youngsters and their families were taken round the course by lead bike, George Reid, a coach from NAAC. The gently undulating course took the children through woodland and underpasses.

The winner, William Crossen, (u16) crossed the line in 11.37. He was running second for NAAC along with fellow runner Henry Johnson, (u13) a pleasing run with second place in 12.09.

The boys were closely followed by Ross Lathan



in 12.15. First girl over the line was Bridie Grayson with 15.06 (u13). Attacking the field was Lucy Postle (u10) with 2nd place in 16.00. Third girl place was taken by Megan Woodward (u10) with 17.14. All the 279 runners enjoyed a bumper filled goodie bag and a T shirt to mark the occasion, with the final runner crossing the line in 37.20, Matthew Cowling (u10).

All the competitors enjoyed a well deserved t shirt and goodie bag sponsored by 3M from Newton Aycliffe. Refreshments went down a storm and many fathers



seemed to enjoy their day. Thank you to all the race organisers and those people behind the scenes without whom the race would not have been so successful.

Good Service for Client in Australia

Dear Sir,
I would greatly appreciate it if I could share my sincere expression of gratitude, through The Newton News to Paul Dent proprietor of Aycliffe Cleaning Services for the excellent service he has provided.

I reside in Sydney, Australia and own a rental property in Newton Aycliffe which I manage privately. Not having an agent can leave me stuck when problems arise.

A tenant vacated my property earlier this year, leaving it in an appallingly dirty & derelict condition. Aycliffe Cleaning Services undertook the responsibility of a full refurbishment of the property; they supplied me with a realistic time frame and costing for all

labour and materials.

I would like to congratulate Paul for all his help and hard work in completing the dreaded task within the timeframes and with no extra expenses incurred! He also gave comprehensive feedback via telephone, photographs and email of work in progress.

I am absolutely delighted with the final outcome, and I wanted to express how refreshing it is to liaise with a company who are 100% genuine and trustworthy. Not being present to oversee the project wasn't an issue, as I felt secure in the knowledge I could leave this task in his capable hands.

Sarah Leggett
(Australia)

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a special menu and a wine matching service for any occasion from a romantic candle-lit dinner to a large family or social occasion.

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For further details contact Austen on 07948 846972 or visit website: www.austenshawfreelancechef.co.uk

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Change to Litter Pick Date

Dear Editor
Heighington Parish Litter Group picks over 300 bags of litter each year. We pick the

verges and under the hedges of roads running through the parish.

We believe there is now so much litter that Councils alone cannot cope with the task of keeping our roads, footpaths and open spaces clean, so we need voluntary initiatives to assist them.

I write to thank Newton News for the support you have given us over the last five years and to correct the date of our next pick which due to summer holidays we have had to change to Saturday 11th September starting at 10 am from Heighington village hall. Everyone will be welcome.

Kit Bartram
Secretary, Heighington Parish Litter Group

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Please contact Mrs Susan Mouyiassi on 01325 300378 or email: susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net for further information and an application pack.

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment.

All posts are subject to satisfactory CRB clearance.

Closing Date: 7th July

OVER 500 RUNNERS AT AYCLIFFE RACE DAY



248 competitors entered the 2010 3M Aycliffe 10k race on Sunday with James Bulman heading the pack at the finish.

Bulman from North Yorkshire Moors AC took the honours in a time of 32.30 minutes, ahead of second placed Mike Burrett (32.44) and Adrian Adams (33.38) third. The first woman home was Aven Fox from Morpeth Harriers in 38.05 minutes, with Carolyn Summersgill (38.16) and Louise Noble (38.31) second and third respectively.

The annual event is organised by members of Newton Aycliffe Athletic Club and has been held ever year since 1998. It was sponsored by 3M Aycliffe, Great Aycliffe Town Council, Up & Running, and Northumbrian Water.

Race director Trevor Needham congratulated all the runners. "It was a great race and James was a very worthy winner among a strong and competitive field," he commented.

"We'd like to thank everyone who entered as well as our sponsors and those who helped on the day to make the event such a success."

As well as the main race, there was also a 3k fun run with 278 finishers, which was won by William Crossen in 11.37



minutes. The 3M Aycliffe site, which makes personal respirators for worker safety, was sponsoring the event for the ninth year and employees and family members were among those taking part in one of the two races.

3M facilities manager Alan Kellett added: "The Athletic Club always makes sure it's a brilliant day for the community and this year's race was no exception. It was enjoyed by runners and spectators alike."

Athletics Club Race Report

A 3 mile hill race at Penshaw Monument was a challenge indeed for Aycliffe's only runner on Wednesday 16th June. Sue Milburn came home 5th Lady overall and 1st Vet 50. The race took place in the evening and was an exciting change of scene for Sue who is more accustomed to the road. She was pleased with her position since returning from injury earlier in the season.

In contrast earlier in the month, Aycliffe saw 7 runners competing in the Swaledale Marathon on the 12th June. The demanding course gave rise to renewed interest for many runners from Aycliffe, but attracted new blood too! First home for the club was Peter Milburn in 33rd position in 4 hours, followed by Matt Heron in 58th position and 4 hours 15 mins. Next was Stuart Vernon in 92nd position in 4hrs 31mins, followed by Kevin Greenall in 178th position in 4hrs.47mins then Martyn Knox in 199th position in 5hrs.26mins, followed by Gail Vernon, in 380th position in 6hrs.29mins, and last but not least Dave McDonald in 413th position in 6hrs.51mins.

LOCAL TENNIS TALENT



Aidan Robson set his sights on gaining experience and hopefully winning a few matches after entering a series of summer tennis tournaments. He has made a terrific start having won his first event at the Bitts Park Open in Carlisle. Head Coach Ian Wilkinson has coached Aidan a member of Greenfield Tennis Club, Newton Aycliffe for 5 years. Aidan is studying for a Sports Coaching degree at Leeds Met. Carnegie University and has enjoyed his first year, representing the University's tennis team. Aidan is also a member of Bishop Auckland Tennis Club and is helping develop local tennis talent as a Level 2 Coach.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

NOTICES OF MEETINGS

Wednesday 23rd June 2010
Special Policy & Resources Committee
7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 10 minutes has been set aside for electors 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.

EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that: An extra-ordinary meeting of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:

Wednesday 23rd June 2010
Immediately following the
Special Policy & Resources Committee Meeting

Items on the Agenda:

- (i) To confirm the minutes of the Special Policy and Resources Committee.
- (ii) To receive the Annual Audit Plan 2009/10 from the Audit Commission.

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.

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HOUSEHOLDERS WARNED ABOUT BOGUS CALLERS

Householders across the North East are being warned to be extra vigilant after a number of complaints in other areas about bogus callers claiming to be part of an energy efficiency scheme.

Government-backed GoWarm works in the North East, North and West Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire and the East of

England and to date has helped more than 250,000 homes install energy efficiency measures.

The organisation has recently been made aware of bogus callers operating in the North Yorkshire area, claiming to be able to offer subsidised cavity wall and loft insulation and has now sent out a general warning to anyone who is approached by a doorstep assessor.

Karen Hindhaugh, Director of GoWarm, said that residents should feel free to check the credentials of anyone who knocks at their door and always ask to see their identity cards.

"All of our assessors wear distinct green uniforms with the GoWarm logo on and all carry official ID cards," she said.

"All the services we offer are heavily subsidised which means many people can get loft and cavity wall insulation at no cost, so we want to make sure that nobody is signing up for something that they may well be able to get from us free of charge.

Anyone who wants to check out if a caller is genuine should contact GoWarm on 0191 536 4185.

£500 INCENTIVE TO LOSE WEIGHT!



The Aycliffe Leisure Centre gym which boasts some of the best facilities in the region has announced plans to help members into a healthy lifestyle and to lose weight.

A while ago Newton News reported that Lifestyle Fitness, the state of the art fitness facility in our Leisure Centre were offering up to £50 for people to lose weight. Now they have raised that amount to a staggering £500.

Andy Roe Fitness Instructor said "Our new campaign is certainly one of the best I have ever heard of. We have recently undergone further training in nutritional weight management and we've combined that with our expertise in fitness to create

what is probably the best and most soundly based weight loss programme available today"

The new course teams up with website fitbug.com to give members looking to lose weight and enter a more healthy way of life every opportunity to succeed. A twelve week instructor led weight management course is paired with ongoing personal fitness instruction and an activity monitoring device known as a bug. Participants will learn about portion control and have access to a website that tells them whether they are in a weight loss or weight gain zone.

Lifestyle Fitness is looking for members who want to lose weight and gain motivation to join on the programme and as such are offering a monetary reward for people who achieve their aims. "All that we ask is that the participants stick as closely as feasible to our advice, attend each week on our weight management programme and have a BMI of over 28 before starting and then if they lose 10 kilo's of weight within that 12 week period, then our partners will give them £500.00"

Terry Anderson Fitness Co-ordinator said. "This equates to just over 22 lb's and guidelines suggest that generally speaking people should not lose much more than this over a twelve week period so this is very achievable for many people" he added.

Anyone interested in this new weight loss programme can contact the team at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on 01325 300800 or by just popping in.

Praise for Local Garage

Dear Sir,
It's not often you can sing the praises of a garage, so I am very pleased to say a big thank you to Neil and the crew at SPRAY for the repair to my Peugeot car door - after it's argument with our pergola. Neil gave up a week of his Christmas holiday to do the repair and the follow up of a quick sort out to the window (and MOT) last weekend so that I could get back to work in Germany.

I can't praise this local company enough.
K Miller.

AYCLIFFE CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe's first team won an exciting game at Medomsley by just 10 runs in the top division of the North East Durham league. Batting first Aycliffe looked to be in trouble after being bowled out for 119 runs with Graham Telford (35 runs) and Ross Dixon (27 not out) the main contributors.

In reply Aycliffe's Dave Atkinson ripped through the opposition batting finishing with 5 wickets from 10 runs from 11 overs of hostile fast bowling to help dismiss the homeside for just 109.

The second team chasing 150 for victory, lost by 27 runs at home to high

flying Kibblesworth despite good performances from Aycliffe's James Layfield-Carroll (3 for 28) and Adam Gittins, who scored his second consecutive league half century.

Aycliffe's under 18's lost a thrilling game at home to Brandon by 1 run after looking well placed to win the match. Brandon scored 86 for 8 in their 20 overs with Captain Sean Morgan taking 3 for 12.

All rounder Morgan lead the reply hitting a season's best 38 and 17 from Kyle Robinson put their team in a good position, but the innings inexplicably

collapsed and Aycliffe were bowled out for just 85.

Aycliffe's under 15's had a huge 74 run home win over Ushaw Moor after a career best unbeaten 52 from Craig Robertson and 18 runs from Daniel Weldon helped Aycliffe reach 142 for 4 in their 20 overs. In reply the visitors were bowled out for 68 with Cutis Lowes, Matt Bussey and Jordan Denton each taking 2 wickets.

The under 13's lost by 30 runs away at Blackhall and the under 11's lost by 27 runs at home to Hartlepool, with both teams putting in creditable performances against stronger sides.

COFFEE MORNING

The Children's Society will hold a Coffee Morning & Box Collection on Saturday 3rd July from 10.30am in Pauline's Garden, 11B Garthlands, Heighington.

Admission is £2 to include Coffee/Tea and scones. There will be a raffle, Tombola, Cake & White Elephant stalls. All welcome and if wet the event will be held in Church.

If you cannot attend and want your box collected, please ring Pauline on 316882 or Judith on 317487.

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THANKS FOR SUPPORT



Dear Sir,
I wish to thank all those who sent best wishes and cards on my award of the MBE from Her Majesty the Queen. I sincerely appreciate the kind words. I wish to thank all those volunteers who worked with me for over 65 years as your contribution has truly helped your community. Thanks also to all the kind-hearted people of Newton Aycliffe who have supported us with gifts and prizes to sell or use for tombola stalls etc. I thank the town's Rotary Club, Masonic Lodge, Town Councillors, Durham University students, and everyone for their assistance at Neville Community Centre over eight years. Peter Beaty

PR – A Disaster for Democracy

By John D. Clare

Recently a letter in Newton News claimed that Proportional Representation (PR) would be the 'best way forward [and] bring back democracy'. Please may I politely disagree?

On the surface, PR seems a wonderful system. Instead of the traditional 'first-past-the-post' system, which elects the candidate who gets the largest number of votes in each constituency, PR allocates seats in the House of Commons in proportion to the number of people who support each party. That is why it is so supported by the Lib-Dems, who consistently get a quarter of the national vote but end up – because they are always beaten in this constituency by Labour, and in that constituency by a Tory – with less than a tenth of the seats in Parliament.

Doesn't it sound so much more representative that the seats in Parliament should reflect the political make-up of the nation?

BUT DON'T BE FOOLED! PR doesn't create healthier politics. Here are just some of the negatives connected with PR:

1. HUNG PARLIAMENTS Were you horrified by the wheeler-dealing and uncertainties caused by the recent hung parliament and

the Con-Dem coalition? Because that's what you'll get every election if we opt for a PR system. Just as the UK population reflects every shade of political opinion, so does a PR Parliament contain every shade of political party – dozens of them. So the largest party can find itself trying to build a political coalition, not with one other Party, but with many different parties and even individuals. Each of them needs to be 'bought', and each of them waters down the government's programme. Sometimes, these negotiations can go on for weeks, during which time the country has no effective government at all.

2. WEAK GOVERNMENTS Of course, the corollary of this is that PR governments are notoriously weak. In a coalition of a dozen parties, the opportunities for secession are so great that many governments last less than a year, after which the government has to start and build another coalition! In fact, the Italians got so fed up of this happening that in 1993 they moved from PR to a first-past-the-post system!

3. MERCENARY GOVERNMENTS The idea that PR produces 'cleaner' politicians is the greatest myth. Were you

disappointed to see both Tories and Lib-Dems abandoning their manifesto promises to form the Coalition? Under PR, manifestos become merely a trick to encourage people to vote for a party, and thereby to give it the clout to negotiate a place in the government (at the cost of abandoning all the promises that got them the votes in the first place). Under PR, you do not elect a Party with political principles, you elect an alliance of politicians with promotion on their minds. As a result, PR politics are usually much MORE venal than British politics.

4. LISTS NOT PEOPLE Another failure of PR is the depersonalisation of politics. At the moment, Phil Wilson is our MP. You either voted for him or against him. He represents us, and you can go to one of his surgeries and tackle him directly. Under PR, of course, none of that happens. Because of the need to elect MPs in proportion to the range of political opinion, constituencies are MUCH bigger under PR, and elect a number of MPs, not just one. So you do not vote for an individual, you vote for a Party. And instead of individual candidates, each Party puts forward a list of candidates. Then, after the election, depending on how many votes each party got, it counts 'so-many' names down its list, and those are the people who go to Parliament.

This ultimately means – because it is the Party which chooses the order in which their candidates appear on the list – it is the Party which selects the MPs rather than the voters; one doesn't think of PR as a 'jobs-for-the-boys' system, but that's exactly what happens. If your local man was placed sixth on the Party list and the Party only got five MPs, then he doesn't go. Five other more-favoured candidates go to Parliament, and you never see them. As a consequence, PR creates MPs who are more distant from their electors and therefore, often, more corrupt.

5. NUTCASE POLITICS Above all, PR sees the proliferation of minor parties in Parliament. Even on 2010 figures, in an electorate of 45 million, PR would have given us 34 UKIP and seven BNP MPs. And under PR you can expect many more parties to come out of the woodwork when they realise that they only have to attract 70,000 voters to get an MP. PR gives every extremist political party a hope and a say.

This runs directly counter to the Lib-Dem assertion that PR would prevent the polarisation of politics. In fact, it is the first-past-the-post system which produces parties which try generally to 'occupy the middle ground'. By contrast, PR allows every crackpot extremist group to peddle its venom undiluted – indeed, if the election runs right, they might even find themselves with a place on the Cabinet and a say in policy. What are you going to say when the Al-Qaeda and Bring-Back-Hanging Parties stand for election and get seats in the House of Commons?

Still thinking of advocating PR? If you needed any other persuasion that this is the silliest way of organising a government ever invented, all you need to do is to study the purest form of PR government ever devised – the Weimar government of inter-war Germany (you know, the one that let Hitler rise to power in 1933).

FREE SCHOOL MEALS CONTINUE IN DURHAM

Parents of children set to start school after the summer can be assured that the free school meals programme will continue.

In September 2009 Durham was chosen as one of three areas nationally to benefit from a Government pilot scheme to give all children a free, healthy meal at lunchtime.

There were concerns that this scheme would be affected by recent government changes but Durham County Council would like to reassure parents that it will continue until July 2011.

Cllr Claire Vasey, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, said: "Around 90 per cent of all primary school children in the county are now benefitting from a nutritious meal at lunch time and we would like to take this opportunity to allay fears that this service will stop."

The aim of the pilot is to provide all school children with a healthy meal every day to improve health, behaviour and school performance.

Rhianna Martin, seven, and Izzy Cullen, six, are pupils at Toft Hill Primary School near Bishop Auckland.

Rhianna said: "When I first started school dinners I was scared in case I didn't like anything but when I tried it I really liked them."

Izzy said: "I like the choice and the dinners are tasty." Lily Mansfield, eight, is a pupil at Woodham Burn Primary School. She said: "I really like trying new foods at school."

Research last month showed that almost 90 per cent of pupils were taking up the free dinners.

Parents of children due to start reception class in September should note their children will automatically be registered for free school meals.



Decklin Melles and Lily Mansfield from Woodham Burn Community Primary School.

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Ho Down at the Church

St. Clares Church is holding a Wild West Summer Fair on Saturday 3rd July from 10am to 12 noon. Enjoy a taste of the Old West refreshments with a raffle, cake stall, books, tombola, games, kiddies corner, fancy dress and much more.

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BUDGET REDUCTIONS SHOCK COUNTY HALL

The Government has announced a reduction of £16.5m in grants available this financial year for Durham.

£3.3m of the reductions (almost a quarter of the grant originally expected) were announced to Council area based grants for children and young people's services. This means a reduction in grants used to support vulnerable children, keep children safe and support schools.

Similar levels of reductions were confirmed for grants to deprived areas. These grants are used by the Council, the voluntary sector and businesses to support people into work. This comes at a time when unemployment remains high and the successes from unemployment programmes have begun to achieve positive results for a large number of local people.

To date the Local Economic Growth Initiative (LEGI) has directly helped over 3,000 people to create their own employment through enterprise and a reduction this year of over £700,000 in this grant will result in around 180 fewer small businesses being set up within the County.

Transport schemes including road safety have also been affected to the tune of £1.65m and this will reduce the

amount of highways repairs that the Council had originally planned to carry out.

Cllr Simon Henig, leader of the Council said: "Local government appears to have borne by far the largest share of the first set of government cuts. It is also noticeable that of the Councils with the largest level of cuts the vast majority are in the North of England where some of these grants are so important in growing our economies.

We are already delivering £51.3m efficiencies over the next 3 years in a planned and measured way including £8.5m this year. Having to find an additional £16.5m in the remainder of this year will be extremely difficult and

will not be achieved without reducing services."

"These announcements by the government will hit us particularly hard in this time of recession and will directly

affect some of the communities that need help most."

Further details will follow once the council has had a chance to consider the implications.

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RESIDENTS TO PLAY ROLE IN TOUGH COUNCIL DECISIONS

Communities across County Durham will be invited to have their say on how the council deals with the current challenging budget reductions. Cabinet will hear next week. (June 29) The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) will outline the way in which Durham County Council will fund public services and manage the expected reductions in Government support announced in the Emergency Budget. (22 June 2010) Next week the authority's Cabinet will hear that, as part of the annual revision of the MTFP, a key proposed change would allow for stronger public consultation on difficult budget decisions. A report recommends members adopt an outline timetable for the approval and implementation of the revised plan, which would take in to account extended consultation, supported by the 14 Area Action Partnerships. Gordon Elliott, Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement explains: "It's important that residents get the chance to have their say

on tough decisions which may affect their communities. We hope that by talking to people and planning in broader opportunities for residents and businesses to comment on draft proposals, that we will be able to minimise the impact of financial reductions on local people." With Cabinet approval, the MTFP will go out for consultation in the late autumn, before a final report goes to members early next year. (Consultation details will be announced in

the future) The plan will also be constantly monitored to

reflect the changing national situation.

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COUNTY COUNCIL JOIN FORCES TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS

Thousands of County Durham residents could soon be feeling the heat if councillors agree to join forces with a national energy company. Durham County Council is considering forming a partnership with Scottish and Southern Energy to look at ways of reducing carbon emissions. If given the go ahead by members of authority's Cabinet when they meet next week, the agreement could see residents being offered discounted cavity wall and loft insulation. Cllr Bob Young, Durham County Council Cabinet Member for Strategic Environment and Leisure, said: "We are committed to reducing carbon emissions across the county and have already exceeded the national target of a 34 per cent reduction by 2020. "We have now set our own goal of cutting emissions by 40 per cent during the next 10 years. Entering into an agreement with

Scottish and Southern Energy represents just how seriously we are taking this commitment." The council is proposing entering into a 10-year partnership with the energy provider, which, if agreed, would be the only such arrangement in the UK. It would mean that Scottish and Southern Energy would provide funding for a home insulation scheme, under which subsidised loft and cavity wall installation would be available to householders. The initiative would be delivered by the county council under the name of the Durham Insulation Scheme. The agreement would allow both organisations to explore other areas where work could be done to lower the county's carbon footprint, including electric vehicles and the installation of renewable energy on council-owned buildings.

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YOU CAN BE YOUR OWN BOSS WITH "BE ENTERPRISING"

Some of the North East's leading support agencies are joining forces to encourage people into taking the first steps to being their own boss. Potential entrepreneurs are being invited to attend **Be Enterprising's "Be your own Boss" event on July 23**. The Be Enterprising programme was created to inspire and bring about positive and measurable changes in County. The event, being held in the **Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre from 10am - 4pm**, will encourage people to think about their skills and interests in order for them to create their own future by setting up a business.

Organised by Be Enterprising, the event has already gained support from some leading support agencies which will be attending the event in July. Jobcentre Plus, SASDA, Shaw Trust, Groundwork Northeast and Inbiz will be on-hand to offer advice and guidance and answer any questions people may have. Local training providers such as Darlington College, South West Durham Training and Northeast Tiling will be there to help people get information about the training they need. Dawn Huntrod, Be Enterprising coach said: "This fair will give people the opportunity to come in and find out everything about starting a business. "We want to help people realise that they have what it takes to run their own successful business. Even if they just have an idea, we have an ideas generation corner where people can go and discuss their business

idea and find out there and then what support can be offered to them.

"Our aim is to give local people a closer look at support available and see the journey from an idea to a business. Some past clients who have recently set up their own businesses will also be on hand to offer their expertise, share their experiences and maybe make some sales." One client attending is Lorraine Lax of Beautiful Brides. She said: "I wanted to do something that I really enjoyed, I already made dresses as a hobby but it didn't occur to me that I could do it full-time. "When I looked into starting my own business, the more I looked, the more confident I became that I could do it.

Be Enterprising supported me throughout the entire process, I was given a business coach who helped me with my business plan and a start up grant that helped me purchase everything I needed to get the business up and running.

"It's great being my own boss, I love it, and it is definitely something that is worth looking into." For more information about the event please call Dawn Huntrod on 01325 310730. Anyone living in County Durham who would like support making their business idea reality may be eligible for support from Be Enterprising. For more information call 0800 030 4134 or visit www.be-enterprising.biz.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe's first team gave the reigning league champions Burnhope a real scare before falling to a narrow 4 wicket away defeat in the top division of the North East Durham league. Batting first, Aycliffe totalled an impressive 219 for 9 in their 45 overs with captain Chris Palmer top scoring with 64 and good contributions from 16 year old Michael Howe (43 not out) and David Turgoose with 24. In response the home team batted superbly to reach their target with 13 balls remaining despite some hostile fast bowling from Newton Aycliffe's Dave Atkinson who finished with 3 for 52 from his 12 overs. The club's under 18's team

had an excellent win away at previously unbeaten Langley Park by 26 runs. Newton Aycliffe were thankful for good innings from Kyle Robinson with 29 runs, Michael Howe (28) and Sean Morgan with 20 as they totalled 108 for 4 in their 20 overs. In reply the homeside were restricted to 82 for 9 from their allotted overs with Aycliffe bowler Sam Telford taking four wickets for just 7 runs. The under 13's lost by 27 runs at home to Norton despite some good performances from Patrick Howe and Sam Morgan, who both took 2 wickets and Ben Nicholson who top scored with 20 runs in Aycliffe's respectable reply.

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In Memoriam

JENNY SALKELD (Shepherd). Treasured memories of my dear Sister Jenny. Forgive me Lord if I should weep for a Sister I loved and wished to keep. God bless and love you. Sister, Mena xx
FRED WILLIAMSON Died 20th June 2001. Dear Father you are not forgotten, though on Earth you are no more, still in memory you are with us, as you always were before. Always remembered. Des, Trevor and Val
ROBERT WHITE In loving memory of Robert, passed away 27-5-2009. It's been a year since you passed away, we still miss you as much today, we didn't get to say goodbye. Which till this day still makes me cry. I will never forget you Rob. Till we meet some day. Goodnight, God bless. Love you from your Sister Gill, Brother-in-Law Geoff and Newpewh Micky xxxxx
ROBERT WHITE In loving memory of a dear Son, passed away 27-5-2009. We still remember to this day the time we spent before you passed away. We wished we could have said goodbye, before you went to that racecourse in the sky. Till we meet again. Good night, God bless and peacefully sleep. Lots of love, Mam and Dad White, Jen and Mark xxxxx
ROBERT WHITE 27-6-09. In our thoughts and hearts may you always walk in the sunshine. Your Wife Linda, Children Marie and Stuart, Son-in-Law Ian and your Grandchildren Hannah and Ava. Just a whisper away xxx

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COUNTY COUNCIL
 FACE MORE CUTS

Durham County Council's Cabinet will hear of the 'significant challenges' the authority faces in meeting the reductions announced, prior to the budget, by the new Government. (Cabinet meeting June 29)
 Members will hear that, in addition to the planned reductions of at least £51M over the next three years, a further £16.8M will have to be saved in the current year. A report details more precisely where Government grant will be reduced.
 Reductions in grant cover 3 areas. Area Based Grants will be reduced by a total of £6.247M, more than 10 per cent of the original sum expected. Several capital grants will be reduced totalling over £1.7M or more than 25 per cent and a number of specific grants will be reduced by £8.851M, more than 55 per cent of the total original allocation.

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BARGAIN BUYS Take-Away Deal: new autowasher, A energy class, full manufacturers guarantee, £189 boxed and in stock, ready to load into your car boot. Tel 321 678
PALLETS and Pallet toppers first come first served. Free, call at Newton Press M-F, 9am-4pm
LINE 6 Spyder II amp, £200 (good condition). Tel 07717 787123
TAMRON 70-200 F2.8 lens, Canon fit, mint condition, £500. Tel 07860 280915
LEATHER 2 seater, 2 chairs, beige, very good condition, £200. Tel 315092
LEATHER sofas, 3 and 2 seaters, pale blue, immaculate condition, £175. 07951 727599.
MOBILITY scooter, silver, immaculate condition, less than 3 years old, new batteries, £300 ono. Tel 07709 837297
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22 INCH TFT widescreen monitor, £65, tel 01325 319405 or 07875 676474
3 x 36" x 90" sliding wardrobe doors with track, 2 white decor doors and 1 mirror door, £86. Tel 317929
BRAND NEW Lexmark print/scan.copier, X2670 model, unwanted gift, £45 ono: 1 pair of Sony 200 watt speakers with super acoustically loaded woofer, £15 ono. Tel 07961 008049
WHITE pram with a black circle pattern to it for sale, it is a 3in1, going for £180, it is an absolute bargain in excellent condition, the pram frame alone cost £229. Please contact -7512 375850
BARKER & Stonehouse cream fabric modern 2 seater, £1300 new, £200 ono; B&S tall oak display cabinet with drawers and glass doors, £1500 new, £300 ono; Matching coffee table and 2 side tables, £80 each; large John Lewis shaggy rug, soft reds, £350 new, £50. Tel 07714 333328
NEED An old domestic appliance removing? Can't wait for the Council? Tel. 321678.

Thank You

BAINBRIDGE, Margaret. Jackie, Andy and family would like to say thanks to everyone who sent cards and flowers on the loss of their "beloved Mother", also thanks to everyone who went to the Funeral, you all did her very proud. Thanks again.
THANK YOU to the lady who handed the blue carrier bag into Taylor's. Also the member of staff for returning it to my home. Many Thanks. A. Cook
ALLAN SHELTON Maureen and family would like to thank everyone for their extreme kindness and sympathy in supporting us, special thanks to Rev Julie for a lovely Service. Micky, Landlady of the Huntsman for looking after family and friends and to Iris and Ray, very good neighbours and to all too many to mention. Thanks again, you did him proud
CARELINK LADIES Andrea and Pam. I would like to say a big thank you for help and support I received when my phone went down, without these ladies we would be lost. So I would like to say a big thank you. Dorothy
LYNNE EASTON George and Lynne's family wish to express their most sincere thanks to all relatives and friends for kindness and sympathy shown during their recent sad bereavement, also for all the cards and beautiful floral tributes received. Special thanks to Madeline and Barry, also nursing staff at Ward 33 at Darlington Memorial Hospital. Thanks to David Scott and Staff at the Cooperative Funeral Care. Also thanks to Rev. Linda Potter for a lovely Service at St Clare's Church. We are very grateful to you all

Birthday
 Remembrance

TERRY LENDRUM Remembering you on your birthday. Sadly missed and never forgotten. Loving Husband. John and family
STEPHEN RILEY 24th June. Extra special thoughts on your birthday (50th). Lots of love from Mum, Dad Jones and all the family xxx
STEPHEN RILEY 24-6-60. Thinking of you on your 50th birthday. We talk of you still, we haven't forgotten you and we never will. Much love from Vicky, Megan and Alex xxx
STEPHEN RILEY 24th June. I wish I was celebrating your 50th birthday with you Son. Instead I am remembering the 42 years of love, joy and laughter we shared. Ever lasting love, Mam xxx
FEATHERSTONE, Eleanor. Loved always, so sadly missed. The family xxx
BRIAN RILEY 21st June. Thinking of you with love and remembering all of the good times we've had. Much love, Ann xx

Congratulations

TERRY DAVIES Happy 50th birthday. Love, Mam, Stan, Gill, Anne, Paul and family xx
TERRY DAVIES Happy 50th birthday to a wonderful Son-in-Law. All our love, from Kenya xxx
CHRISTOPHER CLARK Happy 18th Birthday little Bro. Lots of love, Wendy, James and Hazel
IAN SHEPHERD Happy 50th birthday (30th June). Congratulations. Love from Mam and Dad
IAN SHEPHERD Happy 50th Dad. All our love, Christopher, Katie and Scott
IAN SHEPHERD A big kiss to Grandad. Love from Leighton James xxx
JAMES KNOW wishing you a happy 2nd birthday for 24th June. Lots of love and kisses, Mummy and Daddy xx
JAMES KNOW Happy 2nd birthday James to our wonderful Grandson. Lots of love and kisses, Grandma, Grandad, Auntie Kim and Uncle Adam xxx
JAMES KNOW Happy 2nd birthday James. Love you, Great Gran xx
JAMES KNOW Happy 2nd birthday James. Lots of love, Auntie Jayne, Uncle Lee, Luke and Jake xx
WALTER BROWN Happy 80th birthday Dad. Lots of love, Robert and Angela
WALTER BROWN Happy 80th birthday Granda. Lots of love, Nicola, Samantha, Kayleigh and Gareth
WALTER BROWN 26th June. Happy 80th brithday, enjoy your party. Loving Wife, Ann xxx
WALTER BROWN 26th June. Hope you have a great day Grandad. Love from Darren, Christa and Great Grandson Alfie xxx
WALTER BROWN 26th June. To a wonderful Dad on your 80th birthday. Lots of love, George and Susan xxx
SHARNA KELLY Happy 18th birthday, enjoy Florida. Love, Mam, Dad and Lou
SHARNA KELLY Happy 18th birthday. Love, Grandma
JAMES ROBERT KELLY Happy 18th birthday, 29th June. Have a wonderful day. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Stephanie and Ciaran xxx
JOHN FLEMING Happy 30th birthday. Hope you have a great day. You are a fantastic person, the best Husband a girl could wish for. Love you Katey xxx
JOHN FLEMING Happy birthday Daddy. Lots of love and kisses, Jack, Ollie and Ellis
JOHN FLEMING Hope you have a lovely day you deserve it. Lots of love from all the Raine family
JOHN FLEMING Have a great 30th birthday. Love, Mum, Dad and the gang
HAPPY BIRTHDAY Adam and Becky. Luv Auntie Jeanette xxx

Sits Wanted

CLEANING WORK experienced carer, reliable, honest, mature lady with police check, qualifications and references. Tel 01388 778343

Lost & Found


STILL MISSING Approx 3 months, smokey blue half Persian tom cat, owned by my Sister who sadly died. Bushy tail and tufty ears, answers to Benson. Reward for safe return. Tel 07967 310690

Kalya Eden Shaw



Happy 13th Birthday Angel
 From Tiny Cutie to teenage beauty. Love you this much all around the world and back again and even more than that. Auntie Pamela xxx
 PS: Good luck to you and Kasia in competition on Sunday

JAKE KELL



Happy 13th birthday to our wonderful Son. Have a fab day! All our love from Mam and Dad xx
 Happy birthday little Bruv. Love from Paige xx
 Happy 13th birthday to a special teenager. Love from Nana Kath xx
 Happy 13th birthday. Have a great day! Love from Nana Audrey xx

Clairvoyance

SPIRITUALIST Meetings are held at Morrison Close Community Centre every Monday evening starting 7pm sharp (closed Bank Holiday Monday). Details from Ann on 313654.
BLUEBELL FAIRY Private readings, auragraphs, psychic art, spiritual healing (approved and insured). Tel 07908 024 424

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2 BEDROOM charming house in Campion Court, Woodham. Modern interior, complete with carpets, blinds, light fittings, built in cooker, over bath shower, gardens with decking, garage. Ready to move straight into. Professionals only. Bond and Refs required. £475pcm. Tel 324949
3 BEDROOM property to let in Guthrum Place. Mid terrace, rent £400, Bond £400, Admin fee £100. Tel 07814 022301
3BEDROOM house old part of town, £120 per week. Contact Heather 07882 440377
2 BEDROOM maisonnette, Newton Aycliffe. Fully furnished, GCH. double glazing, Sat TV, Broadband, £100 per week with bond, no smoking, no pets, no DSS. Tel 07736 104 698

Rachael Byrne




HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY - 24th June
 You've had plenty of practice, now you can show your own ID in pubs. Love you loads, Mam, Dad & Smellie Ellie xxx
Happy 18th Sis. Have a great holiday.Lots of love, Claire, Sean & Brodie x
Happy 18th Auntie Rach, Dribbly kisses, Isabelle x
Have a fab 18th, All our love, Grandma & Granda Airey x

Becky and Adam Ledley



Happy 2nd Birthday
 Enjoy your day, love you both lots. From Mummy and Daddy xx
Happy 2nd birthday to our 2 little angels. Love you to the sky and back. Nana, Grandad and Uncle Daniel xx
Happy 2nd birthday to our beautiful Grandchildren Becky and Adam from Nana and Grandad Kitching xx
Happy birthday Becky and Adam. Love from Uncle Gary and Auntie Sarah xx

Ian Raymond Shepherd




Happy 50th Birthday
 30th June 2010
Happy birthday Ian. Luv ya loads, have a great weekend. Lots of love, Lynne xxx
Happy 50th birthday Ian. Lots of love, Stacey, Jordyn and Baileys xxx
Happy 50th birthday Ian. Lots of love, Shirley, Godfrey, Lesley, Gary and family xxx

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Terry Davies



Happy 50th Birthday
 To my wonderful Husband. Love always and forever. Allison xxxx

Terry Davies




Happy 50th Birthday
 To a fantastic Dad. Happy 50th birthday. Thank you for all your help and support over the years. Love, Lee and Nic xx

Bethany Jane Maddison (Biff)



Happy 13th Birthday
 Teenager at last!
 28th June 2010
 Happy 13th to our gorgeous Daughter. Love always, Mam, Dad and Charlie

Curt Livermore



Happy 18th Birthday
 Happy birthday Curt and well done on passing your driving test. All our love, Mam, Dad and Cloe xxx

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GERRY TO THE RESCUE

Dear Sir,
An injury to my hand made the re-location of flower tubs in readiness for June planting at Redworth daunting. However the problem was quickly solved by Gerry Palmer whose garden skills are used frequently in the area. I accepted his kind offer of assistance which included the use of specialist equipment. Needless to say the tubs are now in position thanks to Gerry and his public-spirited attitude.
Counc J. K. Wilkinson

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*Contact Jan or Lesley for more details.

NEW DEAL FOR TENANTS

Tenants living in more than 277,000 homes in the North East of England will benefit from new standards set by the social housing regulator, the Tenant Services Authority (TSA).

In the biggest shake up of social housing in decades, six new standards, drawn up with tenants and landlords up and down the country, will come into effect from 1 April. The standards will cover how landlords need to deal with issues such as tenant involvement and empowerment, repairs and maintenance, rents, quality of accommodation, complaints and anti-social behaviour.

The new standards will apply to over 100 social housing landlords in the North East, including housing associations, councils and co-operatives. This means for the first time tenants will get similar levels of protection and services regardless of who their landlord happens to be.

The TSA will also have new enforcement powers to rely on to ensure tenants get a fair deal, which could include issuing enforcement notices and directing the transfer of management. The TSA's six national standards which landlords will need to meet are:

TENANT involvement and empowerment, including customer service, choice and complaints, and understanding and responding to diverse needs HOME, including repairs and maintenance and quality of accommodation

TENANCY, including allocations, rent and tenure NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY, including neighbourhood management, local area co-operation and anti-social behaviour VALUE FOR MONEY GOVERNANCE and financial viability.

The new framework heralds a fundamental shift in how the sector is regulated by ensuring the six standards are based on clear outcomes tenants care about, not detailed processes. Giving tenants the opportunity to agree with their landlords a locally tailored offer on the standards around home, neighbourhood and community and involvement Embedding the principle of 'co-regulation' where discussions about service delivery takes place between landlords and their tenants, not in response to top-down prescription or performance indicators from the regulator Providing new rights for tenants to be able to scrutinise their landlord's performance as part of promoting self-improvement and accountability Placing emphasis on those who govern providers to ensure there is effective performance and accountability to tenants Withdrawing around 875 pages of guidance notes and circulars that were previously used to regulate by the Housing Corporation Ending routine inspections for all providers but inspecting for compliance when the TSA suspects a landlord is failing to meet the standards.

TSA Chief Executive Peter Marsh said, "Today is a landmark for the social housing sector with a new system of regulation that will touch the lives of over eight million tenants in England. For the first time, tenants will have opportunities, backed by the regulator, to influence the

services that most affect them and hold their landlords to account.

"I am pleased we have achieved a broad consensus amongst tenants and landlords on our co-regulatory approach – one that ensures that poorly performing landlords are quickly identified but a system that lets good performing landlords get on with that they do best – providing excellent services."

Where problems are identified and landlords do not meet the standards, the TSA will discuss how the provider is taking ownership for improving their services before using its more formal powers.

PILATES AT OAK LEAF

The method of body conditioning you've been waiting for..... PILATES. It's not just exercise, Pilates leaves you refreshed and alert with a feeling of physical and mental well-being.

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Pat Kenneally class instructor takes all her own bookings on 01325 261880 or 07791630726.

Sponsored Walk in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

The town's Rotary Club are organising a sponsored walk for Macmillan Cancer Support who have a branch at the PCP Centre, Burn Lane.

The Walk is on Sunday 11th July starting at 2pm along the Great Aycliffe Way. There will be a 3 mile walk for adults and juniors and a mile long walk for toddlers.

Stephenson Way School have kindly allowed use of their grounds, kitchen and toilets on the day for people to register for the walk, and enjoy refreshments or a picnic.

Sponsorship forms are available from Newton Press at St. Cuthberts Way. Walkers Butchers, Simpasturegate, Linden Group, Leaside and Macmillan Cancer Support at the PCP. Please give your name and address when registering for the walk. For more details ring 300212, 312022 or complete the form below and hand in at Newsforce in the Town Centre. We will deliver the form to your home.

PLEASE NOTE 50p PER WALKER IS REQUIRED AS REGISTRATION FEE.

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P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police & Community Together

The next PACT Meeting at Aycliffe Village Hall is on Saturday 3rd July from 10 am to 12 noon.

Anyone with concerns about policing in the neighbourhood is invited to attend. Councillors are also present to listen, advise and help.

PACT MEETINGS Durham Constabulary are dedicated to making your neighbourhood safer. If you have any issues affecting your quality of life and want to discuss it with your neighbourhood Police Team then get involved in your local PACT Meeting.

This is an informal discussion with the Police and local partners to resolve problems where you live.

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