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NEWTON NEWS

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Newton Press, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DX • Tel: (01325) 300212 • Web: www.newtonnews.co.uk • Editorial: syd@newtonnews.co.uk • Advertising: paul@newtonnews.co.uk Week Ending 3rd December, 2010

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M.P.'S "FRUSTRATION" OVER HITACHI DECISION

RESIDENTS URGED TO WRITE TO SECRETARY OF STATE

Our MP Phil Wilson has expressed his frustration at the Government's announcement to delay any decision on the Intercity Express Programme until the New Year. If the Programme goes ahead, Hitachi will construct a purpose built factory in Newton Aycliffe creating 800 direct jobs with thousands more in the supply chain. Hitachi would manufacture hundreds of train carriages at the factory to replace the ageing 125 intercity fleet built in the 1970s. Phil Wilson said: "We have waited months for an answer from the Government on whether the programme is to go ahead. We need an answer, instead all we

are left with is frustration. An alternative scheme the Government is now looking at will mean the trains would be built abroad, without the creation of thousands of British jobs. With the Hitachi scheme thousands of British jobs would be guaranteed because the company's factory would be in Newton Aycliffe. The economic case for the Hitachi factory has been made. The investment would be the largest investment in the North East since Nissan. For every £1 of public investment, £48 would be returned to the economy. The Government wants to see one million private sector jobs created over the next few years. This is a



fantastic way to get the ball rolling. Newton Aycliffe deserves the investment and I believe Hitachi would ensure the town fulfils its potential. I've written to Philip Hammond MP, the Secretary of State for Transport to explain the importance of the scheme to the country's rail infrastructure and also to the North East economy. I would urge you to write to him at: The Department for Transport, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DR. The Secretary of State has said a final decision will be made in the New Year. At least the Hitachi bid is still on the table and I will keep fighting for Newton Aycliffe until we have an answer."

EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS HIT EVENTS

The extremely bad weather has called a halt to many events this weekend including the Gift Fayre at the PCP Centre. Various important meetings were cancelled during the week including the Area Action Partnership Forum, a Town Council Meeting and even a Royal visit was postponed. Schools were closed and some public offices including our Library closed their doors. Readers are advised to check with any event they planned to visit to be sure they are still being held.

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Cheltenham Way, Woodham Village
Four bedroom detached house - £179,500
Bunninghill Close, School Aycliffe
Three bedroom detached house - £215,000

Newton Press Buildings, St. Cuthberts Way, DL5 6DX

Tell 01325 311737

TOWN'S NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE ON FACEBOOK

The Neighbourhood Policing Teams for Newton Aycliffe, Shildon and Sedgefield have set up their own 'Facebook' page which continues to grow and are inviting local social networkers to join them. The page will contain digests of information from the teams such as details of forthcoming PACT meetings, witness appeals for information, incidents of interest from across the area, and photographs will be available to view.



BAD WEATHER AFFECTS WASTE COLLECTION

Residents are advised that, due to the continued severe, weather refuse and recycling collections will be subject to some changes in certain areas.

The head of Direct Services Oliver Sherratt said: "We are working hard to minimise disruption to residents, but safe access for the 26 tonne collection vehicles is understandably difficult in many areas. As with last year, when the weather eases we will be deploying extra staff from grounds maintenance to bring bins to suitable access points to tackle the backlog. "We have to put the safety of both the public and staff first and as such we may well have to suspend some further collections during this severe weather."

"If you have a weekly refuse collection please take your bin back in if it has not been collected on your usual day and put it out again on the correct day the following week. If your bin is full and you bag up other waste we will collect it all when it is safe to resume collections in your area."

"The same advice applies to recycling on a fortnightly cycle."

The council has crews out clearing areas where it is safe to do so and staff not able to work on normal duties, due to the weather, are being re-deployed to help clear and salt pavements in priority areas like GP surgeries, care homes and hospitals.

The Kabota tractors purchased with the PCT funding are working flat out clearing priority hard to reach areas and access to busy town centres.

Steve Keetely is the head of Technical Services: "From the first snow fall last Wednesday night we have continued to clear and salt our 45 per cent priority highways network with gritters out day and night. "With current conditions still severe in many areas we are using all 66 machines and have spread 8,000 tonnes of salt since this poor weather began."

"We are committed to continuing this and thank everyone for their careful driving and patience during this cold snap."

Each team will have an Officer dedicated to ensuring that the page is kept up to date with all the latest updates. PCSO Ben Cloke (pictured), whose beat area covers Aycliffe Village and the Business Park, will oversee the Newton Aycliffe aspects of the page.

Mark Edwards, Newton Aycliffe's Neighbourhood Police Sergeant states: "The idea behind the page is for us to reach out into the core

of our communities and to give people the opportunity to get to know what's going on within their communities from a Policing perspective, to get a flavour of what their local Neighbourhood Policing Teams are up to and to see our 'human' side. The appeal of Facebook is phenomenally widespread and we wish to encourage residents - old and young alike, to look us up. Why not become a friend!"

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BEST PRICES IN TOWN GUARANTEED

Community Bumper Draw Prize Value Reaches £3,000

The Rotary Club are delighted with the response to the Community Bumper Draw with over 20 town organisations signed up to sell tickets.

Seven schools have joined up realising this is a great way to help the two main charities and at the same time help their own funds. Fabulous prizes are being donated and this week, Tesco are offering a major item bringing the total prize value so far to nearly £3000. Tickets will go on sale in the New Year and be available for the general public in the four charity shops in the town centre, who will also retain half the money from tickets sold.

If your organisation wants to participate contact Syd Howarth on 300212 (day) 320901 (home). e-mail: syd@newtonpress.net - You cannot lose! All you do is sell tickets - the Rotary Club does the rest!

GREENFIELD STUDENT THEATRE GROUP'S ORIGINAL MUSICAL



Splat Productions, an all-new, youth-led theatre group, have been hard at work for the past two months writing, producing and rehearsing for their new, original musical; "Med School Musical!"

Newton News went along to one of their rehearsals to see how they were getting on. Tom Hunter, the director and writer of the musical said "We're making good progress. I think everyone is enjoying themselves - I know I am - and I think we're all just anxious to get up there and show everyone what Splat Productions can do."

We were lucky enough to catch them rehearsing one of their songs (sung by the 'old cronies' of the hospital) which they wrote themselves. It's fun and jaunty beat was enough to get anyone dancing on their feet. But it isn't all happy dancing; the musical still touches upon how fragile teenage romance can be.

Tom said "There is a song that my character sings that is just so beautiful. It's about her heartache when she realises that the boy she loves doesn't feel the same way about her. It can relate to so many people because we've all felt a little heartbroken before." said Holly Hardy, who will be playing the leading lady in this production.

Med School Musical is an all-singing, all-dancing rom-com with jokes that we can all relate to. It follows the lives of a group of students embarking on the epic journey of Medical University.

Trying to balance an education at Finishem Hospital and a social life isn't an easy thing, especially when you've been left to look after a bunch of old cronies!

Laughs & Romance. Doctors & Nurses. Students & Old People. Plus some great original music... it's fun for all!

7.00pm - 8.30pm, Wednesday 15th December & Thursday 16th December, Greenfield

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Get your tickets now direct from Greenfield Arts Centre or call 01325 379048!

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Children/OAP - £2.50
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To book call 01325 379048 or
Drop in to Greenfield Community & Arts Centre

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE ACTIVITIES

Thanks on behalf of Senior Citizens to the Town Council and Management of the Town Centre for clearing the paths from snow - it is much appreciated.

We are looking to the New Year, calling for volunteers to run clubs at our Centre for the following activities: Baking & Icing, Flower Arranging, Whist Drives, Exercise for senior citizens, Table Tennis, Wii Machine for Adults, Domino Club, Ladies Forum, Choir, Childrens DVD Film Club, Quiz Night, Sewing & Embroidery. If you can help please ring Peter Beatty on 313924.

You may want to run a different activity of your own - if so we have the halls you need, to hire.

Anyone can use our facilities for weddings, funerals etc at a reasonable cost including catering. Call in to view what is available.

SNOW CLEARING WITH A MINI DIGGER.

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Tel: 321567 or 07984 817111

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Durham Submits Plans to Lead County's Future Development

Last month Durham County Council responded to an invitation from the Government to submit plans for a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for the county.

The Council's proposition is about building on past successes as well as grasping the opportunity to lead economic transformation, through a more innovative approach, and in strong partnership with the business community of County Durham.

The proposition will:

Lead the economic transformation of County Durham.

Work within a broader framework that recognises wider economic relations.

Support national economic priorities to address the private/public sector balance.

Establish a partnership to facilitate an efficient and effective transition that will maintain regeneration momentum and maximise opportunities.

Utilise the expertise, drive and commitment of partners across a variety of sectors, including private, voluntary, public and educational.

Generate cost effective returns on investment by operating a business model that maximises economic opportunities to meet local needs.

The key areas of activity will include:

Agreeing priorities for developing critical infrastructure including business sites, transport, broadband and housing.

Business support and growth and developing the Durham brand.

Developing skills and knowledge, including tackling worklessness.

Inspiring and facilitating an entrepreneurial culture through education from an early age.

Durham County Council Leader, Cllr Simon Henig, said: "The establishment of a County Durham Enterprise Partnership will allow the public and private sectors to develop the county's economy and maximise Durham's economic potential. I believe that through building on our current assets we can create the right economic conditions to attract the investment we need to deliver the very best for residents."

"A Local Enterprise Partnership will provide the strong leadership and direction for the creation of high quality, sustainable, employment opportunities which allows our residents to prosper and encourages our young people to raise their aspirations and realise their future ambitions"

Ken Jarrold, CBE, Chair of the County Durham Economic Partnership said: "A Local Enterprise Partnership is an ideal way to build our economy for the future. Partners in County Durham have a proven track record of working together. Establishing a Local Enterprise Partnership will inject greater private sector expertise and help us to build momentum."

The County Durham proposal is one of five LEPs covering the North East, tackling local economic priorities around housing, planning and growth in business and tourism.

Alongside these the North East is submitting a proposal which identifies six key areas which will complement these, which are:

Promotion of productivity, enterprise and business growth through developing innovation and exploiting research and development capabilities.

The development of sectors that are strategic to the UK and are clustered in the North East such as low carbon vehicles, offshore wind, chemicals and process industries and a range of other new industries.

Supporting enquiries for new investment from both existing businesses and inward investors.

Bidding for and programme managing the European Regional Development (and successor) funds, and RDPE.

The development and delivery of new approach to financing and supporting business growth.

Providing strategic input into other key areas linked to economic growth such as integrated transport and energy investment.

County Durham is fully committed to the proposed North East Economic Partnership by the Association of North East Councils and the Northern Business Forum.

DALTON WAY - ALL GONE!



The Town Centre Management team are delighted to announce that the second phase of the demolition of the former office block at Dalton Way was completed on Sunday 28th November 2010. Now that the 1960's building is down it is possible to get an idea of what the new route into the centre will look like once the new Aldi store has opened.

Once the site has been cleared of debris and the old toilet block has been demolished a hoarding will be erected around the

perimeter to ensure the site remains safe and secure.

Our planning application for the new Aldi Store, is expected to be heard by the planning committee on December 9th, 2010. In the meantime plans are on display near the Notice board on Beveridge Way. We hope to start building work on the site sometime in the Summer of 2011 working towards completion in the summer of 2012.

For further information please contact Bryan Haldane Centre Manager on 01325 300 605

SNOW DOESN'T BEAT FEASTLANDS MEALS ON WHEELS



FeastLand's new unique Meals On Wheels service has been getting through no matter what the weather brings, even when the snow has fallen the dedicated delivery staff have had to abandon their cars and take to their feet and walk the meals to their destinations.

The service aimed at the elderly and disabled, providing a Hot Meal delivered at dinner or tea time for £4 per day is thriving. It is no wonder that the Meals on Wheels service has a 100% success rate, everyone that has tried the service has continued using it without exception, no complaints and no cancellations.

If you would like to try the service for yourself or a friend or member of your family, give Ian or Lesley a call on 321123 and they will come out and have a chat with you.



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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Customer Panel Meeting

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on:

TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER 2010

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on Thursday, 16th December 2010 commencing at 6.00pm. The Panel meet in the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

This meeting will be an opportunity to have a chat with the new Leisure Manager of the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.

Please join us for coffee and mince pie:

Further information can be obtained from Christine Walton on 01325 300700
e-mail: Christine.Walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Members of the public are invited to attend.

The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.

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Mayor Welcomes Indian Visitors



Pupils at Greenfield got a taste of traditional Indian sports and dance last week as the school hosted 2 colleagues from JNV School which is in Dibrugarh in the state of Assam in North East India. The project is funded by the British Council with the aim of supporting a legacy from the 2012 Olympic Games to engage more young people in sports whilst developing an understanding of other countries and their culture. Plabon Bora and Ashoutosh Kumar had not visited England before and were delighted to have an opportunity to see some of the sights of the North East including Durham Cathedral and the snow in Weardale as

well as attending a sports conference and teaching pupils at school. Ashoutosh taught the traditional Indian sports of Kho-kho and Kabbadi and supported a festival attended by pupils from Greenfield, Sunnydale and Sedgfield Schools. Greenfield pupils were delighted to win the competition which we hope will become an annual event. Plabon taught year 9 fast track dancers at Greenfield the history behind the traditional Bihu dance and demonstrated the dance to them. The week culminated in the development of an action plan to plan for an electronic newspaper to keep the links alive and ensure they grow stronger.

Family Outing to Oak Leaf Restaurant

Do you fancy a Christmas get together with friends or family and can't think of where to go then why not try the Oak Leaf Sports Complex? We have a public bar, open to non-members as well as members. We hold a children's license and children under 18 are welcome until 9.30pm, so why not get together and enjoy one of the many beverages on offer. You could also enjoy a meal or a snack from our extensive menu. With our large screen TV's, you could watch your favorite sport while enjoying the pleasant surroundings. A warm welcome awaits you from all our friendly staff. Remember to watch the local press for any special drinks promotions. For further information, contact the Oak Leaf Sports Complex 01325-300600.

EXTRA ALLOTMENTS AT St. OSWALDS

Dear Sir,
Re the reply obtained by Newton News from the Town Council on new allotments: They state that overall there is an under supply of allotments in the area, but I would have thought an area with 74 plots and 9 pigeon lofts already had enough, without adding another 43. Do we assume that areas that do NOT have allotments are over supplied? The Town Council also says they have a "statutory obligation" to provide

allotments. Do they NOT have a "statutory obligation" to residents of the area to expect a good quality of life, or are 43 extra allotments more important? They also say DCC Highways Section will comment on the additional traffic flow in Hyllton Close and Washington Crescent. Does this imply the Town Council & Councillors on the Environment Committee didn't consider this originally, or if so, did they dismiss the problem as

a trivial issue? Perhaps Mr. Bailey could let us know what the budget provision money amount is for these extra allotments, including the cost of maintaining & servicing same which will be incurred every subsequent year. If Durham County Council approves the application, does anyone think the Town Council & Councillors will make a decision NOT to proceed with these extra plots? Disgusted Resident

REDUNDANCY SPARKS DAVID'S NEW BUSINESS

Overcoming redundancy for the second time in three years has sparked off a new business for one Newton Aycliffe man - with support from Be Enterprising. Father of three, David Liddell, 41, a fully qualified PAT tester (portable appliance testing), decided to go self-employed after losing his job and now runs Liddell Appliance Testing after receiving advice and support in setting up his own business. He explained: "Anyone who runs a business and uses electrical equipment must have PAT testing done, usually annually, to meet regulations. I approached Be Enterprising through the Jobcentre when I found myself out of work again earlier this year. I decided to start this company because I wanted to be in a business where there would be repeat trade. Annual checks have to be done and many businesses need a lot of appliances tested at once. "I found the help from Be Enterprising to be very efficient. I needed some support in getting my business plan ironed out first of all and then also in trying to develop some business leads so I could earn some money. Be Enterprising also pointed me in the right direction to access funding to get my business going really quickly." David's company - which boasts a team of sub-contracted engineers - undertakes contracts for schools, office blocks and landlords. David started the testing company two months ago and is finding business is picking up at a steady rate. His website www.liddellappliance-testing.co.uk is also up and running and he has new business premises at Aycliffe. "Self-employment is definitely the right way for me and Be Enterprising has helped me to realise this goal." Be Enterprising coach Dawn Huntrod said: "We gave David support with his business plan and help with business to business referrals primarily. He is very determined to make his business work and is diversifying into other projects such as sign writing while his new business is getting off the ground". So far the Be Enterprising programme has helped more than 3,000 people to start new businesses, with 1,845 of these supported in moving from benefit dependency to economic activity; a success that has happened within just three years of the programme's



existence. If you live in County Durham and you have an idea for a business you may be eligible for

support from Be Enterprising. For more information call 0800 030 4134 or visit www.be-enterprising.biz



WOODHAM

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

CHRISTMAS FAMILY LEARNING MORNING

10.30am - 1.00pm

Saturday 11th December 2010

"LEARNING IS FUN FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY - JOIN US AND FIND OUT"

For further information please contact
MARIE OSWALD
Community Development Co-ordinator on
01325 375 482

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Hair Braiding - Letters to Santa - Face Painting
Adult Education Information - Let's Get Cooking
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Best of the Litter Pickers



Dear Editor
I am delighted to tell you and your readers that the Heighington Parish Litter Pick Group's premier award the "McLean Silver Bowl" for 2010 was presented to Mr Bryan and Mrs Lillian Teasdale of School Aycliffe for their outstanding contribution in keeping the roads around Heighington Parish and School Aycliffe Village free of litter during the year.
The award, made annually by Heighington Parish Litter Pick Group (HPLPG), was handed to Bryan and Lillian on the 27th November in the Heighington Village Hall during the St Michael's Church Christmas Fair. The picture shows Lillian receiving the award from

Kit Bertram the Secretary of HPLPG signed by Peter Smyth the HPLPG Chairman.
HPLPG was formed six years ago to make monthly litter picks and during its life the members have collected more than 1200 bags of rubbish and large discarded articles around the verges and sides of roads running through Redworth, School Aycliffe and Heighington. They hope that with increased legislation and public awareness of the mess litter makes around the countryside their work will decline.
In the meantime the Group will continue with the regular monthly litter pick with the next pick taking place on the 11th December 2010

between 10.00am and 12.00 noon.
They would be pleased to welcome new participants of all ages from around the area. Meeting points for the picks, where help and tools are handed out, are Heighington Village Hall, 2 Main Road in Redworth and Old Farm Cottage in School Aycliffe. Refreshment will be served after the pick in Heighington Village Hall.
For more information please look out for posters around the Parish. We hope you agree that our efforts make a great contribution to keeping our outdoor environment clean and tidy.
Thanks.
Lou Bedocs
Heighington Parish Litter Group.

Greenfield Student's Dish Wows T.V. Chef

TV Chef James Martin has highly commended Harry Heaton from Greenfield Arts College, in the Red Tractor beef and lamb Mmmake it with Mince Challenge 2010. The competition saw the crème de la crème of young chefs of the North East join to compete for the prestigious award.

Contestants were judged for their recipe development and culinary skills as part of the ultimate cooking competition, now in its fifth year. A record number of students from across the country entered the competition this year, with hundreds of entries whittled down to only 48 finalists selected to take part in six cook offs around the

country.
Harry Heaton was Highly Commended after he fought it out against four other regional finalists for the North East Young Chef National Champion title as judged by celebrity chef, James Martin. The Challenge is a cookery competition for 11-16 year olds who are passionate about cooking or pursuing a career in the food industry.

At last Wednesday's heat, the talented youngsters were given one hour to cook their dish, which was judged on originality, nutrition, taste and presentation by celebrity chef James Martin.

Harry wowed the judges with his recipe Beat Box Burritos.

Points were scored for



originality, nutrition and presentation, and they were recognised for these in the North East regional heat. The students battled it out in the cook off where they had a strict one hour to prepare, cook and plate up their own original recipe featuring quality beef or lamb mince. James Martin said, "This has been the biggest and

best year of the competition. We've had over 800 entries and Harry Heaton has done exceptionally well to be Highly Commended. His recipe was original, nutritious, was presented really well – and most importantly, it tasted great! I'm sure that Harry will go on to enjoy much culinary success in the future!"

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Dear Sir,
Like many other readers are, I am getting heartily sick of reading pathetic back biting by local Councillors who haven't got a decent word to say about each other. They use Newton News as their own notice board and forums to badmouth whatever other Councillors do or say. It's about time they shut up and did something for the benefit of our town, not their own precious image.

If they have the town as their interest, I would like to see extra parking provided in Whinlatter Place as my home is located away from the nearest parking area and it is a nightmare to get parked with the amount of cars already there.

If you have heavy shopping or need your car close to the gate to remove a heavy load, it's a pain and I would appreciate our local representative doing something useful and offer a solution to our problem.

Darran Weston
Whinlatter Place

New Collectors Club



The Northern Bygone's Society is a newly formed club, opening December 14th 2010 at "The Copper Beech" Neasham Road Darlington, 7pm onwards, for Vintage and Classic Vehicles, and any type of models etc; ie trains, cars, also any collectables items such as thimbles, spoons, or anything of interest to show.

We will be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month 7pm onward, and are planning several shows throughout 2011. Everyone welcome to come along and become members. You do not have to have anything to show to become a member. Please contact Paul Jackson on 01325 312183 or Mobile 07968 367 438.

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CHRISTMAS AT THE LIBRARY

Thursday 16th December: Christmas Coffee Morning - Mince Pies and drinks with the library staff

Tuesday 21st December: Children's craft - Make and decorate a Christmas tree (50p charge, places are limited so please book in advance). There is also a Christmas colouring competition and a Christmas poetry competition for children - entry forms available in the library

In January Newton Aycliffe Library are holding two adult learning courses:

Creative Writing for Beginners, a 12 week course held on Tuesdays 1-3pm starting 11th January. This course is free of charge.

Introduction to Word Processing, a 12 week course held on Thursdays 1-3pm starting 13th January. This course leads to NOCN Entry 3 qualification and costs £15. Places are limited so please book in advance. Contact: 01325 312856

COUNCILLORS DROPPING THEMSELVES IN IT!

Dear Sir,
Some people seem unable to debate political issues (which is per se a healthy and desirable thing) without resorting to personal abuse-words - such as (from last week's edition) bigoted, pointless, egotistical, biased rhetoric, rubbish etc. If their aim was to pour out vituperation against myself, then I suppose they achieved their objective, but

they did not address the point I made. My letter stated that, at the Town Council, the Independents had failed to question or comment upon the £3million budget, but rather had merely quibbled (inequitably) about minor issues. The replies exhibited hostility towards myself for writing, but not one even referred to the point I had made, never mind refuted it!

I usually hope that people will realise that these kinds of letter tacitly accept the charge by not denying it, but this week I am pointing it out.

In amongst the hate-words, however, did you notice two more revelations?

The first was the admission (at last!) by TWO Independent Councillors that they DID promise in their manifesto to reduce Council Tax by 50%. Both of them claimed that they were duped into it by another Councillor (who may have something to say about that). One of them said they had known all along that it was unachievable, the other apologised - but our point has always been that by printing that claim on their manifesto the Independents effectively stole votes from more truthful candidates, and that they therefore sit on the Council in someone else's place by virtue of a



misrepresentation.

The second foot-in-mouth moment has to be the comment (by an Independent Councillor) that 'there is no democracy' at Great Aycliffe Town Council because the Labour Group are in the majority. This letter went on to inform readers that when they went onto the Council, they 'did not realise' that the majority vote would prevail.

I leave readers to extrapolate for themselves the calibre of Independent Councillors on Great Aycliffe Town Council. That particular letter ended by confessing: 'I now realise that Independents do not have the power to change a single thing'. And I have to say that I agree.

John D Clare
Councillor

Bad Weather Stops GAMP Meeting

A decision was taken to CANCEL the Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership Forum Event which was scheduled for 30th November at 6.00pm. This was due to the weather situation and the health & safety implications for staff and attendees travelling to the event. Co-ordinator Brian Riley apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.





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All the shops, staff and the Town Centre Management in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre would like to wish everyone a very, very merry Christmas. To help you celebrate we are offering one lucky reader the chance to win £250 which can be spent in any of our many shops here in the centre.

All you have to do to win is locate one "Christmas Gold Star" hidden somewhere around the town centre, fill in the "Find the Christmas Golden Star" leaflet and return to: Newton News Office, Taylors Newsagents, Town Centre Management Office by midday on Wednesday 22nd December 2010. The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Dorothy Bowman will then draw the winner on Thursday 23rd December. Good luck to everyone and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Newton Aycliffe Town Centre.

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1st Location

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Enjoying the Winter Weather



Children from across the town took to the hills this week when festive snowy weather came early. Families headed for areas of the town where they knew there would be a good slope ideal for sledging. Steve Cooper, Environment Officer with Great Aycliffe Town Council sent in pictures of children playing in the snow. "It was great to see all the children enjoying themselves in the great outdoors" said Steve. Children are seen enjoying the weather between blizzards at Moore Lane Park and Woodham Burn.



Plastic Bottle Greenhouse



Pupils from Aycliffe Village Primary have found an unusual way to recycle their plastic drinks bottles by making their own greenhouse. This will be used next spring to grow vegetables which can be put into the schools newly created garden area. It is then planned to use the freshly grown produce in the schools kitchen.

Head teacher Mr Gargan said "We pride ourselves in being very aware of our environment at Aycliffe Village Primary. We have already improved our school pond earlier in the year, compost our waste and now have a well developed willow sculpture that the children use over the summer as an outdoor class room. We believe we are the first school in the town to have a recycled bottle greenhouse and I believe it enhances our reputation as one of the premier Eco Schools in the area". Great Aycliffe Town Council's Environment

Officer who was on hand to offer his experience and assistance in the construction of the greenhouse added "It has taken quite a while to gather enough bottles to make the greenhouse but the children have been very enthusiastic about this unusual project and have developed a few new carpentry skills while

making the structure. I hope the greenhouse will be put to good use next year". If any other schools or community groups within the town would like to make something similar they should contact Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700 or steven.cooper@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Group Change Meeting Day

Please note that from Thursday 6th January 2011 our Parent & Toddler Group at Agnew Community Centre will move from Wednesdays to Thursdays and be run by Emma Saunders who can be contacted direct on 07983 518 806.

So come and join us as Emma will be running this Group more professionally than we have managed in the past. All welcome and still only £1 per Family.

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Thank You

Caroline Race and all at Lee Green Dance Centre would like to express their thanks to Honest John for his never ending hard work in raising funds for local charities, goods causes and youth clubs. Honest John raised £1000 for us which was a lovely unexpected surprise - THANK YOU JOHN!

VILLAGE SCHOOL PTA XMAS FAYRE



As the newly appointed Chair person of the P.T.A Mrs Edmead is very excited to be hosting the School's Christmas Fayre, which will take place on Wednesday 8th December from 6-8pm in the School Hall.

There will be some local stall holders selling their festive, hand-made items along with lots of fun and games for the children which range from decorating the Christmas tree to having their very own glitter tattoo. There will also be tombolas, a lucky dip and a raffle

with some fantastic prizes which have been donated by local companies and include an overnight stay at Hotel Bannatyne, Afternoon Tea at Lumley Castle plus a voucher for The County and many more.

"All proceeds from this event go towards purchasing much needed items for the children.

"We are hoping to raise enough money to purchase an overhead projector screen, so please come along and show your support to the Village school" said Mrs Edmead

MORE IMPORTANT THINGS THAN PUBLICITY

Dear Sir,
Counc Crosby says Councillors should not seek publicity yet he is more guilty than anyone in praising Labour MP Phil Wilson. As explained twice Counc Gittins did not even know his photo was appearing in Newton News. He was stopped by an amateur photographer to have his photo taken near his former shop which was being demolished. In any event the development of the Town Centre was being discussed years before Phil Wilson became MP - it was just the Health Centre negotiations causing the delay.

He has given it support, but failed to support the closure of Post Offices and Shafto House. Where was he when there were threats of closing the Cubby because the County Council wanted the land? Perhaps Counc Crosby could find out what happened to the money that was ring-fenced for recreation at Burnhill Way when he was a Borough Councillor? That money was lost in a black hole when the County Council took over and he would do well to give the children in that area what was promised.
Concerned Tax Payer
Name & address supplied

Makeover for Cubby Kitchen



sbh is delighted that a bid they received for funding the modernisation of The Cubby has come to

fruition. Bill Blenkinsopp Chairman, sent a Tenant Led Environmental Improvement Application to sbh, asking if improvements could be made to the appearance of the Drop In Centre in Newton Aycliffe. sbh discussed the 'bid' with partners Bullock to see if they were able to do anything to help and Bullock provided new kitchen units, work surfaces and wall tiles.

Bullock contractor, Moores (kitchen supplier) offered to supply the kitchen units free of charge and other Bullock sub contractors (Robson's Construction, Foulds and Tourton and RG Developments) offered their services free of charge to complete the makeover of the kitchen, which was completed in just two days.

sbh and Bullock are delighted to be able to help the Cubby to continue to provide such a valuable service to the local community for many years to come.

Ian Brown Head of Communities said "I am delighted that working with our partners we have been able to improve the Cubby for the benefit of the residents of Newton Aycliffe. This shows how sbh is working to improve our communities and is something sbh are committed to achieving over coming months and years.

Next year's TLEI programme launches in January 2011 and I hope residents take the opportunity to bid for

suitable schemes. The qualifying criteria and application forms are on our website at www.sedgefieldboroughhomes.co.uk or contact our Resident Involvement Team on 0845 505 5500 for more details."

Get - Together for UMM Staff

Former UMM employees are holding a Re-union on Thursday 16th December from 7.30pm onwards. Any person who worked on the shop floor or in the offices is invited to contact Neil Stockley for more details on 01388 776083.

J&C COACHES

Forthcoming Attractions

WHITE CHRISTMAS

Saturday 11th December - Sunderland Empire - £49.50

BOYZONE

Tuesday 1st March 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £47.50

NEYO

Thursday 3rd March 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £52.50

JUSTIN BIEBER

Saturday 12th March 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £47.50

ELBOW

Wednesday 16th March 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £39.50

TORVILL & DEAN

Tuesday 12th April 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £55.00

JOHN BISHOP

Tuesday 10th May 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £36.50

JOURNEY & FRIENDS

Tuesday 7th June 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £52.50

THE HERE & NOW TOUR

Wednesday 29th June 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £47.50

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 15th Dec., 2010
Full Council - 7.15pm

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".

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The Pioneering Care Partnership is once again having a 'Christmas Giving Tree' in the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe. Local people can place their own personal message for loved ones on the tree. Message tags are available from reception and everyone that places a message will take home a Christmas bauble to decorate their own tree.

Andrea Elsbury, health improvement specialist for County Durham and Darlington Community Health Service's cancer information and support service, said: "We are delighted that the PCP is once again having the Christmas Giving Tree. All donations will go to Macmillan Cancer Support to help them continue to develop the wide range of services currently delivered locally and enable the development of new services."

"Current cancer information and support services support people living in the Sedgefield and Peterlee areas working in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support and the Pioneering Care Partnership, enabling information and advice to be offered at any stage of their illness. This year services have developed even more to offer a headwear service to cancer patients experiencing hair loss through treatment, de-stress and relaxation courses and living beyond cancer courses."

The services are available to all people affected by cancer

or worried about cancer and also offers practical advice on cancer, cancer prevention and early detection as well as providing emotional support and a listening ear.

Other services available at the cancer information centre within the Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe include:

- Information and advice on coping and living with cancer
- Advice on spotting symptoms, reducing the risk of cancer and the importance of screening through the 'Talking about Cancer' initiative
- Someone to listen and talk things through
- Information on appropriate support services, including self-help and support groups
- Benefits information and advice
- Travel insurance information.

Fiona McQuiston, Macmillan Cancer information and support manager and health improvement lead for County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services, said: "It is a sad fact, but one in three people will be affected by cancer in their lifetime. These people will require information and support during a time of confusion and anxiety. The Macmillan Cancer information and support service can provide the information and expertise to help people through their individual journeys. The service can also advise people on how they can

reduce the risk of developing some cancers and reinforce the importance of taking part in cancer screening programmes."

Staff are available at the centre on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings between 9.30am and 12.30pm, and a free phone helpline on 0808 178 3277 is also available from 9.30am to 5pm. Members of the public are welcome to

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COMMUNITY SPIRIT



Residents of The Grange are shown taking 'shovel action' on Wednesday 1st December due to deep snow causing havoc on The Grange. Everyone clubbed together to remove the snow and even took time out to have a welcome 'cuppa'.



THINKING OF MOVING HOME IN 2011?

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THE TURBINIA

* Saturday Night Live *

The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge

Saturday 4th December "1 0 1"

We are pleased to welcome back one of the tubs favourite bands, who play a great mix of modern & classic rock. Tracks covered by: Led Zeppelin, Killers, AC/DC, Kings of Leon, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Kiesel Chiefs, Nirvana, Razorlight, Pink Floyd, Green Day. Davys Rock Page Review: 'All in all, a great night with a great atmosphere and a lot of people dancing, so if you want to hear newer covers with a good mix of older rock 101 deliver.'

Saturday 11th November "Thyn Lizzy"

'Just got back from the THYN LIZZY gig at the Sandy Outdoor Tent. All I can say, is Phil Lynott dead? I don't think so... Jeezus H Christ, the dual guitars were incredible and the drummer was outstanding and I was totally humbled by Glenn on bass. 'Don't believe a word' was cool, with a blues intro (5 minutes long) and then the usual version to finish it off was such a contrast and skillfully done. 'Boys' was great and 'Dancing in the moonlight' with Kenny Sax guesting was sublime as was the 'Kayleigh' inspired 'Emerald'. Awesome guys, made my hellbent weekend!' - gig pit review

Saturday 18th December "Bullet"

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

NEW JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM AT HEIGHINGTON



Heighington AFC Boys would like to announce the arrival of an all new Under 8's Team. David Brassell and Paul Soakell have formed a joint management team with an aim to improve children's football skills and expand their knowledge of the game.

With help from Chairman Mel Oakes and a very generous Sponsor in Premier Construction (NE) Ltd the team is progressing well with the opportunity of entering a local league after Christmas. Training is held on Tuesday Nights 18.00-19.00 (Indoors) and Saturday Mornings 9.30-11.00 (Outdoors).

As always when a new team is formed, players are needed so if you think your child could be the next Rooney or Ronaldo, Schmeichel or Shearer and is aged 7/8 (Year 3) please do not hesitate to give us a call: David Brassell - 07870 777 779 or Paul Soakell - 07900 563230.

All other Information can be found on our website <http://www.clubwebsite.co.uk/heighingtonafcboys/> click on teams then select the under 8's.

Situations Vacant Getting Newtonians Back To Work

Advertise Your Vacancies FREE

Newton News are introducing a new feature for all locally based businesses to help you get the staff needed to fill the vacant positions.

We are offering a FREE three line advert similar to those displayed below (for bigger sizes please call). To display your jobs here email your details to: paul@newtonnews.co.uk

NEWTON NEWS require reliable paper deliverers to add to our reserve list in all areas of the town. Paying from 4p per paper (+ extra for more than 12 pages and leaflets), rounds vary in size from 150-600. Call 300 212 today.

CAR VALETING business to rent. Have you just been made redundant or sick of the job you have. Well established business that has run for 2 years (full training available). For more info or you have any questions call now 01325 520464

In Memoriam

JULIE DALTON 6th December 2000. It's been 10 years since you were so cruelly taken from us into God's care. Not a day has gone by in that time without the pain of losing you At least you no longer feel pain and suffering which is a blessing. I know one day we will be together again. God bless, Michael and family.

TOWERS (Tucker), 29th November. The tears in my eyes I can wipe away, but the ache in my heart is here to stay. Loved and remembered every day. Your ever loving Wife, Pauline xxxx

Thank You

SUSAN LAING would like to thank all family and friends for the lovely presents (Lesley's special ones included!!) and cards on her 50th birthday, as well as all friends who came to Palma and Sunderland.

HARRY DENHAM The family of the late Harry would like to thank everyone who attended his Funeral and for all the cards, flowers and kind words received on their sad loss. Also many thanks to the Royal British Legion for the lovely food; the Co-op Funeral Services and a special thank you to Rev. Linda Potter for an excellent Service

THANK YOU to Dave Mason of Sureway for getting me through my driving test... eat my dust!! Claire

For Sale

CHILDREN'S Silvercross coach built pram, limited edition, hardly used, excellent condition, navy with bag and covers, £150 ono. Tel 310890 or 07508 178968

O'BABY convertible pram and pushchair. Beige and cream with brown circles. Like new. £150.00 ono. Will deliver in N/A area. Call 07792654891

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NEW SINGLE divan bed with mattress, £60. Tel 321617
NEED An old domestic appliance removing? Can't wait for the Council? Tel. 321 678.

Congratulations

Donna Thompson



Happy 30th Birthday

7th December 2010
Hope you have a lovely day. Lots of love, Mum, Dad and Lee xxxxx

Adam Paterson
(Patter)



Happy 18th Birthday

Have a good one. love from Mam and Dad

Adam Paterson
Happy 18th birthday
(Man's tash)
From Michael

Fred and Alex Winwood



Golden Wedding Anniversary

3rd December 2010

Congratulations on your Golden Wedding Anniversary. Lots of love from Brian, Andrea and Daniela

Joshua James



Happy 2nd Birthday

to "Cheeky Monkey" Joshua James. Love you loads. From Mammy and Daddy

Amber Fenwick



Congratulations on qualifying to represent the North East at the Nationwide Finals. Second in 3-5 years Street, Freestyle Solo and third in R'n'R with Stephanie Wilson. We are so proud of you love Mummy, Daddy and Summer. Special thanks to Caroline at Lee Green.

Birthday Remembrance

STEPHEN (Ibbo) IBINSON

Loving birthday memories. A loving Son true and kind, beautiful memories he left behind. In all the world, we shall not find a heart so loving, a heart so kind. In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place no one can ever fill. We know we have not lost you, for that could never be. For some day we will meet you, a day we know not when. We will clasp your hands so tightly and never part again. Love you always. Sadly missed by Mam, Dad and family.

MABEL ELLIS 6th December. Thinking of you on your 79th birthday, your first away from home. Instead of a card I send you my love, instead of a gift a prayer, to the one that I thought the world of and miss beyond compare. In my heart forever and always, love Julie xxxxx

MABEL ELLIS - Happy 79th Birthday Nanna. We hope you have a wonderful day, but we just wish we could share it with you. Just remember that we love you very much and miss you more and more each day xxx

Bobby Belton



Happy 40th Birthday

Bobby Belton is finally 40! Happy birthday. Loads of hugs and kisses, Rachel, Lisa and Esther xxx

For Sale

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

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Alice Springs



Happy 21st Birthday

10-10-10

to our beautiful Daughter on your 21st birthday. Lots of love from Mam & Dad xxx

Bonny and Clyde Cunningham



Golden

Wedding

on 1st Jan

2010, Gra

PhotoAds are suitable for any announcement and are preserved forever on our website www.newtonnews.co.uk We are currently working on an archive site which will bring you ALL the past issues of the Newton News as far back as 1948!

TOWN THAI BOXERS FIGHT IN THAILAND



On returning to Thailand, Reece McAllister set to work training as usual running 4 miles every morning along with gym work twice a day. Once fitness was back up Reece was matched to fight in a 4 man tournament.

On the first fight Reece was against a tough Thai, which went all the way to a points win for Reece. After a short break Reece was back up and ready and stopped his next opponent in the first round with a well timed body shot.

Another of the town's Phoenix fighters, Lauren Humphreys flies out to Thailand on December 1st. She will be straight into training and is scheduled to fight on the 10th. Once again the Lee Smith Trust has played a massive part in making Lauren's dream come true.

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FOOTY FIXTURES FEEL THE FREEZE



Aycliffe's players were forced to train indoors at the Soccarena Complex in Durham, this weekend as the football fixtures felt the big freeze. Every Northern League game was postponed last weekend as were midweek fixtures, including Aycliffe's cup game at home to Crook Town on Wednesday night.

And the Newtonians' trip to Birtley Town this weekend will almost certainly, at the time of going to print, also fall foul of the weather.

"It's a nightmare in terms of trying to keep the players match fit as there's literally nowhere to train outdoors," said Chairman and Assistant Manager Gary Farley. "I can't see much football being played for a good few days yet."

"It's a repeat of the postponements we had in January due to snow and we didn't expect this at this stage of the season!"

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES
Saturday 11th December: Thornaby (H), 3pm
Saturday 18th December: Whickham (A), 3pm
Wednesday 22nd December: Crook Town (H), Div 2 Cup R1, 7.30pm
Monday 27th December: Crook Town (A), 1pm
Monday 3rd January: Morpeth (H), 3pm
www.newtonaycliffe.co.uk

Aycliffe are due to play Thornaby at home next Saturday but the game could also be seriously in doubt. The club will keep fans updated on all postponements via their official website, facebook, the SMS text service and nonleaguezone.com.

Meanwhile, tickets for Aycliffe's Christmas Comedy Night are proving hugely popular. The club are holding the event at Aycliffe Sports Club on Bank Holiday Monday December 27, with star impersonator Kevin Connelly and comedian Rudi West providing the entertainment.

More than 70 tickets have already been sold for the comedy night, to be held at Aycliffe Sports Club, with just 30 remaining. Organiser Martin Walker said: "As expected this is proving to be our most popular event up to now, in terms of tickets being

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Charity China Walk

We would like to say a massive thank you to Dion and Chris, from "Saintsinners" for a great band night on Friday 26th November in aid of our Charity China Walk. We raised a huge £420 and thank everyone for supporting us. Also a big thank you to all that came to Playday Nursery Christmas Fayre, we raised another £620.48p and £228 in sponsorship towards the walk.

If you would like to sponsor us please go to <http://original.justgiving.com/laurawhitfield1> - raising money for Clic Sargent - Children with Cancer charity.
Laura and Donna

U3A MEET

The U3A/Third Age Trust (an international organisation) for people over 50. This months presentation is organised for Tuesday morning at 10am on 7th December at St Clares Church in Newton Aycliffe. As usual we have musical entertainment in the month of December, this year it is Mrs Clifford, who will be entertaining us.

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