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NEWTON NEWS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER - LOCAL NEWS THAT MATTERS

Oak Leaf Sports Complex
Tel No. 01325 300600

Parent and Child Dance Mat Fun FREE!
Monday 20th Dec
3.00pm to 4.00pm
Kids aged 4 to 7yrs
Booking is essential!

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 17th December, 2010

Police Appeal for Witnesses

Between 10.30pm on Friday 10th December 2010 and 8.00am on Saturday 11th December 2010 criminal damage occurred to two unattended vehicles parked in Bewick Crescent, Newton Aycliffe. The offenders had broken a number of windows on each vehicle, a white Iveco van and a red MG motorcar prior to making off from the scene.

Police are appealing for any witnesses to these incidents to contact PC 1452 Thompson at Newton Aycliffe Police Office Tel No 0345 60 60 365 or alternatively contact Crimestoppers on Tel No 0800 555 111

PC 1452 Alan Thompson (Neighbourhood Police Team)

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Over 1000 at Christmas Community Concert

XCEL CONFERENCE CENTRE A GREAT VENUE

The annual Christmas Community Concert held at the Xcel Centre was a great occasion with over 1,000 people in attendance.

Everyone enjoyed the programme of music given by schools and adult choirs.

Those taking part this year were Xcel Church Choir, Vane Road School, Woodham College, Aycliffe Musical Theatre, St. John's School, Sugar Hill, Greenfield Arts College with soloist Charlotte Eltringham, St. Mary's School and Aycliffe Village School.

Tribute was paid to those teachers who taught and brought their students to perform. Their dedication to their job and the way they saw the role of their school in the community was acknowledged.

Interspersed with these



FeastLand
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Breakfast and After school Club

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WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING:
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All you need to do is come and take a look, book your place and join in with the fun. A prospectus and price list is available, we can also send out any information requested.

WE ALSO OFFER HOLIDAY CLUB! JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!

wonderful performances were Christmas Carols and songs sung by everyone, led by our Town Band under their conductor Mike Priestley. The musicians were fantastic and compere Syd Howarth thanked them for their unfailing support over the 21 years the event has been organised by the Rotary Club.

He also thanked the Xcel Centre for donating the use of their magnificent auditorium with its superb and highly professional sound and lighting. All the Xcel personnel volunteered their services and the co-operation received was marvellous and much appreciated by the Rotary Club.

The Xcel Centre lends itself beautifully for this community event offering good access and excellent facilities for car parking. The Jackson Restaurant and Starbucks Coffee house on site was also well used.

The Mayor Dorothy Bowman and Rotary President Barry Hutchinson passed on their greetings and Pastor John Greenhow gave the Blessing. A collection was taken for the Rotary's annual appeal to provide hampers for the town's needy families at Christmas. There was also a valuable raffle and the three prize winning numbers were Green 121, Yellow 39 and white 47.

The Concert is mainly about children and they all performed brilliantly, bringing such great pleasure to all watching. Christmas for many really did start at this event and everyone left with a warm feeling to begin the festive season.

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Brilliant Year for Phoenix Club



Phoenix Thai Boxing Club held its first grading on Monday 13th December; this was a hugely successful event

and resulted in students of the club passing their first grade. The club has students of all ages, however the youngest

members of the Phoenix camp participated in the grading as well as various parents of the youngsters who also train in other classes. During the grading, the students were required to complete various techniques and were in turn graded on technique, power and balance amongst other aspects associated with correct execution. Although the students' ages ranged from 5 years to adult, the high level of skill and technical ability was apparent across the board; and as a result all the students conducted themselves in a way that makes them a credit to Phoenix Thai Boxing Club.

A special mention goes to Owen Preston who received his Assistant Junior Instructors Grade. This tops off an exceptional year for the Club winning 7 titles this year alone, setting the standard for 2011.

NEW YEARS EVE 50/50 DANCE

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Burn Lane
8.00pm to Midnight

Dancing to "Graham Scarlett"

Price £5.00 per person

Contact Freda Jones on 310300
(only a few tickets left)



Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe Christmas Santa Route



SANTA WILL BE VISITING THESE AREAS (Weather conditions permitting)

**RAISING FUNDS TO PROVIDE FOOD HAMPER FOR
NEEDY FAMILIES IN OUR AREA AT CHRISTMAS TIME**

Monday 20th December	5.30 - 7pm	Central Avenue, Bousfield, Defoe, Washington Crescent & Closes
Tuesday 21st December	5.30 - 7pm	School Aycliffe, The Chestnuts
Wednesday 22nd December	5.30 - 7pm	Bluebell Way, All Estates
Thursday 23rd December	5.30 - 7pm	SilkinWay/Westmoreland Way Areas

EXCITING FREE COURSES AT PCC

The Pioneering Care Centre at Newton Aycliffe is offering some exciting new Courses for the New Year. With the aim of helping people increase their chances of getting a job the following courses are on offer:

CIEH Level 2 Food Safety, Health and Safety, First Aid (Employability Route Way)

Tuesday 11 January 2011 9.30 – 12.00

Thursday 13 January 2011 9.30 – 4.30

Thursday 20 January 2011 9.30 – 4.30

Thursday 27 January 2011 9.30 – 4.30

COUNSELLING NCFE LEVEL 2

Introduction to Counselling Skills (3 weeks) leading to NCFE Level 2 Counselling (17 weeks)

Start date Thursday 13 January 2011 6.30 – 8.30pm

These courses are free if you are over 18 and unemployed living in Sedgefield Borough.

For further information please call 01325 321234 or email enquiries@pcp.uk.net to book your place.

Santa's Grotto in the Town Centre

Father Christmas will be in his Grotto on Saturday 18th, Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd from 11.00am until 2pm. He has taken over the shop in the Town Centre next to Greggs.

Father Christmas and his helpers are looking forward to meeting you all. Admission is £2.

EDITORIAL

BAD NEWS ON CUTS TO SERVICES

"Localism" is the new buzz word in Government and supposedly aims to devolve powers to a more local level with better consultation and public involvement.

A more cynical reason could be the Governments' need to cut County Council budgets such as Durham by £100 million!

It is more likely we will have to decide whether or not services previously provided by the Unitary Authority can be passed onto our Town Council, with the expectation we will pay for them!

By giving us the right to decide on what services we need could be a cynical way of increasing the Council Tax by the back door.

We fell into the trap in last week's issue by suggesting the Town Council should take over the responsibility of snow clearing, because it was a local problem which only they could solve.

We did qualify this statement by stipulating the money and resources would have to come from the County Council, but if they just don't have the money it could only come from increasing local tax.

The hard truth of the matter is about to be revealed and readers are warned to be ready for bad news on those services we take for granted.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Neville Parade
Methodist Church**

Sunday 19th December
10.30am Morning Worship
led by Rev J Spencer

Sunday 19th December 6pm
Candlelit Carol Service led by Rev E Morgan

Wednesday 22nd December
6pm Messy Church Christingle Service (Christmas activities for young & old)

Christmas Day 10am Family Celebration

We extend a warm welcome to everyone and look forward to seeing you at any of our services as we celebrate the birth of Jesus

CAROLS ON XMAS EVE

A Merry Christmas to everyone and best wishes for the new year. All are warmly invited to join us for our annual Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 5pm at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, on Shafto Way.

Christmas at St Clare's

Christmas Eve: 4.30 pm Family Christingle and Nativity Service.
11.30pm Midnight Mass of Christmas
Christmas Day 10.00am Christmas Communion
Boxing Day 8.00am Said Communion Service
10am Christmas Communion Service.
St Francis Church, Horndale
Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass of Christmas

Was This the Biggest Snowman in Town?



Newton News has received a claim for the biggest snowman in Newton Aycliffe to retain their record from last year. It stands 3.6m tall (12ft) and was built by Owen Scott, Brooke Scott, and Lucy Stephenson at Moule Close.

FESTIVE ISSUES OF NEWTON NEWS

Thursday 23rd December - Christmas Issue
Deadline: Tuesday 22nd December

Friday 7th January 2011 - New Year Issue
Deadline: Wednesday 5th January

Advertisements can be placed at our agents:
WALKERS at Simpasture,
NEWSFORCE in the Town Centre
or online at www.newtonnewsads.co.uk

Office Opening Times

Closing 3pm on Thursday 23rd December
Skeleton Staff in attendance until reopening
on Tuesday 4th January 2011 at 8.30am

Christmas Special Breakdance Taster Session (Darlington)

- For kids (5+) to teenagers - **NOW** is your chance!
- Ideal activity whilst Mum and Dad Christmas shop
- Fun, exciting plus bonus Graffiti design competition



Wreckonize & St Cuthberts Hall, Darlington (next to Dolphin Centre) present a special two hour Breakdancing workshop run by experienced B-boys Joe Cooper and Chris Ather. It's fun, exciting and a real challenge whether you are young or more mature. Ideal activity for kids whilst parents finish off their last minute Christmas shopping!

SATURDAY 18th DECEMBER 2-4pm

St. CUTHBERTS HALL, THE MARKET PLACE, DL1 5QG

What to wear: Trainers and comfortable loose clothing

To book your place in advance (as places will be limited) email: wreckonize@live.co.uk giving your name and a contact number or you can also telephone: 01325 300119 to give your name and contact details and we will get back to you. Cost per session £6.50. **Cut out this advert to use as £1.00 voucher on entry**

ANONYMOUS LETTERS

Dear Sir,
I find it appalling that people can write to this paper anonymously and attack people in print. The recent letter that attacked Vince Crosby and Phil Wilson was a nauseating example. Name and address supplied means the person can remain anonymous and free from criticism themselves. It's a coward's way and should not be tolerated by the Newton News. If people are big enough to name other people and levy criticism, they should be big enough to put their name to it. Vince Crosby has the guts to do so when he writes.

I hope readers hold these anonymous political pygmies in the contempt they deserve. I have no doubt you will produce a half baked excuse to protect them.

Mike Haley
Stargate

Ed: We can justify the policy of allowing correspondents the protection of anonymity when requested. They must provide Newton News with their name and address, and we accept their reasons for requesting this as often the author could be subject to surreptitious reprisal.

The subject matter is sometimes given in confidence to flush out information which is in the public interest, but if the writer is identified it could damage their job or position.

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well it's Christmas and money is tight and we like taking care of you

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Restaurant with Rooms

Bookings Now Being Taken for

BOXING DAY
Food served 12.00noon to 2.00pm
and 6.00pm to 9.00pm

NEW YEARS EVE LUNCH
Food Served from 12.00noon to 2.00pm
(New Years Eve Dinner fully booked)

We would like to wish all our customers our very best wishes for the Festive Season and many thanks for your support in 2010.
Colette, Stuart and The County Team

The County, Aycliffe Village, Co. Durham DL5 6LY
Telephone: 01325 312 272
www.thecountyaycliffevillage.com

WORK STARTS ON AYCLIFFE BOWLING ALLEY & ICE RINK

ANOTHER RUFF 'n' TUMBLE INVESTMENT



An exciting new recreational facility on Aycliffe Business Park, Planet Leisure, has finally received planning permission.

Work started this week on a Bowling Alley, Ice Rink, Laser Tag, and Aerial Obstacle Course at premises on Maple Way by the company who own Ruff 'n' Tumble.

Darren and Andrea Peckitt opened this business six years ago and has just celebrated their millionth visitor to this popular Play Centre on Aycliffe Business Park.

The couple have twin girls Niamh and Annabel, now aged 9. As parents Darren and Andrea always found it difficult to find places



that entertained very young children. They visited a Play Centre in the region but the quality of the play and food was limited, so they decided to open a centre themselves in this area, providing quality play and food at prices to suit everyone.

"We have continued to invest in the facility and now attract children up to 12 years old usually unheard of for a Play Centre, due to the addition of the climbing wall, 10 pin bowling and bungee trampolines," said Darren.

"As the girls got older, we recognised another shortfall in local leisure provisions in both choice and location. In November 2009 we approached Sedgefield Borough Council on their attitude to opening the Leisure Complex close to Ruff 'n' Tumble. After 6 months of discussions we received Planning Consent in June this year.

Raising the finances to support this venture has been very difficult, especially in this economic climate. We were fortunate to have a very supportive Bank Manager (HSBC) which was vital in securing a loan through the Government Backed Scheme, the same scheme that supported Ruff 'n' Tumble," said Darren.

The 32,000 square foot complex will also provide a Bistro for nearly 100 people and a bar to accommodate 50. There will be a seated spectator area for 100 people. The Bowling Alley will have 12 lanes and the Ice Rink is 4,000 sq feet large. The new amenities are planned to open in the Spring of next year.

This is a very welcome project for Aycliffe and the Peckitts deserve full support for their vision and drive in bringing something much needed to Newton Aycliffe.

Appeal for Witnesses to Car Crime

Police at Newton Aycliffe are appealing for witnesses to a crime that took place on PEASEWAY at around 3:25 pm on Friday afternoon (10th December). A green 'R' registered Nissan Micra had been parked up close to the junction with OAKFIELD following an earlier accident when two males arrived in a second car, got out and approached the Micra in broad daylight.

The front passenger window was smashed and one of the offenders was seen 'hanging out of the car' through the window removing the radio from inside. Both males then fled the scene in a black coloured Renault Clio which headed towards the town centre. The only description obtained at the time was that one of the suspects wore a grey stripey top and had on

trainers.

Sgt Mark Edwards told Newton News:

"This crime took place in the middle of a Friday afternoon at a time when there were potentially lots of people who would have been leaving their places of work and in full view of any possible onlookers and local residents.

I ask that anyone who may have been in the area at that time and who may have witnessed the crime taking place or seen a vehicle fitting the description to come forward with any information – no matter how insignificant it may seem.

Any information can be passed to the Neighbourhood Policing Team at Newton Aycliffe on 0345 6060365 or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 should you wish to remain anonymous".

CARING WARDENS

Dear Sir,
I recently sent in a letter regarding snow clearance in Hopelands Court, Heighington and the cottages in Hopelands
May I praise the Wardens who have made a really special effort to reach us every day to do our shopping and collect prescriptions for those who are unable to get out on their own due to the ice and snow. I would like to thank them for their care and consideration in these extreme conditions.
J. M. Gowland

SIMPASTURE CONVENIENCE STORE

Cheryl, Maurice, Janet, Debbie and Yvonne would like to wish all our customers a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

SHOP OPENING HOURS:
Christmas Day - Closed (place your lottery early)
Sunday 26th: 9-1pm & 4-8pm
Mon/Tue: 9-1pm & 4-8pm
Sat 1st, Sun 2nd & Mon 3rd: 9am-1pm and 4-8pm (As normal 7.30am-8pm all other days)

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Christmas at the Xcel Church

This Sunday 19th December Xcel Church are hosting their Family Christmas Show. Full of fun, laughter, music, dance and much more, this promises to be a great way to get in the festive mood. Admission is FREE. The event starts at 6pm.

Why not come to the Xcel Centre early and grab a coffee and maybe get your photo taken with Santa and his helpers. Then on Christmas Eve you are invited to join Xcel Church for a more traditional Christmas celebration, enjoying a mince pie, singing some Carols and taking a moment out of the busyness of the season to remember what Christmas is really all about. The Christmas Eve Service starts at 6pm.

Plus Jacksons Coffeehouse proudly brewing Starbucks is open right up until Christmas Eve so why not call in, relax and treat yourself to your usual or try a Gingerbread Latte or Toffee Nut Latte.

For more information please contact 08454 505 871 or go to xcelchurch.com

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On Your Bike for Toy Collection



For the last five years Aycliffe Bike Club has collected Christmas toys for disadvantaged children in the area. In total nearly £9,000 has been raised and the members are appealing for help this year requesting new toys be left at the Turbinia Pub or brought on Collection Day, Sunday 19th December, when the bikers

will be there in fancy dress at 3.15pm.

The Party Fire Engine with Martin Noris will also be in attendance for the children to inspect. Other riders are invited to join the run, suitable for bikes, trikes and scooters of all sizes. Just bring a toy along with you - the run meets at 11.30am before riding

out to collect toys from the area. Gary from the Turbinia can be contacted for further information on 313034.

LLOYD TO THE RESCUE

Doreen Jones, an invalid, has been housebound throughout the bad weather and was getting very concerned about the 18" level of snow sitting on her conservatory roof. She had seen reports on TV where the weight of snow had caused roofs to collapse, so she contacted local Handyman Lloyd Carruthers who came out immediately and in the dark climbed a ladder to remove the problem and a big worry for Doreen. "Lloyd has helped me a lot over the years and he is a real star and I wish to thank him publicly" said Doreen.

New Under 5's Music Class at PCP



Music Bugs, who provide award winning music and singing classes for children aged 6 months to 4 years of age are opening a new class on January 12th at The Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe for parents and carers of young children.

Margaret Anderson, who runs Music Bugs classes in Darlington, Bishop Auckland and Teesside, has agreed with the Centre to

hold classes on Wednesday afternoons in term time at 2pm.

We play high quality percussion instruments and have a wide range of colourful puppets and props such as pom poms, hobby horses and floaty scarves, to engage and stimulate the children. Our aim is to have a lot of fun and provide a music based development opportunity for your child. The venue is excellent - a lovely room with plenty of space to move about to the music and why not take advantage of the cafe before or after class to make it a real treat!

Classes run for 40 minutes and cost £4 per child. FREE TASTER sessions are available but must be pre-booked. Contact Margaret Anderson on 0844-578-1046, email margaret@musicbugs.co.uk and please visit our website www.musicbugs.co.uk for further details.

Margaret is very much looking forward to the new class and says "A very warm welcome and plenty of fun awaits you at Music Bugs and we look forward to seeing you".

YOUTH CENTRE ICE RINK



The Ice Rink at the Youth Centre, funded by the Area Action Partnership (GAMP), was very popular with schools and the general public.

Sessions have been held all this week and everyone has thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Greetings from Agnew Centre

The Agnew Centre Management Committee wish to extend seasonal greetings for a peaceful 2011 to the following groups of users and the many friends who have supported us during our rebirth into a new centre.

The old Sedgefield Borough Council both Councillors and Staff, Durham County Council both Councillors and Staff, and to all our local Councillors and Staff.

In particular we thank Councillors Joan Gray and Paul Gittins, GAMP, Cavos, Newton Aycliffe Learning Partnership, the Town's Community Centres, Newton Press, Active Inclusion c/c, Bingo Club, Photo Group, Tai Chi, Aycliffe Spiritualists, Community Payback, Line Dance Class, Elevate Youth Club Staff, Toddler Group, Volunteers, Caroline Race Dance School, Stonham Trust and Surestart.

A special thanks to all who have made our first full year in the new building a resounding success.

Ron Mitche
Hon Secretary

Xmas Closing at The Cubby

The Cubby will be closed the following dates over the Christmas holidays:

December 25th, 26th and 27th.

January 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee and volunteers, for all the help and support over the last year. Season's greetings to everyone who helps and who use the Cubby.

Bill Blenkinsopp (Chairman)

J&C COACHES

Forthcoming Attractions

NEYO

Thursday 3rd March 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £52.50

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

RHIANNA

Sunday 16th October 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £58.50

KATY PERRY

Thursday 27th October 2011 - Newcastle Arena - £42.50

EASTER IN LONDON

Friday 22nd April 2011 - 2 Nights in the Hilton Hotel
Based in Central London in the 4* Hilton Metropole Hotel on a B&EB Basis. We include Luxury En-Suite Bedrooms, Executive Coach Travel and a brief Sightseeing Tour - Just £159.00 per person

For details of all our attractions call us now on

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THINKING OF MOVING HOME IN 2011?

WHY NOT GET AHEAD OF THE CROWDS?

January is the time when the property market booms. With buyers making the decision to move home in the New Year you need to get your property ready NOW - but you need to move FAST as our reduced selling fee offer is ending soon.

Call 01325 312705 NOW to arrange your FREE VALUATION and get your property listed and ready for 2011.

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THE TURBINIA

* Saturday Night Live *

The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge

Saturday 18th December "Bullet"

RIFFS MAGAZINE review, TURBINIA 2007: 'The prognosis from tonight's performance is definitely a thumbs-up - passion, energy and excitement are what BULLET deliver and watching the crowd at the TURBINIA go crazy for them, then it's obvious they are on the way up very quickly. BULLET seems to have got it right and given the odd break or two could seriously be set to worry some of the more established bands - Watch out for BULLET, they could just have your name on them'. Tracks by: Guns n Roses, Pearl Jam, Def Leppard, Bon Jovi, Iron Maiden, U2, Ozzy, Foo Fighters, Velvet Revolver and more

Saturday 25th December - NO BAND

Saturday 1st January - "Uncle Gilbert"

Riff review: 'An excellent night with some classic rock covers done by mainstay of our rock fraternity both Bill and Gary gave the thumbs up to the performance, as did all the other punters in the venue tonight. For a band to stay together for that long you just know they're doing something right, this band have just earned themselves a promotion into the premiere league'. Covering tracks by Bad Company, Billy Idol, Bon Jovi, Cult, Deep Purple, Gary Moore, Hendrix, Satriani, Pink Floyd, Rory Gallagher, Santana, UFO, ZZ Top and more www.unclegilbert.co.uk

For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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NEWTON NEWS NOW IN TESCO'S



Newton News were delighted when Tesco's agreed to allow our popular local newspaper to be picked up from their store by customers from outside the town who do not get a delivery. Pictured is non-food Manager, Guy Sweeney taking receipt of the new display.

This is one of many points of collection and helps ensure excellent coverage of this area. Other points are: Oak Leaf Sports Complex, McDonalds, Don Walkers Butchers, Neville Parade Newsagents, Gretna, Youth Centre, PCP Centre, Save Garage, Total Garage, Greenfield School, Taylors Newsforce, The Cubby and the Library (other public venues are being arranged).

REPORT ON TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, 8th December (snow having forced the postponement of the previous week) was busy for Great Aycliffe Town Council (GATC), because three committees had to meet in one evening.

However, I was delighted to be told at the start that – after my letters of previous weeks – the Great Aycliffe Independent (GAI) Councillors intended to offer more debate. This is wonderful – the majority Labour Group positively welcomes the opportunity to justify its decisions. GATC is a well-run, successful Council, and being questioned in public gives us the opportunity to publicly demonstrate how great a Council it is!

1. The ENVIRONMENT Committee

The first was about dog waste bags. Hitherto, the County Council has provided these free of charge but – intending to stop this service – it has written to the Town Council asking if we wish to take it over. The County Council estimates that it gives away a quarter of a million dog bags in Newton Aycliffe every year, so the cost would be perhaps £4000. The GAI Councillors argued strongly that dog-owners should pay for their own dog bags. The Labour Group contended that the free bag scheme encouraged people to pick up after their dogs; we therefore proposed to trial the scheme for a year – and that suggestion was agreed, with just four votes against.

The second key issue was the information that the County Council planners were recommending rejection of the Aldi planning application (on the grounds that the building included a 'bland' wall). Labour Councillors felt that the people of Aycliffe would not wish the town centre regeneration to founder on the issue of a design point; they proposed

to send the Town Clerk to present this opinion to the County Planning Committee ... and were delighted that the Independent Councillors fully supported this resolution.

2. At the RECREATION Committee, GAI Councillors asked who had made the decision to cancel the fireworks display. Councillor Fleming, for the majority Labour group, was happy to explain that the decision was taken at an emergency meeting of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and was based, firstly, on the knowledge that it would cost an extra £7000 to restage the display and, secondly, on the fear that winter weather might ruin the show a second time – a decision vindicated by the recent snow. The GAI group accepted this explanation.

3. At the POLICY AND RESOURCES Committee, the GAI Councillors wondered whether the Council's Charges Schedule was 'inequitable'. I was delighted to address this issue, which is of interest to anybody who pays to use a Council facility. The truth is that GATC charges are set by the Council's officers, who take into account competitiveness, local comparators and projected revenue. The Councillors on the Working Group generally accept the officers' recommendations, but sometimes moderate them if there will be a high social cost, or where there is an ethical issue. Again, the GAI Councillors accepted this explanation.

All in all, a very lively and successful evening's meetings. **John D Clare**

PS: do readers know that members of the public are invited and able to attend any Council meeting? I think the most interesting are the Environment Committee (next meeting 12 January) and the Policy and Resources Committee (next meeting 19th January), but others may disagree!

73 YEAR OLD MAN VOLUNTEERS TO CLEAR SCHOOL PATH



73 year old Alan Miller from Booth Close was so concerned for the safety of parents and children getting to Woodham Burn School he has cleared a 150 yard path of snow and ice.

Mrs Tanya Howey was thinking of bringing her shovel to do just the same thing as the packed ice has been very dangerous for two weeks. When she saw Alan doing the job she contacted her local newspaper "Newton News" to report this good example of community spirit.

Alan said he just felt it needed doing. "I don't mind and I am reasonably fit, but it does annoy me that there are many, younger men, who are unemployed, sitting at home watching T.V. or just idling their time away.

SHOULD WE ACCEPT POOR DESIGN?

Dear Sir

I would like to agree with the planning officer who saw fit to question the 'bland' nature of the Aldi building proposed for our 'new' town centre.

We have enough ugly and bland buildings in our town, why should we have to accept another? Are we really so desperate for an Aldi store, that we should accept whatever design the owners of Aldi see fit?

I would ask the questions - Is an Aldi really what we want anyway? Will this store attract any new shoppers to the town centre? Why not talk to M&S about a 'simply food'?

What about 'Next' or 'River Island' or a teenagers clothes store like 'New Look' or a decent department store, a 'House of Fraser' or 'Debenhams'?

Why does this town always set their sights so low?

Name & address supplied.

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THE LADY IS NOT FOR "WOOING"

Dear Sir,
I found it amusing when Kenneth Stubbs said Councillor Gittins and I were being wooed by the Labour

Greetings from Councillors

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to the people I represent.

CLlr Alison Palmer.

Season's Greeting to everyone in the Aycliffe Village Ward. May you have a prosperous New Year.
CLlr Bill Blenkinsopp

Independent Councillor George C. Gray and his wife Maud wish the residents of West Ward and the rest of Great Aycliffe peace and happiness now and throughout the New Year.

Counc. George R. Gray sends greetings to all residents of Neville Ward for a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Party to vote with them. If he attended any Council meetings or asked any of his Independent friends, or even know me personally he would know how ridiculous that comment was.

The reason I haven't joined his group is because I do not believe in getting together to decide how we vote in Council Meetings. I think you should go into a meeting with an open mind, listen to the facts and then make a decision.

Where was Mr. Stubbs when I stood outside Post Offices with a placard objecting to closure? Where was he when I vehemently fought for MIND and the closure of Care Homes which were all Labour decision?

I am very opinionated when I believe in something and could never be wooed into anything. Kenneth should get his facts right, attend meetings and get to know people before he makes judgements.

Counc. Irene Hewitson Independent

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WOODHAM CHRISTMAS FAMILY LEARNING MORNING SUCCESS

Thanks to everyone who attended the Christmas Family Learning Morning held at Woodham Community Technology College on Saturday 11th December.

It was a wonderfully festive event, especially with the presence of snowpavements and roads. Visitors who braved the elements to attend were spoilt for choice - a whole range of activities were on offer from face painting to writing letters to Santa, Christmas crafts, badge making, cup cakes to decorate and hair braiding. Santa Claus arrived amid a flurry of excitement and stayed for the whole morning, entrancing the younger children, receiving letters and hearing what they hope he's going to bring on Christmas Day. Our community partners were also out in force to support us and promote Community Learning. Representatives from the Pioneering Care Partnership and Woodham Community Centre were kept busy chatting to the families in attendance. We would like to



especially thank the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe for their tremendous support at the event. After an exhausting morning

of enjoying the learning activities, it was time for a well-earned buffet lunch before heading home. A good time was had by all!

HISTORY SOCIETY MEETING

Members are reminded that there is no meeting in December. Annual subscriptions are due in January when the AGM that was cancelled in November will be held, followed by a research night. The society would like to thank the Church of Latter Day Saints for the use of their facilities during the year. Thanks also to Newton News for publicising our meetings. We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and hope to see old and new members in the New Year. For further information on NAFHS please see our website at www.NAFHS.com or contact Keith Bell on 01325 - 307905.

St. ELIZABETH'S CHURCH SOUP-A-LUNCH

We would like to thank all the people who have supported us in this new venture. Up to now it has been a success. Despite the very snowy conditions on the 1st of December 12 people braved to weather and enjoyed the meal. The next Soup-a-lunch will be on the second Wednesday of January, the 12th. at the usual time of 12.45 pm. February will see us back to our normal day

of the first Wednesday of the month the 2nd. Macmillan Information and Support Service will be there to give us a short talk after the meal. Hoping to see you all there. Please contact me on 01325 319067 or brianange@talktalk.net if you want any information. Have a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Angela Aydon

Christmas at the Evangelical Church

Christmas is such a great time of the year and there can be no better way of appreciating the real meaning of Christmas than to join in one of the special services held over the holiday period. Aycliffe Evangelical Church, Ladybower, off Meadowfield Way are holding a traditional Carol Service on Sunday 19th December at 10.30am. For a more informal meeting, there will be a time of Carols and a Christmas message at 4.00pm on that same Sunday followed by refreshments. All are very welcome to attend.

Christmas Day morning is a good time to come and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ before the festivities of the day begin. Do come and join us at 10.00am on Christmas morning.

Pop Singer Returns to Sports Club



A top female performer is set to return to Aycliffe after wowing local residents during a charity event. Vocalist Caterina Rea, the niece of world-renowned Middlesbrough-born singer Chris Rea, performed at Aycliffe Sports Club last month.

And the club were so impressed they've booked Caterina for Christmas Eve. The charity event, organised by Isobel Henderson and resident PA John Riviera, raised £222 for Macmillan Nurses. It came off the back of a successful charity fundraising event by Isobel and John which raised £250 for the Great North Air Ambulance.

Isobel said: "Caterina is a fantastic singer and the Rea talent certainly seems to run through the family! "She went down a storm and it was fantastic to raise more than £200 for a great cause. Caterina will perform at the Sports Club's Christmas Eve party, followed by local male vocalist Steve Hawkes. It's a ticket-only event, and they're available from the Sports Club bar now priced £5.

More details about Caterina Rea, including sample tracks, are available at www.caterinarea.com

ALDI PLANS APPROVED AFTER PROTEST



Site being cleared for Aldi Store

County Councillors have overturned a Planning Officer's recommendation to refuse permission for Aldi to build their new store in the Town Centre. The officer reported that one wall of the building was too bland, but if the Councillors had supported this view Aldi would have withdrawn and gone elsewhere.

There was concern from local Councillors and our MP and they made sufficient protests to the committee making the decision that common sense prevailed and the store will go ahead as planned, and open in 2011.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT!



The Burnet family from Acle Burn are not claiming the biggest Snowman, but do believe their space invader is more interesting.

TAYLORS NEWSFORCE
• SOME OF OUR CONFECTIONERY SPECIALS •

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Mars Selection Box RRP £2.99 - TWO for £5.00	Heroes & Roses RRP £2.99 each 1/2lb Box - TWO for £5.00

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CLOSED Christmas Day
CLOSED Monday 27th December
CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY
Normal opening hours the rest of the festive season

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

PCP GIFT VOUCHERS

Christmas can be the time when you are searching for inspiration for an unusual gift for someone. The answer could lie here. The Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe is offering Christmas Gift Vouchers for a complimentary pamper session with one of their therapists or alternatively a session in the hydro-therapy pool.

Gift vouchers can be purchased from Reception in the Pioneering Care Centre. Alternatively ring 01325 321234 or visit our website: www.pcp.uk.net

NEWTON AYCLIFFE POST OFFICE TOWN CENTRE

Christmas Opening Times

Christmas Eve - 8.30am to 2.00pm
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY
Monday 27th December, 2010 - **CLOSED**
Tuesday 28th December, 2010 - **CLOSED**
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CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY
Monday 2nd January 2011 - **CLOSED**



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Newtonians

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Clothing Retailer

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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Closing date: Wednesday 22nd December 2010

1st Location

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NAIVETY SERVES NO ONE

Dear Sir,
I welcome Great Aycliffe Independents as a group of 9 Independents on the Town Council forming and registering themselves with the Electoral Commission as a Minor Political Party. It is what I would do if I wasn't Labour and if used wisely, can give substance and purpose to their aims and objectives and serve the public interest. I have been in local politics since 1975 with a distinguished record of service on the Town Council from 1983 to 1996. I have always put public interest before party or self, and as such will not blindly obey or follow Labour nor slavishly attack the opposition. No Party or group of people have a monopoly of wisdom and it is always in the public interest that a diversity of views and opinions are heard and expressed. Speaking as "just an ordinary member of the public" and one who regularly attends meetings of the Town Council, more than most councillors, except I am unpaid, I would make the following observations: The Labour controlled Town Council has run on the committee system since it was formed in 1894 as Great Aycliffe Parish Council. Then in 1974 it changed to a Town Council and continues in that vein. This system enables any councillor whether or not they were elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve on any committee, to attend, and speak fully, and ask questions and make comment or observations. No councillor is deprived of being able to speak on any issue before the Council. The County Council and the former Sedgfield Borough Councils opted for the Cabinet system, which I totally oppose as being undemocratic and less accountable. In essence it can lead to a small cabal or clique running a council, and indeed that clique being dominated by the Officers of a Council, and the ruling Groups simply used as rubber stamps whereas the Committee system enabled direct Councillor access to all issues and the Councillors can be held to account personally for their decisions and their attendance. Something that can now only happen on the Town Council. The Town Council allows the public to ask questions on matters coming before it for consideration at every committee and full Council meeting - something Labour introduced. I have asked

more questions at Council meetings than most opposition/independent councillors. I am Labour, but it was I not the opposition who by asking questions at council meetings and using Newton News raised the issue of the Double Taxation Grant to be used to offset increases in Council Tax. It was I who raised the issue of Agendas and Minutes and Reports being available to the Public prior to meetings. It was I who forced the issue of public access to meetings of the council. n. It was I who pointed out at Council meetings that Councillors did not have to claim their £1,059 a year allowance and would not lose benefits or be taxed, yet the opposition all said they didn't know and thought they have no choice but to receive this money. Not one has opted out of receiving their allowance since! when they could at any time. It was I with the help of Newton News who proved that Town Councillors who served on Planning Committees at Borough or County level did not have to leave meetings. On all these issues the Independents have been silent. The Independents now have two former Labour councillors who defected after falling out with Labour. They are now part of the group of nine so they are no different than Labour accepting some Independents into its ranks, if we are talking about pots and kettles. Labour hasn't stitched up control of anything, it has the majority by public consent. Labour provides the stability and leadership for Council Officials to administer a multi million pound public authority. We are not perfect and make mistakes, but on the whole, the Town Council get it right. Labour froze Council Tax this year and next year, and the opposition/independents proposed nothing! When I served on the Council, we were fortunate to have good opposition councillors like Jill Frise, Eric White and Dave Elliott Independents, Peter and Andrea Bergg, Don Fraser and Len Cockfield Lib Dems, and others who studied their Agendas, Minutes and Reports, studied the Councils Standing Orders, understood the rules of debate, used strategy and tactics, asked the right questions, putting Labour and Officials on the spot, holding them to account. They put reasoned arguments forward, sometimes they agreed or disagreed, and sometimes they persuaded us to their view by reason and argument. Opposition is not there to oppose everything blindly, it is there to ask questions, raise issues, support that which is good for the public interest, oppose that which is bad and hold the governing Party to account. Perhaps if more Independents, read their Council Standing Orders, actually understood the rules of debate, actually read their Reports Agendas and Minutes they may have an impact, instead of leaving it to me, an ordinary member of the public. to raise pertinent issues. Arun M Chandran

LETTERS PAGES

Church Car Park Off Limits to School

Dear Sir,
As a parent of 2 children (1 being disabled) currently attending St. Mary's I am aware of Father Campion restricting access to the car park for parents. I'm sure other parents would like a reason for this as well! We understand the Church owns this car park and that they have let the school use the car park for many years. Some parents have abused this facility by parking out of bays and restricting access around the car park for other users. So far the school are unable to tell us what is going on, cars are being ushered away from the car park each morning. As I hold disabled badges for my

son I can't understand why they will not let us use any of the 4 designated disabled spaces in the car park. And what about taxi firms who have contracts with Out of School Clubs? We have been told by the school to use Tesco's car park, which is going to cause more mayhem in their very busy car park. I understand it is safe for children to use the crossing but a lot of drivers are inconsiderate and rev their engines impatiently as you cross which is very intimidating. I have had 4 near misses in Tesco's car park as people "don't see you" as they are backing out! Mrs. S. Radford

REPLY FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

A recent Safety Audit of the car park at St Mary's, carried out by a Health and Safety manager from a transport company, revealed that there is a significant safety risk when parents are using the car park for dropping off and collecting children from St Mary's School. We installed speed ramps - at our own, Church, expense - to slow down parents' cars entering and exiting the car park. Nevertheless, some parents have continued to drive at speed, ignoring the ramps altogether. However, of even more concern is that parents have been parking their cars irresponsibly and, in some instances, quite dangerously, with little consideration for other drivers and children. This has resulted in a potentially lethal combination of cars and children, especially at the end of the school day; and it is all the more alarming on rainy days when visibility is restricted. When we asked Durham County Council Highways and Education Departments for assistance, they said they could not help. So what is the Church to do? Clearly, we cannot ignore the problem and doing nothing in response to the Safety Audit is not an option. I have consulted widely about this long-standing problem (which parishioners tell me has gone on for years). Everyone I have discussed it with so far, including members of the Church's Finance and Buildings & Grounds Committees, the Governors of St Mary's School, parents and some local Councillors, point out that it is a church, not a school, car park. The responsibility for taking their children to school by car belongs to parents and not the Church. Given the danger to children,

the car park should be closed immediately for school use. So we have no choice but to close the car park to parents for dropping off and collecting children from school. Those who have to bring their children to school by car may wish to use the Youth Centre car park (entrance on Burn Lane, opposite Hardinge Road) which has nearly 50 spaces or the even larger car park opposite the church. I appreciate that some parents will feel inconvenienced by this but where the safety of children is concerned the Church has no option but to act responsibly. Yours faithfully, Fr Michael Campion

NINTENDO DSI LOST

Dear Sir,
While walking from my car on Williamfield Way on Saturday night (4th December) near Honister Place, I dropped my children's White Nintendo DSI. If anyone has found it could you please contact Newton News on 300212 who have our details. We would appreciate its return as we have not had it long and my two kids are upset over its loss. In addition to a Mario game there are photos of my family on the internal memory. I would be so grateful for the return of this item and can offer a small reward. Parents of two upset kids.

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The Rotary Club are visiting parts of Newton Aycliffe with Santa's Sleigh collecting money to buy Christmas hampers for the town's needy families. They can't cover all the streets and bad weather may affect the tour. The club members will also be collecting in Tesco's and are grateful for any support they receive.



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LETTER from SANTA

Letter from Santa Claus

Dear Newton News,
Unfortunately lots of boys and girls have forgotten to put their addresses and even forget to put their name on their letters to me. Parents are asked to check to make sure that all letters have a name and a return address.

So far this year, I've had 4 letters with no name or address and letters without addresses from the girls and boys below:

Megan who wants an Xbox and an Ipad
Daniel who wants a phone, laptop and a camera.
Ethan who wants an Xbox, wrestling stuff and a scooter
Tia who wants a computer, clothes, karaoke and make-up
Kayleigh who wants dolls, pram, bike and hair bobbles
Lleyton who wants gattor golf and pop up pirates
Coby who wants some soft play toys and a playmat gym
Connor who wants wrestling toys and wrestling games
Lily who would like Barbie's café and a computer
Elemly and Kian who didn't say what they wanted
If you miss the post, I have a special e-mail facility available until Thursday 23rd December the address is santa.northpole@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
I will be around on Christmas Eve, so be good and I hope you like your presents.
Santa Claus

TOKEN ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH BAD WEATHER

Dear Sir,
May I ask the County Council why so little has been done to clear paths and side roads in Newton Aycliffe. Passing through Chilton there is a different picture with all roads fairly safe and clear.

This not so here where only a token, half hearted attempt has been made to clear away snow and ice. On the second fall of heavy snow Council workers did put salt down but made it twice as difficult to walk on loose, wet, slippery sand and very dangerous.

Darlington Council used people on community hours to clear their paths so why wasn't this done in Aycliffe? I would also suggest that able-bodied, long term unemployed could lend a hand.

A caring council would ensure paths around elderly and disabled persons' homes would receive attention. Dealing with the bad weather has been a sorry, pathetic and unco-ordinated affair and the Council have no excuse.

If there was any justice the people in charge would be brought to task for failing to cope, but of course that won't happen!
Roger McNeal
Tunstall Road

LETTERS PAGES COUNCILLORS SHOULD JUST GET ON WITH THE JOB

Dear Sir,
I am heartily sick of sanctimonious letters from Councillors saying how sick they are of people writing to the Newton News.

The local people pay more than £1 million a year to the Town Council of Aycliffe (they pay ten times that amount to the County Council) – do Councillors really want people so bland that they willingly digest the rubbish spoken by some Councillors?

Or would they prefer people to keep their views quiet and never go to press to inform Councillors what they feel about these infantile attacks in the Newton News?

Newton Aycliffe is full of caring Newtonians – Independent, Conservative, Lib-Dems and Labour – who want the best for Aycliffe which is shown weekly in the stories printed in Newton News, our community newspaper.

In such a situation of competing visions, correspondents who moan: 'Why must I be disturbed by people who don't want to hear what I have to say' are akin to naive bullies who intone: 'Why can't everyone realise how important I am?' Their censorious letter is a

form of censorship, which seeks to suppress by means of a withering stream of disdain. Politics – the way our society is governed – MATTERS, more to some people than others. A lot of people are more concerned with communities. In the past, people suffered and even died for our freedoms, but apparently now some amongst us have become so dedicated to their political message that the fact that some people do not want to listen to them rant on is an affront to their sensibilities.

I will not be told to pay attention to you. I came to Aycliffe in 1969 determined to try to be good and to do good – first as a son and brother, then as a husband, father and member of local groups, I have striven continuously to do my best for my family and to help the community.

I am proud to speak out for the people who've had enough of ranting Councillors and just wish they'd get on and campaign for the best deal for Aycliffe. I am sure that every other person who writes in to the Newton News on this subject feels the same way.

Captain John Tarling
Master,
Northwest Shearwater

Saying Nothing - Doing Nothing is not an Option

Dear Sir
On behalf of the newly formed Great Aycliffe Independent Party I agree with some of the comments John Clare made last week on behalf of Town Councillors. Every Councillor who writes in the Newton News feels the same way, which is to campaign for the best deal for Newton Aycliffe.

If we feel that people are not getting that, then we will write letters with our views to inform everyone. Although writing a letter to a newspaper also recognises does not guarantee its publication.

Last week John D Clare made the point of opening up political debate. What better place to start than with Politics – We certainly agree with him on that point. Unfortunately when it comes to voting, the percentage of votes cast in a large town like Newton Aycliffe reveals a tide of apathy. This is borne out by the letters saying how sick they are of Councillors writing to

Newton News.
Changing the state of local politics is going to require more people to take an interest and vote – and we suggest that this attitude to local politics is not providing the best for Newton Aycliffe.

We agree with Councillor Clare that the way our society is governed matters, whether it's the lack of Public Toilets or disagreeing with the way the Town Council implements rises in charges. We are not bland Councillors and we certainly disagree with Labour over Town Council charges for next year. Unlike the National Party who use the slogan "Fair to All", in our view these rises in charges are neither fair nor equitable.

For the Great Aycliffe Independents, Saying nothing - Doing nothing is not an option and never will be.

Yours Sincerely
Kenneth Stubbs
Secretary for GAI
(Great Aycliffe Independents)

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More Cut & Thrust

Dear Sir,
Will readers please forgive me if I correct a plethora of mis-impressions in last week's Newton News, in which a correspondent claimed:
1. I prevent GAI Councillors speaking at Town Council meetings.

This is just nonsense. How might I do so? I am not Chair of any Council Committee and Council rules ensure a right to speak for all Councillors.

2. Labour tries to play one Independent against another. *Why would we want to? Since we have a majority on the Council, we do not need to; and, to be blunt, the opposition need no help falling out amongst themselves.*

3. Independents have the power to change things. *Name one.*

4. Labour have 'stitched up' the Town Council Committees. *No they haven't; we have simply made sure that the composition of each Committee reflects Labour's overall majority on the Council. It's called 'democracy'.*

5. Labour too have produced misleading election materials.

I am pleased to note the implicit admission that the Independents' election manifesto was misleading, but I would challenge anyone to produce an example of a Great Aycliffe Labour manifesto I have produced which included a knowing lie.

6. Labour intends to increase Council Tax.

An outrageous untruth! In fact every GAI Councillor knows full well (and has

agreed unanimously and without comment) that the Town Council's medium term financial plan – under Labour – is based on an intention to freeze GATC's Council Tax for at least the next year.

7. My invitation to debate local political issues is disingenuous. *Not true – I would welcome a proper debate on ANY Town Council matter, because I am sure we are doing a good job. What Town Council issue does the GAI Party wish to debate?*
Councillor John D Clare

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The mobile tile sales services, which works in partnership with Mr Dobson's tiling business, allows customers to see how products will look in their homes, rather than having to rely on guess work at the DIY store. The idea for the company was inspired by the constant stream of requests Ian received in his daily business from customers looking to buy directly from him.

Initially he began carrying some samples to gauge the feedback and, after receiving a hugely positive response, decided to set up the business with his wife Nicola who will be the main mobile retailer. As well as using samples to help customers make informed decisions on which tiles to buy, Mr and Mrs Dobson can also offer advice and guidance on bespoke tiling ideas for traditional or feature walls. Ian said: "Because we can work outside office hours, we also have a niche in the marketplace to service people who either can't get out to find tiles or do not wish to spend valued personal or family time looking for tiles."

"In the coming years we see ourselves as having two successful businesses that complement each other but also work independently and we hope to be in a position to create new jobs eventually." Alongside ceramic, porcelain and natural stone tile sales, The Mobile Tile Company also provides a measuring service and can supply tiling materials at the customer's request.

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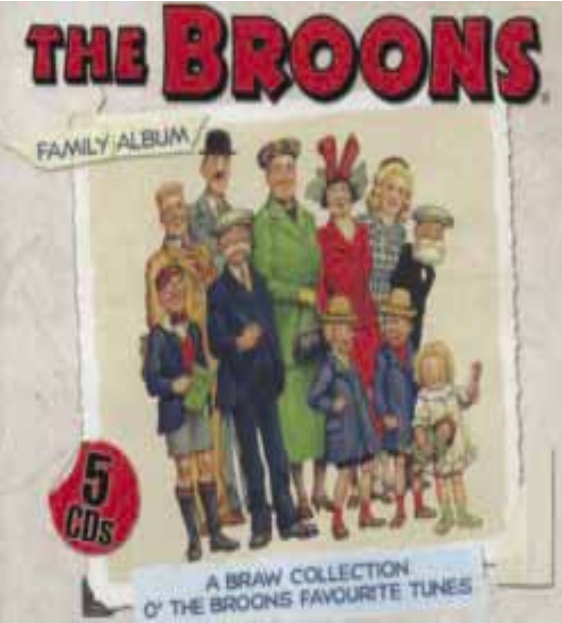
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ENTRY FORM

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Christmas Wishes

LOVELASS Michael and Pam wish their dear friends and neighbours all the blessings of Christmas and good health for 2011

BEST WISHES for Christmas from Godfrey and Shirley Bennett

DIANE HURST and family would like to wish Loved Ones, Friends and Neighbours a VERY, VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS. Donation to Cancer Research instead of cards this year xxx

BURNS Julie, Billy and Ross wish family, friends and neighbours a Happy Christmas. Donation made to charity in lieu of cards

CASSIDY Doris and family wish all their family and friends a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Love you all xxx

Christmas Remembrance

MAXINE COUSINS You are my beautiful angel, shing down from heaven. I miss you more every day Auntie Maxine and you are always in my thoughts. All my love and kisses always. From Laura xxxxx

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Term-time + 3 weeks permanent contact

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Woodham is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be subject to disclosure procedure via the National Criminal Records Bureau prior to appointment.

Woodham is part of Aycliffe and Shildon Schools' Trust. If appointed, you may be required to work at Greenfield or Sunnydale schools.

Application forms are available from the main College office or to download from our website www.woodham.org.uk

Closing Date for Applications:
First post on Friday 7th January



We are a local charity providing services to improve health and wellbeing based at the award winning Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe.

We are recruiting:

Healthy Living Centre Attendant

Initial Salary £13782 pro rata per annum (scale point 10)
25 hours per week, including regular evenings and weekends
Located: The Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe

Job Purpose: To support the Facilities Team in providing an efficient and effective service within the Pioneering Care Centre and supporting the organisation to ensure the safety of all staff, volunteers and service users.

Key tasks:

- To carry out regular checks in relation to maintenance of the building, opening the building, hydrotherapy pool, Health & Safety and security.
- To cover for hydrotherapy pool staff/attendant as necessary
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Key skills required:

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Who can apply? The funding for this job role comes from the Department for Works & Pensions' Future Jobs Fund. The requirements of this funding mean that all prospective candidates must be long-term unemployed and aged between 18 - 24 years in order to be eligible to apply. If you are interested in applying for this job role please visit your local Jobcentre Plus.

Please note: All potential applicants must be approved by their Jobcentre Plus before completing an application form.

For further information please contact or take this advert along to your local Jobcentre Plus.

Closing Date for applications: Friday 7th January, 2011

As an equal opportunities employer, PCP values diversity and welcomes applications from all members of the community

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26th December
£3.00 Members or
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All the above for 8-15yrs only

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£2.25 members,
£2.65 non members

The more times you take part in a course, the more chances you have to win a bike. For further information on any of the above courses or to book your place, contact reception on 01325-300600

but hurry as all courses have limited availability and are very popular.

Thank You

LILIAN EVANS The family of the late Lilian wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement. Also for the cards and donations. Thanks also to Matron and staff of Rose Lodge Care Home.

MARGARET HEAVISIDE and family would like to thank family, friends, work colleagues and the units of Aycliffe Security for all the flowers, kind words and support after the sad loss of George Heaviside. With special thanks to Rev. Linda Potter and Whitehouse Funeral Services

MARGARET TAYLOR would like to say "thank you" to all her family and freinds for all the great cards and presents received on her 50th birthday. Love you all (except Mick for the photo in last weeks paper, HaHa!!)

Birthday Remembrance

RALPH McNEILLIE

19th December

We've sent a dove to Heaven with a parcel on its wings, be careful how you open it, it's full of lovely things. There's loads of hugs and kisses, sent for you alone. From your loving Wife Hazel and all your loving family xxxx

PAUL BOWTELL 16th December. What a party we'd have had on this day, your 50th birthday Dad. Miss you and love you forever. Katie, Paul and Thomas xxx

PAUL BOWTELL 16th December. Happy birthday to our special Grandad in Heaven. Love, Erin, Joe and baby Lucy xxxx

In Memoriam

McKAY James Bernard (Jim). 17/2/1929 to 23/12/2006. Beyond the fields, beyond the hills. beyond our further sight, there is a home where all is peace, a place of endless light. Although we cannot see that world, with faith we understand that somehow loving thoughts will find our loved ones in that land. Treasured memories of a dear Husband. All my love, Heather xxxxx

McKAY James Bernard (Jim). 17/2/1929 to 23/12/2006. Beautiful memories, treasured forever of the love and happiness we shared together. Loving Daughter Heather and Grandson Christopher xxxxx

JAMES BERNARD McKAY (17/2/1929 - 23/12/2006). Four years without you, it seems like yesterday. My heart aches knowing you are not with us Dad, especially at this time of year. So celebrate up above, while we send you all our love. Alicia xxxxx

JAMES BERNARD McKAY God bless you Grandad, we miss you. Dean, Wayne and Ricky xxx

LILIAN HARRISON Thinking of our Nana. Love, Dean and Wayne xxx

EVA WALLS 21st December 1995. Sadly missed and forever in my thoughts Mam. Love, Sue xxxxx

EVELYN WRIGHT 16th December 2009. Special memories of a loving and caring Mam and Sister. To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die. Missing and thinking of you always. Your loving Daughter, Valerie and dearest Sister Gladys xxx

JOHN WILSON Died 22nd December 2002. A dearly loved Husband and Father. Remembered every day by Judith and Victoria xxxxx

Congratulations

GRAHAME BURN

15th December
Happy 40th Birthday DAD.
Have a great day.
Lots of love, Thomas xx

Isobel Amelia Lambert



Happy 1st Birthday to our little Princess. We love you so much. Lots of hugs and kisses. Love, Mummy and Daddy xxx
Happy 1st Birthday Have a lovely 1st birthday sweetheart. We love you to the moon and back. Lots of love from Nana and Grandad Edwards

Gracie Rose Marram



Happy 2nd Birthday to my beautiful Daughter. Love you so much. Daddy xxxxx

Gracie Rose Marram



Happy 2nd Birthday Happy birthday to our beautiful Granddaughter. lots of love, Grandma and Grandpa xxxxx

Angie Durham



Fifty Years Young! 18th December 2010
Happy birthday Mam! Hope you have a lovely weekend. Love you lots, Katrina, Aaron, Jordan and Naomi xxxxx

To Ang
Happy birthday love. Hope you have a great day... Here's to the next 50! Let the good times begin. Lots of love, Hubby Bob xxxxx

Happy Birthday Nana
Lots of love, Lukey xxx

Beth Thompson - Happy 16th Birthday



16th December 2010
Lots of love darling from Mam and Steve

Lewis Connor Richardson



Happy 1st Birthday 12th December 2010
Happy 1st birthday to our special little man. Love you lots and lots, Mammy, Daddy, Abbie and Erin xxxxx

Craig Jackman



Happy Birthday 23rd December 2010
Happy Birthday Hubby. With all my love always, Sarah-Jane xxxxxxxxxxxxx
Hope you have a great birthday Dad. Lots of love from Madison and Mackenzie xxxxxx

Bob and Maud Graham



50th Wedding Anniversary 17th December 2010
Best wishes Mam, Dad, Nana, Grandad, Great Grandparents on your 50th Wedding Anniversary. Love you loads from Rob, Lisa, Jessica, Laura, James and baby Mason xxxxxx

Obituary

DAVID PLASKETT Aged 74 years died on Friday 10th December 2010. Beloved Husband of Sheila, Father of Steven, Mark and Debbie, Father-in-Law of Sharron and Ray, Grandfather of Gemma, Michael and Corey. Funeral on Thursday 23rd December at 11am at St Clares Church. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to the British Heart Foundation.

JOHN HALL (Jack) died peacefully on 14th December. A loving Husband of Miriam, Dad of Anthony and Timothy, Father-in-Law of Maria and Jackie, Grandad of Michael, Phillip, Robert, Matthew, Ben and Great Grandad to Olivia. You will be sadly missed by all xxxxx

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3 BEDROOM modern semi for rent in School Aycliffe, excellent home. Special offer: first 2 months receive a £100 discount per month. Please call 07736 727136 for further details

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2/3 BEDROOM house to let in Deleval Close. Tel 07724 314498

3 BEDROOM Crosby Road, terraced property, GCH, unfurnished, £465pcm, £465 bond. Application fee and refs required. Contact Move On Homes 01325 311737

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or via email directly to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

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Remember, we only charge 15p per word for Personal Lineage advertisements and 20p per word for Business Ads (prices are extra)

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 1st Jan
on 1st Jan
Mam, 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!

For all your print requirements
Newton Press 300212

Supporters Club's Free Draw

Newton Aycliffe Supporters Club have announced an exciting free Christmas prize draw for their members. Chairman Barry Waters has revealed the new giveaway, which is part of the annual membership deal and is available to existing and current members.

The club is drawing the first on Monday December 27, with a top prize of £50 cash up for grabs. A second prize of £30 and a third prize of £20 is also on offer.

The Supporters Club will then hold the free draw monthly, with a £20 cash prize up for grabs every month.

Waters said: "Our aim with this is to increase awareness and membership of what is already a very popular and well run Supporters Club."

"We currently have just over 50 members, and regularly fill 28-seat busses on away days, meaning the lads on the pitch are always well supported wherever they go – be it Darlington RA or Whitehaven on the West coast."

Annual membership to the Supporters Club is just £4 – that's the price of the average entrance fee at a Northern League game – and this entitles you to reduced travel for away games, as well as entry to the monthly draw.

Anyone who wants further



FIXTURES

Saturday 18th December: Whickham (A), 3pm
Wed. 22nd December: Crook Town (H), D2 Cup R1, 7.30pm
Monday 27th December: Crook Town (A), 1pm
Monday 3rd January: Morpeth (H), 3pm
Saturday 8th January: North Shields (H), 3pm
Saturday 22nd January: Marske Utd (H), 3pm
Saturday 29th January: Washington (H), 3pm
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

information, or to join the Supporters Club is urged to contact Barry Waters on 07864 718243 or David Black on 07813 536582. Meanwhile, Aycliffe were scheduled to go to Whickham away in the league this weekend, while they're also due to take on neighbours Crook Town next Wednesday night, in the first round of the Ernest Armstrong Division Two Cup (7.30pm kick-off). It would be the first game at

Moore Lane Park since their 2-0 win over Seaham Red Star five weeks ago.

There'll be a double draw made for Aycliffe's 200 Club this month. Due to the lack of games the club haven't yet made its November draw, so they'll make draws for both November and December in the Sports Club at the Christmas Comedy Night on Monday 27th December. The Comedy Night has now sold out.

Woodham Class of 82 Reunion

Did you leave Woodham Comp in 1982 and are aged 42-46? A long overdue School Reunion is being held on Saturday 8th January at 7.30pm at the Springfield Hotel, Salters Lane, Darlington. E-mail: kartalbolt@yahoo.co.uk or phone Karen on 07745 195104

WOODHAM CHI TAEKWONDO CLUB DO IT AGAIN!

It was grading time again for Woodham Chi Taekwondo Club last weekend at Spennymoor Leisure Centre. Success was achieved for everyone who attended, with all 14 graders passing and receiving their next belt. There were also two best of grade awards given on the day, one to Andrea Mulhearn for 3rd Dan black belt and one to Michelle Howarth for red belt black tag.

Woodham Club isn't just about the gradings though, 12 students entered the 1 to 1 fight competition held also at Spennymoor Leisure Centre the week before the gradings. The standard was very high and Woodham



Club won 6 gold and 6 silver

medals. One student also won silver in the poomse competition. If you would like to become part of this successful Club, ring Kevin

Mitchell on 07536 061 450 for further information. Lessons are free in January to over 12's, so come along and give it a try.

AYCLIFFE SUCCESS AT KARATE NATIONALS



In September we were able to report a number of students from GKR Karate from Aycliffe had competed and successfully qualified for the National Championship.

The GKR Karate National championship were held in Sheffield in November and with some 1,000 competitors attending from all over the country a tough day was expected and the quality showed from the start. We knew we were in for a long and hard day, but the quality of our students showed through.

All our entrants came away with their head held high all finishing in the top 5 and most will now attempt to qualify for the GKR World Cup which is held next year in Birmingham with top GKR karate students from Australia, New Zealand the USA and the UK.

"This event comes around every 2 years and this will give all our students something to work towards, truly testing our competition skills" said Sensei Dez Tinkler.

Those who won medals at the National championship are as follows.

Dave Woolston Silver Kumite - 6th - 4th kyu 18 - 34 years
Nathan Lovejoy - Silver Kata - 6th - 4th kyu 18 to 34 years
Annalise Tinkler Silver Kumite - Black Belt Open 4 fights - lost the last fight by half a point

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