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## RETIRING AFTER 35 YEARS SERVICE AT VANE ROAD SCHOOL



the school lost Jean Forbes who is well known as the lady in yellow on Vane Road! She has crossed more children over the road in her years than we can possibly calculate and has seen generations of families grow up. Mr Harness from Woodham CTC called her an 'unsung hero' who, whatever the weather always has a smile and a cheery word. She too will be a great miss. All three ladies were presented with flowers and gifts and we wish Mrs Pounder and Mrs Forbes a long, happy, prosperous and well deserved retirement.

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Friday 19th of December marked the end of the working life of three members of staff at Vane Road Primary School. Mrs Sue Kent left after only one year as a teaching assistant and will start at Sugar Hill Primary School in January. The other two ladies had rather longer service records: Sarah Pounder retired after 17 years. She has filled posts of both dinner nanny and cleaner and will be greatly missed. After 35 years of service



Popular Lolipop Lady Jean Forbes gave 35 years service



Mrs. Pounder leaves after 17 years service



Sue Kent moving to Sugar Hill Primary School

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# GEORGE IS ALL DUNN



George Dunn has retired after 16 years loyal service to local company Permold Industries Ltd on the Business Park. George was presented with a Gold watch from the Managing Director Mr Walid El Hage from a collection from all his friends and work colleagues. During the time George has worked for Permoids he has done countless jobs from the manufacture of ammunition containers, (which are still being made today for the MOD), to making Beer kegs and parts for JCB. George, a true Scot received 10 assorted bottles of Malt Whisky from his special friends, who know George as a connoisseur of ‘a wee dram’. Everyone hopes George takes it easy and has a long and happy retirement.

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# TESCO HELP ROTARY CLUB'S CHARITY WORK



The town's Rotary Club wish to thank Tesco for their assistance in allowing a collection to be taken in their store before Christmas. Rotarians along with Santa stood with their collection buckets over six days. The



money raised at Tesco and around the streets with Santa's sleigh bought hampers for needy families in Newton Aycliffe which were distributed on 23rd December. In addition Tesco is supporting the Rotary Club with a permanent collection point in the store for customers to donate to a Needy Families Fund which will help people in Newton Aycliffe in emergencies. Store Manager Martin Butcher and Customer Services Manager Paul are shown here with the Rotary President David Scott who on behalf of the members thanked Tesco for their involvement in helping the club's charitable work.

## RENT FREE WEEK!

Get your rent account up to date by making the most of your non-payment weeks and you will be entered in to a prize draw – that's the message Sedgefield Borough's Housing Department is sending out to its tenants. Janice Hall acting Head of Housing Management said: We are urging all tenants who owe rent to continue to pay as normal to help cut their debt. We are working with a number of organisations including the Citizens Advice Bureau and Age Concern to try and ensure that our customers are able to get the right advice to help tackle their debt problems. As an incentive to encourage tenants to clear their arrears, all accounts that are up to date by Sunday 4 January will be entered into a special prize draw for £100 shopping vouchers for Tesco or Asda. We want to reward those tenants who pay their rent on time, and we hope this incentive will also encourage anyone who owes us money to pay a little extra each week to catch up.” Tenants have five rent-free weeks a year. These are in the summer, at Christmas and New Year, and the first week of the financial year. Having a clear account means that tenants are eligible for other prizes through our incentives scheme during the year. Because of this, SBC takes a firm line with tenants who refuse to pay their rent despite doing everything we can to help. Unfortunately we have to evict some tenants who refuse to pay their rent. Tenants who have been evicted for rent arrears will not normally be re-housed until the arrears have been paid in full. All tenants in arrears will receive letters advising them how much they owe. If you need any advice on paying your rent or dealing with debt, please contact your local housing team.

# Great Year for Thai Boxing

On 13th of December Phoenix Thai Boxing travelled to Durham's Soul Of Sukhothai club to take part in the last competition of 2008. The club took 18 competitors to take part and for some of the fighters it was their first time, but they displayed excellent skill. The more experienced fighters showed the Phoenix Camp was a force to be reckoned with in the North East. Three of the juniors who never fail to impress were Billy Wade, Eddie Remmer and Reed Molloy. These three showed such maturity in competition they are assured of great success for the future. British Champion Anth Shelton who had just returned from a month of training in Thailand put together a performance that could only be described as brilliant. Phoenix Thai Boxing club has had a very busy and successful 2008 fighting up and down the country, winning titles and also success fighting abroad. The 2009 calendar is looking to be another busy year which the club is looking forward to with enthusiasm.

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SANTA & DOG DEER VISIT SCHOOL



Stephenson Way Comunity Primary School had a visit from Santa, pulled on his sleigh by 2 Siberian Huskys dressed as reindeer. Father Christmas handed out presents to the toddler group, and everyone enjoyed a stroke and cuddle from the dogdeer! A fantastic morning enjoyed by everyone.

GREENFIELD RECEIVE GOOD, OUTSTANDING OFSTED REPORT

Mr. D. Priestley, Headteacher of Greenfield School Community & Arts College received a phone call from OFSTED to tell him that HMI Ross Parker would be coming for two days to inspect the quality of Creative Learning in the school. The Inspector was very impressed with what he saw and will be including much of what he has seen in a best practice book to be published in 2009. His judgement was that Impact on Achievements and Standards was GOOD. He told us that our focus on creative learning is leading to improved personal development, increased engagement and the development of skills necessary for the 21st Century economy.

Teaching and Learning was judged to be GOOD with some outstanding practice. He was particularly complimentary of our curriculum which he judged to be OUTSTANDING. He also judged Leadership and Management as OUTSTANDING. In his review he shared ideas with us of how to develop even further our strengths on creative learning. In the inspection HMI Parker visited eight lessons, had meetings with fifteen teachers, looked at a range of work and documentation from all subjects and interviewed a range of pupils. All the evidence led him to see our overall effectiveness in this area as GOOD. Congratulations to everyone.

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Interest in Young People’s View

Dear Syd,  
 The young lady who conducted a survey on the Town Centre published an excellent view of the general public and most importantly gave young people’s views. We appear to neglect the fact that young people have their own ideas on this matter and I would like Jane to contact me if at all possible so we could discuss these issues.  
 Alan Warburton Tel: 315182  
 Independent Councillor

NEW SCULPTURE FOR GREAT AYCLIFFE WAY



Great Aycliffe Town Council has commissioned an eye-catching new sculpture for the butterfly meadow close to the rail halt on Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe. The sculpture was funded from a Sedgefield Borough Council Local Improvement Programme grant, as part of the recent extension to the Great Aycliffe Way, which passes nearby. Created by Brian Russell of Little Newsham Forge, the 4m high steel sculpture depicts an orchid, upon which a Common Blue butterfly has alighted. The sculpture was designed with local flora and fauna in mind and the orchid and butterfly were chosen as both species can be found in the butterfly meadow. The site was chosen to allow maximum visibility from both Greenfield Way and from the railway line. The photograph shows the sculpture in situ


SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL VACANCY

A School Crossing Patrol is needed at the junction of Central Avenue and Vane Road, Newton Aycliffe, after the retirement of Jean Forbes after 35 years. It takes a special kind of person to have the confidence to step out in front of oncoming traffic and bring it to a halt, and only a School Crossing Patrol, or a Police Officer have that power. Every school day, hundreds of School Crossing Patrol’s in County Durham, stop traffic to help school children, and indeed adults, cross the road safely. The job is flexible and would suit those who enjoy meeting people and working within their community in a worthwhile role. School Crossing Patrols are currently paid £6.28 per hour, with half pay during school holidays. All new recruits are given full training in the job, and are provided with full winter and summer uniforms and equipment. If you want to find out more about being a school crossing patrol, contact the Road Safety Section on 0191 383 6553.

WOODHAM STUDENTS DELIVER XMAS HAMPERS



Three of the students who helped make up Christmas Hampers for nearby residents of Woodham Technology College. Each year children make up a number of hampers to deliver personally.

  
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**NEW YEAR EVENTS AT HARDWICK**  
**JANUARY 2009**  
**Saturday 3rd - Jamie and the First Class**  
 80's School reunion with the world's number one school band. Dance your shoes off all night.  
 7 course dinner, entertainment and disco £10.00 - Arrive 7pm - function ends 12.00am  
**Friday 9th - The Tom Jones Experience**  
 Live four piece band performing the best hits of Tom Jones.  
 All you can eat buffet, entertainment and disco. Arrive for 7.00pm until midnight £10.95 per person.  
**Saturday 10th - The 80's Experience**  
 The best disco party ever, takes place.  
 Arrive at 7:00pm for 7:30pm for as all you can eat buffet - £10.95 per person  
**Saturday 17th - Mexican Evening**  
 A 2 course Mexican themed buffet, followed by a disco with our resident DJ  
 Arrive 7.00pm £10.95 per person  
**Friday 13rd - The Ultimate 70's**  
 Dust off your platform and get out your flares for a night taking you back to this groovy era.  
 Arrive for 7.30 for as all you can eat buffet - £10.95 per person  
**Saturday 24th - Salsa Party**  
 With our own resident salsa dancers. Come and have a go we'll show you how.  
 £9.95 to include buffet and disco. Arrive for 7.00pm - 12.00am close.  
**Saturday 31st - The 40's Experience**  
 The best disco party ever, takes place.  
 Arrive at 7:00pm for 7:30pm for as all you can eat buffet - £10.95 per person  
**FEBRUARY 2009**  
**Friday 6th - Absolute Murder**  
 A night of fun, intrigue and who-dunnit. Arrive for 7.30pm with dinner served 8.00pm  
 £10.95 per person  
**Saturday 7th - Family Towers Evening**  
 A night of unlimited fun - Arrive for 7.30, dinner served at 8.00pm. £20.95 per person  
**Friday 13th - Stayin' Alive**  
 The magic continues with the disco Bee Gees tribute act.  
 Buffet, entertainment and disco £11.95 per person. Arrive for 7pm.  
**Saturday 14th - Valentines Dinner**  
 Enjoy a romantic 3 course dinner with a bottle of wine per couple.  
 £15.00 per person - music from our resident pianist.  
 Why not extend your evening and stay over, prices from £20.00 per room including breakfast  
**Sunday 15th - Wedding Open Day**  
 Take this opportunity to view the Colonnade Suite and newly refurbished John Gordon Suite set up for Wedding Reception's and a Civil Ceremony. No appointment necessary come along between 11-4pm.  
**Friday 27th - The Young Drifter's**  
 Five piece band here to perform some of the best songs from the Drifters, James Brown, Kool & The Gang, Real Thing plus many more artists. All you can eat buffet, entertainment and disco.  
 Arrive for 7.00pm until midnight £10.95 per person  
**The 80's Experience**  
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 Our popular Sunday Lunch is served in the Bayac Suite, accompanied by music from our resident pianist, 4-courses including coffee at £16.95 per person



# Scout Group Art Presentation



The 1st Newton Aycliffe Scout group took part in an art competition which was organised by Great Aycliffe Town Council based around the wildlife of the town. The aim of the competition was to provide art which could be displayed in the new Environment Centre at Moore Lane when it opens next year. Great Aycliffe were inundated with entries but it was agreed

the overall winner was Lorna Bennett who drew a picture which included a rabbit, owl and mice. Lorna won a £10 gift voucher which had been kindly donated by Tesco. A special prize was awarded to Joseph Dredge, his drawing of a barn owl will be made into a wooden sculpture which will be situated in the Cobblers Hall area next year. Next year the scout group is

working on several projects around the town to improve the local environment. This includes making and installing bird boxes and a litter pick to tidy Cobblers Hall Plantation. Steve Cooper, Environment Officer said "The 1st Newton Aycliffe scout group are making a positive impact on their local environment. It's great to see a group who are so keen to make a difference".

# P.C. WINS £4,500 WEDDING AT REDWORTH HALL

Policeman Ben Mitchell will make an arresting sight when he marries his fiancé next year, with the event taking place on a date he will find hard to forget. The Community Support Officer, who serves the Benwell area of Newcastle, is set to walk down the aisle with drama teacher Amy Watson at Barcelo Redworth Hall on September 9, 2009, rather fittingly making the date 9/9/09. To add to their excitement Ben and Amy have avoided a wedding emergency and will not have to pay a penny for their special day, after winning the wedding of their dreams. The special prize package, worth £7500, was donated by Barcelo Redworth Hall Hotel and Dalton Park shopping village and, in association with

several local suppliers, covers everything from the wedding dress and rings, to flowers, cake and photography. As part of their prize Ben and Amy will be married at Barcelo Redworth Hall Hotel just outside Darlington, where they will also enjoy a wedding breakfast, evening reception for 50 guests and an overnight stay worth £4,500. The nuptials will have a French theme throughout in honour of Ben's proposal at the foot of the Eiffel Tower. Ben and Amy claimed the prize after collecting tokens printed in a North East newspaper and writing a ditty about why they deserved to win. It said; "To win a £7000 wedding is happiness beyond belief, it will fill the bride and groom with

joy and the parents can sigh with relief." Alison Walklett, Revenue Manager for Barcelo Redworth Hall Hotel said: "Ben and Amy are a fantastic couple. When we told them they had won the Journal competition they were crying tears of joy and it was great to see two people so excited about getting married. The fact that we have managed to book their wedding for September 9 is really the icing on the cake for them and will help make the occasion even more memorable." For more information about Barcelo Redworth Hall visit [www.barcelo-hotels.co.uk](http://www.barcelo-hotels.co.uk)

# PARTY AT THE PCC



Just before Christmas the PCC held a thankyou party for the many volunteers who support the Centre. Prior to the buffet the "Options" group led the carol singing in the hall, much to the enjoyment of all who attended.

# Swimming Club News

Six swimmers from Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club, Kyle Boyek, Philip Hodgson, Philip Walker, Rachel Howard, Emma Hodgson and Caroline Saxby took part in the ASANER Senior/Junior Championships, with the fastest swimmers from the North East and North Yorkshire.

The gala was held at the newly opened Freemans Quay, Durham and saw Sedgefield 75 coming away with a total of one gold, three silvers and two bronze medals, with the swimmers making 10 finals between them and Philip Walker in first reserve position for 3 of his swims.

Caroline qualified for the finals in the 50m freestyle where she finished in 3rd position and also in the 200m freestyle where she finished 2nd. Kyle also made the finals in the 400m Individual Medley, 50m breaststroke where he finished in 2nd place and the 200m breaststroke where he came away as Senior Champion.

Philip Hodgson made the final of the 400m freestyle where he finished 4th.

On the second day of competition the swimmers continued to swim personal best times and qualify for the finals. Caroline made the final of the 100m freestyle and finished 3rd. Kyle was in the finals of the 200m freestyle, 100m breaststroke and finished 2nd in a very close swim. In the 200m Individual Medley he finished in 4th position.

The swimmers will be training for their next gala at Wear Valley in December. If anyone is interested in joining the swimming club come along on a Monday night at 6.45pm and speak to John Moore.

The club has sections for improvers, competitive and adult swimmers and we have a group for swimmers with disabilities on a Sunday afternoon. For more information look at the club website – [www.sedgefield75.org.uk](http://www.sedgefield75.org.uk)

# JUNIOR COACHING AT OAK LEAF

Oak Leaf Sports Complex holds weekly Junior Coaching Session for young people aged 8 – 15yrs in the following Sports.  
**Tuesday Evening is Squash Coaching:** 4.15-5.15 Beginners, 5.15 – 6.15 Intermediate  
**Wednesday Evening Badminton Coaching:** 7.00-8.00 All Standards up to 21yrs  
**Thursday Evening Football:** 4.00-5.00 All standards  
The above junior coaching aged 8 – 15yrs £1.75 and 16- 21yrs £2.90 per session. And for the younger kids, up to 8 years. A Multi Sports Session is held on a Monday Night 4.00 – 5.00 only £1.75 per session. Parental supervision required for the under 8's session. For further details or to book your place contact Oak Leaf Sports Complex on 01325 300600

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# SHAPE UP FOR LIFE IN NEWTON AYCLIFFE

The Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe has a new Free weight management course for people keen to get into shape and keep in shape. The courses, flexibly timed to cater for all availabilities, are aimed at people who want to start making healthier life-style choices with the aim of losing weight and keeping fit.

**The courses will run: Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe starting Monday 12th January from 1-2pm also starting Tuesday 13th January from 6-7pm.**

As well as a weekly weigh-in, health professionals will be on-hand to support participants and provide information regarding various health issues. There will also be the opportunity to receive dietary advice and to try out different kinds of exercise.

Members will also be given information to help them make informed choices about the food they buy, including the levels of salt, fat and sugar intake and food labelling. The courses will also include several practical cooking sessions to help to inspire healthy eating with new and exciting recipes.

The weight management course uses information designed by South Durham and Darlington Dietetic Service and it can also provide support for people with specialist dietary requirements.

Carol Wilson, Learning for Health Manager, from the PCC commented: "Healthy Lifestyle Weight Management Courses are a fun way to meet new people, learn new skills and become healthier. The courses are free, so why not start a new lifestyle now?".

To book your place and to find out more please call us on 321234.



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# AYCLIFFE HOST OPEN SQUASH TOURNAMENT



Aycliffe squash club has just held its second national squash competition with almost 70 children from all over the country competing in 110 games over 2 days in under 11, 13, 15s and 17s boys and girls events.

The venue was the Oak Leaf Sports Complex where manager Derek Snowball and his staff helped out with the planning and organising to ensure that it was a massive success. The club had a tremendous weekend with Hadyn MacLean winning the under 11 event, Robert Harrison winning the boys under 17 event and Sara Dowson beating her sister in the final of the girls under 17 event.

One of the longest serving club members, Kevin Martin gave up 2 afternoons of his weekend to come down and mark game after game which was enjoyed by Kevin and appreciated by all of the children.

All children received a T-Shirt printed by Custom Planet in Durham and despite terrible

weather, Mr Duncan Robson from main club sponsor Holiways – FORD took time out of a busy schedule to present trophies to all winners and runners up.

Without the fantastic support from Great Aycliffe Town Council, Awards for All, and Holiways the event would not have been able to take place but thanks to those mentioned, plans are already underway to make next years competition even bigger and better.

Photo left to right: Aycliffe Squash Club chairperson Jed Hodgson, Helen Dowson (Aycliffe) under 17s runner up, Edward Fairhurst (Lancashire) under 15s winner, Robert Harrison (Aycliffe) under 17s winner, Sarah Dowson (Aycliffe) under 17s girl winner, Mr Duncan Robson (Holiways FORD) and front – Luke Mabbott (Redcar) under 17s runner up.

# NOT THE TIME FOR SCULPTURES

Dear Sir,

Driving home from work this evening I noticed a flower like statue erected on the grass verge beside the train station. I find it impossible to understand that in the current economical client the local council can afford to erect unnecessary statues when many people in the town are losing their jobs. I have no problem in the council wanting to improve the area and enjoy walking and cycling around the Aycliffe Walkway but do believe this is a bit insensitive.

I challenge the Town Council to publish the cost of erecting this statue and justify the reasoning behind it, when local residents are losing their livelihoods and we have a town centre that quite honestly is a total disgrace.

Surely the money could and should be put to better use.

Yours sincerely

Peter Jarps

ED: Hopefully the story on Page 3 featuring the new sculpture, puts the Council's view, but suffice to say it started over 2 years ago and the cost was totally funded by grant from LIP fund. The present financial climate did not exist at that time.

**NEWTON NEWS**

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# NOW YOU CAN PUT A STOP TO UNWANTED DOORSTEP CALLERS

Today we launch a campaign to give Newton Aycliffe residents the chance to say NO to unwanted doorstep callers.

The Newton News has joined forces with UK Doorstep Choice (UKDC) which represents and protects your human right to privacy in your own home.

For years furious householders across the country have complained about the scourge of unwanted callers, which are considered at best a nuisance and at worst an opportunity to exploit vulnerable and elderly people.

The growing wave of complaints from the public has led to recent changes in the law governing doorstep selling but now millions of UK householders can join a new national membership scheme to say NO to door-to-door callers.

UK Doorstep Choice (www.ukdoorstepchoice.org.uk) has been set up in response to a massive 95 per cent of householders who in a Trading Standards Institute survey said they were fed up with unsolicited callers at the door.

Members of the newly launched UK Doorstep Choice (UKDC) get the backing of a national organisation which provides:

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**ACCESS TO A MANNED HOTLINE TO REPORT UNWANTED CALLERS AT THE HOME**

Demand for the service has already been proved during a successful trial in the North East, which attracted around 3,000 members and the door signage was recognised by the likes of energy company Scottish and Southern and Norwich Union.

All companies, charities and religious groups that operate door to door in the UK are requested to recognise UKDC and its unique membership door sticker and have both a moral and legal duty to respect your right to privacy when informed of it.

Annual membership of the scheme costs £5 – that's just over a penny a day. Plans are in place to make donations to a charitable trust of which the board of trustees will make donations to community based causes.

As part of the annual fee UKDC also plans to negotiate favourable deals for lower tariff fuel, household goods and services on behalf of its members.

It's easy to join UKDC. Householders can call UKDC direct on 0845 094 3069 (quoting Newton News), fill in the form printed here or go to the Newton News website www.newtonnews.co.uk and follow the link.

## UKDC APPLICATION FORM


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## ITEC Apprenticeship Scheme Worked for Samantha

A young apprentice is proving to be a lucky charm at the UK base of an international jewellery company. 22 year old Samantha Church, from Newton Aycliffe, is showing herself to be a real asset to Pandora, a Danish company with its UK headquarters in Shildon.

The company distributes high end jewellery to retailers across the UK and Samantha's skills have been shining through as she ensures that the office runs smoothly by processing customer orders and answering customer queries.

And thanks to the Apprenticeship, Samantha is now on course to complete a qualification that she originally started in 2005 but did not finish. The Apprenticeship has enabled her to earn a wage whilst completing a Business Administration GNVQ Level 2 at ITEC in Newton Aycliffe – a winning combination for Samantha. "When I first started the GNVQ in 2005, I was not in full-time employment so it was difficult to balance learning with earning enough money to live. I decided that if I wanted to go any further with the qualification then I needed full-time employment and an employer who would support me. Once I got the job with Pandora they were happy for me to complete an Apprenticeship," said Samantha.

Samantha now works as a sales and administrative assistant at the jewellery distribution company and attends college once a month as part of her Apprenticeship, funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) North East.

It doesn't stop there for Samantha; once she has completed her GNVQ level 2 she hopes to go on to complete Level 3 qualification.

Pandora Managing Director, Darren McCormick, said: "Samantha has been a great asset to the sales and administrative team. It is one of the most important departments in the business and through training she has received via the Apprenticeship programme she ensures that we keep our customers satisfied."

Apprenticeships are a cornerstone of the LSC's drive to improve the skills of England's workforce. They offer training for existing staff and new recruits in a wide range of areas and there are over 180 different courses offering relevant training designed by business for business. Apprentices learn while they work, so their knowledge is up-to-date and because their training is on the job, the practical skills they gain are the ones that are right for business. More information on Apprenticeships can be found at [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

## COUNCIL REMOVE ILLEGAL ROAD SIGN "CLUTTER"



Highway chiefs in County Durham have begun exercise to rid roads of the clutter of illegal signs erected by housing developers. In the last two months alone, more than 2,000 signs have been removed from roadsides throughout the County. Durham County Council highway engineers reckon there's more than half as many again still to be taken down and the council has warned that if any new ones appear without consent, the developers responsible may be charged for their removal. Dave Wafer, the Council's acting head of highway management, said: "The intention of the signs is to give directions to lorry drivers delivering materials to building sites, and as they are officially regarded as 'signs within the highway' the county council needs to sanction their erection.

"We are usually asked to approve the provision of signs between main A class road junctions and the building sites themselves and we approve what we consider an appropriate number.

"But some companies erect a lot of them without seeking consent, which can prompt other companies to erect more than they have approval for and it becomes a bit of a free-for-all, with the signs serving as nothing more than free advertising.

"The abuse of the system became so widespread that we withdrew all previous approvals and instructed developers to remove every one of their signs. By September, it became clear that the developers were not responding to our instructions, so we began taking them down ourselves.

"We now have a stockpile of more than 2,000 signs at our Wellfield highways depot in Wingate. Any future signs erected without permission will be also removed and we may impose a charge for doing so."

Coun Bob Young, Durham County Council's Cabinet Member for Traffic and Highways, said there was increasing public concern about the proliferation of housing developers' signs cluttering up the highways and creating a feeling of general untidiness in some communities.

"Added to that, the sheer number of them on our roadsides and the potential distraction they create for motorists has also raised concerns," he added. We could not let the situation spiral out of control."

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## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 14th January 2009

Environment Committee - 7.15pm

Followed by the Recreation Committee

Wednesday 21st January 2009

Policy & Resources Committee - 7.15pm

### QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 15 minutes has been set aside for electors to ask questions at the Recreation, Environment and Policy & Resources Committee Meetings. Written questions must be received by the Town Clerk at least 5 clear days prior to the meeting. Oral questions may be asked at the meeting which relate to an agenda item or is a matter for which that committee has responsibility. Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)  
The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

## PUBLIC MEETING

TO FORM  
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## BIG SUPERMARKETS SHOULD STOP MISLEADING THEIR CUSTOMERS

Supermarket shelves are full of special offers, but Which? has found that some of them aren't that special and even break government guidelines. Which? investigated offers at high street and online supermarkets to check if they complied with new government guidelines, introduced in May, to ensure that offers don't mislead customers. The rules state that before an item goes on offer, it should be at the advertised higher price for 28 days in that store.\* The consumer organisation found the following offers that broke the guidelines: Marks & Spencer cherries were marked as half price at £2.49, which implies a saving of £2.49, but customers were actually only saving 50p on the previous price of £2.99. The cherries had only been sold at £4.99 for 17 days, a month before the offer. Waitrose blueberries were only at the higher price (£3.99) for two weeks before being sold at 'half price' (£1.99) for six weeks. Sainsbury's Gallo Cabernet Zinfandel and Chardonnay Sauvignon had '£1 off' at £3.99 for five weeks, then briefly returned to the higher price of £4.99 for one week – before

going back to £1 off. Tesco strawberries and Marks & Spencer bacon were 'on offer' for the whole three-month investigation. These offers don't actually break the guidelines, but can hardly be described as 'special'. Which? also carried out a survey\*\* which shows that almost three quarters of its members think that special offers are good value and more than half often buy things they aren't intending to because they are on offer. Three in 10 said that buy-one-get-one-free (Bogof) offers cause them to throw away food. The UK wastes 6.7m tonnes of food a year – roughly a third of everything bought. Families with children in the UK waste an average of £610 a year on food that ends up being thrown away.\*\*\* Nikki Ratcliff, Head of Services Research, Which?, says: "We all like a good deal, but 'special offers' encourage us to spend more than we would otherwise and may make us buy food that we throw away. Supermarkets need to comply with the spirit of the new government guidelines and stop misleading consumers into thinking they're getting great deals when they're not."

## REDUCING BICYCLE THEFT

It's that time of year when many young people have received bicycles as presents at Christmas, but their joy and delight can quickly turn to heartache if their pride and joy is stolen. Therefore Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership is introducing the Pedal Safe initiative which aims to reduce bicycle theft and also increase the safety of young people. There are 500 FREE front and rear lights to give away to assist in increasing the visibility of cyclists to drivers while additional safety advice will be given on the day. Each person will have their bike security marked and be given a heavy duty chain to secure their bike. By making the bike identifiable it makes the bike less attractive to thieves while the lock will increase the effort and time needed to steal it. Parents and Children can protect their bikes from thieves and increase their safety by going along to one of the Pedal Safe Venues. Glyn Hall, Partnership Chair, said: "This is an excellent project and gives young people the opportunity in be proactive in reducing crime and at the same time increase their safety"

# AIR CADETS HELP HOSPICE



Air Force Cadets from Newton Aycliffe got together with Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland to raise much needed funds. Asda customers paid a donation in return for having their shopping bags packed and a grand total of £1500 was raised which is a great boost at this time of year. Asda were pleased to allow this event to help such a good cause.

## Existing Officer Gets Top Housing Job

Colin Steel has been appointed Chief of Executive

of Sedgefield Borough Homes and will have Alan Smith as his Director of Finance. Following a vigorous assessment and interview by independent organisation SOLACE, Colin was selected and will take control of Sedgefield Borough Homes' 8,500 housing stock next year. Born in Norfolk, and the current Director of Housing at Sedgefield Borough Council, Colin, (48), joined the authority in 2004 from Wansbeck District Council where he was Chief Housing Services Officer. Earlier this year in a secret ballot, Sedgefield Borough Council tenants voted overwhelmingly in favour of transferring the ownership and management of their homes to Sedgefield Borough Homes. Almost 75 per cent of tenants who voted were in

favour of their homes being transferred from Sedgefield Borough Council to Sedgefield Borough Homes on 1 April 2009. Sedgefield Borough Homes will spend £100 million on a programme of repairs and improvements for tenants' homes in the first five years after transfer. Speaking of his appointment, Colin, said: "I am both thrilled and delighted. The hard work has already begun and the next few months will be spent preparing to ensure everything is in place for when the transfer takes place. "My aim is to deliver a brighter future for the tenants of Sedgefield Borough Homes." Colin intends to forge a strong directorate and will have alongside him 42-year-old West Cornforth-born Alan Smith as his Director of Finance.

## HIRE THE YOUTHY!

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre have marvellous facilities to hire. As an example for a Child's Birthday Party for 1 hour in the Sports Hall and 1 hour for a Room with use of the kitchen etc. would cost £34. There is no charge for setting up and clearing away time. The Main Hall (70 seats) is available with a disco for a small cost and there are also several meeting rooms including a training room for meetings and seminars. For voluntary and/or non profit groups we will consider a discount which will also apply to long term booking for profit making organisations. We can accommodate bookings in the week for meeting rooms particularly. We have our own car park. For any booking and/or information please pop in and see us or tel 307522 from 9.30 to 3.30 Monday to Friday or the Secretary on 07949 968520 anytime.

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## HELPING WEST AFRICA



Boys and girls of Newton Aycliffe Church of Latter Day Saints made a donation of £100 for the West Africa Trust which helps the poorest people in the world. Syd Howarth, a trustee, received the cheque and gave the children an idea of how the money is used to bring clean water, health and education to this poverty stricken region. Syd told the youngsters how grateful he was for their effort in raising the money which would be put to very good use in West Africa. He praised the thoughtfulness of these lovely children and said how much he enjoyed meeting them.



# SCHOOLS ENCOURAGED TO RECYCLE CARTONS

In a drive to improve recycling across the region, teachers, pupils and office workers are being called on to recycle the millions of paper-based cartons used by the area's schools and businesses.

Each year, over ten million milk and juice cartons are used in the North East's primary schools, while

secondary school pupils and staff use an additional two million cartons. Millions more of these low carbon packs are used in the region's businesses and - following the introduction of a new carton recycling scheme from Tetra Pak and industry body ACE UK (Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment) - the North

East now has the opportunity to become a leader in carton recycling.

Whilst many businesses and schools in the North East are conscious of their environmental impacts, they have previously lacked the means to actively recycle their paper-based cartons through a simple, permanent scheme. Now, thanks to the Businesses and Schools Carton Recycling Service and J&B Recycling, cartons can be recycled across the region. All 23 of the North East Local Authority areas are covered by the scheme and Tetra Pak is asking teachers, pupils and office workers to do their bit.

Expanding on their existing infrastructure, Tetra Pak's service enables schools and businesses to contact their local carton recycling contractors through a straight-forward web portal. Businesses and schools from Teesdale to Alnwick and Wear Valley to Gateshead can use the website to obtain a quote before setting up collection through J&B Recycling.

Byerley Park Primary School

in Newton Aycliffe is one of the schools signed up to the scheme. Headteacher Mrs Gargan commented: "The children at Byerley Park Primary School are keen to promote an awareness of the environment in which they live. We started recycling paper four years ago and now - thanks to a commitment from the children - we have increased the range of materials we recycle.

"The school kitchen uses milk in cartons and some children also bring juice cartons into school. These cartons are squashed and then recycled. Recycling bins are available in classrooms as well as in the shared areas of the school and our contractors J&B Recycling run a weekly collection service.

"We have already achieved an Eco School Bronze Award for our environmental initiatives and we are now working towards a Silver Award."

# GOVERNMENT PLEDGES £3.2m FOR GROWTH PLANS IN COUNTY

£3.2 million has been awarded to County Durham as a result of a joint bid by local authorities to win funding for social and economic growth in key parts of the county.

The cash forms part of the second round of the Government's New Growth Points programme and will support ambitious plans for new houses, employment, transport and related environmental improvements between now and 2016.

The main area of housing growth will be along the A19 Corridor including the towns of Peterlee and Seaham and the Bishop Auckland to Darlington Corridor including the towns of Bishop Auckland, Newton Aycliffe, Shildon and Spennymoor.

Although the programme's principal focus is on the south and east of the County, its impact will have a positive effect on economic development across the county as a whole.

It plans to deliver 11,500 new homes between 2008/09 and 2016/17 including a target of 2,300 affordable homes.

But the scheme is about more than just housing growth.

The new housing will be linked to town centre regeneration and will be twinned with new job creation by developing nine 'mixed use'

housing and employment sites.

It will also link with ongoing master-planning in Peterlee and Bishop Auckland town centres and will help to secure improvements to transport, healthcare and education in and around these communities.

The bid was developed jointly by Durham County Council, District of Easington, Sedgfield Borough Council and Wear Valley District Council.

Responding to the funding announcement, Glyn Hall, Chair of the South & East Durham NGP Board and Director of Neighbourhood Services at Sedgfield Borough said: "This funding is not only a vote of confidence from the Government in Durham as a place where people want to live and make their home, but also an opportunity for us to plan new housing and community facilities that are to high standards of design and environmental sustainability."

Coun Neil Foster, Durham County Council's Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Board member said: "This is great news for the whole of County Durham.

"It shows the existing councils' ability to work together as a team heading into the new unitary structure next April and offers the prospect of more local jobs when the housing market starts to recover from the credit crunch."

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The Citizens Advice Bureau who operate across Sedgfield Borough are looking for people who would like to give of their time to volunteer for the service. The CAB Service offers free advice and information and although some posts are paid, many roles are carried out by volunteers.

Citizens Advice offer good quality professional training in a number of roles and many of their volunteers go on to find similar paid work.

Pauline Chambers the Sedgfield CAB Service Manager said "Volunteers come from all sorts of backgrounds and we are looking for new volunteers from the age of 16 upwards to train in a number of roles such as advisers, clerical officers, advice support officers, IT & communication workers & fundraisers amongst others. You don't need any qualifications and you will be paid travel expenses to and

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from your place of work so you are not out of pocket. Whether you have an hour a week or several hours a week the CAB may be able to use your time to give back to your community in some way, whether you want to gain experience or no longer work because of disablement or retirement and want to continue to do something useful, we can use you."

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line) and ask for Mrs Sandra Richardson and a pack will be sent out to you in the post. Alternatively write to:- Mrs S Richardson, Citizens Advice Bureau, 12 High Street, Spennymoor. Co Durham DL16 6DB

The Sedgfield Citizens Advice Bureau dealt with over 33,000 enquiries last year and helped clients manage over £11 million pounds worth of debt.

**Donna Stewart**  
**Bus. Development Manager**  
Sedgfield & District  
Citizens Advice Bureau  
donna@cab-sedgfield.co.uk  
01388 826016

# LOSE WEIGHT AND SAVE MONEY

Slimming World members in the town are tightening their belts in more ways than one - they're losing weight and beating the credit crunch in a brand new prize draw from the UK's biggest slimming organisation.

Slimming World has launched its 'Be a Friend, Bring a Friend' scheme to give a helping hand to slimmers and to prove that you can shrink your figure without shrinking your bank balance! When a Slimming World member introduces a friend to St Clares Group they get a week's membership free, plus the chance to win a whole month's free shopping worth £500.

Consultant Debbie Wilson from the group held Thursdays at 1pm and 5.30pm says: "Everyone's talking about the credit crunch and we know that families everywhere are feeling the pinch, but with clever shopping and a load of new recipe ideas our members actually save money on weekly food bills, while still losing weight along the way.

"This month one of our lucky

members in Co. Durham will beat the credit crunch by having their food bills paid for a month - just by bringing a friend to group," says Debbie but there are lots of other ways to tighten your belt with Slimming World. You really can slim and save.

As well as being the best value slimming club in the country, our Food Optimising plan suits any budget. There's no need to buy special meals or expensive drinks and shakes - it's based on basic, simple, everyday foods like pasta, rice and fresh veg, so you can keep your food bills really low. Our members share great tips about buying and cooking healthy food, like clever ideas for leftovers, feeding the family for a fiver and hunting out special offers at local supermarkets. By changing how they shop, cook and eat, and ditching the takeaways in favour of easy-to-cook family favourites like a Sunday roast or chilli, they're actually slimming and spending less on their food bills than they were before! It's a win-win!" For more information call Debbie on 01325 300615.

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# Town Council to Provide New Environment Centre

*Former Pre-School Centre to be Refurbished*

The new Environment Centre is a former pre school building at Moore Lane which has been empty for a few years.

Local Improvement Programme (LIP) funding was made available from Sedgfield Borough Council to fully refit the building with new windows, kitchen, flooring and toilets (including disabled access).

The building will be used as an Environment Centre where local schools and community groups can visit. It is planned that public events, after school and holiday clubs will be operated from here. The countryside volunteer service and the Environment Officer are also to be based here.

The centre will have a classroom which will have several attractions that can also be used as teaching aids- this will include live animals and more unusual displays. The Environment Officer will have his office here.

The centre is within easy walking distance from open amenity grassland, mature scrub/woodland, rare grassland and a substantial pond; all of which will prove a valuable teaching resource. Subjects that will be offered include local ecology, biology and environmental matters such as climate change. All of which will be taught in a fun and interactive manner. Environmental games which promote fun and team work while also learning will be incorporated as much as possible.

Local schools and scout groups have already been involved with improvement and design of several aspects of the centre including the artwork which will decorate the interior of the centre. It is hoped that some of the artwork will be used to inspire a few pieces of art that will appear around the countryside sites of Aycliffe.

Currently the builders are busy renovating the centre. This should be complete soon after Christmas. We will then have to decorate the whole centre

and include local children in the design. We plan to have a grand opening in the spring when the centre is more established and the weather should hopefully be warmer.

## Gardens Guild AGM

The town's Gardens Guild holds its Annual General Meeting on Monday 12th January at 7pm in the Royal British Legion (upstairs). The Hut at Clarence Chare will re-open on Sunday 1st February at 10am. Residents re urged to join the oldest organisation in Newton Aycliffe. Garden supplies at bargain prices. Use it or lose it!

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## STOLEN BANKNOTES

What would you think if you were offered a stained banknote as part of a transaction? Would you consider that the note might be stolen? Or would you think nothing of it and accept it automatically?

The national crime prevention initiative "Banknote Watch" is launching a new campaign to educate the public that a stained note is probably a stolen note. Each year in the UK, hundreds of thousands of pounds in cash is stolen and stained during the robbery due to the use of security systems that serve to indelibly mark the cash. If this stained cash then goes into circulation, criminals are being allowed to profit from the proceeds of crime and are encouraged to steal again.

To help prevent this cycle of crime, members of the public are advised not to accept stained banknotes. If you do inadvertently accept a stained note, take it to a bank, building society or Post Office and obtain a form BEMN for the repayment of damaged notes. By filling in this form and going through the proper channels, providing the note is genuine, you will be reimbursed for the note you have handed in.

More information and advice on stained and stolen notes is available from www.banknotewatch.co.uk



# “UNITE ON WIND FARM PROPOSALS” says M.P.

Phil Wilson, MP for Sedgefield has written to local authorities in the south east Durham and Tees Valley area, calling on them to work together to design a strategic approach to wind farm applications. If all wind farm proposals in Sedgefield constituency were to go ahead, there will be 50 wind turbines, more than 100m high, in an area from the A689 down to the A66, including a cluster of 17 at Butterwick east of Sedgefield itself where planning permission has already been granted. A further proposal for 9 wind turbines have been proposed for Red Gap Farm, just over the border from Sedgefield in the borough of Hartlepool a matter of a few kilometres from the Butterwick wind farm. Phil Wilson said: “I have written to the local authorities which cover my constituency where the developments have been proposed as well as the neighbouring boroughs of Stockton and Hartlepool calling on them to meet to design a strategic plan for wind farm dispersal in the area. Although the wind farm proposal at Red Gap farm is not in my constituency it obviously impacts on my constituents. Likewise the proposed developments in my constituency will impact on

the residents of Darlington, Stockton and Hartlepool. Local people do not see the boundaries between local authorities and parliamentary constituencies, when the look out of their windows, they see a landscape, where, if we are not careful, the dominant

## HELPING SENIOR CITIZENS

**The Friends of Senior Citizens based at Neville Parade Community Centre exists to help those with problems they find difficult to overcome. Ring us on 3139245 and we will try to assist any Senior Citizen with a problem or point them in the right direction. On Monday 5th January the Forum meets and we have a speaker from the Air Ambulance. Admisison is £2 including tea and cake. Al activities at the Centre recommence on 5th January. We wish all our supporters a happy and prosperous New Year. Peter Beaty**

# IMPORTANT TO ATTEND FIRST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETING

Residents are reminded to attend the first meeting of the proposed new Newton Aycliffe Residents' Association to be held in St. Mary's Church on Thursday 8th January at 7p.m. It has become clear the town needs an association to fight its corner against decisions which affect our lives. The recent plans by Tesco to expand on its already highly congested site is one of the issues which prompted the need for a residents forum, but it is generally agreed it may be needed for other important local issues when we become governed by Unitary Authority at County Hall. A strong voice is required to oppose any proposal which goes against public opinion. The Association will also empower our Councillors to carry that opinion to the Council Chamber. It is important we have the right people on the working committee and a strong membership behind them, so please come along to the meeting and show your support. If you wish to be nominated to serve on the committee please compete the nomination form below.

**A Public Meeting is called on Thursday 8th January 2009 at St. Mary's Church at 7pm to formally accept this constitution after members of the public have agreed its content and or made amendments. The Association is then empowered to act on behalf of the residents, representing their views in line with the aims and objects. All residents are invited to attend and be nominated as members of the committee.**

## NOMINATION FORM

I ..... wish to nominate:

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Tel: .....

As ..... (Please state for what position)

It is important the person you nominate is willing to stand.

**Nominee Acceptance**

Signed .....

Please send or hand in to Fr. Campion, St. Mary's Church, Central Avenue, Newton News Office, St. Cuthberts Way or their agents Newsforce in the Town Centre, & Don Walkers, Simpasturegate. For more details contact Syd Howarth on 300212.

feature will be wind turbines many of which will be 125 metres high. There is a need for renewal energy, but it must be implemented in such away that people do not feel as though they are ignored. That is why I am calling on local authorities to sit down together to thrash out an overarching plan for wind farm development in the south east of County Durham and the Tees Valley. I have also written to Nick Brown MP, the Minister for the North, asking him to call on the local authorities to do the same.”

## Lost & Found

LOST large tabby cat “Ben”, pale blue collar, missing from Navy Club area. Tel 07799 513792

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## Public Notice

**WATCH BATTERIES** now available at Taylors Newsforce **DONATIONS** needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Please ring John 316630

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

## Weddings

**BEAUFORDS**, Daimler limousines, Rolls Royce's and Jaguars available for weddings, anniversaries and special occasions. Tel 01740 620147 (Sedgefield), 07721 771 113 or visit our website on: www.durhamweddingcars.co.uk

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Hardware - Software  
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Home Networking  
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*No call out charge*

**Tel: 317649**  
**Mobile 07751 767 286**

# “SNOWED IN”

By Olivia Turvey (age 9)

The editor heard this outstanding poem at Vane Road School Assembly and thought our readers would be as impressed as he was with this young girl's use of the English language.

*As I glance out the frosty window, the snow and ice and wind,  
Beats 'gainst the dusty doorframe, I think about my sins.  
Of beggars in mild clothing, their face and limbs quite numb,  
Standing in the frozen North until the day is done.  
I look into the garden, just icy white I see,  
When we decide, that warm inside, is where we want to be!*

*I retreat to the sitting room, the fire blazes warm,  
Of red and gold, and yellow and brown, unlike the icy lawn,  
Hot chocolate, upon the stove, the creamy bubbles rise,  
I pick it up and take a sip, and much to my surprise  
A group of carol singers knock, so hard upon my door,  
Oh, how I wish it was Christmas, for now and evermore!*

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## Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe



Give a Christmas Gift to people in the world less fortunate than yourself

# CHRISTMAS APPEAL

### HELP CHANGE A LIFE THIS CHRISTMAS

The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe is known in the town for its work in the local community, but it also seeks to serve a wider community throughout the world.

This year, in partnership with the Newton News, have produced this advertisement illustrating how a little bit of money can go a long way to helping the poorest people in the world.

It offers you the opportunity to help those much less fortunate than yourself by purchasing gifts in your own name, or those of your relatives and friends - gifts that will be truly appreciated for years to come, not just thrown away on the Christmas scrapheap or tucked away in a corner of a cupboard.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Simply choose the project you wish to support, complete the donation form below, giving your name and the name and address of the person on whose behalf you are making the gift - we will do the rest.

EVERY PENNY of your donation will go to the gift you have indicated. The Rotary Club will send a card to the person you have chosen informing them what you have done in their name.

If you wish to make a donation in your own name, then you will be informed that your wishes have been carried out. If you cannot afford the full amount suggested, the Rotary Club will make sure that your contribution is combined with others for the nominated project.

**Sadly there will always be disease and hunger somewhere around the world, but these projects will bring lasting happiness to those you help. Together we can make Christmas a time for people all over the world to celebrate**

GIVE THE GIFT OF SIGHT ... .. £1

Help someone to see again with refurbished spectacles.

EDUCATE AN ORPHAN ... .. £20

For £20 per year an Orphan girl is given school supplies and a uniform.

MOSQUITO NETS ... .. £2

Malaria is a killer if not treated properly, mosquito nets are good prevention.

PROSTHETIC LIMBS ... .. £20

The Jaipur Clinic provides prosthetic limbs for children as well as therapy and accommodation during rehabilitation and the fitting of the new limbs.

POLIOPLUS ... .. £1

Vaccinate a child against this crippling disease.

AIDS ORPHANS ... .. £5

Support a child Orphaned by Aids, giving them an education and a future.

CATARACT OPERATION ... .. £17

Restore sight to a child/elderly person with a cataract operation.

BUY A GOAT ... .. £13

A goat will provide milk for a whole family and can be used for breeding.

FRESH WATER ... .. £200

To provide a fresh water well for a small village.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES ... .. £5

Children cannot attend school unless they have the supplies, and for only £5 a child could attend school for a year with the basic supplies required.

**OTHER IDEAS FOR GIVING THROUGH ROTARY** (at any time, not just Christmas)  
We are also able to make use of Used Spectacles, Unwanted Mobile Phones, Used Postage Stamps, Toner & Inkjet Cartridges and Foreign Currency.



## DONATION FORM

I would like to donate £ ..... to the ..... Appeal  
As a taxpayer, I agree to Gift Aid (the amount (giving an extra 25%) ☐ please tick

Person in whose name you wish to make the gift .....

Address .....

Your Name .....

Address .....

Please make cheques payable to "THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE".  
Hand in at Newton Press, St Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DX or  
Taylors Newsforce, Town Centre or Don Walkers, Simpasturegate





# WHAT DO THE TOWN COUNCIL DO?

Dear Sir  
 I read in your paper a statement from Great Aycliffe Town Council stating they were the elected representatives of the people of Newton Aycliffe. That point is only partially true as they only really represent

the people of Aycliffe on Parks and Cemeteries. They have no jurisdiction over anything else as far as I know.  
 The people of Aycliffe will be paying twice for this privilege, once through the precept levied on us here to have a town

council and then through the vastly increased allowances that the Unitary Councillors will receive after May next year.  
 We are being soaked to keep thirty or so Councillors in pocket money to look after

nothing more than cutting grass. If Unitary Councillors are going to get in excess of £20,000 a year surely we don't need another thirty town Councillors to pay and maintain out of our hard earned wages.  
 J Smith

## “QUITE A LOT” SAYS LEADER

The Town Council has an overall responsibility for the wellbeing of the Great Aycliffe Town Council area. Council work falls into three main categories:  
**REPRESENTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**  
**DELIVERING SERVICES TO MEET LOCAL NEEDS**  
**STRIVING TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE PARISH**  
 Its Mission Statement is: “A quality Council, working in partnership, listening to and speaking up for the community, to bring excellent services to Great Aycliffe.”  
 The Council provides, maintains or contributes to the following services and functions:  
 Oak Leaf Sports Complex  
 Oak Leaf Golf Complex  
 Sports Coaching indoor/outdoor  
 18 Bay floodlit driving range  
 8 football pitches  
 Market administration  
 Mini-soccer and six-a-side pitches  
 Public seats provision/maintenance  
 Stephenson Way Cemetery  
 Bus shelters with litter bins  
 West Cemetery, parks with play equipment  
 St Andrew’s Churchyard (maintenance/burial)  
 Additional play areas  
 Aycliffe Angels Memorial Garden  
 Some footway lights  
 War Memorial and flagpole maintenance  
 Lorry park  
 3 pre-school learning centres  
 Youth Council – set up and support  
 Environmental Education Centre  
 Planning consultation  
 5 allotment sites, pigeon/poultry facilities  
 Customer Panel  
 Crime prevention – CCTV / wardens  
 Fun-in-the-Parks  
 Great Aycliffe Show  
 Firework Display  
 Pensioners’ Excursions – 1600 participants  
 Christmas lighting and trees  
 Santa Tours  
 Santa letters for children  
 Grounds maintenance and management  
 Litter and rubbish removal  
 Town Pride Team

Civic Service  
 Christmas Carol Service  
 Civic Ball  
 Remembrance Sunday  
 Mayor’s at Home  
 Charity events  
 Liaison with principal authorities  
 Grants for local groups  
 Maintenance of woodland areas and Great Aycliffe Way  
 Councillors have three main areas of work:  
**Decision making** – through attending meetings and committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.  
**Monitoring** – councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.  
**Getting involved locally** – as local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. This often depends on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.  
 The day-to-day work of a councillor may include:  
**Going to meetings of local organisations**  
**Going to meetings of bodies that affect the wider community, such as the police, Highways Authority and schools**  
**Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public, such as making representations to the Borough Council and, in the future, to the Unitary Council**  
**Running a surgery for residents to bring up issues**  
**Meeting with individual residents in their own homes**  
 It is particularly important as the new Unitary Council and arrangements approach for County Durham that the Town Council, as the most local form of elected local government, should represent and speak up for its community.  
 The Parish and Town Council sector is valued and supported by all the main political parties, with the present Government wishing to strengthen the Parish and Town Council role.  
*Councillor Bob Fleming, Leader of the Council*

### Sits Vacant

CARER wanted to clean house and iron, must be long term. Tel 316886

### Telecom

TELEPHONE MAN, Dave Bowes. Extensions fitted for phones, Sky, Broadband and internet. Extension lines moved and repaired. All jobs only £40 each. 01388 833828

### Chiropody

**CHIROPODIST**  
 Sarah Shepperson  
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 Tel: 01325 257270

### Pets

BOARDING KENNELS and CATTERY (established 18 years), White House, Bolam, Near Darlington (off A68). Approximately 3 miles from Heighington - 01388 832635.

### Opticians

**K. McGuinness**  
**OPTICIAN**  
 Town Centre  
 Newton Aycliffe  
**Tel: 316600**

### Wanted

**CASH**  
 for  
 Old Clocks,  
 Watches (pocket/wrist)  
 Jewellery etc.  
 Unwanted Gold etc  
**01833 641323**  
 07765 064045

### For Sale

**BEDS BEDS BEDS** at Bargain Buys, Divan Beds from £59, Pine Frames from £59, metal frames from £49. Special offer 4'6" leather sleigh bed, £269 including mattress Tel 321678.  
**NINTENDO** DS games, medal of honour 5, Sims, Marios, Need for Speed, Brain Train, £50 Tel 07746 538537  
**MANS** beige mac, Christian Dior, size M-L, £30; Marks & Spencers Ladies cream mac, size S-M, £20, as new, ONO. Tel 308196  
**20" JMB** colour TV with remote, good condition, £20. Tel 304165  
**VERY LARGE** binoculars 20x80, tripod fitment, rigid carry case, as new, £65 ono. Tel 319418  
**NEED** An old domestic appliance removing? Can't wait for the Council? Tel. 321678.

### New Year Greeting

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Godfrey and Shirley Bennett to friends old and new

**MARTIN, ROSA,** Michael, Natalie and Daniel Bage would like to wish all their friends and neighbours a very merry Christmas and a happy New year. No Christmas cards this year, money sent in lieu to charity.

### Childminder

**EXPERIENCED CHILDMINDER**  
 Ofsted Registered  
 NNEB Qualified  
 St Oswalds Park area  
 School pick/drop off available  
 Ideally Stephenson Way or St Josephs but all considered  
**Contact Julie 315374 or 07812 185583**

### Personal

**BVA Foundation**  
**FREE Confidential Post Abortion Counselling** available  
**Telephone: 01642 616077**

**SAMARITANS** - 13 Woodland Road, Darlington. We are here for you 24 hours a day. Telephone 08457 909 090  
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### Autos

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### In Memoriam

#### CAROLINE KENNEDY

17/8/56-28/12/03

I remember the day I met you, the day God made you mine. I remember the day I lost you, and will till the end of time. Through all my tears and heartache, there's one thing for which I'm glad. That you chose me to share with you, those precious years we had. A teenager at 16 when we met, a teenager at 47. So until we meet again in Heaven, all my love always, Peter  
**All I have** are the memories, the good ones and the bad. The day you finally let it go and left me more than sad. I wish that you could come back here and fill back up this hole, that you left 5 years ago. When your body left your soul. Lots of love, your No. 1 Son Stephen, Angela, Jacob, Serenna and Leland

**I'm sat here** thinking what to write, to sum up the last five years. One thing goes without saying, Mam is that I've cried a million tears. I did not want to live without you, but you would have wanted me to. And if there's anyone I want to make happy that anyone is you. Nathan isn't a little boy now. He's a gorgeous, kind young man. He talks about you often Mam and visits your garden when he can. So much has happened since you left. Macy and Lucas have been born. It breaks my heart that you are not here to see them grow and share in the joy. I'll try to make you proud Mam, I will try to fulfill your wish. You're going to look down and smile Mam, that's a daughters promise. So rest in peace sweet Mam, you'll be thought of every day. We love and miss you dearly. Some day we'll meet again. Michelle and Damian xxxx  
**I still remember** your face Nanna and the games we used to play. The Jaffa Cake joke is the clearest, seems only like yesterday. I knew you till I was four years old, so I'm told I am the lucky one. But it does not stop me missing you Nanny. Now that you are gone. Love, Nathan xxxx  
**You are spoke of** every day Nanny. Although we did not get to meet you. Your photographs are in our house. And we love and miss you too. Lots of love, Macy and Lucas xxx

### Congratulations

#### Grace Cooper



**Happy 50th Birthday**  
 30th December, 2008  
 With all my love to my very special Wife. Clive xxx

**GRACE COOPER** Happy 50th birthday, 30-12-08. Have a great time in New York. Love, George and Gill xx

#### Joyce Oram



**Happy 80th Birthday**  
 8th January, 2009  
 To a dear Mum, Nan, Great-Nan, Sister and Friend, with all our love on your special day. From all of us. xxxx

### Photography

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Before purchasing any home improvements  
ensure that your supplier can demonstrate:  
  
1 - They are financially checked  
2 - They have previous installations checked  
3 - They agree to work as per conditions of  
the home pro-customer charter  
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AYCLIFFE’S FAST GIRL ON T.V.

Aycliffe racing driver Amanda Whitaker played a starring role at Croft recently being featured on ITV Tyne Tees evening news on together with partner Anthony Dunn. She gained support from local company Roman for the event. Amanda explained how she has raced against and beaten the boys over her career and even competed

against her boyfriend Anthony recently at Croft. She was also interviewed live with Lisa McCormick on BBC Radio Tees 95-95.8 FM. Amanda finished 3rd in the HSCC Historic Formula Ford 1600cc National Championship this year competing against a field of more than 30 male drivers. She hopes to race again in 2009: “There are a few things in the pipeline depending on funding”. She will also be at the Autosport International Show in January as a “Star Driver” on the BWRDC stand promoting women in motorsport.

**AJ TAXIS**  
**4-8 SEATER**  
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Lovely New Parks - BUT!

Dear Sir,  
Thank you to Aycliffe Town Council for providing us with these much needed play areas for our children to play and enjoy themselves. The colours of the equipment and railings provide an area that would make our children feel safe. The only thing that is needed now are wardens to make them really safe. Sunday afternoon my wife and I took our two young children, both under 6 years old to Simpature Park to enjoy a fine afternoon. When we arrived one of the children already playing, warned us about some broken glass within the railings. After noticing this we became aware of it while the children played. Just then one of the many teenagers that were on the edge of the railings threw more glass into the playground, creating more danger for anyone using the area properly. These teenagers were an intimidating crowd that had a mini-moto between them and were tearing around on it. While there

was no offence aimed at us in particular, the noise of the mini-moto and the disrespect of the playing area spoilt our afternoon. Does anyone know the rules of these mini-motos and whether children should be riding them without adult supervision? Have you bought your child one of these machines and if so, do you know how they are riding it and whether they are safe? So, are there park wardens patrolling the park and keeping it clean and safe? Or will the Aycliffe taxpayers be expected to pay for another refurbished park when it has gone to rack and ruin? Someone to make sure the younger children can play without intimidation would cost much less than a whole new park. This certainly has made us wary about using the play areas again. However, it is recognised that not all teenagers are like this minority that made our afternoon so miserable. Name and Address supplied

From the Town Clerk . . .

*This is very disappointing. Unfortunately, a lot of hard work and expense can be undone by a minority. At present we do have a*

*member of staff touring council property at weekends to remove litter/rubbish, however, not permanent at any one location. In regard to criminal damage and mini motorcycles being ridden, this is a matter for the police to respond to. Hopefully, this was reported and logged. A number of these machines have been confiscated by the police and destroyed. The council will be looking at the provision of park wardens in the near future as the present service, only in the Town Park, is operated under agreement with Sedgefield Borough Council. The council will and has prosecuted youths who vandalise parks and other property if evidence is provided.*  
Andrew Bailey.

Aycliffe Munitions Factories 1939-1945

Dear Sir,  
A friend (Vera Brown) who used to work at the Aycliffe Munitions factory has found the following amongst her late brother’s personal effects. Presumably the reference to ‘losing the roses from our cheek’ is a reference to the change of skin pallor due to handling cordite.  
Mrs Christine Gard  
*The Angels worked there;  
Young girls and some young men, 16 years olds + during the Second World War.  
They did a job during that war, going to work in the morning, or evening, but for some never returning home, they’d been killed, just doing their job, some were injured, some lost limbs, some were disfigured, just doing their job.  
These girls & boys risked their lives every day, they went to work, they were the unsung heroes of World War 2, but, weren’t recognized by their country. We could*

*never have won the war without them, working seven days a week three shifts. All this for “7 and a tanner” a day (7s/6d ) = £2/12s/6d a week.*

*We’re working girls of Aycliffe,  
We’re working all the day,  
We’ve lost the roses from our cheeks,  
For 2 pounds 12 and 6 a week.  
We try to please the Blueband, (Chargehand)  
But all she does is shout,  
“Come on you twerps,  
Get on with your work,  
And get production out”.*

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