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## TRAFFIC CALMING CHANGES FOR TOWN'S BUSY ROADS



Traffic calming on our busy roads could be changed – if local people agree.

Durham County Council is to ask people who use Shafto Way and Greville Way in Newton Aycliffe for their views on proposals to change the existing speed cushions to round-topped road humps.

Speed cushions allow vehicles to straddle them while road humps go across the full width of the road. The proposed change follows complaints from residents and bus companies that they cannot straddle the cushions when vehicles are parked.

Letters explaining the change are on their way out

from the County Council asking for comments by January 23, 2009.

If the change is agreed, the scheme is expected to be completed later in the year. "The original traffic calming scheme dates from 2003 when 15 sets of speed cushions were installed on the bus route," said County Council highway engineer, Lee Mowbray.

"It has been a success as it has not only reduced traffic speed but personal injury accidents too.

"However, not everyone has been happy with the cushions as they can't function as intended when vehicles are parked.

"What we want to do now is to find out people's views

on changing the cushions to road humps and once we have the results of the consultation we will then determine whether to proceed with the change.

"What is absolutely certain is that there are no plans to remove traffic calming from the area.

"This is simply about changing the type of traffic calming," he said.

The proposed round-topped road humps would have tapered edges, be 3.7metres long and be no more than 100mm or four inches high. They would be placed at the same locations as the existing cushions

## ROTARY CLUB PLEDGE CASH TO COMPLETE ABI APPEAL

20 months old Abi Selvey who suffers from a rare physical and mental disease now has the transport she needs to get to and from hospital appointments around the North East.

Her disabilities mean she needs round the clock care and wherever she goes Abi needs an oxygen suction machine, a satsometer, and a specially made pushchair.

The appeal for funds to buy a vehicle large enough to accommodate Abi and all her equipment safely was launched by the Newton News in September and has reached £7800.

Thanks to the generosity of the people of the town in supporting its Christmas collections around the town with Santa and in Tesco's, the Rotary Club has decided to use part of the proceeds to donate



the final £1200 to bring the total raised up to £9000. This is sufficient for the family to complete the purchase of a suitable second hand vehicle and the appeal will now close. On hearing the news Abi's Mum Clarissa said "It is brilliant that the appeal has been completed. We are really, really grateful and can't thank people enough for all the financial help and support we have received".

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# DOUBLE WINNER AT THE LANES



New resident Sarah Dinsley won the top prize in a raffle at The Lanes development in Newton Aycliffe (www.thelanesnewtonaycliffe.co.uk) Sarah was delighted when Clare Johnson from Fabrick Housing Group called to tell her that she would be receiving an amazing luxury hamper. Having just moved into the property of her dreams, a stunning Zenith 2 bedroom apartment, Sarah certainly feels she's on a winning streak! There is still a fabulous range of properties available at The Lanes, from gorgeous 2 bedroom apartments to magnificent 3 bedroom homes. The Lanes has a home on offer for everyone, from the retired to the blossoming family to the young professional – simply a great range of homes in a great place to live. Terrific incentives are on offer at the development to make moving home that little bit

easier. This includes the offer of 50% shared ownership, meaning buyers can move today for just £48,000! Shared ownership entitles the buyer to own their new home from day one but only pay for 50% of the property. Potential buyers will definitely agree that this will come as a big help to those struggling to otherwise get on the property ladder in today's current climate. There is also the option of letting from Fabrick Housing Group, allowing customers to rent the home they want and then when the market is more stable and more mortgages are on offer, they can buy the property. Terms and conditions apply on both incentives so buyers are advised to check with the sales centre for further details. For more details on the fantastic opportunities at The Lanes, please contact the development directly on 0844 8009864.

# COUNTY COUNCIL PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR C.A.B.

The importance of Citizens Advice Bureaux to the life of County Durham was recognised at a seminar held at County Hall.

Speaking at the seminar Cllr Brian Stephens, Durham County Council's Cabinet Member for Partnerships, said: "The County Council knows how critical the CAB service is to thousands of families throughout the county, particularly those experiencing difficulties with debt, legal problems, and health issues, and we look forward to working with local bureaux through the new Area Action Partnerships."

Addressing over 80 delegates Cllr Lucy Hovvells, Cabinet Member for Communities said: "In setting its budget for 2009/10 the County Council will be looking to maintain, in real terms, the funding at present received from the district councils." Patrick Conway, Chair of the County Durham Citizens Advice Partnership, welcomed the assurances, and added: "The seven County Durham bureaux are dealing with over 80,000 new client issues each year and sadly numbers are rising week on week, with more and more hard pressed families and individuals

seeking advice.

"Given the County Council's support, we can look forward to developing local services, taking into account local need."

Durham County Council Leader Simon Henig said: "With over 200 volunteers giving freely of their time and expertise in County Durham, the CAB is uniquely placed to represent concerns and problems experienced by citizens.

"Clearly this is an organisation that is respected in local communities and we will be doing all we can to ensure its excellent work continues."

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# AYCLIFFE CHILDCARE JEWEL SHINES ON



A former local authority children's nursery centre in Newton Aycliffe has reopened after a successful buy-out. The nursery on Durham Way North closed earlier this year after a change in childcare policy at Durham County Council leaving the building vacant.

Little Acorns North East Ltd, which runs centres in Horden and Stanley, operated from a former office building opposite the vacant centre and jumped at the chance to bid.

After a closed tender process Little Acorns, which cares for children aged from three months to 12 years old, were successful and have just celebrated opening the doors to their new home.

Managing Director John Owens said: "The new building is much better suited to childcare as it is all on one level and all the caring rooms open out onto a garden area.

"Over the years the local authority had invested in some great facilities at the building so it was ideal for us. We have done some work ourselves to bring the centre up to the highest standard and both ourselves and parents are very

pleased with the results."

The new centre is a great resource for the hundreds of parents working on the Aycliffe Business Park with large and small employers like Ness, Katell and Steel and Alloy Processing.

Likes its other centres Little Acorns also operates a groundbreaking before and after school service which cares for school age children before taking them to and from school by taxi.

Little Acorns, which has operated for more than ten years, also works with local employers offering a retainer service so that when employees have childcare problems they can be easily and quickly accommodated.

John Owens added: "Our company has grown on a bedrock of flexibility. We work with parents and local employers to ensure that we can accommodate everyone's needs.

"We operate within some plant's shift hours and move care around to suit parents who these days work very flexibly."

For further information on the childcare services available at Little Acorns call 309 100.

# 3M PROVIDE SEATS OF LEARNING



Mike Simpson of 3M helps Ben Alliston, Josh Riley and Jessica Holmes put the benches in place

A unique outdoor classroom for Aycliffe Village School has been kitted out with solid oak benches thanks to the help of its friends.

The benches were specially made for the school by craftsman Jim Beddingfield, who earlier this year worked with the pupils to create a circular willow structure that will have the classroom in its centre.

Local employers 3M provided £500 for the structure when the school won first prize in its schools' environmental competition. Now the

company has also given an extra £400 towards the cost of the benches.

The 3M donation completed the £1,250 needed for the benches which has been met by £300 from the school, £300 from the PTA and £250 raised by the pupils themselves.

Headteacher Jed Gargan said: "The pupils have worked hard at fundraising and the PTA has helped enormously – on top of the £3,000 it generously provided last year to purchase curtains and blinds for our hall. However we would not have been able to raise the money as quickly without the assistance of 3M."

Mike Simpson, community relations manager at 3M Aycliffe – which makes respiratory protection products for worker safety – visited the school to help put the benches in place.

Mike added: "The benches complement the setting of the outdoor classroom perfectly and as they are made from sustainable oak they will be a great asset to the school for years to come. We were very pleased to be able to help." The pupils have now been proudly weatherproofing the new benches in teak oil ready for them to be concreted into the ground.

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A quote from the local dealer found me picking myself up off the floor with a determination that I would find a "No nonsense supplier of parts" and a "No nonsense Auto technician" to fit them.

I eventually found "Stigs Motor Factors" Tel. 316566 on Whitworth Avenue on the Aycliffe Business Park. Stig and his son Michael sourced my parts at very competitive prices in a pleasant and professional way.

Stig suggested I give his neighbour Tim of "Tim Will Fix It" Tel. 07748 702095 the opportunity to quote to fit my parts which he did in an impressive cost effective manner.

Well done lads you are what I was looking for and you have gained all my future custom. Next time you want an exhaust system or any other part fitted try the above combination you could find the pressure on your wallet a bit easier.

EA Burton

(the old fart with the go-cart).

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# AYCLIFFE BOXER BEATS NATIONAL CONTENDER



Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club hosted a boxing tournament at the Big Club on Friday 5th December. The evening was a great success with 15 well contested bouts and Aycliffe ABC had 8 boxers competing with 7 winners and 1 narrow defeat.

Aston Fairhurst boxed a national finalist and England representative and won, Mark Dial boxed in his second contest and made it two out of two. Aaron Mount had his 1st contest and ended with a win. Jamie Letten boxed a really intelligent bout on the move in his 30th contest and won. Sean Denham with a great deal of support gave a lot of weight away against a national finalist and won on a close decision. Craig Moir had a very hard task after a late replacement was brought in with a lot of experience, and as it worked out a little too much but Craig



kept the bout competitive. Michael Turnbull who had not boxed for 7 years did himself proud by winning against a man with a lot more contests. Top of the bill was 20 year old Danny Fox who was streets ahead of all the others with 50 contests and has been boxing since he was 11.



Danny boxed a National Champion & England Representative at senior level and won quite comfortably with his high work rate against a quality opponent.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the people that supported us on the night for a sell out show, and to coaches and helpers who made the show so successful. WELL DONE to all the boxers.

We are looking forward to the next Show at the same place on 22nd May 2009. Anyone interested in training, male or female, from the age of 8, is most welcome on Tuesday & Thursday evenings 6.00 to 7.30. Is there another Ricky Rattou or Joe Calzaghe out there?

## AGNEW COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION Morrison Close

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th January 2009 at 7 pm I am to inform you on behalf of the management committee that the above meeting will be open to all, but only members will be able to vote on any item on the agenda. Facilities for both the renewal and new memberships will be available after this meeting. R. Mitche Hon. Secretary

# SANTA WAS TOO FAST!

Dear Editor, I would just like to express my lack of gratitude for the Santa visit on Christmas Eve. Whilst I am pleased that Lewis Hamilton has gained a new string to his bow by driving the Santa around, I would have been happier, as would my children, if Santa had stayed around long enough for me to open the front door! Mike Fleet. Editor: The task of getting Santa around the town before young children go to bed is an enormous logistics exercise and the Town Council work very hard to please everyone. The majority of people appreciate and enjoy the experience especially if Santa is able to stop and talk to children. If he gets held up it is inevitable he has to rush towards the end of the night. The suggestion is he starts a little earlier to make sure he gets to everyone.

Joy-Marie Hairdressing
 Would like to wish all customers a very Happy New Year and to thank them for the lovely gifts received over the Festive Season
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# New Year's Message from Borough Mayor



My warmest greetings go out to everyone at this joyous time each year. On a personal front, it has reached the stage where I am now halfway through my term in office as the Mayor of Sedgfield Borough and it is a privilege to serve you all. As I mentioned earlier, this is a joyous time yet it is also tinged with sadness as this will be the final Mayoral, Festive message from this authority.Sedgfield Borough Council ceases to exist from 31 March and will become part of the new Durham County Council. So on behalf of the former Mayors of Sedgfield Borough and myself, I would like to thank you all for your generous support that has benefited many charities. Everyday I meet new people and organisations. These are very special and treasured experiences and the memories will remain with me and my wife and consort Maxine forever. Finally, may Maxine and I take this opportunity to wish you all a very healthy and prosperous New Year. John Robinson

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## NEW ROOVES, OLD PROBLEM

Dear Editor,  
Looking out of the window during the recent cold spell which brought hard frosts at night and carried on well into the day, I couldn't help but notice the white roofs of the surrounding bungalows and houses.

Those that hadn't new roofs were visible against those that had insulation. The old type roof held the whiteness of frost far longer than those with new rooves, a positive indicator that the insulation under the slates and in the loft was doing the job it is supposed to do.

We have a government which makes great play about its targets and achievements in reducing the nation's carbon emissions, all at our expense, but it allows councils to replace

what would appear to be heat retaining rooves with ones that lets the heat out!

They struck a deal with the country's main energy suppliers over their gross windfall profits which involved people being able to apply for additional loft insulation but this agreement only covers those who own their own properties excluding those who live in what New Labour now refer to as 'social housing'.

This exercise, all though cosmetically attractive would seem to have increased the heating costs to the tenants and gone against the government's targets to reduce the nation's carbon footprint.

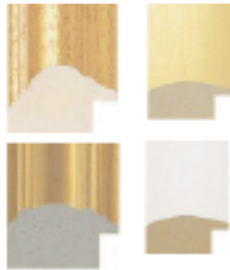
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ROTARY CLUB OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE

## CHARTER TRAIN TO AVIEMORE & INVERNESS

Bank Holiday Monday 25 May 2009

Picking up at Darlington (6 am), Durham (6.20 am), Newcastle (6.40), Morpeth (6.55) & Berwick upon Tweed (7.10) (TIMES SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT)

Route outward via Edinburgh, Falkirk, Stirling, returning via Ladybank and the Forth Bridge (Giving approx 3hrs in Aviemore or 2hrs in Inverness)

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**PULLMAN: £185** includes breakfast with Bucks Fizz on outward journey, Champagne and canapes on return followed by four course dinner and wine.

**FIRST CLASS: £110** with cash licensed buffet car available or B.Y.O.

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Optional STEAM TRIP on the Strathspey Railway to Broomhill (Monarch of the Glen) at a discounted rate of £8 per person or COACH TRIP to the Highland Wildlife Park (Cost to be advised) both from Aviemore

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### CONDITIONS:

1. The organisers cannot offer any concessionary rates.
  2. Refunds for cancellations will be made in full prior to 1 February 2009 after which a 10% handling charge will be deducted.
  3. The organisers will not accept any liability for loss or damage to individuals or property.
  4. The organisers will not accept any responsibility for passengers arriving at departure points after train departure time.
  5. Tickets are not valid on any other services.
  6. The organisers reserve the right to have removed from the train passengers who in the opinion of the organiser are behaving in an inappropriate manner.
- Tickets and timetables will be issued approximately one week prior to departure

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**FIRST** ... ..... (No of tickets) @ £110 with cash licensed buffet car available throughout

**STANDARD**.....(No of tickets) @ £70 with cash licensed buffet car available throughout

Total £.....

I am interested in the Steam Trip on the Strathspey Railway\*  
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Cheques should be made payable to "The Rotary Club Of Newton Aycliffe" and sent with a s.a.e to John Burrows, 1 The Garth, Bradbury, Stockton on Tees TS21 2ET tel 07870-210269  
For further information visit [www.newtonayclifferotary.org.uk](http://www.newtonayclifferotary.org.uk)

## DID SANTA GET LOST?

Dear Sir,  
It was Christmas Eve and we were all waiting in anticipation of Santa's visit. He was scheduled to arrive in Byerley Park at about 7.10pm.  
We know that he visited The

Chase at about 6.30 pm, but he failed to arrive in Byerley Park (again!)

Do we have a Bermuda Triangle in Aycliffe? Where has Santa gone? Should we send out a search party? The children and adults eventually accepted with disappointment that Santa was not going to come this year. Please can someone buy a new map for Santa's driver so that next Christmas, our waiting will not be in vain, and he will find his way to Byerley Park. A very disappointed resident of Byerley Park.  
Angie Pearson

## Litter Leads to Serious Crime

Problems such as litter and graffiti can lead to an explosion of more serious offences, according to a new report. Keep Britain Tidy has welcomed a major new study by Dutch researchers into local environmental quality and the incidence of crime.

Experiments carried out by Dutch researchers have shown how poorly maintained areas can double the number of people prepared to act in a criminal way. The project, conducted by Dr Kees Keizer and his team from the University of Groningen, deliberately created disorderly settings and observed the impact this had on behaviour.

In one test, simply covering a post box with graffiti increased the number of people willing to steal a cash-filled envelope sticking out of it from 13% to 27%. Phil Barton, Keep Britain Tidy chief executive, said: "The results of this Dutch research are very interesting. We have long believed that if an environment is littered or has lots of graffiti it can lead to more criminal behaviour."

"This latest research would indicate that people may have fewer inhibitions about committing more serious offences in locations blighted with litter. This is why the environmental quality of an area is so important. "Tackling issues such as litter can help prevent an escalation in crime which causes widespread misery and ultimately requires far more resources to combat."

## Santa is Sorry

Byerley Park is made up of about 7 cul-de-sacs and it may well be that the Santa vehicle did not go to the very bottom of every one as we advise the drivers to assess each area and ensure that they are able to gain access and are then able to manoeuvre back out safely.

At Christmas time there are more cars parked roadside than normal due to the festive holidays and this can cause access problems for the Santa Vehicles. If access was not possible to any of the cul-de-sacs Santa would have been ringing his bell and the driver peeping the horn to let residents know he was close by.

Sadly every doorstep on the various routes cannot be accessed and the volunteers for the Santa Tours who give up their time every Christmas Eve make every effort to access as many areas as possible to avoid disappointment.

Derek Snowball, Town Council Leisure Manager

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Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon

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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.



# Free Go-Karting for Children

# New Directors for Sedgefield Borough Homes



Two new senior appointments have been made to Sedgefield Borough Homes. Alan Boddy, from Shildon, will hold the position of Director of Corporate Services with Ian Brown taking over as Director of Housing and Customer Services.

A School Governor at Shildon Sunnydale Community College, Alan is currently Head of Organisational Development at Sedgefield Borough Council where he started his local government career in 1984.

Ian Brown, from Stockton also works at Sedgefield Borough Council where he is Head of Housing Management having previously worked

for Nottingham City and Middlesbrough Councils. Colin Steel was recently appointed as Chief of Executive of Sedgefield Borough Homes and will have Alan Smith as his Director of Finance.

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 the new appointments, Colin Steel said: "I am delighted to have Alan and Ian on board. They are both of the highest calibre and their experience will help deliver a brighter future for the tenants of Sedgefield Borough Homes."

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Spennymoor Leisure Centre is holding two **FREE OF CHARGE** Go-Karting taster sessions in the main sports hall on Mondays 12th and 19th January.

Go-Karting is a recent innovation in children's entertainment, and these exciting free sessions will delight any child aged 4 to 9 years-old with their first real driving experience.

The Go-karts are safe, supervised and loads of fun, with a maximum of four electric Go-karts used for each race staged around the inflatable track.

Sessions run from (4.00pm – 4.30pm) for children 4 and 6 years old, and (4.30pm – 5.00pm) for those between 7 and 9 years old.

Please note, children aged 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult at times. For more information please contact Spennymoor Leisure Centre on (01388) 815827.



ALAN BODDY



IAN BROWN

**Weekly Events at Woodham Golf Club**

**MONDAY NIGHT QUIZ NIGHT**  
Free Chips and Dips

**Pensioner's Lunches Every Wednesday**  
Two courses for £4.95

**PIZZA AND PASTA NIGHTS**  
Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 4pm until 9pm  
Two Courses £4.95 beginning Thursday 22nd January 2009

**SUNDAY CARVERY**  
FREE Dessert with every adult carvery purchased throughout January

**Golf Club Open Evening - Friday 23rd Jan**  
Woodham Golf Club would like to welcome members, old members and local residents. Come along, sample food from our new bar menu, receive your **FREE PINT**, enjoy the entertainment, meet the staff and see the new plans for the Golf Club

**Girls Night In - Saturday 31st January**  
7.30pm-12midnight - "Full Monty Roadshow"  
Ann Summers Party Games, Raffle + a chance to see new products  
Two Male Strippers and a Drag Artiste - Tickets £7.00  
includes glass of Cava and chocolate dipped strawberries on arrival

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## Swimmer Breaks Father's 25 Year Record

Sedgefield Water Polo Club player, Scott Carpenter, has become the first player since 1984 to be the top goalscorer in the National League 1st division for 3 seasons in a row. Scott has led Lancaster, Sedgefield's sister club, to their 3rd title in 4 seasons. What is even more remarkable about his scoring feat is the last person to achieve this feat was his father and coach George Carpenter when playing for Durham City in 82, 83, and 84.

Scott is currently training in Italy with the Great Britain team aiming for the Europeans in Switzerland in September and the 2012 Olympics in the long term. He also hopes to be the first GB player ever to



play in the 1st Division in Italy universally recognised as the best and most lucrative league in the world to play in.

## OVER 50 NEEDY FAMILIES RECEIVE HAMPERS

The Health Visitors in Newton Aycliffe have thanked the Rotary Club for their support during the past year and especially for the town's needy families at Christmas.

Pat Poinen said she could not express enough the gratitude of the families who received the Christmas Hampers. They were delighted that someone had thought of them and brought items they would not buy for themselves.

"The contents of the Tesco hampers were of a very high standard and it was a pleasure to offer them to our clients. One family said the weekly income was only £39 and £36 goes towards bills. She has hardly any money left to buy

food. The hamper delivered was the only bit of luxury she would have at Christmas" said Pat.

She said no one had thought of her and she was very grateful to receive the hamper. Another Health Visitor had three clients who were overwhelmed and burst into tears when they received their hampers. Poverty and deprivation is very real in

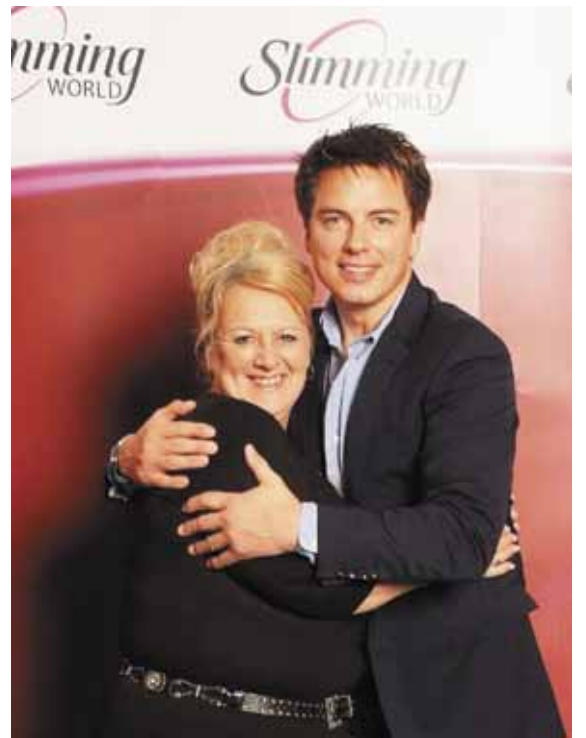
our community and families and children are suffering.

The Rotary Club were pleased to provide over 50 hampers, but say this could not have been possible without the generosity of the townspeople who contributed to the appeal. They would also like to thank Gerard Wiper of Tyne Tees Packaging who provided the boxes.

## GOOD SPOT FOR SUNDAY LUNCH

Why not treat yourself to a well earned break, and let us take care of the Sunday Lunch this week? Oak Leaf Sports Complex does a wonderful roast for only £5.50 Adults and £3.50 Childs portion. There's no need to book - we've got plenty of space. Lunch is served from 12.00 noon until 2.00pm. You will always find a warm welcome awaits you. For further information, contact the Oak Leaf Sports Complex 01325 300600

## TOWN SLIMMER MEETS TV SUPERSTAR



A dream came true for Linda Middleton when she met TV heartthrob and multi-talented performer John Barrowman at Slimming World's glitzy Awards Ceremony at the ICC in Birmingham recently.

Linda, who manages groups in the Newton area was over the moon when John, best known as Captain Jack on Torchwood and a firm favourite on TV talent shows like 'Any Dream Will Do' and 'How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?', called her 'an inspiration' after cuddling up to her to for a picture.

He said: "Seeing people's dreams come true is an incredible thing and I've had the privilege of doing that through my TV career. Linda is special because she is helping people to achieve their dreams every week. It really is a pleasure to meet her."

Having capped an exciting year by meeting the 'Guest of Honour' at the glamorous event, Linda is feeling positive about the year ahead. She said: "Meeting John was an amazing experience. I couldn't believe that he was even more gorgeous in real life but I'll be treasuring

our photograph together! "The message I'm giving people this New Year is that with the support of like-minded people anything is possible. I know times are tough financially but looking after your health and wellbeing is a priority and, in fact, members of my group tell me they're spending less on food now than they ever were before - so they're winning all round!"

"At Slimming World you can lose weight while enjoying 'proper' food like pasta, potatoes, fruit and vegetables, fish and lean meat, so you'll never go hungry - and we'll be here to support you every step of the way."

Slimming World's Annual Awards ceremony recognises the achievements of successful slimmers throughout the country. New members who join in January can take advantage of a special half price membership offer, while the new flexible Extra Easy eating plan provides the perfect introduction to Slimming World. For more information please call 0844 897 8000 or log on to [www.slimming-world.com](http://www.slimming-world.com)

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Executive Producer Geoffrey J. L. Hindmarsh  
Director and Choreographer Paul W. Morgan

## TREES OF REMEMBRANCE



The Trees of Remembrance held at the Newgate Centre which is part of our Light Up a Life Appeal looked wonderful.

The Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland would like to thank all the people who visited our trees and placed their bauble and message on the tree. Also the band of willing volunteers who stood for hours and tended the trees.

This special event is only possible with the kind permission of the Manager of the Newgate Centre, Mr Dave Wilson and also to Argos who kindly allowed us to use their premises as storage.

We were thrilled that the grand total raised was just under £2,800. All the money raised goes towards the upkeep of our local hospice for local people.

Thank you, Barbara Fountain, Fundraiser.



# PANTO SUCCESS AT NEWTON AYCLIFFE



More than 500 local school children were transported to the magical setting of Old London Town, as the story of “Dick Whittington” was unveiled by Chaplin’s Pantomime Company. Two performances took place in the main sports hall at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, as it was transformed into a theatre-

style production area. The children were able to experience comedy and excitement, as well as a host of audience participation with a sing-a-long and dance moves. Visitors included Woodham Burn Primary School, Kirk Merrington Primary School, St Joseph’s, and Ferryhill Early Years Learning Group.

Helen Williams, head teacher of Kirk Merrington Primary School said: “The children thoroughly enjoyed the entire performance and are already looking forward to attending again next year.” And to make it a day to remember, as the children left the sports hall there was also a surprise visit from Santa.

# PLAYDAY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Staff at Playday Nursery started their Christmas celebrations by organising a Christmas party for children and parents at The Cumby Arms Heighington. The children had the opportunity to visit Santa in his grotto, participate in games and dancing. A highlight of the event was the children’s performance of their Christmas songs. Party food was provided by the nursery. The whole event proved to be a huge success and was enjoyed by all. Children’s comments included the following Nell “I liked dancing with all my friends, Faith “I loved eating all the party food”, Chloe “I liked seeing Santa and getting a present”, Joshua “I liked dancing to the music”. We would like to thank J+C coaches for providing transport, the staff at the Cumby Arms and all parents who attended or supported this happy event. To raise money for this event the staff held a Christmas raffle and would like to thank local firms and individuals who donated prizes including Cumby Arms,



Ruff and Tumble, Playshack, Chads, Point Blank, Thames Centre Florist and Butcher, Walkers, Sun Inn, Bon Marche, Creations, Deb n hair, Masons, Market stallholders, Laura Watts, Julie Costello, Donna Sowels and Gemma Witton. We have one unclaimed prize won by Alan Lambert ticket 281 (638826) To claim this prize please contact the nursery 01325 312050 The staff and management of

Playday Nursery would like to wish all the children, families and supporters a Happy New Year. Following our table top sale a 9-10 year old jacket was left at the nursery, if this belongs to your child please contact the nursery. For information concerning the nursery please contact the manager Linda Watts 01325 312050, website www. playdaynursery.co.uk

# New Year, New Challenge

Are you looking for a new challenge for the New Year? If you are then have you thought about volunteering? Over 22 million people take part in voluntary activities nationwide each year. Once seen just for ‘do-gooders’, volunteering can provide as many benefits to volunteers as it does for the community and organisations they help. Volunteers can gain qualifications, new skills, confidence and experience. Volunteer Centre Sedgfield Borough, part of an independent voluntary organisation, CAVOS, currently holds over 350 volunteering opportunities with community and voluntary organisations and charities in your area. These include administration, arts & crafts, counselling, driving, fundraising, practical work, shop and sales work, working with older people, young people, children or anything

else you can think of. The Volunteer Centre can offer volunteering opportunities to suit your current commitments and many organisations provide volunteers with payment of certain out of pocket expenses such as travel or any equipment needed. So whether you’ve got time on your hands, are looking to change your career, or gain employment, give volunteering a go, you might be surprised by what you can do. For more information or advice about volunteering, contact Sharon Vasey, Volunteer Centre Manager on 01388 811115 or call into any of our information sessions. Newton Aycliffe Community Learning Centre 10am – 12noon 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month starting 7th January 2009.

# MUSIC MADNESS AT SPENNY

‘Complete Madness’ are playing Spennymoor Leisure Centre on Saturday 14 February. Formed in 1992, Complete Madness have toured the UK with their current show since 2005 specialising in all hits of Madness, and featuring covers from The Specials, Bad Manners and The Beat. They will be supported by local band “Six Nowt” playing mod and punk covers of The Clash, The Jam, The Who, Oasis and Stereophonics. Tickets are £6.00 and doors open at 6.30pm with open seating. There’s a fully licensed bar and for tickets or more information call (01388) 815827.

# NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Book our large hall for your private party at only £10 per hour and kitchen at £5, commercial rates available. To view please ring 313924. Darlington Big Band will be playing in our hall on Saturday 7th February at 2pm, admission is £4 with concessions at £3 and students £2. To ensure getting a seat please book by calling the above number, you can collect your tickets on the door and can be assured of a good afternoon. New Mother & Toddlers Club every Wednesday from 10am until 12noon, commencing Wednesday 14th January. To book ring the above number. Line Dancing every Thursday 6.20pm – 7.20pm, just turn up, £2 per session. New Age Kurling every Tuesday 2pm and Thursday 1pm, just £2. You can pick this sport up in just one 2 hour session, it’s fun, it’s healthy and it keeps you fit. To book a place call the number above. We wish all our supporters and every senior citizen a very Healthy and Happy New Year. Keep warm and don’t go out in icy conditions. Peter Beaty

# Silver Medal and a Trip to Australia



Back in October we were able to report on the success of four students from GKR Karate Aycliffe Dojo at the UK Northern Regional Tournament. All won medals qualifying for the GKR Karate Championships which were held in Sheffield in November. Daniel Askew, Daniel Cattrick, Jamie Bamsey and Annalise Tinkler did themselves and Aycliffe proud by qualifying for the GKR Karate World Championship 2009 to be held in Australia. Annalise, 2nd Kyu did particularly well, but all four were up against the best in the UK and finished in the top 5 to qualify. Annalise reached the final for Kumita (Fighting style) and was narrowly defeated, collecting the silver medal.

“We’re extremely proud of all four students for doing so well, they’ve put in a lot of hard work to get to where they are, but I’m really proud of Annalise for all the hard work she has put into her Karate” said Sensei Dez Tinkler. “We’re really pleased for what all our students have achieved in 2008, they’ve all put in a

lot of work, but what Annalise has achieved shows what dedication can produce. I’m so pleased that a GKR Student from the Aycliffe Dojo has come second in their category for the whole of the UK” added Sensei Gav Bake. Anyone interested in joining GKR Karate contact Gav Bake on 07774 402987.

# Joyce Wins £100 Prize for Calendar Entry



Mrs Joyce Thompson, 85 years old, won the Southern Cross Healthcare Calendar Competition with her June 2009 entry. She received one hundred pounds cash for winning. The staff and residents at Defoe Court Care Centre would like to congratulate Joyce on her amazing achievement.

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# DANGER AS SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL POST REMAINS VACANT

Dear Sir,  
My daughter attends Vane Road Primary School and we have to cross Central Avenue to get to school. Since Jean retired we are now in great

danger of someone being killed or seriously injured on this road as we have no stand in from County Hall or the Police.  
I was walking my child to

school today and had to wait nearly 7 minutes to cross this road and children are risking their lives making a dash for it to cross. On the way home this evening a car has stopped to let children and parents cross but the car travelling in the other direction had other thoughts and did not stop and unfortunately there were a few kids stuck in the middle of the road. Then the driver that had stopped started revving his engine so he could get on his way.  
Several parents have contacted the Police and County Hall. The Police can only patrol when they are available. County Hall say they are aware of the situation and that the job has been advertised since September and still no candidate has been found. (Even when one does we have to wait for medical and CRB checks.

They have a relief patrol person who covers different schools in the County and they are covering for at least another 2 weeks at a higher risk to ours. Surely Central Avenue, the main road coming into Newton Aycliffe off the A167 is a high risk especially at rush hour in the morning?  
We had a new set of lights and a crossing put into place on Burn Lane opposite Tesco and St. Mary's Church/School and still there was a crossing lady in place. Does this mean that no one in Aycliffe knows how to push the button and wait for the green man to appear?  
Will it need a fatality before something is done? We need cover on this road EVERYDAY until the permanent position has been filled. DRIVERS should also drive more carefully in this area.  
Miss J Kerslake.

# Taekwondo for Women



When my husband persuaded me to try Taekwondo I had no idea how addictive it would be and I have been attending classes at Woodham Community Centre for nearly 4 months now instead of going to the gym.  
I would be lying if I said that I wasn't nervous when I went to my first lesson as I didn't really know what to expect, but it is a very friendly club and everyone made me feel very welcome.  
After only a couple of lessons I was hooked and couldn't wait to go again. I get a great sense of achievement after every lesson and no two lessons are alike which keeps it interesting. I've just been to my first grading which I really didn't think I would be interested in doing, but after learning the basics and first pattern I felt that I was ready to move on to the next level.  
This was a very nerve wracking experience but I felt very proud

of myself afterwards. It is a great sport for women to learn as it is an excellent form of self defence and is really good for improving flexibility and body tone.  
Taekwondo really helps everyone to be more confident and believe in their abilities and most importantly it is very enjoyable. I would highly recommend Taekwondo to anyone, especially women, who want to keep fit, like to challenge their bodies and want to achieve great results without the monotony of doing the same exercise routine week after week and becoming very bored.  
Come along and give it a try you will really enjoy it. We train at Woodham Community Centre (near the Huntsman pub) Tuesday 5.30 - 6.45pm, Sunday 10.30 - 12.00pm. Woodham Chungdokwan is supported by KOOLKASH Sedgfield Borough's support fund for young people.

# FINDER DID NOT HAND IN LOST MOBILE PHONE

Dear Sir,  
I was in Newton Aycliffe Workmens Club celebrating New Year's Day along with hundreds of other people and during the afternoon, whilst in the toilets, my handbag fell to the floor spilling the contents. I thought I had recovered all the items, but later realised my Blackberry phone was missing.  
Speaking to friends about this, I was informed they had seen 2 females in the toilets with the phone. The one holding the phone said she would hand it in behind the bar. Unfortunately this person chose not to do this and kept the phone, I assume because of its value.  
A number of people witnessed this and have agreed to give statements to the police. I believed the person who had found the phone would do the honourable thing and hand it

in. I would request that other witnesses contact PC Garside at Newton Aycliffe police station who is investigating this theft or alternatively contact me via the Newton News.  
To the person who stole my phone. I assume you realise you have committed an offence of theft by finding and I have made a complaint to the police.  
I have a unique name, which is displayed on the screen of the phone and you can only assume intended to keep the phone. Should you choose to do the honourable thing, you can hand the phone into the police station or at Newton Press offices anonymously. If you do this, then I will withdraw my complaint and that will be the end of the matter.  
Paulette Hunter  
Name and address supplied  
Police: 0845 6060 365

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# Business Network Launched this Month

## BUSINESSMEN URGED TO HELP EACH OTHER

Calling All Business People In The South Durham Region!!! On the 23rd of January starting at 12:00 pm South Durham Business Network (SDBN) will be celebrating its

formal launch at Spennymoor Town Hall. This event is for you - whether you're a small or large business, with or without staff, working from home or based in business premises - if your business matters and you want to grow and prosper then be part of something great, South Durham Business Network. Business conditions during 2009 are likely to remain challenging for all businesses across the UK. At a local and regional level, it is important that we start the year as we mean to go on - positive, proactive and positioned to win! The event will provide a number of opportunities to Businesses in South Durham to:

**Exhibit** at the event and have a strong business presence  
Find out about the new strands of regional support now available to help you through these challenging and uncertain times  
**Take part** in some productive networking and intertrading

with businesses from across the region  
**Learn** more about South Durham Business Network and how you can get involved  
**Hear** from John Elliot MBE, founder and Chairman of Ebac Ltd. John has developed and grown an extremely successful business and survived a couple of economic downturns

This event provides an opportunity for you to spring into action as South Durham Business Network invites you to attend our Kick-Off event for 2009. It's your chance to get involved in some serious intertrading and networking, as well as an opportunity to re-ignite some old business and personal contacts. Please come along and drop-in as it's FREE to attend and we urge you to showcase your capabilities to the wider business community and participate in this fantastic opportunity, as we invite other networking groups

from around the region to join in our celebration.  
Contact details: Darren Race, Chairman of South Durham Business Network (SDBN)  
T: 07947 409838  
E: info@sdbn.org.uk  
W: www.sdbn.org.uk



Chairman Darren Race

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## Memories of Newton Aycliffe Coffee Morning

Newton Aycliffe Library staff is hoping to compile a book of photographs about Newton Aycliffe covering the past 60 years. Come along to our Coffee Morning in the Library on Tuesday 13th January at 10 am and share your memories with us. If you have any old photographs of people and places which may be of interest and could be used in our book, please bring them along.

Thanks, Tricia

## WHAT A GREAT TOWN!

“The people of the Town continue to surprise us with their continued cheerful support and generosity” said the Rotary Club President David Scott. Over the Christmas period Santa and his sleigh toured the streets of Newton Aycliffe with his happy but sometimes cold helpers. Meanwhile the customers at Tesco were offered lollipops by Santa and his helpers who were delighted with the kindness shown. The Rotary Club wish to thank the citizens of Newton Aycliffe, old and young, for their outstanding contributions which realised almost £6000. This is an astonishing amount, some of which supplied food hampers to 51 needy families in the town for Christmas. What a great town we live in! Many thanks to the management and staff of Tesco, without their help this effort would have not been so successful. The Rotary Club value the help and support of the people of the town and we wish them a happy, healthy and prosperous 2009”.

### Weddings

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7 years experience  
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Shampoo and Sets available  
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## Thanks from Rose Lodge

Dear Sir,  
On behalf of the Residents and Staff at Rose Lodge Care Home, we would like to give a great big Thank You to everyone who helped and supported us in any way over the festive period. Special thanks go to Stephenson Way School, Vane Road School, Rev Shelagh Stevens & Members of the Methodist Church, Members of St Clares Church, Members of the Excel Church, Aycliffe & Brancepeth Brass Band, Ferryhill Stage Society, Options Group at the PCP, Vi Steventon, Julie Costello & Santa Claus who called in on Christmas Eve. These people all gave up their valuable time, in the run up to Christmas, to come in to entertain and celebrate the Festive Season with the Residents, for which we are very grateful. If there is anyone I've forgotten, thank you also. We would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2009. Margaret Willis

### Personal

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**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  
**WILLS** written in your home - Free details. Tel 313197.  
**WEST CEMETERY** Would the person or persons who stoop so low as to take things from my son's grave, think about the pain and distress you are causing.

### Opticians

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

### 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

► Have you recently been made redundant?  
► Are you looking for new employment?  
► We can help you to do this!

Following our Companies recent success in winning the National Award for working with Employers, we would like to take this experience and help those individuals who have recently been made redundant or are currently unemployed. Communicators Training Associates are running a one week course to help individuals who are looking for new employment.

✓ **We will help you to:**  
- make sure you are looking for the right job  
- check you have the skills to do your desired job  
- give you information about different types of jobs and what employers are looking for  
- help you update your CV and make it relevant for the jobs you apply for  
- assist you with actual job applications and covering letters  
- support you with 'interview' techniques to build your confidence at interviews  
- give you an option to participate in a 'mock' interview

✓ **How to apply:**  
If you would like to participate in our one week course, please contact Brian Lumley on 01325 308840 or email michelle.clark@communicatorsltd.co.uk

**Course dates:**  
**Monday 20th January to Friday 23rd January 2009**  
**Time: 9.30am to 4pm**  
**Location: Communicators Training Associates Ltd**  
**Technology Court, Bradbury Road, Aycliffe Business Park**  
**Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 6DA**  
**Cost: The course is FREE**  
**Tee/coffee and lunch will be provided.**  
**Places are limited - allocated on a first come first served basis**

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**2006 - Silver**



2 Litre Diesel  
Air Conditioning  
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12 Months Tax  
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Panelled Interior  
£7999.00  
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**WANTED** cars with or without MoT. Tel 07747 175137 or 07881 897231

# ADVICE FOR OLDER PEOPLE ON KEEPING WARM THIS WINTER

## HELP THE AGED OFFERS FREE WINTER WARMER PACKS

With the Met Office reporting widespread frost and temperatures dropping to as low as -9°C [1], Help the Aged is offering older people a free 3 Steps to a Warmer Winter pack to help weather this cold snap. Mervyn Kohler, Special Advisor to Help the Aged, said; "It is important to keep warm during this cold snap, which is why we would urge older people to make sure they continue to heat their homes. Anyone concerned about the costs of heating

should order one of our free winter warmer packs to find out what support is on offer." Three of the key tips included in the pack are,

**1. CHECK** - if you are worried about your finances this winter and you haven't thought of claiming benefits before, there are a number of easy ways to check what you may be entitled to. Contact a local benefit advisory service or call Help the Aged SeniorLine on 0808 800 6565. Pension credit, council tax benefit or housing benefit are just a few of the entitlements you may be eligible for.  
**2. CLAIM** - with up to £5 billion in benefits going unclaimed every year you may be able to boost your income. Contact The Pension Service free on 0800 99 1234 to make a claim.

Alternatively, inside our free pack there is a coupon you can send off to either request a call from the Pension Service or a home visit.

**3. INSULATE** - a properly insulated home could save you around £275\* off your annual energy bill. There are a range of ways you can improve the energy efficiency of your home and you may be entitled to free insulation from your energy provider. A free copy of 3 Steps to a Warmer Winter is available by calling 0800 089 0800. As well as useful contacts and the latest information and advice about claiming benefits and improving energy efficiency in the home, it includes a free thermometer to monitor room temperature.

### For Sale

**BEDS BEDS BEDS** at Bargain Buys, Divan Beds from £59, Pine Frames from £49. Special offer 4'6" leather sleigh bed, £269 including mattress Tel 321678.

**SAMSUNG** Tocco, unwanted upgrade, brand new, fully boxed with manuals and accessories, £190 ono Tel 07891 164672  
**2 FOLDING** beds with foam mattresses and spring base, £20 each or £30 for both. Tel 320816

**BED SETTEE** metal frame, beige, £75 for quick sale; Panasonic DVD recorder/player (18 months old) £65 Tel 314994

**YAMAHA** PSR260 portable keyboard + stand, VGC, all sounds and rhythms, also music books, £40 Tel 313725  
**3 PIECE** cream leather, small tear on side, but good condition, £75; 2 x 2 seater, suede-chenille, wine and chocolate colour, spare covers, large condition, £150 ono; Large electric organ with seat and music, £20; Teko gas cooker, slimline, £35. Tel 07593 113117

**NEED** An old domestic appliance removing? Can't wait for the Council? Tel. 321678.

### 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 312115

The Insolvency Act 1986  
**DDS FABRICATIONS LIMITED**  
Company Number 05206836  
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Begbies Traynor, 2 Collingwood Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 1JF, on 29 January 2009, at 11.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a statement of their claim at the offices of Begbies Traynor, 2 Collingwood Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 1JF, not later than 12.00 noon on 28 January 2009. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Begbies Traynor at the above address between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.  
Dated 5 January 2009  
By Order of the Board  
Michael Darnell, Director

The Insolvency Act 1986  
**DDS GROUP LIMITED**  
(Company Number 05863175)  
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Begbies Traynor, 2 Collingwood Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 1JF, on 29 January 2009, at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a statement of their claim at the offices of Begbies Traynor, 2 Collingwood Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 1JF, not later than 12.00 noon on 28th January 2009. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Begbies Traynor at the above address between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.  
Dated: 5 January 2009  
By Order of the Board  
Michael Darnell, Director

### Obituary

**POUNDER** January 2nd, peacefully surrounded by his family of Kimblesworth Walk, Arnold aged 93 years, much loved husband of the late Ruth, Dear Dad of Marjorie, Michael, Brian and Roger. A dear Father-in-Law, Grandad and Great Grandad. A special mention and thanks to his carers. The Funeral took place Friday January 9. Donations in aid of ward 1, Residents lounge at Bishop Auckland General hospital would be greatly appreciated.

### Thank You

**JANET RICHARDS.** I would like to thank all my family and friends for making my 50th Birthday Bash a night to remember. Special thanks to Ann, Jen, Pam and Steven, also to Norma and Alan at The Loco the food was perfect. Thanks to my work colleagues at Aycliffe Argos for the lovely gifts. Last but not least, thanks to my gorgeous Husband Michael! Love you all (yes Gaz, even you) xx

**I WOULD** like to thank all my family and friends for all their gifts, cards and best wishes I received on my 50th birthday. They were very much appreciated. Thanks, Grace Cooper xxxx

**WOOLIES**, Newton Aycliffe. To all the friends I've worked with over the last 9½ years, thanks for the laughs (and moans), it's been great. Also the customer's I've met over the years. I will miss you all. Love, Dorothy

**THE FAMILY** of the late Rita Thompson would like to thank all friends and neighbours for all cards and letters of condolence during their recent sad bereavement. A big thank you to all Doctors and Nurses on Ward 4 for all the care given to Rita. Many thanks to all who have donated to Bishop Auckland Stroke Unit. A special thank you to Rev Linda Potter for a beautiful heart warming Service. Also to Penny and Leigh at John Meynell's Funeral Services for their kindness and support. Also to Ann and Amanada at the British Legion for the lovely buffet. Our thanks to you all

**ROBINSON**, Stephanie Marie would like to thank you for all the lovely presents and cards received on my 18th birthday from family and freinds and also to say to the people who came to my 18th party it was lovely to see so many people there. It was a great night and one I will remember for a long time. Thank you all very much

### Accommodation

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**1 BEDROOM** Bungalow in School Aycliffe area. Fully furnished with Sauna, Jacuzzi, Steam Bath, Gym, Toilet, Bide and open kitchen with back view of fountain and garden. Exclusive and privacy is maintained. One car facility is available in drive. Ideal for young couple with no children and pets. Rent £600 pcm. No bills to pay, £500 Bond is required and refundable only after six months tenancy. Professionals only. References required. Tel 07816 499567  
**HOUSES** and Flats to let in Newton Aycliffe and Darlington. Please call 01388 458660 for further details

**4 BEDROOM** detached, garage, gardens, £650pcm, professionals only, no DSS. Tel 07962 335405

**5 BEDROOM** house for rent with access to private pool, £550 per month. References and bond required, one mile outside of Aycliffe. Tel 307445  
**2 x 3 BEDROOM** houses, Greenfield area. £435pcm, no bond, no agents fees. Tel 01325 520820

**3 BEDROOM** semi to let, newly decorated, rent £95 per week in advance. Deposit required. Tel 354333  
**REFURBISHED** 2 bedroom end terrace house in Mellanby Crescent to let. £110 per week, absolutely no DSS, call Simon on 07866 266657

**1 BEDROOM** sheltered accommodation flat for the over 55 or disabled person in Woodham. Contact Bethany House on 320837 or 07747 004991. Available for viewing now.

**ROOM TO LET** £60 per week with internet access. no DSS. Tel 07530 914282







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LETTER FROM SANTA

Great Start for 2009

NOWT IS TAKEN OUT!

Dear Editor  
Now that my busiest time of the year is over, and I have time to rest a while, I would like to take this opportunity, through Newton News, to say a HUGE thank you to all my 'lookalike' helpers and their teams – 21 people in all.  
They VOLUNTEER each year to give up Christmas Eve with their families to tour Newton Aycliffe, in all weathers - on most routes for 3-4 hours, so that children (young and old) can see 'me' before the Big Event! Without their assistance this event, sponsored by your Town Council, could not take place, and also to yourselves for being good enough to print the routes.  
I understand there was a problem on several routes this year with a shortage of sweets (although no-one has complained, thank you). I felt we had enough for one packet per child. Sadly, some children made a point of collecting packets at various stops in their area, leaving a shortage for children further on. Next year there will be more – but unfortunately, making them last the whole route cannot be guaranteed.  
A note also about times – these can only ever be 'approximate', depending on various factors: the weather – the number of children in the area – the number who actually come out – where they wait, etc., all have an effect on 'Santa' being late or early.  
I'm hoping, from the lack of complaints this year, that we got it somewhere near! I do hope you all had a good Christmas and received many of the gifts you expected. I'll be back again next year, so in the mean time, to children and adults alike, please stay healthy, happy, be good, and be kind to those around you.  
Happy New Year from Santa.

**Bishop Auckland 2nds 3  
Newton Aycliffe 54**  
After playing a strong Bishop Auckland club team the previous week, Newton Aycliffe repeated the visit to play the host's 2nd XV for the first match of 2009. With a stronger side available, Aycliffe were confident of a good result in bright still conditions.  
Bishop began the game strongly with some good forward play and took the lead with a penalty from McNair. Aycliffe now settled down and went ahead with an excellent try from a handling move that covered 70m, started and finished by Warren Parsonage. A second try followed from more good play when Luke Tinkler touched down. Former player Steve Turnbull, making a guest appearance, was the next scorer and, with further

well-worked tries from Sam Daltry and Paul Ellis the visitors were good value for a 33 – 3 interval lead.  
With the Aycliffe scrummage dominant, a very big score seemed on the cards. Aycliffe's play began to get scrappy, however, and far too many penalties were conceded as the players became frustrated. Only three tries were added to the score in the half, tries by Gareth Parsonage and Tinkler were topped off when Tinkler fed Ellis running through a gap to touch down under the posts. After missing his first conversion, Tinkler was successful with all the other seven to leave Aycliffe comfortable 54 -3 winners.  
Aycliffe's next match is at home to Sunderland 3rds in the Durham Junior League on 10th January. The Club would like to thank their sponsors Aston Hotels and ServiceForce. More information is available on the website at [www.ayclifferrugby.co.uk](http://www.ayclifferrugby.co.uk).

ROTARY CLUB THANKS A GENEROUS TOWN

Dear Sir,  
On behalf of the members of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe, I would like to thank the Townspeople of Newton Aycliffe for their most generous support for our fund raising activities over the Christmas Period. The response to our "Santa's Sleigh" collection around the various areas of the Town was excellent and the Club was extremely grateful for the valuable assistance with this collection from both the Army and Air Cadet forces.  
The appeal in Tesco met with another wholehearted response from the shoppers and Santa was delighted to hand out literally hundreds of lollipops to both the young and those who could be perhaps best described as a little more mature.  
It was amazing the number

of people who visited the store daily and each time donated to the appeal. The Club, thanks to Tesco, now have a permanent donation "Pillar Box" in the store and we hope that shoppers will extend their generosity throughout the year to help needy families. Remember that all the money collected by

Rotarians is used for Charitable Purposes and "nowt is taken out"! The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe wish everyone the very Best Wishes for 2009 and look forward to your continuing valuable support.  
Roger Curtis  
Projects Chairman  
N/A Rotary Club

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