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COMING TO A HEAD



Readers will have noticed groundwork at the southern entrance to Aycliffe Business Park where workmen are preparing the site for the erection of Aycliffe's sculpture "The Head"

Work is progressing well at Aycliffe Fabrication's Workshop at Leaside where the artwork, in three pieces, will be brought out in readiness for the journey down to the site.

There will be many who will want to see the sculpture being moved and we understand arrangements are being made for public viewing.

This is Joseph Hillier's most ambitious piece of sculpture to date - a 16 metre-tall steel framework structure that aspires to become a local landmark. He is hown here next to the scaffolding being erected to take the "Head's" steel support.



Site being prepared for the new sculpture which should be in place by March

INVITATION TO CIVIC BALL

KAB TAXIS
4, 6, 7 & 8
Seater Available
316203

Tickets are available for the Mayor's Charity Civic Ball which will be held in the Hall Garth Hotel, Coatham Mundeville.

This annual event held on Friday, 20th February is hosted by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe Councillor George Gray. The evening will commence with a reception at 7 p.m. followed at 7.30 p.m. by a three course meal and coffee/mints. The evening includes Dancing to "In the Mood" and a Disco until 12.30 a.m.

During the evening the Mayor will be holding a valuable raffle and tombola and all funds raised will be donated to his nominated charities which this year are the British Heart Foundation and BLESMA (British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association). These charities are truly

worthwhile causes and the Mayor would appreciate your support.

Further information and tickets can be obtained from Christine Ryder at Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices and are priced at £27.50. Tel: 300700. E-mail: Christine.Ryder@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

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This voucher entitles you to a full eye examination at THE VILLAGE OPTICIAN for only £5.00
Voucher must be presented at the time of the eye examination. Valid until 28th February 2009

Call In or Phone For Your Appointment

4 Cobblers Hall Village Centre
Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe
Tel: 01325 319922

4 Church Street
Coshoe, Co. Durham
Tel: 0191 377 0227

AWARE OF CONCERN OVER GREENS

Dear Syd,
Reference report on Borough Councillors walking out of the Town Council Meeting when transfer of Green Spaces was debated. Last year I asked two questions at the Full Council meeting regarding this important matter, on behalf of our town's residents. The response was that we could have maps of the areas to be transferred
Councillor Blenkinsopp has also worked very hard to obtain these as has our Town Clerk for the benefit of residents and the Town Council. It has taken a couple of months to obtain them but in the end we have most of them. There may well be changes but we will work hard to represent the people whom we are elected to serve. Yes, we left the meeting but we have been working hard at the Borough to obtain information for the people of our Town. How would you feel if the elected members were told that they had a conflict of interest and could not vote on the issue? We are aware of the situation and your concerns.
Independent Councillor
Alan Warburton

TOWN SCHOOL TEAM SECOND IN COUNTY SWIMMING GALA



Byerley Park Primary School Swimming Team has raced their way to second place in the Durham County Primary Schools' Swimming Gala. The Team of twelve, from Year 3 to year 6, finished in first place in Sedgefield Schools' Gala and this result meant that they qualified for the County Final. The Gala was held in the new pool at Freeman's Quay in Durham City on Tuesday 27th January and was a morning filled with action and excellent swimming. All the pupils competed well and supported each other. The Byerley Park Team was successful in achieving medals in many of the individual races. The relay was a closely fought event, too, with the Byerley Park Team finishing in third place. This is a fantastic result for the children coming in second place in the whole of the County. Well done indeed! Members of the Team are Callum Banks, Courtney Whithorn, Elle Cliff, Kimberley Hall, Jennifer Banks, Kira

Banks, Rachel Lovell, Max Wilson, Lyndon Hall and Joseph Stelling, Callum Cook, Harry Heaton.

Young Adults Must Leave Oak Leaf Bar Area at 9p.m.

A few people have asked for clarification on rules applying to young people attending the Oak Leaf Sports Complex Public Bar. They have been asked to leave at 9pm, even when accompanied by an adult and some older teenagers are understandably unhappy with the situation.

We asked the Manager who explains the regulations below:

The four licensing objectives as stated in the Licensing Act 2003 have guided me on this issue.

- 1 The prevention of crime and disorder
- 2 Public safety
- 3 The prevention of public nuisance
- 4 The protection of children from harm

The licence holder must decide whether allowing children onto the premises would be appropriate for the nature and style of business concerned. If they are to be admitted, he must decide on the circumstances for this - for example, only if accompanied by an adult, or only for a specified time in the evening.

Following this guidance I assessed the various situations that could occur in our licensed area and identified a system that permits under 18s up to a reasonable time.

It must be remembered that this area is used by adults who come out for an alcoholic drink and sometimes to watch the football matches on Sky television and this is not an ideal environment for under 18s to be present late at night. The rule that was implemented in connection with this issue is:-

Children over the age of 14 and under 18 can play pool but this must be with an adult who they are attending the facility with, up until 9.00p.m.
Derek Snowball
Leisure Manager
Oak Leaf Sports Complex

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW

Dear Sir
The West Africa Trust is a registered charity who work under the umbrella of Rotary International. We raise funds for the poorest countries in the world to provide facilities and supplies for hospitals and education for impoverished/orphaned children. Top priority is bringing health and clean water to people dying from preventable causes.
The Managing Director of Showcase Productions has offered to organise a Show in aid of the Trust. Singing Star of the 60's Jes Conrad heads the programme along with Rob McVeigh who was runner up on the BBC's "Any Dream Will Do" series last year. There will also be a full supporting cast of dancers and entertainers.
This promises to be a great event taking place on Thursday, 12th February, 2009 at the Spennymoor Town Hall with a 7.30pm start. Full bar facilities will be available on the evening along with opportunities to win valuable prizes.
Any organisation/business which is able to fill a table of ten will be given a quarter page advertisement in the evening's programme, at no charge. Alternatively you may send a donation or give a prize, which will also be acknowledged in the programme.
Tickets are priced at £15 per person and are available only from Newton Press. Please make cheques payable to the "West Africa Trust" and post to Newton Press, St Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DX.
Please get your friends together and help support this event for a very worthwhile cause, supporting the poorest people in the world.
Paul Howarth
Trust Member
PS: For more information/details please contact Syd or Paul Howarth on 01325 300212, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

ANOTHER BALLOT REQUIRED

Dear Sir,
Reference our Town Council's concern over the possibility of our greens and open spaces being handed over along with the council's housing to this newly formed Housing Company. Owner occupiers, and there are many living in the town, were never consulted or given a vote, as this issue was only supposed to be about Council housing. We now find Sedgefield Borough Council have found land they wish to add, on which owner/occupiers should have a say.
If Sedgefield Borough Council want to include greens and open spaces within the terms of transfer of housing to the Housing company another ballot should be held for all the townspeople to vote.
Peter Dolan

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

CHARITY CIVIC BALL
(in Aid of the Mayor's Charities)
The British Heart Foundation and BLESMA

in the SUMMERSON SUITE
at the HALL GARTH HOTEL
Coatham Muadeville, Darlington

on FRIDAY, 20th FEBRUARY, 2009
Reception 7.00pm
Dinner 7.30pm

Dancing to
"In the Mood" and Disco until 12.30am

Tickets £27.50 available from:
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Director and Choreographer Paul W Morgan

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The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge

Saturday 31st January
"HAPPY BIRTHDAY TURBINIA"
To help us celebrate we have the first appearance of North East No. 1 band "Slip of the Tongue" (a Whitesnake tribute). Last year was massive for Sott, playing major events like Journal Tyne Theatre and Stormin'. Destined for bigger things! See them first at our Birthday Party

Saturday 7th February
"STICKY FINGERS"
Riffs Magazine Review: "The best rock covers band in the north east"

For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 319700
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3 COURSE MENU £24.95 PER PERSON
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 Book for the Friday or Sunday and each couple will receive a complimentary bottle of wine. (worth £12.00)

Early Bird Menu
 2 courses £9.95
 Available Monday to Sunday 6pm - 7pm

Food now served Sunday's 6pm-9pm

The County, 14 The Green, Aycliffe Village, County Durham DL18 8LX. Telephone: 01325 318 871 www.the-county.co.uk

Abi Now Has Her Own Transport



The town's Rotary Club were delighted to donate £1200 to complete the Abi Appeal and allow Clarissa and Rob Selvey to purchase a vehicle to transport their disabled baby to local Hospitals. Abi's condition means she has to carry vital life saving equipment wherever she goes and a car was essential for her wellbeing. She is shown here with her parents and officials of the Rotary Club, President David Scott, Vice President Julia Barltrop and Immediate Past President Geoff Knapton.

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Darlington Big Band plays at our Centre on Saturday 7th February at 2pm, playing a wide selection of music from the 1950's onwards: Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Stan Wenton, Woody Herman, Gordon Goodwin and much more.
 Admission is £4, concessions £3 and students £2. Come and have a relaxing afternoon. To book and collect tickets on the door please ring Peter Beaty on 313924.
Senior Citizens Forum, Monday 2nd February at 1.30pm, admission £1 including tea/biscuits. Presentation by our Local Police Force.
Sale of Goods, Saturday 14th February from 9am until 12noon. If you have items to donate please ring Peter on the above number.
Volunteers always welcome, we want a Deputy Chairman (a good organiser), Fund Raisers (with plenty of ideas), Coffee/Tea Makers, Monday – Wednesday and Friday mornings, Handyman and Caretaker for setting up and locking up. Ring Peter Beaty on 313924. Volunteering has to be fun and it gets you out meeting new people.
Line Dancing has been postponed until Thursday 5th March at 6.20pm, newcomers welcome.
 New Mother & Toddler Group starting March 4th, to show interest ring Peter on 313924. 10am – 12noon with tea/biscuits, £1 per family.

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Neville Community Centre

Darlington Big Band

Saturday 7th February

2.00pm

To book and collect your tickets at the door
 Telephone 01325 313924

CUMBY HAD TO TURN CUSTOMERS AWAY!

Following our reports on the success of the Cumby Arms they had to turn people away who called for Sunday Lunch last week. The Jones' family who run the Restaurant/Pub have asked us to apologise to all those they had to disappoint and asks them to please return and make sure they book next time. Tel: 316753.

"We are delighted with the response we receive from Newton News advertising and it proves is influence and popularity in the area." said Neville Jones.

Newton News Gets Results

Dear Sir
 Our article last week on Computers for the terrified hit a nerve, the response has been fantastic. It shows what I have suspected for a long time that there are many people who would like to have a go.
 I have had nearly forty people wishing to join or know more about the courses and I have been able to start two courses each for ten people this week (Wednesday and Thursday mornings 10 am to 12) Another basic course is being prepared and will be started soon.
 Further short courses to build on these first basic courses should follow in about six weeks.
 Woodham Community Centre will also be having a drop in session to allow people to come and try using a computer and dabble on the internet and email. These will commence in about two weeks and we will advertise the date and time in Newton News first.
 One further point we are holding another Blood Donor day on Wednesday the 4th February 10am to 4pm
 Dave

Harrison Brown

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All three to five year olds can be eligible for FREE FIVE x THREE HOUR SESSIONS

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All our classrooms have en-suite bathrooms and all classrooms open up to an outside play area which has a go-kart track, dinosaur slides and much, much more . . . all in a safe and secure garden.

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Aycliffe is Proud of These Youngsters



Four new recruits take the oath

The Town's Air Cadet Corps held their Annual Presentation Evening this week at their HQ at the Barnard Armoury, Greenwell Road. The Corps had a very successful year with many notable successes making the Aycliffe Unit one of the best in the country. The cadets take on many exciting projects including flying, adventure courses, sports, Duke of Edinburgh Award and shooting. The high level of training is demonstrated by the cadets attention to their general smart appearance, discipline and politeness. They are a real credit to their parents who support them in all their activities. The unit is very strong and four new recruits were sworn in on the night.

What Ever Happened to Cobblers Hall Project?

Dear Syd,
Once again through "Inform" we hear of the accomplishments of Cllr. Vince Crosby in his role as a Borough Councillor, and the part he played in getting the funding for the renovation of Ferryhill Football Stadium. Meanwhile here in his home town, there still remains the matter of the Cobblers Hall site which seems to have fallen by the way-side over the last couple of years. I read with interest the importance of new facilities for Ferryhill youth, but I must

express my disappointment at the two tier leisure system at Sedgefield Borough as Aycliffe's youth wait for the facilities they were promised. It may be suggested it is the planning process over long, lingering lunches and the

completion is all but a fairy tale. I am sure Newtonians would be interested to hear the state of play relating to the Cobblers Hall project or is it game over for the youth of Aycliffe?
Mrs M. Tomlin

School Crossing Patrol at Vane Road

The vacancy for a School Traffic Patroller at Vane Road has been filled, and until the new person takes over the crossing is being manned by a substitute. Other applications sent in for the job will be kept on file.

GARA GREAT AYCLIFFE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

On the 14th January, the committee of the Great Aycliffe Residents' Association met for the first time. We had some formal business to establish the association with the Chairman and Secretary signing the constitution. The treasurer had brought the appropriate forms in order to establish a bank account for the association and Derek Atkinson became the first person to make a donation to the association's funds.

The committee set the meeting dates for the next three months and these are now published on the website.

We quickly moved on to look at matters residents had asked us consider at the public meeting on the 8th January. We had been asked to clarify the ownership of land to the front of the "firemans' houses" - residents received their answer within 48 hours of our initial enquiry. The operation of the Tesco superstore was raised and we are gathering information on a number of issues, utilising the specialist knowledge of one of our original committee members.

The state of the town centre was raised and in particular the state of paving. One of our committee has been tasked to raise this with the town centre landlords and will report back in due course. The town centre toilet facilities were also mentioned by residents. We received a verbal briefing on how the current situation came about. A number of proposals of how these facilities could be provided as part of the new development were discussed however any solution potentially requires a number of organisations to be involved. We would like to hear more views from residents on this matter to guide us.

Other issues raised included maintenance of roads and car parking facilities. If residents live in an area where parking is causing a particular problem please get in touch as we need to start determining where the "hotspots" are for this problem. We have contacted DCC Highways regarding a traffic survey on Burn Lane and after receiving a positive reply, await some statistics relating to traffic flow.

Committee members are putting in work behind the scenes at the moment and I hope to be able to report further progress following our meeting on the 11th February.

In the meantime, if you would like a matter raising at this meeting please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or

Aycliffe Back to Earth

Newton Aycliffe 5
Seaton Carew 2nds 15

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club were unable to continue their good form at home to Seaton Carew 2nd XV. Despite hooker, Matt Adkins winning most of the scrummage ball and good control of the lineout, the experienced Seaton pack had the edge in loose play. The visitors took the lead with a try just before half time.

Early in the second half, good work from Warren Parsonage and Cymon Lee led to a try for Alan Churchman. Churchman wasted a chance soon after, being tackled behind the posts and Seaton scored two late tries for a 15 - 5 victory.



Support the Small Trader

Dear Sir,
On a recent visit to Tesco's I noticed that they are now selling pet products. Are they now going to force shops like Julies Pets out of business? I feel that such a large organisation would be better off concentrating on food products.

I know that their products are probably cheaper than smaller outlets but on principle I will continue to support Julies Pets and urge fellow Newtonians to follow suit.
David Peacock
Shafto Way

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 25th February 2009
Environment Committee - 7.15pm
followed by the Recreation Committee

Wednesday 4th March 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
The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

J&C COACHES
Concerts and Shows

Mickeys Magic Show (Disney)
Sunderland Empire - 7th March - £28.50
Kenny Rodgers
Newcastle Arena - 30th March - £49.50
Simply Red
Newcastle Arena - 7th April - £49.50
IL Divo
Newcastle Arena - 12th April - £70.00
Disney on Ice
Newcastle Arena - 10th October - £29.50
Sound of Music
Sunderland Empire - 20th November - £42.00
UB40
Newcastle Arena - 24th November - £45.00
Sound of Music
Sunderland Empire - 4th December - £42.00

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Friday 13th February

FRIGHT NIGHT
FANCY DRESS
DISCO

£2.00 admission on the door
includes a complimentary glass of Cumby Punch

Sunday Lunch
Served 12-2pm

Roast Beef, Pork or Turkey
with seasonal vegetables
all freshly prepared

OAP/Child £4.95
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Advanced bookings advisable

RON'S
BIG
QUIZ

Every Sunday
8.30pm start
Cash Prizes, Play
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Snacks and Nibbles included

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Classes
with Sue Rollo
SUNDAY NIGHT
Beginners 5.30-6.30pm
Intermediates 6.30-7.30pm

Only £2 on the door

Mothers Day Lunch
Sunday 22nd March 2009

2 Course Meal - Just £12.50 per person
(Bookings now being taken on 316573)

Rocky Horror
Night
Friday 20th March
with themed rock
disco and karaoke
£2.50 on the door

includes free glass of punch

HORSE RACE NIGHT on SATURDAY 7th FEBRUARY, 7.30-10.30pm
in aid of Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Club - Tickets £3 each (in advance)

WEEKEND SUMMER SALE

THIS WEEKEND ONLY WE'RE OFFERING
EXTRA DISCOUNTS
 ON YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY

Book this weekend and you could save the following off the total cost of your holiday...

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£900+	£50	£3500+	£210
£1200+	£65	£4500+	£280
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JOIN THE GUILD AND SAVE CASH

At Newton Aycliffe Gardens Guild AGM held on Monday 12th January 2009, it was agreed that member's annual subscription would be increased to £2 forthwith, to meet rising costs.

It was further agreed that the Sales Hut at Clarence Chare, which opens at 10am on Sunday 1st February for the new season, would also open Wednesday evenings between 5.30pm and 7pm during April and May.

The Guild, which stocks composts, fertilisers, seed, pest and disease controls & weed killers, always welcome new members and can save you money on garden supplies.

£80 FOR ABI APPEAL



Caygill's Customers at Greenlea Garth have contributed £80 to the Abi Appeal. Abi is shown here with her Mum Clarissa receiving the cheque from the shop manager. "We are so grateful for the support we have received and thank everyone who donated" said Clarissa. This could be the last amount raised publicly as the town's Rotary Club has pledged sufficient funds to pay for the vehicle the family need.

MP Asks Constituents to 'Stand up to Hatred'



Phil Wilson MP showed his commitment to Holocaust Memorial Day by signing a Book of Commitment in the House of Commons to honour those who perished in the Holocaust.

importance of joining forces against hatred, prejudice and intolerance. Sadly antisemitism, Islamophobia, Holocaust denial, racism, prejudice and even genocide still continue to pollute our world today.

On and around Holocaust Memorial Day, schools, local communities and faith groups from across the UK will join together to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. Thousands of events are being held across the country to commemorate all those who suffered at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust and in more recent genocides. Ultimately the aim of the day is to motivate people – individually and collectively, to ensure that the horrendous crimes, racism and victimization committed during the Holocaust and subsequent genocides are neither forgotten nor repeated again. Phil Wilson MP said "Holocaust Memorial Day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and it should also serve as an opportunity to remember and reflect on the horrors of the Holocaust and other genocides. Racism and hate are still very much present in our society and together we have a duty to unite our communities and "Stand Up to Hatred". It is essential to continue to educate youngsters about the Holocaust and encourage them to work together towards a better future". Karen Pollock, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust said: "We are delighted that Phil Wilson MP is supporting Holocaust Memorial Day. Education is more important now than ever. This year's topic, "Stand Up to Hatred" highlights the

Situations Vacant

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL
 POST NO FI 03
Appointment of Accountancy Assistant
 Salary Scale - Point 14-17 (37 hours per week)
 £15,524 to £16,614 with final pay award pending

Applications are invited for the above post which is part of the small finance team within the Council.

The post has specific responsibility for the payment of invoices and maintenance of the Council's purchase ledger and the reconciliation of income, as well as assisting in other general finance duties as required.

The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 5 GCSE's, including English and Mathematics, together with at least 6 months experience within a finance setting, preferably with responsibility for payment of invoices.

An accountancy related qualification such as AAT, and knowledge of the Pegasus Opera 2 financial management system would also be desirable.

A full driving licence is required.

For further details or an informal discussion about the post, please contact the Finance Manager Dan Austin on 01925 300700 or by email at daniel.austin@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Closing Date for Applications:
Noon on Monday, 16th February 2009

Application packs can be obtained by telephoning 01925 300700, emailing: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk, or from the Council website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

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Write out your copy in the box below, add up the words, put the total cost on and hand in to:

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 St. Cuthberts Way

TAYLORS NEWSFORCE
 Town Centre or

WALKERS BUTCHERS
 Simpsonsgate

Deadline: 5pm Wednesday, 11th February

Above example: £12.00 (inclusive)
 (maximum 15 words)

JOHN DOUGH To my "squidgy widgy" on Valentines Day, love from your little bunny X

JANE DOUGH To my little bunny, all my love on Valentines Day, love from "squidgy widgy"

Above example: 15p per word

JOHN DOUGH To my "squidgy widgy" on Valentines Day, love from your little bunny X

JANE DOUGH To my little bunny, all my love on Valentines Day, love from "squidgy widgy"

Above example: 30p per word

No of words ©p = £.....
 Heart advert is required YES/NO = £10.00

POLO TEAM IN FINAL

Sedgefield Water Polo Club played in the Senior Men's Northern League Final at Leeds against Leeds in their new Olympic size pool hoping to clinch the double having already won the league. Unfortunately due to injury and holidays Sedgefield had to field a bare team of 8 players, which only allowed for 1 substitute to rotate in this very strenuous of all team Sports, when you are normally allowed 6 subs. Sedgefield had to field 53 year old Carl Watson in goal, Stuart and Frazer Kirkley 16 and 17 respectively and Sedgefield Chief coach George Carpenter Senior, playing his first game in over 2 years at this level. Fortunately Sedgefield's other 4 players based in Manchester are stars of Great Britain Polo Scott Carpenter, Rob Parker, Jack Waller and Tom Curwen. This combination proved up to the task for Sedgfield to triumph 20-16 in an exciting game for the big crowd. Scott Carpenter and Curwen scored 7 goals each while Parker and Waller contributed 3 each. Sedgefield have done the double for the 3rd time in 4 years and are dominating all the big City teams of Liverpool, Huddersfield, Sheffield, Manchester and Leeds despite being the only team with a shallow end of the pool. Polo is played in deep water generally but despite this handicap they are unbeaten at this level for over 2 years. G. Carpenter

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

For more details call 01325 301551

Win for New Village Team



Heighington Boys Football Club do have girls playing despite the name. We were formed this season and have a small team of 11 players. The team is going from strength to strength with some very committed young people and parents.

We play home games on the Heighington Primary School pitch and use indoor training facilities at the Youth Centre in Newton Aycliffe on Saturday morning 9.30 till 11.00am.

We are in the Teesside Junior Alliance League and I am an FA Coach and I have 2 parent helpers. The philosophy of the team is very much about enjoyment, sportsmanship and respect. Performances have been improving and there has been some really good games. Our first win was last Sunday against local rivals The Cumby Rovers 2-0. Many of our children are friends with children who play for Cumby, so the atmosphere was great.

Heighington got off to a great start stringing some slick passing together, the defence was marshalled well by Gareth Morgans who also made some

probing runs and linked play well. Our midfield and strikers linked well with Jamie Barr and Joseph Johnstone making telling runs and mounting pressure on Cumby Rovers. Cumby held firm and to their credit started to take the game to Heighington. Just before half time Cumby forced a good reaction save from Matthew Morton in goal. Matthew responded well as this was the first he had been called into action.

Half time came and it was 0-0 with Heighington having the better of the chances. The 2nd half began as the first ended with Heighington applying pressure with good passing and movement. Eventually Joseph Johnstone broke the deadlock when Jamie Barr played a defence splitting pass for Joseph to run onto and finish well.

At 1-0 Heighington's confidence grew and some 5 minutes later Jake Pattinson burst down the wing cut inside and hit a shot that curled into the top corner to make it 2-0. Cumby came straight back and forced a freekick which went

close to the post. Heighington regained composure and Gareth Morgans forced a great save from the Cumby goalkeeper.

Man of the Match was Jake Pattinson who had an outstanding game attacking from defence and working well with Harrison Daghish. Alex Swainston had another strong game in defence and the whole team performed really well to earn our first points of the season.

As coach I would like to praise the whole squad for their attitude and to let them know how proud I am of their effort. The team celebrated by being covered in fizzy grape juice. There was also promising play in the second game from our developing players Megan Woodward, Thomas Stocks and Usman Abassi. Cumby showed great sportsmanship by lending our goalkeeper a baseball cap to shield his eyes from the low sun.

SOME INCOME IS BETTER THAN NONE!

Editorial

A correspondent in this issue makes a valid point on high rents being charged for town centre shops. Rents in our run down centre compare with Darlington and even London!

Entrepreneurs thinking of opening here are quickly turned off the idea and look to Shildon, Bishop Auckland and Darlington or forget it altogether.

It appears the policy is to keep rent levels high even if it means more empty shops. More businesses are closing down and not renewing leases simply because the rent is out of proportion to the money they take over the counter.

One would think rents should come down to entice more shopkeepers. Common sense dictates it is better to have shops in the town centre, bringing in revenue than empty shops producing none.

The current economic downturn makes life even worse for our shopkeepers and takings are reduced drastically, but the Landlord will not reduce the rent!

We understand the landlord has been more flexible of late, allowing short term leases, but rents are still too high and many that try do not stay long. We have said often we suffer as a new town from not having enough small lock up units at knock down rents for small businesses to have a go.

The Business Park has leant that lesson and small commercial concerns can get started for as little as £55 per week. This is the way to encourage enterprising people, hoping they will succeed, start

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT HARDWICK

FEBRUARY 2009

Friday 6th - Absolute Murder
 A night of fun, intrigue and whodunit - Arrive for 7.30pm, dinner served at 8pm - £20.95 per person

Saturday 7th - Fawcett Towers Evening
 A night of unlimited fun - Arrive for 7.30, dinner served at 8pm - £20.95 per person

Friday 13th - Stayin Alive
 The magic continues with the finest Bee Gees tribute act. Buffet, entertainment and disco £12.95 per person - Arrive for 7pm.

Saturday 14th - Valentines Dinner
 Enjoy a romantic three course dinner with a bottle of wine per couple. £25.00 per person - music from our resident pianist.
 Why not extend your evening and stay over, prices from £80.00 per room including breakfast

Saturday 21st - The 80's Experience
 The best disco party ever, takes place.
 Arrive at 7pm for 7.30pm for an all you can eat buffet - £10.95 per person

Sunday 22nd - Wedding Open Day
 Take this opportunity to view the Coleman Suite and newly refurbished John Barton Suite set up for Wedding Reception's and Civil Ceremony. No appointment necessary just come along 11am to 4pm.

Friday 27th - The Young Drifters
 Five piece band here to perform some of the best songs from the Drifters, James Brown, Kool and The Gang, The Real Thing plus many more artists. All you can eat buffet, entertainment and disco.
 Arrive for 7pm until midnight - £10.95 per person

The 80's Experience
 The best disco party ever, takes place.
 Arrive at 7pm for 7.30pm for an all you can eat buffet - £10.95 per person

MARCH 2009

Sunday 1st - Spring Wedding Fair
 All areas associated with Weddings, Engagements, Bride & Groom Services and much more
 11am till 4pm - Entrance Free

Friday 6th - Murder Mystery Night
 A night of fun, intrigue and whodunit - Arrive at 7.30pm, dinner served at 8pm - £20.95 per person

Friday 13th - St Patrick's Celebration with the "Emerald Thieves"
 Cover songs by Van Morrison, The Pogues, Deacon Blue, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Horribles, The Waterboys, Saw Doctors, Snow Patrol, Steve Hordie and The Charlie Daniels Band.
 Join us for a two course buffet, entertainment and disco - £14.95 - arrive for 7pm

Friday 20th - The 80's Experience
 The best disco party ever - Arrive at 7pm for an all you can eat buffet - £10.95 per person

Saturday 21st - Salsa Party
 With our own resident Salsa dancers, come and have a go, we'll show you how.
 £9.95 per person to include buffet and disco - Arrive for 7pm - 12am close

Sunday 22nd - Mothering Sunday Lunch
 Served under the crystal chandeliers of the Coleman Suite.
 Three course Sunday lunch - £21.50 per person. Bookings from 12pm until 2pm

Saturday 28th - Juke Box Jive
 This brilliant band returns to Hardwick once again. Rock & Roll from Bill Haley and the Comets to the King himself, Elvis Presley - £14.95 to include buffet, disco and entertainment.
 Arrive for 7pm - 12am close

APRIL 2009

Friday 3rd - Murder Mystery Night
 A night of fun, intrigue and whodunit - Arrive at 7.30pm, dinner served at 8pm - £20.95 per person

Saturday 4th - Fawcett Towers Evening
 A night of unlimited fun - Arrive for 7.30, dinner served at 8pm - £20.95 per person

Friday 10th - Unbreakable - Westlife Tribute Band
 Top harmony band Navy present a truly authentic tribute to Westlife, Britain's most successful boy band
 Buffet, entertainment and disco £14.95 per person - Arrive 7pm for dinner at 7.30pm

Saturday 11th - High School Panto - Especially for children
 Fast, fast moving, high energy family show with songs, dance, fun, laughter and audience participation.
 Guaranteed to entertain kids and parents alike.
 Arrive 1.30pm - seats at 2pm - Tickets: £8.00 children - £10.00 adults.

Saturday 11th - The 80's Experience
 The best disco party ever - Arrive at 7pm for an all you can eat buffet - £10.95 per person

Sunday 12th - Easter Sunday Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt
 Three course Sunday lunch with a clue on each table to where your Easter Egg will be hidden.
 £15.95 per person, bookings from 12pm until 2pm

Friday 17th - Kylie By Wayne Richards - The ultimate tribute to Kylie Minogue
 Two course buffet, entertainment and disco - £12.95 per person - arrive for 7pm

Friday 24th - Diamond meets Elvis
 An evening with Fisher Stevens who can transform his vocals and style from Neil Diamond to Elvis Presley - Two course buffet, entertainment and disco - £12.95 per person

Our popular Sunday Lunch is served in the Boyne Suite, accompanied by music from our residential pianist, 4 courses including coffee at £16.95.

TOWN COUNCIL DID WELL!

Dear Sir,
 Bearing in mind Benjamin Franklin's famous line, 'In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.', one must be very hopeful that the green, open spaces - at least in the old, areas of the town - may have been saved from an uncertain future. However, in spite of real successes achieved by ALL of our elected representatives on Great Aycliffe Town Council, but notably through the tireless work of Council leader, Bob Fleming and his Deputy, John Clare, in wresting these areas out of the greedy grasp of Sedgfield Homes, there are battles that still need to be won.
 Sedgfield Borough

Council seem determined to hand over to Sedgfield Homes, large swathes of greenery in the newer, outlying areas of the town, such as Woodham. Whilst conceding there may be a case for allowing access points to Sedgfield Homes' housing stock, there is absolutely no reason for SBC to be ceding public land to a Private Landlord. Without doubt, the only conclusion any rational observer can make, is that these green spaces will eventually be sold off to private housing developers - lucrative, realisable assets for the directors of Sedgfield Homes. So, are we the people of the town ready for this final battle to retain all of OUR open spaces? If not, our town in years to come, with its many generations of children, will no longer enjoy our unique, green open spaces. Due diligence needs to be observed, until every document and map has been scrutinised before transfer of the housing stock to Sedgfield Homes.
 Derek G Atkinson
 Denham Place

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AYCLIFFE'S GIRL RACER NOMINATED FOR AWARD

Amanda Whitaker from Newton Aycliffe has been chosen as a nominee for the new British Women Racing Drivers Club Gold Stars. These prestigious awards were presented at the Autosport International Show this month where the BWRDC have secured a large stand. She has been nominated in the Club Gold Star category with four other UK drivers. BWRDC Chairman Helen Bashford-Malkie explained "The Gold Stars are the Club's way of flagging up talent within our sport & helping drivers to promote & progress their careers. There will also be a small package of product sponsorship, a dedicated website & a Mentor for the winner of the group. The winner will also receive a special Gold Star sticker to put on their cars as well as their CV's." The winner of the Gold Star will be announced and the presentations made on the main Autosport Stage at the show on Saturday 10th January 2009. Amanda said "I am pleased to be nominated for a BWRDC Gold Star. To be recognised in this way is a



real honour." She will be at the Autosport International Show in Hall 6 on the BWRDC stand 6950 on Friday 9th & Saturday 10th January. "Considering the talent of some of the young, up-and-coming female drivers in the UK and abroad, it can only be a few years before we see a woman in F1 again," said Haymarket Exhibitions Show Director Ian France. "The importance of ensuring young females at club level continue to enter the sport cannot be underestimated; Autosport International is proud to do whatever it can to promote women in motorsport."

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Over Zealous Security Men?

Dear Sir,
I am writing in response to a letter in Newton News dated W/E 23 January regarding the so called security guards at Tesco.
I do not want to put the same label on all of their security staff but there are a few who seem to have a 'big man' attitude.
My son was barred from Tesco approximately 6 weeks ago and was told to 'go get his Dad and he would be told as well' My husband went over to try and sort it out and was promptly

barred as well!
This is not the only incident I know of. My 14 year old niece has been barred from the shop four times for 'looking but not buying' Needless to say Tesco does not benefit from my custom anymore.
I now go off the town to Adsa where they are both cheaper and much more pleasant to their customers.
Disgruntled,
Ex-Tesco customer

ED: We have asked the manager to comment.

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Newton Aycliffe Sports Club require players for the development team. Ages for the development team are 4, 5 and 6 years old. Training will be on a Friday between 5.30pm and 6.30pm held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

Anybody interested please contact either: Steve Preshous on 07876 058516 or Trevor Shingler on 07766 926243 or Paul Soakell on 07900 563230

Also needed are players for the under 13's team training for this will be Tuesdays from 5.00pm until 6.00pm held at Greenfield school and also on a Thursday between 6.00pm and 7.00pm held at Woodham Community Technology College. Anybody interested please ring either: Jason Baker on 07702 107582 or Trevor Shingler on 07766 926243

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COUNCIL CONTINUE FIGHT OVER TRANSFER OF OPEN SPACES

Our Town Council are still not happy over the transfer of Aycliffe's greens and open spaces to the new private Landlord, Sedgfield Borough Homes.

The Council may take legal proceedings if the Borough Council accept the current proposals at their meeting on the 27th February.

At the meeting this Wednesday Councillors accepted some concessions had been made in the older areas of the town, but there were great chunks of open space including car parks in the newer areas which they say should not be transferred. Anomalies have been spotted by various Ward Councillors in the areas they represent. The criteria for transfer has certainly not been met in many places and the Council were able to identify areas earmarked for transfer which did not fall within the conditions.

Accusations were made against officers who have made proposals in this transfer which seemed to be feathering their nests as they gain positions with the new company. The Council thought this cast doubt on the

whole procedure. Talks with the District Auditor show that the Council have the right and duty to question the transfer and could very likely seek a judicial review after consultation with a Barrister.

Before the debate began Bob Fleming warned Borough Councillors who also serve on the Town Council not to leave the meeting while this issue was discussed. He had received numerous phone calls questioning how these Councillors could decide how to vote on this issue if they were not fully informed. He said there was no conflict of interest and no need to leave the meeting. They could observe and abstain from voting. Bob said if they left the meeting they would be turning their back on the people they represent.

The Councillors remained and heard the full story from Council John Clare whose research into the matter was commendable and plausible, to the extent he brought unanimous support for the Council's stance. Borough Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp heard many things which he knew nothing

about and said he would be at Green Lane next day to protest. The strongest argument comes from the fact that only tenants voted on the transfer when the greens and open spaces are in the ownership of the whole town. It was against natural justice that owner occupiers were not involved in this transfer and on that issue alone the whole procedure is in question.

More detail in next week's issue, but the simplest way is for the Borough Council to agree that only the houses and their immediate curtilage be transferred.

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RECYCLING YOUR OLD CAR COULD EARN YOU £100

The majority of Britain's car owners are still unaware that they could face prosecution and heavy fines if they don't get rid of their old cars in an environmentally sound way. So says car disposal experts recycleyourcar.co.uk, which today launched a new initiative that could earn drivers £100 when they dispose of their old cars in line with new laws.

recycleyourcar.co.uk is a website that helps car owners understand and comply with the European Union's End-of-Life Vehicle directive, which stipulates that when cars reach the end of their life they must be disposed of in an environmentally sound way.

The site is offering car owners the chance to win prize money when they leave feedback on the quality of the service received from an Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF) in the Recycleyourcar.co.uk network. Each month, those drivers that complete the online feedback form will be entered into a draw to win £100.

EU legislation places responsibility with the last owner of a vehicle for ensuring it is disposed of in the correct manner at an ATF, where they will be issued with a Certificate of Destruction (CoD). Not only could the incorrect disposal of a vehicle cause environmental damage, but it could also land the last registered owner in legal and financial trouble, including being liable for continued road tax bills. Drivers wishing to find their nearest ATF should go to www.recycleyourcar.co.uk

Clairvoyance

SPIRITUALIST Meetings are held at Morrison Close Community Centre every Monday evening starting 7pm sharp (closed Bank Holiday Monday). Details from Ann on 313654.

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STAR OF "RAILWAY CHILDREN" GETS MAKEOVER AT SHILDON



The star of the classic 1968 BBC television drama series *The Railway Children* is to undergo a makeover at Locomotion: the National Railway Museum at Shildon. The Great Northern Railway's

saddle tank engine No1247, which starred alongside Jenny Agutter in the series, currently painted in drab British Railways black and numbered 68846, is to be repainted in its original apple-green livery in the Locomotion workshops.

1247 first made history in 1959, by becoming Britain's first privately-preserved locomotive when bought from British Railways by preservation pioneer Capt. W.G. (Bill) Smith, something which at the time was unheard of.

For three years he was allowed to run the "Old Lady", as she was affectionately known, on the main line.

The locomotive then worked on preserved railways until 1980, when Capt. Smith donated it to the National Railway Museum.

Designed by Henry Ivatt, 1247 was one of a batch of 25 engines built by Sharp Stewart of Glasgow in 1899. A total of 85 locomotives of this class

were built - but 1247 is today's only survivor.

The 1247 restoration work gets underway on 12 January and is expected to take six to eight weeks. The work is being funded by the Friends of the NRM.

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Births

BARRACLOUGH Jenny and Dave congratulations on the birth of "Gracey Poppey". Your gorgeous family is complete. A Sister for Charlie, Alysia and Joe. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Gran and Nana

BARRACLOUGH Well done Jenny and Dave, another beautiful Niece. All our love, Helen and Dave, Cousin Ellie-May and Daniel

BARRACLOUGH Jenny and Dave congratulations on the arrival of Baby Gracey. Love, Paul and Emma

TERESA, JAY. 24-1-09. Congratulations on the birth of your beautiful Daughter "Teagan-Louise". Love, Mam, Dad, and Ellie-Louise

NICHOLLS Mel and Debbie would like to announce the quick but safe arrival of their second son "Ethan Joseph". Born on 11th January, weighing 8lb 2oz. Little brother for Callum and Megan. A big thank you to my wonderful Husband who stayed calm and was a great birth partner and who is a fantastic Father

Thank You

Doreen



THANK YOU

I would like to say a great big THANK YOU to my family and friends for organising a surprise party for my 70th birthday - WOW!! How did they all keep the secret?? We all had a fab night. Thank you also to John Melvin for the Disco.
Doreen xxxxxxx

MOLLIE LUMSDEN I would like to give a big thank you to my wonderful family for everything they did for me during my recent knee operation. They have been great. Also friends for their cards, phone messages and flowers. I'm happy to say I'm now recovering very well

THE RENTEURS TWINS Paulette and Michelle would like to thank their amazing families and friends for cards and gifts received and for making their 40th birthday party a night to remember. To our Husbands Paul and Lee and Children Tom, Max, Amy and Lewis, we love you so much. To John Melvin for a fantastic Disco. To Olive, Gladys, Julie, Gail and Bridgette for helping with the food. £112.23 was raised for Cancer research. We hope you enjoyed the night as much as we did.

THANKSGIVING to Saint Theresa in the little flower of the child Jesus. For all your help and prayers.

Two Members for Rotary



Two new members were inducted in the town's Rotary Club this month, Jo Daly a Dentist and Pamela Suhadolnik a caterer. They are shown here with the club President David Scott. Anyone interested in learning more about Rotary can contact the Secretary Pat Henderson on her Email patricia.henderson70@ntlworld.com

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Congratulations

Dolci Llorenna Cowens



WELL DONE on winning your Solo Dance at Knottingly in December and Hartlepool on Sunday. Only 1 more life to loose. Also on gaining 7th place in your Slow Dance. We are so proud of you darling. Love you loads Princess, Mammy and Paul xxxx
Well Done Princess on getting 1st place in your Solo, you make us very proud Love, Nana and Grandad xx
Well Done Dolci on gaining 1st place in your Solo. We love you so much. Auntie Jo, Uncle Wayne and Romie x
Thank you to Clare Walton and all the teachers and everyone at Stepping Out. The hospitality is second to none. Cheryl, Paul, Vera, Trevor and Dolci

Lee Wheatley BA (Hons)



Congratulations Lee on your Graduation from the University of Derby. We're all very proud of you. Good luck for the future. Love, Mam, Nana and all the family

Kayleigh Wilson



Happy 16th Birthday
1st February 2009
Sweet 16 and beautiful. Luv u loads, Mam, Dad and Buddy x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x
Happy 16th Kayleigh. All our love, Nana and Granda xxx
Happy 16th birthday gorgeous girl. Lots of love, Auntie Michelle, Uncle Richard and little Cuz Lucy xxx
Happy 16th Kayleigh. All our love, Auntie Sue and Sophie (Freak) xxx

Niall Jenkins



Happy 18th Birthday
2nd February 2009
Congratulations to Nan and Grandas "Little Soldier" - 18 at last! Happy birthday. Love from Nan, Grandad, Mam and Dad xxxx

Jazzy Falconer



Congratulations
Well Done for losing last life! You're a STARTER now!! GO GIRL!! We are so proud of you, you're priceless! lots of love Mum, Dad and Leyton xxx
A HUGE Thank you to all teachers at Stepping Out with Clare Walton and for designing and making the "BX" Inter Pairs costume for Jazzy and Lauren. It is truly amazing.

Ruby Palmer



Congratulations on coming top in your Ballet Exams and Passing with Honours. Love you lots, Nan-Nan and Granda xxxxx

Chloe Louise Farlow



Happy 13th Birthday
30th January 2009
Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Emily, Grandma Brenda and Uncle Charlie xxx
Teenager at last! Happy 13th birthday Chloe. have a wonderful day. Lots of love, Grandma, Grandad and Uncle Ian

Tracey Palmer



GOTCHA
HAPPY 21st BIRTHDAY
To someone special in my life. Love, Alan xxx
21 Today. To my little girl who grew up to be my special Angel. With all the love I can give her always. Love, Mam xxx
Happy 21st birthday to a very special Daughter. All my love, Dad xxx
Happy 21st birthday. Lots of love, Tez, Lisa and Tyler
Happy 21st Tracey. Love, Chris and John xxx

In Memoriam

JOAN HART As each day dawns and starts anew, as each day ends I think of you. And inbetween no matter where, in my heart you are always there. Love and miss you, Tom and Sister Pat
VAL MALONE 31-1-07. Always in our hearts, missing you loads. Lots of love, Graham, Kay, Jill and Sammi xxxx
VALERIE MALONE 31-1-07. Two years have past, I'll make sure this will be in the paper every year and a nice bunch of flowers at the Crematorium for you. Miss you all the time, I will never forget about you. From your loving Brother, Nigel xxx

Obituary

BARBARA MILLINGTON (nee Whitton). In loving memory of a much loved Daughter, Sister, Sister-in-Law and Auntie. Passed away peacefully in Australia on 16th January 2009, surrounded by her loving family. Always in our thoughts, not just today but every day. God bless, sleep tight. Loved and missed by all your family

Public Notice

WATCH BATTERIES now available at Taylors Newsforce
DONATIONS needed of Brica-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. 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

Successful Show for Acorn Players



Following the success of our November show 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', we have now started 2009 with happy hearts. Anyone interested in joining our group in any aspect, i.e. stage, sound, lighting, etc. please contact Brenda on 311816 and she will give you the date and place of the next rehearsal. Well done to all who took part in the Show, you were all brilliant. Photo shows our Oompa Lumpas during the interval.
Anne Harland, Hon. President.

UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS OUR KATE

'On Camp with Kelly' athlete Kate Avery from Newton Aycliffe is looking ahead to 2009 with the support of Northumbria University. The Human Performance Unit within the Division of Sports Sciences is offering her complimentary physiological testing on a regular basis to assist her with her training. Kate who competes for Shildon



Running & AC has been part of Dame Kelly Holmes' 'On Camp with Kelly' mentoring initiative for talented young middle distance athletes, supported by Aviva, since early 2008. Kate is the first 'On Camp with Kelly' athlete to benefit from this support. She completed a series of tests to assess leg power, running economy, maximum sustainable running speed and the maximum amount of oxygen she can use at the labs at Northumbria University in December. Kate will be tested on regular basis throughout 2009 and results from the tests will be used to support her training and monitor her progress. Kate Avery said: "It's great to have the support of Northumbria University for physiological testing as it is something that I would not have access to otherwise. It will be of great benefit to me and my coach when we are planning my training. I have recently started working with a new coach, Bob Ashwood, and things are going really

TOWN CENTRE ALLOWED TO ROT!

Dear Sir,
A correspondent said last year that Tesco has been a saviour to the town, I'm sorry but it hasn't!
As everyone remembers, before Tesco arrived, we had a decent range of shops such as Somerfield etc which were superb. Tesco targeted the competition and set out to eliminate as much as they could. For example, they started with aggressive pricing which Somerfield couldn't compete with, to such a point that they were forced to shut down, then their prices shot up. Strike one for Tesco.
Next, small electricals and music became targets such as Boyes and the late Woolworths and to a lesser degree, Leonards. All stores have struggled against Tesco's prices designed to oppress the competition. Strike two for Tesco.
Along came Tesco's new extra

floor and this is where things got dirty. Let's get clothes, white goods, baby clothes, DVD's and TV's. This targets Select, Peacocks, Boyes, Poundstretcher, Leonards and the smaller clothing stores. Strike three for Tesco.
Ask any retailer in town if they haven't suffered since Tesco came to town. We have lost business that we can ill afford to lose. The Pound Shop, run by a friend of mine had to cease trading due to extortionate rents.
Tesco have deliberately targeted the competition who cannot buy on mass like they can. They've ridden roughshod over planning authorities and the Council who it seems are too scared to say no. Look at the wind turbine! Would we have got away with it, no chance! Their treatment of neighbours regarding the silly multi storey carpark shows their disdain for anything getting in their way.
The town centre management are crowing about how good they are regarding the start for Wilkinsons but they've let this town centre rot. When local people are interested in renting shops that have been boarded up for years, they still want prime prices for the rent.
Two years ago, a young businessman went to Darlington and got a retail unit 3 times the size of one of our town centre shops and paid a third less as the Landlords here weren't willing to negotiate. Getting something is better than paying rates for a shop that's been empty for years. The Town Centre Management should be ashamed that they've turned our town centre into a place no one would want to shop unless they were desperate!
It's a disgrace! Local Radio offers Aycliffe Town Centre as THE place to shop. Are they

kidding? A case of misleading the public if ever I heard it. Let's get the town centre back to being a local gem, not a local tip and get the Council and town centre management off their backsides and start standing up to Tesco.
Darran Weston,
Kimbleworth Walk,

No Toilets - a Disgrace!

Dear Sir,
The lack of toilets in the town centre is a disgrace. We did have them once on the upper level of the town centre and they were closed because of damage caused to them time after time, so I hope it is those responsible who are now caught short. My main concern is the lack of them on the Business Park. There we have lorry drivers, jobseekers who are already stressed out looking for factories and offices, and the lack of this important amenity is noticeable.
So come on, let's have some action. It could be an opportunity for some enterprising person to build toilets and charge for their use. The whole of the town centre is a mess and I remember when I moved to Newton Aycliffe in 1952 when it had real quality. I was assistant/manager of the Fine Fare Supermarket now Boyes Stores.
Who made the decision to bring in a Wilkinson Store? This I would suggest will close Boyes Store and affect others. On the other hand I hear Wilkinsons are making staff redundant and not opening new stores?????
John Gowland
Hopelands Court, Heighington

Strategy Set for Bus Services

Plans for improving bus services in County Durham and ensuring passengers' needs are met have been agreed by councillors.
Members of Durham County Council's cabinet today approved a new strategy that will bring together all policies and proposals regarding bus services in the county.
A key aim of the bus strategy is to improve services in order to encourage more people to use them, resulting in less traffic congestion caused by cars. Better bus services will also give people more chance to enjoy leisure, study and job opportunities.
The strategy sets out how bus services will be delivered to an agreed standard so that people's needs are met and so that the necessary support for the bus network is provided.
Coun Bob Young, Cabinet Member for the Environment at Durham County Council, said: "The county council spends a total of £29.5m on supporting public transport and clearly this issue is a big priority. "Rising costs in the bus industry have made it difficult for bus companies to continue to provide some services. "This strategy, which has been drawn up following consultation with local people and other interested groups, will help to ensure that bus services meet the needs of communities, are well-used, well-supported and sustainable."
The bus strategy will be delivered by Durham County Council working in partnership with local bus companies.

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well. I am looking forward to continuing my successful cross country season and am targeting the Under 20 race at the Inter-Counties Championships in March."
Phil Hayes said: "We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with one of the country's leading junior runners. We hope that the work we do will enable Kate to maximise both her training and racing."
Dame Kelly Holmes said: "I am very grateful to Phil Hayes and Northumbria University for providing this support to Kate and other 'On Camp with Kelly' athletes. The physiological testing will be of great benefit to them as they progress in their athletics careers."
Kate's cross country season has got off to a great start in the McCain UK Cross Challenge with her winning the Under 17 race in Gateshead and finishing third in Liverpool. This earned her a first England vest for an Under 20 race in Spain on 11 January which she won by over 30 seconds.

Next Year's Panto Stars?

Dear Sir,
Observing the similarity in looks of some of our local politicians with certain TV Soap Star characters, why not arrange a Christmas Panto featuring them? It could be set in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre and entitled 'CONDEMMERDALE'.
The Cast:
George Gray as Eric Pollard - Emmerdale
Dorothy Bowman as Bet Lynch - Coronation Street
Phil Wilson (MP) as Benny - Crossroads
Malcolm Iveson as Claude Greengrass - Heartbeat
Sarah Iveson as Ivy Tilsley - Coronation Street
Irene Hewitson as The Matron - The Royal
John Moran as Derek - Coronation Street
Enid Paylor as Mavis - Coronation Street
Bill Blenkinsopp as Compo - Last of the Summer Wine
Lileen Cuthbertson as Norah Batty - Last of the Summer Wine
Myself - Honest John as Zak Dingle - Emmerdale
I think there would be a full house every night.
Honest John

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A&S Dorchester	RRP £199.00	NOW £139.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
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Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £449.00	NOW £359.00
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A&S Winchester	RRP £159.00	NOW £139.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £239.00	NOW £209.00
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