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POLICE WARNING FOR RESIDENT PARKING OUTSIDE HER HOUSE

A row broke out at the Fireman's houses, opposite Tesco, this week over parking in the street.

SCHOOL TO CELEBRATE 50th BIRTHDAY

2009 sees the 50th birthday of Vane Road Primary School and we intend to hold a celebration day in early June to commemorate the occasion.

School pupils, staff and governors are currently working together to organise a range of exciting events for the day and would like to hear from any former pupils and staff who would be interested in coming along and joining us for this "Golden Jubilee". Not only will it be a chance to revisit the site of former glories, but also an opportunity to reminisce with your old schoolfriends.

To find out more, and to register your interest, please visit the school's website at <http://www.vaneroad.durham.sch.uk>.
Chris Foster
Chair of Governors

The police reacted to an obstruction caused by one of the residents, who on return from taking her husband to work, found access to her garage blocked by a car parked by a non-resident in her street.

She was forced to double park outside her own house, blocking a non resident, parking there, who wanted to get out.

The police arrived and told the resident she would get a ticket if she didn't move

her car.

Daily, numerous cars from people employed nearby and those attending Court, park in this street, and also on the grass. This is causing a nuisance to residents who can't get to their own homes.

The newly formed Residents Association are hoping to resolve this problem and bring relief to those living in the street. They are making representations to the local Authority and the Police.



Street packed with cars



Parked cars damaging the grass

HONEST JOHN NEARLY "LYNCHED"

Dear Sir,
I am not one for ridiculing people and as everyone knows I would rather ridicule myself.

However, last Sunday morning while pottering around my Car Boot Sale stall I found I had upset a member of the fictional "Condemmerdale" cast I wrote about last week.

Dorothy Bowman (Bet Lynch in my Panto) lambasted me about my piece on her starring role.

"When I see my name in

the paper I do not expect to be ridiculed and I think it is appalling" she said, storming off.

Because of that I have decided to write her out of the script and use someone I know had a sense of humour - Saddam Hussein! Yours sincerely, Honest John.

Editor: We apologise to Dorothy Bowman if she was offended, but the other "stars" took it as a bit of fun.

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Coshoe, Co. Durham
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PUNK ROCK VALENTINES

As an alternative idea for Valentines instead of wine and roses, why not take the missus to the St Valentine's Day Massacre Punk Rock Festival to be held at Shildon Civic Hall on Friday the 13th of February. Top punk bands from London will be playing including THE VIBRATORS, THE LURKERS, TEN POLE TUDOR Tickets available from the Civic Hall or simply turn up on the night and pay at the door. A warm and loud welcome is guaranteed. For more info telephone 07836 350507. Under 18s are allowed at this concert.

TESCO REPLY ON SECURITY GUARD'S CONDUCT

Every situation is different and there are always two sides to every story. We do have an issue with mis-use of the disabled and parent and chld parking at the front of our store. We do intervene where possible to try and resolve issues when customers complain. It is not usual practice for a security guard to issue a ban and I would have expected either the duty manager, the store manager designate, or myself to get involved. Our security guards are there to ensure a safe environment for both our customers and our employees alike. What I can say is that on this occasion the guard involved was on temporary employment with us, he had not been working for the company very long, and he is no longer with Tesco. This customer is requested to contact my Customer Service Manager Paul Davies, who will try to resolve the issue. Martin Butcher, Manager

Town Charity Helps Gaza & Zimbabwe

Dear Editor,
May I through your newspaper, make people aware of the desperate conditions, of the people living in Zimbabwe and Gaza which has been recently, much publicised on our news channels and newspapers. We have been collecting aid, some of which is in the picture attached. This has been donated by the kind people of Newton Aycliffe and area, to send to the HIV Hospice in Mashambanzou, Harare, which has 30 beds, 7 of which are for children dying of AIDS, and for needy families in the surrounding townships. We are still collecting and are desperate for such items as disposable cigarette lighters, to light fires to boil water, also for

such items as toiletries, rubber or medical gloves, stationery items, bandages, Vaseline, water purifying kits, tinned food ie soups, beans preferable with a ring pull top, dried packets of lentils, chick peas, clothes, bedding and simple pans. We are also holding a tombola/ bric a brac stall as it costs approx £3000 to send approx 25 containers. Thanks to Shirley, who knits baby items endlessly, Dave for ferrying items to and fro, Tyler for his enthusiasm and for emptying his toybox, and Becca, Adele, Pauline, Tony and your good self and the rest of the Howarth family for your continued support. Kath Brockless



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Saturday 7th February
"STICKY FINGERS"

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www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 319700
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SHOP A SCAMMER

People in County Durham are urged to shop a scammer in the country's biggest ever crackdown on scam mail. "Scamnesty" bins are to be placed at busy centres in the county so that people can bin scam mail immediately – and give evidence to investigators. As well as helping Durham County Council's Trading Standards Service find out the type of scams targeted at the county, Scamnesty 2009 will provide intelligence for investigations by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT). The bins will operate from Monday, February 2 to 15 at Clayport Library, Durham City, Bishop Auckland Library, Bishop Auckland Consumer Advice Centre, County Hall, Durham, and the main district council offices in Consett, Durham City, Easington, Stanley and Sedgfield. The County Council and OFT are working together to warn people not to fall foul of scams that con them out of hard earned cash. Philip Holman, the County Council's Head of Trading Standards, said: "Scams can take many forms, ranging from bogus lotteries, sweepstakes and competitions to foreign money offers, miracle health cures, free gift schemes and golden investment opportunities. "The people who run them are clever and sophisticated and they know how to persuade us to part with our cash. "Beware of any offer that asks for money or your bank details upfront, is pushing you to make an immediate decision, or offers you something for nothing, and don't be rushed into sending off money straightaway to someone you don't know," he said. Trading Standards is also linking with Europe Direct to spread the message that older and vulnerable people suffer the most. Dorothy Gibson, of Europe Direct North East, said: "One of our aims is to help people

understand how they are protected against scams in the European Union and who they can turn to for help if they are affected so we're delighted to be involved in Scamnesty 2009." Nearly half of the UK adult population has been targeted by a scam. Every year, 3.2 million adults - one in 15 people - in the UK fall victim to deceptive unsolicited mail, phone calls or emails losing £3.5 billion. Fewer than five per cent of victims report their experience – one reason OFT and local authority Trading Standards Services are carrying out Scamnesty 2009, the biggest ever reporting drive for scam mailings. The highest percentage of victims are in the 35-44 age group, but those aged 55 and over are likely to lose twice as much per scam as younger age groups. Councillor Bob Young, Cabinet Member for Trading Standards, said: "Scammers often target the most vulnerable members of our communities with false promises of getting rich quickly. The simple message is you won't win it, so bin it!" Anyone who thinks they have been the victim of a scam, or suspects a scam, should call Consumer Direct North East on 08454 04 05 06 or visit www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

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DEATH OF COMMUNITY CENTRE CHAIRMAN

It is with deep regret we report the death of our Chairman John Gasper. John was involved with all sections of Neville Community Centre and will be sadly missed. We offer our sincere condolences to his wife Doreen and all his family and pray that he may rest in peace. Peter Beaty

lagoon

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SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ECONOMY & BUY LOCALLY

JOIN SOUTH DURHAM'S BUSINESS NETWORK



South Durham Business Network's launch on the 23rd of January 2009 couldn't have been better timed as the government announced that the UK economy was officially in recession. 181 people representing businesses from across South Durham came together at Spennymoor Town Hall to see how being a

member of a Business Network can support businesses in such uncertain times. Darren Race, Chairman of SDBN led an itinerary of high profile guest speakers to create an air of optimism in our local economy. The keynote speaker, John Elliott, MBE DL and Chairman of Ebac Ltd in Bishop Auckland reflected on

the current economic situation and provided examples of how the economy had got into this mess, providing some simple messages and actions to help pull the country around and ensure we learn from this situation. David Carr from Business & Enterprise North East presented a range of timely measures developed to help and support businesses in these difficult times. Feedback from people attending the event has been very positive with businesses already signing up to join.

Stuart Howarth of Newton Press and exhibitor at the event commented, "We found the event rewarding from all angles, enjoying the general ambience, meeting people and making useful contacts for future business. We also took a few orders on the day for general printing for our pull-up display units. I am optimistic for the future of this new Business Network and believe it will become a useful resource for businesses in South Durham."

The network provides a range of support including a monthly schedule of events and networks covering topics such as sales, winning business through your website, employment law, health & safety, business surgeries all of which are business led and developed in response to membership requests. These events provide an excellent opportunity for businesses to lead on an area of strength whilst showcasing their capability. Joining SDBN also provides access to nine other sub-regional business clubs and their 800+ collective members and includes attendance at their meetings and events. You can also advertise and promote your business, products and services through the online Business Directory. Why not join, it makes sense and is great value.

To find out more and join this forward thinking and pro-active group of businesses contact Darren Race on info@sdbn.org.uk or M: 07947 409838 or www.sdbn.org.uk.

AFTER GETTING RID OF HOUSES COUNCILS ARE TO BUILD MORE

The biggest council house building programme for decades was ordered by Gordon Brown yesterday as he urged local authorities to rescue the construction industry and help kick-start the economy.

The question is where does this leave the reasoning behind the current transfer of houses to a social landlord? The council are offloading all their houses to the newly formed Sedgefield Borough Homes, while the Government is now telling them to get involved in building.

Treasury rules that have stopped local authorities from building social housing are to be relaxed to allow councils to borrow more money and to keep the proceeds from rents and sales.

The changes, which could be introduced within months, would help to reverse the dramatic fall in homes built by councils since Margaret Thatcher introduced the right to buy policy in the early 1980s. Last year only 375 council homes were built.

Thousands of houses could be constructed by councils in the next few years on land that already has planning permission but where cash-strapped private developers hit by the recession have pulled

out of projects.

There have been intense discussions on Labour's National Executive Committee about how to help the 4.5 million people waiting for social housing and to get the construction industry back to work, The Times has learnt.

Mr Brown told council leaders in London that town halls had a vital role to play in getting Britain out of the recession. "In the past we have placed restrictions on local authorities delivering social housing," he told a conference held by the New Local Government Network. "But, today, let me be clear: if local authorities can convince us that they can deliver quickly, and cost effectively, more of the housing that Britain needs . . . then we will be prepared to give them our full backing and put aside anything that stands in their way."

Over the past 30 years most social rented homes have been built by housing associations — private bodies that receive government grants to build homes — because there are no financial incentives for councils to do so. However, not nearly enough homes are being built to cope with the soaring waiting lists.

The main reason for the

building decline is that, since 1989, councils have had to give back at least 75 per cent of the income they receive in rent and sales to the Treasury. But so many people are now on waiting lists — and the figure is likely to rise to five million as the recession kicks in and more homes are repossessed.

Last year Mr Brown set ambitious targets to build 75,000 social houses annually by 2010-11, for both renting and shared equity schemes, but these aims will not be met at

the present level of building. The Local Government Association said that the proposed changes would give real incentives for councils to build more housing for some of society's most vulnerable people and for the thousands of people who are being repossessed.

It will be interesting to see what happens in Newton Aycliffe and whether Sedgefield Borough Homes or the Unitary Authority build the new Council houses required in our town.

PLEASE NOTE:

THE SWINGING SIXTIES SHOW
in aid of the WEST AFRICA TRUST,
DUE TO BE HELD AT
SPENNYMOOR TOWN HALL
ON THURSDAY 12th FEBRUARY
HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

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VALENTINE'S NIGHT DISCO

The Junior Neighbourhood Watch Valentine's event is on **Thursday 12th February** at the Navy Club, Burnhill Way from 7pm until 9.30pm. This is the 9th annual Valentine's Disco, with a Competition for the best Valentine Card. Parents welcome with young children as well as young people up to age of 13yrs. admission £1.

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NEW STEAM LOCO PASSES AYCLIFFE



Local Photographers “Eye Dream” caught the new steam locomotion, built at Darlington approaching Aycliffe on the main North East line on Saturday 31st January 2009 around 1 p.m.. A superb shot capturing the train in motion. Eye Dream can be contacted on 07595 023823.

Neville Community Centre

Darlington Big Band

Saturday 7th February

2.00pm

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LOCAL SWIMMING CLUB RESULTS

Five swimmers from the club recently travelled to Felling to compete in the Gateshead and Whickham Graded Meet.

Amy Gittins, Georgia Leybourne, Jennifer Lerner, Flynn Leybourne and Stuart Walker came away with 12 medals between them - 4 gold, 3 silver and 5 bronze and out of the 18 swims 17 were personal best times.

Flynn Leybourne, competed in his first gala having only turned 9 three weeks earlier. He narrowly missed out on a medal in the 50m freestyle but took a massive 6 seconds off his best time.

Amy, Stuart and Jennifer also came away from the gala with some County qualifying times which will enable them to compete in the county championships which will be held in February and March at Durham and Middlesbrough.

The following weekend five of the older swimmers travelled down to Sheffield to compete in the ‘Burns Meet’ which is organised by three local swimming clubs.

The competition was tough with swimmers coming from all over the country with Rebecca Adlington and Jo Jackson, Olympic medallists competing alongside club swimmers.

Philip Hodgson came away with personal best times in all his swims and he managed to obtain his first National qualifying time of the year in the 100 freestyle, and narrowly missed qualifying in the 50m freestyle.

Philip Walker swam personal best times in two of his three swims and Caroline Saxby swam a personal best time in the 200m Individual Medley.

Rachel Howard and Emma Hogson were the other two swimmers competing from the club.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE VIEW FROM YOUR HOME?

From Great Aycliffe Residents’ Association

Take a look out of your living room or bedroom window. What do you see? It may just be the brickwall of the house next door or it could be a nice open space where the kids play.

Whatever you see, things could be very different after the 27th February. That is the date councillors at Sedgfield Borough Council will vote on the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer of the Sedgfield Borough Council council houses to a new private company Sedgfield Borough Homes Ltd.

You may be a home owner and think this will not affect you. If it was purely houses being transferred you could be right, however under the current proposal large areas of open space in Great Aycliffe will be transferred from public ownership, accountable to you and me, to private ownership of a Limited Company.

Why is this important? Imagine that lawned area. To you it is somewhere the kids can play out on. Have a game of football or perhaps cricket in the summer. To others it represents a site where extra housing can be built to generate substantial amounts of cash. A site that could be fenced off to keep the public out.

Which would you prefer?

The parcels of land to be transferred to the private limited company by Sedgfield Borough Council have been identified and marked out on maps. Your Town Councillors at GATC have all received copies of these maps.

What can you do?

First of all contact your Councillor on Great Aycliffe Town Council and ask about that view from your living room or bedroom. See whether that view, that important area you see, is to be given away or retained in public ownership. If the land is to be given away to the new private limited company, contact your Borough Councillor and let them know exactly what you think.

Newton Aycliffe was designed around dwellings interspersed with open green spaces. If transferred to a private limited company, these spaces could disappear, be fenced off, or sold off for further housing developments. It really is time for you to decide upon the future look you want for the town and Great Aycliffe as a whole.

Your Councillors are there to represent you. They need to know if you are for or against

the view from your house being transferred to a private limited company or not. TELL THEM NOW!

Borough Councillors names and telephone numbers.

Simpasture: Bill Blenkinsopp Tel: 308057. Alan Warburton, Tel: 315182. Sarah Iveson, Tel: 319759.

Greenfield: Dorothy Bowman Tel: 308094. Vince Crosby Tel: 315083. Irene Hewitson Tel:

318763.

Woodham: Lillieen Cuthbertson Tel: 308526. Joan Gray, Tel: 313778. Sandra Haigh, Tel: 318645.

Shafto: Paul Gittins. Tel: 07831 269526. Brian Haigh, Tel: 318645. Terry hogan, Tel: 313828.

West Ward: George Gray. Tel: 314934. Helen Hutchinson, Tel: 311023. Enid Paylor, Tel: 313697.

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

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Sunday Lunch

Served 12-2pm

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

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Advanced bookings advisable

RON'S BIG QUIZ

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Cash Prizes, Play Your Cards Right

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Beginners 5.30-6.30pm
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Sunday 22nd March 2009

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THIS WEEK CAPTAIN CUMBY EXTENDS BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

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Saturday 14th February

7.30pm-11.30pm

Entry £2 per person

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FRIDAY 20th MARCH

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HORSE RACE NIGHT

Saturday 7th Feb

7.30-10.30pm

in aid of Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Club - Tickets £3 each

NO SPARE CASH AT BOROUGH

Dear Sir,
Have you read 'Clubs to benefit in funding windfall' on page 12, Northern Echo January 29th?

I asked Sedgefield Borough Council if they had a similar scheme for giving away left over money?

The reply was illogical, at best and it was also evasive, but indicated to me they had ensured there was no cash left.

How have other District Councils in the County that are disappearing at the end of March, fared on this?
Chris P

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R.A.F.A. A.G.M.

The A.G.M. of the Newton Aycliffe Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association will be held in the Canopus Club, Barrington Road on Tuesday, 3rd March, 2009.

Doors close at 8.00pm prompt.

All members are invited.

THE FIGHT TO RETAIN AYCLIFFE'S GREENS

BY JOHN D CLARE, DEPUTY LEADER, GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

A CONTRAST

In 2005, Sedgefield Borough Council tried to transfer its council houses to a housing association – Sunderland Housing (chosen by a tender process). The tenants eventually voted against it, but by that deal Sunderland Housing would have paid £27.3 million, and would have taken only the land in the 'Housing Revenue account' (i.e. the houses and their gardens). On 27 February 2009, Sedgefield Borough Council (without going out to competition) plans to transfer its council houses to a housing association – called, confusingly, Sedgefield Borough Homes (SBH). It sounds something to do with the Council, but it isn't; it's a private business being set up from scratch.

IS THIS BEST VALUE?

Because it is being set up from new, the terms of the deal – to the best of our knowledge – are very different to 2005. As well as giving SBH all the 8,000+ council houses FOR NOTHING, the Borough Council is having to give SBH £4+ million as set-up money, huge areas of open space (especially in Newton

Aycliffe), a substantial dowry to upkeep the land after that, and a warranty on all the houses!

We assume that SBH needs this funding to fulfil its promise to spend £100 million on its social housing in the next five years. But its assets are to be provided by US, the Council Tax-payers. We will not own the company, but we are GIVING that money to set up a private business concern. When Bob Fleming and I met with the District Auditor about this matter recently, we asked: IS THIS BEST VALUE?

THE OPEN SPACES

The Town Council is particularly anxious about the fate of the open spaces of Newton Aycliffe. Our intervention may have 'saved' large areas in the 'old end' of town. But, basically, almost all the publicly-owned land west of Woodham Burn, on all the housing estates in a huge swathe stretching northwards through the Elmfield estate, the 'Dales', the 'black houses', and both Agnew housing estates, will transfer on 27 February from Council ownership to a new private company called SBH.

Many people whose house borders an area of green space, or has a stretch of grass between it and the road, may wake up in March to find that land is now owned, not by the Council, but by SBH. If these areas go, we will never get them back. The Town Council is writing to the Secretary of State asking him whether such a FREE mass-transfer is in the public interest.

A FLAWED PROCESS

Moreover, the Town Council

has major concerns about the PROCESS of the Borough Council's transfer of the housing stock to SBH. That process started with a 'Tenants' Conference'. A survey of tenants (2000+ returns) found that 75% answered 'yes' to the question: 'is it worth looking again at the option to set up a housing association for Sedgefield Borough tenants'. Then a 'Stock Option Appraisal Group' discussed the issue, and officers recommended that the Council set up a new standalone company named Sedgefield Borough Homes. A Borough Council meeting of 26 October 2007 agreed to this. The matter was not put out to tender. Councillors were told that: 'There is no requirement for a competitive process for landlord selection on transfer proposals'.

We have copies of the offer to the tenants, the questions discussed by the Stock Option Appraisal Group, and the papers given to the Councillors. Not once in any of these papers was it ever mentioned that setting up SBH would cost the Council £4+ million, huge areas of publicly-owned open space, and a substantial dowry to take care of it.

At their Council meeting, Councillors were told: 'A further report will be presented to Cabinet detailing the financial implications.' And the offer to the tenants – which concentrated on the £100 million investment the new company would make – explicitly promised: 'Sedgefield Borough Homes would pay the Council for its homes.' Had the full cost to the community ever been explicitly stated, many people who supported the Council's actions might not have been so keen.

Having got a 'yes' vote from the Council, the process was

then taken into Cabinet – Borough Councillors have not been involved since October 2007, and will not be involved until the forthcoming Borough Council meeting of 27 February 2009. The Town Council has significant concerns about this process:

- WAS IT TRANSPARENT?
- WAS IT UNBIASED?
- DID IT GIVE ELECTORS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT?
- HAVE ELECTORS BEEN GIVEN TIME TO COMMENT?

On these grounds the Town Council – should it fail to secure satisfaction from the Borough Council – will consider in March whether it needs to investigate the merit of a Judicial Review.

A PRINCIPLE IGNORED

On 13 March 2008, the Sedgefield Borough Cabinet considered what assets the new company would be given. Its key principle was: 'if an asset is land-locked by land currently in the Housing Revenue Account then it should transfer to Sedgefield Borough Homes'.

For months, the Town Council has tried to find out from the Borough Council just exactly what land they propose to give away, and what the financial bases of the new housing company are. Despite formal

resort to the Freedom of Information Act, we still do not have any details of the latter, and we only received the draft maps a fortnight ago.

Now we have finally seen the draft maps, it seems to the Town Council that the land to be transferred in most cases does not conform to the principle of 'land-locked'. At Hallington Head, for example, the green can be accessed from two roads, and has ONE Council house looking out across it; ALL the other houses are privately-owned, but their green is designated to be given away to SBH on 27 February.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

For this reason, the Town Council has appealed to the

town's Borough Councillors to approach the Borough Council officers and contest the transfer of land in their wards. Members of the public may wish to approach their Borough Councillors and find out what is happening to the bit of grassland next to their houses. We have also invited the Borough Councillors to come to speak to individual Town Councillors about the land in their area.

It is the current position of the Town Council that the only land which should be transferred should be that in the Housing Revenue account – the same deal that was offered to Sunderland Housing, who were prepared to pay £27.3 million for it.

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(maximum 15 words)

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Above example: 15p per word

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Above example: 30p per word

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

Borough Councillors Must Not Let the Town Down

Dear Sir,
It is time for all Borough Councillors, representing Newton Aycliffe, on the soon to be defunct, Sedgefield Borough Council, to show loyalty to our town and its people.

It is vital they understand that the issue of giving away our greens and open spaces to the Sedgefield Homes is unacceptable. It is of such importance to Newton Aycliffe, that loyalty to our town comes first and they must disregard the party whip, if it goes against what we the electorate want! The vote, at SBC, takes place at the end of the month. OUR representatives should stand and be counted and really must vote against this, as the town's first line of defence.

If the vote is lost and we win a review, they could then face the electorate, on the doorstep, at forthcoming elections, with a clear conscience. The alternative would be political suicide on their part.

Up to now, too many have found it convenient to be silent on this issue. Abstinence is not an option as all the townspeople will be watching carefully how Borough Councillors from Newton Aycliffe vote. Do not let us down!

Derek G Atkinson
Denham Place.

A UNIQUE ENTRANCE TO AYCLIFFE BUSINESS PARK



The foundations have been laid at AYCLIFFE BUSINESS PARK in preparation for the imminent arrival of one of the year's BIGGEST pieces of public art, and at 16 metres tall we mean BIG!

"In Our Image" aka "The Head" by North East-based artist JOSEPH HILLIER is hoped to become an instant regional landmark that will signify the air of change, investment and reflection currently transpiring at Newton Aycliffe, County Durham. The arrival of this sculpture and the progression of Newton Aycliffe Town Centre's regeneration scheme represents a window of transformation that will alter peoples' expectations and

realisations of Newton Aycliffe for generations to come.

The magnificent steel framework will become the new face of Aycliffe Business Park – the second largest park of its type in North East England. The sculpture will act as a unique gateway to the site's southern entrance leading through to the newly developed Heighington Lane West section of the Park.

Aycliffe Business Park is also home to Aycliffe Fabrications, the company whose job it is to work alongside Joseph Hillier in his quest to successfully create and construct his 'larger than life' artistic project.

2.9 % COUNCIL TAX INCREASE

Move to unitary status will end different sized bills for different parts of the county. Durham County Councillors are to be recommended to approve an average 2.9 per cent Council Tax increase across the county when they meet next month.

The increase, agreed by members of the council's Cabinet today, will allow the new unitary authority to honour its pledge of equalising its Council Tax bills so that no matter where householders live they all pay the same for council services as those in the cheapest Council Tax area.

Until this year, local authority Council Tax demands differed throughout the county because each of the district councils added their own precept on top of the bill for County Council services.

But from April 1 this year, the existing district councils and county council will be replaced by a single unitary council that will provide all local authority services.

So there'll only be a need for one bill. And everyone in the same Council Tax Band will pay the same, no matter where they live.

To level-out the Council Tax demand and achieve the average 2.9 per cent increase will mean, just this year, some households paying a lower increase than others, some paying more and those in Derwentside actually paying around one per cent less than they are currently paying.

The actual range of change being recommended to achieve equalisation varies from an increase of 4.75 per cent to a reduction of almost one per cent.

In future though, everyone will pay exactly the same variation whether Council Tax bills go up or down from

one year to the next

But although the scale of this year's increase may differ depending on where people live, the size of the bills themselves will be the same.

"This is what equalisation is all about," said Council Leader Simon Henig.

"When the bills for council services drop through people's letterboxes this year, no-one will be paying more than anyone else who lives in a house in the same Council Tax Band . . . and that has got to be fairer than the present system."

"The equalisation of Council Tax down to the lowest level was a key element of the submission for local government reorganisation and unitary council status."

A full meeting of Durham County Council is due to meet on Friday February 27 to consider the Cabinet's Budget and Council Tax recommendations for next year

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Panic as Kids Lock Themselves in Car

Dear Sir,

I am writing to thank the staff and passers by at Tesco who came to my aid on Wednesday 28th January when my 3 year old son managed to lock himself and his 6 month old brother in the car along with the keys!

Unfortunately my mobile phone was also in the car so I was unable to contact anybody. As you can imagine I was completely distraught but luckily there were helpful people nearby who managed to rectify the situation with a piece of wire, some bluetack and ingenuity, as well as calming me down!

Thanks again,
Jade, Oliver & Toby

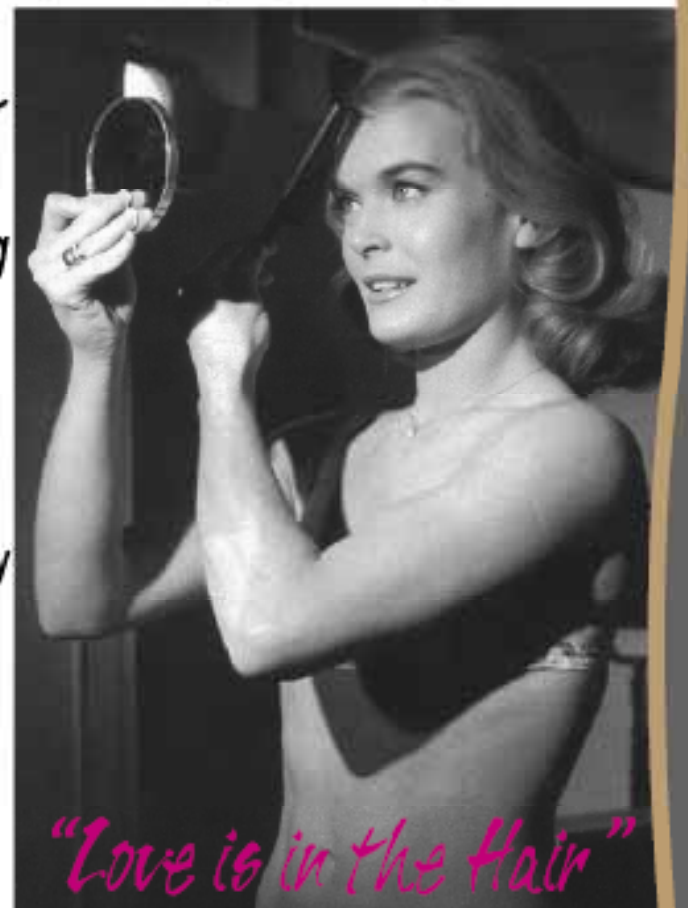
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TOILETS FOR TRUCKERS

Dear Sir,
Mr Gowland brings up an interesting point on public toilets in his letter. He states that the Business Park which will in time attract the most amount of visitors and interest to the town, has no public toilets whatsoever. Lorry drivers who are the most affected people should be given some kind of toilet facility in the town as they

contribute a lot to the success of businesses I'm sure there are ways to get a toilet placed on the Business park or perhaps some in a business that the truck drivers could have access to. Maybe near a space where they can park their trucks. If a small charge of 10p per person was paid for the use of these toilets it would

be enough to pay for the maintenance. A lot of motorists pass through the business park so this offers a revenue making potential. I hope by writing to you supporting Mr Gowland's letter it will be enough to get the people responsible for placing toilets to do something about this problem. Gareth Willmer

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AGNEW ASSOCIATION DREAMS COMING TRUE

At the Annual General Meeting of the Agnew Community Centre Association can members now believe in dreams. They heard progress on their new community building and also, for the first time in many years, had a surplus of nearly £5000.

Chairman, Jim Rodwell thanked Councillor Lileen Cuthbertson and the Secretary for their hard work on their successful LIP application to Sedgefield Borough Council which resulted in obtaining the funds to build a new brick and timber Centre next to the old green hut.

Secretary Ron Mitchie gave his heartfelt thanks to two committee members who had made his job easier and contributed in our financial turn round and they were Vice Chairman Lileen Cuthbertson and Chairman of Events and Fundraising Margaret Lovelady. Ron also commented that were many other unsung helpers.

A new constitution was adopted which was deemed more in keeping with our status as a Charity. The meeting heard of plans to bring a play area and sensory garden aimed at the young disabled people of the town to the site, something not provided anywhere. The Association are looking for funding not only for those items

but also for a fence to secure the land around the Centre. If you can help us by way of a donation or help with Grant applications then please contact Lileen Cuthbertson. We received £400 from County Councillors Joan Gray and Paul Gittins.

Officers Elected were Chairman; Jim Rodwell: Vice Chairman; Lileen Cuthbertson: Treasurer; Alan Courtney & Secretary; Ron Mitchie. It must be pointed out that it means the A team of Courtney & Mitchie are back again. The Committee elected were M. Lovelady, L. Bailey, J. Chamberlain, P. Chamberlain, D. Beenham, Dr. A. Marshall, P. Gittins and nominated by Great Aycliffe Town Council as their representatives, Councillors S. Haigh & A. Warburton. Secretary: Ron Mitchie 07518 035320 for Hall bookings and other items.

YOUNG WOMEN – RACING TO FITNESS

The Young Women's Sport and Active Recreation programme introduces its first major initiative later this month designed to encourage fitness and fun.

The Women's Running Network will hold regular sessions from Spennymoor Leisure Centre on Thursdays (5.45pm and 6.45pm) starting on 26 February.

This is an all-women's running group affiliated to UK Athletics and sessions cost £2.00.

Sedgefield Borough is the first district in County Durham to host this new initiative, giving women aged 16 - 25, the opportunity to run on a regular basis as part of an organised group.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURE

Young people with a sense of adventure are being offered the chance to work abroad. Volunteers aged 17 to 25 in County Durham can do unpaid work in another country in a European scheme run by the British Council.

European Voluntary Service gives young people the chance to volunteer for two to 12 months with placements in social, cultural, environmental and sports sectors.

A free event is to be held at Durham County Council's headquarters at County Hall on Wednesday, March 4 from 5.30pm when young people who have already been involved in EVS will talk about their experiences.

There will also be advice available about getting started, making

arrangements and applying for funding. Dorothy Gibson, from Europe Direct North East, said: "EVS gives enthusiastic young people an informal, real life international learning experience."

"It's a great way to broaden their knowledge of other cultures, increase their own employment prospects and make a real difference to local communities," she said.

Free places at the event, which is expected to last two hours, can be booked by calling 0191 383 3448 before Friday, February 20, or email contact details to Europe.direct@durham.gov.uk

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SIGNING & SINGING FOR INFANTS

Dear Sir,
I don't understand the Sign and Sing classes at Woodham. Unless the child is deaf and dumb I would have thought that teaching a 10 month old to sign would detract from learning to speak.
J. H. Johnson
Editor: We are told the technique involves signing and singing at the same time. The younger children are the quicker they pick up any language skill.

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2. Clear your windows and mirrors of all snow and ice before you set out using a good scraper or de-icer. Do not use hot water as this can cause serious damage to the glass. Also ensure your windscreen is fully demisted and any snow is cleared from the roof.
3. Check all car lights and headlamps. Each front and rear light should be free from damage or cracks. Keep your lights clean, not only for your vision but so that other motorists can see you too
4. Check front and rear wiper blades for wear and splitting. Also check windscreen washer bottle levels and ensure the correct level of anti-freeze has been added to prevent the water from freezing
5. Check the windscreen is free of chips and cracks and ensure your heated rear window is working
6. Allow extra time for your

journey and remember to keep the fuel tank full. Your vehicle will use more fuel than you think in bad road conditions
7. When out on the roads, use dipped headlights and reduce your speed – it can take 10 times longer to stop on an icy road. Leave more room between you and the driver in front
8. Use the highest gear possible to avoid wheel spin
9. Always take a warm coat or blanket in the boot in case of breakdown
10. Don't leave your car running unattended. Many people leave their cars running on their driveways to demist the screen while they stay inside in the warmth. This is an open invitation for opportunist thieves to strike
Drivers must think ahead and plan an extra 10 minutes onto their journey so they can check their vehicle and completely clear the snow and ice from their windscreen, rear windscreen, side glass and mirrors before setting off. Driving with an impaired vision of the road is extremely dangerous, particularly in icy conditions where stopping distances increase by up to 10 times. By ensuring they have a clear view of the road and other vehicles, drivers can better respond to hazards and avoid accidents.

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Scouts - Victims of their Success

The number of youngsters involved in the Scouts has increased by 60% in the past six years but the number of adults has not kept pace. Ian Johnson, District Commissioner for Bishop Auckland Scout District noted: "We have increased the number of adults involved by 30%, which is good, but it doesn't keep pace with the number of youngsters. We have a good team of Leaders, they need some assistance to ensure not just the safety of young people but also that activities are interesting, challenging and fun". Amongst the thriving Groups is 1st Newton Aycliffe. There has been an increase in youngsters across the District from the six year-old Beaver Scouts to eighteen year-old Explorer Scouts but the biggest increase has been in the Scout Section covering the 10-14 age range where numbers have more than doubled. Numbers at 1st Newton Aycliffe have risen dramatically. Less than five years ago there were just nine youngsters and one Leader. Now there 37 youngsters but just four Leaders. What appear to be needed are people who can give up a few hours a month, not necessarily every week, to help individuals who have knowledge and skills. In some cases it is simply a need for an extra pair of hands; in others it is being able to keep on top of records so that youngsters get the recognition they deserve – and young people like nothing better than getting a badge to sew on their uniform. Scouting has recognised that people's lives are busy with different work patterns and can accommodate individuals who can only offer help once a month or at short notice. "We don't throw adults in at the deep end", said Mr Johnson, "There is an informal induction programme and, where it is needed, we commit to providing essential training at an early stage – indeed I encourage people to find out more before committing to a role". The Scouts have arranged a local helpline for interested individuals. It is on 0845 0944 084 (calls are at local rate) and is open from 6-9pm each evening and 9am – 9pm on weekends. Ian can be contacted direct at bishopauckland@durhamscouts.org.uk

NOW YOU CAN PUT A STOP TO UNWANTED DOORSTEP CALLERS

Today we launch a campaign to give Newton Aycliffe residents the chance to say NO to unwanted doorstep callers. The Newton News has joined forces with UK Doorstep Choice (UKDC) which represents and protects your human right to privacy in your own home. For years furious householders across the country have complained about the scourge of unwanted callers, which are considered at best a nuisance and at worst an opportunity to exploit vulnerable and elderly people. The growing wave of complaints from the public has led to recent changes in the law governing doorstep selling but now millions of UK householders can join a new national membership scheme to say NO to door-to-door callers. UK Doorstep Choice (www.ukdoorstepchoice.org.uk) has been set up in response to a massive 95 per cent of householders who in a Trading Standards Institute survey said they were fed up with unsolicited callers at the door. Members of the newly launched UK Doorstep Choice (UKDC) get the backing of a national organisation which provides: **APPROVED DOOR SIGNS FOR THE HOME, WARNING CALLERS NOT TO KNOCK.**

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Editorial EYES ON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillors in the town, who serve on the Borough Council, are soon to vote on one of the most contentious issues ever to affect Newton Aycliffe in recent times - the transfer of greens and open spaces to the private company, Sedgefield Borough Homes. The Town Council has rightly brought this issue to a head demanding no land in our town, designated as open space or a green, be handed over to this new company who are already receiving all council houses. Initially all the land was being transferred, but a review was forced on the Borough Council following protests from the Town Council who put a strong argument for local government to retain control. Whilst most of the contested areas have now been retained there are still swathes of open space proposed for transfer which surely should not! The Borough's Chief Executive and Leader of the Council have come out stating the open spaces will never be developed for housing. OK! Don't transfer it then, if it has no value to Sedgefield Homes. Why does the new company want this land? What reason is there behind the acquisition if not to use it as an asset and develop it in the future? Why is the Borough Council so keen to give our land away when everyone is against the move? The assurances made by the Borough are fine now, but they won't be around in the future if proposals are made to build on our open spaces. Our Borough Councillors are on the hook and everyone is waiting to see which way they vote. I am assured a named vote will be requested so we will know exactly who votes for what. Any Councillor who votes against the interest of their electors will need to justify their actions.

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BOYS LEARN TO DANCE



A group of Year 6 children were thrilled to be invited to take part in a Primary School Boys Dance Workshop at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Tuesday 3rd February. They had the opportunity to work with a top UK all male dance company learning different styles and movements of dance. Previous experience was not required, just bundles of energy and enthusiasm. The boys had a wonderful day, their behaviour was outstanding and Vane Road School is justifiably proud of them.

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Leader Calls for County Durham People’s Museum

Simon Henig Leader of Durham County Council is championing this cause He said he hopes his comments would trigger a wave of ideas and public support that could see the project brought to fruition over the next five years. “People’s Museums are already popular attractions in places like Manchester and Edinburgh, and I’m convinced that County Durham, with its unique history and heritage could and should have one too,” said Coun Henig. ‘We already have outstanding museums like The Bowes at Barnard Castle, Beamish and the DLI Museum in Durham City, but these each fulfill very specific roles. We need people from throughout the County to come forward with their own ideas on what they

believe are typical aspects of every day work and play in the County. We need to capture as broad a brushstroke as possible if we are to paint a vivid and accurate picture of our rich and colourful community heritage for future generations. This is going to be a long term project that could take up to five years to bring to fruition, even if we can attract the funding for it. “I would like to see it become one of the early projects which the new unitary council takes under its wing after next April. I hope we can take a travelling exhibition around the new unitary county explaining the proposal in more detail and trawling for local ideas on how best to take it forward and what should be involved.” said Simon.

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Thank You

FRANKLIN Paula and Andrea, would like to say a huge “thank you” to everyone who came to their 30th birthday Fancy Dress Party at the Cumby Arms last Friday night. Special thanks to Chewbacca and Princess Leah (alias Gavin and Debbie), ABBA (Neville and Claire), Bottle of Beer (Trev), John & Freda, Midlife Crisis and Micky Richards. Pics can be viewed on the Cumby Arms Facebook. We hope everyone had a great night. Cheers everyone. Love, Paula xxx PS: Can’t wait for Fright Night to get my kit on again!! **WILSON** The family of the late Betty Wilson, would like to thank everybody for the beautiful cards and flowers received on Betty’s death. Bless you all. Kathleen, Ray, Lisa, Ray, Katie, Lewis and Amber **DOLAN** Mary and John would like to thank family, relatives and friends for their cards, presents and best wishes on the occasion of their Golden Wedding. Thank you

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Birthday Remembrance

JENNYSALKELD (Sheperd). No verse, no flowers, can ever say how much I miss you every day. God bless you Jenny. Always, your Sister Mena xxx

Obituary

GITTINS (Kit). Died 27th January 2009. Friends please meet for Service at St John’s Church, Shildon on Monday 9th February at 12noon. Followed by private cremation. *I’ll never ever be afraid to die, for I know you’ll be waiting for me in the sky* **JEAN WILSON** passed away peacefully on 31st January 2009, after a long illness. A loving Mam, Sister, Nana and a good friend, she will be missed by all. The Mam, Sister, Nana, the Friend has gone, but to the people who knew her she will live forever. Be at peace with your loving Husband John. God bless. With love from all the family

In Memoriam

ABIE WALLS 7-2-2002. Thinking of you today Dad, as I do every day. Luv, Sue xxx **JAMES LEE** (Jimmy) One year has passed since you passed away. We all think of you every day. Love and miss you. Wife Rea and all the family **NANCY WATSON** 3-2-02. Deep in our hearts your memory is kept, to love and to cherish and never forget. Loved always, Joe, John, Lorraine, Karen and families xxxxx **BILLY HAILES** Another year has passed and gone, but deep in our hearts your memory is kept. Someone so special we’ll never forget. Sadly missed and our love for you will never die. Your loving Wife Doreen and family xxx **REID**, William Wilson. 6th February 2000. The next time we meet Son will be at Heaven’s door, you will be there to meet me and I will cry no more. I’ll put my arms around you and kiss your smiling face. And then this broken heart of mine will fall back into place. Remembered always, Mam and family **DAVID BIRBECK** 7-2-99. I miss you so much Dave. From your loving Wife, Mary **DAVID BIRBECK** 7-2-99. Thinking of you Dave. Love, Leslie, Shirley, Paul, Julie, Ian, Dean, Hayley, Ross and Jason

Congratulations

LESLEY CLARK Birthday wishes to a special Sister and Aunty. Lots of love, Joanne, Andrew, Matthew and Jamie xxxx

MILES CLARK Happy 3rd birthday (10-2-09). With lots of loves and kisses, Joanne, Andrew, Matthew and Jamie xxxx

AARON GREEN, Soccer Superstar!! 9th February 2009. Happy 13th birthday to our ultimate glory boy. Have a fab day. Love you lots, Mam, Dad and Emma xxx

AARON GREEN “Glory Boy”. 9th February 2009. A teenager at last!! Hope you have a brilliant day. Can’t wait to beat you at bowling. Lots of love Michelle, Chris, Jack and Joe xxx

BRUCE WADE 12/2/09. Happy 50th birthday Bruce. Love and best wishes, Mam and Dad Elliott

BRUCE WADE 12/2/09. Happy 50th birthday Bruce. Lots of love and best wishes, Rob and Barbara

BRUCE WADE Happy 50th birthday, 12/2/09. Hope you have a lovely day. Lots of love, Pauline, Michael and Stephen xxx

BRUCE WADE Congratulations Dad on your 50th birthday. Love, Richard, Emma, Mark, Michelle xxx

BRUCE WADE Happy 50th birthday Grandad. Love, Thomas and Evie xx

SELBY, Maisie Isabel. Happy birthday to a special little Granddaughter on her 1st birthday on 8th February. Love from Nanna and Grandad xxx

SELBY, Maisie Isabel. To a special little girl on her 1st birthday. Enjoy your party. Hugs and kisses, Auntie Angie, Uncle Lee, Danielle, Jack and Harry xxx

SELBY, Maisie Isabel. Happy 1st birthday. Lots of love, Uncle Marc, Auntie Sarah, Cameron and Katie xxxx

MATT Happy 16th birthday. Love always, Mam and Maddie xxx

MATT Happy 16th birthday. Love always, All Aunties, Uncles and Cousins xxx

HAMILTON, Harley Jay, 8-2-09. Happy 1st birthday to my special little boy. Enjoy your party! Lots of love, Mammy xxx

HAMILTON, Harley Jay, Happy 1st birthday mate. From your friend, Jenson xxx

HAMILTON, Harley Jay, Happy 1st birthday sweetheart. Lots of love from Gran, Gaz, Grandad, Amy, Logan and Jake xxx

PAT AVERY 6/2/09. 65 today! Happy birthday to a wonderful partner, Mam and Nana. Love from Bill, Jacky, Darren, Dawn, Ian, Stephen, James, Sophie, Elllice, Jack, Louis and Owen xxx

VICKY FOSTER, 12th February 2009. Happy 21st birthday to my gorgeous Fiance. Hope you like your surprise! I put a lot of thought into it! Enjoy your party hun. All my love, Shaun xxx

MAMMY Have a great birthday and don’t forget the Bob the Builder song! Loads of love from your 2 special boys, Mitch and Kian xx

VICKY FOSTER Happy 21st Vix. You are one in a million! Hope you have a great day and enjoy your party. Loads of love, Lou and Sarah xx

VICKY FOSTER Happy 21st Aunty Vix. Love you to bits. Love, little man Kai xx

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. 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

Laura Landells



Happy 18th Birthday
6th February 1991
 Hip Hip Hooray, our Laura is 18 today! Lots of love, Mum, Matthew, Nanna and Grandad xxxxxx

Richard Jenkinson



Happy 21st Birthday
Happy 21st birthday to a wonderful Son. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Ashleigh and David
Happy 21st to a special Grandson. Lots of love, Granny and Granda Jenkinson
Happy 21st Have a good one. Love from Auntie Leesa and Anthony

Georgia Wakefield



Congratulations

Georgia for coming 6th place in your Solo Final at Scarborough. You danced lovely, thanks to Caroline Race at Lee Green Dance School. Lots of love, Mam, Dad and Jade

Maisie Isabel Selby



Happy 1st Birthday
8th February 2008
 Happy 1st birthday to our special little girl. Love always, Mammy, Daddy and Ellie xxxxx

Lost & Found

FOUND on Macmillan Road, babies pink buggy, items in basket underneath. Tel 321186

Summer & Reece



Congratulations

on achieving 3rd place in the under 9’s Rock n Roll pairs at Scarborough and reaching the Semi Finals in the under 9’s Freestyle Pairs. Well done in your first competition. You both danced brilliantly and looked fab together. We are so proud of you both. Love both Mummies and Daddies, Amy, Amber and Grace xxx
 Well done also to Disco Fusion on coming 3rd in the under 9’s team. You were all fantastic. Thanks to Caroline at Lee Green Dance School

Harley Jay Hamilton



Happy 1st Birthday
8th February 2009

Happy 1st birthday to the best Son anyone could ever ask for. Love you loads, Daddy xxxxx
Happy 1st birthday. Lots of love, Gran and Grandad Foster, Uncle Tony, Auntie Leyanne, Uncle Alex, Auntie Sam, Jayden and Tyler xxxx

Andrew Bowtell & Gemma Rogers



ENGAGEMENT

Andrew proposed to Gemma whilst skiing in the Three Valley’s, France. Congratulations and best wishes for the future. Love from family and friends xxxxx

Births

JENNIFER WEST Thank you for being there for me all the way through my pregnancy and the birth of baby Charlotte. Love, Jan and Charlotte
MAMMY Thank you for our baby Sister. Alisha, Jordan, Danny, Michaela and Kevin Jr.
JAN Well done, Charlotte is beautiful. Love, Shaz, Trev, Lou, Kev, Shane, Sharni, Sharna and Garath
JANETTE OAKLEY (Spencer). Well done pet. Love, Mam and Grandad

Sharon Sperring



Happy 40th Birthday
 Lots of love from Katrina, Mark, Ryan, Caitlin and Chloe xxx
 To a wonderful Daughter. Happy 40th birthday. Lots of love, Mum xxx
 To a great Wife and Mother. Happy 40th birthday. Lots of love, Tony and Tira xxx

Property Sale

PRIVATE SALE 3 bedroom house, Tynedale Walk, Shildon. Ideal for growing family or first time buyer. Offers in the region of £75,000. Part furnished for same price. Please ring for details. Tel 07864 719952

Aycliffe in Photo Finish

SHOPPING PRINCIPLES



of Martin Randall, who was fastest round the course. Janet Raper was right behind him, and within 2 minutes Susan Milburn, George Reid, Julia Atkinson, Steven Dawson, John Young, Chris Forster, Peter Milburn and Richard Campbell all finished. The closeness of the finish is testimony to the effective handicap system.

Caroline Holmes, David MacKenzie and David

Peter Milburn was the only runner from the club in the DFR Black Hill and Beck race at Hamsterley on Sunday 25th Jan. 50 or more runners took part in the snow covered course which got deeper as they ascended towards Black Hill. Peter finished up 12th time 56.59.

John Edmondson threw a double by combining a visit in the south of the country with the Lakeside Canal Run at Frimley Green, home of the world darts championships. Half the 7.5 mile race went on the scenic but slippery towpath of the Basingstoke Canal. John finished in a respectable position of 101st out of over 400 runners.

Straight from the kick-off Aycliffe suffered an injury and Paul Soakell had to move into the forwards with Tommy Cooper going to scrum-half. The Aycliffe pack won a good share of the ball, and were dominant in the lineout. The backs, however, were



Aycliffe Rugby Club would like to thank their sponsors Aston Hotels and ServiceForce. More information on the website at www.ayclifferugby.co.uk

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IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

The driver, who at this time we know is from Newton Aycliffe and is around 70 years old was taken to hospital. Would this driver please contact the writer with regard to this incident. Name and contact details are with Newton Press. Telephone 01325 300212.

PIE, PEAS & PUDDING AT HEIGHINGTON

A Tombola and Raffle is also arranged. Tickets price £10 each are available from the organisers P. Longstaff and J. Thompson. Tel: 316882 or 311274.

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Pioneering Care Centre, Cobblers Hall
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Telephone 01325 311297

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(Closed 1.00pm-2.00pm for Lunch)
Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon

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Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am-11.30am (Commit to Quit)**

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