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COUNCIL REWARDS A LIFETIME OF CHARITABLE WORK



A Newton Aycliffe man whose lifetime of charitable and voluntary work has included bringing Concorde and the Orient Express to the North East to help boost his fund raising schemes had his five-star ideas rewarded with a top civic award on Tuesday February 10th.

Peter Beaty's efforts on behalf of others work started when he was 14 and included running whist drives, domino drives and the youth club at St Columbus Church, East Howle, Ferryhill.

Now aged 77, and living in Newton Aycliffe, he is still working on behalf of his community, despite ill-health, to improve the quality of life of residents young and old.

In recognition of his tireless efforts over more than 60 years, he was presented with The Chairman's Medal by Coun Len O'Donnell, Chairman of Durham County Council. The Mayoress, Maud Gray nominated Peter for the award and said how much he deserved recognition.

Peter was the founder member of the Church Lads Brigade in Ferryhill and after forming a bugle band of 40 lads aged from 7-16, his early fund raising efforts resulted in them being kitted out with new uniforms and instruments.

Later, after volunteering to chair the National Grocers' Benevolent Fund, he set about raising funds to supplement the basic pension of retired grocers. It needed big ideas to raise big-time money, but Peter was up to the task.

He hired Concorde to visit Newcastle, organized horse racing events, golf days and dinner dances at five-star hotels throughout England, Ireland and Scotland and on one occasion even hired the fabled Orient Express, and sold tickets for a trip

from Newcastle to Carlisle with passengers enjoying a sumptuous eight-course meal and champagne during the journey.

Mr Beaty's efforts have benefited Help the Aged, Darlington Memorial Hospital, Greenfield School Community and Arts College, St Michael's Church Heighington and many more local bodies and organizations.

He is still working with the Friends of Senior Citizens in Newton Aycliffe, for whom he runs a 24-hour helpline, and was also largely responsible for helping to raise £50,000 for the renovation of the Neville Community Centre in Newton Aycliffe, which has resulted in its membership soaring from 20 to more than 300.

One of his most recent schemes was to arrange the presentation of veterans' badges for 50 ex-service men and women in the town who served in the last war.

"Peter Beaty's record of service to worthy causes and his local community is quite remarkable and an example to us all," said Coun O'Donnell. Looking back over what he has done for others over more than 60 years, I can think of no more worthy recipient of Durham County Council's Chairman's Medal."



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Phil Wilson MP holds an Advice and Information Surgery in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Saturday February 14th between 10am and noon. Because of these anxious times Phil has asked Jobcentre Plus, the TUC, Next Step, Business Enterprise North East, In Biz and other agencies to join him so that the surgery becomes a one stop shop for people worried about their jobs, their businesses or those

who want to go into training or just want to ask about benefits. The Agencies will be able to offer professional advice. Phil will be available to offer advice on other issues constituents may like to raise with him. Phil Wilson MP said "I lived through the recession in the early 1980's I want to do all I can to ensure my constituents are given as much help as possible and this surgery is part of that process"

TOWN MAYOR'S CHARITY EVENING RAISED OVER £700

The Mayor George C. Gray, held a Charity Cabaret Evening in the Royal British Legion Club to help raise funds for his nominated charities during his year in office, the British Heart Foundation and BLESMA (British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association) as his charities.

The evening was a huge success with the audience entertained by the talented Brenda Collins (Comedienne and Vocalist) and supporting artiste Kelly McWaters (Vocalist). An amount of £703.25 was made which will be added to the total amount raised and presented to representatives of both Charities at the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held on the 13th May 2009.

The Mayor would like to thank everyone who supported this event, the Royal British Legion for allowing us the use of their concert hall, the Legion Committee Members and the catering staff at the Legion who supplied the delicious pie and peas.

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35 years Recognised by County Hall



Mrs Jean Forbes of Philpott's Walk, Newton Aycliffe will receive a framed Chairman's Medal from Durham County Council Chairman Len O'Donnell at 9.15am during assembly at Vane Road School in recognition of having served for 35 years as its school crossing patrol officer ('Lollipop Lady'). She started the job on November 22nd 1973 when her youngest son started at the school and retired on December 19th last year

Although she was classed as the Vane Road crossing patrol officer, she also helped young people attending Woodham Community Technology College cross the road too. Some of the Mums and Dads whose children she helped cross the road she helped cross when they were children themselves!

Stop Knocking Tesco!

Dear Sir,
I am writing to show my support for our Tesco's Superstore which my family and myself use a fair bit. I'm fed up with people writing in and moaning about the store.

The town centre was rubbish long before Tesco's ever showed up but they still get the blame for everything. People have moaned that it shouldn't have been built on the site of the former Avenue School, but what else, if anything would have been built? More overpriced houses or more retail units that would have taken forever and a day to fill, and then more charity shops?

People complained that Tesco killed off Somerfield in our town, well I disagree! The state of our town centre killed off Somerfield along with numerous other shops, combined with stupidly high rents coupled with "no feel good factor". The whole of the town centre looks very down at heel, old fashioned and irrelevant.

Even if Tesco's left Newton Aycliffe tomorrow, myself along with many other Newtonians would shop in ASDA or Morrisons or elsewhere.

Our town centre would still be a failure and most people in our town, like elsewhere, usually have cars and will travel to other town centres like Darlington or Bishop Auckland or The MetroCentre where there is a much bigger choice & where shopping is more enjoyable. It may sound

harsh but it is the truth and most people would probably agree.

In last week's publication, it was said that more council houses may be built, which I think is a bad idea because many of the council estates in Newton Aycliffe look quite scruffy.

There are quite a few nice houses privately owned which are well kept, but walk round near the Southerne Club & former Dandy Cart site and these areas are often let down by scruffy gardens & houses which unfortunately are mostly council properties. My neighbours are council tenants and their homes/gardens are immaculate.

This town never used to be this scruffy, hopefully the new people in charge will finally do something about it.

Name & address supplied

Birds Kept Under Strict Regulations

Dear Sir,
I was surprised to read the criticism of our shop over the caging of birds.

The birds referred to are baby Macaws - 12 weeks old not fully feathered and legitimately kept in a cage until they are 4 months old when they are sold and released to aviaries for breeding.

If the birds are sold to the general public the owner must abide by strict regulations within our licence to keep and sell birds in the shop.

Cages have to be a size big enough for the bird to spread its wings and not touch the sides.

If your correspondent would care to visit us we will be pleased to explain the law and discuss the good care we take of all animals on our premises. Julies Pets.

SPLASH OUT WITH FREE ENTRY TO POOLS



On the day the new Unitary Authority in County Durham is launched, one of the most exciting swimming initiatives ever will also be making waves.

If you are 18 years or under or over 60 - read on.

From 1 April, all ten public swimming pools across County Durham will offer free swimming to anyone in these two qualifying age groups.

So, if you haven't been down to your local pool for a while, here is the best excuse you'll get to go and give it a try!

The ambitious scheme is funded by both Central Government and the County Durham Primary Care Trust, and will see free access to more than 800 hours of public swimming sessions delivered every week across County Durham.

Paul Bewley, Manager at Spennymoor Leisure Centre said: "By providing free entry to public swimming sessions at pools such as Spennymoor and Newton Aycliffe, we hope those people who have been put off swimming due to cost will now take up the activity.

"Our key aim is to get more people from local communities involved in this healthy activity on a regular basis."

Further details will be released in March on exactly how you can register for free swimming or contact your local pool to find out more.

REWARDING BABY SIGNING CLASSES

Dear Sir,
Sign language is not just for the deaf community anymore, it's a way to reduce frustration among hearing toddlers who can't yet speak, but have plenty to say.

In response to last week's letter regarding 'Signing and Singing for Infants', I would like to share my experience of baby signing with you. My little one is 9 months old and we started 'Signing Tots' classes when she was 6 months old.

We originally attended the course because my daughter had been watching a 'Disney, Baby Einstein DVD - My First Signs' and she loved it. It was also an opportunity to get us out of the house, meet other people but most of all to have fun, so as far as I was concerned if my baby picked up signs it was an absolute bonus.

Four months later, I have to say that it is one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever encountered. At first I was a bit sceptical for I have not been exposed to sign language before, nor did I think I would be able to learn a large number of signs, let alone teach them to

my daughter. However, from attending the class just once I was amazed at the number of signs I picked up without realising it - milk, food, more, and plenty of animals.

It is amazing how many signs are contained within the course. The use of signs and songs together means that signing becomes second nature, as songs such as 'Good Morning', 'I met a Little Rooster', and 'Down in your Heart' repeat in your head.

Grace now instantly recognises signs such as 'milk', 'more' and 'all gone' the basic currency for babies. We sign to Grace daily, and eagerly await her first 'word/sign' which is expected within the next few weeks.

Jules Baxter who runs 'Signing Tots' at the Woodham Community Centre is a fantastic and talented tutor who makes the classes good fun as well as educational. Signing Tots has given us a rare and 'local' opportunity to experience and learn this wonderful skill, allowing my husband and I to enjoy time with our daughter to the fullest, now and in the future.

K. Everson

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Indian Teachers Visit Woodham

Sport is on the agenda as Woodham Community Technology College greets their India partners through a London 2012 programme.

Teachers from Guwahati, Assam in India visited Woodham Community Technology College last week to explore the use of sport in the positive development of their students.

The Indian teachers spent the week meeting staff and students at Woodham to discuss innovative approaches to PE and sport activities that will boost the development and learning experience of pupils in both schools. This included observing and taking part in some of the PE lessons in the college, and visiting sporting initiatives and projects within the community. The teachers also had the opportunity to explore the local culture, with visits to sites of interest and sampling of the local cuisine.

Organised by the British Council and Youth Sport Trust, the visit was part of a wider programme called 'International Inspiration', which aims to deliver on the promise made by the London 2012 Olympic bid team in Singapore to inspire young people around the world through the power of sport.

Martyn Oliver, Deputy Headteacher at Woodham



Alex Scott, Anjana Hazarika (Principle-Kendriya Vidyalaya, Khanapara in Assam, India), Phil Wilson, MP, Indira Saikia Buragohain (Link Teacher), Steve Harness (Head teacher), Haywood Gales



JIGGERY - POKERY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS?

Dear Readers, I wrote a letter to Newton News in July 08 spelling out my own observations on the transfer of housing stock by Sedgefield Borough Council. Although the transfer went through it, does not follow that those grave concerns I held then, should automatically disappear.

It may be of interest to remind you that several private organisations were approached to submit a tender for the council houses. Sunderland Housing tendered £27 million, which would clear the SBC debts off. Tees Valley Housing Group's tender was £24 million. The one taken by SBC - Sedgefield Housing, was classed the worst of the 5 submissions.

I was astonished then, just as I am deeply concerned now, that the Government's own dictate to abide by "Best Value" should be taken by Sedgefield Borough Council as one where they need to accept the worst offer for the people of the borough. Why they did would be a good starting point.

These other tenders did not take greens and open spaces, which so inflamed

Councillor Fleming and many others in our town. But he was not alone in thinking that there are issues with the arrangements put in place and his is my view unless something contrary is received in the meantime. When it went out to vote, everyone in the Borough should have been allowed to vote on the transfer - not just on open spaces but the housing as well.

Only Council House Tenants were allowed to vote remember, and at the last time I checked there were lots of green spaces where people owned houses. I am also now fully aware that on two occasions in 2008 a Senior Borough and Aycliffe Town Councillor (who for legal reasons shall remain nameless) attended two council meetings and declared an interest in the transfer. Yet at the meeting of the Full Council on Jan 28th did not declare an interest and voted on transferring open spaces.

I said it then and I will repeat it now. We all should have been allowed the opportunity to vote, shout and scream at the fact that it is now abundantly clear this will

create a debt of £27 million which will be passed on to the new Unitary Authority and through them, to YOU the taxpayer.

It's certainly not something that should be dismissed lightly, but was then, (unless you vote for New Labour and Gordon Brown). What makes it worse, is that most of this was carried out behind closed doors and it's high time the people knew about it and voiced their protest by supporting those Councillors who are calling for a judicial review!

Clr. Bill Blenkinsopp (Ind.)

WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG ENTERTAINERS

Another school holiday. Nothing to do? Are you aged 8 to 16 years of age, and live in the Newton Aycliffe area? Like to have fun & enjoyment? Then why not come along to the Young Entertainers Workshop, Wednesday 18th February, 10am to 3pm at the Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon. All you need to bring is £1, a packed lunch and a smile. For more information ring (01388) 774838

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CTC said; "it was absolutely fantastic to spend time with colleagues from India. We had interesting conversations discussing the similarities and differences of our educational system and looking at how developing leadership skills through sport can make a positive impact on young people's lives.

The weeklong visit saw the Principle and Link Teacher from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Khanapara, in Assam visit sports centres in County Durham to look at facilities and teaching methods. As a result of this visit we intend to have some of our students visit each other's institutions and learn new games which can be identified with our own cultures for example, our students are interested in learning Kabaddi. These students will then organise festivals where the wider community can learn these new sports and about each other's culture. The project has inspired us so much that we intend to develop further links within the arts and literature."

By the end of the week the UK and Indian partner schools built upon their plans to devise a joint sport-based project that will deliver significant educational impact in their schools. This will be strengthened by a visit by the Woodham teachers to their India partner schools later on in the year.

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STUDENTS HELP SEND "D DAY" VETERANS BACK TO FRANCE

6th June 2009 sees the 65th anniversary of the D Day Landings in France and what will be the last great parade of veterans. Members of the History Club at Stephenson Way Community Primary are honorary members of the Normandy Veterans Association and have enjoyed a 10 year link with this organisation. Local veterans often come into the school to tell the children about their experiences and a number

of projects have been done based around this. Thanks to their input the club has won the primary section of the Association's 'Spirit of Normandy' competition on numerous occasions and the children feel that it is time they gave something back. They decided to raise funds to help send our veterans back for what will probably be their last visit. The Association is looking to raise £300,000 to help send 1000 veterans to France.

The children were surprised that the Canadian, Australian and American governments are funding their veterans and decided that they wanted to help our Veterans. On Thursday 5th March at 6pm in the Junior School hall the School will be holding a poetry evening where the children will be reciting poems about the Landings which they have written themselves. The poems will be published as a souvenir programme, and the school will also produce a DVD of the children along with photographs - all of which will be on sale. A raffle will be held and local companies and organisations are being approached to help. Local veterans are most warmly invited to this evening where all proceeds raised will go directly to the Association. Contact Mrs Linda Hatfield or Mrs Lynn Defty on 01325 300324 if you have any questions, have a raffle prize to donate or would like to help in any way.

JOBS ADVICE DAY IN NEWTON AYCLIFFE

An event is taking place in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Saturday 14 February to help people who have recently lost their jobs or are facing redundancy. People from Newton Aycliffe, Shildon and the surrounding area, are invited to attend the event, which is taking place at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, between 10.00am and 12 noon, where they will get expert advice and information to prepare and apply for a wide range of jobs. Although there have been recent rises in unemployment there were over 500 new vacancies within the Newton Aycliffe travel to work area advertised in Jobcentre Plus last week. The event will promote these opportunities and provide information on skills training and looking and applying for work. Specialist Jobcentre Plus advisers will be on hand throughout the day to give help and advice on how to apply for jobs and fill in

application forms. They will also give information on the range of help that may be available when starting work, including subsidised childcare and in-work benefits such as Working Tax Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit. The Learning and Skills Council, TUC and Business Enterprise North East will also be present to talk about training and self-employment opportunities available in the local area.

Anyone who cannot attend the event can search for vacancies on the Jobcentre Plus website www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk or contact Jobcentre Plus on 0845 60 60 234 for further details about the vacancies. Lines are open Monday to Friday between 8.00am and 6.00pm and on Saturdays from 9.00am to 1.00pm

Ed: We are sorry if you get this information too late, but we only received it on Wednesday.

Olympian in the Borough



Double Olympic gold medallist, Dame Kelly Holmes enjoyed another

visit to Sedgefield Borough to support the Norwich Union GirlsActive programme.

This is a scheme managed by the Youth Sport Trust to encourage more teenage girls to participate in PE and sport.

Dame Kelly was a guest at South Durham Gymnastics Centre, based at Spennymoor Leisure Centre, to see how the Sedgefield School Sport Partnership has delivered the GirlsActive scheme.

Such has been the success of the girls and teachers on the scheme that Sedgefield Community College and Sedgefield School Sport Partnership have become one of seven Norwich Union GirlsActive regional centres in England. The scheme is aiming to reach out to a further 3,000 girls from across County Durham.

Dame Kelly was joined by more than 120 girls from 25 County Durham secondary schools as they took part in a range of activities including football, cheerleading, gymnastics and team-building exercises. She said: "I'm here to support all the really great work the girls and teachers at the Sedgefield School Sport Partnership have done in making Norwich Union GirlsActive such a huge success."

"Becoming a Norwich Union GirlsActive regional centre shows they are leading the way in engaging more teenage girls in sport, which is a subject I feel passionately about."



Raising Funds for St. Clares

A fundraiser event for the church will be held in St. Clares Church Hall on Tuesday February 17th from 10am till 12 noon. There will be a Bric-a-Brac Stall, - Toys - Books - Tombola and a Raffle. Refreshments Available

USE SHOPS OR LOSE THEM!

Dear Sir
While visiting my son I became interested in your news article regarding the subject of Tesco having an adverse effect on the town centre. My husband and I own a bakers shop in Port Glasgow in Scotland. The same thing has happened there and the town centre is slowly dying. We have been in business there for 10 years and have worked hard over the years only to find our livelihood taken away from us by a multinational who can come into the town and give little back to the community. We have already cut the hours of our staff and there is not much more we can do. I sympathise wholeheartedly with the shopkeepers of Newton Aycliffe and would say to the people of the town, if you don't support your local stores then you will no longer have them.
L. Barr

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)
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Pub Continues Support for Options Project



The Options Project is a local service for disabled adults run by local charity the Pioneering Care Partnership. Staff, members and volunteers of the Options Project would like to thank the Cobblers Hall pub and customers for their kind donation of £500. The money was raised by

an auction on New Year's Eve and the money raised will go towards quality activities. Colin Grainger, Disability Services Co-ordinator said, "This is the second year running that Cobblers Hall have kindly held an auction to raise funds for the Options Project and we

were delighted to receive such a large sum. Options members really benefit from every penny raised, the extra funds enables them to try a wide variety of activities and to go to new places; the members really can't wait to start planning now!"

The Options Project would like to give special thanks to Mark and Mary for their support over the last two years. Mark and Mary have now left the Cobblers Hall to move to pastures new and everyone associated with the Options Project wish them well in their new venture.

If you are interested in more information on the Options Project, please contact Colin Grainger on Tel No: 01325 321234 or email colin@pcp.uk.net.

Fire and Rescue Team Visit Playday Nursery

Children & staff at Playday Nursery were delighted that a number of the local Fire & Rescue team were able to visit recently. The visit coincided with the Early Years Foundation Stage current theme of the curriculum, "People who help us".

Giles and his team explained how emergency services operated and when and how to contact them. The children were fascinated by the uniformed men, the fire engine and appliances and confidently answered Giles questions.

Following the visit the children had a lively discussion, participated in a role-play situation and painted pictures. The children writing a group "Thank you" letter in appreciation of the time



SCHOOLCHILDREN IMPROVE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT



Aycliffe Village Primary School's Eco Club teamed up with Mr Stephen Cooper from Great Aycliffe Town Council recently to help tidy up the school's surroundings. Over the last few weeks, the group of pupils, directed by Mr. Cooper, have made significant improvements in order to help develop the school grounds. The pupils have made bird tables and

bird feed; they have joined in with the RSPB bird watch and have supported wildlife by developing a range of different habitats in an area within the school grounds. This week the Club members spent one hour taking part in a litter pick around local parkland and surrounding scrub. The group managed to collect 6 large bags of rubbish including bottles, cans and plastic bags that would have otherwise littered the undergrowth, causing a hazard to local people and wildlife.

The school's Head teacher, Mr Gargan, is delighted with the work that the group are doing. He commented, "The initiative fits in perfectly with the school's long term plan to develop the grounds as a learning environment for the pupils."

The Great Aycliffe Town Council Environment Officer commented "I'm very impressed with the group's efforts. The park appeared quite tidy so I was pleased to see that the pupils managed to unearth a great deal of old rubbish that would have probably remained undiscovered if they had not collected it".

He added "The Eco Club is a credit to the school. The group is very keen to improve the school and its surroundings. They have worked hard over the last few weeks. I'm looking forward to building bird boxes with them in the next session as part of the work to improve the habitats

and increase the number of different bird species visiting the site."

and goodwill demonstrated by the team followed these activities.

Since September last year Playday offers the Free Flexible Entitlement without the restrictions of attending for sessions only. This means children aged three and four are able to access free nursery education at hours which suit the parent's needs e.g. the 15 hours entitlement may be taken over three days at two days for 6 hours

& one day at 3 hours. If two full 10 hour days are required then regrettably the authority will only fund 13 hours.

Nursery hours are from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and parents are able to choose the child's 15 hours on days and times which meet their work/training commitments.

Further information please contact Linda on 01325 312050 or email play.days@btconnect.com

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Woodham Skiers Return to Italy



Staff and students from Woodham Community Technology College were back in the Aosta Valley, Italy, last week for their annual Ski trip.

The resorts of Pila and Courmayeur have been consistently popular with Woodham skiers for the past 16 years. A number of students have progressed from total beginners to expert skiers who come back to the slopes year after year. This year's trip to Pila was especially important as Chris Kerr, a former Woodham student and past ski trip member, travelled out with the group to complete his ski instructors course. Chris remembers telling Mr Robson "I want to come back here and become a ski instructor" after his first time on the trip. During the week, Chris instructed Woodham students on their first few days on the slopes.

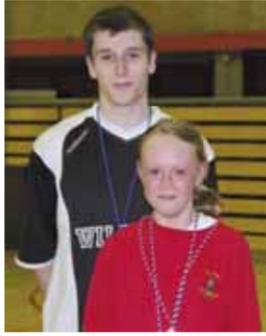
This year the weather was the best ever with huge amounts of snow. The 19 first time skiers all got to grips with the basics of skiing and enjoyed flying

all over the mountain every day. Everyone had a fantastic time and all hope to return back to Italy again next year.

BASKETBALL FESTIVAL

St. Joseph's R C Primary School entered four teams in a basketball festival held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Friday 6th February. The event was run by coaches from Durham Wildcats with some helpers from Greenfield Community Arts Centre. All pupils had a fabulous morning and gained a great deal from the expert coaching given. St. Joseph's B team came third and St. Joseph's A team came first in the tournament after a

very thrilling final against Byerley Park, which ended up as a 3 - 3 draw and had to be decided on a penalty shoot out. Declan was awarded a medal for 'Hot Shot' of the tournament and Anya received a medal for the most fair play award. A great time was had by all the schools, and the coaching staff were excellent. A big thank you to everyone who organised the event.



From Our M.P.

Welcome to the first of a regular column to keep you up to speed with what I have been doing in Parliament.

Obviously, the economy dominates the agenda as we continue through the global recession. I have been concerned about redundancies and what happens to employees when a company goes into administration and lose their livelihood without warning.

It has come to my attention Jobcentre Plus is not always informed of the potential job losses. Some administrators inform Jobcentre Plus in advance but many do not. There is no legal requirement for them to do so. I believe this is bad practice because employees leave without immediate support from employment agencies. More to the point, it is well documented that the sooner an unemployed person receives help from Jobcentre Plus the sooner they can be helped back into work, training or at least how to access benefits.

I have raised this in Parliament. I know it is the role of the administrator and those involved in the insolvency industry to ensure that creditors are paid. However, I believe the administrator has a duty to at least allow employees access to employment services involving Jobcentre Plus as a matter of course.

I have passed onto Tony McNulty, the Minister for Employment, examples of where Jobcentre Plus has experienced difficulties with administrators. I have also written to Pat McFadden the Minister responsible for the insolvency service, asking for a review of the regulations in this area.

I have put down an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons, which is a mechanism open to backbench MPs to raise matters of concern. The Motion calls on the Insolvency Service and the Department of Work and Pensions to make sure administrators do their part in helping employees who lose their jobs gain access to Jobcentre Plus. So far over 60 Parliamentary colleagues have signed. I am also meeting the trade body responsible for the Insolvency Industry.

I am really concerned that employees who find themselves in a situation where the company has gone into administration are offered as much help as possible. In some cases they will have worked for the company for many years and I am of the opinion they and their colleagues should be treated with due respect at all times.

"Head" Artist Visits School

St. Mary's School worked with Joseph Hillier who is making "The Head" at Aycliffe. Class 3 made big and small tetrahedra and it was a lot of fun. Mr. Spensley came from Aycliffe Fabrications. One table built a huge model called "Snakeland" and when all were judged the winning tetrahedron was "Butterfly Magic." Everyone received a £5 Gift Voucher.

by Daniel MacBeth
Last Wednesday Class 3 Met the artist of the Aycliffe Head. His name is Joseph Hillier and he helped us make some fantastic sculptures out of tetrahedra. It was really good working with my team. We made the biggest sculpture, however we did not win. It was ok though as we all got a £5 gift voucher. I had a really good time.

by Lucas Boulwood.
Joseph Hillier and Mr. Spensley who are making the Aycliffe Head visited St. Mary's R.C. Primary School and Year 3 had so much fun. We made a sculpture in a group and the tallest was made by Tom Whitfield, Jak Todd, Matthew Bright, Lucas Boulwood and Gregory Keith.

The winning team was Katie Dufferweil, Molly Hughes, Chloe Raine and Grace Bain. The best part was making the sculpture.

by Tom Whitfield



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Nominate a Youngster for Award

With only days to go until this year's Sedgefield Awards for Youth (SASY) nominations close, there's still time to nominate a young person that has stood out in the community. If you know a special person that has carried out volunteer work on a regular basis, is an unsung hero or who may have achieved a particular goal in their social or sporting life – get in touch. Other nomination categories include: school sports teams that have done well in 2008 or someone that has overcome a major obstacle or disadvantage to achieve outstanding entrepreneurial success. All categories are listed on the Sedgefield Borough Council website – www.sedgefield.gov.uk/sasy - where nomination forms can be downloaded for the Sedgefield Awards for Youth 2008. The closing date for all nominations is Friday 20 February 2009. To discuss potential nominations or queries relating to the awards, call (01388) 816166 Ext 4412 or visit www.sedgefield.gov.uk/sasy

LEE GREEN DANCE CENTRE COMPETITION RESULTS

SCARBOROUGH 25th JANUARY, 2009

Rosettes 3-5 years: Natasha Slade 3rd. Rosettes 6-8 years: Reece Atherton 1st. Stardance 6-10 years: Reegan Henn 2nd, Kasia Shaw 3rd. Graded Solo-Bronze: Chloe Farley 1st, Kalya Shaw 2nd. Graded Solo-Silver: Georgia Wakefield 6th. Under 13s Pairs: Chloe Farley and Annis Race 6th. Rock and Roll Under 9s: Reece Atherton and Summer Fenwick 3rd, Kasia Shaw and Reegan Henn 4th. Rock and Roll Under 13s: Kalya Shaw and Annis Race 2nd. Rock and Roll Syllabus – Stardance: Georgia Heads and Annis Race 2nd, Daniela Winwood and Rebecca Barber 5th. Team Under 9s Disco Fusion: 3rd (Olivia Archer, Libbie Anderson, Abbie Kennedy, Lisa Robinson, Summer Fenwick, Kasia Shaw and Reece Atherton) Well done to everyone who took part, I'm really proud of you all. We had an enjoyable day. Keep up the good work. Anyone who has an interest in joining Lee Green Dance Centre, please contact Caroline Race on Tel. No. 07949 911642. Our classes include Freestyle Disco, Street, Lyrical Slow, Rock n Roll, Acro, Street, Ballet and Tap. We also take part in shows, competitions and medal tests. Adult classes are also available for Salsa, Hip Hop and Aerobics.



OPEN ART EXHIBITION

Greenfield Community & Arts Centre's Open Art Exhibition is upon us once again! This is an opportunity for artists of all ages and abilities to exhibit their work together and always provides a wide and diverse range of work by local, regional, amateur and professional artists that shows the amazing talent in this area. The exhibition runs until Thursday 16th April 2009 and admittance is free. A number of events have been programmed in celebration of this exhibition and include the following: There will be a preview and craft fair on Wednesday 11th February 2009, 6pm-8pm which is open to all members of the public. There is also a one day ceramic workshop on Saturday 28th Feb 2009, 10.30am-3.00pm, £20 per person including materials (adults only). The workshop will be lead by professional artist Lorraine Clay and is open to all abilities. There will be a number of primary school workshops lead by Adele Leadbitter. These will

be creative workshops using the exhibition as a stimulus. In our Open Art Workshops there is an opportunity for young people to make an installation piece to display in the Arts Centre-Thursdays 19th Feb and Fri 20th Feb 2009, 1.00pm - 3.00pm, 8yrs+, FREE. If you would like to book a place on any of the above activities, or would like more information, please contact the Arts Centre team on 01325 379048 or info@greenfield-art.co.uk

R.N.A. MEETING

The Newton Aycliffe Branch of the Royal Naval Association will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 17th February at 8p.m. All members are urged to attend and any serving or past members of the Royal Navy are warmly invited to the Navy Club on Bluebell Way for this important meeting.

New York Marathon Place Guaranteed

If you want to take on one of the world's greatest sporting challenges this year, your local Marie Curie Cancer Care team has the event for you. The charity has got their hands on some guaranteed places for the ING New York Marathon in November 2009, but the race is on to snap up a space before they go.

Places are like gold dust for the 26.2 mile Big Apple experience, which takes runners through all five of New York's boroughs, soaking up landmarks including the Verazzano-Narrows Bridge, the Queensboro Bridge, the Empire State Building and Central Park.

The local Marie Curie Cancer Care team have special race packages up for grabs with everything taken care of, so all people need to worry about is signing up before the places disappear. Everything from flights and four star accommodation, to fundraising support and training tips is organised by

the charity. As if that's not enough, Marie Curie has teamed up with Nike to provide all Daffodil Team runners with an exclusive free Nike Dri FIT technical performance running vest designed to keep you comfortable and cool on the course.

Caroline Stokle, Marie Curie Cancer Care Community Fundraiser, said: "This is a great opportunity to put those get fit resolutions into practice for 2009 and join the experience of a lifetime in the Big Apple. All money raised will allow more Marie Curie Nurses to provide free care in the region for terminally ill people, so if you're going to run, run for us. To sign up to the Daffodil Team please call 08700 340 040 or email daffodil.runs@mariecurie.org.uk"

To get help from the Marie Curie Nursing Service, talk to your GP, district nurse or discharge nurse. For more information, please visit: www.mariecurie.org.uk

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Cost: The course is FREE - Tea/coffee provided.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL COACHING

Open to anyone aged 8 – 15 yrs. Come along any Thursday evening from 4.00 – 5.00pm at a cost of only £1.75 per session. Come and join in the fun! For further details or to book your place contact Oak Leaf Sports Complex on 01325 300600.

PRAISE FOR COUNCILLOR

Dear Sir,
 I would like to thank a certain councillor for all the help and advice given recently. It's not often councillors will go the extra mile to help you especially if they already have a full time job. The councillor I refer to is Alison Palmer who helped and advised me on who to contact about my problem. I believe Councillor Blenkinsopp is her mentor and he has supported her in her role since being elected. He too is well liked and respected and done a lot for people over the years. Thanks to both Councillors.
 Mr & Mrs Collins

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Schools Compete in Engineering Challenge

As an employer led engineering forum we are keen to encourage young people to pursue a career in engineering. A key element of this work is our engineering challenge for young people in year 9 who have to select their options as they move into years 10 and 11. The challenge enables students to work with volunteer Industrial Mentors from the Forum Member companies, hopefully equipping them to make informed decisions at the end of the year. It also allows the students to experience what the workplace expects of them in terms of attendance, attitude

and quality of work. There are 5 schools involved in the challenge this year including St Johns, Woodham, Ferryhill, Tudhoe and Spennymoor. The challenge started at the end of October 2008 and culminates with a grand final on 26th February after 12 weeks of hard work. 16 students from each school, divide to create four teams of four. Each team has to follow a design brief for a new road system being introduced with key elements being a bridge, electric vehicle and a wind turbine to charge the batteries. The work is

assessed and scored for each school to determine a winner, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places. Students arrive at 13:30 with judging of work from 14:00. When judging is completed the RC cars are then put through their paces in a series of races where all schools can accrue more points. Presentations start from 5pm with each school giving a brief 5 minute presentation. John Elliott (MD Ebac) will say a few words before helping to present the awards with Peter Phipps a Project Director for Aimhigher who fund the challenge.

LATE XMAS CELEBRATION

Recently the Friendship Group from Burnhill Way Methodist Church went to Shildon for a late Christmas Celebration Lunch. A fantastic three-course Christmas dinner was served up by the ladies of Shildon Methodist Church. There was much fun and laughter with crackers, paper hats, jokes and a wonderful Christmas cake made by Mabel Ellis and cut by Dennis Briggs. The group enjoy friendship and fellowship over food every Thursday at 12noon at the Burnhill Way Methodist Church, near the Turbinia. Menus include sandwiches, soup, deserts, bacon butties, salads, cake & biscuits and a monthly cooked lunch. Cost is £2 weekly and £3 for the lunch. It is hoped, too, to go on trips in the better weather. The group (youngest member 2 years old, oldest over 80) would love to welcome new members, young or old any Thursday. If you would like to make new friends and have an enjoyable time, why not come along!

AYCLIFFE'S EOS LANDS HOLIDAY HOMES CONTRACT

EOS Limited, an innovative manufacturer of light gauge steel buildings, has secured a deal, which will add £200,000 to its annual turnover, to provide luxury holiday homes in Scotland. The contract for 18 properties, comprising three, four and five-bedroomed homes, has been awarded by Portpatrick Holidays LLP. The work will involve ten houses, both semi-detached and detached, and eight apartments, all of which will be built with high specification fixtures and fittings and ensuite bathrooms. Graham Fletcher, Senior Director, of Portpatrick Holidays, said: "We pride ourselves on our properties

being eco-friendly and featuring many recycled components. "EOS green credentials fitted in perfectly in with this ethos with about 80 per cent of the steel they use coming from a recycled source. "Another key element, which led to us awarding this project to EOS, was the precision fabrication, quality control and speed of construction, which can be achieved with the frames being factory manufactured." Michael O'Connell, EOS director, said: "This is a substantial order, which we hope, will further expand EOS's marketplace. EOS, which employs 32 people, designs and manufactures light gauge steel framing systems for the European construction industry and its areas of expertise include social and private housing, commercial buildings, student accommodation, schools, and healthcare schemes. The homes are being built on the edge of a golf course at Portpatrick on the Irish Channel coast of Galloway. All of its new properties, which feature double glazing, central heating and high standard insulation techniques, are built using as much re-cycled metal, wood, stone and slate as possible.

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SIGNING & SINGING IDEAL FOR CHILDREN

Dear Sir
 Might I through your paper express my disappointment in one of last weeks articles written by J H Johnson, suggesting that the 'Sign and Sing' classes at Woodham, should only be accessed by those with hearing and speech impairments. Perhaps the MMR jab should only be accessed to those children who have already contracted measles, mumps and rubella. If the writer of the letter did not understand the process behind the class, surely the best action would be to go to the class and enquire as to its purpose. While I have no connection to the class myself, I have worked with children and studied childcare for over 15 years and know that, as mentioned by the editor, the earlier a child is taught something the easier they are likely to pick it up. Theorists suggest that it is best to make sure a child is taught basic skills before the age of 7 years old in order for them to progress in life. The writer of the article also suggests that the children may become distracted from learning to speak, where as on the contrary, the children will be using their speech through song as the class

suggests "sign AND sing". To me, this class is an ideal opportunity for children to socialise with other children while also unconsciously learning a useful skill in a fun way. I hope other parents see this class in the same way I do and may consider taking their children along to this or similar venues.
 G Stevens

WHERE CAN I BUY BOVRIL?

Dear Editor,
 I was in Darlington and on the way out I called at the Morrison store, Northgate branch, and what a change it was to see a store that sells mainly 'branded' products which did not have shelves filled with their own so-called value products which Tesco retail at their store in Newton Aycliffe, and at prices not much cheaper than a better quality 'branded' article. I was also able to buy a jar of 'Bovril' which is something that Tesco stopped selling many months ago for reasons best known to themselves. Morrison's also had a large stock of the throw-away cloths that go with the laminate floor cleaner I bought from Tesco's many months ago and had to stop using when they stopped selling them. Roll on the time when Newton Aycliffe has a town centre with a variety of shopping outlets again.
 Peter Dolan

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D.I.D.O. ACTIVITIES

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Tuesday 24th February Afternoon entertainment at the Cumby Arms. Pick up and Drop off bus shelter opposite St. Clare's Church at 12.30 pm. 3 course Lunch Entertainment, Bingo and dropped off at 4.30pm. Cost £14.50 - Everyone welcome, £5 deposit on booking. 17th March Trip to Leeds Indoor Market - £10. 24th March Jewellery Party. This is just the beginning of this year's Programme. Come along and join us - we welcome new members

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09-02-09

TAX LIFELINE FOR BUSINESSES

Businesses that are struggling to pay tax bills during the recession should seek help from the recently-launched Business Payment Support Service (BPSS), according to tax expert Sharon Adams, of Hartlepool accountants Horwath Clark Whitehill. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) launched the help line in November as one of the Government's measures to help businesses through the credit crunch. Tax payers can spread their payments over a period agreed with HMRC to provide some welcome relief during these hard times. The service applies to all forms of business taxation, not just income tax. Corporation Tax, PAYE/NI and VAT are also covered. Sharon Adams said: "The Business Payment Support Service is probably one of the most welcome initiatives for many years. Businesses facing temporary cash flow problems have access to a central HMRC department that can agree to spread the tax over a period, although interest continues to be

charged at 5.5%." "Early indications show that HMRC is taking a very positive approach to the Chancellor's initiative, provided other tax liabilities are kept up to date. However, that positive approach may change, and it is best to agree any arrangements to delay tax payments as soon as possible." The helpline is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm, Saturday and Sunday 8am to 4pm, and can be contacted on 0845 302 1435, with the tax reference number.

YOUTHY GOES ON-LINE

Residents are invited to view the Youth Centre web site to see the various activities on offer for all sections of the community at this fine facility opposite Tescos. Call in to look round the premises and see what is available to you. In addition to youth sessions and adult courses there are various clubs operating from this modern building who would welcome new members. www.aycliffeyouthy.co.uk

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offer valid from Monday 16th to Friday 17th February - only one voucher per household.

QUIZZES AT THE OAK LEAF

Looking for something different to do on Tuesday Evenings? Oak Leaf Sports Complex could have the ANSWER! Tuesday night is quiz night, the fun starts at 9.00pm in the bar, only 50p per person to enter. Whether your strength is General Knowledge, Film & T.V., Picture round or Sport come along and try your luck. For something a little different our music round is video cuts on the large screen T.V. You could win cash prizes, drinks vouchers or spot prizes. Why not make a night of it and have a meal from our extensive menu. For further information, contact the Oak Leaf Sports Complex 01325 300600

Valentine Greetings

Samantha Blackburn
To the best Wife a man could wish for, hope today is as special as you.
All my love always, Andrew

Davey Patterson
(Crampy)
Our last Valentines Day together as a couple, as next year we will be Husband and Wife.
Forever yours, Shorty xxx

CHRIS HOWARTH
Happy Valentine's Day.
All my love allways
and forever
Muddy x

C.A.J
You are the true love of my life. Happy Valentines Day.
All my love, The Wife xxxxx

Andy
Happy Valentines Day Babe.
I love you so much. Love and kisses, Becky xxxxx

Sue
Be my Valentine
from an Admirer . . .

Danielle Hall
Happy Valentines Day to my wonderful wife. Love you more and more each day.
Tony xxxxxxxxxxxx
PS: Happy birthday for the same day

Editorial

We've had numerous letters and comments on the transfer of greens and open spaces to Sedgfield Borough Homes, all agreeing it is morally wrong.

Owner occupiers have questioned the legality and want to know why they were not involved in the original voting. On this issue alone they support the Town Council in calling for a judicial review, if necessary.

It may be cynical, but one correspondent made the prediction that Newton Aycliffe representatives

In Memoriam

PAUL STEVENS 17th February 2004. We pray that when you left us, you knew how much we cared and remembered as we do the happy times we shared. Loved always, Mam and Dad xx
PAUL STEVENS Sometimes it feels like a lifetime, sometimes it feels like a day. But in my heart and my mind you are never far away. Miss you forever. Julie xx

UNCLE PAUL Our young minds will never forget, we grow up thinking we become adults and wish we could still see you playing and smiling. All our love, Daniel and Kelly
JOHN HILLAND dearly loved adopted Dad to Beatrice, Hugh and Deidre. A much loved Granda to Martin, Paul, Matthew, Ann, Christopher, Claire, Robert, Bethany, Aimee and Charlotte. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands now rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us, he only takes the best

EVA MARTIN Died 14th February 1984. Remembering with love my wonderful Mother. Never far from me and ever in my thoughts. I love and miss you always. Your Daughter, Diane xxx
JACK FRANKLIN died 18th February 1999. Gone but not forgotten, will always be in our thoughts. Your loving wife, Jean and family xxx

TOMMY BELL (14-2-02) and **PEGGY BELL** (15-2-06). Mam and Dad, thinking of you every day since the day you passed away. Love always, Glynis Alison

JOE BARNETT May you always walk in sunshine with God's love around you. From your loving Daughter, Betty and family

JOE BARNETT Quietly today your memory I treasure, loving you always, forgetting you never. Your loving Wife, Eva and family

HANDS OFF OUR OPEN SPACES

on the Borough Council will take a "Sicky" when it comes round to the meeting, when voting takes place on this very important issue. It is clear the Borough Council aren't going to get

away with transferring any land in Newton Aycliffe to this private company, so why don't they just keep it simple and only transfer the houses and their immediate curtilage? This would satisfy everyone in the town and our Town Council need not go to the expense of legal proceedings which almost certainly would open up a large can of worms.

SALE AT THE CHURCH

The Ladies Working Party at St. Michael's Church Heighington are hosting a Table top Sale on Saturday 7th March from 10am - 12 noon.

The charge is £8 for a table and the entrance fee is 50p. Refreshments will be available.

Success for Honest John

Honest John's Fundraising stall has raised £1,000 for "No. 31 & SODA- Victims of Domestic Abuse". He thanks everyone who has contributed goods or bought items. Next week John starts raising cash for the Newton Aycliffe Air Cadets.

Obituary

HEWISON on 10th February, Robert (Rob) aged 88 years. Beloved Husband of Anne, loving Dad of Bob, Melvyn and Marshall also a much loved Grandad of Christopher and Becky. Would friends please meet for Service on Friday 20th February, St Clares Church at 1pm. Prior to interment in West Cemetery, School Aycliffe. Floral tributes may be sent to John Meynell Funeral Service, Stephenson Way

NICHOLSON, Newton Aycliffe, February 10th, peacefully in hospital. Betty, nee Bell, aged 80 years. Dearly loved wife of the late Fred, much loved Mum of Susan, Tony and Jennifer. Funeral Wednesday 18th February, would friends kindly meet for Service and Committal in St Clares Church at 12.45pm. No flowers please.

JOHN HILLAND Died peacefully on 5-2-2009, aged 65. Beloved Dad of Victoria, dear Father-in-Law of William. Grandad to John, Casey and Cameron. A dear Son, Brother, Brother-in-Law and Uncle. Beloved friend of Beatrice. Service to take place at Darlington Crematorium on Wednesday 18th February at 10.15am. All friends welcome at the Royal British Legion, Newton Aycliffe

Birthday Remembrance

LIBBY-MAI To our special Granddaughter, happy birthday, 2 today. Treasured memories, forever in our hearts. Love, Nan and Gramps xx
LIBBY-MAI To my big Sister, happy 2nd birthday. I wish I could have met you. But I won't ever forget you. Love, little Sis, Lexie xxx

LIBBY-MAI To our very special Daughter, happy 2nd birthday. Miss you every day in our hearts you will always stay. Memories are all we have. Love forever, Mammy and Daddy xxx

LIBBY-MAI Happy 2nd birthday to our precious Great Granddaughter. No hugs can we give as you live in a land way beyond the sky. The angels will give you special kisses from us. Love and miss you. Love, Great Grandma and Great Grandad Morgan

LIBBY-MAI Happy 2nd birthday to my beautiful Niece. Love, hope and faith is in my heart for you for eternity. Lots of love, Uncle Richard xxx

MCKAY, James Bernard. Happy birthday Dad and Grandad. We miss you and think of you a lot on this your 80th year. All our love, Heather and Christopher xxxxxx

MCKAY, James Bernard. 17/2/1929 - 23/12/2006. I know a voice I'd love to hear, two hands I'd love to touch. I know a smile I'd love to see. A face I miss so much. You were so very special, what more is there to say. I wish with all my heart and soul, that you were here today. Your memory is my keepsake with which I'll never part. God has you in his keeping, I have you in my heart. All my love Jim from your loving Wife, Heather xxxxxx

MCKAY, James Bernard. 17/2/1929 - 23/12/2006. Birthday wishes for you Dad on your 80th. Only wish I could tell you face to face, but I know you are still near us all. Miss you loads. Your Daughter, Alicia xx

MCKAY, James Bernard. Happy 80th birthday Grandad. We'll never forget you. Everywhere we go you go too. Love from Dean, Wayne and Ricky xxx

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Congratulations

James Meade

Happy 18th Birthday
 11th February 1991
 Still the party animal!
 Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Megan and Grandma

Carolann Linsley

Happy 40th Birthday
 17th February 2009
 Welcome to the "Old Gits Club".
 Love you always, Molf, Laura and Michael xx

Lauren Sproates - 15th February
From a Cutie . . . to a Beauty

Happy 18th Birthday
 We love you loads, Mam and Dad xxx
 Love and congratulations, Grandma and Grandad xx
 Have a lovely birthday. Love Uncle Peter, Aunty Andrew, Shaun, Mike and Olivia xx
Happy 18th birthday to a special Goddaughter.
 Lots of love, Aunty Kirsty, Stephen and Libbie xx
 Love and special wishes from Kim and Dean in Tenerife xx
Happy 18th Lauren. Make the most of it!
 Lots of love, Danni and Gaz xx

SAMANTHA BLACKBURN
 Happy 30th "Blacketa" hope you have a great day. Loads of love, Andrew
SAMANTHA BLACKBURN
 Happy 30th Samantha. Have a good day. Love, Avril and Paul
SAMANTHA BLACKBURN
 Happy 30th Mam. Love you loads and loads. All the girls
ZOE JOHNSTON Happy 18th birthday, 14-2-09. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Anthony and David xxx
BEV Happy Anniversary, 14-2-09. Lots of love, Rob xxx
ALISON Happy 40th birthday to a very special friend. Lots of love, Jayne, Ben, Lewis, Angie, Ashleigh and Annette xxxxx
JESSE ICETON Happy 2nd birthday on 10th February. Lots of love from Daddy xxx
JESSE ICETON Hope you have a lovely 2nd birthday. We love you all the world. Big cuddles and kisses from Omi and Grandad xxxxx
JESSE ICETON Hip Hip Hooray! Our Dad is 40 today. Lots of love, Scott, Sam and Charlie xxx
KASIA TEGAN SHAW Happy 9th birthday "treasure". I have watched you gurgle, then learn to talk, I have watched you crawl, then learn to walk and now you've grown I have seen you become No. 1 Nationwide Dancing Queen. Love you, love you 2 to 10. Auntie Pamela xxx
DEBBIE KINSELLA (Cassidy). The big 40 on 13th February. Happy birthday, have a great day and party. Lots of love from Sean, Gemma, Charlene and John xxx
NICOLE WETHERIDGE Happy 5th birthday "Babe" (18th February). Love you so much. From Mam, Dad, Danni and Roman xxx
JAMES HENRY 8-2-09. Hip Hip Hooray James, you are 2 today! Hope you enjoyed your party. Lots of love, Auntie Maxine and Cousin Luke xxx
JAMES HENRY 8/2/09. Happy 2nd birthday James! Lots of love, hugs and kisses, Nana and Grandad xxxxx
SEAMAN, Charlie James. 11-2-2008. To the best Brother in the world. We love you millions. Lots of love and kisses from Lucy and Ruby xxx
DAVID WILSON 16-2-02. To a special Son, Brother, Grandson, Cousin, Nephew and Uncle to be! Have a great party. Love from everyone
COLLIN Elissa Rose, 19-2-09. Happy 10th birthday. Love you up to the sky. Love, Mam and Connor xx
COLLIN, Elissa Rose, 19-2-09. Happy 10th birthday. Lots of love from Grandma and Granda Collin xxxxx

Charlie James Seaman

Happy 1st Birthday
 17th February 2009
 To our precious little boy. Happy birthday sweetheart. Lots and lots of love and cuddles from Mammy and Daddy xxxxxx

Charlie James Seaman

Happy 1st Birthday
 11th February 2009
 To our little fella, Love you millions
 From Nana and Grandad Seaman xxxxxx

Deborah Ann Jewell BA (Hons)

Congratulations on your Graduation and on Passing your Driving Test First Time. Well Done All our Love Mam and Dad, Allen, Chris, Shelly, Keith, Josh and Grandparents xxx

Alexander Lineton & Laura Taylor

 Congratulations on your Engagement.
 Love from both Families and all your Friends

Tony Barkley
Happy 40th Birthday
 13th February 2009
 Thought we forgot? Happy birthday. Love from Mam and Dad
Happy birthday from Karen, Andrew, Samantha and Rachael
Happy 40th birthday. Have a good one. Paula, Andrew and Billy


Thank You

SELBY, Maisie Isabel would like to thank all family and friends who attended her first birthday party on Sunday 8th February and making her so special. Thank you also for all cards and gifts received.

Weddings

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AMD ATHLON XP200+ 1.66ghz, 768mb ram, CDRW, 17" monitor, keyboard, mouse, internet ready and Windows XP fully updated, £70. Tel 319405 or 07966 054848
DELL DIMENSION 8100, Intel Pentium 4, 1.50ghz, CDRW, 17" monitor, keyboard, mouse, internet ready and Windows XP fully updated, £60 Tel 319405 or 07966 054848
PRIDE VICTORY mobility scooter, excellent condition, £350 ono; 28" Nicam stereo TV with surround sound and stand, £100 ono; Hotpoint ultima 1600 spin, digital autowasher, excellent condition, £130 ono; Proline built in fan oven, white, cermaic hob, still in box, brand new, £200 ono. Can deliver all, Tel 320747
SIM CARD new, never been used (Orange) network £10; DVD player and VCR player for sale, £60 ono Tel 07522 480123
NEED An old domestic appliance removing? Can't wait for the Council? Tel. 321678.

Aycliffe Lose Out to Kicks

Hartlepool Rovers 3rds 19 Newton Aycliffe 13



Newton Aycliffe Rugby club travelled to Hartlepool Rovers 3rd XV on a bitterly cold afternoon. A squad of 20 players were available to Aycliffe. At Rovers' request, the match was played with uncontested scrums. Aycliffe won the toss and kicked into a strong wind. Aycliffe looked to set centre, Keith Greenwood free on the crash ball early on but were unable to score. Rovers took the lead with a penalty goal before they further increased their lead with a converted try. Luke Tinkler kicked a penalty to narrow the gap. Tinkler released Ronnie Gilyeat who battled his way over the line to score a try. The half time score was 10 - 8 to the hosts. With the strong wind behind, Aycliffe were confident about winning the game. Rovers extended their lead with a penalty at the beginning of the

second half. Aycliffe's man of the match Alan Churchman had a number of good runs but couldn't break through. After Jonny Stevens was held up after crossing the line with a fine run, Aycliffe won the scrum. Tinkler lost the ball but the visitors were awarded a penalty which was quickly thrown wide to Matt Adkins and on to Cymon Lee who scored near the corner. Two more Rovers penalties gave them a 19 - 13 lead which they held to the end. This was a rather disappointing result for Aycliffe and they will hope to improve next week. On Saturday 14th February, Aycliffe host Houghton 2nds in a friendly match. Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club would like to thank their sponsors Aston Hotels and ServiceForce. More information is available on the website at www.ayclifferrugby.co.uk.

AYCLIFFE ATHLETICS CLUB

Under-11 Henry Johnson ran brilliantly in the snow at St Wilfred's Race in Ripon to win the 1-mile fun run in under 6 minutes.

Henry explained his tactics were to stay close with the leaders until 300 metres before the finish and then sprint to the line. His perfect timing earned him a 17 second lead over the second finisher.

The scenic multi-terrain 10k "Muddy Boots" race might have been better named "Snowy Shoes". Stepping on the frozen puddles sometimes resulted in splashing into ankle-deep puddles when the thin covering gave way under foot.

None of this deterred the seven senior club members, including Henry's mother Penny, from enjoying a glistening run in bright winter sunshine.

Peter Milburn was first club member back in 12th position overall out of 304 runners. Martin Randall and Julia Atkinson-Tait were the next two to finish. Susan Milburn and John



Edmondson crossed the line at the same time followed by John Young and then proud mother Penny.



Neville Community Centre

The Centre has a very busy programme of activities, but need volunteers to help with the administration. They are looking for a Chairman with organising ability, an experienced fund raising manager, Cook, Bingo Caller, Advertising & Marketing Manager. If you can offer a few hours of your time please contact Peter Beaty on 313924.

The Senior Citizens Forum meets on Monday 2nd March from 1.30 p.m. A presentation will be given by Paula Wood from Butterwick Hospice. Everyone welcome.

Disabled people can take part in an easy sport sitting in a chair or wheelchair. If you are interested call Peter Beaty to attend Thursday 1pm-3pm.

We are collecting bottles for our next Tombola also jewellery, unwanted gifts. Ring 313924 for collection.

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Half-Term Activities

Greenfield Community & Arts Centre will be hosting a range of exciting activities for children and young people this half term. Activities include:

Rock School Workshops

If you like to sing, write songs or play the guitar why not come along to the rock school workshops where you will get the opportunity to develop your skills. Associate artist, John Melvin, will support you in being creative and share your talents. Mon 16th Feb and Tues 17th Feb 2009, 1.00pm - 3.00pm, 8yrs+ **FREE**

Steel Pan Workshops

These **FREE** workshops are led by artist Brian Wise. There will be a mini concert on Tuesday at 12 noon for friends and family. (Regular steel pan sessions Mon nights). Mon 16th and Tues 17th Feb 2009, 10.00am-12.30pm, 10yrs-14yrs **FREE**

Open Art Workshops

Make an installation piece to display in the Arts Centre. A chance to explore your ideas, be inspired by the Open Art Exhibition and create a new piece of art work. Thursday 19th Feb and Fri 20th Feb 2009, 1.00pm - 3.00pm, 8yrs+ **FREE**

Smart Play for Under 5's

It's toddler time three mornings a week at the Arts Centre. Come join in the fun! Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9.30am - 11.30am, £1.50 per session (includes tea or coffee).

Greenfield Soccer School

Four day course for boys and girls. Suitable indoor/outdoor footwear, packed lunch and plenty to drink is required. Contact Darren Hickey for more information: 07531 884830

or dazcricket@hotmail.co.uk Tues 17th - Fri 20th Feb 2009, 9.30am-2.30pm, 5yrs-12yrs, £17.50/child for 4 days or £6 per day
FA Tesco Soccer Skills Pro
 Session 1: 9.30am-12.30pm
 Session 2: 1.30pm-3.30pm
 (Both sessions can be attended) To book contact Ian Raine: 0794362275 or ian.raine@TheFA.com Monday 15th Feb 2009 **FREE**

We also programme a variety of courses for adults termly including Guitars, Drums, Singing, Spanish, French, Flower Arranging, Belly Dancing, Yoga, Ceramics and Painting & Drawing.

Contact the Arts Centre to book a place or for more information: 01325 379048 or info@greenfield-arts.co.uk www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

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Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £399.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £449.00	NOW £359.00
4'0" and 4'6" BED SET		
A&S Candy	RRP £119.00	NOW £99.00
A&S Winchester	RRP £159.00	NOW £139.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £239.00	NOW £209.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £349.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £499.00	NOW £399.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £549.00	NOW £449.00
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 Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon

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