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TOWN MP's JOBS SURGERY ATTRACTS GREAT INTEREST



Our M.P. was available to advise and help constituents with their problems.



Phil Wilson with his partner Margaret and Euro M.P. Stephen Hughes

Phil Wilson MP held a surgery in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre last Saturday to which over 50 people attended.

Phil organised Jobcentre Plus, Next Step, InBiz, BusinessLink, Bishop Auckland College, Sasda and the TUC to be there to

offer professional advice. Stephen Hughes member of the European Parliament for the North East was there to provide additional expertise.

The Jobs surgery was the last of three Phil organised in his constituency. The previous two were held in Wingate and Ferryhill. Over 100 constituents visited the events to ask for advice on jobs, training, benefits and other issues.

Phil Wilson is meeting with the agencies shortly to evaluate what has been learnt. Many of the comments from the people meeting the agencies for professional advice said the event was excellent, informative and helpful. Such initiatives will help improve the service provide and helps Phil keep in touch with what is happening on the ground.

Phil Wilson MP said: "In

these uncertain times being there for people is very important. That's why I thought organising the job surgery would offer a practical way of helping people. However, there is more to do. My office in the constituency is open to those who want help. It is situated at 5 Upper Beveridge Way in the town centre and the phone number is 01325 321603.

You can also contact me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. The phone number at the House of Commons is 0207 2194966.

I will continue to work with Jobcentre Plus, BusinessLink and other agencies over the coming months." said Phil Wilson.

POLICE P.A.C.T. MEETING

We are informed the Police are dispensing with Beat Surgeries and in their place are calling meetings which bring the **Police and Communities Together**.

Members of the public are invited to a PACT Meeting for Simpature Ward on Monday 23rd February at Simpature Court Coffee Lounge at 6.30 p.m.

This is an excellent opportunity for the public to discuss any community or police related issues.

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4 Church Street
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WE MUST SECURE OUR OPEN SPACE

Dear Sir,
I was informed by Borough Officer Brian Allen that in law a private resident cannot vote on such issues as the transfer of open spaces as it is Council Property being sold. With regards to the actual green spaces should not positive covenants be placed on these areas as opposed to negative ones if this is the case?

Another possibility is that the land could not be sold for development ever or for 100 years. These must be binding legal documents with no escape clauses. This could may well be a solution as I am not against S.B.H. but totally against the development on any green space anywhere throughout the Country by any Company or Council. These are precious amenities

if trees can have tree preservation orders put on them, why not Open Spaces? I have purchased my home and know exactly how private home owners feel. Perhaps our illustrious MP could take this up and do something for Aycliffe.
Alan Warburton
Independent Councillor

Pancake Race & Party

St.Clare's Pancake Party Tuesday 24th February at 4pm in The Church Hall. Pancake Race, Pancake activities and Pancake Tea. Everyone Welcome, Prizes to be won come along and have fun. Cost at only £1-50each.

SYMBOLISING AYCLIFFE AND THE NORTH EAST



"To make real progress you need to take the best of the past and integrate it with the best of the new. It is a process of transfiguration. I believe the work, created by Joseph Hillier, will symbolise the essence of Newton Aycliffe and, indeed, the North East," said Ken Fox (75) a retired teacher who moved to Aycliffe Village with his wife Pam over three years ago. Ken and Pam are members of Aycliffe Village Local History Society, who meet

monthly at the village hall to celebrate and remember the heritage of the area. A recent project has seen the society produce a DVD entitled "The Social and Economic History of Aycliffe Village and its Surrounds". The 1.5 hour film includes a section where Ken interviews artist Joseph Hillier about his work. In the coming weeks the DVD will be readily available for residents of Aycliffe Village to obtain. For further information please visit www.aycliffehistory.org.uk. Ken talks about his interview with Joseph Hillier and underlines how the artist described In Our Image. Ken said: "I think it's

important to recognise that the artist is creating a monument that pays tribute to the working men and women who've crafted North East England into the region it is today. An artwork that itself is being made by hand, using the skills of local craftspeople - a significant connection and poignant reflection on how "In Our Image" will be understood for years to come." Ken adds: "Aycliffe Village is a wonderful place to live with its beautiful surrounds and rich heritage. I hope this new impressive artwork will prompt people from outside the region to appreciate the industrial contribution made by Newton Aycliffe and the North East to the UK economy."



Photo shows Newtonian Paul Finley (23) one of the time served fabricators working on 'The Head' at Aycliffe Fabrications. He attended Greenfield School in Newton Aycliffe and started with the company on work experience in 2001 at the age of 16 and was then taken on as apprentice. Paul spent 4 years on his apprenticeship attending day release at Darlington College.

SCHOTT MAY CLOSE!

Due to cost pressures and a shrinking market Schott Glass have commenced talks with their employees on the future of the company's site at Aycliffe. One option is closure, but no decision will be made for at least 3 months or until the consultations are concluded. Meanwhile it is business as usual.

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HOORAY FOR TESCO

Dear Sir,
What a pleasure to read a letter in last week's Newton News supporting our Tesco Store. I think that Tesco coming to Aycliffe has been the best thing for years to happen to our town, and I totally agree that Tesco has not brought the demise of our town centre which has been in decline for many years. It is said that Newton Aycliffe is the second largest new town and if so what have we got for a town centre? Empty shops, banks and charity shops. Where are the decent stores i.e. Primark, New Look, Currys, Comet, and other good retailers, to bring people to shop in Aycliffe, and not go to Darlington, Middlesbrough or the Metro Centre?

I would presume this is due to the owners of the town centre asking high rents, also possibly a lack of interest in our town by retailers. We already have lost the chance of Iceland coming due to the owners, how much longer are we going to put up with this? Come on Newtonians stop knocking Tesco, put your energies into trying to get a town centre to be proud of. Hopefully the start of its re-generation will see an improvement but I don't

think so. Apart from Wilkinsons coming to the town what other new shops or businesses are expecting to come here? Tesco Supporter

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. Contact 01388 772360 or 01325 317153.

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Every Sunday 10am-1pm

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Oak Leaf

S.P.O.R.T.S C.O.M.P.L.E.X

CUSTOMER NOTICE

Our bar and catering facilities are to undergo
REFURBISHMENT
and will be closed from
Monday 2nd March to Friday 13th March 2009
(inclusive)

We hope to see you all on
Saturday 14th March 2009 at 11am
to celebrate the **RE-OPENING**

The management apologise for any inconvenience this temporary closure may cause, however:

ALL OUR SPORTS FACILITIES WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL

SCOUTS BUILD BIRD BOXES



As part of National Nest Box Week Great Aycliffe Town Council joined forces with the 1st Newton Aycliffe Scout group to construct and install approximately 20 bird nesting boxes in

Cobblers Hall Plantation. The scouts assembled the timber, which had been kindly donated by B&Q in Darlington, into two varieties of bird boxes and then volunteered to help put

up the boxes in the wood and complete a litter pick around the site while they were there.

Environment Officer Steve Cooper said "Birds will soon be looking for a suitable nesting place to have their young; these bird boxes will provide an ideal additional nesting site for the local birds".

He continued "Making and putting up the nestboxes can be great fun, all the scouts really enjoyed themselves, learned a few new skills and even helped the local environment. We must also thank B&Q on Whessoe Road Darlington, without their donation none of this could have taken place". Right now is a great time to think about putting up nestboxes in your garden, National Nest Box Week began on 14th February. Nestboxes are excellent substitutes for the holes found in old trees. In young woodlands, parks and

gardens there may be plenty of food for small birds but nowhere for hole-nesting birds to nest.

For more information on bird nesting box construction visit www.bto.org.uk If you have a community group that would like to take part in a small activity to help the local environment please contact Steve Cooper on 300700.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR WANTS YOUR VIEWS

Dear Syd,
I would like to know residents' views on the transfer of green spaces, both for and against the issue in question. I can be contacted via e-mail pinkyna51@yahoo.co.uk

or write to me at my home address:
21 Butler Road, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 5LU.
Alan Warburton
Independent Councillor



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Entrance from 11am til 4pm

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Cost £35.00 for six weeks

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We are open from
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To find out more call 01325 309100
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WELL DONE! HERON STAFF

Dear Sir,
I shop regularly at both the Newton Aycliffe and Peterlee branches of Heron. Both stores stand out not only for their combination of quality goods with low prices, but for their exceptionally friendly and helpful staff.

My bags are quickly and efficiently packed for me and always with a smile and a kind word. Many is the time that I've seen staff point out an offer to shoppers, even at the till pointing out the item I have bought is a 'buy one get one free' offer and if I would like one of the girls to fetch another?"

The regular discounts are too numerous to list but my weekly savings are literally in pounds, not pence, on freezer and chilled foods. Discount retail prices are often linked with poor quality goods and service, but this is certainly not the case at Heron.

I thought it was only fair that this praise should be read by those it praises and do hope that you will find the space to publish this. My sincere thanks to all Heron staff - may you continue to give good service in Aycliffe for many years to come.
Andrea McCulloch

Does your House have Designer Windows?

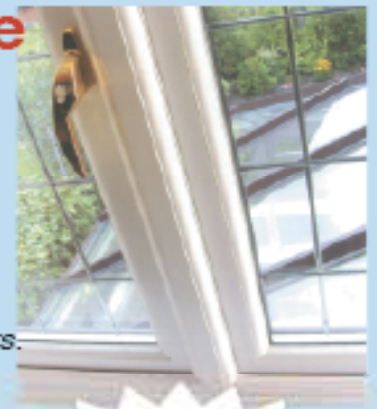
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Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre have marvellous facilities to hire - at the weekends in particular. As an example for a Child's Birthday Party for 1 hour in the Sports Hall and 1 hour for the Room with use of the Kitchen etc. would cost only £34. There is no charge for setting up and clearing away time. The Main Hall [70 seated] is available with a Disco for a small cost and there are also several meeting rooms including a Training room for meetings and seminars.

For Voluntary and/or non profit groups we will consider a discount which will also apply to long term booking for profit making organisations. We can accommodate bookings in the week for meeting rooms particularly in the evenings. We have our own Car Park which is between Tesco and the Town Park. For any booking and/or information please pop in and see us or contact us on 01325-307522 from 9.30 to 3.30 Monday to Friday or the Secretary on 07518 035320 anytime.

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up to 8" x 10"	from £10.00
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up to 14" x 11"	from £14.00
up to 12" x 16"	from £16.00
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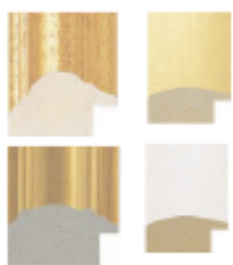


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83 YEAR OLD GREAT GRANDMOTHER ALWAYS READY FOR A CHALLENGE



Audrey Humble who celebrated her 83rd birthday recently has taken up computer lessons after receiving a laptop for her birthday and she has already mastered emails! She has a very interesting recent history after retiring as a Psychiatric Sister at Aycliffe Hospital. She passed her driving test in November last year after she was banned for 18 months for dangerous driving... it was an extended re-test too!

She jumped out of an aeroplane to celebrate her 80th birthday and her favourite hobby is line-dancing - she even travels abroad where she 'clubs it' until the early hours! At 81 years old Audrey swam with Dolphins off the coast of Ireland

Audrey who lives in Bewick Crescent is a Great-Grandmother who is always on the lookout for a new challenge.

LAND BELONGS TO THE WHOLE TOWN

Dear Sir,
The letter you printed from Cllr Blenkinsopp was certainly an eye-opener! He made some good comments about the

transfer of open spaces and I agree that everyone in Aycliffe, whether tenant or home owner, should have a say in what happens to our open spaces. After all the land belongs to the whole town and not just council tenants.

It does not matter whether or not you own your home, your children and grandchildren still play on the same bit of open space. Cllr Blenkinsopp also said the public should protest and support our councillors who may have to call for a judicial review.

If the town doesn't want to lose the open spaces our Councillors voting on the issue must unite and vote against the proposal. Our town councillors who also serve on Sedgefield Borough must ensure we do not lose control of our open spaces
A worried resident.
Name & address supplied

PRAISE FOR TRADESMEN

Dear Sir,
I recently had a new boiler system fitted in my home. I would like to thank the local company that fitted it for me 'On Tap Heating'. The two employees were great. They turned up when they said they would, kept the disruption in my home to a minimum and cleared up after themselves. It made a refreshing change to my past experiences with workmen.
Miss Hutton
St. Aidans Walk

RACE NIGHT FOR SUNDERLAND FANS

Newton Aycliffe Branch of Sunderland AFC Supporters Association are holding a race night on Friday 27 February 2009 at Moore Lane Sports Club.

Tickets priced £2.50 (inc pie and peas) are available from Ian Palmer on (01325) 312086.

Members and non-members are welcome to attend. The Newton Aycliffe Branch are affiliated to the official SAFC Supporters Association and run buses from Newton Aycliffe Royal British Legion Club to all home matches. They also run buses to as many away matches as possible dependent on demand.

Branch meetings are held in the Royal British Legion on the first Thursday of each month and existing and new members are welcome to attend.

Further information on the branch can be obtained from the Secretary, Stan Hall on (01325) 313172

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Audit Sub-Committee Meeting

Notice is hereby given that:

A meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:

WEDNESDAY 4th DECEMBER 2009
at 5.45pm

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

Agendas and Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting.
(www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

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.

The Cumby Arms

Heighington - Telephone: 316753

Rocky Horror Party Night

FRIDAY 20th MARCH

with themed rock disco and karaoke
Admission £2 on the door includes free glass of punch

Sunday Lunch Served 12-2pm

Roast Beef, Pork or Turkey with seasonal vegetables
all freshly prepared
OAP/Child £4.95
Regular £6.95
Jumbo £8.95
Advanced bookings advisable

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

Line Dancing Classes with Sue Rollo

SUNDAY NIGHT
Beginners 5.30-6.30pm
Intermediates 6.30-7.30pm

Only £2 on the door

Mothers Day Lunch

Sunday 22nd March 2009

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

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WHY THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT TRANSFER OPEN SPACES

Readers will be interested to know that – after my letter a fortnight-ago asserting that Sedgefield Borough Council was about to give away millions of pounds-worth of land and houses to a private company – the Chief Executive of the Borough Council called the Aycliffe councillors together for a briefing to assure them to the contrary. Members have been sworn to secrecy to such an extent that I have not been told the sum involved, but the whisper now is that the deal is ‘very good’ and ‘much better’ than the deal with Sunderland Housing.

Not impressed
Personally, I am not sure whether I am all that impressed by this

revelation. As a new company, Sedgefield Borough Homes (SBH) has no money of its own to bring to the table. So common sense would suggest that anything they are ‘paying’ for the houses must either have been given them by the Borough Council, or has been borrowed using our open spaces as equity. Either way, it seems a case of giving us back with one hand money we have had taken with the other. And – since most of the open spaces would seem to have come from Aycliffe – it appears (yet again) a case of Borough Councillors dipping into Aycliffe as a resource for the benefit of others.

Further developments

Since my letter also, Borough Council officers have agreed to come to Aycliffe to talk to Town Councillors individually about their wards. Meanwhile, Bob Fleming and myself (perhaps unsurprisingly) have come in for a degree of character assassination. One of the things being said is that we are using the open spaces merely as a cover because we disagree with the whole principle of stock transfer. This is not true. As to stock transfer in general, I am fairly neutral. What I am not prepared to sanction, however, is stock transfer whatever the terms. And I see the transfer of open spaces as an assault on the identity of Newton Aycliffe, and as a theft of land which we own publicly, in trust for our children and grandchildren.

The importance of WHY
What I have still been unable to find out, despite numerous requests, and what strikes me as the key question, is WHY the new company needs the open spaces. In the original papers, and in subsequent communications, it has been stated that SBH will need the land for convenience, to get access to its houses without each time having to seek way-leave from the County Council. I think you will agree with me that, if this convenience is the only reason for SBH to have the land, then THEY

MUST NOT HAVE IT. Our suspicion, by contrast, is that SBH needs the land as equity against which to borrow the money to fulfil its promises. If this is true, then that makes everything much more difficult, because keeping our open spaces may endanger the business plan and cause the failure of the scheme. If this is the case, then we ought to take a long hard look at the business offer, to weigh the benefits to the community against the losses.

Lack of information
Despite frequent pleas, however, even under the Freedom of Information Act, the Borough Council has steadfastly refused to reveal any details of the business offer. Rather, the

Borough Council seems intent to keep the whole process secret until the last minute – until the Councillors meet to make their decision on February 27th whether to accept or reject the deal. It is my personal opinion that, with half-a-billion pounds-worth of housing and untold acres of public open land about to be gifted away, this is an issue which in a democracy should have been presented to the public, and laid open to consultation and reflection. If anybody had bothered to ask me, for example, I would have agitated for a plan which ‘paid’ less for the houses, and took less land to raise the money to do so.

The need to act
Finally, some Borough Councillors are saying that nobody has contacted them about the open spaces. It seems to them, they say, that nobody is bothered. By contrast, I am aware of a high degree of interest in this matter. This is fair and square an issue for the Borough Councillors to decide and – if you want to help the Town Council to keep those open spaces in public ownership – why don’t you contact your Borough Councillors and tell them to vote against the loss of our open spaces on February 27th.

John D Clare
Deputy Leader
Great Aycliffe Town Council



These photos are just a few examples from hundreds of other open spaces in Newton Aycliffe to be transferred to the private company Sedgefield Borough Homes. Can this land be preserved from infill building in the future? Assurances have been given by Borough Council officials, but can they be relied upon? Why do they want to include common land with the transfer of houses?

RADIO ADVERTISEMENT AN EMBARRASSMENT

Dear Sir,

Having recently heard the radio advert for the town centre I thought I should pay it a visit as it sounded superb. I left after 5 minutes feeling that the advert was a misleading embarrassment to the people of this town. In this world of accountability who was the individual responsible for approving the advert? The advert should state we had a fantastic range of charity shops, a large and varied range of empty boarded

up properties and only one major high street shop (Boots) currently available. If the planners and town centre owners have the time I suggest they visit Northallerton. Yes, that is where my family shop, as it is superb. Our town centre could become a vibrant busy and active centre from early morning till late evening if the plans were changed, a road put through the town centre with free disc parking outside all the shops. A one way system

would suffice.

Northallerton has two way traffic and a very busy road and they manage superbly, so forget all the health and safety arguments. Once we can drive conveniently and quickly to the town centre and park easily the shops will be used. That is the success of Tesco with parking outside their front door.

Customers would come into the town late evening as it would be safe. Other high street shops will be attracted as they will see the potential to succeed given we are one of the biggest towns in the County.

Let's encourage a Burger King (and a healthy alternative for the PC brigade) and the young people will have somewhere to go instead of wandering aimlessly in this miserable town.

Whilst we are at this creative thinking, how about creating a central Bus Station by redesigning the white elephant road by Tesco. As a rare bus user I am at a loss where to catch a bus in this town.

I've expressed my thoughts, and no doubt wasted my time, as our elected representatives are so focused on repeatedly insulting each other in these pages, rather than working together for the benefit of the town.

Paul Kilburn

AYCLIFFE COUNCILLORS SHOULD UNITE & VOTE AGAINST TRANSFER

This is the last opportunity for Newton News to feature the argument over the transfer of open spaces to the private company Sedgefield Borough Homes. The name itself causes confusion as the Borough will no longer exist after 1st April. We are able to show photographs on Page 6

of some of the beautiful areas of open space that are being proposed for transfer to a private landlord. However, If the Independents and Aycliffe Borough Councillors unite and vote for the town, S.B.C. COULD lose the vote on 27th February. The Borough Council is no longer Labour-dominated and a number of Labour leaders will have to, or ought to, declare an interest.

OPEN POETRY COMPETITION

Do you feel passionate about where you live? If so, why not put it into words? Sedgefield Borough's Arts Team is holding a poetry competition to celebrate 'Our local Area'.

You can write a poem about your town or village, a specific place or landmark or even your street.

The length of poem is entirely up to the author, and can range from pages of prose to a 4-line limerick. But, it must be local to the Borough of Sedgefield.

The competition is open to everyone and there are two ways to enter by Email to ecrallan@sedgefield.gov.uk or by post to: Emily Crallan, Arts Team, Sedgefield Borough Council, Council Offices, Spennymoor, DL16 6JQ

The deadline for entries is 20 March 2009.

For more details contact Emily Crallan on (01388) 816166 Ext. 4378

Editorial

It would therefore only need the Independents to get their act together, and a few Aycliffe Labour Councillors to defy the whip, and the plan would not go through. Comments from the Borough Council officers and the Leader say residents are being misled and the open spaces are secure for all time. The simple question remains unanswered-why does Sedgefield Borough Homes want that land which obviously should remain in public control? Aycliffe Labour Borough Coucillors will have to decide whom they fear most - a Borough Labour whip which will disappear in a month's time, or an Aycliffe electorate who will be waiting for them at the next election. As it will be a named vote we will be able to inform readers who voted for what.



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



GARA GREAT AYCLIFFE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Great Aycliffe Residents' Association recently held its second committee meeting. We discussed actions taken to date in dealing with the concerns and queries raised by groups of residents. As a result we have co-opted people with the skills to form a special working group, which will provide the very best advice on how to proceed when looking for solutions for residents. Thanks to Ian Wiggett and Arun Chandran for putting their time and knowledge at our disposal.

We would also like to thank Cllr Terry Hogan for his work and effort behind the scenes. Even though the Borough Council disappears at the end of March, he was keen to get involved in a specific problem and try to achieve a result before the council's demise.

As people may be aware the new Unitary Authority comes into being on the 1st April. This has presented us with a few barriers as budgets at the Borough Council appearing to be being run down as the changeover date approaches. We will continue to pursue matters for our members, but are already experiencing a "you'll have to take that up after April 1st" factor. So we look forward to working with the Unitary Authority Councillors for the Great Aycliffe area over the coming months to address the needs and requirements of the residents.

Thanks also go to PC Helen Inglis for the courteous and professional attention she has shown to concerns raised, and we are confident this will continue. The Beat Officer role is never the glory job in the Police that we see on the television, but it is the backbone role within our local constabulary and community.

Membership of the association continues to grow and our voice grows stronger as our numbers increase. Have you completed your registration form yet? If not, why not take a couple of minutes to complete the one in this edition of the Newton News and return it to any of the paper's agents. A form is also available from our website, www.greatayclifferesidents.org.uk

School Closure in Bad Weather Annoys Parent

Dear Editor,

May I ask, through your paper, why the majority of schools in Newton Aycliffe close as soon as a bit of snow hits the ground?

LastThursday (12thFebruary) I got a call from my daughter saying they were sending them home from Greenfield School, this was about an hour and a half before school would normally close.

I was obviously at work and couldn't go and collect her or meet her from school. I can't just leave work because the school decides to close at short notice.

The amount of holidays that there are is bad enough for us 'normal working parents' who can't afford to pay for childcare and certainly don't get the same amount of paid holidays as teachers.

The school was already closing for the Friday and the following week. They also closed on the Monday the week before that, because of the snow! On that day I had to take a day's holiday to stay at home as I couldn't get childcare at short notice.

I was told by my daughter's tutor that someone needed to be there for her when she got home. I told the teacher that I couldn't just leave work. I can't afford to lose money or use up precious holiday time (of which I get a lot less then the teachers) just because they close the school, again.

In today's current climate, with all the job losses and lower pay, we just can't drop everything to go home because schools are constantly closing.

My children are the most important thing to me and I do everything I can to give them a decent life, but to do that I need to work, and to keep my job. I can't keep leaving work because of school closures.

It is frowned upon to take your children out of school during term time, with the possibility of getting fined when you do so, so why is it that they can shut the school because of snow, frost, etc, without getting fined?

After all our children are losing out on their education because of it in just the same way.

A very annoyed parent



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Smokers Can Save £2,000 a Year

THE CREDIT crunch may be biting – but smokers in the North East can give themselves thousands of pounds more to play with by quitting in this year’s No Smoking Day (March 11) A North East smoker on 20-a day spends around £2,000 a year on his or her addiction. And No Smoking Day 2009 is a timely reminder that it’s money burned every time they light up. The calculations, using an “NHS Wealth Calculator”, shows a North East couple smoking 20 a day could free up £40,000 for their family budget in just 10 years – just by quitting! The countdown to No Smoking Day begins now and Fresh Smoke Free North East is supporting local groups to host dozens of events up and down the region to help smokers quit, including stop smoking sessions in workplaces and shopping centres. Last year around 250,000 smokers in the North are thought to have stopped smoking on No Smoking Day. Ailsa Rutter, Director of Fresh, said: “Up and down the country, hundreds of thousands of people are planning to quit – or reaping the benefits of already having done so. “This is a message aimed straight at the wallet! A couple quitting smoking could save around £4,000 a year – that’s the same as a decent pay rise and could

pay for a fantastic family holiday, a shopping spree, home cinema system, or saved towards the cost of the food or power bill. “But we need to ensure now that children in the UK are protected as well. The best way to stop young people starting smoking is for our Government to now consider further controls on how cigarettes are marketed and promoted.” Louise Horsburgh from Walker, Newcastle quit smoking with NHS support for the health & financial benefits that giving up smoking can provide. She says: “Quitting smoking was the best thing I have ever done, not only was it good for my daughter Leah, and my health but it is saving us a fortune as well. “I was amazed with the amount of money I was able to stash away by quitting smoking. Every time I thought about buying cigarettes I would put a fiver aside and before I knew it I had saved hundreds of pounds. “Two years on, I am a lot healthier and don’t have to worry as Leah is growing up in a smokefree environment, plus we have been able save enough money to go on some fabulous beach holidays abroad that I never would have been able to afford otherwise. “My advice to any smoker is to quit now, with the

economy in the state that it is in we need to be saving in all areas and not spending on an addiction that has detrimental effects to our health and our bank accounts.” Councils, companies, hospitals, doctors surgeries, shops and other organisations are also urged to thinking about how they can hold events for No Smoking Day. Around 71% of smokers in the region say they would like to quit in the latest research by Fresh Smoke Free North East. There are over 1,000 locations offering NHS Stop Smoking Services in the North East, from GP surgeries to pharmacies and community centres, where smokers are up to four times more likely to quit successfully. To find out more about the NHS Stop Smoking Services in the North East and to find the nearest access point text “AROUND” and postcode to 88088, phone 0800 012 1612

Signing Helps a Child to Talk

Dear Sir,
In response to the person who wrote to you about ‘not understanding’ baby sign and sing I would like to take this opportunity to speak to you as a former teacher of Makaton (sign language). There are many reasons that a child may not communicate to you as a parent/guardian, neither of which may be because they are ‘deaf or dumb’ as your reader so put it. Some children simply do not start talking until very late and if this happens it may be difficult to understand what your child wants when he/ she is crying. By using extremely simple and effective methods such

as signing the word drink and asking the question at the same time your child can therefore respond in sign and communicate with you. This method is proven and develops a greater understanding between you and your child and altogether leading to an easier life for you both. In hindsight your reader should have researched what Signing Tots offer before making such an ignorant comment towards children. A Brennan

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SUPER COUNCIL'S CONTACT CENTRE WINS APPROVAL

Local Government Minister John Healey has given his seal of approval to the new County Durham super council's efforts to improve access to its services. Mr Healey visited the contact centre at County Hall which will spearhead the new unitary council's response to an estimated 2.5 million calls a year which it expects to receive from April 1. Its aim is to help simplify access to the council and ensure a more efficient and effective response to calls and queries from the public. At present, with council services provided by seven district and one county council, there are eight internet websites and more than 500 numbers listed which people can call for help and advice about service provision. From April 1, when the new

unitary council becomes responsible for providing all council services, there will be one website, one telephone system and one network of customer access points. Durham County Council leader Simon Henig said: "In the short term, many existing numbers will remain to ensure there are no difficulties for those people who are used to them and use them regularly, but we shall be gradually reducing them and migrating them towards a new single 'golden telephone number' which will act as a safety net for anyone who is unsure who to call at the new council. "The contact centre at County Hall will act as the hub around which this new approach will be developed, and we anticipate it will handle more than 35,000 calls a month of the 2.5 million calls we expect the new council to receive each year. "It will be supported by improved processes, streamlined call handling and

modernised service delivery including the development of other technologies for customer access." Coun Henig said the introduction of the single 'golden number' and the launch of a new website would be the first phase of a continuing plan to improve the unitary council's communications with its customers. "Future improvements will include the development of a network of one-stop-shops throughout the county, which will cover hard-to-reach areas, and access points which, in future, will allow council customers to contact officers and councillors by webcam," he added. "Our aim from day one will be to make it easier and more convenient for people to access council services and in

return ensure a more efficient and effective response." Local Government Minister Mr Healey said he had been "really impressed" with what he had seen in County Durham. "The County Council is making a lot of headway and is very clear about the improvements it wants to make," he added. "The new single number means that people won't have to think about which council provides a service or who to go to for information about it. It will all be available in one place." Coun Henig said: "We were delighted to have the chance to demonstrate this approach to the Minister and even more pleased to have his support for what we are doing as we move towards vesting day for the new council."

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Lighter Foot to Reduce Motoring Costs

A light right foot will do more to reduce CO2 than retrospective road tax, says the IAM

Proposed Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) changes intended to reduce CO2 emissions from cars will have little impact unless driving behaviour changes as well, according to research.

Although many manufacturers have highly efficient “eco” versions of their cars available, many drivers will unwittingly lose the benefit of the technology through poor driving habits.

The following examples of common errors by drivers increase fuel consumption significantly:

Underinflated tyres - tyres that are 20 per cent underinflated use three per cent more fuel

Roof storage - wind resistance causes use of up to 20 per cent more fuel at 70mph

Air conditioning - uses up to 10 per cent more fuel

Aggressive driving - uses 15 per cent more fuel

Speeding - travelling at 80mph uses up to 15 per cent more fuel than 70mph

Short journeys - the first two miles use up to 100 per cent

more fuel

Taken together, all these items can increase fuel consumption, and CO2 emissions, by up to 45 per cent. This level of increase would mean that even the most economical and eco-friendly car, such as Ford’s new Focus ECONetic, may emit as much CO2 as a seven-seater people carrier like the Ford Galaxy, in spite of the Focus’ class leading Band B VED (road tax) rating.

The extra fuel cost for the Focus would also wipe out the savings in road tax. If the Focus is driven efficiently for approximately 10,000 miles a year, the fuel bill will be around £865. Poor driving habits would increase this by more than £330 per year, far outweighing the proposed reduction of £90 in VED.

IAM Head of Technical Policy and Advice, Tim Shallcross, said: “If the government is serious about getting motorists to reduce CO2 emissions, the IAM says more investment in driver education and information is needed, rather than extra taxes that motorists suspect are more about revenue-raising than improving the environment.”

Smart Nappies Saves Money

For the first 2½ years of a babies life, the total spent on disposable nappies averages £1839.

Smart Nappy not only offers a more cost effective alternative but also one that is more environmentally friendly.

Smart Nappy also offers the flexibility of dispose or re-use, allowing parents to decide whether to use the disposable option or a washable reusable one.

The starter set is just £39.99 and the Trial Set (£9.99) to see if Smart Nappy is right for you. The Nappy outer is £5.99 and reusable pads £4.99.

Weddings

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

Clairvoyance

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

Opticians

K. McGuinness
OPTICIAN
Town Centre
Newton Aycliffe
Tel: 316600

Public Notice

Woodham Community Assoc.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 18th March ‘09 6.30pm
Free refreshments served
All Woodham residents invited

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

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SOPHOTOGENIC Photography have fantastic studio in Newton Aycliffe and offer an amazing portrait, wedding and portfolio photography service at fantastic prices. Visit www.sophotogenic.co.uk or call our studio on 01325 321673 for more information

HOME SAFETY TIPS

Sedgefield Borough remains one of the safest places to live, with burglary levels remaining low – but we must do all we can to keep it that way.

Sedgefield Borough Community Safety Partnership, works to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and is involved on a new initiative focusing on victims of crime and vulnerable members of the community.

Home Office statistics show you are less likely to be burgled now than at any time in the past 20 years, but it is still distressing for victims. Most burglaries are opportunist and can often be prevented by taking a few basic precautions. Here are a few simple measures to consider:

Keep doors and windows locked even when you’re at home.

Fit and use good quality locks on doors and

Holidays

LUXURIOUS 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom Villa in Florida, heated pool, 4 miles from Disney, from £250 per week. Tel 300212 (Paul), web: www.villafloida.biz

Sits Vacant

AGENTS WANTED To sell laundry products in their own time. Good commission. Tel Lyn on 07788 634 909

SALESMAN/Delivery driver required to work in busy local retail shop. Sales experience essential, heavy lifting required, may suit 40-60 year old. Tel 321678

Property Sale

Church Close
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Quiet cul-de-sac, yet easy access to amenities.

Substantial 3 bedroom detached, large mature gardens, GCH, DG, very well maintained, excellent potential.

Priced at £155,00 to sell
Tel 315744 or 0191 3782068

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

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WANTED - £50 for any complete vehicle, Cars, Vans, Motorcycles, HGVs, MoT Failures, Scrap Cars, anything - Ring for a quote **FREE COLLECTION**
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TELEPHONE: 316566

WANTED cars with or without MoT. Tel 07747 175137 or 07881 897231

windows.

Install exterior security lighting with dusk to dawn sensors.

Make your home appear occupied when out or away by using timer switches to activate lights and a radio.

Keep an eye on your neighbour’s property and ask them to do the same for you.

Always keep keys in a safe place out of sight and away from windows and doors.

Remember if you can get into your home without your keys then so could a burglar.

Install an approved burglar alarm.

Join Neighbourhood Watch.

If you have been a victim of burglary or need further advice on home security please, contact your local Police beat teams or Sedgefield Borough Council community wardens.

For further details, call: Diane Maughan on (01388) 816166 Ext 8876

Beauty/Therapy

COULD FOODS be the cause of your ailments? 12 years experience testing thousands of customers for food sensitivities. Testing at The Health Warehouse, Darlington 01325 468570. Home visits arranged by contacting John Neal (IHT, MIBM) 07990 722 092. johnneal@acrostics.co.uk - www.eyeonhealth.co.uk

Lost & Found

FOUND Camera at the Nature Park. Contact with details 312354

LOST Gizmo, grey and white short haired cat, missing since 11th February. Walcher Road area. Any news, good or bad please ring 315041

Personal

BVA Foundation
FREE Confidential Post Abortion Counselling available

Telephone: 01642 616077

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

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SWIMMING CLUB NEWS

Twenty swimmers from Sedgefield 75 club travelled to Middlesbrough for their annual ‘AA’ Grade meet. The meet was a huge success for the club with the swimmers coming away with 40 personal best times from 56 swims and between them they came away with a massive haul of 32 medals which were given to swimmers coming in the top 6 positions in each age group.

Amy Gittins and Rhiannon Foulds set the gala off to a good start by both finishing 2nd in their respective age groups in the 200m freestyle and both gained a North Eastern Qualifying time in the process.

Amy went on to finish 3rd in the 50m freestyle and 50m backcrawl. Rhiannon finished 3rd in the 50m breaststroke, Robert Salmon 3rd in the 50m breaststroke taking 5 seconds off his personal best time. Emily Chaytor came 3rd in the 50m backcrawl, Georgia Leybourne 2nd in the 50m

butterfly. Stuart Walker continued a good run with a bronze medal in the 50m butterfly, silver in the 200m freestyle and two golds in the 100m Individual Medley and 50m backcrawl.

Ellie Emmerson, Ben Alliston and Jordane Salmon competed in their first gala.

Other swimmers included Amy Parkin, Robyn Coates, Isobelle Thompson, Emily Thelwell, Bethany Clarkson, Flynn Leybourne, Jennifer Lerner, Chloe Farley, Andrew Cull, James Cull and Courtney Gove.

The club coaches swimmers from 8 years old who are confident in the main Leisure Centre pool. Anyone interested in joining the club can come down on Monday evenings from 6pm for a trial session.

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2 BEDROOM house to rent in Shildon, £90 per week. Bond and references required. Tel 307445

2 BEDROOM house to rent in Newton Aycliffe, £97.50 per week. Bond and references required. Tel 307445

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

2 BEDROOM house, Shildon, good area, bond and references required. Tel 07962 335405

SELLING Your House? I Want to Buy in Newton Aycliffe. Guaranteed Offer in 24 Hours. Please call Mark 01748 900 490

TO RENT 3 bedroom house, old part of town, £450 per month + Bond, no DSS. Tel 07970 873424

2 BEDROOM Semi, Shildon. DSS welcome. Tel 07939 268178

STILL RENTING? Rent and buy at once! Working family wanted to benefit from rent to own opportunity in good area of Newton Aycliffe. 3 bed needs some TLC. No mortgage needed. Please call Mark on 01748 900491

WANTED 3 or 4 bedroom house rent in Newton Aycliffe. Tel 97858 912845

3 BEDROOM terrace house with garage in Honister Place area. available now, £110 per week. Bond £300. Tel 07816 499567

HOUSE SHARE new 3 bedroom detached in Shildon. Ring for details 07731 985 837 or 01388 779372

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NEWTON PRESS
St Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Ind. Park
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Sorry, but we CANNOT accept telephone orders for classified ads

COUNCIL SEEKS GREENER ALTERNATIVES TO LANDFILL

Durham County Council is to launch a major initiative to find ‘greener’ alternatives to landfill waste disposal. The authority believes more modern and sustainable methods of waste disposal are essential if it is to avoid the escalating environmental and financial costs of burying waste in the ground. Coun Bob Young, Durham County Council’s Cabinet MemberfortheEnvironment and Waste Management, said that in addition to the environmental costs of landfilling waste, there was a significant and increasing financial burden. The Landfill Tax is increasing, and the fines for exceeding the landfill

allowance that each waste disposal authority is given - and which is declining year-on-year - are significant at £150 per tonne,” he added. “The Government is creating an incentive for us to invest in diverting waste from landfill - which would bothprotecttheenvironment and save money - and it is an opportunity we should seize with both hands. “It is therefore important that we look to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by increasing waste treatment and minimisation activities. “Ultimately, we aim to achieve the best possible outcomes in terms of environmental impact and value for money for the residents of County

Durham.” Coun Young said the Waste Solution Project, was driven solely by an overriding need to address the Council’s future waste management needs. “It is clear our future needs in this respect will be significantly beyond our current arrangements. We need to change the ways in which we manage the County’s waste. Waste prevention is the most desirable option and waste disposal without treatment is the least desirable. Our project will be looking at the problem from both those extremes and everything in between. It is important for the Council, the people and the environment of County Durham that we get it right.”

MEP’s COMBAT CHILD INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY

MEPs are calling for the criminalisation of all types of sexual abuse of children including “grooming” and paedophile chat rooms on the internet. MEPs voted this week on a report calling for the criminalisation of internet providers of paedophile chat rooms and forums and to require national authorities to block access to or delete the domain names of the websites concerned. The report also calls for credit card companies to cooperate to block the internet-based payment systems for websites involved in child pornography. Stephen Hughes, Labour MEP, said: “We need an increased level of protection of children

throughout Europe in view of the development of new technology, in particular the internet.” The report also calls for EU citizens who commit a sex crime outside the EU to be subject to standard extraterritorial legislation. Applicants for certain posts working with children should also undergo a criminal records check and those whose work involves regularcontactwithchildren should have an obligation to report situations where abuse is suspected. Stephen Hughes MEP said: “All Member States need the same definition of the sexual abuse of children to ensure that there are no loopholes for those exploiting children anywhere within the EU.”

For Sale

BEDS BEDS BEDS at Bargain Buys, Divan Beds from £59, Pine Frames from £59, metal frames from £49. Special offer 4’6” leather sleigh bed, £269 including mattress Tel 321678. **HEAVY DUTY** Mobility scooter, 4 wheels, VG condition, well maintained, blue TGA Frontier, £250 for quick sale. Tel 311630 **BEARDED DRAGON**, Viv, lights, £60 Tel 313992 **SILVER** double bed; Silver TV; Pine TV stand; Pine coffee table; Pine dining table; Pine wine rack. Tel 313992 **WHITE WOOD** fire surround with marble insert and hearth, £25. Tel 313098 **MODERN** dining table, £45 ono Tel 319595 **WM 90-VENTURE** wheelchair, complete with accessories, excellent condition, folds to fit any car, £150 ono. Tel 320083 after 6pm **2 & 3 SEATER** settees, Italian leather, jade green, excellent condition, buyer collects. £200 ono Tel 315737 **PIONEER** Gents cycle, £15, Tel 310963 **STEALTH** mountain bike, 18 gears hardly used, excellent condition, £75 ono. Tel 01325 317465 **MAXIM** keyboard only used twice, as new, £35 ono. Tel 01325 317465 **COAL EFFECT** electric fire, £10. Tel 07901 623847 **SUNBURST** acoustic guitar, excellent condition, accept £35. Tel 07901 623847 **NEED** An old domestic appliance removing? Can’t wait for the Council? Tel. 321678.

Situations Vacant

2 x Learning Disabilities Support Workers
(Over 21)

1 x 30 hours per week
1 x 16 hours per week
Contact Oswald House Care Home on
01325 300296 for further details

In Memoriam

MAUREEN LEE 21-2-2006. I remember the first time I saw you, and the day God made you mine. We remember the last time we saw you and will, till the end fo time. Murvyn and loving Sons, Stephen, Clifford and Brian
JOHN ARRAN HUGHES 21st January 1971 to 23rd February 1992. The years they pass so swiftly, but the memories of you stay so strong. There’s not a day goes by that you are not thought of, with so much love that it still hurts to think we will have to wait to hug and kiss you again. Forever in our hearts. Mam, Dad, Garry, Paul and Vicky xx
JOHN ARRAN HUGHES. To my Dad, I think of you a lot, I wish that I could have known you more. I will always hold you in my heart forever, Maxine xxxxx
BRIAN RILEY (22-2-04). Remembering you always Bri with love and affection. R.I.P., Ann xxx

Obituary

FINDLATER 16th February peacefully in hospital. Don, aged 78 years. Dearly loved Husband of the late Doreen. Much loved Dad of Ann and Stephen. A respected Father-in-Law to Paul, Grandad of Arran and Great Grandad of Kane. Funeral Wednesday 25th February. Would friends kindly meet for Service in St Clare’s Church at 1.45pm. Cremation private. Floral tributes if desired may be sent to Whitehouse Funeral Service, Cockerton House, 11 West Auckland Road, Darlington, DL3 9EJ. Tel: 01325 482999 **OLIVER** 12th February 2009. Peacefully in hospital after a short illness. James (Jimmy) aged 56 years of Newton Aycliffe, loving Husband of Ann, devoted Dad of Chloe and James, much loved Brother, Uncle and dear friend to many. Funeral Monday 23rd February. Would friends please meet at 10.30am for Service at St Mary’s RC Church, Newton Aycliffe followed by Cremation at Darlington Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations, if so desired to British Heart Foundation **MAUREEN MAWSON** Died peacefully in hospital with family in attendance on 14th February 2009. Funeral to be held at Darlington Crematorium on Tuesday 24th February at 2.15pm. All friends welcome. Family flowers only, donation plate for Cancer Research will be available at the Crematorium

Congratulations



Brian Burniston

40 TODAY
20th February 2009
Have a good one Bri! Don't spend too much at the dogs. Keep some for Sunday, drinks are on you. Love from all the family



Jack Gelder

Happy 8th Birthday
19th February 2009
Lots of love from Mum, Dad, Nanna and Emma xxxxxxxx



Anne Davison

Congratulations on your Graduation from the University of Leeds after obtaining the Post Graduate Diploma in British Sign Language/ English Interpreting. All my love, John xxx
Congratulations Anne on your Graduation from the University of Leeds, after successfully achieving your Post Graduate Diploma in British Sign Language/ English Interpreting. I am very proud of you. Good luck for the future. Lots of love, Mam xx
Congratualtions on achieving your Post Graduate Diploma in British Sign Language/ English Interpreting. So proud of you. Lots of love from your Sister, Jane xx **Well done** Aunty Anne. So proud of you. Love you, Harry xxxxx



Megan Harrison

To our beautiful Daughter on her 13th Birthday
Have a great day. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Curt, Brad, Charlie, both Nanas, Granda, Aunties, Uncles, Cousins and the rest of your family xxxxxxxx



Natalasha Ebony Slade

Well Done my angel for coming 3rd in your first ever Freestyle Dance Competition at Scarborough. You danced amazingly and I'm so proud of you, you mean the world to me. Lots of love, Mammy xxxxxxxx
Well Done little Sis. Lots of love, Liam and Jess xxx
Big Thanks to Caroline Race and Lee Green Dance School, Aunty Dawn, Uncle Paul, Jade and especially Georgia. Thanks also to Granny Jean and Grandad Hughie for all your continued love and support



Mackenzie Jackman

Happy 11th Birthday
24-2-1998
Hope you really enjoy your Limo trip to Hollywood Bowl. We love you lots, Mum, Dad and Madison xxx and all the animals x
Happy 11th birthday on 24th February. Lots of love from Grandad Cook, Rose, Grandad, Lesley, Great Grandad Jackman, Auntie Mireille, Uncle Simon, Bryn, Aron, Auntie Bev, Dougie, Paul, Katy, James, Uncle Donny, Sara and the Chloes and all your family and friends xx



Layton James Collier

Happy 1st Birthday
20th February 2009
Happy 1st birthday sweetheart. Lots of love, hugs and kisses from Mammy and Daddy xx



Holly Emmett

Congratulations on being accepted in the R.A.F. Good luck for basics at R.A.F. Halton. Love, Mum, Dad, Katie and Slinky xxx



Kay

Happy 14th Birthday
19th February 2009
Wow, you have grown up so fast, love you to bits, have a fab day with your friends. From Nan and Grandad xxxx

Births

STRADLING congratulations Dave and Clare on the birth of Jorja May, born 10th February 2009. Sister for Samuel. Lots of love, Mum and Jenny

Property Sale

PRIVATE SALE 2 bedroom spacious flat, one with walk in wardrobe, fitted kitchen, new bathroom, showers, no garden. Ideal for first time buyer, offers in the region of £75,000. Please ring for details 07824 444953

Thank You

I WOULD like to say a big thank you to family and friends for the lovely cards and gifts received on my 40th birthday. Also thank you to Maureen for her help with the food. Thanks, Debbie Kinsella
Mrs NORAH BERNARD would like to thank all kind friends, neighbours and family for cards and kindness shown during her stay in hospital

GREAT AYCLIFFE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISING EVENING

The new Residents Association works to represent everyone in the town and the aims and objects of the organisation are as follows:
To seek to improve conditions for the residents of the area.
To represent and to promote the interests of all residents living in the area.
To work for improvements to our town and the local environment.
To work in partnership with other agencies to achieve our aims.
The Association will promote charitable aims and

activities to further the above objectives; and will foster a community spirit to advance the provision of facilities and amenities for the benefit of individuals, groups and the town's residents and its visitors.
The Committee have already made a start on solving many problems besetting the town and will make regular reports through Newton News. Residents can make contact with the Committee through Newton News.
The Association has its own website: <http://www.greatayclifferesidents.org.uk>. We need residents to register as members which is FREE. Please complete the form below.

As a way of raising extra cash for the Burnhill Way Baby and Toddler Group, we will be holding a fundraising evening on Friday, 27th February, 2009.
A representative of The Body Shop at Home is available on the evening to give help and advice, as well as practical demonstrations including facials, hand massages, and make-overs. You can order products, with free delivery, (Payment on the night, cash or credit/debit card only accepted.) One lucky person will also have the chance to win free products of their choice, as well as a range of raffle prizes.
We would like to invite anybody to come along and see what is on offer, as well as help raise funds for the toddler group. (This is not just for the ladies – we also have a great range of men's products available!)
We will be at the Burnhill Way Methodist Church (next to the Turbinia Pub) from 7 – 9pm, so please come along whenever you like and see what is available – including a great range of Mothers Day gifts. Free refreshments available.
For more information about this great evening, or to enquire about booking a party or fundraising event of your own, please contact Susan on 07917148773. We hope to see you all there.

FREE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

I wish to register my membership of the Great Aycliffe Residents' Association, constituted 8th January 2009. (Copies of the constitution are available) Membership of the Association may be terminated by voluntary withdrawal.

Name

Address

.....

Post Code Tel:

E-Mail:
Please note these details are held by the Secretary in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and accessed only by the Secretary for normal administration of the Association. Hand this in to Newton Press, St. Cuthberts Way or their agents Newsforce in the Town Centre or Walkers Simpashiregate.

We Don't Need to Transfer Anything

Dear Sir,
Last year myself and other Council tenants voted to transfer our houses to Sedgfield Borough Homes as this was the only way to get the money we needed to improve our homes to a reasonable standard.
Over the past year we have witnessed many changes; who would have thought we would see Woolworths close? The Government have now said that Councils can build houses and that they can keep all the money from rents to spend on further housing. This is a huge change which nobody expected to see.
Now I am concerned whether we need to transfer everything to this new company.
Should we not save the money that would be spent on setting up the company which will be coming from our rents, and use it to invest in our council houses?
Let's keep the money from the huge salaries that the top men will be giving themselves and also invest that in our houses.

We must protect the land that will transfer to the company as we are not sure what they will do with it in the future.
Perhaps our Councillors on the new Unitary Authority need to think of what they are doing in view of these changes. Concerned Tenant

AYCLIFFE HAS GOOD FOSTER CARE AGENCY

A Newton Aycliffe foster care agency – the first in the North East to undergo the tougher new Ofsted inspection regime – has emerged with an overall rating of “good” and is “outstanding” in how it helps children achieve well.
The Ofsted report says that while the agency, which is based in Hope House, Burnhope, is small in size, it operates to high professional standards.
The new-style inspections cover the five key elements of Every Child Matters, the government's framework for the well-being of children and young people, plus an assessment of the organisation itself.
Out of the 70 plus inspections carried out since April 2008 nationally, almost half have been judged “satisfactory” or “inadequate”. Only nine have been “outstanding” overall, according to Ofsted.
“We're really pleased with the inspector's comments and are working hard to become one of the first non national agencies to achieve overall ‘outstanding’ in the future,” said Reach Out Care manager Lynne Brown.
“In his summary the inspector said our educational support was very strong. It's unusual for an agency to employ a full time teacher but we do and he cited the fact that young people who had previously failed in the educational system have shown remarkable improvement and have achieved success in state exams.
The inspector also praised the high standards of decision making within our fostering panel and described our practice of inviting young people in our care onto interview panels for new staff as being very good. “We're recruiting new carers all of the time as part of our plans for growth.”
Visit www.reachoutcare.co.uk to view full report. Call Reach Out Care on 01325 310009 if you are interested in become a foster carer with allowances of between £313-£388 per week.

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Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £249.00
4'0" and 4'6" MATTRESSES		
A&S Candy	RRP £129.00	NOW £69.00
A&S Winchester	RRP £199.00	NOW £99.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £199.00	NOW £139.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £299.00	NOW £249.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £399.00	NOW £359.00
3'0" BED SET		
A&S Candy	RRP £69.00	NOW £59.00
A&S Winchester	RRP £99.00	NOW £84.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £159.00	NOW £139.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £279.00
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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OPENING TIMES
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Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon

We offer a full range of services including: Free Prescription Collection and Delivery Service from any Surgery in Newton Aycliffe, Pregnancy Testing, Care in the Chemist, Pharmacist always available for help and advice
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