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Week Ending 27th February, 2009

WILLIAMFIELD MEETINGS

Williamfield Residents Association will hold a meeting at the Western Area Community House, Silverdale Place (behind new nursing home) on Wednesday 4th March at 6pm.

Local Councillors and Police will be in attendance. The A.G.M of the Williamfield Residents Association is Wednesday 25th March 2009 at 6pm in the Western Area Community House. Everyone Welcome.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories.
We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

Tel: Syd 01325 300212
or Email: syd@gonp.co.uk

CIVIC BALL RAISED £2263



The annual Civic Ball was held at Hall Garth Hotel last Friday with guests from local authorities including the Borough Council Mayor, John Robinson and Vice Chairman of Durham County Council Brian Myers.

A cross section of our community attended and over £2,263 was raised for

the Mayor's chosen charities for his year of office. George Gray acknowledged the contribution Barclays Bank of Newton Aycliffe made to the total in match funding money raised on the night. Bob Fleming, Leader of the Council, paid tribute to George and Maud for their hard work and dedication as Mayor and Mayoress.

Past President of the town's Rotary Club, Geoff Knapton, responded on behalf of the guests to the Mayor's welcome and proposed the toast to the Mayor and Council wishing them success in all their future endeavours on behalf of Great Aycliffe.

TWINNING LINK WITH RHEINHAUSEN CONTINUES

Town Twinning links between Sedgfield Borough and Rheinhausen will continue when the authority ceases to exist on 1st April. The 17-year link will be maintained and strengthened through South Durham Twinning Association

To foster the relationship, when a Civic Delegation from Rheinhausen visits Sedgfield Borough on 18th - 23rd March, South Durham Twinning Association will host a function at St Luke's Church in Ferryhill on Saturday 21st March (6.30pm). The evening will begin with a church Service

by Rev Keith Lumsdon, conducted in both English and German. It will involve the Mayors of Sedgfield Borough and Rheinhausen, the Chairman of Durham County Council and pupils from Broom School in Ferryhill, followed by a social evening in St Luke's Church Hall.

The Twinning Association will maintain existing ties with Rheinhausen and find new links for groups and organisations with similar groups in Rheinhausen. Anyone interested in attending the function or becoming an Association member, should contact Liz North on (01388) 816166.

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The next stage of improvement is to introduce a 24 hour, 7 days a week taxi service commencing 1st March which the company hopes will be a great help to their customers. For more details ring 312512.

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CAMRA's Best Winter Pub



The Blacksmith Arms (The Hammers) at Preston-le-Skerne, Newton Aycliffe, has been chosen by CAMRA as the best Winter Pub.

The secluded Free House tucked away along the road from the Greta to Great Stainton usually has three "guest ales" on offer from independent breweries. These

fine ales are well complemented by an excellent restaurant service.

A Presentation to licencees Beverley Hayman and Brenda Whear was made recently by CAMRA. The ale on the day was provided by High house Farm, Consett Ale and Yorkshire Dales all lovingly tended by Barman Martin Whear.

GoodService Appreciated

Dear Sir,
Good luck to the new KRD Car Valeting service just opened at Leaside on the Business Park. They are three smashing lads and nothing is too much trouble. I got my car back shining bright as a star. I used to go to Bishop Auckland, but not any more! Thanks lads I will call again! While showing my appreciation for good service may I echo the remarks made about Herons. The girls are always happy and kind while helping their customers. Mrs A Hordon Morrison Close

COUNCILLORS PUTTING AYCLIFFE FIRST!

Dear Sir,
With regards to your Editorial suggesting the Independents get their act together. I find this offensive to say the least, as like many of my fellow Councillors, we are hard working and dedicated to our Town and the electorate. If as many of our opposition were of the same ilk our town would be a much better place. My motto is Aycliffe first and foremost, and people before politics. Several other Independents also follow this line. J. D Clare talks about democracy but this only

applies to the ruling Labour Party. We will see in May if what he states is true and all Independents will be looking forward to becoming Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees and have a real input into the Town Council. Then, when he states at Council meetings WE have decided he actually means WE as a whole Council not the Labour Party. Like many Independents we are here for our Town which I am very proud to live in, and even more proud to have been elected to represent our good people. We are looking forward to good positions on the Council, Thank you Councillor Clare, we will keep you to your word. Alan Warburton Independent Councillor. Ed: the reference to Independents getting their act together was in the spirit of uniting all Councillors to fight Aycliffe's corner. We understand they do not speak as one voice.

ROTARY CAN IN TESCO'S DOES ITS JOB

The Rotary Club Collection Can in Tesco's is doing its job helping needy families in the town and as the recession hits hard, more funds will be needed to bring relief to those in difficulty.

Recently a family was split, leaving two young children without parents. An Aunt stepped in and took the children into her own home, but she already had four children herself and had no spare bed or bedding.

The Rotary Club came to the rescue immediately and arranged for new bunk beds and all the bedding to be delivered the same day!

This is what the fund is for and the Rotary Club wish to thank Tescos and their customers for all contributions placed in the collecting can since it was installed before Christmas. Please continue to support Rotary's work in the community.



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*** PUBLIC AND TRADE WELCOME ***

Makeover for Sports Complex

The Oakleaf Sports Complex Bar and Catering facilities will be closed between Monday 2nd March 2009 and Friday 13th March 2009 inclusive, for a complete refurbishment of the bar and dining areas, the work to include new carpets, furniture, lights and an improvement to the overall design.

Derek Snowball, Leisure Manager, said 'We will be making the bar and eating area into a nice place for visitors. The main aim will be to achieve a facility with a bright, airy and modern look, providing a family-friendly environment with quality service and value for money.'

The facility will reopen on Saturday 14th March at 11am, with family entertainment and many special offers. Further details will follow.

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Mothers Day Lunch Sunday 22nd March 2009

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Tesco Security Heavy Handed says Customer

Dear Sir,
With regard to heavy handed security guards at Tesco may I relate my recent experience

Tesco Help Rotary with Community Health Project

Before Tesco arrived in the town the Rotary Club held an annual Stroke Awareness Day in Somerfields. A stall was set up and with the co-operation of medics people's blood pressure was taken, referring them to their doctor if the result showed they needed treatment. Many were referred and indeed lives have been saved by this intervention, so regular checks to prevent strokes are encouraged and Rotary Clubs through the U.K are undertaking this service to the community. Tesco have agreed the use of their store on Saturday 18th April when the town's Rotary Club can erect a stall for the purpose of taking blood pressure of any customer who wants to know if they are at a safe level. The Rotary Club wish to thank Tesco for their co-operation in helping to raise awareness of the danger of strokes in our community.

which has made me angry and upset.
I was shopping with my partner and two children and leaving after spending around £50 when I was stopped by a security guard accusing me of not paying for a 25p lollipop. My partner had gone ahead with the shopping to the car and had the receipt, but I was made to pay for it again!
We went back in with the receipt and the checkout lady confirmed we had paid.
My mother and I shop in Tesco's every day and between us spend nearly £500 a week. We are very well known so you can imagine the embarrassment we felt on being stopped by this guard. We will now shop elsewhere. I was sick of hearing people complain about Tescos, but I am one of them after this incident.
I can't understand why I was picked on but it might have been down to the fact I have tattoos and piercings.
Jenna Eastland
Ed: We passed this complaint to Tesco who say it has been dealt with in-store by the manager. This was followed with a meeting between the security manager and the customer and feel the incident has been dealt with satisfactorily. If the customer would like a further meeting to discuss any further points, Tesco are more than happy to arrange this.

National President of Rotary Visits Borough



John Robinson Borough Mayor and also President of the Rotary Club of Sedgefield is shown here with the National Rotary President, Ian Thompson, who is on an official visit to the North East. A Dinner with Rotarians from South Durham was held at Hardwick Hall to welcome the President. The Mayor presented a limited edition of a Borough map specially commissioned to mark the dissolution of the authority.

Valentine Wedding



Samantha Baldwin (formerly Downie) and Wayne Baldwin were married at Durham Registrar's Office on Valentines Day, February 14th 2009. The Best Man was Lee Miller and Page Boys were Jack Downie and John Draco. The Reception was held at the Navy Club and afterwards the couple left for their honeymoon in Paris.
The newly weds live in Whinlatter Place and would like to thank the Bride's Mum and Dad Susan and Ian, for their Reception at the Court Inn, Durham. "A big thanks to Rachel and John for all the help they gave me in arranging the special day, and to my two sons Jack for walking me down the aisle, Ronan as our ring bearer and my little nephew Ashton for being a page boy" said Samantha.
Photograph by Dracos Photo Studio

CANCELLED WITHOUT NOTICE

Dear Sir
On behalf of the Committee of the Agnew Community Centre we would apologise to all of who turned up to our Centre for a sale of Make Up only to find that the Company who booked the hall for a Sale on Tuesday 24th February from 5pm to 7pm failed to turn up. This was a huge disappointment not only to you that came along but to the Agnew Community Centre. At this time we do not want to rush to condemn the firm of Anything Goes' in case there was a legitimate reason for their non-appearance. To this end, as Secretary I will do my best to find out the reason and pass this on to those who attended by way of an announcement in this community newspaper next week.
Ron Mitchie

WARD P.A.C.T. MEETING

A P.A.C.T. Meeting (Police And Communities Together) for Greenfield Middridge Ward is to be held on Monday 2nd March at 7pm in the Evengelical Church, Ladybower off Meadowfield Way. This meeting welcomes you to come and meet your local beat team and discuss any problems with them. Local councillors will also be in attendance. Contact 0345 6060 365 PCSO Welch or 01325 308094 for details.

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WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2009 Hartlepool Exhibition and Public Meeting

Grand Hotel, Hartlepool
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This public exhibition and meeting will give residents an opportunity to hear about the process and to ask questions.

If you would like to attend the meeting, please register in advance by submitting your name and contact details* by email to mail@hartlepoolnewbuild.co.uk, by phone on 0800 980 3195 or on-line at www.british-energy.com

You can also find out more about new nuclear power stations and how to make your views heard at: www.nuclearpowersiting.decc.gov.uk

* By registering your details, you will ensure that you are kept updated about the Hartlepool New Build Programme. Your personal data will not be used for any other purpose (and will not be sold onto any third party). If you do not want your details held by us, please just let us know.

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LOCAL TESCO HAS NO CONTROL OVER PRICES

Dear Sir,
In these difficult times it is a pity that the world's bankers didn't heed the apt saying: "look after the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves".
It is not just bankers who are still squeezing their customers for every last penny, it is also Tesco's who have little competition in Newton Aycliffe and are taking advantage of this.

Two examples: First the price of Petrol - why is it that in a week oil prices are at an all time low that Tesco have increased their fuel prices twice in 10 days? Secondly the price of Sardines - One day they are 34p a tin and the next day the price jumps to 48p per tin. They had not previously been on special offer.
If house values or interest on savings had gone up by the same percentage we would all

be very happy. I have written to Tesco, but I am still awaiting a reply.
Disgruntled
Editor: Tesco replied to say that it is very difficult in a fluctuating market to maintain some prices, but generally speaking they try very hard to give best value over the 30,000 products sold in the store. The local store has no control over prices and everything sold is governed by their Head Office.

£100 SPONSORSHIP FOR STEEL BAND



Greenfield Community and Arts Centre would like to say a big thank you to Mr and Mrs Barnett of A2Z Consultancy Services in Newton Aycliffe for their kind donation of £100 for the Steel Pan Project. The steel

pan project has been running at Greenfield since 2005. Greenfield Community and Arts Centre have fundraised over £7000 to buy their own pans and have worked with SBC and Ucre8, receiving £25,000 from Youth Music for the project to continue. Over 500 children in Newton Aycliffe have played the steel pans and over 2500 audience members have seen the performances.

We are currently awaiting to hear from the County Durham Foundation as to whether a bid for £5000 has been successful.

The steel pans are an amazing way for young people to learn music, make new friends, have fun and do something positive in their community. The sessions are free for young people and the regular sessions take place on Monday nights. There are often steel pan workshops in the holidays too.

For more information contact the Katy on 307147 k.milne100@durhamlearning.net

Raising Funds for the Blind

Dear Editor,
Every day another 100 people will start to lose their sight. Your support helps us rebuild a life devastated by sight loss.

As RNIB Community Fundraiser I am currently looking for volunteers throughout the area who may be able to spare 4 hours a week, month or even a year to the charity. I am eager to look for people who may be willing to collect money from our 'Sooty' boxes or participate in Store collections.

In every community there are children or adults who have been affected by some degree of blindness. The RNIB is well known as a national charity, we provide services, education and retraining to anyone who needs our help. I would be really keen to engage anyone who would be willing to assist the charity and help in even the smallest way.

Regards,
Linda Brown Tel: 01388 528297
North of England
Royal National Institute of Blind People

"WHAT A GREAT TESCO"

Dear Sir,
What would we do without Tesco's? The staff are friendly and helpful, even the lads who collect the trolleys are pleasant.
The Security Guards always smile and the store is a pleasure to walk around. The prices are right, so the odd few who don't like Tesco, don't know when they are well off as we had nowhere to shop for food before they came.
Happy Shopper

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Sat 28th Feb - "FACELIFT"

Too rock page review: "Facelift at the Turbinia, great band, great mix of music, calassios to get them singing and dancing and a few unusual tracks they did in their own impressive style. Tracks covered from T-Rex, Thin Lizzy, Bad Company, Fratellis, Black Sabbath, Judas Priest, Free, Green Day, Motorhead and Deep Purple"

Sat 7th March - "SABBATICA"

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

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.

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“FAME” MUSICAL COMES TO WOODHAM



A 1980s New York Performing Arts School is the set for Woodham Youth Theatre’s production, to take place next week. A 50-strong cast are ready put on their legwarmers, sweatbands and dancing shoes for the knock-out show of ‘Fame’, which includes songs such as Dancing on the Sidewalk, There She Goes and Hard Work. The energetic cast have been rehearsing since September and the aspirations of the characters in the show are reflected in the real lives of the Newton Aycliffe students who are in the production. Owen Crake (year 10) who plays Schlomo Metzenbaum says “I Joined Woodham Youth Theatre because it has given me confidence for acting and has meant I’ve made loads of new friends. It has influenced me to study Drama, Music and Media at college and maybe go to auditions once I leave school. Woodham Youth Theatre has given me a new interest in this area which I probably wouldn’t have had otherwise.” Elle Ainslie (year 11) who plays Lambchops says “Woodham Youth Theatre has changed who I am. Thanks to the cast and directors I now have the confidence to do things I would never have dreamed of 4 years ago. The buzz I get from being on stage is a feeling I’ll never be able to forget!” Miss L. Tindall – director/choreographer hopes that



everyone endeavours to see this show. “There is some bright, young talent on the stage and this performance is their dream come true.” The production of ‘Fame’ is being performed at Woodham Community Technology College on 4, 5, 6 March at 7pm. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for concessions. Contact the school on 01325 300328 to purchase your tickets

FUN FAIR

This Saturday sees the last day of the visiting Family Fun Fair to Woodham. The travelling Theme Park arrived here this week from Leeds and stays 3 days finishing on Saturday night. We regret Newton News received short advance publicity for this event.

Home-Made is Best!

The home made pies and cakes available at the Filling Station, next to Newton Press on the Business Park, are proving a big hit with customers, old and new. Since starting to cook popular corned beef pie, pasties, quiche, cakes etc. on the premises, sales have increased. There is also a steady trade with Full English Breakfasts all made while you wait for only £2.75p. You can get a tasty bacon or sausage bun and of course beef and chicken burgers with all the trimmings. Call in soon and see what tempts you on the extensive menu. Ask for Chris’s Chilli, Pizza or a Hot Beef Roll all freshly made to order. To save time phone your order in on 311737

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*Terms and conditions apply. New members only. You must join on an annual cash or direct debit membership. Offer ends 22nd March 2009.

Junior Sports Coaching Courses at Oak Leaf Complex

Great Aycliffe Town Mayor, George Gray, presented a farewell gift to Lionel Ames at his last coaching session, after 5 years as a very popular Junior Sports Skills Archery Coach. Lionel is also soon to retire after 19 years as a valued employee of Great Aycliffe Town Council at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. Lionel will be greatly missed by his friends, colleagues, and all the children he has coached. We wish him the very best of good health and happiness in the years to come. Other photos show children who attended the Archery, Bowls, Cricket, Football and Squash Coaching Courses held during the February half term holiday.



Heighington Village AGM

Heighington Village Hall Association hold their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 10th March in the Village Hall. Drinks and refreshments will be served at 7.00pm prior to the meeting which will start at 7.30pm. Chairman, Jackie Mutton and the Committee Members would like to welcome villagers along to hear about what has been happening in the hall during the past twelve months and of the activities of its regular users. New Committee members would also be most welcome!!



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FROM SNOW TO MUD

16 Aycliffe Runners turned up for Absent Friends trail race at Cowpen Bewley to tackle a proverbial mud bath. A rapid thaw after the snow had turned the paths into a quagmire so runners turning up in their trainers wished they had brought spikes or fell shoes. Although the distance was only 4.7 miles it was a real challenge for the 172 finishers just to stay upright.

The first club runner back was James Askew finishing in 3rd place overall. The club earned 3rd mixed team prize with Peter Milburn finishing 12th, George Reid in 15th and 1st over 50 vet, Martin Randall 17th and Richard Campbell 21st. Julia Atkinson-Tait was 5th lady back and the 2nd over 35 vet. Janet Raper was 1st over 45 vet lady and Susan Milburn 2nd over 45 vet lady. The other team members were Chris Forster, John Young, Janet McRae, Penny Johnson, Trish Kay, Tracy McKenna, Sylvia Black, and Christine Morgan. All Newton Aycliffe members competing in the 6th Cross Country Meet this season at Stockton improved their positions. William Crossen had a good race in the under 15 boys to come home in 12th position. In the under 17 boys race Daniel Inglis finished well in 7th place, his best position this season. In the men's and under 20's race James Askew had a fine race to come 5th overall. George Reid was 2nd overall in the men's vet 50 category and Richard Campbell made a strong finish to complete the race in a time of 29:04. Martin Turnbull completed the course 69th place.



"PERFECT AMES" was engraved, along with an archer on tumblers presented to Archery Coach Lionel Ames on his retirement.



Amazing Arty Clarty Sessions

Greenfield Community and Arts Centre funded a programme of half term holiday activities this February that included a 2 day Steel Pan residency, a 2 day School of Rock, 2 days of open art workshops and 3 smart play sessions for under 5's. The sessions were well attended and were a great deal of fun! Keep your eyes peeled for more exciting activities at Easter.

JOB ADVICE & INFORMATION EVENT

Over 40 people looking for work attended an advice and information day on Saturday 14 February, hosted and organised by Jobcentre Plus. The Nextstep Advice and Guidance service, Bishop Auckland college, TUC and Business Enterprise North East attended the event to discuss how to get back to work quickly with expert advice on benefits, refreshing and updating skills and applying for jobs on the day. Jobcentre Plus advisers were kept busy with a stream of enquiries about benefits available to people when working, as well as giving advice to people either facing redundancy, or newly unemployed, to help them move into other employment. One man said that he was so pleased he'd attended, and had visited all of the organisations on the day. He was given information on accessing a course in Sage accounting. He also identified three vacancies from the selection provided by Jobcentre Plus, and applied there and then, by ringing Jobseeker Direct. Also at the event were tutors from the Community Learning

Centre. Linda Skinner, the Centre Coordinator said 'We found the event very worthwhile, and had a lot of enquiries, resulting in 8 people enrolling on courses. We would definitely attend similar events,

as there was so much help available to people who had recently lost their jobs.' Three former members of staff from Woolworths attended, and all three said they had found the event extremely useful.



Linda Hind, Redundancy Support Manager for Jobcentre Plus, discussing recruitment with jobseekers.

Local MP Phil Wilson spent time talking to the ladies, and encouraged them to make use of the services available from Jobcentre Plus. Joan White said 'This has been such a good event. We've all discovered that there are vacancies available, and the possibility of retraining, through the Jobcentre'. Linda Hind redundancy support manager from Jobcentre Plus, said: "Due to popular demand, this is the third event that we have held in the Sedgfield area. It has been a tremendous success, and we are delighted that local jobseekers were able to make such great use of our services." Anyone who could not attend the event should visit the Jobcentre Plus website (www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk) to search for vacancies online or contact Jobcentre Plus on 0845 60 60 234 for further details about the vacancies. Lines are open Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm and on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm. The textphone for people with hearing or speech impairment is 0845 6055 255. All calls are charged at local rate although charges for calls from mobile telephones may vary.

BIKE MARKING AT "YOUTHY"



Over the last month, neighbourhood wardens and PCSOs have been distributing bike lights, locks and security marking bikes across Sedgfield Borough. The

initiative began at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre with officers fitting lights, locks and Selecta and marked 69 bikes.

This theme continued borough-wide with 350 residents benefiting from the scheme to protect their property. For those unable to benefit from the scheme, some useful tips are:

- 1. Don't leave your bike unattended and unlocked
- 2. Secure your bike to a fixed immovable object such as railings or to a bike rack that is cemented or anchored into the ground.
- 3. Your lock should go through front and rear wheels and main frame
- 4. Store your bike in a locked shed, garage or in

the house. 5. Never leave it in view and easy reach without securing it first 6. Security marking bikes deters thieves and increase the possibility of it being returned if stolen.

Despite the scheme's success, there will be additional work carried out due to the limited numbers of residents who took the opportunity to benefit from PEDAL SAFE. The local neighbourhood wardens and PCSO will visit youth centres and two local primary schools to distribute equipment. Photo (left to right): Park Warden Les Turner, Ryan Walton, Richard Brown (Neighbourhood Warden), PCSO Hutchinson and Colin Bell of Cycle Ways

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Senior Citizens Forum meets on Monday 9th March at 1.30pm. Paula Woods from Butterwick Hospice is the guest speaker. Admission £1 to include Tea and Biscuits. Open to everyone. Line Dancing resumes on Thursday 5th March at 6.20pm. Beginners welcome. New Mother and Toddlers group starts Wednesday 4th March 10am till 12 noon. £1 per family. To book ring 313924. Kurling for Beginners every Tuesday 2pm till 4pm or Thursday 1 - 3 pm. Any age can enjoy this activity. £2 a session. Family Kurling any Saturday from 2 till 4 pm. Teams of three or four. Please book on 313924. Childrens Birthday Parties special offer - ring for details. Book our hall for any new idea you may have. Ring Peter Beaty on 313924

Bus Service Worsens

Dear Sir, I have received complaints on the deteriorating bus service provided by Arriva in respect of the condition of the vehicles and the attitude of their crew. Over the last four years most of the buses serving Newton Aycliffe were replaced with new easy access vehicles, but in recent times they have gone back to mainly using 15 -20 year old buses. These are not easy access and people with prams, or suffering disability are having to let several buses pass, waiting for an easy access bus to arrive. As the buses are old and difficult to board the route is slower to complete and the drivers become stressed resulting in an attitude which at times tends to be surly and rude. These buses are also dirty with badly fitted windows and heavy exhaust fumes entering the rear of the bus. I feel Newton Aycliffe is being let down again and if you have been affected please contact the Commercial Manager, Mark Ellis, Arriva North East, Admiral Way, Doxford Business Park, Sunderland SR3 3XP. Tel: 0191 520 4200. I have contacted Durham County Council, but if readers have further comments please help your Town Councillors to get improvements. Councillor Bill Curtis

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Disney on Ice

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Sunderland Empire - 20th November - £42.00

UB40

Newcastle Arena - 24th November - £45.00

Sound of Music

Sunderland Empire - 4th December - £42.00

Concert Hotline 01325 312705

LABOUR GROUP PULL IN THE VOTES TO TRANSFER LAND

Dear Sir,
I have received e-mails and been stopped in the street by concerned members of the public on the issue of transfer of open spaces. They all know where my loyalties lie as from day one I have been against this, even before it was made public.
I am informed that Labour may well have a three line whip for the vote on Friday.
I am also led to believe a meeting will be held at County Hall on Friday to enforce the three line whip. Which comes first the Party or the People? Do the Labour Party realise this is a Democracy and not a Dictatorship.
My own personal opinion is if a three line whip is called it is a conflict of interest and the members should not be allowed to vote. It is prejudicial and they have not come to an informed decision. It is indeed a sorry state of affairs and I hope the good people of Aycliffe remember this. Aycliffe has took a stance and stood up to be counted. We are a proud town and believe in justice and we care about future generations.
We must not be afraid to stand up to bullies.
Alan Warburton, Independent

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AYCLIFFE LEAGUE VICTORY

Newton Aycliffe 15 Sunderland 3rds 0
Our Rugby Club hosted Sunderland 3rd XV in a re-arranged Durham Junior League match at Moore Lane. The game, played in fine weather, began with Aycliffe in the ascendancy. The home backs made a number of half breaks but the final pass did not go to hand. The first try was scored when good support work from Warren Parsonage saw him wrong foot the defence with a neat side-step before touching down. Luke Tinkler was then unsuccessful with a penalty kick. Further points came Aycliffe's way when the Sunderland full-back inexplicably failed to make a mark after catching a kick; Gareth Parsonage tackled him and the ball fell loose to man of the match, Matt Adkins who touched down for his first score for Aycliffe. The score at half-time was 10 – 0.
In the second period, Sunderland began to attack more but Aycliffe's traditionally strong tackling saw the goal line protected. The game was made safe when Cymon Lee touched down. The final score was 15 – 0 to Aycliffe. Better finishing would have resulted in an easier victory.
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.


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WHY CAN'T PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDERS HAVE VOTE ON LAND TRANSFER?

The following letter was sent to Counc Warburton who requested views from readers on the proposed transfer of houses and land.
Dear Mr Warburton
From what I have read and what has been disclosed (not much) I feel there are no safeguards for the open spaces in the areas of Aycliffe and certainly not in Woodham where I am a resident. We are told that as we are private homeowners that

the open spaces are Council property and therefore only Council tenants had the right to state their views. I live on a private housing development but the open spaces were handed to the Council for upkeep on completion why is this so? Obviously I pay Council tax and part of that tax pays for the upkeep. If I get no say over the future of something I pay for, what would the Council reaction be if I decided I won't pay my

CARS DAMAGED BY SPEED HUMPS

Dear Sir,
I live on Shafto Way and this morning after starting my car, I attempted to move off the drive. Imagine my surprise when I was met with a crunching noise and had difficulty steering. To begin with I thought the problem was some litter that had been dropped and found it's way under my car. I was wrong. Infact the front left hand side of my car had dropped. I was informed by the man who came to collect my car that it was a broken spring in my suspension, caused by speed bumps. This is not the first speed bump related problem I have had with my car. A couple of months after moving to the street I had a persistent problem with my grill falling off, again caused by speed bumps. I am not a reckless driver. I take the speed bumps slowly

and carefully, and my car is not old, yet I still seem to have problems and have to go to great expense. The top of the street (approaching Tesco) is at times, dangerous, negotiating parked cars, oncoming buses and impatient drivers. The thing that really bothers me is that the bumps do not cause problems for speeding drivers, who still take them at unimaginable speeds. I understand that there are plans to change the speed bumps to be like the ones in Bury Road. I can't understand how this will make anything better, other than deterring speeding drivers. It will make parking and negotiating more awkward and I dread to think what will happen to those cars who have to use them, day in, day out. I wonder if by trying to solve one problem, the planners are going to cause many more? Resident
Name & address supplied

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Council tax as I have no say? I am sure I would be in court at the drop of a hat. This smacks of a backroom deal if the statements made by Councillor Blenkinsop are to be believed and the choice made by the Council was option 5, the WORST of the options open to them. We

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know that the new heads of Sedgefield Housing are to be the current Council members and this smacks of jobs for the boys. I think a judicial review is the way forward so that everything is transparent and let the people NOT the party benefit.
Wilf Emmerson
Lowther Drive
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EOS Limited, an innovative manufacturer of light gauge steel buildings, on Aycliffe Business Park, has landed a clutch of deals thanks to the biggest educational investment scheme ever in England. Under the Government's Building Schools for the Future programme, EOS is working for Balfour Beatty on three schools in Islington - Samuel Rhodes, Holloway, and Highbury School for Girls Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is the biggest-ever school buildings investment programme, which is aiming to rebuild or renew nearly every secondary school in England. The Government plan is to revamp or rebuild 250

schools a year to meet its target of refurbishing all 3,500 secondaries in England by 2020 at a cost of more than £55bn. Steve Thompson, EOS director, said: "We are confident these contracts will be the beginning of a substantial new line of business for EOS with the award of several more BSF projects already in the pipeline. "We have been allocated the work due to the quality of our modular steel frames, which provide better quality control and help speed up the building process. "EOS is pleased to be playing its part in helping create a modern educational environment, fit for the 21st century, which will allow young people to fulfill their potential and staff to work more even more efficiently." EOS is working with its installer partner, Central Essex Drywall, on these schemes.

IT CAN'T BE RIGHT!

Dear Sir,
Today, Friday the 27th of February, Sedgfield Borough Council are voting to hand their housing stock, 8000+ houses, along with, open spaces, play areas and grass verges to a new company, Sedgfield Borough Homes. This company has nothing to do with the council but is made up of ex council officers and appointed councillors. The tenants of Sedgfield Borough Council voted last year for the transfer after a referendum when 10,500 ballot papers were sent out. Sadly only 2,102 (20%) were returned allowing the council to declare that 74.5% (1,566) of the tenants who returned their forms were in favour of transferring the housing stock. Sedgfield Borough Homes has no assets of its own, and

when the Sunderland Housing Group wanted the houses, back in 2003, they were prepared to offer £27 million to buy just the housing stock, but this new deal will include vast amounts of land. If land is included the decision on transfer brings all Council Taxpayer's into the equation, not just tenants, and since there are around 44,000 Council Taxpayer's in the Borough the Council appear to be asset stripping to finance this new housing association at the expense of taxpayers. When the numbers who should be entitled to vote are put against those who were given a vote the 74.5% for the transfer comes down to about 4.9%. If the vote goes through today less than 5% of the Borough are giving away all our assets for nothing! Peter Dolan

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NEW AUTHORITY AGREE TO STANDARDISE HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION

Initial moves to standardise household waste collection services throughout County Durham after the introduction of a single unitary council in April have been agreed.

And while to begin with, the changes won't be significant, a continuing review could involve further changes at a later date, including the colour and size of bins, recycling services and collection frequencies.

Members of Durham County Council's Cabinet heard the changes were necessary as part of the authority's pledge to introduce common standards of service provision across the county as part of the move to unitary status.

At present, each of the seven district and borough councils apply different standards and policies relating to domestic waste

and recycling.

But Terry Collins, the Council's Director of Neighbourhood Services, said there was a need to introduce a single and consistent set of arrangements as soon as possible relating to assisted collections for people who cannot pull their own wheelie bins out for collection; additional bags of rubbish left out for collection; 'crocodile bins', where bins are over-full and the lids left partially open; charges for the collection of bulky household items; additional bins for larger households; the time of day that bins should be left out for collection and the replacement of damaged or stolen bins.

Proposed 'harmonised' policies agreed by Cabinet and due to be introduced

from April 1 include :

Assisted pull-out : to be considered on the basis of need rather than age as at present

Side waste : No additional bags of waste will be collected (except at Christmas) to encourage re-cycling

Timings for putting bins out for collection : Residents should put their bins out between 6pm the night before and 7am on collection day and take them in again on the evening of collection day.

Extra bins : an additional wheelie bin will be provided free of charge, on request, to households of six or more. Otherwise, a charge of £20 will be made for the extra bin and a £30 a year charge to cover extra collection costs.

Bin replacement : Bins to be replaced or repaired free of charge unless damage or loss is due to householder's negligence.

Coun Bob Young, Cabinet

Member for Waste Management and the Environment, said while no further changes were likely during the coming year, the wider review of the household waste collection service would continue and could result in more changes at a later date following consultation with householders and other stakeholders including the Environment Agency.

"The aim is to achieve a simplified set of sensible policies aimed at promoting recycling, supporting vulnerable residents and maintaining clean and tidy neighbourhoods," he added.

Leaflets explaining the standardised household waste collection service will be delivered to households prior to April 1

GAS REGISTRATION CHANGE CORGI LOSE CONTROL!

Dear Sir
With the current registration laws set to change and the inherent lack of advertising by the new governing body resulting in a massive lack of awareness not only for the general public but within the industry, I feel compelled to make at least our community as aware as possible.

The heading of this article is a little misleading but it's the only way I could grab everyone's attention. Corgi is not ceasing to trade as a company BUT they will soon have no control nor will they govern the gas industry.

From the 1st of April 2009 Capita are taking over the challenge of gas legislation and safety awareness. The new gas register is going to be called GAS SAFE REGISTER and boasts a new yellow logo. There will be no need to ask your gas engineer if they are CORGI registered but ask them instead if they are a member of the gas safe register.

All engineers are legally required to be a member of the new scheme and should stop promoting Corgi as their main governing organisation. This public awareness message is not bought to you by Corgi or the Gas Safe Register but by a local heating company, **dwt gas services ltd** who feel the lack of public awareness seriously needs addressing.

For more information on the changes please see www.gassaferegister.co.uk or call them on 0800 4085577 alternatively you can contact myself on 01325 317314 or visit our office on Aycliffe Business Park.

DWT

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PRAYER DAY

Neville Parade Methodist Church is hosting a Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 6th March at 11am.

Mrs Gwen Morrison will be the speaker at the Service. The Service has been prepared by Christian Women in Papua New Guinea and refreshments will follow the Service.

Obituary

DORIS POSKETT aged 92. 24th February 2009. Peacefully in hospital. Much loved Mam, Nana and Great Nana. Funeral to be held at Darlington Crematorium on Tuesday 3rd March at 1.15pm x

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Woodham Community Assoc.

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JESSICA GRAHAM Leaving on 25th February to Italy with the school on a skiing trip. Enjoy yourself, keep safe you are very special. Love you loads, Jess from Nannie Madge and Cousin Simon xxx
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10% Drivers Face £1,000 Fines for Defective Number Plates

One in ten motorists face fines of up to £1,000 for driving with registration plates that do not conform to DVLA regulations, according to Swinton, the UK's leading high street car insurance retailer.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) equipment failed to recognise 12% of vehicle registration plates in a five month period[1] due to defective number plates. This means that up to 12% of vehicles do not comply with DVLA regulations leaving drivers vulnerable to on-the-spot fines.

With the growing use of automated speed cameras and surveillance equipment, police are being extra vigilant towards number plates which do not conform to strict guidelines issued by the DVLA which specify the typeface, size, distance between the lettering and colouring of the characters on the plate.

An online survey of 1,764 Swinton motor insurance customers found that 68% of motorists did not know if their number plate conformed to DVLA regulations, and a worrying 21% believed that their plates might not conform to correct standards.

Steve Chelton, Insurer Development Manager, for Swinton said: "Many drivers are unaware of the strict guidelines imposed by the DVLA on registration plates. If you are in any doubt it is best to take your car to one of the 35,000 businesses registered with the 'The Register of Number Plate Suppliers' which was set up in 2003 to regulate number plates across the country and reduce criminal activity.

"If you are thinking about buying a new registration plate, make sure it is purchased from a reputable dealer and ensure that it conforms to the correct

guidelines which can be found at DVLA website."

"Although it can be quite costly to buy personalised number plates, such as Ronaldo's £150,000 purchase of registration CR7, it is relatively inexpensive to replace an existing plate, costing as little at £8."

One motorist, Heather Price from Manchester, said: "I got stopped by the police on my way to work. They told me that the letters on my private number plate were not spaced correctly and that I was breaking the law. Fortunately I got off with a warning but I had to get my plates replaced."

Thank You

Michael Kipling

I would like to thank all my family and friends who prayed and cared for me through my long stay in hospital. After many long months and many operations later I am now home and on the road to recovery. I could not have got through that ordeal without you all. Many thanks for the gifts and cards you all sent me.

Love, Michael xxx

PS: Many thanks to my Girlfriend (Slimer) Lisa, for standing by me all this time. Much appreciated!

JONES, Freda and John would like to thank the staff of Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre for all their help and co-operation over the rerun of the New Years Eve Dance, held last Friday in the Sycamore Suite. Everyone had a fantastic night and the dance raised £75 and will be forwarded to the Great North Air Ambulance.

BURNSIDE, John and Jane would like to thank all family and friends who helped celebrate our Wedding at Gretna Green and the Cumby Arms on Friday 20th February. Many thanks for all the beautiful cards, gifts, vouchers etc and especially the good wishes received, everyone's presence on the day truly made this both a day and evening to remember. Much appreciated. John and Jane

In Memoriam

Sylvia Blowes

5th March 1999

To us all, you were very special. What more is there to say. We only wish with all our hearts, you were here today. But looking back with tenderness along the path you trod. We bless the years we had with you and leave the rest to God. It's been a long 10 years without our rock. Never to be forgotten. Husband Vic, Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren xxxxxxxx

DERICK YOUNG 2-3-05. Another year has passed and we think of you every day. With love from Michael, June, Stephanie and Caroline xxx
CHARLY GIBSON 29/1/1966 to 2/3/1989. Twenty years have passed, but memories of you remain in our hearts always. Love, Dad, Mum and Louise

EDITH KELL 3-3-1006. It's been 3 lonely years since you went away. But the heartache of losing you never goes away. A dear Wife, Mam, Nana and Great Nana. Love and miss you every day. Love you, God bless xxx

JIM CLELLAND 2-3-1996. Always in our thoughts, miss you every day. Love, Marina, Debbie and Jayne

JIMMY SIMPSON 28th February. Gone are the days we used to share. But in my heart you are always there. In loving memory, Lillian and family xxx

JOE WHARTON Died 2nd March 1988. Too dearly loved to ever be forgotten. I miss you. Love from Jessie xxx. God bless Grandad. Mark, Vikki, David, Hayley and Peter xxx

JAMES MOONEY (Jimmy) 25-2-2005. Deep in my heart your memory is kept, to love and to cherish and never forget. Your loving Wife, Audrey xxx
JAMES MOONEY (Jimmy) 25-2-2005. In loving memory of a much loved Uncle. Never to be forgotten. Love, Paul, Viv, Emma, Paul, Steven, Tracey, Jade and Kyle xxxxx

DERICK YOUNG 2-3-2005. Deep in our hearts your memory is kept to love and to cherish and never forget. Loved always. David, Louise, Thomas, Joseph and Stan xxx

DERICK YOUNG 2-3-2005. A smile can hide my sadness, a tear be wiped away. But the heartache of losing you, will never go away. Love, Mary xxxxx

ANNE TAYLOR Happy 30th birthday. Lots of love and kisses from your Husband, David and Daughter Yasmin xxxx

ANNE TAYLOR Happy 30th. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Amy and Liam

LEXIE RODGERS Happy 1st birthday to a special little niece. Love and kisses from Uncle Kev, Kirsty and Sister Abbie xxxx

LEXIE RODGERS Happy 1st birthday to a special little Granddaughter. Lots of love and kisses, Nana and Grandad Burkitt and Henry xxxx

LEXIE RODGERS Happy 1st birthday. Lots of love, Mam, Dad and Abbie

CHARLOTTE KERR is sweet 16 on 27th February 2009. Hope you have a fab party! Lots of love, Stu, Vicki, Maisie and James xxx

CHARLOTTE KERR 27-2-09. Happy 16th birthday. Have a good party. All our love and best wishes, Nana and Granda xx

CHARLOTTE KERR 27-2-09. Hip Hip Hooray, it's your 16th birthday today! Enjoy your party. Love of love, Maxine and Luke xxx

CHARLOTTE KERR Happy 16th birthday. Enjoy your party. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Dani and Baby Bella xxxx

SIENNA-ROSE SIM 28th February 2009. Happy 1st birthday to our little Princess. Lots of love from Mummy and Daddy xxx

SIENNA-ROSE SIM 28th February 2009. Happy 1st birthday. Love you lots. Love from Grandma, Grandad, Auntie Zaeley, Uncle Sean, Elliot and Rubianna x

DAVID STEVENS Happy 65th birthday. Have a long and happy retirement and a great party. Love from Jill, Martin, Julie, Glyn, Andrea and Lee

DAVID STEVENS Happy birthday Grandad. Enjoy your party. Love, Krissy, Craig, Lauren and Evan
CLAIRE READING Happy birthday Babe. Looking forward to Liverpool. Love you loads, AnneMarie x
CLAIRE READING Happy birthday, enjoy your weekend. Love, Judith, Granda, Claire and family

AUNTY CLAIRE Happy birthday. Love from Chelsea, Dylan and Lauren x

JOANNE THOMPSON 27th February. Oh no! The big 30. Happy birthday to a very special Daughter. Have a great party. Love, Mam and Dad

Congratulations

Dolci Llorenna Cowens



WELL DONE

First time out in starters gaining 1st place in your Solo and 1st place in your Slow. You danced amazing Princess. Lots of love, Mammy and Paul

A big thank you to all teachers at Stepping Out. Thanks to BX for two beautiful BX costumes.

Well Done darling on winning your Solo and Slow. You danced absolutely brilliant and looked gorgeous. We love you all the world. Nana Vera and Granda Trevor

Grace Mary Henderson



Happy 1st Birthday Sweetie

Hope you have a lovely day on Sunday at your party. Love you lots, Mammy and Daddy xxxx

Jenna Louise Coates



Foundation Degree

Congratulations Jenna on your Graduation. Love from Mam, Nanna, Auntie Sue, Uncle Andy, Abi and Nat

Grace Mary Henderson



Happy 1st Birthday Gracie

Lots of love from your Big Brothers, Cole, David and Joe xxxxx

Amy Richardson



Happy 1st Birthday

28th February 2008. Happy birthday Princess. Love from Mammy and Daddy xxxxxxxxx

Emma Laheney



Happy 21st Birthday

27th February 2009
Love from Nanna, Grandad and Uncle John xxx
21 at last! Happy birthday Emma. Love, Auntie Lyn, Uncle Ian and Cousin Lauren xxxx
Happy 21st Emma. Lots of love, Mam, Allan, Sam, Becky, Rich, Chris and Nickie xxxx

Owen Kempself



Happy 10th Birthday Son

2nd March 2009
Hope you had a great day yesterday and enjoy your birthday treat out on Saturday. Lots of hugs and kisses, Mam and Stephen xxx
To my Big Brother Owen, happy birthday. Lots of love from Brandon xxx
Happy Birthday darling, have a great day out. Lots of love from Nanny and Grandad xxxx

John Dunn



Happy 60th Birthday

2nd March 2009
Good luck son!
From Judith, John, Helen and Luke xxxxx

Andrea Burke



Happy 30th Birthday

27th February 2009
Happy birthday little Sis! Lots of love from Marie, David, Craig, Mam and Dad xxx

Daniel Dixon



Happy 21st Birthday

3rd March 2009
Hope you enjoy your party Son. Lots of love, Mam and Dad xxx
Happy 21st birthday Daniel. Have a great party. Loads of love, Kelly, Andrew, Sophie, Oliver and Joseph xxxx

Sharon Wilkinson

(Nee Palmer)



Ho Ho, The Big 40!

Lots of love on your 40th birthday. Hope you enjoy your party. From Mam, Dad, Husband Alan, Daughters Amy and Stacey, Darren, Craig, Julie, Charley, Jean, Gary and Susan

Clairvoyance

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

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RED NOSE DAY
13 MARCH 2009

RICHARD HUTCHINSON

Happy 40th birthday on 1st March. Love from Jacqueline, Robert, Leanne and Colin
HENDERSON, Grace Mary. Happy 1st birthday sweetheart. Lots of love, Nana Aud xx

GRACE HENDERSON Happy 1st birthday to my darling Granddaughter. Lots of love and kisses from Nana and Granda

LUCY REID 27th February. Happy 2nd birthday Princess. Lots of love and kisses, Mammy and Daddy xxx

LUCY REID Happy birthday darling. Love always, Nanny Pops and Sam xxxxx

LUCY REID Happy birthday hope you enjoy your day. Love, Nanna and Grandad xxx

DAVE WHARTON Happy birthday, welcome to the "50 Club". Love, Gillian & Neil xx

DAVE WHARTON Happy 50th birthday. Have a great day. Lots of love, Mandy, Hayley, Peter and Ryan xxx

Holidays

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No Golden Handshake for “Laid Off” Councillors

Dear Sir,
Well done the government for refusing to compensate well paid councillors ‘laid off’ due to reorganisation.
375 Durham members could have cost an estimated 3½ to 5½ million pounds for what was once a voluntary public duty. What a shameful situation!
Of course, now it is refused, we read of councillors saying they would not take it, or, they would have donated our cash to charity.
Well done the government for rejecting greed, and shame on anyone who tried to claim it at our expense.

But, rubbing salt into wounds, Darlington Borough Council are proposing to close it’s last village public toilet, in Heighington.
They gave this reported reason. “If you look for a public convenience in Rome or Barcelona, you won’t find one. People use cafes and shops. “So. When in Heighington do as the Romans do?
Whatever next? Will we read of councillors voting to build homes on golf courses to bring a better class of person into a town?
Yours faithfully and truly astounded,
Don Fraser.

Recycling Lesson for School Club



During the school holidays the children at Woodham Burn Out of School Club started a topic on recycling and then walked to the YMCA charity shop in the town centre. We were shown around the back of the shop to see how they recycle clothes, toys, and furniture which are donated and sorted into categories. We learnt how the clothes that we think are no good because they have a small hole, actually go abroad to 3rd world countries to help people or are made into rags. We also found that any damaged books received are sent away and the paper recycled. We then had a look around the shop to help us with ideas for what we could put in our YMCA donation bags
On Wednesday 18th February Ruth Smith from Sedgfield Borough Council visited the club to talk about how we should all participate in

recycling, to help us and our planet in the future. Ruth gave us some valuable tips on REUSE,REDUCE,RECYCLE!.

Get Involved in Euro Elections

Dear Sir,
European Parliamentary elections are fast approaching. Some local groups and organisations will want to get involved and we welcome people engaging in democracy in this way.
Your readers should be aware that if they plan to campaign for or against a political party, policy or candidate, without themselves being a candidate or fielding a candidate, this makes them what is known as a ‘third party’.
There are some rules about what a ‘third party’ can do, particularly how much money can be spent on such work during the pre-election period, which began on 5 February and ends on polling day, 4 June 2009.
Those planning to spend more than £10,000 in England will need to register with the Electoral Commission. We’ve published guidance, including how much more can be spent once registered and where donations to help campaigning can be accepted from.
To find out more, please contact the Electoral Commission for advice or read our guidance for third parties on our website. www.electoralcommission.org.uk
Lisa Klein
Director of Party & Election Finance
The Electoral Commission
Great Peter Street
London
SW1P 2HW

Help Victims of Abuse

Could you be a volunteer and support someone living with Domestic Abuse?
Victims often feel isolated and find it hard to talk to family and friends about what is going on at home. Could you be that someone? We need volunteers for a range of duties: befriending, answering phone/office duties and supporting group work.
Full training and on going support is available. If you would like to chat to about becoming a volunteer you can ring Tracy Olley on 01325 320111 for further information.

After the visits we made thank you cards from recycled materials.
All the staff and children would like to thank both the YMCA and Ruth Smith for their time and helpful information.
The school are taking part in the YMCA’s drive to boost donations. All children were given a bag to fill and return, and thanks to all the parents/carers and children who have supported us so far.
The out of school club is open term time before and after school, 7.45am to 6pm during the school holidays and we provide a drop off and pick up service to and from other schools in Newton Aycliffe and Aycliffe Village. If you would like any further information please contact Kendra Green on 01325 300080.

HONEST JOHN HELPS DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

Tracy Olley the Manager of No 31 and SODA the domestic abuse support service based in Newton Aycliffe would like to take the opportunity to say a big thanks to Honest John and all the contributors’ to his stall for the very kind donation received. “This will go along way in helping victims in areas that we would not normally be able to assist in, thank you so much” says Tracy.
Domestic violence and abuse affects 1 in 4 women in their lifetime, regardless of age, social class, race, disability or lifestyle. and a woman dies every three days at the hands of her partner or ex-partner. Domestic abuse can go beyond actual physical violence. It can also involve emotional abuse, the destruction of a spouse’s or partner’s property, their isolation from friends, family or other potential sources of support, control over access to money, personal items, food, transportation the telephone, and stalking. It can also include violence inflicted

on, or witnessed by children. Victims and their children need support and assistance from statutory and voluntary agencies to overcome barriers and prevent repeat victimisation. This is vital in enabling victims and their children to seek safety from abusive relationships.
No 31 & SODA provides support to female and male victims: emotional support, information, counselling and help in seeking advice provided by other voluntary and statutory organisations.
Everyone has the right to live free from abuse and fear. If you are or have experienced domestic violence/abuse, you may feel humiliated, frightened, ashamed, alone and confused.
Please know that you are not to blame and you are not alone. If you or anyone you know is affected by this subject and you would like to talk to someone in confidence please contact: No 31 & SODA on 01325 317903

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