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Week Ending 27th March, 2009

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## WORK STARTS ON NEW AGNEW COMMUNITY CENTRE



On Tuesday 24th March the builder, John Freeman, moved on site to start the new Agnew Community Centre, next to the existing Hut.

While champagne was in short supply a cuppa was shared with the building crew who are the same men who built the luxury flats next door, Woodham Heights.

The symbolic handover from Sedgefield Borough Council which will be one of their last functions prior to winding up, was on Thursday 26th March by Councillors Agnes Armstrong [Leader of Council] & Councillor Vince Crosby [Deputy Lead].

The Community Centre was represented by Vice-Chairman Councillor Lileen Cuthbertson and Secretary Ron Mitchie. John Freeman attended and Newton News was there to record this historic occasion. If all goes to plan the new

Centre should be open for business in August and more ideas are wanted for activities to take place whether run by the committee or groups running their own club at the Agnew. Prices will suit most pockets so contact the Secretary on 07518 035320.

The Hut as it is lovingly known

is open for business as usual until such time as the new building is fully functional. There will be an Open Day in the Summer months with details carried in Newton News.

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For three year olds we offer **FREE FLEXIBLE ENTITLEMENT** without the restriction of attending for sessions only, phone and ask for details.

Our breakfast and after school club have dedicated staff to accompany children up to 11 years old in local taxis to school and pick them up after school, give them a snack and look after them until you pick them up. *We are confident that we can give your child the service you and your child deserve.*

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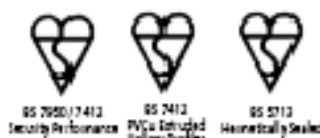
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Crime prevention officers from across Durham County were in attendance. They were extremely impressed by the demonstration and all agreed that this level of security should deter even the most determined intruder, allowing householders to sleep a little easier at night.



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## St. MARY'S IN BIG SING



St. Mary's Choir plus 25 other KS2 pupils will be taking part in this year's 'Big Sing Journeys On' at the Sage, Gateshead on July 1st 2009. To help with financing this exciting experience the Choir will be holding an Easter Concert on 31st March in school at 9.30am and 3.30pm. A CD of the choir performing will hopefully be available for parents, grandparents, etc. to purchase to also help raise funds. Two music technician students from St. Johns, Daniel

Armitage and Dale Harper- who are both ex St. Mary's pupils, are helping us with this venture. The concert will include some popular songs as well as folk songs from around the world. Tickets will be available from school from Monday 23rd March. We must also say a BIG thank you to Councillor Moran for presenting the choir with a cheque for £300. This will go a long way to helping towards the cost of taking part in The Big Sing, and towards developing music in school.

## Darlington's Under 9's Mascots

Heighington under 9's were mascots and guests of Darlington Football Club in their last home game against Macclesfield Town. The children were met at the club and given a tour of the ground and facilities. They were allowed in the changing rooms and received a real taste of what it is like to be a professional footballer. They were allowed to play on computers, wii, table tennis in a specially designed education room under the stand.

The most exciting part was lining up in the tunnel and walking out on the pitch and shaking hands with the Macclesfield players. Unfortunately Darlington lost 2-1. Heighington Boys Club would like to thank Darlington Football Club for their hospitality and wish them well for their future survival. The under 9's managed to take inspiration from Darlington players into their next game against a very good Leven



AFC team. It was end to end great football played by both teams, the game ending 0-0. Darlo's number one supporter, Jake Pattison, received the Man of The Match award for an outstanding goalkeeping performance. Heighington went on to win their second

game 2-1 and all the children should be very proud of the improvements they have shown in their first season. Joseph Johnstone put in a true captain's performance to earn Man of the Match.

## £1,000 WORTH OF PRODUCTS TO BE WON AT "WOW" LAUNCH

On Saturday 28th March from 2pm-4pm a Launch Party by WOW Mobile Nails by Design, and a charity raffle in aid of St Theresa's Hospice will be held at Woodham Golf Club.

Approx £1,000 worth of products and treatments are to be won from vanity cases, jewellery boxes, nail products, a full spa manicure treatment, a full spa pedicure treatment, and 6 months unlimited sessions to Rosemary Conley Diet and Exercise Classes.

WOW Mobile Nails by Design is run by Loraine Pickering from Woodham who is offering a unique service - a full wedding package which includes manicure, nail extensions, hen parties and bespoke nail art design including sinking Diamontes into gel on the nail to add sparkle, and preventing snagging on the wedding dress.

Loraine offers a FULL range of treatments, acrylic, gel, sculpture and fibreglass extensions. Coloured gel and acrylics, luxury manicures and pedicures, nail art, airbrush art, parties, and stocks a large range of nail accessories and vanity cases.

Loraine has just won Essential Nails Top Tech award for January and February 2009 and



is well known as a Rosemary Conley Diet Instructor. On the day there will be over

200 nail designs to view, as well as models wearing the full range of extensions, plus a dedicated wedding nail display with advice and answers to any questions. Anyone booking a service on the day will receive a FREE everlasting nail file worth £7.99 provided at the time of the booked treatment. You will also be entered into a draw to win a vanity case worth £45.

THERE WILL BE FREE WINE AND CANAPES FOR THE FIRST 100 GUESTS. For more details contact 07588 662621 or e-mail: lorainepickering@btinternet.com

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THEY DID THE BUSINESS IN HEIGHINGTON

Who said fundraising couldn't be fun? We certainly didn't and we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who attended the charity fund raising night in Heighington Village Hall on Saturday 21st February dancing to the great band "The Business"  
 A fantastic £780.00 was raised for Butterwick Hospice and Cancer Research. A great big thank you to Pauline Longstaff and friends who organised the night and to the generosity of everyone who attended. We hope you all enjoyed it. Look out for more.



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*\* Equivalent of £4.30 per round once a week for an adult 5 day season ticket*

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Basketball Team Wins Title



Newton Aycliffe's National League Basketball Team the Durham Wildcats have won the National League Division 3 title and have made it to the National Play-offs. They won the title on Sunday by beating in their last game of the season Manchester Magic II 82 -65 and watched by a capacity crowd of cheering fans. The game was an intense display of nerves but with Wildcats outshooting and out rebounding the

Manchester side and Paul Elderkin and Andrea Consolati sinking the baskets the Durham Wildcats clinched victory and the title. This gives them home advantage in the first round of the play-offs which will take place on Saturday 21st March at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre against the Welsh side of Glamorgan Gladiators, tip-off 7pm.

LAUNCH OF NEW TOWN PROJECT

Junior Neighbourhood Watch/ Newton Aycliffe Young People's Voices are holding a **FAMILY FUN DAY** on **SATURDAY 4th APRIL** at 11.00am at Silverdale Place. Launch of Kool Red Bus 2, "KOOL YOUNG JIM." Young peoples keep fit bus. "Be Active Be Fit Be Healthy" along with the Change 4 Life, Theme Face Painting, Bouncy Castle and lots more. Come and enjoy a Fun packed event to start the holidays.  
 The BBC WILL BE ATTENDING to Launch

this new project - Everyone Welcome. Councillor Dorothy Bowman and her volunteers welcomes you all. Ring 308094 for further details.  
 A Table Top Sale will also be held. Please bring your own tables Charge £5 per table. Set up 10.30am.

All funds raised to pay for day trips for young people. further details Dorothy Bowman 01325 308094.

Wary Over Land Transfer

Dear Sir,  
 I have to express surprise to the statement from Councl Gray that no complaints were received on the transfer of land in the West Ward. I submitted a large list of anomalies in the Agnew area to Mr. Allen at Sedgfield Borough Council via our Town Clerk, but I did not receive an acknowledgement.  
 My concerns were over car parking areas and housing boundaries. These enclose properties for which the freehold has been purchased and will effectively reduce them to leasehold without any accompanying compensation.  
 When the final plans are produced (not the draft plans circulated) I hope that these points are remembered.  
 Councl Bill Curtis

Extended Hours for Gardeners

The Hut at Clarence Chare Allotments will open on Wednesday from 5pm-6.30pm as from Wednesday 1st April for two months. This is in addition to the Sunday morning opening 10 - 12 noon.  
 Our usual selection of quality goods at reasonable prices will be available at both sessions.

Jumble Sale

An 'Old Fashioned Jumble Sale' is being held in Aycliffe Village Hall on Saturday 28th March, between 10am and 12.00 noon. Everyone is welcome and at a modest 20p entrance, it is an event not to be missed. Quality clothing; some brand new and Scout Buffs and Jamboree T shirts will also be on sale. It is an ideal opportunity to snap up a bargain. Tea and coffee together with light refreshments and breakfast buns will be on sale in the Hall for those more interested in a chat and reading newspapers.

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**IL Divo**  
 Newcastle Arena - 12th April - £70.00  
**Disney on Ice**  
 Newcastle Arena - 10th October - £29.50  
**Sound of Music**  
 Sunderland Empire - 20th November - £42.00  
**UB40**  
 Newcastle Arena - 24th November - £45.00  
**Sound of Music**  
 Sunderland Empire - 4th December - £42.00

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## Reunion for Union Carbide

After the success of the Union Carbide Electronics reunion in autumn last year, is anyone who worked at the plant interested in a get-together? If so please contact Sandra on 01740 652090 or sandracoper1@talktalk.net or Eileen on 01325 320322

*any make- any model!*

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## Councillors Help Town's Boxing Club

On the 19th of March Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club received a cheque from four Durham County Councillors; Paul Gittins J.P., Sarah J Iveson, John Moran and Joan Gray. The cheque for £600 was handed over to the boxers at the Youth Centre after training and will be put to good use for new vests and running costs. We would like to give a big THANK YOU for their support.

Aycliffe ABC was founded by Les Gibson and is affiliated to the Amateur Boxing Association of England in 1989. Since then Aycliffe has produced 7 National Champions and 14 England Internationals and hope to continue for many more years. Their next championship contest is Sunday the 29th March at Seaham Leisure Centre when Sean Denham will make his bid for the National Heavyweight Title and we wish him all the luck in the world. Training is at the Youth Centre on Tuesday and Thursday evening 6pm to 7.30pm.

Female Boxers can ring the Youth Centre 307522 for information on NON-CONTACT classes on Wednesdays, to start shortly.



Please register so we know how many are interested. All

our coaches and helpers are qualified and CRB checked.

## Easter Activities at Greenfield

Following our successful February half term programme we have another fun-filled programme of activities for young people to enjoy! Book early for your place.

### CRAZY CRAFT WITH PAUL BELCHER

These FREE craft workshops are a chance to get messy and make an installation piece to display in the Arts Centre. Mon 6th, Tues 7th & Wed 8th April 2009, 1.00pm - 3.00pm

8yrs+ FREE (All three afternoons must be attended) **ROCK SCHOOL WITH JOHN MELVIN**

If you like to sing, write songs or play the guitar why not come along to the rock school workshops where you will get the opportunity to develop your skills. Associate artist, John Melvin, will support you in being creative and share your talents, Tues 14th & Wed 15th April 2009, 1.00pm - 3.00pm 8-14yrs. FREE

### DANCE WITH CAROLINE RACE

Learn many styles of dance including hip hop, jazz, disco and ballet, Tues 14th, Wed 15th & Thurs 16th April 2009, 10.00am-3.00pm. 8yrs+ £15

**FAMILY FUN DAY AT THE**

**ECO CENTRE**, Moore Lane, Newton Aycliffe, Sat 4th April 2009, 12.30pm - 4.00pm All activities are free. Take part in an exciting afternoon of family activities at the launch of the new Eco Centre at Moore Lane including Scribbly Arts, Crazy Crafts, Nature Trail, Mask Making, Live Junk Music with melting pot arts. Food and drink will be available. For more information or to book a place contact the Arts Centre on 01325 379 048

## A Night on the "Stiles"

On Friday 1st May there will be a Sportsman's Charity Night in aid of Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland, to be held at the Masonic Hall, Bishop Auckland. Guest speakers at this event will be 1966 World Cup hero Nobby Stiles and his son Top Comedian John Stiles. Tickets are £12.50 (including supper). For more information or tickets for what will undoubtedly be a terrific evening's entertainment is advised to telephone 01388 603003 - Tickets limited.

## Ian's Bike Ride Raised £130



Newtonian Ian Dewar was touched by the need of poor African people he saw on TV and decided to help Comic Relief with a Sponsored Bike Ride. He is shown here with his carer Stephen Patterson who went along to support him and keep him safe. Ian organised everything himself and raised quite a bit of money for the cause from his friends at Newton Press and elsewhere, raising £130. Stephen topped it up with another £25 after seeing all the effort Ian put in riding his bike and raising the cash.

## Easter Egg Competition

Three Children's Craft sessions are to be held in the Town Library over Easter and they are holding an Easter Egg Competition with a prize for the best designs.

The staff invite everyone to call in at the Library to find out more details.

## Woodham Golf Club

Telephone: (01325) 301551

## 60s, 70s & 80s DISCO NIGHT

**Friday 3rd April**  
7.30pm to 12 midnight  
Admission Free



## POKER NIGHT

**Friday 10th April**  
7.30pm to 12 midnight  
Free Pizza & Chips for all players  
Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd  
Limited Spaces - £10 entry fee

## THE VILLAGE PHARMACY

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### OPENING TIMES

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Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon

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## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Wednesday 8th April 2009**

Environment Committee - 7.15pm

Followed by the Recreation Committee

### 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](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)  
The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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### ST. OSWALD'S PARK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Work to install a new infants' and junior play area at St Oswald's Park has now been completed.

The play equipment forms part of a three phase redevelopment of the Park which also includes a formal garden with art feature and a picnic area.

The project is being jointly funded by the Town Council, Sedgfield Borough Council's Local



Improvement Programme Fund and Town Councillors' T. Hogan and B. Haigh's Neighbourhood Enhancement Allowances.

The formal garden will provide a tranquil area for visitors to the Park to relax.

Large herbaceous borders will form a backdrop to the garden which will also include rose beds and seasonal bedding displays.



Paved areas will lead to a central art feature depicting a flowering iris and seating areas. An iris bed will compliment the art feature with various species of iris that flower at different times of the year.

Construction of the formal garden and picnic area has commenced and is due to be completed by the end of June 2009.



### TOWN COUNCIL'S INVESTMENT IN PLAY AREAS TOPS £1m

The completion of this project brings the Council's total investment in play areas and multi-use games areas, including those at Simpature, Moore Lane, Horndale, Woodham, Town Park, Scott Place and Aycliffe Village, to nearly £1.1m since 2001.

This is a considerable level of investment for a Town Council and has included significant partnership funding from Sedgfield Borough Council via. its Local Improvement Programme and Neighbourhood Enhancement Funds.

### TOWN COUNCIL RETAINS QUALITY PARISH STATUS

The Town Council were first awarded Quality Parish Status in February 2004. Quality Parish provides a minimum benchmark standard for town and parish councils to ensure good local leadership and efficient services to local residents.

The re-accreditation process has been much harder with more sections being mandatory rather than discretionary as in the past. However, Members and Officers who reviewed the Great Aycliffe Town Council evidence file commented "how good a submission it was and how proactive your council is". This is high praise indeed and whilst recognising the hard work done by Members and employees it also highlights that the Town Council takes its community needs seriously.



### How would you like to be given £100?

Honest, no catch ... well perhaps one. As some of you may have noticed it's satisfaction survey time again. Yes, we know you get surveys all the time and you're sick of them but this one really is important. You can help shape the targets for Great Aycliffe Town Council for the next year.

The survey undertaken in 2007 highlighted parks, play areas and the environment as areas in which you would like to see investment – in response to your comments we have created an Environment Centre at Moore Lane, established a Town Pride Team and installed new play areas at Simpature, Woodham, St Oswald's and Horndale.

Please take a minute to complete the survey which is enclosed in this edition of the newsletter; return it to the Town Council in the pre-paid envelope, **no later than Friday 17th April 2009**, and you will be entered in a prize draw to win £100.

The findings of the survey will be published on the Council's website, in our own newsletter and the Newton News.

### DATES AND TIMES OF STATUTORY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES - 2008/2009

8th Apr. 2009	Environment	7.15 p.m.
8th Apr. 2009	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
15th Apr. 2009	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
22nd Apr. 2009	Full Council	7.15 p.m.

\* The **Recreation Committee** will commence immediately after the Environment Committee Meeting.

**6th MAY, 2009 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 p.m. (\*\*)**

**13th MAY, 2009 - COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - 7.15 p.m.**

(\* \*) (N.B. – this is not a meeting of the Town Council but a meeting of local government electors in the Council's area. Any queries about the Parish Meeting can be made to the Town Clerk on 01325 300700).

#### QUESTION TIMES:

A period of up to 30 minutes has been set aside for electors of the Parish to ask questions of appropriate members of the Council at its Council Meeting. Questions should relate to the work of the Council or affect the Parish in some way and they should be given in writing to the Town Clerk at least five clear days prior to the date upon which they will be asked.

A period of up to 15 minutes has been also set aside for an elector to ask questions at the Recreation, Environment and Policy and 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](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk))

**THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE ABOVE MEETINGS.**



# MAYOR'S CHARITY CIVIC BALL

The annual Mayor's Charity Civic Ball was hosted by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor George C. Gray on Friday, 20th February 2009 at the Hall Garth Hotel and Country Club.

The event was well attended by both civic dignitaries from surrounding areas and supporters of the Mayor's two charities. The fund raising on the evening was in aid of the British Heart Foundation and BLESMA (British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association).

Representatives of Barclays Bank from Newton Aycliffe and Bishop Auckland, Jill Ryder, Angela Vaughan and Alison Coulthard, were in attendance at the event which Barclays double-match funded the monies raised from the Raffle and Tombola.

An overall amount of **£2,263 was raised** and the Mayor would like to thank everyone who supported this event.



## CABARET EVENING

TUESDAY, 10th FEBRUARY 2009

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor George C. Gray, held a Charity Cabaret Evening in the Royal British Legion Club, Newton Aycliffe to help raise funds for his nominated charities during his year in office.

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

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

## CUSTOMER PANEL

The Customer Panel have had a busy few months including a guided tour of the Oakleaf Sports Complex. They have also had the opportunity to meet and quiz the Oakleaf Sports Complex Manager and the Works and Environment Manager.

Both meetings created interesting debates with a number of recommendations being looked into and retained as targets for the next Parish Performance Plan.

The Town Council are always looking for new members for the Customer Panel.

If you are interested and are a resident of the Great Aycliffe area we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Chrissy Walton or Amanda Donald who will be happy to discuss any matters with you.

## AYCLIFFE YOUTH COUNCIL

The youth representatives have been busy. An election process took place for the posts of Chair; Vice-Chair; Secretary and Treasurer with Megan Hamilton; Angus Brown; Victoria Armstrong and Lauren Craggs taking up the posts respectively. Congratulations and good luck to them.

The Town Council have consulted with the youth council on the recent refurbishment of the play areas and a report presented to the Town Council Recreation Committee. In addition a tour of the Oakleaf Sports Complex was also undertaken and ways to introduce activities for the under 18's were discussed.

Some of the youth councillors made the following comments; *"It's great that we, as a group, have been allowed to have an input on things such as events i.e. the Great Aycliffe Show and coming to an agreement on grant requests. It gives a sense of responsibility to the youth of the town and; we hope to give the young people of Aycliffe, a chance to have their opinions considered"*

The first grant of £100 was made to Aycliffe Youth Centre AFC, Girls U.15 football team to help them take part in an event in Blackpool in May 2009. A grant of £200 was awarded to Aycliffe Angels Cheerleading Group to help them practice and take part in future competitions. The

Aycliffe Youth Council and the Great Aycliffe Town Council wish them all every success.

Following issues raised around how to represent the young people of Aycliffe and the role of the Aycliffe Youth Council a training event was organised with the British Youth Council. The training was aimed specifically at the areas of concern the youth representatives had raised and it was well attended.

Don't forget if you are a group or organisation on the Town and would like to contact the Aycliffe Youth Council please contact Chrissy Walton who will be able to forward your request and details.

# Improvements for the Nature Park

Aycliffe Nature Park near Travellers Green has recently had new interpretation boards and dipping platform installed to increase the opportunities for young families in the area to raise their awareness of the local history and wildlife.



The Town Pride Team has also used their expertise to install the dipping platform which will allow people to investigate what lives in the deeper areas of the pond. In the near future a small fence will be installed around the pond to minimise erosion to the pond edges.

## TOWN PRIDE TEAM

From a recent customer satisfaction survey undertaken by the Council, it was clearly identified that residents placed great importance on keeping the Town clean, tidy and litter free as well as supporting new environmental initiatives.



The Town Council have therefore designated two members of staff with a vehicle to respond quickly to residents' complaints or concerns.

This action by the Town Council supports other initiatives by the Principal Authority with the same aim.

The Town Pride Team will also assist the Council's newly appointed Environmental Officer, Mr. Steve Cooper with his environmental projects.

### GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL MAYOR'S CHARITY CEILIDH

WITH THE FANTASTIC CEILIDH & CELTIC BAND

### MUSSEL SQUARE BOYS

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 2009  
7.00p.m. until 11-30p.m.

IN THE SYCAMORE SUITE  
NEWTON AYCLIFFE LEISURE CENTRE

TICKETS £5

In aid of the  
**British Heart Foundation and  
BLESMA (British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association)**

## MOORE LANE ECO CENTRE – OPENING

**The Eco Centre is now complete at Moore Lane and the official opening ceremony will take place on Saturday, 4th April 2009 between 12.30 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.** The opening will be performed by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor G.C. Gray at 3.00 p.m.

Members of the public are cordially invited to attend the opening afternoon when the following events will take place:

Recycled Model Making • Nature Trail • Mask Making • Band Performance (recycled instruments)

There will be a series of public events scheduled to take place over the Easter holidays which will be aimed at children and family groups. These events will be advertised in the local press and the Town Centre notice boards.

If you are interested in learning more about these events or have a group of people that may like to use the Eco Centre then please contact the Town Council's Environment Officer on 01325 300700.



# THE GREAT AYCLIFFE WAY

In 1998 the original route of the Great Aycliffe Way was designated around part of the town to commemorate 50 years of the creation of the New Town. Recently an additional route has been added to encompass the southern part of the Town.

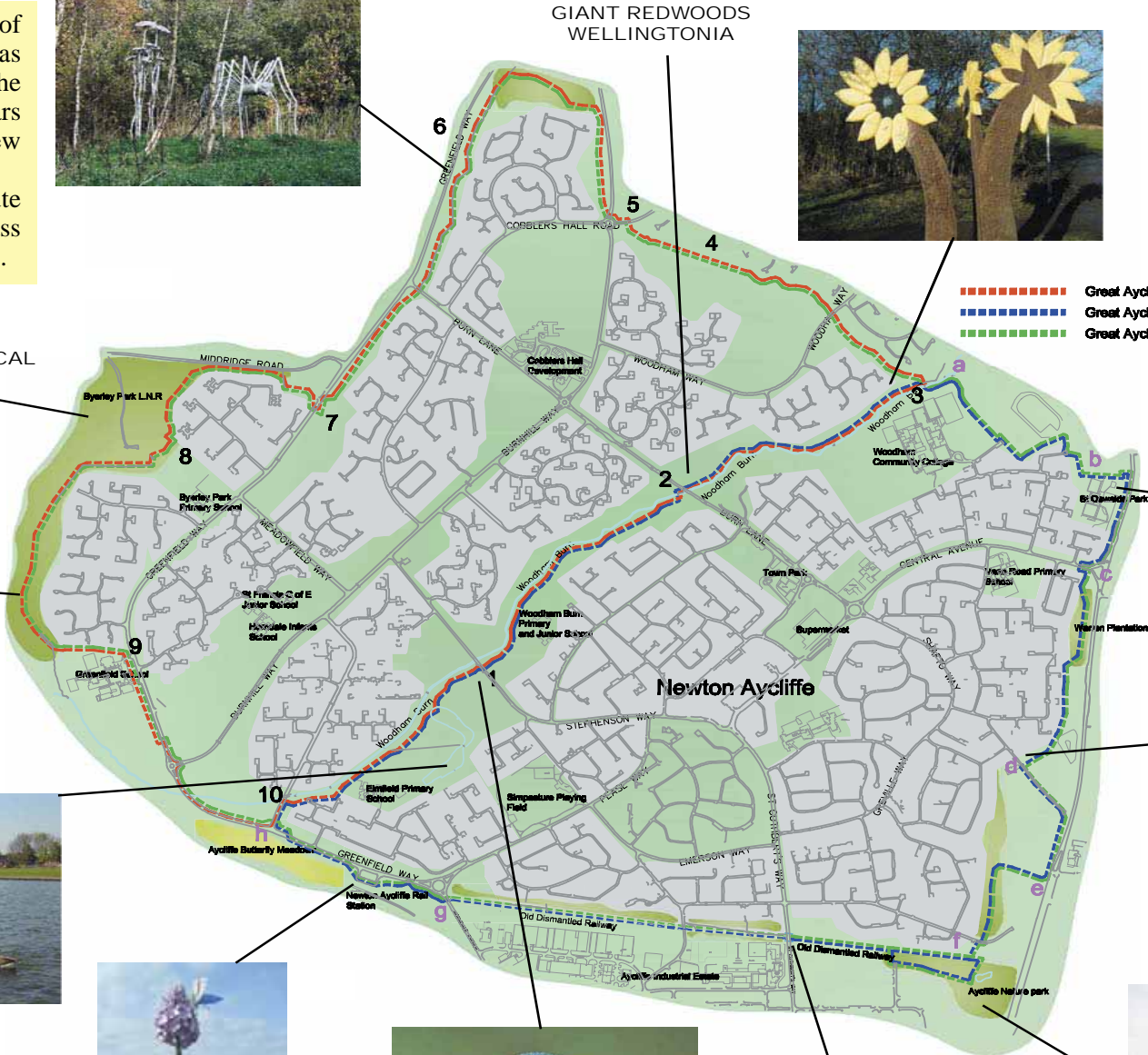


GIANT REDWOODS WELLINGTONIA



The map shown here shows the route and some of the art and highlights along the 'Way'.

BYERLEY PARK LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



- Great Aycliffe Way Route 1 - 7.8km (4.9 miles)
- Great Aycliffe Way Route 2 - 8.2 km (5.1 miles)
- Great Aycliffe Way Total Route 1 + 11.6 km (7.3 miles)

## Town Council Keeps Council Tax Increase to a Minimum

The Town Council is pleased to announce a Council Tax increase for 2009/2010 which is below the current level of inflation.

The **2.91% increase** results in a **Band A Council Tax for 2009/2010 of £137.41**, an increase of £3.87 per year or around 7p per week.

The Council was faced with preparing its 2009/2010 spending plans at a very difficult economic time and with that in mind has worked hard to minimise the burden on tax payers in the Parish.

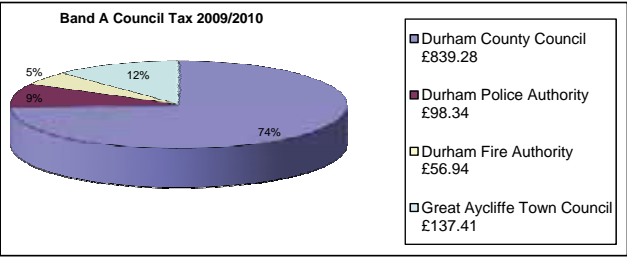
However, the task of balancing the Budget and limiting the Council Tax increase has not been easy.

The Council has faced significantly rising prices particularly in relation to energy and fuel costs, while the impact of the economic downturn on income levels, particularly in relation to the Sports Complex, Golf Course and Driving Range have all added pressure to the Budgets.

However, through a combination of efficient management of services and the identification of savings wherever possible, the Council has been able to set a Budget that will maintain existing levels of service while keeping the council tax increase to a minimum.

The following graph provides a breakdown of where your Council Tax goes and shows that only 12p in every £1 you pay comes to the Town Council to fund the services we provide:-

The **Town Council Band A Council Tax** represents a payment of only **£2.64 per week** for the broad range of quality services provided by the Council.



Services provided

by the Town Council include parks and play areas, pre schools, maintenance of the environment including grass cutting and flower beds, providing a programme of special events including the Aycliffe Show, fireworks display, senior citizens trips and Santa tours, Oak Leaf Sports and Golf Complex, cemeteries, allotments, sports pitches, Christmas lights and bus shelters.

The Council's 2009/2010 Budget is available to view or download on the Council website or can be viewed at the Council Offices during office hours. Copies are also available at a small cost.

## DAY EXCURSIONS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Application forms for the **free** excursions, provided by Great Aycliffe Town Council, for Senior Citizens who reside in the Parish, will be available from Wednesday 1st April 2009.

Please note that proof of your age and residency, e.g. your birth certificate or bus pass or passport, and a current utility bill showing your current address, is required for each application.

Residents over the age of 60 on 1st April 2009, who live in Newton Aycliffe or Aycliffe Village are eligible to choose one excursion. This year's destinations are Scarborough, Northumberland, Dumfries, the Lake District or South Shields and will operate in the summer months from 1st June to 14th July. The excursions will leave Newton Aycliffe at 9.00 am, however the South Shields excursion will leave at 11.00 am

Venue	Event	Approx. time of Arrival	Lunch
Yorkshire (Scarborough)			
Helmsley	Free Time Comfort Stop	9.45 am	Tomato & Basil Soup Roast Turkey, Stuffing, Chipolata sausage wrapped in bacon & seasonal vegetables Traditional Trifle
Royal Hotel	☺ Lunch & free time	12.00 pm	
Gisborough Hall Hotel	☺ Comfort Stop	6.00 pm	
Returning to Newton Aycliffe at approximately 7.45 pm			
Northumberland			
Boundary Mill	☺ Morning Coffee	10.00 am	Chef's Soup Of The Day Breast Of Chicken With Roast Vegetables & Red Wine Gravy Apple Pie With Fresh Cream
*Sanctuary Restaurant	☺ Lunch & free time	12.15 pm	
Heighley Garden Centre	Free Time Comfort Stop	4.30 pm	
Returning to Newton Aycliffe at approximately 7.00 pm			
Scottish Borders (Dumfries)			
Rheged Visitor Centre	☺ Morning Coffee	10.35 am	Scotch Broth with Roll & Butter Roast Chicken & seasonal vegetables Apple Pie with Custard
Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries	☺ Lunch & free time	12.45 pm	
Gretna Green	Free Time Comfort Stop	5.00 pm	
Returning to Newton Aycliffe at approximately 7.45 pm			
Lake District (Bowness on Windermere)			
Rheged Visitor Centre	☺ Morning Coffee	10.30 am	Melon Roast Beef Trifle
Hydro Hotel, Windermere	☺ Lunch & free time	12.30 pm	
Kirkby Stephen	Free Time Comfort Stop	4.45 pm	
Returning to Newton Aycliffe at approximately 6.30 pm			
South Shields			
Sea Hotel, South Shields	☺ Lunch & free time	12.00 noon	Vegetable Soup Carvery Platter Sherry Trifle
Returning to Newton Aycliffe at approximately 5.00 pm			

☺ indicates there is no charge to passengers for refreshments at these venues

\*Please note that entrance fees to Alnwick Castle and Gardens are not included with the excursion.

Application forms and further details can be collected from the Library at Dalton Way, Recreation Centre in Beveridge Way, Oakleaf Sports Complex or Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 3.45 p.m. or will be posted to you by telephoning 300700. They will also be available to download from the Council's website: [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)





School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe

**01325 300 600**

We are proud to announce the extensive refurbishment of the bar/catering and function room facilities has now been completed and we are open for business as usual.

Please accept our personal invitation to call in and see the fabulous modern and bright new look for a relaxing experience.

Don't be shy come along and give us a try, see for yourself what is on offer and take the opportunity to try one of our meals and a drink.

The photographs show our new open plan style, which will facilitate quick service and ease of access to ensure you have an experience to remember.



### BAR OPENING TIMES

Mon - Sat	11.00am - 11.00pm
Sun	12.00 noon - 10.30pm

### CATERING OPENING TIMES

Mon - Fri	12.00 noon - 2.30pm & 5.00pm - 9.30pm Sandwiches & Toasties available 2.30pm - 5.00pm
Sat	12.00 noon - 9.30pm
Sun	12.00 noon - 2.00pm Sunday Lunches only Main menu commences at 2.30pm

# THE REALLY GREAT AYCLIFFE SHOW

We have a great line up of entertainment for this year's Show with all the old favourites:

Punch & Judy Shows; free Face Painting and Competitions for Painting, Cookery & Model Making for those up to 16 years.

You can try your hand at simulated helicopter landing with the RAF or listen to the beat in the Playhouse Marquee with local entertainment. Browse the Trade Stands where you can even book a holiday or try your luck with the tombolas to raise money for the various Fundraisers. On Sunday, you can see the very popular Rabbit and Cavy Show. All this as well as Craft Demonstrations, Emergency Services & Military Static Displays



We have some first class arena entertainment lined up for you including the spectacular Bolddog Lings Team who will put on a unique non-stop show using the most innovative ramps, equipment and talented riders. The competition includes the technically demanding mid-air freestyle tricks as shown on TV such as

the superman, heel clicker, nac-nac, switchblade, lazy boy, double can-can and many, many more.

Entry forms will be available soon for the popular handcraft and horticulture exhibition with new classes for home produce and photography.

New to Aycliffe Show in 2009 is the Teesdale Flyball Club who will be performing on Sunday afternoon. If you've ever watched Crufts on the television you will know what this is! Plus we have a great new competition starting in 2009 for people aged 25 or under. Details will be announced soon.....

Details will soon be announced of an exciting  
**NEW COMPETITION**  
 for everyone aged 25 or under

See [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk) for application forms for all competitions and updates on attractions.

## PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES

Our Pre-School Learning Centres are held in the following locations:

**ST. MARY'S V.R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL, CENTRAL AVENUE**  
 (Open from 8.45am to 11.45a.m., Monday to Friday)

**ST. OSWALD'S PARK, WREN CLOSE**  
 (Open from 9.15am to 12.15am, Monday to Friday)

**WOODHAM BURN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, HUMPHREY CLOSE**

(Open from 9.00am. to 3.15p.m, providing flexible hours to be your individual needs. We also work very closely with the Out of School Club which enables parents to access care from 7.45am to 6pm each weekday)

Above all it is expected that your child will have fun in the company of children their own age. Through this fun and enjoyment they will gain the knowledge and skills that form a firm foundation on which to build as they begin full time education.

**For more information please contact the Early Years Officer on 01325 300700**



putting on a show at Woodham Burn



children at St. Mary's enjoy their snack in the new outdoor area



children from St. Oswald's enjoying story time at the library



18 hole course with floodlit driving range, and changing and shower facilities bar and Catering at Oakleaf Sports Complex

School Aycliffe Lane,  
 Newton Aycliffe, County Durham  
 Telephone (01325) 310820

## Golf for less than \*£5 per week

7 day Season ticket £285  
 5 day Season ticket £225

**Juniors from £37**

Available from 1st April 2009  
 Senior Citizen (over 60) 7 day £230  
 Senior Citizen (over 60) 5 day £180  
 Instalment facilities available

**Visiting parties welcome**

**Food and Drink Packages Available**

Green fees: £13.00 weekdays  
 £15.75 weekends

Reductions for senior citizens and juniors  
 Call for more details telephone 01325 310820  
 or visit [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

*A leisure facility provided by Great Aycliffe Town Council*

*\* Equivalent of £4.30 per round once a week for an adult 5 day season ticket*



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**PROPERTIES** to let: 3 bedroom, Finchale Road, N/A, Rent £500, Bond £500. Admin Fee £100; Fenhall Green, N/A, Rent £375, Bond £375, Admin Fee £100; Guthrum Place, N/A, Rent £375, Bond £375, Admin Fee £100; Ross Walk, N/A, Rent £500, Bond £500, Admin Fee £100. Tel 07814 022303  
**RENT & BUY** at the same time! 2 bedroom house in Dent Walk. Very central, clean, working family only. Ready now. Call Julie 01388 722208  
**WANTED** 2 or 3 bedroom house in Newton Aycliffe to rent or/and buy. Please call Mark on 01388 722 208  
**TO LET** Newton Aycliffe, Hallington Head, 3 bedroom house, £110 per week. Tel 07983 326761  
**WOODHAM** small 3 bedroom semi in quiet cul-de-sac, GCH, gardens, long tenancy, Tel 07850 561381  
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**HUGHES** Joan and Brian. Just to let you know you have lots of friends who care about you both. It's a pity that you can pick your friends and not your family. But some family have short memories after all that has been done for them. Children turn into adults and lets hope they don't treat their family the same. From all your good friends, with love.

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May I thank Tesco's Electrical Dept. for advice I received on my laptop, purchased 8 months previously. They were so helpful and when the problem could not be sorted I was given a new replacement with no hassle whatsoever.  
May I thank all the staff of Tesco in every department. All I ever hear is negative comments and I want to say I am satisfied with the service I receive.  
However I do think all the Councillors involved in the debacle over our Town Centre should be lined up and shot!  
E. Worthington

## LOCAL PEOPLE INVITED TO SHAPE NEW COUNCIL

People in County Durham are being asked to help shape the face of the new unitary Durham County Council.  
The Boundary Committee for England wants information from local people and groups in the county so it can map out which areas each of the 126 councillors will represent.  
The main aim of the review of electoral arrangements is to ensure each councillor represents approximately the same number of electors.  
The Boundary Committee wants to find out what people think of as their local area and so influence where the new

electoral boundaries will be. Information about the electoral review and guidance on the type of information the Boundary Committee is looking for is available from Durham County Council, local libraries and from the Boundary Committee website [www.boundarycommittee.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk)

People can take part in the consultation, which runs until June 8, by writing to the Boundary Committee for England, Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HW or email reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk

## Situations Vacant

### GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

### Appointment of part-time GOLF COURSE WARDEN at the Oak Leaf Golf Complex

The Council is seeking to appoint a part time Golf Course Warden for the Oak Leaf Golf Complex. Applicants must have a knowledge of rules of golf and course etiquette.

Closing Date: Thursday 9th April 2009

Application forms and further details can be obtained from the Town Council offices, Tel 01325 300700.

Email: [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk)  
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CHECKOUT TIME: 12.00 PM. BATHS: 09.00 AM

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A&S Dorchester	RRP £159.00	NOW £99.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £169.00	NOW £139.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £299.00	NOW £229.00
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 £169.00	NOW £149.00
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 £149.00
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
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £599.00	NOW £499.00

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