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Week Ending 3rd April, 2009

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Sedgefield Borough - The Finale

There were some glum faces in the audience at the Locomotion Museum "Final Farewell" event for Sedgefield Borough Council held last Sunday. But the proceedings were brightened by the talents of Fishburn and Ferryhill Brass Bands together to perform some outstanding music including a specially commissioned piece "Sedgefield Fair" by Tom Glendinning. John Inch gave a talk on his mining experience and there was poetry reading and the announcement of competition winners by Sue Snowdon D.L. from Butterwick Hospice. The highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of £25,000 to Butterwick Hospice raised by the Mayor John Robinson from charity events held during his year of office. Sue Snowdon was delighted and thanked the Mayor and his wife Maxine for the tremendous effort made to raise such a magnificent



amount. A poignant closing to the afternoon were toasts to the District and Boroughs who were being dissolved. However this was followed by a more optimistic final toast to Durham County, proposed by Sue Snowdon.

Youngsters Unite to Help Fellow Member



Young people at the Youth Centre are raising cash to send one of its members on holiday. Chloe Miller who has Cerebral Palsy had not attended for a number of weeks and on her return it was learnt that she and her family had been quite ill. Her friends at the "Youthy" decided to help out by sending Chloe and her family on a short break to aid their recovery. The young people are organising various fundraising activities over the next few weeks including a sponsored Ice Skate, and Rock Wall Climb, equivalent to the height of Ben Nevis, in one hour. Please also look out for a Car Wash event outside the Youth Centre and give the youngsters your support.

LETTER Worst Ever Bus Service

Dear Sir,
Reading about Arriva Bus service it is my opinion that this monopoly company is the worst provider I have known since coming here over 40 years ago. They seem to do anything they wish and travelling to Bishop Auckland is like going on a mystery tour. It is no wonder people do not use this service much now. I recently had an appointment for Darlington Hospital and found buses from our town no longer go up the hospital. Because of this inconvenience and confusion over the bus service I begged the staff to change my appointment to Bishop Auckland. Mrs Lawler Greathead Crescent.

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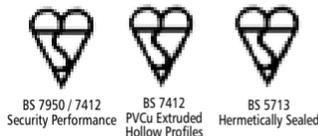
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Crime prevention officers from across Durham County were in attendance. They were extremely impressed by the demonstration and all agreed that this level of security should deter even the most determined intruder, allowing householders to sleep a little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



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VANDALS KEEP YOUR COUNCIL TAX HIGH

Dear Sir,
This is the sight which we were greeted with on Saturday 28th March 2009

As you can see from the photos from the area decided to have themselves a party the previous night, even though there was a bin feet from them they still couldn't manage to put their rubbish into it. We found lager cans, WKD bottles, Vodka bottles and Stella bottles.

When are the Police and Council going to put a stop to this? as a resident of the area I can honestly put my hand on my heart and say it has been almost a year since I last saw the police in the area and if you do call them they take forever to get there, by which time the vandals have moved on.

It is about time these out of the way areas are patrolled by the police or at the very least enforcement officers, especially at times and places where youths are gathering.

The new park area has only been open for 2 - 3 months yet it has already been vandalised. I hope that someone recognises the graffiti and reports them. Give them 3 months litter picking duties then they might think twice about it.
M.B.



DAFFODIL DAY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 18th April 2009
Aycliffe Village and Newton Aycliffe Mothers Union are to hold their annual Daffodil Day Coffee Morning at St. Clares Hall at 10am-12noon selling home baked cakes and pies, Raffle, Tombola and Refreshments.
We are also holding a "TABLE TOP SALE" Charge of £5 per table. To book your table telephone 01325 315567

Cross Country Race at Oak Leaf



On Thursday 19th March several of St. Josephs School Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils took part in a Cross Country Race at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. They were outstanding with some really good results. Jonathan (3rd), Jack (5th), Luke (13th) in the year 5 and 6 event and Liam (1st), James (5th), Lucy (10th) in the year 3 and 4 event. A big thank you to the organisers of the event and to Miss Mee and parent helpers who took them to the event.



NEWTONIAN OPENS GARDEN CENTRE



Young Newtonian Barry Browning has achieved his ambition and opened a Garden Centre in Newton Aycliffe. This is the first week of business and Barry, a former Woodham Comp student is pleased with the support he is getting. He has put his life savings on the line to open his pride and joy at Bluebell Garage. He acquired the site and has spent the last four months, night and day, getting the premises ready for his first customers. The former toolmaker turned gardener has a large stock of supplies at very reasonable prices and hopes people will see the saving in time and petrol by buying local. It is great to see someone brave

enough to have a go at starting his own business in the current economic gloom and we wish Barry the success he deserves.

Junior Players Wanted

The Cumby Arms Rovers are starting a new Under 7's Football Team and require players to train and play in an organised and well run league. We also need players to fill our Under 9's and 10's squads. Anyone interested in bringing their son or daughter to the sessions should contact Mark Robinson on 301252.

CELEBRATING 50 GOLDEN YEARS TOGETHER



Alan and Ann Gilmore of Butterwick Court celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 28th March and the Mayor and Mayoress George and Maud Gray called with a bouquet to pass on greetings and best wishes from the townspeople. Alan originally from Ashington met Ann in Luton at the Salvation Army Youth Club. They were both Salvationists, but are now faithful members of the Xcel Church (Christian Life Centre) joining the church when they moved to Newton Aycliffe in 1973. Alan was a Painter & Decorator before taking a job with the Coal Board as a striker in the Blacksmiths department. While he was in Luton he trained as a Machinist and Setter. He then moved north to work for Tallents and Ozalid in Aycliffe

before changing his career to Insurance until his retirement. Ann was a nurse in Luton, and later after bringing up her children she opened Ann's Pantry in Shildon selling sandwiches etc. She closed this business and sold insurance, and latterly was a Care Assistant in Bethany House until she retired. The couple have two children both married and living in Newton Aycliffe. There are five Grandchildren and the whole family attends Excel Church. Ann describes her move to Aycliffe as a leap of faith as they had no job to come to, but have never regretted it and are very happy in the town. They enjoy caravanning and have travelled all over the country. Alan sings in the Melton Singers giving Concerts all over the north.

STOP VANDALISING OUR SCHOOL!

During the weekend there has been some vandals in Sugar Hill Primary School. They have been trespassing on the schools grounds for quite a while. Over the past few months vandals have been smashing windows, climbing on roofs, littering (take away wrappers and beer cans and smashed bottles) and taking sports equipment. The vandals have been climbing over

the school fences and been using the planks of wood to make ramps. They have also burned down one of the school's trees. All this has cost the school a lot of money. The money has come out of the schools fund, which is raised through funfairs, raffles and competitions. All of these events have been saving up for a trim trail for Sugar Hill Primary School.

Unfortunately Sugar Hill can now not afford the trim trail because of all the vandals. If you see any vandals trespassing on school grounds then please call 0345 6060365. The police will be happy to check the grounds where you are. Please only call this number if you see vandals. Thank you. By Oliver Johnson & Callum Thain



Editorial

New Strategy Against Vandals

We are receiving too many letters of complaint on youth vandalism, a problem affecting parks, schools and public places. The mess they leave is bad enough, but it is the high cost of repair which is even more worrying as it comes from our Council Tax. The Police will see this as "low level" crime and understandably have to deal with higher priorities. It may be time to look at a different strategy, possibly employing more wardens to deal with this expensive nuisance. The Town Council in its questionnaire, sent out to everyone last week, asks if we would pay for more park wardens. It may be cheaper to do this rather than suffer the mess vandals leave and the high cost of repairing the damage they cause. Thankfully it is only a small minority responsible for these acts of vandalism. The greater majority of youngsters in our town are good citizens and we must remember not to blame youth in general. Of course no action would be necessary if parents knew or questioned what their kids are doing when they are out and had some control themselves over this anti social behaviour. It would not be needed if the vandals cared and were aware of their irresponsible behaviour, spoiling our environment and giving youth a bad name. If you see vandals at work report it, and join the campaign against their costly misbehaviour, otherwise don't complain about high taxes.

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Great Aycliffe Way Spoilt

Dear Sir,
Great Aycliffe Way is described as a beautiful walk with lots of wildlife to enjoy. I had occasion to walk the area from Bluebell Way to Greenfield and was appalled by the mess and found no beauty at all! Trees had been mutilated and many sawn down and left to rot. Others had been killed at the base and bore no leaves. Conifers had been removed and the area showed years of neglect. The birds and wildlife is disappearing which is a shame after having something of which we were once proud. Take a walk there yourself and complain to the Town Council. Peter Beaty

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 to 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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STUDENTS HOPE "IT'S IN THE BAG" FOR CHARITY COMPETITION



Children from Heighington School are hoping to bag rich rewards for their local Teenage Cancer Trust.

The eight girls and one boy from Year 5 and 6 (9-10 year olds) - members of the School's after-hours sewing club - have entered Simplicity's Spring School Competition 'It's in the bag'.

The club have designed and created over 100 bags in the hope of raising vital funds in the memory of Liam Harker, son of the School's cook who died from cancer last year.

Their original, hand-made designer bags were sold and auctioned at the School on Wednesday March 18th, with all proceeds going to the Teenage Cancer Trust. Trust unit at the Great North Children's Hospital in Newcastle, scheduled to open

in Late Autumn 2009.

The competition - run by Simplicity, a worldwide company that designs and produces, sewing patterns - pits the youngsters against secondary school and textile students.

Simplicity provides 5 basic bag patterns, but then it's up to the children to bring the full force of their imagination to create designer versions using a range of luxurious fabrics and inventive machine embroidery. The competition will also take into consideration the amount of money the children raise for charity.

If the sewing club is successful, Simplicity will provide them with: A Brother Innov-is 10A Sewing Machine, 3 Simplicity Side Winders, A selection of patterns and threads

Teacher, Sue Snowdon, who

runs the club, commented: "I have been astonished at what the children have accomplished. We're up against fierce competition but we have bags here good enough to grace any department store or Milan catwalk!"

However we fare in the competition, the children have worked very hard and learned many new techniques along the way. The sale and auction was fantastic and has so far reached £1280.44 for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

There are still some bags left - available from Heighington School. The picture is of Teacher Sue Snowdon and the Heighington School Sewing Club. David Chambers was auctioneer on the night and some of the children's one-off bags went for as high as £35 each.

Police Get-Together with Residents

Durham Constabulary held a PACT (Police & Communities Together) event in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre on Tuesday to coincide with market day. It was held in a vacant shop provided by Brian Haldane and offered an ideal opportunity for shoppers to meet with the Neighbourhood Policing Team, Community Liaison and Crime Prevention Officers.

Advice was provided to shoppers on a range of matters including, home & vehicle security, CCTV and personal safety. The police were able to provide many security items free of charge and some at a subsidised price. Crime Prevention Officer Neil Langthorne said 'We are using this as an opportunity to deliver essential security advice and are would like to thank the

town centre owners for their support'

Over 150 shoppers visited the shop to take advantage of the advice and equipment available. The Police, together with the Sedgefield Borough Community Safety Partnership are to deliver a similar event to promote the National Burglary Reduction Day on Tuesday 7th April. On this occasion the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Crime Prevention Officer will be supported by other members of the partnership. A range of burglary reduction equipment will be available for a very small cost. Officers present included PC Helen Inglis, PCSO Scott Hodgson (Newton Aycliffe Beat Team), PC Neil Langthorne (Crime Prevention Officer), Mel Elliott (Community Liaison Officer).



Spend Cash on CCTV to Beat Yobs

Dear Sir,
I write to ask the decent residents of the town if they are sick of yobbish youths vandalising our cars, properties, gardens and are now destroying our beautiful play areas?

These youths have no respect for parks on which hundreds of thousand of pounds have been spent. They have no respect for anyone or anything and I for one have had enough!

From now on when I am out I will personally confront the youngsters and take a stand when I see them vandalising and misusing facilities that

have been provided for very young people.

I am also sick of the foul language they use in front of small children. I hope other parents and grandparents will do like-wise and try to stop this bad behaviour.

We should call a Public Meeting with the Police so that we know what steps we are allowed to take to combat these hooligans on our streets. Spend more money on CCTV in the trouble spots, identify the culprits and make the parents pay for the damage. This is a good way to spend our Council Tax rather than using it to send Councillors

on trips to a twinned town abroad which benefits no-one.

We need to spend money to win back control of our streets and public places rather than new entrance signs, concrete balls and a steel statue. What good are luxuries when we can't sleep peacefully without worrying what damage we wake up to the next day?

Disappointed Resident



Volunteers Wanted for Community Centre

Neville Community Centre are trying to form a Mother & Toddler Group. If you are interested please ring 313924. The day suggested is Friday afternoon 1.30pm-3 p.m. The charge is only £1 per family. Real Salsa/Latin Dancing taught by Diaria every Monday 7.30-8.30 pm. £3 per session - just turn up and have a great time.

Line Dancing every Thursday 6.20 - 7.20 pm. It's healthy, weight reducing and fun. Come and try it!

Ferryhill Stage Society are giving a Concert "Songs from the Shows" on Sunday 19th April at 2 pm. Admission is £2.

We are looking for volunteers to run the community centre and need an active Chairman, Advertising Manager, Coffee Morning Staff, Organisers for the Domino Club and Mother Toddler Group. Ring Peter on 313924.

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SPECIAL DAYS AT WOODHAM

The introduction of Specialist Days at Woodham Community Technology College in September 2008 have done much to enhance students' enjoyment of their education. The days are calendared throughout the year with the purpose of making lessons more interesting and engaging, as well as helping students to develop an understanding of the UK and global community. The existing curriculum provision in all subjects has been strengthened through the programme which has also promoted understanding and values of people's diversity and equality. Specialist Days so far this

academic year have explored a whole host of issues from equity through an examination of Fair Trade with Year 7 to the concept of Britishness and multi-culturalism through poetry with Year 11.



ONLY TIME WILL TELL

Dear Editor,
With the disbanding of Sedgefield Borough Council in favour of County Durham Unitary Council, may I thank those residents of Greenfield Middridge Ward, who have given me their support over the last 9 years. I am sorry it has come to this, something that nobody wanted, but it was not our doing. Residents at this point in time are part of Shildon East Division unless the Boundary Commission review moves us out of the Shildon area. A review is ongoing and open to consultation. Only time will tell if it will be cheaper to administer, without cuts in services that have been provided free by Sedgefield Borough Council, albeit through council tax, but people preferred it that way.
Vince Crosby

Letters to the Editor Thieves and Vandals

Dear Sir,
My wife and I returned from holiday to discover that a small 'welcome' novelty dog on our front door and 2 small plant holders on our garage forecourt had been stolen on Mothers Day. I know they went missing at this time as my brother checked our property on the Saturday. This means the thieves were kids stealing a gift for mother's day, kids stealing for a laugh, someone stealing for a car boot sale or thieves in general.

The objects have been on our forecourt for almost 2 years and whoever the culprits are may I wish them all the bad luck for the future. This week's award for being 'void of brains' goes to the idiots who overturned the rock salt container in Middleham Way and several bins in Lowther Drive in the early hours of Monday morning. No doubt they thought this hilarious, but, as they say, little things please little minds.
Woodham Resident

Super Floodlit Sports Ground Opened at Moore Lane

AN EXCITING new sports development which will benefit hundreds of people in the town has been officially opened. Newton Aycliffe Sports Club was awarded £300,000 from Sedgefield Council's Local Improvement Project, with an additional £20,000 from the Football Foundation. The funding has provided a floodlit football pitch, new changing rooms, spectator standing and perimeter fencing. It has also enabled the sports club to erect a two-lane Cricket nets facility, which are floodlit for evening practice, as well as a floodlit training area for the club's Rugby teams. All will boost community involvement in sport.

“This is the end product of lots of hard work involving many, many people,” said Gary Farley, chairman of the Sports Club's Wearside League football team, who will Christen their new pitch against Jarrow this Saturday. “We have blossoming youth clubs here – involved in football, rugby and cricket – from which hundreds of children from Newton Aycliffe benefit and enjoy. Agnes Armstrong, leader of Sedgefield Borough Council, said: “This is a fantastic scheme and another fine example of how communities can benefit from the use of Local Improvement Partnership monies”.

Moore Lane is £2 each).
Sat April 4: vs Jarrow, 2pm
Wed. April 8th: vs Easington Colliery, 7.30pm
Sat April 11: vs Wolviston, 2.30pm
Mon April 13: vs New Marske, 2pm
Sat April 18: vs Guisborough Town, 2.30pm
Mon April 27: vs Teeside Athletic, 7.30pm
Weds April 29: vs Hartlepool FC, 7.30pm
Sat May 2: vs Jarrow, 2.30pm
Sat May 16: vs Annfield Plain, 2.30pm



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Athletic Club
under
Athletics U.K.
Rules Permit
No.
20090296

10k Race

• £100 to first male and female
• Veteran prizes
• Computerised results and refreshments for both races

Fast & Flat PB Course (measured accurately with kilometres marked)
Entry Fees: **10k Run - £7.00 Club Runners/ £9.00 Non Club Runners**
- **£2.00 extra to enter on the day**
3k Run - £4.00 All entries (includes medal)
Enter online at Newtonaycliffeac.org.uk or Runnersworld.co.uk/entry
Cheques to be made payable to 'Newton Aycliffe AC'
Entries (enclosing 9 x 6 S.A.E.) to: Colin Gibson, 12 Ainsty Hunt, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7PH
Closing Date for Entries Sunday 14th June 2009
Supported by "UP & RUNNING"

If you would like information about raising sponsorship for this years chosen charity Arthritis Research Campaign please tick this box

Surname Forename(s).....
Address
..... County..... Post Code.....
e-mail address..... Telephone No.
Date of Birth Age on 21st June 2009..... Athletics UK Affiliated Club.....
10k or Fun Run please tick 10k..... Fun Run..... male..... female.....
Reg Number.....
Declaration : I wish to enter the 3M 10k or fun run and I declare that I am an amateur as defined by UKA Laws and certify that I am medically fit to run. Furthermore, I agree that the organisers will not be held responsible for any injury or illness as result of my participation in the events. I understand that my details will be stored on the entry computer, but will not be distributed to any other organisation or running club.
Signature..... Date.....

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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

ST. JOSEPH'S WIN NETBALL & FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS



On Tuesday 17th March, Year 6 pupils from St. Joseph's took part in netball and football tournaments at Greenfield. All teams from St. Joseph's were very successful, coming first and second in both football and netball. The winning teams go on to represent our school in area finals. The netball one on 31st March and the football final will be later in the year. Good luck to our boys and girls in both finals.

Proud Record of Service

Dear Syd,
May I thank everyone in the Woodham Ward who voted for me in the May 2007 elections and gave me the chance to represent them on Sedgfield Borough Council.

I have enjoyed the challenge from day one when I approached Cllr. Blenkinsopp to ask for his help to stand for the elections. He got the forms and advised me about flyers etc. and would have got lost at the start without him!
I have worked hard for the people in the Ward, putting my £15,000 together with Cllr Gray and Cllr Haigh to provide the multi use games area in the park at Woodham. I worked with the Town Council to get a roundabout put in the same park for wheelchair users.

I have worked with The Agnew Community Association (The Hut), to get L.I.P. funding for the new build and I am staying with them as Vice Chairman. I asked Phil Ball, Head of Leisure Services to help start a club for disabled kids and we worked together to start Sportability in Spennymoor Leisure Centre every Monday from 5 p.m.-6.30 p.m. I am Chair of the committee and through Sportability we started a football team at Ferryhill. I have asked an international company to sponsor the disabled team and they are ordering the strips at the moment!

I am heavily involved with the "Making Changes Together" conferences, where we are

helping to shape provision for families and children with additional needs. I am on the short breaks and transport focus groups and am now on the steering group. My signature is on the 'Every Disabled Child Matters' Charter and we had our 3rd conference at Redworth Hall on Thursday 2nd April. Thank you Cllr Blenkinsopp for helping to make all this possible! Good luck to Cllrs Gittins and Gray on the new Unitary Authority! You are on your own now! I look forward to the next elections when I will stand again!
Lilleen Cuthbertson

Garden Work for the Infirm

Dear Sir,
I have recieved information regarding helping Disabled and Elderly Residents with hedge and garden work. To the best of my knowledge this service will still be maintained by the new owners of Council houses Sedgfield Borough Homes.
I believe letters may well have been sent out last week regarding this pledge. I only expressed concerns as I had no information on the matter and took it as is my duty to investigate the matter as a Councillor to the people I was elected to represent,
Alan Warburton
Independent Councillor.



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THE WORK PLACE OFFICIALLY OPENED



On Friday 27th March the magnificent new building on the Business Park "The Work Place" was officially opened by George Garlick the Chief Executive Officer of Durham County Council. He said how impressed he was by the stimulating environment for young people the premises presented and how its existence was born by the extraordinary generosity of its benefactor Jane Ritchie.

George was confident the Workplace would make a real difference to thousands of young people and commented on the challenge and necessity to sustain the facility for future generations. Prominent among the guests were youngsters from local schools who were specially invited by Jane to emphasise the building belonged to them and their aspirations in forging their careers. It was a very special day giving Jane Ritchie the opportunity to thank everyone involved, including the architects, builders, Directors, supporters, sponsors, staff and current users. Other speakers included David Heaton OBE, Chairman of the Workplace, who welcomed everyone and outlined the history of the Workplace from conception to completion. Margaret Fay OBE Chairman One Northeast spoke specially to the young people stating how much depended upon them as our future leaders. She urged them to take advantage of every opportunity to advance their knowledge and careers. A bouquet was presented to temporary Manager Kerina Clark who had carried out such good work in promoting the Workplace in the last three months.

SIGNED SUNDERLAND SHIRT UNCLAIMED

Newton Aycliffe FC will be playing their first fixture of the season on the newly developed Moore Lane pitch at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club on the 4th of April 2009. The game is the Shipowners Cup semi-final against Jarrow FC ko 2.00pm. This is followed by a midweek game on the 8th against promotion rivals Easington Colliery FC ko 7.30pm. For more information on Newton Aycliffe Football Club please visit our web site at newtonaycliffefc.co.uk The club recently raffled a personally signed Sunderland Shirt which unfortunately hasn't been claimed as yet. The winning ticket no is 85, if it is not claimed within the next two weeks the club plan to redraw the shirt.

HIPPS PAID FOR AND NOT RECEIVED

Dear Sir
My husband and I put our house on the market last year with Stuart Edwards and duly paid £351.33 upfront for the required HIPPS. We have recently decided to change estate agents as we were not informed that Stuart Edwards Newton Aycliffe branch had been transferred to Bishop Auckland and advertisements and signs of a proactive sales approach were lacking. After several conversations and email correspondence to Stuart Edwards asking to see a copy of our HIPPS which we legally own, we have reason to believe that the HIPPS has not been carried out thoroughly and consequently we have requested a full refund. To date, we still have not had a response back from

Stuart Edwards.
Have any other Newtononians experienced the same problem? As far as we are concerned this is classed as "theft" and cannot be tolerated.
Furious
Name & Address supplied.
Ed: This is not the only complaint so we attempted to contact the company at Bishop Auckland without success, but did manage to speak to Stuart Edwards personally who has an office in Durham.
He explained that while the Newton Aycliffe and Bishop Auckland branch traded under his name he had no connection, having sold these two trading arms to Lee Smurthwaite 5 years ago.

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Weekend Activities at the Youth Centre

The Youth Centre, Burn Lane is running activities for the Young People aged 13-19 on Friday and Saturday evenings. In partnership with Community Wardens and Leisure Centre with funding from Youth Engagement Service the centre is able to offer a wide variety of activities on a Friday night from 6.30 – 8.30pm. Activities among others include Sports Coaching, DJ skills, health and beauty tips and a professional urban artist. On Saturday night there is free access to Leisure Centre activities (7 – 9pm) including Rockwall, Fitness Suite and

Sports Coaching. (Places are limited, therefore, access to Saturday night activities at Leisure Centre is by ticket only available from the Youth Centre.) Other events that have taken place have included a cinema night and on Friday 3rd of April there will be a mobile Ice Rink at the Youth Centre provided by 'Get ya skates on' This will be available for 7-12 year olds from 4pm – 6-15pm and 13-19 year olds from 6.30 – 9.30. For further information on any of the above activities please contact youth centre on 01325 307522



DOES YOUR GROUP NEED FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

Does your Community Organisation work with Children & Young People? Do you need some money to support this? Sedgfield Communities of Interest is a group for any organisation working with children and young people within the Voluntary and Community Sector. It is there to support you. If you are wondering how, visit the first Annual Stakeholder Event at Dean Bank Literary Institute on Tuesday 28 April (10.00am to 2.00pm) which includes a

free buffet lunch. The event will see the launch of the Sedgfield Communities of Interest Pot and covers parts of the Children's Agenda including the Common Assessment Framework. It is a fantastic opportunity to find out more about Sedgfield COI and how they can help you! It's an ideal event for you to network and meet likeminded people. To book a place with Cornforth Partnership, call (01740) 652000.

Village History Recorded on Film



Aycliffe Village Local History Society launched the home produced film and book of "Aycliffe Village and its Surrounds" in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 25th March. Each household will receive a free copy of the DVD film. Among the invited guests were Councillor John Robinson, J.P. the Mayor of Sedgfield Borough Council; Councillor George Gray, the Mayor of Great Aycliffe Town Council and Mrs Maud Gray, his Mayoress; Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp of Aycliffe Village, Mr Gargan, Head Teacher of Aycliffe Village Primary School, and Syd Howarth, Editor

of the Newton News. The film, which was partly funded with an 'Awards for All' lottery grant of £10,000 is a fascinating view of life in Aycliffe and the close district around it, from the distant past to the present day. Approximately forty villagers helped in the filming and their recollections of what has happened in Aycliffe during their own lifetimes kept the attention of the audience. Needless to say, the spontaneous and prolonged applause at the end of the film was heart warming.

PCP'S FUTURE SECURED AS THEY TAKE OVER OWNERSHIP OF PIONEERING CARE CENTRE

Sedgfield residents will have a first-class place in which to improve their health and wellbeing, thanks to a £752,718 Community Assets grant from the Cabinet Office awarded to Sedgfield Borough Council. Working in partnership with Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), the Council received an award to refurbish and extend the Pioneering Care Centre, an existing building, serving the people of Newton Aycliffe and district.

Once the work is completed, the PCP will take on a 125-year leasehold from the Council for a peppercorn rent. Through this transfer of ownership, the Partnership hopes to effectively address local needs and increase sustainability of this important local amenity. The extra space provided will allow the partnership to provide a great range of services for vulnerable people and in particular, those seeking a route back to work.

"The Borough Council has enjoyed a long and successful working relationship with the Board members and staff and it gives me great pleasure and a sense of pride to hand over the building to them, to continue to provide great services for local people," said Barry Allen. James Turner, said: "The improvements planned at the Pioneering Care Centre will add value to what is already a wonderful community resource. It will not only create an important venue for the whole community to come together, but will provide a vital connection for those seeking support and advice concerning their health and employment prospects."

PCP Chief Executive Jane Hartley said: "The money is part of a £1.2m package of funding to build a new extension to the centre. The new space will enable us to provide more activities for the general public to improve their health and wellbeing including: dance, exercise classes, healthy lifestyle courses and a new complementary therapy suite. There will also be an Employability Centre Of Excellence providing a new learning suite and

facilities for use by a number of organisations working to support people on incapacity benefits back into work. 'We are thrilled that all our hard work to put the bid together has paid off and we are one of only 35 projects nationally to be awarded a grant. This will enable us to meet the increasing demand for activities and services. We are very grateful to both the Borough Council and the new unitary authority for their support in reducing our rent which will put us in a far more secure position for the long term.'

HOPING FOR BETTER BUS SERVICE

Dear Sir, The Town Council at my request wrote to Arriva, Darlington Council and the County Council regarding the No. 16 bus when it was re-routed and Aycliffe lost its direct bus to Darlington Memorial Hospital. The problem arose when Darlington became a Unitary Authority and the No. 16 then had no input from the County Council to which Aycliffe is part. The new development at School Aycliffe is in Darlington Borough so residents in Great Aycliffe have no say in this bus route. I have received no replies from the County Council, but maybe when they become the Unitary Authority we may get some improvements for our neglected town. Council Bill Curtis

£1000 for Cadets

Honest John's Fundraising stall has raised £1,000 for the town's Air Cadets and £84 for Newton Aycliffe Brownies. John wishes to thank everyone who have donated goods for sale to the community fundraising sales. The next charity to benefit is "Positive Horizons" who operate from the Business Park helping people recover from mental illness.

PARK POND PLATFORM



Dear Sir, On behalf of Aycliffe Nature Park Association and the RSPB Wildlife Explorers and Phoenix Group may I please thank Steve Cooper the Environment Officer at Great Aycliffe Town Council for the installation of a Pond Dipping Platform on Aycliffe Nature Park east of the Blue Bridge. This will provide a valuable resource for the young people to use for years to come. Steve and his team have done an excellent job. We will be publishing a list of activities planned for the year soon and all are welcome to join. All volunteers are Police CRB checked and have had training as Youth Leaders. The cost is just 50p a meeting which has been reduced from £1.00 due to the current economic climate. This will cover costs of drinks and

biscuits provided. Contact Alan Warburton on 01325 315182 or Dave and Sue Curran 01325 317347. e-mail apex@yahoo.co.uk.

Confession!

Dear Sir, After another Labour Party sleaze allegation it pricked my conscience so I have decided to come clean about viewing two videos borrowed from my stall which had been donated to good causes. They are valued at 10p each and I watched them in my second home the garden shed! The videos, "Donald Duck Goes Camping" and "An Evening with Basil Brush" will be returned immediately and I promise not to stoop to such a level again. Honest John.



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Saturday 11th - HIGH SCHOOL PANTO *Especially for children*
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Arrive 1.30pm - seats at 2.00pm. Tickets: £8.00 children - £10.00 adults.

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Sunday 12th - EASTER SUNDAY LUNCH and EASTER EGG HUNT
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TEENAGERS SHOW GREAT COMPASSION

Dear Syd
On Friday evening we visited the Elache Indian Restaurant in the Town Centre. After a lovely meal

we came outside and looked over the top to see an old gentleman searching a litter bin and taking contents out. Three young boys on

bikes, about 13 years old, approached the man and I thought they might bother him, but they were very kind. One young boy asked the old man if he had eaten and handed him a bar of chocolate from his pocket and also gave him money. Then his very kind mates also handed the gentleman the money they had on them. They showed this elderly

man great kindness, concern and respect!
My family were so pleased to see that Newton Aycliffe's young teenagers aren't all bad as people tend to think! In this case they were a credit to their parents who should be proud of their very kind actions. The youngsters will know who they are and I hope they read this.
Rob, Lisa & Jessica Graham

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FAMILY FUN DAY

There will be lots of fun activities to take part in at the launch of the Eco Centre, Moore Lane on Saturday 4th April. Greenfield Community and Arts Centre and the Environment officer at Great Aycliffe Town Council have funded and worked together to programme a day filled with exciting and crafty things to do. Scribbly Arts will be there creating a giant animal from junk material as well as helping children to make shakers to take away. Artist Paul Belcher will be helping young families to make 3d animals and landscapes for the centre. There will be mask making activities and a nature trail for you to follow. Melting Pot Arts will be doing junk music workshops with recycled oil barrels and there will be food and refreshment available. The event runs from 12.30pm until 4.00pm and booking is not necessary.

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LAND TRANSFER WHAT NEXT?

The Editor, What has happened to all the information that was forthcoming on the transfer of land from the town? Councillor Bob Fleming, the leader of the Town Council, was very up front about what should and should not be included with the housing transfer but since it has gone through nothing has been heard, except that three Labour Party members voted for the transfer. Nothing has been said about what is

happening to protect the interests of those who were denied a vote, the owner/occupiers. Could it be that 'Democracy?' has taken over and the mighty New Labour Party machine has dictated how far the town council can go in its appeasement of the townspeople? I hope I am wrong and the town council's spokesperson is going to put me right with a council statement that they are calling for a judicial review. Peter Dolan

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Charity Lunch at The Work Place



Newton Aycliffe Inner Wheel held their annual Charity Lunch at The Work Place which proved an ideal venue for the ladies who provide all the home-made food themselves, including scrumptious calorie filled desserts. President Lynn Swift welcomed over 100 guests to the event which was of the usual high standard and enjoyed by everyone. The Work Place is a brand new facility which lends itself to community events, offering excellent facilities and easy car parking. Ring Julie for details on 375900.

FUN DAY AT SILVERDALE



The Family Fun Day and Launch of the Kool Red Bus is on Saturday 4th April at Silverdale Place from 11.00am. There is a Bouncy Castle, Punch and Judy, Face Painting, Table Top Sale. County Councillor Dorothy Bowman and her volunteers invite you all to come and enjoy yourselves.

WORK UNDERWAY ON NEW AGNEW CENTRE



Work is now underway on a new purpose built community centre in Newton Aycliffe to replace the existing wooden building of Agnew Community Association. The new facility will be a multi-usage community building with one main hall and one smaller meeting room. It will provide a variety of activities for the local community such as a youth club, after school drop-in, dance, music and drama

sessions, healthy lifestyle courses and social events including tea dances. The present Agnew Community Centre was built as a temporary wooden building around 1984 and its poor condition and layout, limits the type of activities which can be provided. The Local Improvement Programme awarded £264,375 towards the scheme.

The North Briton Aycliffe Village - Tel 01325 312281

Sunday Carvery (12pm-2pm)
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DELIGHTED WE HAVE TESCO

Dear Sir,
May I add my comments to E. Worthington remarks regarding the staff at TESCO. I have always found them friendly, helpful and courteous. Having found out that Tesco employ 377 staff I personally think that the people of Newton Aycliffe should be delighted that they have built a store here and provided employment in a town that appears to be dying each

day. Each week when you visit the town centre it would appear another shop is closing. What are our Councillors doing to prevent this? The town centre pavements are dangerous to walk on, and

we have no public toilets, why do we pay our rates? Perhaps the solution would be portable toilets in the car park? Disgusted,
Matt. Davison

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY



Eric and Beatrice Chambers came to Newton Aycliffe in 1966 and never believed they would be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary together. It is a magnificent achievement marked with a special card from the Queen and a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress, George and Maud Gray. They first met at a Dance Hall in Willington, Eric was 17 and Beatrice was 14, but she recognised the talent Eric displayed with the Tango and she was smitten. Some time later, in 1949 they were married in St. Stephen's Church. By this time Eric had gone into mining and Beatrice had a job in the Post Office. When they moved to Aycliffe Eric worked for Brancepeth Coke Works and then Tallents as a Line Supervisor. After 7 years he took a job with Northern Tool & Gage as an Engineer until he retired. Beatrice worked in the offices

of GEC for 21 years. Eric was a good Cricketer in his younger days playing first wicket down for Willington. Beatrice has always loved to read and the couple have enjoyed some great holidays abroad, putting Florida and Disney top of their list. Top spot in the UK is Scarborough. The couple have a son, David and two daughters Lynn and Colleen, all married. There are seven Grandchildren and one Great Grandchild. The family enjoyed a celebratory Sunday Lunch together at the Blacksmiths Arms. Eric and Beatrice, recalling their wedding day, said they could not afford a honeymoon and had to save hard to pay for the Reception, due to rationing in those days. "We have enjoyed a good life together and Newton Aycliffe is a nice town which has provided us with a good standard of living" said Beatrice.

Licence Applications

Goods Vehicle Operators Licence

Peter William Coates trading as DPE Automotive Ltd. of Gurney Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6UJ is applying for a licence to use Coatham Avenue, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6UL as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners Office.

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Sat 4th April - "Russ Tippens" North East
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First track was PRIEST!! Diamonds and Rust. Acoustic version, I have to say I stared for a while cos Russ's vocals were superb! He has a great singing voice, and to pair it with Priest, things couldn't get any better for me! Answered with a rousing applause, next was the Rolling Stones, then Billie Jean. A bit of The Who (Substitute), and Led Zeppelin (naturally!!). The whole of the first set had everyone's attention, rousing response from every single person in the room!
Second set was even better, opened with Rush, The Spirit of Radio. God, it was bliddy fab! I've only ever heard The Force do that one, but I have to say Russ was on a par with them for this one, vocally spot on! Bastille Day followed, and Ram Jam came next, Black Betty, a track I've NEVER heard anyone attempt cos of the riff in the middle!! The dance floor filled up instantly!! The Average White Band's Pick Up The Pieces kept it filled. Having gone outside for a quick ciggie, I had to put it out straight after I lit it, Dire Straits The Sultans of Swing was calling! With a bit of David Bowie thrown into the night, Life on Mars and Oh You Pretty Thing, and a finish with Deep Purple, I reckon everyone had their tastes catered for in a spectacular way last night. Altogether an absolutely awesome night of music, 10/10 FOR RUSS TIPPINS!!

Sat 11th April - "Alcatraz House Band" "Legends in the Making" Alcatraz House Band, Three Tuns, Gateshead. Friday 24/10/08
After writing lyrical about this band on many forums, it was refreshing and somewhat satisfying to get dozens of messages following their appearance at this years Storming The Castle, which I missed but they blew the roof off by all accounts. For a band made up of 4 young twenty somethings, the Alcatraz House Band are much more seasoned performers than you might think, having been around the local scene for some time and recently supported Meat Loaf's daughter Pearl Aday on her UK tour. The fact that they managed to secure this and many other support slots should in itself be enough to tell you that this band are real quality. Performing a set that is heavily laden (pun intended!) with Led Zeppelin numbers, it's beneficial to be able to wait a bit, and vocalist Jen certainly has a pair of lungs on her. Capable of singing Pensive vocals that Russ Tippens would die for, Jen has an amazing stage presence and is very easy on the eye. You are guaranteed to be blown away by the sheer power and range of her voice, and I am on record as saying that their song "Priests And Preachers" is IMO one of the greatest pieces of classic rock music ever recorded - period.
Backing up the powerful vocals are three equally talented lads. Lead guitarist Graham has armfuls of talent, bassman Lee is impeccable, drummer Mark plays hard and clean and between them they create a sound as good as anything on the national scene today. Thankfully it filled up a bit for the second half, by which time the guys were on a roll with a few more classic rock covers (AC/DC, CULT, FLOYD PURPLE ZEP etc) and two new originals going down well if you still haven't seen Alcatraz House Band then you really don't know what you are missing!

For more information on bands go to www.turbiniapub.co.uk
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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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Births

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Birthday Remembrance

KARMEN Birthday Memories for April 5th. Your special day we cannot share, but in our hearts you're always there. Love from Mam, Dad and Nadine, Ronnie, Karen and family.

ADA HUTSON 04.04.27. No special day is needed for us to think of you, for you are always with us in everything we do. Your smile is in the sunshine, your laughter in the breeze, your love is all around us, it's in the air we breathe. Our thoughts are always with you, in a very special way, not only on your Birthday, but every single day. Love and miss you as always, your loving Husband Dick and all your family x
MARY McCORMACK Mary missing you every day, miss our little chats pet, thinking of you always, your everloving friend Joy
MONICA DIXON Birthday wishes Mam, 7th April. Sadly missed and much loved, Wendy, Paul and Emma xxx

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In Memoriam

TOMMY HARBOTTLE Died 7th April 2005. Happy memories of Tommy, a much loved Husband to Gladys, Father to Vera and Lavinia, Father-in-Law to Andy and friend to everyone. It's been 4 years without you but your smile and laughter live on with us forever.

MILFORD SLIM April 5th. A little tribute, small and tender, just to say we still remember. Your love we miss, your memory we treasure. Love Jean and family
MARGARET KELLY 24.03.09. Even though you have gone from me, your memory will go on, as all the special things we have done will be in my heart forever. It will be hard without you, as you were my life, but we will be together again one day. From your loving husband, Paddy xxx
MY PETER 6th April 2008. Each dream of mine began and ended with loving thoughts of you. You were my life, the most important part of everything I did. You'll be forever in my heart each day and every day and no-one else in all the world made me feel that way. Love you always, Your Helen xxx
MIRIAM ROSSITER 08.04.04. You are always in our thoughts Mam. We love and miss you so much. Lesley and Tony xxx
BRIAN FIRTH 03-04-99. My memories of you have carried me on, you are always on my mind and forever in my heart. Miss you so much. Loving Wife Hazel xx Grandad, love and miss you, Katie and Dawn xx

AN ETERNAL MEMORY of a much loved Son, died 06.04.08. This is for someone wonderful as loved as one could be, for you were everything in life, you meant the world you see and sometimes life can be unkind, when hearts are torn in two, but nothing could compare to the pain of losing you. But all the love you left behind Peter, forever will live on, and so until we meet again, rest peacefully Dear Son. Mam and Dad
ALF SAXBY 04.04.02. Time hides the sadness, like smiles hide the tears. But nothing hides the heartache, despite the passing years. Loved always, Wife Eileen and family xxx

Thank You

THE FAMILY OF the late Alice Heslop would like to thank everyone for their kind donations received. Amount collected was £607.50, this amount will be shared between: Diabetes UK, G.N.A.A.S. and R.B.L.W.S.

THE FAMILY OF the late Mary Hind wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement, also for the cards and letters of condolence. Thanks to Julie, Vicar of St Elizabeths, for a comforting Service and to Christine and Staff at the Co-op Funeralcare. All our love from Janet, Tony and David xx

GLADYS LAINE would like to thank her lovely family for the cards, gifts, weekend in York, family night out in celebration for my 80th birthday. Enjoyed it all. Thank you to friends, neighbours, old and new, and St Clares Fellowship for the cards and flowers. Thank you all.
HELEN BEST would like to thank **MANDY MACLEAN** from Maclean School of Motoring for getting me through my test. You did an excellent job!!

Obituary

DORIS MADDISON Aged 88 years of Lyon Walk (formerly Whitley Bay) after a short illness. Cremation at Whitley Bay on Monday 6th April.

MARGARET KELLY (Maggie) aged 57, sadly passed away in hospital on Tuesday 24th March. Loving Wife of Paddy, Mother, Grandmother and Sister. Maggie will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Service at Crewe Crematorium on Friday 3rd April at 11.20am.

FLAXEN March 29th of Woodham (formerly of Heighington) Charles aged 82 years, beloved Husband of the late Olive, much loved Dad of Anne and Catherine, also dear Father-in-Law, Granda, Great Granda, Brother, Brother-in-Law and Uncle. Will friends please meet for Service in Neville Parade Methodist Church at 3pm on Monday April 6th, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations in memory may be given for S.S.A.F.A.

COOK (nee Lowery) March 30th peacefully at home after a short illness bravely borne of Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Wife of Don, loving Mam of Steven, Kathryn and Richard, Grandma of Dean, Sister of Bill also devoted Daughter of the late Irene. Funeral Wednesday April 8th, would friends please meet at 11.15am for service at Darlington Crematorium.

Entertainment

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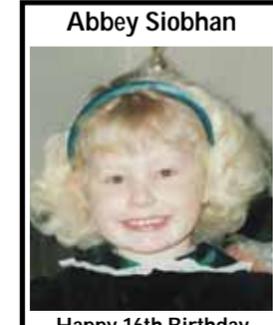
Congratulations



Chris
Happy 50th Birthday
April 2nd
Love from Maureen, Paul, Bex, Michael and V



Oskar
03.04.09
Happy 1st birthday to our son Oskar.
Lots of love from Mam and Dad



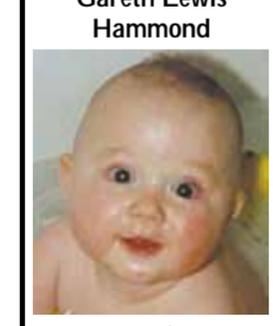
Abbey Siobhan
Happy 16th Birthday
Love you loads, enjoy your party.
Mam, Gran and Grandad



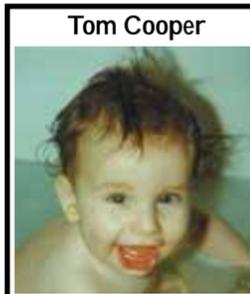
Look Who's 31!
Happy birthday Stu.
Lots of Love, Rebecca, Amber and Logan xxx



Chris Hay
Happy 10th Birthday
7th April 2009
Lots of Love, Mum, Dad and Lucy xxx
Happy Birthday Chris.
Love from Grandma and Grandad Banks xx



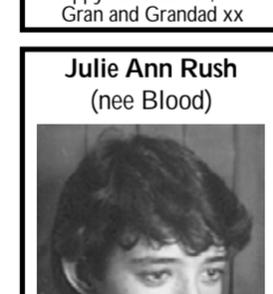
Gareth Lewis Hammond
18 Today
2-4-91. Have a fab day.
Love from Mam, Calv and Charlie xx
Happy 18th Gareth, love Gran and Grandad xx



Tom Cooper
Happy 13th Birthday
07.04.09
What a little cutie!!
Enjoy Santa Pod Raceway.
All our love Mam and Mally xxx



Vera Stobbs
Happy 85th Birthday
to our Special Mam, Grandma and Great Grandma. All our love from Brenda, Barbara, Gillian and Families xxx



Julie Ann Rush
(nee Blood)
To a kind, caring Daughter on your 40th Birthday. Love you, Mum and Dad xxx
Happy 40th Birthday Mummy
from your 2 little angels, Adam and Ellie xxx



Andrew Wilson
Happy 16th Birthday
Lots of love from Nanna and family



SIENNA-LEIGH BIRKETT
Happy 2nd Birthday. Happy birthday to our sweetest daughter. Love from Mammy & Daddy & all the family x
SAUL KENNEDY
Congratulations on your 40th birthday. A most lovely man, Dad, Son, Brother, Grandson and Nephew. Love from all your family.
ANNE-MARIE KELL (Probyn). To my fantastic fiancée, happy 30th birthday. Love you millions, Claire xxx
KELL (Probyn) 28th March. Happy 30th Anne-Marie you are getting old now, have a good day in York. Love you. Love, Mam xx
KELL (Probyn) Happy 30th Annemarie. Love you. Love, Claire, Chelsea, Dylan and Lauren xx
KELL (Probyn) Happy 30th Annemarie. Love, Uncle Robin, Auntie Christine, Uncle Ian, Auntie Lindy, Ashley, Rebecca, Caitlin and Charlie xx
RHIANNA BONAS 01.04.09. Happy 15th birthday wor lass. Av a great day. Luv u stax, ya Ma 'n' Pa xx



Jean Armstrong
(Jeanne)
Happy 60th Birthday
Lots of Love Bryan xxxxx

MACY BLACKBURN 04.04.08. Happy 1st birthday to a special little girl. All our love Mammy and Daddy
MACY BLACKBURN 04.04.08. To our little sister on your 1st birthday. Lots of love Leah and Ryan
NEWBERY, Dave and Pat. Congratulations on your Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Love John, Maxine, Harry, Jack and Stacy
NEWBERY. Congratulations Mam and Dad on your Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Lots of love from Peter, Ste, Michelle, Clare and Elliot xxx Lots of love Nanna and Granda on your Ruby Wedding Anniversary from Beccy, Jack, Kieran, Leah and Summer xxx
NEWBERY, Dave and Pat. To a special couple on your Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Love Jean, Steve and family
NEWBERY 05-04-09. Congratulations and best wishes Tricia and Dave on your Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Love Kath, Ben and Family xxx
GARETH HAMMOND. 02.04.09. Happy 18th Birthday, All our love, Uncle Michael and Auntie Kerry xxx



Courtney Pearson
Happy 18th Birthday
1st April.
Love from Mam, Dad, Paige, Darcey, Nana, Grandad, Karen, Billy, Richard and Holly

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RIO. Have a fab day. Love from all the family xx
JOANNE & WAYNE HALL Congratulations on your success at winning The Business Award for 2009. Love and best wishes from Nanna Bielok and Mam and Dad
REED, Happy 11th birthday. Hope you have a great party at the Oak Leaf on Saturday. From Mackenzie

Driving Down Shafto Way

Dear Sir,
I read your excellent community news paper, week ending 13th March 2009 and would like to respond to the ill informed relative who wrote the letter "Shocking Driving Down Shafto Way". The 'Highway Code' states in section 163, "Give way to oncoming vehicles before passing parked vehicles or other obstructions on your side of the road."
I witnessed every word spoken by this 'older gentleman' and the driver who is wrongly accused of speeding down Shafto Way. The first thing the older man said to the other driver was that he didn't see him coming because of a van parked further up the road. Then remarked he had seen the car approaching him and it was travelling at 70 mph.
Which is it, 'I didn't see the other car coming' or 'the other car was doing 70mph?' I was following the other car along Shafto Way and was right behind it all the way. The car was travelling at a speed between 20 and 26 mph, slowing down to go over the speed humps, along Shafto Way. I saw the older man driving before he pulled out to pass some parked cars on his side of the road. He must have been able to see me also. He continued to pull over to my side of the road and both cars came calmly to a halt. Neither car

'SCREECHED TO A HALT' as was stated in your newspaper.
The man driving the car on the correct side of the road is a disabled driver, with severe neck and back problems, made worse by a car driving into the back of his car some years ago on Shafto Way. Therefore he could not stand the pain of going over the speed humps faster than 20mph! As for medical problems neither driver could possibly be aware of the other's afflictions. I wonder if the older man that gets so stressed by another car, calmly stopping in front of him when driving, "SHOULD HE BE DRIVING AT ALL?"
Although this incident was caused by the older man's ignorance of the HIGHWAY CODE, the blame sits squarely on the Council!
The Council have not provided the car parking spaces that could make Shafto Way a safe street to drive along. This has been a problem for many years and has been worsened by the introduction of ridiculous speed humps, which do nothing but damage cars and cost motorists thousands of pounds in repair bills. A GREENER Council would want traffic to flow smoothly so as to avoid unnecessary pollution from cars stopping and starting continually.
Name and address supplied

Sedgefield Borough Homes in Business

Tenants in Newton Aycliffe woke up on Tuesday morning this week to a new Landlord as Sedgefield Borough Homes took over from the Borough Council. They hit the ground running calling a Press Conference to outline plans to bring immediate benefits to their tenants.
£100 million will be spent in the next five years. Chairman of SBH, Bill Waters said they were also keen to improve community life and would be supporting local projects with grants.
170 staff will initially operate from Green Lane, but there are plans to re-locate. The Leisure Centre will also remain the first point of call for the next 18 months.
"Tenants will be kept fully informed of all changes and SBH is determined to live up to all promises made" said Bill.

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22 Medals for Town's Swimming Club



Four swimmers from Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club ended the Northumberland and County Swimming Championships on a high.
The team of four from the club were competing on the morning in the 4 x 100m freestyle relay and they were up against strong opposition from City of Sunderland and the City of Newcastle Clubs.

The team made it through to the final where they all swam faster than in the heats and finished in second place, only 3 seconds behind the winning team from City of Newcastle. The same team of four were up for the challenge to win yet another medal in the 4 x 100m medley relay.
The team of Philip Walker, backstroke, Kyle Boyek, breaststroke, Philip Hodgson, butterfly and Stuart Walker, freestyle, looked good and were up for the challenge, even though they were swimming in an outside lane with rivals Newcastle in a centre lane.
The team got off to a fantastic start and Philip put the team in to an early lead, which was increased by both Kyle and

Philip, as Stuart dived in he was eight seconds in front of the nearest rival and swam faster than he had ever swam before, breaking the minute for the 100m freestyle and bringing the team home in first place as County Champions for the 15-18 year age group.
This event brought the championships to an end and with it the club had secured a total of 22 medals. Two of which were won the week before by Aaron Morton (9) who was competing in his first county championships. He finished 1st in the 200m butterfly and 2nd in the 50m freestyle and narrowly missed out on a medal in the 50m butterfly.

CHURCH HALL FOR HIRE

Are you looking for a small hall to hold a weekly meeting? If so St. Elizabeth's Church Hall is available at a very reasonable hourly rate. For further details contact Rev. J Wing on 01325 320 278

RECYCLED FASHION BY VILLAGE SCOUTS



ACLE Scout Group held a Fashion Show of recycled clothing in the Village Hall on Monday evening. The event which was well supported by parents, friends and relatives not only raised circa £350 for much needed Scout Group funds but generated a lively event with all eyes on the youngsters as they paraded down the 'Cat Walk'. Proud parents were amazed by the professionalism of the budding models, some only five years old. Quality clothing was collected during

the previous week by Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and many outfits modelled were sold on the night.

100% PASS RATE FOR WOODHAM TAEKWONDO CLUB



Woodham Chungdokwan Taekwondo Club had a very successful day on Sunday 22nd March at Ferryhill Leisure Centre.
Twenty students from the Woodham Club attended the gradings and as usual all performed to a very high standard. All twenty were successful and were promoted to their next belt. Two of the white belts were double promoted to yellow belt, one of these students also receiving the trophy for best performance in that category.
The club is run by Kevin Mitchell Black Belt 4th Dan and

Andrea Mulhearn 2nd Dan and assisted by several more black belt grades, so you are sure to get a high level of tuition. The club is CRB checked and is a member of the UKTDC.
If you would like to become part of this highly motivated club, come along and give it a try. The first lesson is free and classes are held at Woodham Community Centre (near the Huntsman Pub), Tuesdays 6pm-8.15pm and Sundays 10.30am-12noon.
We look forward to seeing you there!
More information from Kevin on 07536 061 450.



Easter Deadlines
Week ending Friday 10th April
Deadline: Tuesday 7th April, 5pm
Distributed from Thursday 9th April

Week ending Friday 17th April
Deadline: Wednesday 15th April 5pm

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Helping the Mobility Club

Dear Sir,
With reference to the article printed (A nice little earner) in issue week ending 6th March 09.
The club is indeed looking for volunteers to support our members whilst on club outings, however I would like to point out that the club does not employ people to do this task.
Whilst we do have funding to give our volunteers out of pocket expenses upon receipt, we do not have money to pay wages to those who are unemployed which may have come across in the article.
The club would like to apologise for any misunderstanding this may have caused. If you are interested in volunteering with the club please contact 01325 301125 for more details
Secretary, Newton Aycliffe Mobility Club

WOMEN'S RUNNING NETWORK

The Young Women's Sport and Active Recreation programme at Spennymoor Leisure Centre introduces its first major initiative to encourage fitness and fun next month.
It will run a 10-week programme each Tuesday (5.45pm and 6.45pm), beginning 21 April costing £2.00 per session.
The initial target is to provide entrants for the 5k Durham Race for Life on Sunday 5 July.
The Network is an all-women's running group affiliated to UK Athletics which has been running successfully for more than ten years across the UK. Sessions must be booked, however, once committed to the ten-week programme, entry to the Race for Life will be provided for free.
The sessions are primarily targeted at young women aged 16 to 25, friends and family who fall outside of the above age group are more than welcome to attend - including beginners.
ROCK ANTICS, situated in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, launches a new programme on a Monday 6 April (6.30pm and 8.00pm). For further details, or to book any of these sessions, call Marie Ramsey on (01388) 816166 Ext 4512 or email iramsey@sedgefield.gov.uk

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A&S Winchester	RRP £199.00	NOW £89.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £189.00	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

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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

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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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