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Week Ending 10th April, 2009

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## PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP IN SECONDARY EDUCATION WITH SHILDON

A WIDE - RANGING consultation process is about to be launched into proposals to make our three local secondary schools formal partners in learning.

Parents, colleges, training providers and employers will all be asked to have their say on plans to establish a joint education trust to serve young people in Newton Aycliffe and Shildon. The three schools involved are Greenfield School Community and Arts College and Woodham Community Technology College in Newton Aycliffe and Sunnydale Community College for Maths and Computing in Shildon. The proposed collaboration is intended to ensure that young

people served by the three schools get access to the best educational and vocational resources. The joint trust would combine the expertise and successful practices of the three schools. The partnership approach is seen as being vital as the choice of courses and qualifications available to 14-19 year olds develops and expands. The five-week consultation period begins at the start of the summer term on Monday April 20 when information about the proposals will be sent out to parents. This will be followed by meetings at each school at which parents will be issued with further details and will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the implications of the

establishment of a trust. These will take place at Sunnydale on Tuesday on Tuesday May 5 at 6.30pm, at Greenfield on Wednesday May 6 at 6.30pm and at Woodham on Thursday May 7 at 7.30pm. Information will also be sent to local colleges and schools, workplace providers and other stakeholders along with an invitation to comment on the plans. All the views gathered during the five weeks will be considered by governors of the three schools at meetings in early June before decisions are made as to whether they proceed with the next stage in the process. If approved, the collaboration will lead to the establishment of the Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust from September. It will work closely with the Local Authority and other key partners from education and training to provide top class educational and vocational opportunities for students and go further to raise levels of achievement. Partnerships between the schools already provide Young Apprenticeship and high quality vocational courses in Engineering, Business and Health and Social Care. The schools are also developing a common approach to extended schools and the issue of children's well-being. The educational trust will consolidate and extend these existing partnerships, working with educational institutions involved in further and higher education, businesses and public sector organisations.

## TOWN COUNCIL PROVIDE ALLOTMENT FOR SCHOOL



Greenfield School Community & Arts College are very grateful to Great Aycliffe Town Council for agreeing to provide students with access to an allotment for 2 years. This has enabled us to make exciting developments in our curriculum. Six pupils have been hard at work, each digging over their own plot, getting it ready for

the Spring and planting time. We have already planted some cabbages and strawberries, now we are waiting for the ground to warm up so we can get started once again. The pupils are benefiting by learning that what they get out of things comes from the effort that they put into it. More soil dug over = more to eat!

## Driver Takes the Hump Over Damage to Car

A Newton News reader is taking legal action over damage to his car from speed humps in the town. He has identified the problems he has experienced and the costs he has incurred in repairs are solely down to these traffic calming measures, even though he takes extra care when driving over them. The humps are particularly harmful to older cars and our reader found the hump in his vehicle damaged so much he had to have it replaced. This involved a complete engine strip and rebuild costing

£2,500. Further investigation and inspection by the Highways Authority showed that a particular hump in Shafto Way was 11% higher than it should have been. Consequently our reader is claiming compensation for the damage caused. It may be coincidence, but the Highway Authority is currently reviewing the effectiveness of the speed humps and readers were requested to send in their views by end of January. The result has not been reported and we await the outcome with interest.

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## Easter Prizes for Sugar Hill Students



Hays Travel representatives Lesely Lowes and Joanne Brown presented the kindly donated prizes for our Easter Competitions last week.

The talented winners were Siobhan Wilson, Caitlin Weatherston, Macy Edwards Bennett and Jack Jacob. Choosing the winners was a very difficult

task as all the entries were of such a high standard. The children decorated eggs and bonnets.

We also had the PTA Easter Raffle draw which raised the grand total of £357. There were thirty one fabulous Easter eggs as prizes, Kieran Maughan won first prize of a giant teddy and egg in a basket.



Infant School winners with Rev Linda Potter

## FREE DAY EXCURSIONS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Application forms for the free excursions for Senior Citizens of the Parish are available now from the Recreation Centre, Oakleaf Sports Complex, Library in Dalton Way and Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 3.45 p.m. Monday to Friday or will be posted to you if you telephone 300700. Forms can also be downloaded from the Council's website: [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

Please note that you must provide 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, Proof of age and residency must accompany your application form. Please do not send originals, the Library in Dalton Way will photocopy your original documents for only 5p per A4 size copy.

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, returning by 8.00 pm except South Shields which will leave at 11.00 am and be

back in Newton Aycliffe by 5.00 pm

### SCARBOROUGH

Helmsley Comfort Stop, Royal Hotel \*\*Lunch & free time in Scarborough, Gisborough Hall Hotel \*\*Light Afternoon Tea

### NORTHUMBERLAND

Boundary Mill, Shiremoor, \*\*Morning Coffee Sanctuary Restaurant, Alnwick Castle \*\*Lunch & free time in Alnwick, Heighley Gate Garden Centre Comfort Stop

### DUMFRIES

Rhedeg Visitor Centre \*\*Morning Coffee, Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries, \*\*Lunch & free time in Dumfries, M6 Services Comfort Stop

### LAKES

Rhedeg Visitor Centre, \*\*Morning Coffee Hydro Hotel, Windermere \*\*Lunch & free time in Windermere, Tebay Services Comfort Stop

### SOUTH SHIELDS

Sea Hotel, South Shields, \*\*Lunch & free time.

\*\* Indicates there is no charge to passengers for these refreshments. 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

## GREENFIELD'S TENTH YEAR AT AOSTA SKI COURSE RESORT



Greenfield School Community & Arts College, Newton Aycliffe has just returned from a second ski residential course in Pila, Val d'Aosta, Italy this season. A group of 56 key stage four pupils and adults skied at the end of January and a party of 60 Key stage 3 pupils and adults returned from their course last week. The two groups put together equal one of the biggest ski courses in the country. These courses marked a celebration of ten years skiing in Val d'Aosta with Interski during which time over 700 children from Greenfield have learnt to ski and many have developed into very accomplished skiers. Some of the key features of the Greenfield courses include the opportunity for continuity and progression which has resulted in very high standards of performance being attained.

In the past five years, nine students have been recommended for the Interski scholarship scheme and three have actually progressed to sponsorship by Rossignol to pursue the international ski teaching qualification of the British Association of Snow Sports Instructors (BASI). Andrew Richardson has subsequently worked as an instructor in Whistler (Canada), Zermatt (Switzerland) and New Zealand prior to starting a Sports Science degree at the University of Northumbria.

Weather conditions for both courses were superb, the best skiing we have had in the Aosta Valley. The locals in the valley explained to us that the snow was by far the best that they have had in 25 years.

Whilst away, the Greenfield team enjoyed the company of many other schools from our local area. Pupils and staff from several secondary schools around our area enjoyed the conditions at the same time as our pupils. It was particularly pleasant to have Woodham Technology College skiing in the same resort as this indicates a strong tradition for ski residential courses in our town. Long may this continue!

Stuart Dixon, subject leader for PE and ski course leader said; 'the annual ski residential course is one of the highlights of the school calendar for many of our students. It forms an important part of the schools 'Learning Outside The Classroom' policy. The variety of conditions made the course both challenging and enjoyable for all of our students.

The owners of the Au Coin Vert hotel in Aosta, which hosts the annual Greenfield course, received some gifts to celebrate ten years of their hospitality. Course leader Stuart Dixon presented a print of the Sanctuary Knocker, with translation, and a copy of The Durham Book, published by Durham County Council.

## Bumper Entry for Aycliffe Road Race

On your marks – the race is on. The first runners are already lining up for what the organisers hope will be the largest ever entry for Newton Aycliffe's annual 10k road race.

The race is being sponsored by 3M Aycliffe and Great Aycliffe Town Council and each year attracts hundreds of participants from the local area and across the North East.

The 2009 event is on Sunday, June 21, and entry forms are now available from the organisers, Newton Aycliffe Athletic Club. There is also a 3k fun run on the same day for those looking for a more leisurely test of their stamina. Alan Kellett, facilities manager with sponsors 3M, commented: "We're delighted to be supporting the race again this year. It's a real highpoint in the community calendar and there are a number of people here at our Aycliffe site looking

forward to taking part."

The Athletics Club has staged the race every year since 1998 as a way of bringing the community together to take exercise. As well as the sense of achievement it has given those who have completed the course, it has also helped to raise thousands of pounds for charity through sponsorship. Race Director Mick Beadle added: "We are encouraging people to get their entries in as early as possible so they have a target to aim for. There's no better time to start training."

To enter, write for an application form with a 9x6" stamped addressed envelope to Colin Gibson, 12 Ainsty Hunt, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7PH – or do it online at [newtonaycliffeac.org.uk](http://newtonaycliffeac.org.uk).

## Rumour of Bus Changes

Dear Sir  
Further to Mrs Arnold's letter last week regarding the bus service. I use this bus at least three times a week and find it very inconvenient not having a service after 6 p.m. or on Sundays.

However, my main concern is that I understand from the drivers that Arriva will no longer be running this service from the beginning of May and that another firm will be taking over.

There has been no notice of this in any of the local papers and we can only hope that the new firm will listen to the needs of the passengers including going back to the old route via the Memorial Hospital in Darlington.  
Mrs A Blackburn  
School Aycliffe

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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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## Councillor Surgery

New Unitary Councillors Sarah Iveson and John Moran will be holding surgeries on the first Saturday of each month (except for January and August) in St. Mary's Meeting Room 11am-12 noon. Both Councillors represent Aycliffe East on the new authority.

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## Jane Holds Party for 60th



Jane Ritchie, founder and benefactor of The Work Place, celebrated her 60th Birthday at the newly opened facility at Heighington Lane, on the Business Park, last Sunday. Scores of wellwishers called on her and took the opportunity to view the premises.

## EASTER REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

The Easter Refuse and Recycling collections in the Sedgefield Borough area are as follows:

- Monday 13 April will now be collected on Tuesday 14 April
- Tuesday 14 April will now be collected on Wednesday 15 April
- Wednesday 15 April will now be collected on Thursday 16 April
- Thursday 16 April will now be collected on Friday 17 April

## Your New Unitary Authority Councillors



AYCLIFFE EAST: Sarah Iveson Tel: 319759 & 0191 3725804  
 AYCLIFFE NORTH: Joan Gray Tel: 313778 & 0191 3725807  
 AYCLIFFE WEST: Mike Dixon Tel: 312872 & 0191 3725808  
 SHILDON EAST: Dorothy Bowman Tel: 308094 & 0191 3725899

John Moran Tel: 314052 & 0191 3725805  
 Paul Gittins Tel: 317666 & 0191 3725806  
 Enid Paylor Tel: 313697 & 0191 3725809  
 Brian Stephens Tel: 01388 773168 & 0191 3725900

## Free Event for Businesses

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 www.aycliffe-ec.org.uk

South Durham Business Network announce another fantastic FREE event "Ask the Expert & Business Surgery" scheduled for the 28th of April 2009.

Simon Henig, Leader of the Durham County Council has kindly agreed to speak at the event, along with Councillor Neil Foster with portfolio responsibility for Economic Regeneration and Ian Thompson, Director of Regeneration and Economic Development.

There are 18 experts available to meet ranging from Accounts through to Website design and including Business Link. To Register and book a one-to-one session: please contact Darren Race M: 07947 409838 or email info@sdbn.org.uk

This special event is on 28th April 2009 at Spennymoor Town Hall, on the High Street. Agenda: 15:00: One-to-one appointments commence (15 minutes per appointment) with free flowing tea and coffee. 17:00 Keynote address from Simon Henig, Leader of the Durham County Council. 17:15: Panel Session - Ask the Expert, or submit anonymous questions 17:45 Refreshments, Buffet and NETWORKING

## BISHOP of JARROW at C of E EASTER SERVICES

The Rt. REvd Mark Bryant, Bishop of Jarrow will preside at all of the following services

**MAUNDY THURSDAY: ST CLARE'S CHURCH, Town Centre** at 7.00 pm. Commemoration of the Last Supper, Foot Washing and Vigil

**GOOD FRIDAY: Churches Together Service** at 10.00 am at St Clare's Church: Anglican Liturgy of Good Friday at 3.00 pm St Francis Church, Horndale

**EASTER DAY: Easter Vigil** at 5.30 am at St Clare's Church followed by celebration champagne breakfast 10.00 am at St Clare's Church, Easter Celebration of the Eucharist with Baptism, Confirmation and first Holy Communion followed by celebration cake and wine in church hall.

Easter Egg Hunt for the children 6.00 pm at St Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village: Easter Songs of Praise. All are welcome to share these joyful celebrations

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<b>BATTLEFIELDS OF WW1</b> 18 <sup>TH</sup> MAY £229.00 (5 Days - B&B)	Our tour gives us an insight into the tragic events of the Great War where some of the bloodiest fighting the world has ever seen took place between 1914 and 1918 in the killing fields of Northern Europe. We include 2 nights accommodation in Belgium, return ferry crossings from Hull and guided battlefield tours.
<b>DISNEY ON ICE</b> 10.10.09 Newcastle Arena £29.50	
<b>SOUND OF MUSIC UB40</b> 20.11.09 Sunderland Empire £42.00	
<b>SOUND OF MUSIC</b> 24.11.09 Newcastle Arena £45.00	
<b>MAMMA MIA</b> 01.12.09 Sunderland Empire £42.00	
	22.12.09 Newcastle Arena £50.00

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# WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

# SBC Deputy Leader Sets the Record Straight

# North East Bowls Contest at Aycliffe



Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Football Club are celebrating their 20th Year in 2009. As part of the celebrations we are looking to reunite the original side from 1989 to coincide with our yearly Presentation Evening on June 13th at the Big Club in Newton Aycliffe. If you are in this photo contact Joe Blackett on 07983 390 743 or online joeblackett@live.co.uk for further details.

Dear Sir,  
Now that Sedgefield Borough Council has gone it means that reporting embargoes have been lifted, and as there has been some erroneous reports covering everything from green spaces to selling of land, I now want to set the record straight. Housing Associations that have inherited council housing since 1997 all over the country have been highly successful in delivering improvements promised to tenants, this is according to a new report from the "Chartered Institute of Housing" for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The Impact of housing stock transfers in urban Britain, found that a large majority implemented local property standards 'much higher' than the English Decent Homes Standard or its Scottish or Welsh counterparts. Many housing associations have also generated procurement and other energy efficient savings and reinvested them into modernisation schemes and originally unplanned works. In a recent local government publication on regeneration, Hal Pawson, lead author of the study, said: "Most of the transfer housing associations we looked at have become involved in neighbourhood regeneration - including social and economic renewal - to much greater degree than anticipated at the time of transfer. Most have developed community facilities and contributed to community services beyond housing management. Transfer has also provided a substantial stimulus

for tenant involvement. On estate management, the transfer process has contributed to a more business - like, more consumer-focused social housing sector."

With regard to Green Spaces: In 2004 there was an LSVT Corporate Steering Group at the meeting of the 15th November under the Chairmanship of Cllr. R. S. Fleming. Also present were Cllrs, Mrs A. M. Armstrong, Mrs B. A. Clare, (wife of J. D. Clare) Mrs B. Graham, A. Gray, J. E. Higgin, W. Waters, and J Wayman J. P. (now deceased).

A. Roskell represented Chapman Hendy advisors to the Council also I. Doolittle representing Trowers and Hamlins legal advisors to the Council together with officers of the Council. In minute LSVT. 18/04 Consideration of Assets Other than Council Housing: it was resolved that: The Corporate Steering Group had indicated that they would prefer the Council to retain open spaces on Council housing estates.

The underlining principle which applied throughout, had been to transfer areas of open space which were accounted for in the Housing Revenue Account whilst retaining what was accounted for in the General Fund. This showed that a greater area of land would have been transferred had the ballot been successful in 2004 than what is being acquired by Sedgefield Borough Homes now that transfer has gone ahead.

Vince Crosby



The annual Oakleaf Sports Complex Mixed Triples Open Bowling Tournament was held on 28 and 29 March. The event is supported by Great Aycliffe Town Council, which provides sporting opportunities within Newton Aycliffe for all to enjoy in a quality family friendly facility. Sixteen teams entered from around the North East, with the winning team being from our own Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club. The team is shown in the picture above with the Mayor

George Gray, receiving their winner's prize and trophies. The winning team consisted of David Barron, Maureen Barron, Dorothy Howard and Barry Attwood. The Oakleaf Sports Complex Manager, Derek Snowball, said "This event is the culmination of working closely with the Indoor Bowls Club in partnership to bring on line an annual event that is going from strength to strength and shows that Indoor Bowls is alive and well within Newton Aycliffe".

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**Tuesdays**  
Greenfield Community & Arts Centre Greenfield Way  
6.00pm with Janet - 01325 350831

**Thursdays**  
St Clare's Church Hall, Central Avenue  
1.00pm and 5.30pm with Debbie - 01325 300615

## MEP Health Warning: Check Before You Travel

With millions of European Health Insurance Cards (EHICs) held by UK Citizens due to expire in the coming weeks, North East MEP Stephen Hughes of the European Parliament's Consumer Protection Committee has warned holidaymakers to check before they travel. Stephen said "Millions of UK travellers can visit other European countries knowing that, should anything go wrong, they will be covered

for emergency treatment by the European Health Insurance Card. But with millions of cards needing to be renewed I want to warn travellers, particularly with the Easter break ahead, to check the expiry date on their EHIC card before they travel."

Only 292,089 people have renewed their EHIC so far. This means that 3.3 million people have an out-of-date card. Stephen Hughes added "Thanks to European law the EHIC card guarantees you reduced-cost or free state emergency care in any of the other 26 Member States of the EU. For all other costs that may arise with medical problems overseas, from repatriation to holiday cancellation or follow-up treatment, travellers should also look at taking out a travel insurance policy."

Commenting on problems raised by constituents who were taken to private hospitals in Spain for emergency treatment Stephen said "the EHIC only covers you for publicly provided healthcare services, so if you don't have private health insurance make it clear you want to be treated in a public hospital if you fall ill."

CONTACT:  
CYNDI BEAVER ON 07764 198 400

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## COUNCIL CHAIRMAN PAYS TRIBUTE TO DISTRICT AND BOROUGH COUNCILS

Retiring County Council Chairman, Len O'Donnell has paid tribute to the work done by the eight councils which merged to form the new unitary council for the county.

Speaking at the inaugural annual meeting of the new authority, which was attended by all eight civic leaders of the dissolved councils, Coun O'Donnell said: "Today is a landmark occasion for local government in County Durham."

"After months of planning and close co-operation, a new era in local government has dawned. "I am delighted that the civic leaders from our partners in reorganisation have been able to join us this morning to mark the birth of the new unitary council."

"Since their creation more than 30 years ago, our District and Borough Councils have achieved a great deal for the communities they have served, often despite what has seemed like a never ending cycle of challenging difficulties and adversity."

"Together with the old County Council, they have left a rich legacy of social, economic and environmental improvements

which provide firm foundations on which the new unitary replacement can build.

"Collectively they have tackled, and overcome, tremendous setbacks like the loss of our traditional industries and the large scale unemployment, hardship and industrial dereliction they left in their wake. "They have helped the people of County Durham pick themselves up and dust themselves off one setback after another."

"And while there is much still to be done, the fact that County Durham is now better placed to face the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead is due in no small measure to the role played by our district and borough councils - and local government generally - since the last reorganisation of the 1970s."

"I am sure I speak on behalf of the new unitary council as a whole when I say we are determined to build upon that record of achievement. We are up to the challenge that reorganisation offers and we are determined to continue to improve the quality of life of the people of County Durham."

## WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE GOOSE . . .

**Residents in Ferryhill are feeling 'flushed' with success after taking possession of their new town centre toilets. It's over ten years since the people of Ferryhill were last able to spend a penny, but that has all changed.**

**The new toilets are a joint venture between Sedgfield Borough Council and Ferryhill Town Council and are situated on the town centre free car park next to the Post Boy Public House. The toilets which are admission free will contain male and female toilets with baby changing facilities and a mixed gender disabled convenience.**

**They will incorporate two shop units - one at either end - which will be rented out to generate an income used to cover the running costs of the toilets.**

**This good news for Ferryhill begs the question why Newton Aycliffe can't do the same?**

## BISHOP AUCKLAND COLLEGE SHORTLISTED FOR DESIGN AWARD



After a visit from a judging panel on behalf of the RICS, Bishop Auckland College was delighted to learn they have been short listed for an award that is designed to celebrate the most inspirational regional initiatives and developments in land, property, construction and the environment.

The prestigious RICS North East Renaissance Awards highlight the greatness of building projects in the region regardless of size, budget or grandeur.

Bishop Auckland College's new build is the biggest single investment in the College's 50 year history and reflects the College's commitment to raising the bar in education and raising the aspirations of the local community.

Phase 1 on the main campus on Woodhouse Lane, was officially opened by HRH Princess Anne in 2008, phase 2 is on schedule to be completed in September 2009 and a new state of the art skills and employment training centre in Spennymoor will also be completed in September 2009.

Joanna Tait, Principal/Chief Executive of Bishop Auckland College said "The College has always strived to meet the changing needs of the community it serves and in a recent survey 89% of respondents agreed they enjoyed their learning experience at the College with 85% saying they would recommend their course/College to a friend/family member.

The investment in a new build has allowed us to offer a greater range of full and part-time courses, giving easier access to academic and vocational qualifications. This in turn increases the skills in the area which undoubtedly will aid the local economy."

The College was nominated for the award by SURGO Construction, Judges were: Trevor Furlow, Director of Estates Northumbria University, Lesley Fairclough, Solicitor for Ward Hadaway and Shaun Canell, Head of Northumbria Water Property Service. The overall winner of the award will be announced at the awards evening on 24th April in Newcastle.

## Curtain Up on Theatre Group's 70th year

A local Town's theatre society is putting on a spring show to mark its 70th anniversary. The Bishop Auckland Theatre Society was formed as Bishop Auckland Little Theatre Club in 1939, having been meeting informally and reading plays at homes since 1932.

The group originally rehearsed in what is now the Postchaise Hotel in the town's Market Place, and put on shows at the Jubilee Hall in Victoria Avenue, now the Masonic Hall.

The group moved its performances to Bishop Auckland Technical College in the 1960s and eventually into Bishop Auckland Town Hall in the 1990s. Rehearsals now take place at the town's Cricket Club on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

April 22nd 2009 sees the group performing the first night of Wait Until the Ghost is Clear, an hilarious comedy by Ian Hornby, at Bishop Auckland Town Hall, with the writer himself hoping to see his show brought to life by a dedicated

team making up the cast and crew.

Despite having a strong membership in earlier years, thanks to a youth section, numbers have fallen and the group are always looking for new talent, of any age, to join. No previous experience is necessary.

Wait Until the Ghost is Clear opens at Bishop Auckland Town Hall on Wednesday 22nd April and runs until Saturday 25th April 2009. Including a flirtatious neighbour, marital problems and the dreaded mother-in-law, this comedy should see audiences rolling in the aisles.

Tickets are available on the door, by emailing bishoptheatre@yahoo.co.uk, or by telephoning 01325 314759. Costs are a credit crunch busting £6 for adults and £5 for concessions. Anybody interested in joining B.A.T.S for acting through to set design can telephone Jean Hill on (01388) 604351 or Dorothy Hudson on (01325) 314759.



# INDOOR BOWLS

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**BOWLS** is a highly social activity which can be enjoyed by everyone regardless of what level of skill they wish to aspire to. Some members enjoy just casual play and a drink with friends, some enjoy friendly matches against other clubs, while others compete in County and National competitions - the choice is yours.

**GREAT AYCLIFFE INDOOR BOWLS CLUB** are a very friendly Club and would be delighted if you come and find out for yourselves what an enjoyable pastime bowling is.

Listed below are just some of the club member successes in the current indoor bowls season.

### CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONSHIPS

HELD AT HARTLEPOOL INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

Competition	Position	Player(s)
Singles	Runner Up	Phil Payne
Pairs	Winners	Barry Attwood, Dave Quickmire
Triples	Runners up	Dave Barron, Dave Quickmire, Barry Attwood
Fours	Winners	Ken Hutchinson, Bill Duffy, Keith Dunning, Vince Robson

### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP HELD AT NOTTINGHAM

Singles: Ann Brown, Ester Helm Qualified for next round

Go on make the effort we will be pleased to see you and do all we can to provide you the opportunity to improve your health and wellbeing and also to socialise and make new friends of all ages.

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**GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL**

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

**Wednesday 15th April 2009**  
Policy & Resources Committee - 7.15pm

**Wednesday 22nd April 2009**  
Full Council - 7.15pm

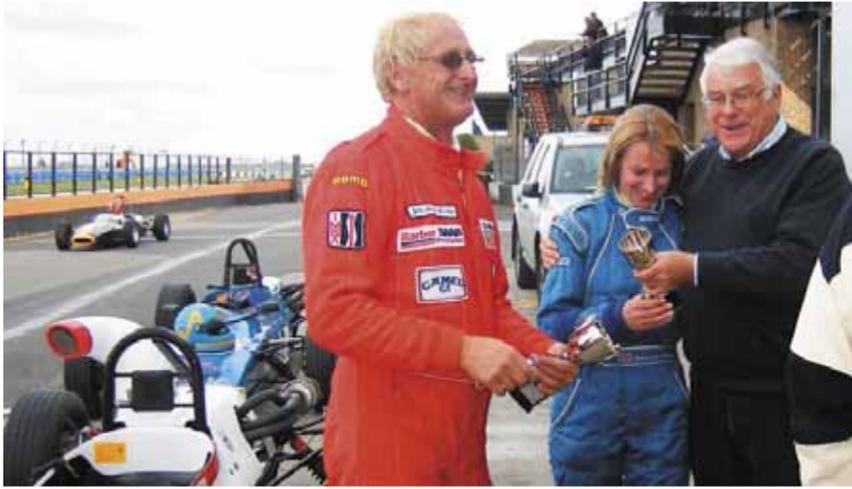
**QUESTION TIME**

A period of up to 15 minutes has been set aside for electors to ask questions at the Recreation, Environment and Policy & Resources Committee Meetings. Written questions must be received by the Town Clerk at least 5 clear days prior to the meeting. Oral questions may be asked at the meeting which relate to an agenda item or is a matter for which that committee has responsibility. Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk  
The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

# Newtonian Takes 3rd Place

# Police Voting Rights

# Junior Athlete Runs for Country in Jordan



Aycliffe's fast female made a good start to her 2009 racing campaign by taking 3rd place in the HSCC Historic Formula Ford season opener at Donington Park. Once again racing her 1971 Elden Mk8, she had the distributor in the engine destroy itself in qualifying, leaving her in a frustrating 10th place out of a full grid of 32 runners.

The circuit had been issued with a last minute temporary race licence for the weekend as changes are underway in preparation for the Grand Prix. "I knew I would have my work cut out in the race as there was a yellow flag area (no overtaking) from the entry of Mcleans until Coppice".

Come the race, with the main engine issues solved she was ready to mount a charge and made a good start to jump up to 7th by the end of the first lap. A close battle ensued and she used all of her race craft to pick off her competitors one by one - After 10 laps of typically close Formula

Ford competition, the top 8 were still covered by less than 8 seconds! By this point Amanda had squeezed her way into 6th place, despite handling problems and with the left rear tyre locking up under heavy braking.

In the final two laps she kept her cool while others around her lost theirs and she took 3rd place across the line even though her vision was becoming badly blurred and having lack of grip due to a heavy oil leak from one of her competitors that she had been following for a few laps.

"I knew I could race well and although I didn't have the quickest car out on the track today I think I made the best of what I had. It was hard but fair competition - and good fun! I am happy with the result; it's a solid start to the season." said Amanda. She races again in HSCC Formula Ford on 19th April at Cadwell Park - one of her favourite circuits.

Dear Editor,  
 Would you please publish this open letter to the Local MP as it is a matter of concern for many Sedgefield Constituents. A condition of employment of the English Police Force has always been that all Officers must be politically neutral. This means that they cannot become politically active in any political Party. And of course we all agree with this condition of employment. A police officer must never show bias. However this does not prevent any officer expressing their legal right to vote for any political party of their choice without affecting their employment rights. With this in mind, would our MP please make a statement about the recent attitude of the Police Authority in that they have decided to take a negative attitude towards political parties of their choice and sack officers who vote for such a party? If this situation is allowed to continue, the police would also be allowed to take positive attitudes towards political parties of their choice and this equally would be unacceptable.

It must be remembered that a Police Officer is only a member of the Public with a Warrant Card, providing the power of arrest. Take away the Warrant Card and the individual becomes a member of the Public. In being a Police Officer there is no Professional or Academic status, unlike say, a Dentist. When a Dentist stops practicing he is still a Dentist. The power of Police Officer lies in the Warrant Card. So what right has the Police to decide what can be, or not be a worthy political Party? The public have a right to know the boundaries of Police power, especially when the Police are making conditions that have not been approved by Parliament and eventually could affect the public at large? Do you agree?  
 Henry Ballantyne



Kate Avery from Newton Aycliffe (Shildon Running & AC) finished in an excellent 25th place on her GB debut at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships in Amman, Jordan, on Saturday 27th March.

Kate has been a member of Dame Kelly Holmes' mentoring initiative for talented young middle distance athletes 'On Camp with Kelly', supported by Aviva, since 2008.

Kate completed the 6km course in 21:53 and together with Lauren Howarth, Lily Partridge, Laura Park and fellow 'On Camp with Kelly' athletes Charlotte Purdue and Louise Small helped the GB Junior Women's Team to fourth place, just six points away from the team bronze medals which

were won by Japan. The race was won by Genzebe Dibaba of Ethiopia in 20:14 and Ethiopia also took the team title.

Dame Kelly said: "The World Cross Country is a tough event and for the GB athletes to finish so close to a bronze medal is a good achievement. Kate performed very well on her GB debut and it is testament to hard work she is doing with new coach Bob Ashwood. I am sure that she will have learnt a lot from the experience which will stand her in good stead in the future."

Kate Avery said: "It was awesome. It was really hard up the last hill. I just came here for the experience and hoped to do my best and finish in the top 40, so I'm really pleased with that."

## More 'HIPPS' Problems

Dear Sir,  
 I read with interest the letter "HIPPS PAID FOR AND NOT RECEIVED". We also paid Stuart Edwards a cheque for £350. In February I noticed

the shutters were down at the Aycliffe Office, and I tried to ring Stuart Edwards Aycliffe office getting no answer, ringing the Darlington Office, only an answer phone. On ringing the Bishop Auckland office, I was informed that it was in process of being completed, I was not happy with this answer so I called in and was offered a refund which would be sent to me, but the following day this was retracted.

I have continually phoned Stuart Edwards to get my HIPPS, first chasing them to have the Energy Survey done, which was completed six weeks after paying for the HIPPS. Then phoning to have my HIPPS supplied so I could put my property on the market with another Estate Agent.

I have now given the job of selling my house to another Estate Agent, who informed me that they have a large number of clients in the same situation. I paid the other Estate Agent for a HIPPS on the Monday, the "For Sale" sign went up on Tuesday, the Energy Survey was completed on the Thursday, and the HIPPS was supplied to the Estate Agent the following week. Why couldn't Stuart Edwards have done this?

I have now informed Stuart Edwards I require a full refund. I have also informed Consumer Advice, Trading Standards and my solicitor of the situation with Stuart Edwards. Trading Standards have now taken up the case.

Alan Hindmarch  
 Watson Road

## GARAGE OWNERS DENIED VOTE

Dear Sir,  
 I received my direct debit payment advice for the garage I rent from Sedgefield Borough and noticed that I am now paying Sedgefield Borough Homes.

When the Tenants were asked their opinion on the sellout of housing stock why were the tenants of garages not asked? This would have added a lot more votes to the yes/no total. Have I and others like me who rent a garage but own their home been ignored again?  
 George Johnson

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## Union Carbide Reunion

After the success of the Union Carbide Electronics reunion in autumn last year, is anyone who worked at the Union Carbide Cryogenics plant interested in a get together? If so please contact Sandra on 01740 652090 or sandracoope1@talktalk.net or Eileen on 01325 320322

# M.P. AT FUN DAY TA AID TO THE COMMUNITY



Last Saturday at Silverdale Place, Phil Wilson MP along with Councillor Dorothy Bowman launched the COOL YOUNG JIM campaign to keep young people fit and healthy. Councillor Bowman's double decker bus is equipped as a gymnasium that caters for the young, helping them to keep fit, eat healthily and encouraging them to be active. Further enquiries from Dorothy on 308094 Phil Wilson MP said "This is a first class idea it gets kids away from sitting in front of their computer screens and TV. Importantly it educates them in healthy eating ways. It's vital that we get the young to think about exercise and a healthy life style for their future wellbeing. I know Dorothy

will carry out this project with the energy she puts into all the work she does. It's going to be a massive success and I am really proud to help her launch the project". The Fun Day launched the new project and Dorothy Bowman who drives the bus and leads the project was pleased to see so many people attending the opening. Dorothy will be taking the bus with volunteers and youth workers into Williamfield, Horndale and the Agnews. Afterwards she presented a cheque for £200 from her Durham County Initiative Fund to Aileen Tinkler leader and coach for the "Aycliffe Angels Cheerleading Group" a group who would welcome new members.



On Saturday 21st March 2009 Territorial Army officers and soldiers from 102 Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers based in Newton Aycliffe assisted with the clearing of the Simpasture railway line that borders the TA Centre. Under the guidance and direction of Steve Cooper, Great Aycliffe Town Council Environment Officer, the TA soldiers set to work in order to cut back the vegetation and trees that were shadowing the walkway. With the tools being supplied by the Council and the workforce coming from the TA

this proved a good partnership to aid the local community. The work itself was completed in a couple of hours due to the hard work of the soldiers causing Steve Cooper to remark that he originally thought that the work would take a lot longer. Once the work was complete it allowed for a more pleasant walk as well as encouraging multi-aged regrowth of local vegetation. If anyone would like any further information about the TA in Newton Aycliffe you can phone TA Centre, Northfield Way on 01325 375 0000 or call into the TA Centre.

# EASTER FUN AT HORNDALE SCHOOL



Being a special time of the year, Easter has always been fun at Horndale Infant school. This year was no exception. As a thankyou for the hard work the children have put in over the term, the children were treated to an Easter Fun Day. On this day, we had games, a picnic and judged the best bonnet and decorated eggs, that the children had made themselves at home. There was a prize for everyone who entered and

a special egg won by those that were judged the best. The Bonnets were won by Ella-Grace, Alannah and Brandon and the decorated eggs were won by Theo (Zulu Warriors), John (Sonic the Hedgehog) and Lisa (a jewellery box). As an extra special treat, the Easter Bunny paid a visit on our last day and left a small gift to say he had been watching us.



## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TEAM

Dear Sir  
I think it is time that Aycliffe residents took more interest in their most successful sporting team; namely the Durham Wildcats, this year's champions of the English Basketball League Division 3 North. If wondering about what standard of play that indicates, be prepared to come along and be entertained by a skilful and fast moving game this Saturday night - tip off 7:00pm at the Recreation Centre. The Wildcats will be playing against Westminster in the national playoff semi final, having overcome Glamorgan Giants in the Quarter finals. The chance to move up to Division 2 awaits the winners. It costs very little in terms of admission and is great entertainment for all members of the family. I'd be surprised if you could find better value entertainment 7:00 - 8:30 any Saturday night in Newton Aycliffe. Come along and support your local team.  
Rob Kirton

## Budgie Lost

Dear Sir,  
I lost my Budgie on Sunday (it is pure white and called Snowy) It somehow got out of the cage when I was cleaning it and flew away. We have looked everywhere locally but could not find it. I know it's likely it is dead by now but someone suggested I put a notice in your paper just in case someone finds it. It was my Mum's, and she passed away 2 years ago, so it's very special to me.  
Susanne Holland  
1 Egerton Grove, Tel: 321391





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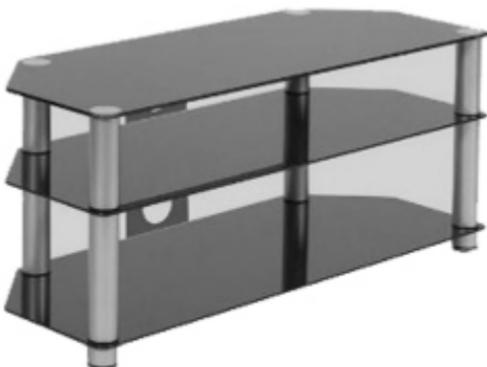
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The event is promoted by the Northern Vintage Transport Association NVTA and is being held on The Maritime Experience car park formerly The Historic Quay at Hartlepool on Sunday 26th April from 10am until 4pm. and is open to the public at no charge. The event is open to all exhibitors with a Vintage/Classic interest which includes cars, commercials, cycles, motor cycles, tractors and agricultural machinery. They are no entry forms, exhibitors are asked to just turn up on the day, judging will take place at approx. 3pm. by a representative of the Maritime Experience. Vehicles from North Yorkshire to Northumberland will be attending, last year the event brought in approx. 150 entrants ranging from a 1920's Bullnose Morris Cowley, 1936 Hillman, Cycles from 1920's and 30's, 1955 Austin A30, 1950's Ferguson tractor and a 1930's Star Wagon. together with a variety of Military vehicles from all over the North East. The Federation of British Historic Vehicles Clubs, of which the NVTA is a member are asking owners of licensed historic vehicles to use them on 26th April as part of DRIVE IT DAY, which is a national event and is part of an ongoing campaign to raise public awareness of the historic vehicle movement. More Information please get in touch with Paul Jackson on 07968 367438 or events@nvta.org.uk or on our website www.nvta.org.uk

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## FROM OUR MAN IN THE COMMONS

Phil Wilson MP welcomed the progress made at last week's London G20 summit. The Leaders at the G20 agreed to:

**Restore** confidence, growth, and jobs: They committed to make available an additional \$1.1 trillion programme of support to help the world economy through the crisis and to restore credit, growth and jobs.

**Strengthen** financial supervision and regulation: Leaders agreed to strengthen the financial system by putting in place a better and more credible system of surveillance and regulation

**Fund** and reform our international financial institutions to overcome this crisis and prevent future ones: Leaders agreed to make an additional \$850 billion in resources available through international financial institutions like the IMF,

**Promote** global trade and investment and reject protectionism to underpin prosperity: Leaders committed not to resort to protectionism

**Build** an inclusive, green, and sustainable recovery: Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to meeting the Millennium Development Goals and to delivering on development aid pledges

Phil said: "We face a global financial crisis on a scale that we have never really seen before. At the end of the day to get British economy back on track we have to help get the world economy back on track too. To protect jobs and businesses in Newton Aycliffe we needed to get the world leaders working together to restore confidence, growth and jobs.

The G20 is always an important meeting, in these tough times when people across Britain are worried about jobs and paying the bills it is even more important.

So I welcome the successes our Labour Government has secured last week. The London Summit brought together leaders of the world's major economies and key international institutions. They have agreed collective action necessary to stabilise the world economy and secure recovery and jobs."

## FREE SWIMMING



To celebrate the new beginning in local Government in County Durham the new County Council has launched a fantastic opportunity for 200,000 people across the area to live healthier lives.

Thousands of people have already registered for free swimming right across the new Durham County Council area. Hundreds have already taken up the offer and are already swimming for free.

The Cabinet Member whose responsibilities include leisure is Coun. Bob Young, "This exciting health campaign covers all people from their 60th birthday and young people under 19 years of age. Many authorities only took up part of the Government offer to fund free swim programmes, here in County Durham we decided to offer free swimming to as many people as possible

and so sought additional external funding from NHS County Durham. This means many thousands of people will qualify."

The £1m Durham County Council programme aims to break down some of the barriers that may have prevented the two target groups from taking part in regular activity due to cost, and to foster excellence in the run up to the 2012 London Olympics.

It will deliver over 800 hours of free public swimming sessions every week.

For more information visit [www.durham.gov.uk/freeswimming](http://www.durham.gov.uk/freeswimming)

Photo caption: Swimming for free in County Durham (L-R, F-B) William and Guy Elms, Hamish Glover and Alex Howarth.

Photo courtesy of Tom Banks @ The Northern Echo

## Decimated Woodland

Dear Syd, Peter Beaty should have known what to expect as the matter of Great Aycliffe Way was brought to your reader's notice this time last year.

It is hoped that with the demise of Sedgfield Borough Council it could also be the end of the tree culling in this area as our "Tree Officer" will have other areas in the whole county to decimate.

On the other hand as wooded areas came under Sedgfield, are these some of the "Green Spaces" that have been given away along with our housing stock? If this is the case we could see the entire lot being left to nature and overgrown into the gardens of the people that complained about the trees in the first place.

If Peter looks very closely he will see the "Native Species" that have replaced the once "Foreign Species" that took 38 years to grow, from seed, in England.

Through your paper could I also ask our councilors where the savings are in Council Taxes that we were promised after the County Council takeover? My bill has increased and I ask if the money from the sale of the fleet of vans used by the maintenance staff could not have helped, or were these given away as well?

Dave H. Wood

## EXCITING COURSES AT GREENFIELD

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ENROLMENT WEEK: Mon 20th April 2009 - Fri 24th April 2009

## TABLE TOP SALE

St Clare's Church on Saturday 18th April at 10.00 am - 12 Noon in conjunction with Daffodil Coffee Morning - Tables may be hired for £5.00 each. Contact Revd Linda Potter on 313613 to book a table.

## GARDENS GUILD

The Gardens Guild hut will be open on Easter Sunday when Tomato Plants will be on sale along with the usual range of good quality products at reasonable prices. New customers can find us at Clarence Chare.

## Rotary Club Sends Aid to Earthquake Victims



ROTARY Disaster relief charity ShelterBox has responded to the earthquake that struck central Italy in the early hours of 6 April by sending immediate assistance to thousands of people left homeless by the disaster.

With initial reports indicating that more than 17,000 people have been left homeless ShelterBox responded and within 12 hours of the earthquake striking had a representative on the ground in Italy and enough shelter for 2500 people on its way.

The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe was among the first to respond, paying for 2 boxes costing over £1,000. Each ShelterBox contains a 10-person tent, blankets, water purification and cooking equipment, basic tools, a stove and other essential equipment.

The Rotary Club thanks everyone who support their charitable aims, enabling them to respond to emergencies such as this.



## OSTEOPATH RETURNS

Melanie Rowland returns to practice Osteopathy weekly at the Pioneering Care Centre on the 15th April 2009.

Melanie, from School Aycliffe, graduated from the British College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1997 with a BSc (Hons) degree in Osteopathic Medicine, and Diplomas in Osteopathy and Naturopathy, and is registered with the General Osteopathic Council. After graduating she worked in New Zealand, and in 1998 she returned home, where she practiced at Bewick Crescent Surgery, The Oak Leaf Sports Complex, and The Pioneering Care Centre, as well as working with Local Industry.

Osteopathy is a way of detecting and treating painful parts of the body such as

muscles, joints, ligaments, and nerves. Osteopaths not only treat neck, mid and lower back pain, but also Shoulder, elbow, hand, hip, knee, and foot pain. Melanie has a special interest in Ergonomics, (work and life style issues); she has undertaken Post Graduate training in Ergonomics. She works regularly with one local company, and is able to offer help and advice to any other business on Ergonomics. Melanie returns to practice after maternity leave, and welcomes old and new patients. For appointments Tel 321234, or if you wish to speak to Melanie she can be contacted on 07867 555801. E: [info@osteopath-ergonomics.co.uk](mailto:info@osteopath-ergonomics.co.uk) [www.osteopath-ergonomics.co.uk](http://www.osteopath-ergonomics.co.uk)

## JUNIOR PLAYERS WANTED

Newton Aycliffe Sports Club Under 7's and Under 13's require new players to add to their existing squad. If your child is interested in having fun, exercising, meeting new friends and becoming part of an established FA Chartered Standard Club then we would love to hear from you. All our coaches are FA qualified and CRB enhanced. Children of all abilities are welcomed and we currently train weekly and play games on Sundays. The Under 12's currently play in the TJFA

league and the Under 7's are currently in the Cleveland Youth League however next season they will join the TGFA league.

If your child is currently in Year 2 and interested in joining the Under 7's team please contact Paul Middleton on 07717 836 485 or Dave Patterson 07754 197 558.

If your child was born between 01/09/1996 - 31/08 1998 and is interested in joining the Under 12's team please contact Colin on 07736 686 594.

### Autos

**WANTED - £50**  
for any complete vehicle, Cars, Vans, Motorcycles, HGVs, MoT Failures, Scrap Cars, anything - Ring for a quote  
**FREE COLLECTION**  
Motorcycles wanted, dead or alive  
Tel: 01325 300880  
After hours 07980 712733

**AYCLIFFE MOTOR FACTORS "STIGS"**  
Unit 4 Whitworth Avenue - 316566  
Oils - Wipers - Bulbs - Brakes  
Clutches - Filters - Plugs - Belts  
Body Panels... Plus lots more  
**ALL CAR PARTS... NEW**  
Mon-Fri 9-5pm, Sat 9-4pm, Sun 9-12  
**TELEPHONE: 316566**

**ASTRA VAN** For Sale, tested. £1500ono. Tel. STIGS 316566  
**WANTED** cars with or without MoT. Tel 07747 175137 or 07881 897231

### Weddings

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

### Photography

**KJB PHOTOGRAPHY** Specialists in all styles of photography including weddings. Professional Photographer. Call Keith 01325 307783, mobile 07900 583131. e/web: [info@kjb-photography.com](mailto:info@kjb-photography.com)

**STUART J. ALLISON** (L S W P P) Wedding Photographer. Photographs for all occasions. Tel 01325 300036, Mobile 07970 104646, [info@sjallison.co.uk](mailto:info@sjallison.co.uk) or visit the website: [www.sjallison.co.uk](http://www.sjallison.co.uk)  
**MAGNOLIA** Photography and Image editing; unbeatable prices. Tel: 07721 656764. [www.magnoliaphotography.co.uk](http://www.magnoliaphotography.co.uk)

### Pets

**PROFESSIONAL** Dog Groomer, 07521 736122  
**EXPRESSLEY PETS - PET TRANSPORT.** Vet to Vet Transfers - Home Relocation - National & International. Custom Fitted Van with Kennel/Baskets. Fully Insured. Contact Paul on 07984 924 574

### Lost & Found

**LOST** - Escaped from our garden on Tuesday in the Hatfield/Sheraton Road area, our lop eared rabbit, he is copper/gold. white, any information please phone 07949 626917

### CAT FOUND



This cat was found in Tesco car park on 3rd April. He is a neutered male. Grey/blue in colour with white patches on chest, paws, and face. He's also missing some teeth. Could the owners contact 07964 164 963.

### Sits Vacant

**AVON REPS** needed, earn extra cash. Tel. Pat 317 970.

### Chiropody

**CHIROPODY**  
Mr P. Oliver  
BSc (Hons) - M.Ch.S  
for a Home Visit  
**Tel: (01325) 320126**

**CHIROPODIST**  
Sarah Shepperson  
BSc (Hons) Podiatry, MChS, Age Registered  
**A FULL COMPLIMENT OF FOOT HEALTH CARE HOME VISITS ONLY**  
**Tel: 01325 257270**

### Hairdressing

**LADIES HAIRDRESSER**  
Have your hair styled in the comfort of your own home by an experienced hairdresser. Roller sets available. Tel 01325 319 497 or 07776 420 653

### SUE

**Freelance Hairstylist**  
*Top Salon Trained*  
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### GEM

**FREELANCE HAIRSTYLIST**  
*(previously of Jools Studio, Cockerton)*  
**7 years experience**  
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**Shampoo and Sets available**  
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### Wanted

**LABOURER** requires work. Experienced in factory picking/packing/loading/unloading/forklift - JCB with shovel exp. Industrial site cleaning exp. Please contact Tony 07926 395 717  
**WANTED - GARAGE** to rent in the Washington Crescent area. Tel 07935 333 950

### Personal

**BVA Foundation**  
**FREE Confidential Post Abortion Counselling available**  
**Telephone: 01642 616077**

**SAMARITANS** - 13 Woodland Road, Darlington. We are here for you 24 hours a day. Telephone 08457 909 090  
**WILLS** written in your own home - Free details. Tel 313197

### Opticians

**K. McGuinness**  
**OPTICIAN**  
Town Centre  
Newton Aycliffe  
**Tel: 316600**

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Valid only with this coupon until 25th April 2009

**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.

**Tuition**

**BABY SIGN CLASSES**  
Do you want to be able to communicate with your child before they can talk? Now you can! Beginners Baby Sign Classes - Friday 24th April, 2pm for 6 weeks at Woodham - Book your place now! Contact Jules on 07966 968388.

**Where Are Council Tax Free Months?**

Dear Sir,  
May I ask what is going on with the Council Tax? Every year since I have been in Aycliffe I have paid my council tax by direct debit, starting on May 1st and ending Feb 1st with March and April being a payment holiday. Why is it that they are now asking for payments to start in April this year?  
What happened to the month of April from last year's payments that we have already paid for? Do we get another free month added on the end of this year's set of payments, or get our money back? We seem to be paying twice for the same month? All the council wants is our money and we really don't get much for what we pay!  
Those 2 months of not having to pay the council tax help me catch up on other bills and necessities, then I am back to normal by the first payment taken in May. This year I won't be able to catch up on those bills in April because the Council are taking the money a month early.  
Is anyone else wondering why they have done this and wondering where that month we have already paid for has gone? Can anyone explain?  
Disgruntled Resident

**Aycliffe FC Hope for More Support**

MORE than 230 fans turned out for Newton Aycliffe's first game on their new ground last Saturday as they progressed to a Cup Final.  
Aycliffe came back from two down, thanks to strikes by Sean Tarling, Liam Cooper, Elliot Gardner and an own goal, to win 4-2 and set up a Shipowners' Cup Final with rivals Teesside Athletic (to be arranged).  
The club was delighted with a healthy crowd of 237 for their first game at the new £320,000 Moore Lane complex, which was officially opened last week. Now they're hoping to see a similar turn-out this Saturday (April 11) when Aycliffe, who are two points clear at the top of the Wearside League, entertain Wolviston (2.30pm).  
Chairman Gary Farley said: "First of all we're absolutely delighted with the support, it really was more than we expected. It proves that Newton Aycliffe deserves a football club and the people of the town want it."

**Tuition**

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London Coll. of Music Reg Tutor  
Fully equipped music studio  
Contact Chris on:  
**01388 818 747**  
Based in Spennymoor

**Public Notice**

**WATCH BATTERIES** now available at Taylors Newsforce  
**DONATIONS** needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring John 316630  
**RSPCA** Durham and District cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and id chip. Please Tel 311215

**Didn't They Do Well?**

Dear Sir,  
Could we say thanks, through your paper, to Pam and Ken Fox who produced the Aycliffe Village DVD. We sat and watched it and were captivated by the content of the film. It was so professional and we know how hard and the long hours Ken and Pam worked putting the little pieces of film together.  
As we were not born in the village and did not know the history, it certainly informed us of the past and the present and made us look at Aycliffe Village in a different light.  
Thanks to the donation from 'Awards for All' everyone in the village is receiving a copy free of charge.  
There is also a booklet to go with the DVD and it is also very professional and reader friendly with plenty of pictures.  
Pam and Ken, we think you can be really pleased with the end result and very proud of all your hard work. A big thank you, to you both.  
Ann & Bruce Ross  
Millfields

**Catering**

**FILLING STATION.** Outside catering for all occasions. Prices to suit all budgets. Call for details 01325 300 212  
**BUFFETS** from £4 per head. Tel Michael's Bakery 469 331  
**CRAFTY CAKES** for any occasion, cakes made and iced or just iced. Tel 316 084

**Accommodation**

**TO LET** 2 bedroom house, Skirlaw Road, Aycliffe. Refurbished and new carpets. Tel 01765 688 088 or 07706 075 827  
**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 022 303  
**RENT & BUY** at the same time! 2 bedroom house in Dent Walk. Very central, clean, working family only. Ready now. Call Julie 01388 722 208  
**WANTED** 2 or 3 bedroom house in Newton Aycliffe to rent or/and buy. Please call Mark on 01388 722 208  
**1 BEDROOM HOUSE** in School Aycliffe. Bond £400 + one month rent in advance £600. No bills to pay. Fully furnished. Professionals only. Contact 07816 499 567  
**BEAUTIFUL 2 BEDROOM,** fully furnished, end terrace house with garage and private garden. Professional couple preferred, no pets, references and bond required. £550 per month, 6 month minimum let. Off Stephenson Way, Newton Aycliffe. Tel 07970 526 323  
**3 & 4 BED PROPERTIES** to let in the Aycliffe area from £500 per month. 2 x 3 bedrooms in Cypress Grove, School Aycliffe; 1 x 3 bed in Scott Place; 1 x 4 bed in Belford Way; 1 x 5 bed in Morrison Close; 1 x 3 bed in Delevale Close; Housing Benefit welcome. £300 admin. fee to secure property. Please tel. Butler & Chester Property Management Ltd. on; 07949 564 116  
**RYLSTONE CLOSE** 3 bed town house, £100 per week. Long tenancy available. Tel or text 07850 561 381.  
**WOODHAM** small 3 bed semi in quiet cul-de-sac, just off Stag Lane. Tel or text 07850 561 381.

**Thank You**

**WHITFIELD**  
  
Thank you to friends and family for all the lovely gifts received at my Christening on Saturday 4th April.  
Love Christian

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all who went on Myra and Babs' 40th Birthday Bash to Gran Canaria, a holiday to remember x  
**ERIC & BEATRICE CHAMBERS** wish to thank Mayor and Mayoress Gray & Mayor Robinson for the lovely bouquets of flowers, also family and friends for making our Diamond Wedding so memorable.  
**THE FAMILY OF** the late Doris Maddison wish to express their sincere thanks to all friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy cards during their recent bereavement. Thanks also to the carers, in particular Lynne, also Penny and the staff at John Meynell Funeral Services.  
Joan and Steve Maddison

**For Sale**

**BEDS BEDS BEDS** at Bargain Buys, Divan Beds from £59, Pine Frames from £59, metal frames from £49. Special offer 4'6" leather sleigh bed, £269 including mattress Tel 321 678  
**2 WALL UNITS,** 1000, glass doors and shelves with lights £40 each. 1 wall unit, 500, glass door no light £20. 01325 313 922  
**35 MIXED GOLF** Clubs plus 2 bags, no reasonable offer refused. 01325 304 397  
**GRACO PUSHCHAIR,** car seat and accessories, black, hardly used £50 ono. Snooker table, 6ft x 3ft £40 ono. 07969 165 871  
**WOOD OUTDOOR** Play Centre, with slide, firemans pole, rock climbing and ladders, great for kids. £200, 307 530  
**NEED** An old domestic appliance removing? Can't wait for the Council? Tel. 321 678.

**Urgent Work in Church Grounds**

The public are asked to be cautious whilst walking through St. Andrews Churchyard at Aycliffe Village. Major work in underway to replace the church roof and temporary scaffolding is in place around the tower.  
An inspection revealed several headstones are in need of urgent repair. Some are deemed to need immediate action to make them safe. Therefore whilst work is carried out some headstones may be laid down temporarily to ensure public safety.  
Every effort will be made to contact relatives and any queries on this matter are being dealt with by Rev Julie Wing, Team Vicar on 320278.

**POPULAR COURSE ON COMPUTERS FOR THE TERRIFIED**

There is an Open Day at Woodham Community Centre on 15th April from 1pm-5pm to show anyone interested the fantastic user friendly computer facilities on hand for those wanting to learn.  
**Computers for the Terrified** has proved a great success and four courses have already been completed with excellent results.  
Anyone wanting more information can contact David Sutton-Lloyd on 316144.

**Births**

**BLACKBURN.** Andrew and Samantha announce the arrival of their Daughter Hattie weighing 10lb 15oz on 3rd April 2009.

**Obituary**

**DONALD JOHN FRASER** Suddenly aged 79, of Scott Place (previously of Eskdale Place) beloved Husband of the late Margaret (Peggy), loving Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather. Funeral Wednesday April 15th, 11.30am at Burnhill Methodist Church. Friends please meet at the Church.  
**WENDY GRAHAM** (nee Pocklington) Aged 48, died on the 5th April. Loving Wife to Charlie and much loved Sister. She will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

**In Memoriam**

**CYNTHIA KELLY** nee Nicholls. Died 6th April 2008. A dear Sister, loved and missed by Sister Marina, family and friends.  
**JOSEPH HEDLEY.** 13th April 2007. I miss you so much, it broke my heart when you went. I will always love and miss you. Forever in my thoughts. Your loving wife Grace xx  
**JOSEPH HEDLEY.** 13th April 2007. Another year has passed us by, another year since we said goodbye. The pain hurts, the tears still flow. We just don't want to let you go. Our lives have never been the same, without you there beside us. But we know somewhere up above, you shine a light to guide us. From your loving children Anne, Grace, Keith, John and Ruth xxx  
**ALEX HUMBLE.** A gentle man in every way, loved and remembered every day. Audrey and family  
**ANN MCLUCKIE.** 10.04.02. Always in our thoughts. Love from the girls  
**EDNA CHARLTON.** 7th April. A much loved Mam. A day never goes by without thinking of you, it's been 10 years. Loved and remembered always, your loving family x  
**EDNA CARLTON.** 7th April. Love to a dear Nana, who is sadly missed, some of us never got to meet you, but are proud that you were our Nana. Love and miss you always, all your loving Grandchildren x  
**MCLUCKIE.** April 10th 2002. Dear Ann, Somewhere over the rainbow, true love never dies, you live in a beautiful garden, beneath golden skies. To that garden I wander, your face I gently touch and tell you that we love you, so very, very much. Love Mam, Tony and family. Also remembering dear Friend, Husband, Dad and Granda

**AG-NEWS**

Do you wish to learn Line Dancing, then why not come to the Agnew Green Hut and receive a great welcome, every Tuesday, 1pm to 2pm, £3 Entry covers Qualified Tutor, Raffle and Tea/Coffee. Note: closed for Easter Monday Week.  
Bingo Night is Thursdays, Open at 6-30pm for eyes down at 7-00pm until 8-30 pm, 10p a game and £1 for ten games, good payouts. Come and join Margaret Lovelady and her crazy gang for a big welcome and a night of fun for all ages and gender.

**Congratulations**

**Emily Halford**  
  
**Well done Emily** on becoming Nationwide Champion 2009 in Ballroom and Latin. We are very proud. Love Mum, Dad, Caitlin, Joe and Connor  
Thank you to Hayley and Brenda from Lee Green Dance Centre. Love from Emily x

**Shaun Swainston**  
  
**21st Birthday**  
April 14th  
Happy 21st Birthday Shaun, hope you have a great day. Love Mam, Dad and Daniel xxx

**Lillias Smith**  
  
**Happy 80th Birthday**  
9th April 2009  
Have a lovely party. With love from Michael, Valerie, Grandchildren and Great Grandson xx

**Enrid Watson**  
  
**90th Birthday**  
Happy Birthday from Maureen & Vivien and all the family  
May you have many more.

**Arron David Mudd**  
  
**Happy 9th Birthday**  
13th April  
To the best Son in the world. Love Mam, Dad and all the family xxx

**Birthday Remembrance**

**WHITTINGTON, JOHN** 13th April  
No-one to send a card to, Now your birthday's here. Happy birthday just the same,  
For someone held so dear. Love, Joan, David & Cath xxxxxxxx

**DOUTHWAITE, JOHN.** 15th April 1900. Remembering you is easy, we do it every day, it's the heartache of losing you, that never goes away. Love forever, Betty, Jacky, Alan, John, Julie, Jaden and Harrison xx

**NEWTON PRESS** for all your printing requirements  
**01325 300212**

## EASTER HOLIDAY FUN

Easter school holidays upon us again. Are you aged 8 to 16 years of age? Do you live in the Newton Aycliffe and School Aycliffe areas? Why not come along to the Young Entertainers Workshops at Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon. Wednesday 8th and 15th April, from 10am to 3pm?

These Workshops are becoming very popular with young people during the school holidays. It's a great day of fun and laughter a chance to make new friends and learn new skills too. All we ask is that you bring along £1 entrance fee, a packed lunch and a smile. We do the rest. For more information ring (01388) 774838

## THANKS FOR SUPPORT

Dear Syd  
The cadets, staff & civilian committee would like to thank Honest John for his donation of £1000 he made to our funds.

He did a series of Boot Sales and Market Stalls and donated the proceeds to us. We thank him very much for his hard work and support.

Our cadets meet up every Monday & Thursday Night at 6.45pm at the Barnard Armoury in Newton Aycliffe if any boy or girl 13 years and over would like to join us, then please come down and we will be pleased to welcome you.

Louise Laing  
Hon Secretary  
1407 Air Cadet Squadron

## Rotary Club Raise Awareness of Stroke TESCO ALLOW ROOM FOR STALL



With the co-operation of Tesco the town's Rotary Club are holding a Stroke Awareness Day in the store on Saturday 18th April from 10am till 4p.m. On hand will be qualified people to take blood pressure of customers and if suspect to refer them to their doctor.

It is a startling fact that thousands of people die or suffer needlessly from strokes because they were not treated for blood pressure problems.

Rotary throughout Great Britain and Ireland in most towns and cities will be organising events to take blood pressure and raise awareness Please call at the stall in Tecos for your blood pressure to be taken. You may be one of the people who had reason to thank Rotary for referring them to their doctor in time to save them from serious illness. Untreated high blood pressure (hypertension) is the biggest single risk factor for

stroke. Lifestyle measures and the right medication can help reduce high blood pressure.

Know what your blood pressure should be, and get it checked regularly. There are some steps that you and your doctor can take together. High blood pressure causes the arteries to fur up (atherosclerosis) and puts extra strain on the blood vessels. You may not know if you have high blood pressure, so you should have it checked regularly. (A normal healthy adult blood pressure is less than 140/90mmHg.)

A number of other medical problems increase your risk of a stroke, including: heart disease; atrial fibrillation (irregular heartbeat); high cholesterol; and diabetes. Your doctor can prescribe medication to help keep these conditions under control.

## Just a Few Questions for S.B.H

Dear Sir,  
I read about Sedgefield Borough Homes starting business with interest, and one or two questions sprang to mind.

1. Were any of the 170 jobs advertised or were they just given to existing staff of the now defunct Sedgefield Borough Council?

2. As the staff of Sedgefield Borough Homes are using an existing Public Sector building are they paying rent, or is this being paid for out of our council tax and will become another perk to go with all the land they were given along with the housing stock?

3. How many other posts were created for the people who in one capacity or another, found themselves out of a lucrative job?

4. A figure of £16m was quoted in your article to be spent on bathrooms, kitchens, windows etc. I would like to know which houses this is going to be spent on, as Sedgefield Council have had an ongoing programme of upgrading housing stock for years.

As recently as a week before they handed over the houses they were renewing central heating in houses very close to where I live, presumably to save Sedgefield Borough Homes the problem and expense.

T. S.

## LETTER TO AYCLIFFE VILLAGE RESIDENTS

Dear Sir,  
I would like to express publicly my great appreciation to those villagers, over 200 in total, both young and old, who contributed directly and indirectly to the making of the film and booklet entitled Aycliffe Village and its Surrounds - A Social and Economic History.

Although numbers attending the launch in the Village Hall on 25 March 2009 were restricted mainly to those with speaking parts, there were so many of you who opened up your homes and gave of your time to me in order to record your memories. In addition, you kindly entrusted to me your photographs and memorabilia so that they could be included in the film and booklet.

The project was not intended to be a definitive history of the village but a record according to local memory and without your contributions it would never have been possible. No formal meetings were held, no great fuss was made, but your unwavering commitment and enthusiasm were unstinting. It has been a remarkable achievement when one considers that not one person directly involved in the making of the film thought they had anything of real consequence to say.

The sight of a 78 year old man clinging to the top of a very shaky ladder whilst climbing the bell tower, together with the two ladies in their late nineties determined to contribute - albeit one almost fell asleep three times during her interview - are but two of the many memories which will remain with me.

What we have now is a record of events which will enable future generations to be justifiably proud of their heritage.

Again, my very sincere thanks to you all.

Ken Fox, 49 Millfields

## SELL YOUR HOUSE IN 14 DAYS

Sell and rent back with option to buy-back, or just move away

Clear your debts

Stop repossession and stay in your home

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## The Cumby Arms

Heighington - Telephone: 316753

### ROCK DISCO NIGHT

Friday 24th April  
7.30pm - 11.45pm

Dance the night away  
to ya favourite  
Headbanging Tunes  
with Guest DJs  
& Live Rock Band

**'ON THE ROCKS'**

Only £4.00 on the door

### RON'S BIG QUIZ

Every Sunday  
Starts @ 8.30pm  
with Cash Prizes  
& Play Your Cards  
Right  
*includes nibbles!!*

### RETRO & HED KANDI DISCO NIGHT

with  
**DJ JAMES MILLER**  
Friday 10th April  
7.30pm (Good Friday)  
Just £1 on the door  
Return coach from St  
Clares to Cumby just  
£1 each way

### Sunday Lunch Carvery

12noon - 2pm  
Roast Beef, Pork or Turkey  
carved from the joint with a large  
selection of seasonal vegetables  
all freshly prepared  
OAP/Child £4.95  
Regular £6.95  
Jumbo £8.95  
Plus a selection of quality desserts,  
just £2.50

## Songs from the Shows Concert

The Ferryhill Stage Society is giving a Grand Concert at Neville Community Centre on Sunday 19th April. at 2pm. Admission £2.

Please book and collect your tickets at the door. Tel: 313924. The Concert will feature songs from the Shows and promises to be a very entertaining afternoon.

## CHIROPODY AT P.C.P.

Julie Lambert joins the Therapy Services department at the Pioneering Care Centre to deliver Chiropody alongside our current Chiropodist Samantha Towers. Together their aim is to keep people mobile and make a real difference to their lives by keeping their feet healthy.

Julie is State & HPC registered with over 15 years experience in all aspects of caring for your feet, including common foot problems such as corns, callous, nail care, verrucas etc. 75 - 80% of the adult population will have some sort of foot problem during their lifetime, so the caring, professional approach offered by both Julie & Samantha could really benefit you or someone you know.

he service is available weekly on a Wednesday evening and on alternative Thursday & Saturday mornings. to book please call: 01325 321234 or email [enquires@pcp.uk.net](mailto:enquires@pcp.uk.net). Further details of the Therapy Services on offer at the Centre is available on our web site: [www.pcp.uk.net](http://www.pcp.uk.net)

## Proud New Stockists of Slumberland Beds and Mattresses

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A&S Candy	RRP £49.00	NOW £39.00
A&S Winchester	RRP £69.00	NOW £59.00
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 £199.00	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 £94.00
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

MANY MORE AVAILABLE INCLUDING 5' VERSIONS

# BARGAIN BUYS

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