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TOWN CENTRE TOILETS

Dear Syd,
Just to keep you informed about toilet provision in Ferryhill. Your correspondent needs to understand that Newton Aycliffe Town Centre is not owned by the Council and as they do not own any land in the Town Centre, it is the responsibility of the owners to provide toilets. Ferryhill Town Council on the other hand does own the land on which their toilets stand. The capital costs of the Ferryhill toilets came from local Councillors who are all given a sum of money to spend on projects in their ward. The toilets were identified as a need by local people so the

LETTER

Councillors chipped in their allocation of cash. Sedgefield Borough Council design team did the work in consultation with Ferryhill Town Council who agreed the revenue cost to maintain them. The design costs also came out of the Councillors' fund. The running cost will be funded by two kiosks on each end run by Ferryhill Town Council. I hope this clarifies the issue once and for all and if you want toilets in the Town Centre then you need to be talking with the owners, Freshwater. Vince Crosby

Town's Eco Centre Opened at Moore Lane Park

To launch the opening of the new Eco Centre at Moore Lane, Great Aycliffe Town Council organised a public Open Day at the centre on Saturday 4th April with the assistance of Greenfield Art College.

Activities during the fun packed afternoon for families included helping local professional artists to make a giant spider out of recycled material; once the spider was created the friendly creature decided he would make Moore Lane his new home and will greet any children who come to visit in the future!

Other activities included wildlife model and mask making and a nature trail around the surrounding area. A local junk band brought along all their recycled instruments and worked with local children to entertain the crowds with their own brand of tub thumpingly good music.

Towards the end of the event the town's Mayor Councillor George Gray officially opened the centre which will be open to the public for organised countryside events and school groups. Environment Officer, Steve Cooper said "The event went very well, there was a cold wind and we were not sure how many people would

come along but by the end of the event well over 200 people had come to take part. I think that was a great turnout for a new venture". He continued "We had a suggestions box available, every comment was very positive about the event and the centre, several people suggested different types of events they'd like to see run from the centre in the future, we hope to act upon some of these in the coming weeks. Events will always be advertised in the local newspapers and on the public notice boards around the town". We went on to thank everyone who had contributed to the day and the development of the centre. Anyone wishing to join the mailing list for upcoming countryside events can contact Steve on 01325 300700 alternatively e-mail him on steven.cooper@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.



CHARITY CEILIDH NIGHT

Mayor George Gray is hosting a Ceilidh Evening on Saturday 25th April in the Sycamore Suite, Aycliffe Leisure Centre from 7pm - 11.30pm. The Celidh and Celtic Band is the "Mussel Square Boys" and tickets are £5 available from the Town Council Offices Tel: 300700. The event is in aid of the Mayor's nominated charities British Heart Foundation and The British Limbless Ex-Service Mens Association.

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The new range of Panasonic Televisions, DVD recorders, Blu-ray and cameras and camcorders are in store in glorious High Definition. Only Panasonic has High Definition built in to their televisions to give you a viewing experience that is exceptional. Moira, the store manager, along with Simone and Michael the sales advisers, will take you through any concerns or confusion you may have about purchasing a new television and make the whole process really easy and informative.

Moira says, "There can be some confusion over which television is better than the other, or what the different features are etc., and it can seem a bit of a minefield, but that is why we are here to help guide our customers by asking their needs and tailoring the purchase accordingly whether it is a High Definition TV or a washing machine."

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all products in stock. We can offer a morning or an afternoon delivery of goods to suit you on the day you require and also deliver on Saturdays.

Fantastic deals currently on promotion in store feature a 42" LCD TV with a Blu-ray DVD player and a FREE 19" LCD TV all for £899.99 with FREE installation and delivery in the local area.

Demonstrations are given daily, with the staff taking potential customers through the functions of most products before they buy, a service which in most other large companies is sadly missing in today's "serve yourself" shopping experience.

We at Leonard's maintain old fashioned values and want to make your visit as pleasant as possible and more importantly, have you leave the store confident in the product that you have purchased. Customers from all over the area from Richmond in Yorkshire, to Durham and beyond have high regard for the value of Leonard's in Newton Aycliffe and buy in the knowledge that they have received the best possible advice and the best prices. Leonard's are open all weekdays except Sunday and Wednesday afternoons, and you will be assured of a warm welcome when you visit the store.



MORE FANS BRING PROBLEM FOR TOWN TEAM

The success of the Town's Football Club and its new floodlit ground has brought problems of car parking to neighbours, the Moore Lane Park and the new Eco Centre.

On match days the improved numbers through the gate has brought Moore Lane to a standstill with obvious inconvenience to residents and danger to children visiting other attractions nearby.

Neighbours are happy for the club, who have recently received grand new floodlit football facilities and who are about to be promoted to the Northern League, but are fearful the new found success will make their lives a misery when the team plays at home.

It is inconceivable that with all the money pumped into the improved facilities the planners failed to recognise the need for extra car parking. There are limited spaces at the premises and visitors to the Sports Club are already using the nearby park for car parking.

The Football Club realise they will have a bigger problem if they get promotion as it will bring an even larger number of spectators to Newton Aycliffe. Residents are already preparing for a battle and have contacted the Town Residents Association and the Council for help.

No one wants to deter the splendid support the team are getting, and we appeal to those travelling by car to ensure they are not upsetting neighbours of the club by parking irresponsibly. Please look for empty uncongested

areas nearby to park your car and walk to the ground.

Club chairman Gary Farley said: "The crowds we've attracted in the first four games at Moore Lane Park have exceeded our expectations and caused some obvious parking problems in the surrounding residential areas.

From our point of view it's a problem we certainly didn't expect, but in a way it's nice to have this kind of problem because the kind of crowds we're getting is clearly proving the town not only deserves a football club, but wants one. Having said that, we probably experienced inflated numbers over the Easter holiday period, which we don't expect to be repeated in the coming weeks, but we recognise the problems that come with large numbers, and the safety of people is paramount. If large crowds continue we acknowledge we need to address the problems. This is all new to everyone and we're learning with every game, and we would be only too happy to discuss these issues with local residents."

BOGUS BANK CALLS

Dear Sir,
Recently a resident received a 'cold' telephone call from a company reputed to be Barclays Credit Management. The caller, who gave his name, said that Barclays had overcharged her £270 which was to be refunded into her bank account. During the telephone conversation the amount was increased to £320 which was said to include £49.99 for handling charges. The caller quoted the numbers of her Visa card, its date of expiry and the three security digits on the reverse side of the card and asked for her password.

The receiver of the call was particularly upset to have a complete stranger ring her and be in possession of her credit card details. A second telephone call was received later which was unsolicited. This incident has been reported to Barclays Bank and the Police.

Barclays have no record of the caller. The Police have interviewed the receiver and expressed their concern. They are investigating and have planned to return for a second interview.

Whilst it might have been prudent to wait until after the Police investigation before issuing this warning, we feel that if these calls do relate to criminal activity it is best to warn as many people as possible - just in case.

We would remind everyone that the pleasant caller on the end of the line may not be who he/she says they are and whilst there are agencies who do charge £49.99 for these kinds of services please remember that Barclays and other financial institutions do not conduct business over the telephone in this manner.

Overall it is best not to disclose any information to anyone over the telephone or a computer link.

Counc G. Lee.
Heighington

New Post for Greenfield Dance Teacher

Mrs Dixon, Subject leader for Dance at Greenfield School Community and Arts College, last week became the country's first School Dance Coordinator as part of the Youth Dance England initiative to enhance the profile and quality of dance in our schools. In partnership with Durham County Council's Education Development Service and in particular the Physical Education & Sport Development team, Mrs Dixon will begin her new post as School Dance Coordinator on April 1st.



During her time at Greenfield School Mrs Dixon has helped produced eight major, original musicals and guided students through a range of examination forms including GNVQ, GCSE and Btec. Her teaching reputation has travelled wide with QCA asking for a performance from Greenfield pupils to demonstrate 'high quality' Dance in schools. Recently Greenfield has also performed at Northern Stage when invited by The Arts Council to demonstrate the quality and creativity of work.

Also, Mrs Dixon plays a prominent role within community Dance, leading much of the primary school extra curricular and curricular programme. She has also been involved with adult learning and Sports-ability programmes, working with people with a range of expectations and needs and enhancing the opportunity for life long learning.

Geoff Sheldon, Durham's Subject Inspector for Physical Education and Sport added, "Dance is already an integral part of our schools' curriculum and out of school hours' learning programmes. We are delighted to host the country's first School Dance

Coordinator and especially someone of Alison's quality. She has been identified for some time as the person we would want to lead dance across the County and this new initiative has provided us with the perfect opportunity to really drive dance forward, in both schools and the community."

Mrs Dixon is very excited at the prospect of her new post, commenting 'this is a fantastic opportunity to raise the profile of dance in this region, developing the existing framework of support for dance in schools. I look forward to working with Youth Dance England and feel that this is a unique opportunity for young people to become involved in Dance in the area. I feel privileged to be part of a new, national programme and can't wait to get started!

Mr Priestley said that dance is significant as it connects three things that are very important to us: Our curriculum, our community and supporting the issues of the local Children's Board.

This initiative once again sees Greenfield at the cutting edge of national development and represents exciting opportunities for the school.

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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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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN MEETING

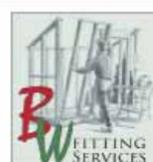
Notice is hereby given that:

The Parish Meeting for the Parish of Great Aycliffe will take place in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on

WEDNESDAY 6th MAY 2009
at 7.15pm

The Agenda will be available on Notice Boards and the Council's Website from Friday 14th April (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk).

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.



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HAVE A SAY ON HOW NEW UNITARY COUNCIL'S MILLIONS SHOULD BE SPENT

People are being invited to take an active part in the new era of local government beginning in County Durham next month – and have a say on how the new unitary council should spend its billion pound budget.

Durham County Council is inviting groups, individuals and organisations to attend the launch events of its Area Action Partnerships – the network of 14 local assemblies created as a key element of the new unitary council's pledge to give local people more voice and choice in local affairs.

The AAPs, which are based at the heart of the main natural communities in County Durham, will go about their business at two levels :-

Area Boards of 21 people will be expected to meet every two months to take action on local issues. They will comprise one third elected councillors, one third members of the public and one third representatives of partner organisations - such as health, the police, fire service, community and voluntary groups.

Then, twice a year, Area Forums will meet where 'all comers' will be able to debate important issues, including what the local priorities should be and to review the Partnership's progress over the previous 12 months.

Each AAP will have a budget of up to £150,000 for local projects. County Council members will also be able to contribute towards

services and projects from their individual Neighbourhood Budgets.

Over the next two months, the new unitary County Council will be holding the first round of Area Forum meetings (see attached schedule) at which attendees will have an opportunity to discuss a range of issues, including a suitable name for each Partnership with which local people will identify, and what its priorities should be over the coming year.

They will also hear how they can become members of the Area Boards themselves.

Durham County Council Leader, Simon Henig, said Area Action Partnerships would be key tools in helping the new unitary council listen to and work closely with local people.

" These inaugural Forum meetings will mark the start of these unique partnerships and represent a tremendous opportunity for local people to have a real and meaningful say on how our services should be delivered," he added.

More than 2,000 people are being specifically invited to the Forum meetings which are also being widely publicised through the media, in the County Council's newspaper which is delivered to every home in the County, by posters at various locations and on the Council's website. All residents are welcome to attend.

All events run from 6pm – 8pm, following registration and light refreshments at 5.30pm, and to allow for the fact that each venue has a limited capacity, people wanting to attend should book their place by calling 0191 301 8720 or 0191 301 8244. The inaugural Area Forum meetings in Newton Aycliffe is on 21st April.

GREAT SUPPORT FOR TOWN FOOTBALL TEAM

Football fans turned out in force to support the town's own club chasing promotion to the Northern League.

More than 1,000 people visited the new Moore Lane floodlit ground in the first four games over nine days. The £320,000 redeveloped Sports Club was officially opened earlier this month.

The bumper crowds helped inspire Aycliffe to claim three league wins, including a vital top-of-the-table clash and a cup semi-final, which stretched their lead at the top of the Wearside League to five points.

237 turned out for the opening game against Jarrow, a 4-2 win in the semi-final of the Shipowners Cup thanks to goals by Sean Tarling, Liam Cooper, Elliot Gardner and an OG, to set up an exciting final with Teesside Athletic.

Over 220 then witnessed the club's first floodlit game at Moore Lane on Wednesday April 8 – a 2-0 win over Easington Colliery with goals by Chase McMullen and Danny Mellanby.

More than 200 were there for Aycliffe's 3-1 league win over Wolviston last Saturday. Mellanby, John Close, and Andrew Hall scored the goals. The biggest crowd of 372 turned out on Easter Bank Holiday Monday, with Aycliffe hammering title rivals New Marske 5-0 thanks to goals by Mellanby (2), McMullen, Stuart Owen and Roy Allen.

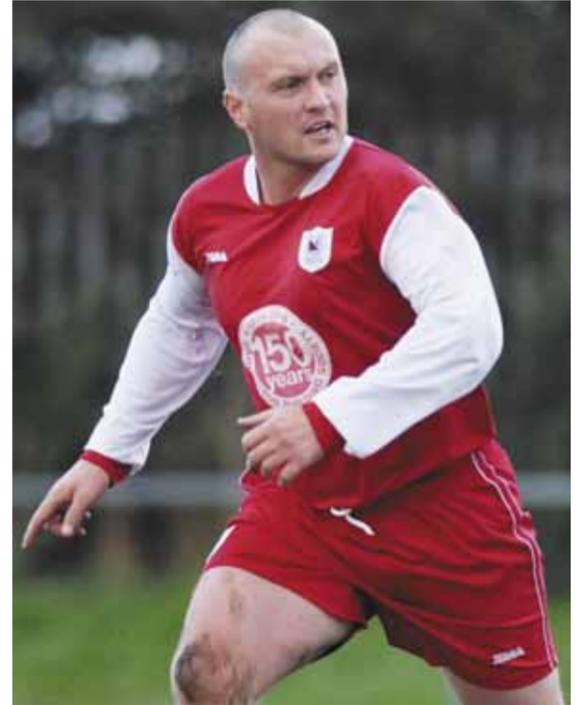
Club Chairman Gary Farley said: "We've appealed to the people of Newton Aycliffe to support the town's football

club and we couldn't have asked for better.

"To get over 200 for every game up to now really is fantastic, but to get nearly 400 on Easter Monday was well beyond our expectations. We'd like to thank everyone for their support which is hugely appreciated, and I'd ask everyone to come again. We're doing extremely well on the pitch and every home game is really starting to feel like an occasion, with the town pulling together. We have some ambitious long-term plans which includes new stands to accommodate a bid to join the Northern League and, while

all of that would be subject to planning approval and finishing top of the Wearside league, this kind of support will enable the club to make that big step" said Terry.

"We're now actively seeking perimeter board advertising and other sponsors, as well as organising fundraising events, and everything is starting to come together very quickly. We're doing things properly to give the town a good football club and it's getting there, thanks to the support of the townspeople, and the backing of local businesses is also going to be vital if we want to make the next step."



Five of Aycliffe's remaining eight league games are at home, with admission £2 (concessions for children). Newton Aycliffe's remaining fixtures are:

- Sat April 18: Guisborough Town (Home), 2.30pm
- Mon April 20: Wolviston (Away), 6.30pm
- Sat April 25: East Durham Utd (Away), 2.30pm
- Mon April 27: Teesside Athletic (Home), 7.30pm
- Weds April 29: Hartlepool FC (Home), 7.30pm
- Sat May 2: Jarrow (Home), 2.30pm
- Sat May 9: Teesside Athletic (Away), 2.30pm
- Sat May 16: Annfield Plain (Home), 2.30pm

Let Down by the SBC Deputy Leader

Dear Sir,
The letter from Vince Crosby last week started by saying now that SBC have gone, reporting embargoes have been lifted. He then goes on to set the record straight.

During the closing period of Vince Crosby's deputy leadership of SBC, a million pound plus investment for Newton Aycliffe was swept under the table. I refer to the planned Cobblers Hall investment. Can Vince Crosby give an explanation and set the record straight on this matter? Can he also explain the poor investment by SBC in the infrastructure of Newton Aycliffe (other than heads and walls) compared to other towns in the Borough? The new Public Toilets at Ferryhill are a glaring example. He knew how important this is to the town. Why when he was deputy leader did he not help and also push for a football academy for Newton Aycliffe like the one at Ferryhill?

There are now a great many readers of Newton News who found his letter as clear as mud, but they will certainly understand his lack of support for his own town.

Talking of which I wrote to the Newton News asking people to press their councillors for a Judicial Review into the transfer of open spaces. My thanks to all those who did that and also to all those who helped in various ways to aid the Great Aycliffe Town Council achieve a great result.
Counc. Bill Blenkinsopp

HONEST JOHN CARRIES ON THE GOOD WORK

Honest John's fundraising stall has raised £350 for Positive Horizons a self help group recovering from mental illness. He has also donated £400 to the Town's Mobility Club.

He now starts raising funds for the Durham District Roller Skating Club whose members mostly live in Newton Aycliffe with an age range from 3 to 22 yrs.

Next on the list for help is Newton Aycliffe Cheerleader Cougars, then it will be time to provide entertainment of Newton Aycliffe's Care Homes. Thanks to all those kind people who donate goods to sell on John's stall.

NEWTON AYCLIFFE COUGARS CHEERLEADERS

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TOWN TESCO SPONSOR N.A.S.C. JUNIOR FC



The management team and staff of NASC Junior FC. have thanked Tesco for their sponsorship in the recent bucket collection which raised £639.03.

Allowing the collection means the club can support the increasing number of children that attend and in particular to provide football strips, footballs, training accessories etc.

It also reflects the generosity of the people who live in and around Newton Aycliffe. We think that Tesco is a great outlet providing a much needed service to the people of our town.

The club hope to continue to attract new members & adult helpers into the club and to continue to instil a sense of belonging in the community as well as encouraging discipline & enjoyment in the young members for their training and football.

Anyone who would like to know more about NASC Junior FC can visit the website www.nascjuniorfc.co.uk or contact David Prior (07798 684 988) or Stuart Howe (07970 625 459)

New Blood Needed on the Council

Dear Editor,
Well done! to Sedgefield Borough Homes. As a tenant living in Agnew area I have some issues I would like to raise mainly with the Town Councillors and ask why they did not ask the tenants what they thought, after all we voted for the transfer of our houses. One thing we do want is the £100m investment in our homes over the next five years as promised.

I believe the promise made by the late Chief Executive Officer of Sedgefield Borough Council and the Leader of SBC in the DVD sent to all tenants within the Borough. Since then we have received a commitment by Bill Waters the Chair of Sedgefield Borough Homes.

Council John Clare, Deputy Leader, used scaremongering techniques trying to get people to turn against this transfer by stating that Sedgefield Borough Homes will build on green and open spaces.

I have residents in my area that sit on the new housing board and they have kept us fully informed. Never once has Council Clare held a surgery in the Agnew, yet he portrays himself as the champion of the people. I would suggest that he gets himself into the community to find out what the people want, not what Town Councillors think they want.

The Town Council is run by old people and we need some new blood and from those who are forward looking, making the right decisions for us. It would also appear as if the Town Council is trying to control another authority and I would bet they don't get away with it with the Durham Unitary Council.

Council Clare may be a good teacher but he should stop treating the electorate as school kids. He needs to get involved in the community, run surgeries and not try to be a jumped up politician, at a local level. It is about serving the people and not controlling them.
Mike Haley
Agnew Resident and Tenant

Councillors Allowances

Dear Sir,
At a time of change for councils for better cheaper and more accountable services, is it not disgraceful to read that Council members on the Police Authority have voted themselves increased allowances from £4,182 to £8,600 a year? This is in addition to their DCC allowances which will also be increased for 'more responsibility'. All this means higher cost for less representation. At the same time we read Durham Police plan to axe 68 officers and then there are reports of scandalous expenses of M.P.'s. Councillors and M.P.'s are voting themselves larger expenses - More for less? We also read in the very heartland of Labour a Council's focus group stating "all councillors and politicians are a bunch of crooks and wasters and the less of them there are the better" What an indictment! All this amounts to more for less, so what must electors do to ensure our needs and priorities are given the capital interest and not the M.P.'s and Unitary Councillors? It's time to rethink as I believe the tail is wagging the dog.
Don Fraser

AYCLIFFE SUFFER DEFEAT



Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club travelled to Seaham for a friendly match on a fine sunny day. Both sides were able to field a number of substitutes. Aycliffe started the game well and when Joe Watson fielded a kick and made ground upfield, Andy Newman was on hand to beat the defence and score under the posts. Luke Tinkler added the conversion and then a penalty goal. Seaham came back with a converted try, but good work from the Aycliffe forwards saw Craig Wynn score a try in the corner to give Aycliffe a 15 - 7 lead at the interval. After a number of changes in the pack, Aycliffe took time to settle in the scrums and Seaham capitalised with three converted

tries in quick succession. With Aycliffe back in their stride, but 13 points behind, a try from Tinkler was very welcome. Seaham, however, scored again before the move of the match saw the ball travel through numerous Aycliffe hands for Chris Wilson to touchdown in the corner. Aycliffe then yet again lost concentration to allow Seaham to score again. A try from Tinkler gave Aycliffe some small hope but the game ended with the score 38 - 30 to the hosts. Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club would like to thank their sponsors Aston Hotels and ServiceForce. More information is available on the website at www.ayclifferrugby.co.uk

Teenage Dancer Prepares for Teaching Exams

HIGH ACHIEVEMENT FOR YOUNGSTER



Rebecca Barber

14 year old Rebecca Barber has been attending Lee Green Dance Centre since she was three. She has managed to complete her final exam in Freestyle Dance where she has gained the highest honours. Rebecca has taken all the required IDTA graded medals, which has never before been achieved at such a young age. Rebecca would like to take up dance as part of her career and I am now tutoring her in preparation for the International Dance Teacher's Association exam, which will qualify her as dance teacher at the age of sixteen. She is very talented in all aspects of dance including freestyle, ballet, tap, street, acrobatics, salsa, rock n roll, lyrical, ballroom and latin. Rebecca has performed in many Shows and taken part in numerous nationwide competitions. I am sure Rebecca will excel in her chosen career and, in readiness, has assembled her portfolio of certificates of her dancing ability with great pride. Well done Rebecca!
Caroline Race
Teacher and Choreographer
Bryan and Brenda Thomson
Lee Green Dance Centre

any make any model!

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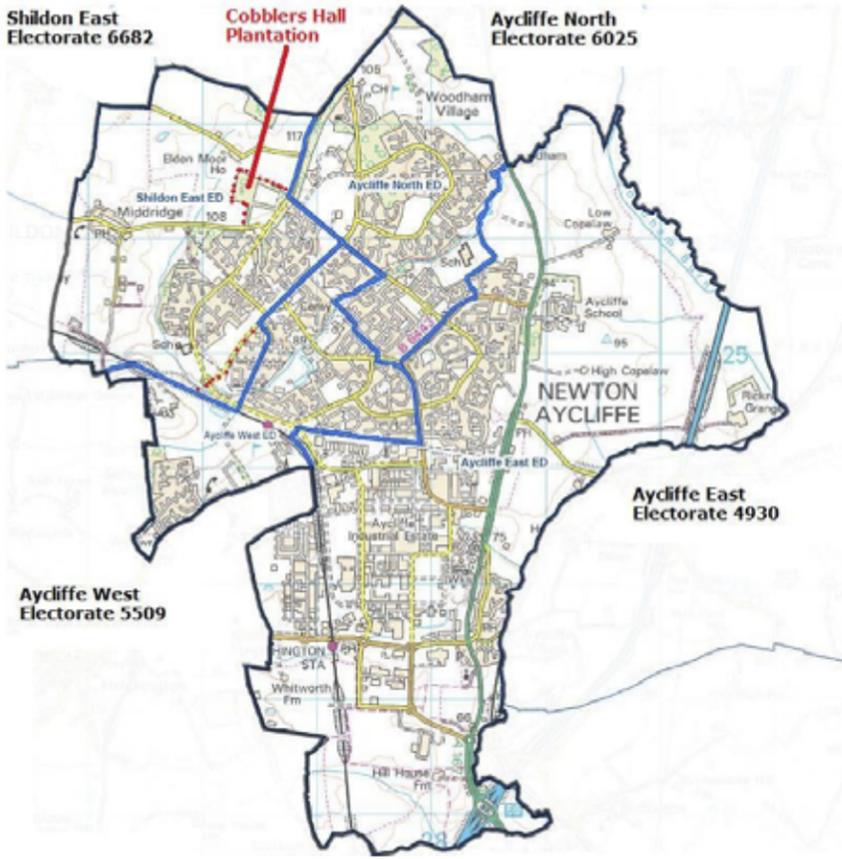
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RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS CHANGE OF NAME FOR WARD BOUNDARY



Great Aycliffe Residents Association is supporting a proposal by Committee member Arun Chandran for changes to Ward Boundaries in the town. This is in response to the Boundary Commission's current consultation process to make changes. The name of the Ward "Shildon East" has no geographical link with Shildon but contains the village of Middridge along with the North West of Newton Aycliffe and it should be re named. It is suggested Shildon East becomes **Aycliffe North West**, more in keeping with the location and affinity of residents to Newton Aycliffe. Middridge residents cannot object since they are not mentioned in "Shildon East" and are closer to Aycliffe than Shildon.

It is also suggested the electorate in Eskdale Place, Langdale Place and Silverdale Place be transferred from Shildon East to Aycliffe West Ward. These streets were always in the West Ward and are geographically placed in the ward whereas they are not geographically placed in Shildon East. Look at a map and see the natural boundary of Burnhill Way and the natural open space boundary of Horndale. Numerically it also helps to transfer the electorate from Shildon East to Aycliffe West making the electorate numbers more even per ward, reducing the disparity.

It leaves Aycliffe East with a disparity of 1,000 compared to the other wards which can still be altered with some tinkering in the centre of town.

The Parish boundary should be amended to incorporate Cobblers Hall Plantation. There are no dwellings so no one is adversely affected but the Plantation is owned by the Great Aycliffe Town Council, and is coterminous with the Parish Boundary and thus should be incorporated within Great Aycliffe Parish Boundary to remedy the anomaly.

Aycliffe East Electoral Division	Electorate: 4930
Aycliffe North Electoral Division	Electorate: 6025
Aycliffe West Electoral Division	Electorate: 5509 +500
Shildon East Electoral Division	Electorate: 6682 - 500

PAY US YOUR MONEY AND FIX IT YOURSELF

Dear Sir,
I am already concerned with the attitude of Sedgefield Borough Homes the organisation to which the SBC housing was transferred. Residents are now aware of their well above inflation rent increases, but today I was made aware of a resident living in a bungalow in Clarence Chair who had a problem.

One of her washing line poles which are cemented into the ground in her back garden became very unstable and on the verge of collapse. Being 75 yrs old, she contacted the new housing body asking them to repair it. At which point she was informed it was not their responsibility and she should do it herself.

I am concerned of the possibility of such unwanted treatment becoming the norm. Is this what it boils down to in the future? Pay us your money and fix things yourself?

If this is the case, I should imagine there are one or two people who should look at

their conscience and say to themselves "did I act in the best interests of the people who voted for me when I voted for this transfer to go ahead?".

If anyone else has a problem with this housing body, please do not hesitate to contact Town Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp with the details by telephone on 30805.

CLr. Bill Blenkinsopp
(Independent)

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PROTESTER BANNED FROM GOLF CLUB

Tony Haworth, who organised petitions against plans to build houses on Woodham Golf Course has been informed his membership of the club will not be renewed, on instruction of the owners, Washington Developments.

Tony was Treasurer of the Over 55's Section and obtained signatures of the majority of golfers against the planning application. If everyone who signed the petition was refused membership there would only be a dozen members left! This is pure victimisation.

A Concerned Member

Name & address supplied.

Ed: We could not believe the Golf Course owners could be so petty and rang to verify the information received. A spokesman for Washington Developments said they could not comment on individual members

Speed Hump Damage

Dear Sir,
My interest in damage caused by speed humps started in March 2008 after putting my car into the garage for repair, where I received an engineer's report with photographs showing the damage was a result of driving over speed humps.

I wrote to Durham County Council who informed me that they were putting the matter in the hands of their insurance company Gallagher Basset. They wrote to me on the 11th June 2008 stating that the humps were installed in the Simpasture area during 2001/2 and as there had been no complaints or reports, the damage to my car could not have been caused by the humps. I am unable to understand the logic of that statement.

I noticed the significant difference in height between the humps in Stag Lane where I live and those in Simpasture where I shop at Walkers Butchers.

I was aware that a survey on the humps had been carried out by the Highway Management Services of the County Council

in March 2008 showing the humps in Stag Lane were between 67 and 94mm. Those in Simpasture were between 85 and 111mm which is 11mm higher than the Highways Regulations 1996 allow.

On the 10th September Gallagher Basset wrote to inform me that the the humps were the correct height when they were installed in 2001.

On the 29th January 2009 Gallagher Basset stated that their client had confirmed that repairs had been instructed and will be completed in due course, they also state that DCC have satisfied their duty of care. This I find odd as the height to the hump outside Walkers is unaltered even though all parties have been aware of the problem since March 2008.

I have not been able to establish what height the original specification from DCC called for in 2001 I intend to speak to the County Councillors with responsibilities for the Simpasture and Woodham Area to see if they can help resolve the problem.

John M.

PLAYERS WANTED FOR SPORTS CLUB UNDER 7's



Newton Aycliffe Sports Club Under 7's currently play in the Cleveland Youth League and next season (09/10) they will be moving to the TJFA league and require new players to add to their existing squad.

If your child is currently in Year 2 and is interested in having fun, exercising, meeting new friends and becoming part of an established and fast growing

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.

For more details please contact Paul Middleton on 07717836485 or Dave Patterson 07754197558.

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

QUESTION TIME

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

THANKS TO THE YOUTHY FROM CHLOE

A big thank you to the Youth Centre members and friends of Chloe for doing a sponsored Rock Climb, Car Wash and Ice Skating and for thinking of us. Sincere gratitude from Annie, John and Chloe



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2009

Friday 1st - SALSA PARTY - £9.95
With our own resident Salsa dancers. Come and have a go we'll show you how. Price to include buffet and disco. Arrive for 7.00pm-12.00am close.

Friday 1st - The 80's Experience - £10.95 per person
The best disco party ever, takes place. Arrive at 7:00pm for 7:30pm for an all you can eat buffet.

Saturday 2nd - ABSOLUTE MURDER - £20.95 per person
A night of fun, intrigue and whodunit. Arrival for 7.30pm with dinner served 8.00pm.

Sunday 3rd - Ladies Day - £25.00 per person
Featuring Re-Take That, Butlers in the Buff and hosted by TFM's Wayne Allen. Fashion Show by 'Psyche'. Includes Glass of Champagne, Sumptuous 2 course lunch, and a glass of wine with lunch. Arrive 11.30am, Carriages 6pm.

Friday 8th - Lobster Festival - £130 + VAT per person
Best of British entertainment. Jim Davidson and 4 Poofs and A Piano. Fantastic Fruit De Mer, Free Flowing John Smith's and Fosters Lager all day. Complimentary bottle of wine per person. Champagne reception at 11.30am.

Saturday 9th - Fawley Towers Evening - £20.95 per person
A night of unlimited fun with Basil and Mammal. Arrive for 7.30, dinner served at 8.00pm.

Saturday 16th - BBQ Evening - £12.95 per person
Enjoy a Delicious BBQ and desert. Then dance the night away to our Resident DJ. Starts at 7.30pm.

Friday 22nd - Wedding Open Evening
Take this opportunity to view the Coleman Suite and newly refurbished John Burdon Suite set up for Wedding Reception's and a Civil Ceremony. No appointment necessary just come along between 6.00pm and 9pm.

Saturday 23rd - The Ultimate 70's - £10.95 per person
Dust off your platforms and get out your flares for a night taking you back to this groovy era. Arrive for 7.30 for an all you can eat buffet.

Friday 29th - The Young Drifter's - £10.95 per person
Five piece band here to perform some of the best songs from the Drifters, James Brown, Kool & The Gang, Real Thing plus many more artists. Buffet, entertainment and disco. Arrive for 7.00pm until midnight

Saturday 30th - The 80's Experience - £10.95 per person
The best disco party ever, takes place. Arrive at 7:00pm for 7:30pm for an all you can eat buffet.

JUNE 2009

Friday 5th - ABBA MIA! - £10.95 per person
A marvellous, live, fully costumed show featuring all the greatest Abba hits, presented with impeccable style and flair!
Includes buffet, entertainment and disco. Arrive for 7.00pm, 12.00am Close

Friday 12th - QUEEN FM - £10.95 per person
Unrivalled tribute to the magnificence of Freddie Mercury and Queen. Includes buffet, entertainment and disco. Arrive for 7pm

Friday 19th - Father Ted Tribute - £19.95 per person
Fabulous tribute show absolutely packed with fun, music, and typical Father Ted irony!
Includes dinner and entertainment and disco

Friday 26th - The 80's Experience - £10.95 per person
The best disco party ever, takes place. Arrive at 7:00pm for 7:30pm for an all you can eat buffet.

Friday 26th - BBQ Evening - £12.95 per person
Enjoy a Delicious BBQ and desert. Then dance the night away to our Resident DJ. Starts at 7.30pm

Saturday 27th - SALSA PARTY - £9.95
With our own resident salsa dancers. Come and have a go we'll show you how. Price to include buffet and disco. Arrive for 7.00pm-12.00am close.

Saturday 27th - ABSOLUTE MURDER - £20.95 per person
A night of fun, intrigue and whodunit. Arrival for 7.30pm with dinner served 8.00pm

Sunday 28th - Wedding Open Day
Take this opportunity to view the Coleman Suite and newly refurbished John Burdon Suite set up for Wedding Reception's and a Civil Ceremony. No appointment necessary just come along between 11am and 4pm.

Our popular Sunday Lunch is served in the Boyne Suite, accompanied by music from our residential pianist, 4 courses including coffee at £16.95

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AYCLIFFE A.C. IN SEASIDE ROAD RACE



Five members of Newton Aycliffe Athletics Club had a nice morning at the seaside on Good Friday as they ran in the Mermaid 10k road race at Marske. The light wind made the running hard along the two stretches of promenade and the last km along the straight coastal road to the finish, but the sunny weather and a flat course helped everyone enjoy the race. The line up and their finishing time: Dave McKenzie (49:01) Julia Atkinson-Tait (41:35) Janet McRae (47:37) Janet Raper (45:46) Trish Kay (49:04)

MAJOR FUNDING FOR LOCOMOTION

Locomotion: the National Railway Museum at Shildon has announced a major funding award.

The Trustees of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation have approved a £60,000 grant to pay for a Workshop Manager to train young people in heritage engineering and conservation skills as part of the Back on Track project over the next two years.

The manager will be based at Locomotion, and the recruitment process is underway. The new manager will co-ordinate the museum's conservation programme, and help expand partnership working with local schools and volunteers.

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation is one of the largest independent grant-making foundations in the UK.

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.

The next Senior Citizens Forum is on Monday 4th May at 1.30pm. Our guest speaker is Major Bob Jones with a presentation on Royal Visits. Admission is £1 to include Tea. To book ring 313924.

FREE Kurling on Saturday 25th April at 2pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please ring 313924. Day Trip to Alnwick Castle Gardens, Saturday 9th May, Depart 9am St. Clares, Coach Fare £12. Ring to book.

Police PACT Meeting

A Police and Community Together (PACT) Meeting will be held for the Simpashire Ward on Monday 20th April at 6.30pm in the Simpashire Court Coffee Lounge. The Police and local Councillors will be in attendance and everyone is invited.

No Grip on Reality

Dear Sir,
I think that Vince Crosby's attempt to justify transferring council housing to Registered Housing Associations (RHA) shows his grip on reality has, like Sedgefield Borough Council, disappeared!

Since Housing Associations came into being the numbers waiting for council houses, known now as social housing, has risen across the country. This is because the number of council houses that Housing Associations have pulled down have not been replaced with the new modern houses promised. What houses they do build are mainly for the private sector because New Labour allowed Housing Associations to build in small numbers, over 15, of which 25% must be for social housing use, so the numbers are kept to 15 or below. Lack of housing led people to pay ridiculous prices which in turn allowed New Labour to claim they have revolutionised the housing market in this country. The end result is that we now have a bankrupt country. Peter Dolan

Great Aycliffe



Town Council

Audit of Accounts Notice of Public Rights

Audit Commission Act 1998

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (Regulations 14 and 16)

Notice is hereby given that the Audit of Accounts and related financial documents for the year ended 31st March 2009 of Great Aycliffe Town Council will commence at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 3rd June 2009 at the offices of Great Aycliffe Town Council situated at School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

The Accounts and all supporting financial documents will be available at the offices of Great Aycliffe Town Council for inspection by any person interested during office hours from the 5th May 2009 to the 3rd June 2009. Appointments to view the Accounts should be made to the Finance Manager at the Council Offices (telephone number 01325 300700 ext 232).

The Auditor will be Mrs. L. Snowball of the Audit Commission (Northern Region) whose address is, 2nd Floor, Nickalls House, Metro Centre, Gateshead. NE11 0NH.

The Auditor will give to any local government elector for the area of Great Aycliffe, on the 3rd June 2009 at the offices of Great Aycliffe Town Council, and subsequently until such time as the Auditor certifies the completion of the audit, an opportunity to question the Auditor about the Accounts.

Any such elector or their representative may attend before the Auditor and make objections:

(i) as to any matter in respect of which the Auditor could take action under Section 17 or 18 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 (namely an unlawful item of account, failure to bring a sum into account, or a loss or deficiency caused by wilful misconduct).

(ii) as to any other matter in respect of which the Auditor could make a report in the public interest under Section 8 of the Act.

No such objection may be made unless the Auditor has previously received written notice of the objection and the grounds on which it is made, and a copy of such notice has been sent to the Town Council.

Dated this 21st day of April 2009.

Mr Dan Austin
Finance Manager

SAFETY AWARD FOR 3M

Safety conscious employees at 3M Aycliffe have helped the site to win another top award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). The Heighington Lane site, which manufactures personal respirators for worker safety, is to receive the RoSPA President's Award at a special ceremony in Birmingham next month.

It is the second year running that the site has won the President's Award, which is only presented to UK companies who have a minimum 10-year record of maintaining the RoSPA gold standard for occupational health and safety management systems.

The site's EHS manager, Adrian Hughes said winning the award had been a team effort by everyone employed at the site.

"It's a tribute to the lasting commitment to safety shown over many years by the company and all the people who work here," he said. "We're delighted to have won it again."

Questionnaire Too Long

Dear Syd
I ploughed through the questionnaire circulated by the Town Council and made some extra comments which I am sure will be "binned", but one should be allowed some extra comments on such a lengthy document, however well presented.

It took me a long time to complete the form and I nearly gave up as it was so long. It should be a much shorter form and if it was made easier to complete I am sure there would be a better response.

Y.M.

A DAY AT THE FARM



During the school holidays, the children from Woodham Burn Out of School Club visited Hall Hill Farm. When leaving Newton Aycliffe the weather did not look promising, but as we arrived at the farm we were pleasantly surprised with brighter weather.

The farm staff greeted our group and showed us to the barn, where we had a brief

reminder of the rules when we are looking around the farm including washing our hands, what animals not to feed etc. The children decided that the first place that they would like to visit was the large outdoor park, followed by a tractor ride. The day continued to be extremely busy and included feeding animals, holding chicks, rabbits, gerbils, bottle feeding a lamb, watching the farm puppet show, seeing a cow been milked, having lunch in the barn and lots more. After a fun filled day the children returned with a Hall Hill Farm goody bag and lots of exciting experiences to tell their friends and families.

If you would like further details regarding the before, after or school holiday club, please contact Kendra on 01325 300080.

FOOTBALLERS WANTED

Newton Aycliffe Sports Club are looking for Under 13's to play in Division 4. If your birthday is no earlier than the 1st of September 1996 to the 31st August 1998 then you are needed to play in an elite team of footballers.

Ring Colin on 07730 354468. Everyone is welcome!

COMMUNITY ACTIVIST CHOSEN AS FIRST CHAIRMAN OF NEW UNITARY AUTHORITY

A father-of-two once described by the press as "the human embodiment of community spirit" has been chosen as the first Chairman of County Durham's new unitary council.

Coun Brian Myers, 66, who was awarded the MBE in 2003 for services to the community, was elected Chairman of the new-style Durham County Council at the authority's inaugural annual meeting today.

A former Cabinet member of the 'old' County Council and a member of the authority since 2001, Coun Myers was born at Sunnybrow near Crook and has lived in the Wear Valley area for most of his life.

Active in local politics for many years, he serves as a County Councillor for the Willington electoral division, is a former member of Wear Valley District Council and is currently Chairman of Greater Willington Town Council.

His keen interest in community affairs began in 1986, when a stroke prompted his early retirement from his job as a caravan sales centre manager.

Since then, he has served as chairman of Willington Community Partnership, is currently company secretary of Willington Community Action and is a member of his local Methodist church.

In 2007, his service to the community found another outlet when he was appointed a magistrate on the North Durham Bench.

"To be appointed the first

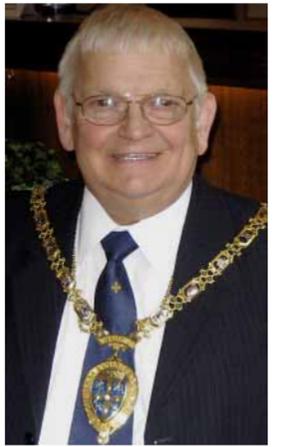
Chairman of the new unitary County Council is the pinnacle of my career in local politics," said Coun Myers.

"Now that the dust has settled on the local government reorganisation process, our focus as unitary councillors must be to work tirelessly to make County Durham a place that is economically viable, prides itself in its care of older residents, has a reputation for its education facilities and levels of achievement, is environmentally friendly and consults with the people it serves in a meaningful way."

Coun Myers has been married to his wife Alice for 47 years, has two children and two adult grand children.

The new Vice Chairman of the County Council is Mac Williams, 64, a former colliery worker at Dawdon.

Coun Williams who lives in Sunderland Bridge near Croxdale, where he has been a parish councillor for ten years, and a county councillor for Durham South



since 2006.

He retired from the coal industry in 1971 and later spent 24 years working for Durham City Council, retiring in 1999 as principal safety officer.

Coun Williams' strong interest in law and order is reflected in his 30 years services as a Magistrate and 14 years' service on Durham Police Authority.

NEWTON AYCLIFFE YOUTH CENTRE

COURSES **COURSES**

Course Title	Day	Times	Start Date
Improve your Employability	Monday	2pm-4pm	20th April
Crystal Healing	Monday	6pm-8pm	20th April
Crafts for Pleasure	Monday	7pm-9pm	20th April
Art Class	Tuesday	1pm-3pm	21st April
Beaded Jewellery Making	Wednesday	1pm-3pm	22nd April
D.I.Y. Plumbing	Wednesday	6pm-8pm	22nd April
Basic I.T.	Thursday	6pm-8pm	23rd April
Yoga	Friday	10am-12pm	24th April
Crafts for Pleasure	Friday	1.30pm-3.30pm	24th April

The above classes are due to start at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4HT. For further details, telephone 01325 307522, email sue@aycliffeyouthy.co.uk or visit www.aycliffeyouthy.co.uk

The North Briton

Aycliffe Village - Tel 01325 312281

Sunday Carvery (12pm-2pm)
OAP/Child £3.50 - Small £4.50
Medium £5.95 - Jumbo £6.95

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Play Your Cards Right

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Killer Pool £1 Entry - Pot The Lot £1 Entry

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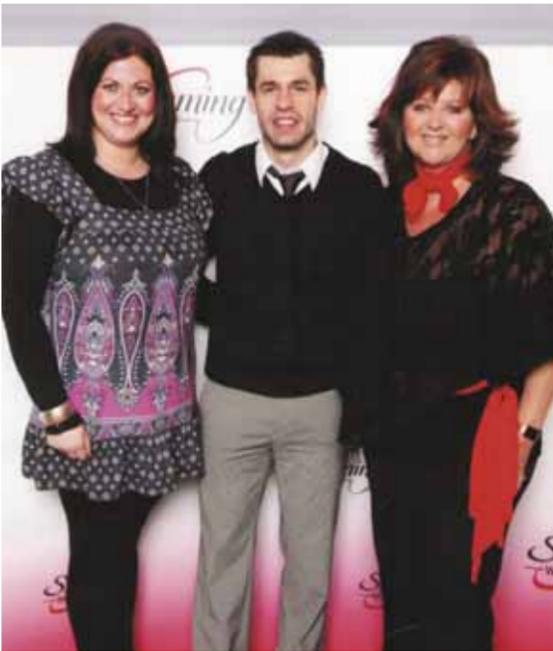
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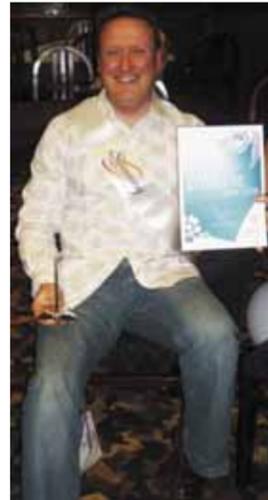
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GREATEST LOSER 2009



Newtonian Nicola Dale with Kelvin Fletcher from Emmerdale and Margaret Miles Bramwell the Chairman and Founder of Slimming World. The picture was taken when Nicola visited head office to celebrate Slimming World's 40th year. A truly inspirational day with stories from Margaret and other consultants on how things have changed in 40 years!
The before and after photos are of brilliant and inspirational

member Neil Hewitt who has lost an incredible 3½ stones in only 21 weeks. He has never gained in those weeks and has recently won the group's yearly award of "Greatest Loser 2009". He feels so much healthier and the plan is so easy to follow that he doesn't feel like it is a diet at all. Contact Consultant Nicola on 07791 909376 - group on Mondays 6pm, Woodham Golf Club!



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Ban Alcohol T.V. Adverts

Dear Sir,
I have noticed with concern that large Supermarkets promote the consumption of alcohol all through the day with adverts. Perhaps our MP Phil Wilson could raise this subject in Parliament and ask if it is at all possible to have a watershed of 9 pm for such adverts or better still a blanket ban as is the case with smoking.
We hear about alcohol related incidents and the damage caused to families, property, and crime related issues, but no one is prepared to take a stand or take responsibility.
Our Police Force is under-manned and they do their best in the Simpashire/Neville Area. I know PC Alan Thompson and his colleagues have confiscated a fair amount of alcohol, but we need more Officers on the beat.
Will our MP do anything? I do not think so! He could not even speak about people with disabilities in the House of Commons when requested by a fellow Councillor.
Weak on crime, weak on punishment is this Government's legacy. Help the rich, help themselves, forget the electorate until an election comes round. At least Dick Turpin confronted people before robbing them.
Alan Warburton
Independent Councillor

Polo Team Hard to Beat

Sedgefield Water Polo Club entertained Durham City in the Northumberland and Durham Senior League at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre in Male and Female Senior fixtures.
In the Ladies game Sedgefield fielded a very young side with most of there team under 15 but they were superbly led by Sedgefield's GB players Carol Mohan and Sarah Scott who have taken a step back from the top level of the Sport to concentrate on their degrees.
In a very competitive encounter Sedgefield triumphed 11-8. Abbie Turnbull 12 had a tremendous game and continues to show excellent potential for the future and scored a goal. Faye Callan 16 led Sedgefields defence well and contributed a goal.
Ashley Boardman continues to show pleasing improvement and scored 2 goals. The other Sedgefield goals came from Mohan with 4 and Scott with 3. The other members of the team were goalkeeper Georgina Naylor 13, Alice Woods 13, Helen Colledge 12, Megan Lamb 13, Melissa Lowe 11 and Rhiannon Foulds 12.
In the Male fixture Sedgefield's young team were led by Sedgefield's veteran coach Lee Cooke in a game Sedgefield dominated all the way through to win comfortably 8-1. Sedgefield's 4 players from Bishop Auckland Simon and Patrick Callan, Joseph Reed and Mark Gabrielle contributed a lot to the victory.
Greg Barker 16, Lee Gowland 16 and Mathew Calvert 15 all continued to show their potential for the future. Sedgefield welcomed back to the team after a absence of a few months Goalkeeper Frazer Foulds, who along with young keeper Mathias Reichel 15 gave the Durham team very few opportunities to score. Sedgefield completed their line up with Adam Woods 13. The goals were scored by Cooke

2, Gowland 1, Reed 3 and Gabrielle 2.

BUS SERVICE

Dear Editor
This past few weeks I have read letters in your paper regarding Bus services in Aycliffe and I am informed that from the week beginning May 4th 2009 Scarlet Band Coaches are taking over certain bus routes.
One in particular the No. 16. on the routes they are taking over are easy-access buses which are suitable for elderly people, disabled people and people with pushchairs.
Cllr. Alison Palmer

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WORK PLACEMENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Charity workers who help young people find jobs are on the look-out for employers who are willing to create work experience placements. The charity is Developing Initiatives Supporting Communities (DISC) which runs New Deal projects in Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor.

The young people are part of the New Deal initiative which was set up by the government as a support programme for unemployed 18 to 24 year olds looking for work, and also for lone parents.

The placements last around 13 weeks, don't cost the employer anything, and are in a wide variety of fields, including retail, administration, animal care,

nursing homes, catering and joinery.

Previous and current employers offering placements include McColls, Citizens Advice, K9 Pursuits, Southern Cross Healthcare, Betty's Fish Shop, Greenfield School, YMCA, the British Heart Foundation and many more.

DISC New Deal co-ordinator Lynne Clift-Harvey said: "DISC New Deal works closely with both the employers and the young people they take on. All we ask is that the young person is encouraged to learn new skills and feel part of a team. We have a high success rate and it's great to see young people's confidence and self belief boosted when they get a chance to prove themselves at work. A big thank you to all the employers who have helped us so far."

For further information contact Lynne Clift-Harvey or Carol Everson on 01325 313888.

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WATCH BATTERIES now available at Taylors Newsforce **DONATIONS** needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring John 316630

RSPCA Durham and District cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and id chip. Please Tel 311215

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PIAGGIO Zip Scooter, 50cc, Twist and Go, '02 Reg. Taxed and tested including cover, helmet and manual, 3280 ono Tel 300476 after 6pm

Aycliffe Miss Out on Final

Chester le Street 35 Newton Aycliffe 15

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club travelled to Chester le Street for the semi-final of the Durham County Plate with a large number of players unavailable. Despite the much changed pack, Aycliffe began the game strongly.

The forwards gained good possession from the rucks, and the backs used their pace and confident handling to carve a number of opportunities. The opening score came from a slick back movement which saw Chris Wilson touch down in the corner.

Deryk Cairns came close to scoring before another try was added when Luke Tinkler made a good angled run and was

fed by Alex Lineton; Tinkler converted his try. Chester fought back and scored a pushover try from a 5-metre scrum, which they then converted. Aycliffe then re-established their two score advantage with a penalty goal from Tinkler. The score at the break was 15 - 7 to the visitors.

The second half began with Chester on the attack and they soon scored another converted try to reduce the lead to one point. Aycliffe's forwards began to show their lack of fitness and the home team continued to attack, adding three further converted tries before the end

of the match to run out 35 - 15 winners. Whilst the final scoreline was greater than the match showed that Aycliffe will have to improve before next season if a successful year is to be achieved.

Aycliffe visit Chester le Street again on 28th March to play the 2nd XV in a Durham Junior League match, kick-off 3pm. Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club would like to thank their sponsors Aston Hotels and ServiceForce.

More information is available on the website at www.ayclifferrugby.co.uk.

Colleen Stainsby

ACCOUSTIC EVENING

An evening of acoustic entertainment at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre, (Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 7LF), on Monday 27th April at 7.00pm.

To include local artists from primary and secondary schools and some professional entertainers. Tickets £3 available from Greenfield School or John Melvin on 314694.

Pet Rabbits Dumped

Dear Newton News,

This message is to a very sad individual who dumped three very cute pet rabbits on the back road between Heighington and School Aycliffe. My Husband and children were on a bike ride around 7.30pm on Monday 6th and came across the two very scared rabbits just dumped on the roadside. They looked destined to be eaten by a wild animal or ran over by a vehicle.

Having dogs we walk in that area we knew what would happen if they were left there, needless to say we did not leave them and after an hour or so trying to catch them caught one and had to give up on the other at that time. Many cars passed so I dread to think what they thought we were doing. One safe rabbit, the next day trying to locate the other rabbit it was still in the same area. We caught the second rabbit which was in a poor state of neglect.

How can anyone be so heartless? A box you can get free, and we have two Pet shops in Newton Aycliffe. I'm sure had you left them there someone would have understood. I have since spoken to a pet shop and this so called dumping seems to be common. I hope if this individual has children whom may have got bored with rabbits know what you did with them! They now live in a large hutch and will be cared for lovingly

Colleen Stainsby

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UNITARY COUNCIL CABINET OFFERS BLEND OF 'CHANGE AND CONTINUITY'

A top team of council decision makers representing a blend of change and continuity will lead County Durham into a new era of local government from today.

Announcing his line-up of executive members, Coun Simon Henig, who was confirmed as Leader of the new unitary Durham County Council which came into force today, said his choice of Cabinet colleagues reflected the changing role of the new council and the additional services – formerly provided by the district councils – it was taking on.

But he added that it also reaffirmed his wish to maintain a degree of stability in the Cabinet structure and develop valuable experience and expertise among its members.

Key among the changes announced at today's inaugural annual meeting of the new County Council was the appointment of former Easington District Council Leader Alan Napier as Deputy Leader of the new unitary council, with special Cabinet responsibility for resources including assets and finance.

He replaces former Deputy Leader Clive Robson who becomes the new Cabinet member with responsibility for housing – a significant new area of additional service provision for the unitary county council. Other Cabinet posts and responsibilities covered by their portfolios announced today are:

Coun Morris Nicholls: Adult Services including adult social care, welfare rights and carers. Coun Claire Vasey: Children and Young People's Services

including education 0-19; safeguarding children, youth services including Youth Offending Service and children's centres.

Coun Eunice Huntington: Healthier Communities including health and wellbeing, links with the NHS, Arts and culture, libraries and adult education.

Coun Lucy Hovvels: Safer Communities including community safety, emergency planning and domestic abuse.

Coun Neil Foster: Economic Regeneration including economic development, development control, town centre redevelopment, tourism and regeneration.

Coun Clive Robson: Housing including housing strategy, homelessness and links with housing providers.

Coun Bob Young: Environment and Leisure including sustainability and climate change, consumer protection, transport, highways, waste management and leisure services.

Coun Brian Stephens:

Neighbourhood and Local Partnerships including Area Action Partnerships, community development, neighbourhood streetscene and relationships with town and parish councils.

"I believe the new council is starting its life with a very strong and united executive which will be able to hit the ground running," said Coun Henig.

"It recognises the changes brought about by reorganisation, yet allows an important element of continuity through the inclusion of former County and District Council cabinet members.

"Their range of backgrounds and local government experience will stand us in very good stead for meeting the challenges which lie ahead, including our commitment to improve services, improve access to services, and make the savings that were promised as part of the bid for unitary status."

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.

Thank You

TONI & MARK wish to thank both families and Kerry and Craig for everything they've done and also family and friends for the lovely cards and gifts received on the birth of their beautiful, perfect Son, Kai Connor xx

THE FAMILY of the late Jean Cook wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness, sympathy cards, flowers and charitable donations during their recent bereavement. Thanks also to Dr Jones, The Co-op Funeral Services and the Royal British Legion

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

FLYMO LAWN MOWER turbo compact 330, one year old. Hover mower (moved to very small garden) £40 ono, Tel 312 673

BEKO white, 3 drawer freezer, under bench, £30. Tel 07875 150950

UNDER BENCH freezer, £40. Tel 0777 898 0006

LEC Fridge, ex condition, £75 ono; Tricity Bendix washer, £75 ono. Tel 312467

MOBILITY scooter (2007), dismantles for transport purposes, £300, cash only, no offers. Tel 312467

BEIGE fabric 3 piece suite, comprises of 3 seater, 2 seater sofa bed, armchair and foot rest. Newton Aycliffe, £175. Tel 07905 008497

KITCHEN DOORS 15 white with grey trim, £75. Tel 310736

GIRLS PINK card bed and mattress, excellent condition, £40 ono. Tel 07974 465111

NEED An old domestic appliance removing? Can't wait for the Council? Tel. 321 678.

Entertainment

PAUL GITTINS DISCO For any occasion, also Karaoke. Tel 317666 or 07831 269526.

FUN-n-BOUNCE Bouncy Castles for hire with and without slide, adult sizes available. All parties catered for, also available for indoor use. Tel 01325 307445 or 07594 436127

Birthday Remembrance

PEGGY GASKARTH 9th April 2009. Happy birthday Mam. You can only have one Mother, patient kind and true; No other friend in all the world, will be the same as you. When other friends foresake you, to Mother you will return, for all her loving kindness, she asks nothing in return. As we look upon her picture, sweet memories we recall, of a face so full of sunshine, and a smile for one and all. Sweet Jesus, take this message, to our dear Mother up above; Tell her how we miss her, and give her all our love. From your loving family xx

JOHN PARRY 16-4-48. Thinking of you on your birthday and every other day. Miss you and love you Dad. Love always, Daniel, Mandy and kids xxx

JOHN PARRY 16-4-48. Missing you always. Love, Susan xxx

In Memoriam

STUART, Audrey Eunice. Died 18th April 2008. I stood beside your bedside cradling your head with love. I watched you gently slip away to be with the Lord above. And though my heart was breaking I knew you were at rest. But I miss you so much Mam, you really are the best. Lots of love, Annette xxx

MAUREEN In memory of my darling Wife, 20th April 2003. All my love, Paul

JOHN NICHOLSON 16th April. It's been 2 years since that sad day when God called your name and took you away. It hurt so much and we are still in pain, that's the way it will be till we meet again. Remembered every day with love and pride. Derek, June, Pat, Ronnie, Linda, Ann, Susan, all Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren, all In-Laws, Brenda and Irene. Birthday wishes for 22nd April

Congratulations

TONI ALLEN - MARK COX Congratulations on the birth of your beautiful baby boy, Kai Connor, born 6.4.09. First Grandchild for Carolyn and John and first Grandson for Lesley and John. Well done, love from the proud Grandparents xx

BLACKBURN, MEGAN. Happy 1st birthday to our special little girl, hope you enjoy your party. All our love always, Mam and Dad xx

BLACKBURN, MEGAN. Happy 1st birthday Megan. Lots of love and kisses, Grandma and Paul xx

BLACKBURN, MEGAN. Happy birthday Megan, hope you have a good day. Love from your Sisters, Courtney, Ellie and Hattie xx

KATHRYN Good luck in your new job. Hope you enjoy it and Germany! Auf wiedersehen pet, we'll miss you loads. Love, Mam, Dad and all the family xxxx

ANDRESS MILLER Happy 40th birthday to a wonderful Wife and wonderful Mother. Have a lovely day. Love, John and Chloe xxxx

ANDRESS MILLER 18-4-09. Happy birthday to my little Sister. "Welcome to the Naughty Forties". We love you loads, Mandy and Gary xx (PS: Please notice, no photo!)

ANDRESS MILLER Happy 40th birthday Auntie Annie. Lots and lots of love, Danny, Darren and Stacey. Look on the bright side, you are still younger than my Mam! xx

ANDRESS MILLER 18-4-09. Best wishes on your 40th dear Daughter. Enjoy your day out, you deserve it! Lots of love, Mam and Dad xxx

ANDRESS MILLER 18-4-09. Happy birthday dear Sister on your 40th. Love you loads, from Eddy, June, Samantha and James xxx

KAYLEIGH SLADE Happy 18th birthday, 22nd April. Love, Linda, Steve and family

LINDA ATKINSON 20-4-2009. Happy 40th birthday. With all our love, Steve, Matthew, Beth, Ellis, Lucy and Lexi xxx

COURTNEY Happy 11th birthday to a special Daughter. Hope you have a good day. All our love, Mum and Andrew xxx

COURTNEY Hope you have a good birthday and like your party. Love from your little Sisters, Ellie, Megan and Hattie xxx

OWEN MORRISON Happy 10th birthday on 18th April. Love, Mam, Dad, Faye, Grandma, Grandad, Uncle Iain and Auntie Becca xxx

KEL JAY ALLEN 20-4-1991. Congratulations on your 18th birthday. Love, Mam, Dad and family

UNCLE KEL congratulations love from Kai Connor xx

HOLMES, Kenneth Phillip. Happy 1st birthday Son. Hope you have a wonderful day. Lots of love, Mam and Dad

JOBES 16-4-09. Happy 16th birthday Simon. Love, Mam, Dad, Sarah, Derek, Sonya, Dave and Chantelle

SHELLEY ALDER To the best Mam in the world. Happy 40th birthday. Lots of love always, Matt and Maddie xx

SHELLEY ALDER Happy 40th birthday. Hope you have a good day. Lots of love, Brothers, Sisters, Nieces, Nephews, Brothers-in-Law and Sister-in-Law xxx

SMITH & MILLER, Will and Sarah. Congratulations on your Engagement on Friday 10th April 2009. Lots of love from Mam and Dad xxx

SMITH & MILLER Will and Sarah, congratulations on your Engagement on Friday 10th April 2009. Love from David, Lisa, Nicola, Emma, Kyra, Shannon, Jasmin, Jordan and Kian xxxxxx

SARAH COLLIER Happy 21st birthday. Lots of love from Mam, Dad and Emma xxx

Hannah Tarn



Well Done Sweetheart on gaining 7th place in the U8 Beginner Final at the East Coast Festival 2009. We are very proud of you. Love you loads from Mummy, Livvie and all the family xxxx
Thanks to all at Stepping Out with Clare Walton

Holly Sanderson and Olivia Tarn



Congratulations to you both for winning U10 Beginner Couple of the Year at the East Coast Festival 2009. Also well done for gaining 7th place in your slow pairs, we are all very proud of you both. Love from both the Sanderson and Tarn families.
Holly, thank you for being a fab partner. Love from Livvie
Thanks to all at Stepping Out with Clare Walton

Diane Hurst



Happy 50th Birthday 19th April 2009
Best Wishes for your birthday and your future. You may be fifty, but you are still my little girl. With loads of love from Mam
Happy 50th birthday Mam. From Becky, John, Shaun and Marnie. We love you very much
All the best to "Fanny Blot". From your favourite Brother

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Christopher Howarth - 40 today



15th April 2009

Happy 40th birthday to my wonderful husband. Vegas here we come!! Love you loads, Muddy xxx
To the best Dad in the whole world. Lots of hugs and kisses from the best sons in the whole world, Jack and Joe xxx
Happy 40th birthday Chris. Hope you have a brilliant birthday, lots of love from Rob, Brenda, Lee, Shellie, Morgan and Callum xx
To my Youngest Son have a superb birthday and a great time in Las Vegas. Love from Dad xxx
Happy 40th Birthday - Enjoy Las Vegas and have a great birthday. Love from Paul, Beverley, Carrie and Matthew xx
Happy 40th Birthday Have a great birthday. Love from Stuart, Joanne, Adam and Alex xx

Debbie Jones



Happy 30th Birthday Debbie. Lots of love from Gavin, Mam, Dad, Neville and Claire

Susan Walls



50 on 20th April Happy Birthday Susan Love from John, Freda, Neville, Debbie and Family

Grace Everson



Happy 1st Birthday Happy 1st Birthday to our beautiful baby girl on the 20th April. We hope you enjoy your 'In The Night Garden' Party. Lots of love and kisses, Mummy and Daddy xx
Happy 1st Birthday to our beautiful Granddaughter Grace. All our love, Nana & Grandad, Gran & Grandad Ian, Nan, Grandad and all the familyxxxx

Holly Emmett



Happy 18th Birthday Hope you have a great weekend. Love, Mum, Dad, Katie, Slinky, Grandma, Grandad and Nannie xxx

Dawn Foreman



Happy 40th Birthday Love from Sean
Happy birthday Mam. Love, Kirsty, Scott, Kerry, Mick, Sophie, Kaitlin, Sean, Holly, Patrick, Janine and all the Grandkids

Sits Vacant

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

Pets

PROFESSIONAL Dog Groomer, 07521 736122
LURCHER for sale, bull greyhound, 6 month old, beautiful dog, £50. Tel 07950 654518

Top Referee Vists Area

Football fans can hear about the experiences of one of the country's top referees later this month, when Mike Riley will act as guest speaker at the Bishop Auckland Referees' Association.

Premier League and FIFA referee Mike, from Leeds, has agreed to be guest speaker at the society's meeting on Thursday 23 April, at Bishop Auckland Cricket Club from 7pm.

One of the highlights of his distinguished career in the top flight was his appointment to the 2002 FA Cup Final between Arsenal and Chelsea. Mike also refereed in the 2004 European Championships.

Terry Farley, Secretary of the Bishop Auckland Referees' Society said: "Mike is one of the top referees in the country and we are delighted that he has agreed to visit us in Bishop Auckland."

"Mike has refereed at the highest level in European and domestic football and I'm sure he will have many stories about his career that he can share with us. "This is the second high profile guest speaker the society has attracted this season, with Howard Webb visiting in November and we are hoping for another good turnout for Mike. Everyone is welcome, whether you're a referee, player or someone who just loves football."

For further information about the Bishop Auckland Referees' Society, contact Terry Farley on 313647 or email terry.farley71@tiscali.co.uk.

TESCO SHOULD FINE BAD CUSTOMER PARKING

Dear Sir,
I write with regard to parent & child parking spaces at Tesco. These spaces are there for people who need them, people like ourselves with a small child. Like a disabled bay, a parent and child space has extra room to get a child out of the car without hitting the adjacent car.

It makes me angry that ignorant people with no children or no need to use these spaces continually take them up so others are left without. Why?

ADC STAFF REUNION

Since the dissolution of the Aycliffe & Peterlee Development Corporation in March 1988 some ex employees have met up for an annual reunion about this time of the year.

Over the years it has been attended by the regulars and others who have made a 'guest' appearance from time. This year is our 20th anniversary and we would like to see some more 'new' old faces to mark this memorable occasion.

If there are any ex employees of the Development Corporation who would like to attend our 20th Anniversary Dinner on Thursday 30th April, then please contact Terry Farley on 313647 or by e-mail: terry.farley71@tiscali.co.uk who will be only too happy to send you all the details. Alternatively, you can ring Anne Molyneux on 316162 (e-mail address: molyanne@hotmail.co.uk

There is ample parking so why do they feel the need to take these spaces?

It makes me even more angry that they do this in front of our face on a regular basis and if we ever ask them politely if they mind moving, all we get is a earfull of foul mouthed abuse.

We have mentioned this several times to Tesco and they say there is nothing they can do. As a result of the latest incident I will no longer be shopping there.

Asda patrol their car park and enforce this rule, anyone who parks in a parent and child space without a childseat / booster seat is fined £60 and rightly so.

These people park there because they can, maybe if they thought Tesco would fine them £60 they would think twice. An irate parent

Town Teenager Succeeds In Thailand



On March 28th 17 year old Thai Boxer Reece McAllister travelled to Thailand for 6 weeks. He journeyed to Bangkok, then to the island of Koh Samui where he started training at the Super Pro Gym. Reece started his rigorous training schedule consisting of an early morning run of 4 miles then pad training for an hour before sparring. He then rested till the afternoon session which is another 2 hours hard work. The owner of the camp quickly recognised Reece's commitment to training and put him forward for a fight. The

fight was scheduled for April 12th at Chaweng Stadium against the local fighter Mangkorn. Reece started the fight at a fast pace with hard exchanges of punches and kicks. After the 1st round Reece's Thai trainer told him to slow the pace down and look to land elbow shots which are a high scoring technique. Reece did as he was told landed a clean elbow on his opponent knocking him out. Reece has now established his status on the island and is looking to fight again soon. This is Reece's 3rd time fighting in Thailand but his first time there alone.

Budgie Found and Returned

Dear Syd
I am writing to thank you for placing my article in last week's Newton News about my lost budgie. I was overjoyed to receive a phone call on Good Friday from the Vets at Cobblers Hall saying they had seen the news item and that someone had handed in a small white budgie on the Monday after she went missing.

It was a minor miracle in itself that she survived her ordeal and if not for your kindness in placing my ad, the kind people living on The Spinney (where she was found about to be attached by some crows), and the Vets at Cobblers Hall who looked after her, I would not have got her back.

It just goes to show that there are still genuine, kind, good people around and community spirit is still very much alive and well.

Snowy is back home after 2 weeks' certainly no worse for her adventure.

Many thanks
Susanne M Holland

MORE JUNIOR PLAYERS

The Cumby Rovers require players for the new Summer 7-a-side League. We have entered teams in the Under 8's, 9's, and 11's and there are vacancies in all of these age groups. Please ring Mark Robinson on 301252 if your child is interested.

NEWTON AYCLIFFE RUFC 50th Anniversary Invitation

Newton Aycliffe RUFC have organised a 50th Anniversary awards dinner and disco evening at The Croft Hotel on the 2nd May 2009.

We are inviting anyone who has played for the club in the past, as well as current players (and not forgetting the WAGs of course!), to apply for tickets for this occasion. We can accommodate 160 people on the evening, and so it is first come first served. The main theme for the evening will be the awards ceremony for the current season and we will also be reflecting on 50 years of rugby at Aycliffe. However, it will be an opportunity for past players to meet up and be entertained by guest speakers Mr Dale Kelly and Mr Dave Pass. In addition, there will be video messages from well-known faces from the rugby world and a few other surprises. The evening will also be recorded and displayed live on screens at the event. Professional caricaturist Paul Slattery will be in attendance to produce souvenirs of the evening with his quick draw cartoons. The meet and greet time at The Croft Hotel is 7pm for 7.30pm dinner. There are 2 free buses provided to pick up from the rugby club at 6.15pm latest and return from The Croft at 12.30am. For anyone interested we have secured a 25% discount on room rates for the night. There are only 20 rooms so please contact the hotel direct to reserve a room and quote "Aycliffe Rugby Do May 2nd". Phone 01325 720319 or see website www.croft-hotel.co.uk Please pass on these details to anyone who has had playing connections with the club from any era, it promises to be a unique occasion and will finish off with a disco. Dress code is smart suits and ties for the lads, and evening wear for the ladies with emphasis on Hollywood glamour. Price of tickets is £25 each. Please contact Stuart McLean to apply via text to mobile number 07812372675 or e-mail stuemadgiraffe@yahoo.co.uk.

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Union Football Club
50th ANNIVERSARY GAMES
Sunday 26th April 2009 Kick Off 12.30pm
Newton Aycliffe v Sedgfield
Sunday 26th April 2009 Kick Off 3.00pm
Newton Aycliffe President's XV v
Durham County President's XV
Web: www.ayclifferrugby.co.uk

Language Taster Sessions

Come along to our friendly language taster sessions at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre:

Spanish Beginners: Tuesday 21st April 2009, 6pm-7pm
French Beginners: Thursday 23rd April 2009, 6pm-9pm
Italian Beginners: Monday 27th April 2009, 6pm-9pm
All sessions are £2.50 and booking is necessary. If you enjoy the session you will be able to enrol for the 10 week course (to begin the following week-dependent on numbers). Contact the Arts Centre for more details: 01325 379048,

e: info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or visit Greenfield Community & Arts Centre, Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe.

Bridge Club

Want to try something new? The Bridge Club (non affiliated) meet every Monday evening at Oak leaf Sports Complex in the Function Room from 7.00pm. It's a great way to make new friends; a warm welcome awaits you so why not come along. For further information contact Alan Race on 01740651663.

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Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £249.00
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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
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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		
A&S Candy	RRP £119.00	NOW £99.00
A&S Winchester	RRP £159.00	NOW £139.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £239.00	NOW £209.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £349.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £499.00	NOW £399.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £549.00	NOW £449.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £599.00	NOW £499.00

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