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Week Ending 8th May, 2009

## Rotary Club Hold Charity Breakfast/Brunch

The Town's Rotary Club invite readers to join them at their Charity Breakfast/Brunch on Sunday 17th May from 10am - 1p.m at School Aycliffe Community Centre, Eastfields. You can have a full or part English Breakfast or enjoy a Continental style breakfast - the choice is yours. English Breakfast includes Eggs (to order), Bacon, Sausage, Beans, Black Pudding, Mushrooms, Fried Bread. The event is being held in aid of Mercy Ships, the world's largest charity hospital ship delivering free health care and vital operations to the forgotten poor in countries throughout the world. Tickets are £6 for Adults and £3 for children between 5 and 9 years. Under 5's are free. Everyone is welcome! Tickets are available at Newton Press Offices on the Business Park and Walkers Butchers at Simpasturegate. They can also be obtained from club members. Ring for further details on 300212 or 312022.

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## FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR COUNTY DURHAM CHILDREN

Every primary school pupil in County Durham will get free school meals from September as part of a two-year pilot scheme announced today (May 1). Up to 30,000 children could benefit from the scheme in County Durham - one of only two areas in the country selected by the government to be involved. The scheme is aimed at improving pupils' health, school performance and behaviour by ensuring they get a nutritious hot meal every day. And it will also have huge financial benefits for families at a time when many are feeling the pinch. A family with two children at primary school who currently pay for school meals will save £17 a week, which would work out at approximately £1,300 over the two-year pilot scheme

period. Just under half of primary school children in County Durham currently eat school meals but as a result of the pilot scheme it is expected that this figure will increase to around 80 per cent. Coun Claire Vasey, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services at Durham County Council, said: "We are thrilled to be part of this scheme, which represents a major opportunity to improve the health, wellbeing and educational attainment of children across County Durham. "We know that children who enjoy a nutritious and balanced diet are more likely to grow up fit and healthy and do better at school because they have better concentration and behaviour.

"School meals are an excellent source of nutrition and by giving every primary school child the chance to have a free meal we are giving every child a better chance to be healthy and get the most out of their time at school. "We worked hard with health colleagues and our main school meals contractor Taylor Shaw to ensure our bid was successful because we know what a fantastic opportunity this is for children and their families in County Durham." The County Durham

pilot, announced May 1st by Secretary of State for Children Ed Balls and Health Secretary Alan Johnson follows a successful bid by Durham County Council. Following the introduction of the free swimming programme in County Durham, which also has huge health benefits for young people, this represents another major boost for the new unitary authority, which only came into being four weeks ago. The cost of running the pilot scheme is expected to be around £16 million over the next two academic years, from September 2009 to August 2011. Half of the funding will come from central government while the other half will be split between Durham County Council and NHS County Durham. Leader of the Council, Coun Simon Henig, said: "We see this as being an important investment in the health and wellbeing of our children and we're very grateful to be working in partnership with the government and NHS County Durham on this project. "And at a time when we know families are finding it hard financially, I am sure this will be welcome news to many people in County Durham."

## Site Ready for Library Move

The site for the Temporary Library on the former Central Garage is complete ready for the modules to be dropped into place. They may be erected in the next two weeks and then fitted out for the transfer of books from the old Library. This will then be demolished along with the clinic - an eyesore Newtonians will be glad to see disappear.

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# DURHAM WILDCATS LOOKING UP



Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre-based Durham Wildcats are waiting to hear if their application for promotion to Division Two has been accepted. The decision on the Division Three North champions will be made by English Basketball officials. Veteran Wildcats coach Dave Elderkin believes promotion is the way ahead. "With the help of the centre staff and a strongly motivated group of volunteer helpers, we put on a very good match night experience for the fans. We've had a huge number of compliments from visiting teams and even from referees about the way that we go about things."

Off court, the club's biggest success has been in

developing partnerships especially with youth development and also Durham University, enabling the club to introduce a "nursery" team into EBL Division Four.

Elderkin added: "Playing at a higher level would help us hold onto the better players in the team, rather than risk losing them to teams in a higher division. It would also help us to recruit other good players to join the club, possibly through out connections with the University."

"If we achieve Division Two status it would also help us to promote our home games, to the benefit of both the club and Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre."

## Police PACT Meeting

St Mary's/Shafra Ward P.A.C.T Meeting, Thursday 14th May 2009. Members of the public are invited to attend Woodham Community Technical College, Washington Crescent, between 6-7pm, to meet local Beat Officers and partner agencies to discuss neighbourhood issues.

# AYCLIFFE COMPANY WINS SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Medical Services (North East) Limited have received the 'Small Business of The Year Award 2009' The awards were hosted at Ramside Hall hotel by Durham FM and Sun FM.

The company which started seven years ago providing all types of Health and Safety Training and operate a Private Ambulance Service across the north east is owned by Wayne and Joanne Hall of Newton Aycliffe.

Over the past few years they have achieved a number of awards and business is booming, but the Small Business of The Year Award has been the icing on the cake. "The first few years were really tough, but we have gradually built up a fantastic team who share our passion for providing first class patient care. We knew we were making a difference to people's lives and decided we had to make it work and give it everything we had, we don't just want to meet standards we want to exceed expectations" explains Wayne.



Wayne and Joanne outside Woodham Technology College where Joanne was a student. Members of staff in the photo are Ray Hockridge and Trevor Morris.

This high level of customer care is also reflected in the high standards of training staff receive in subjects such as, infection control, equality and diversity, dementia awareness and palliative care, with some of the qualifications equivalent to A level.

In January 2008 Shaun Stewart, chief executive of The Enterprise Agency for Wear Valley and Teesdale, put the company forward to take part in the Fastest 50 programme for high performing individuals and businesses.

"It was one of the best things I have ever done," said Wayne. "When you first start up in business there is a lot of help but when you are a few years in, you are left to get on with it, you learn what you don't know to begin with and the Fastest 50 helps fill in the gaps and gives you the knowledge and confidence to grow the business further".

But the best experience for Wayne was meeting and working with his mentor Paul Storey, Managing Director of MRB Schumag, which is based on the South Church Enterprise Park, near to the Medical Services headquarters.

"Paul has taught me such a lot and I can't thank him enough, his experience and expertise have been invaluable in helping us grow this business and work on the business not in it. He has now become a really good

friend," says Wayne.

In the last two financial years business rose by 93%, smashing the 3 year target they had originally set themselves. This financial year, in their first six months, they are 53% up on the previous year already, easily beating their three year goal for doubling the business."

"We couldn't have done it without the Fastest 50 and the help of the Enterprise Agency and Paul Storey," says Wayne. Medical Services (North East) Limited now work with seven Primary Care Trusts and operate from all the major hospitals in the region. The future looks bright for the business. Unlike other ambulance providers which require longer notice, their ambulances can be booked anytime.

They are often cheaper to operate, especially for long distances and their levels of staff training and customer care are second to none for patient transport.

"Now is a tough time for many businesses," notes Wayne. "And it can get you really down when you are working so hard and not seeing any reward at all. But our experience shows that you can turn things around and there is help out there. We are so glad now we didn't walk away from it all. Turning this business around has taken a lot of hard work but it's been one of the best things we've ever done."

## Wilkinson's Opening Date Announced

Wilkinsons will open their new store in Newton Aycliffe on Saturday 29th July.

More details on the actual opening will be announced nearer the time, but it will include special offers and promotions to give the shop a flying start.

Newton News did contact Head Office to enquire if Public Toilets would be provided as we heard some stores offered this facility. We advised them it would make good sense as it is a problem in our town centre at this moment in time.

They replied stating the store was not big enough and that toilets are only provided in stores over 45,000 square feet. The Aycliffe branch is only around 8,000 square feet. We also noticed a doorway being constructed at the rear of the store and asked if it would be an entrance for customers. We saw that as being a sensible thing to do being next to a bus stop and opening up that large expanse of wall, but they said, it is just an emergency exit. Wilkinson will sell their full range of products and are looking forward to bringing their service to Newton Aycliffe.

It will certainly help give out town centre a boost after the large number of shops which have closed in recent times.

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# AYCLIFFE PROMOTED TO NORTHERN LEAGUE

Newton Aycliffe are virtually guaranteed promotion to the Northern League after back-to-back wins got their title trail back on track. Allan Oliver's side are all-but mathematically certain to finish in the Wearside League top two when the league season draws to a close next week. Aycliffe bounced back from a disappointing home defeat to Teesside Athletic with a hard-fought, 3-2 win at home to Hartlepool FC last Wednesday. Warren Byrne (2) and Andrew Hall scored the goals as just over 200 fans turned out for the floodlit game at Moore Lane Park. Aycliffe then maintained their one-point lead at the league summit with a 2-0 victory at home to Jarrow, with Byrne again scoring twice in front of

262 at Moore Lane. Aycliffe go to third-placed Teesside Athletic, in Redcar, this Saturday (2.30pm kick-off), while New Marske play Teesside in the final league fixtures of the season next weekend, when Aycliffe entertain Annfield Plain. Aycliffe would have to lose their final two matches, as well as Teesside Athletic winning their last three games and clawing back a 39-goal difference deficit on Aycliffe to boot, to catch the current leaders. "But winning the league is the ultimate aim," said boss Oliver (pictured). "We've come this far now, it would be a shame not to go on and win the title, and gain promotion in style. "We're all-but certain of finishing in the top two, which



means we're guaranteed promotion to the Northern League, and that's our main goal, so it's tremendous news for the club and for the town that we have Northern League football to look forward to. "But winning it really would be the icing on the cake and would round off what has been a superb season up to now, even if I do say so myself." Aycliffe's last game of the season is at home to Annfield Plain next Saturday (May 16, 2.30pm kick-off), admission £2 with concessions for children, while the season will draw to a close with the Sunderland Shipowners Cup Final against Teesside Athletic on Friday May 22. **Their remaining fixtures are:** Sat 9th May: Teesside Athletic (A), 2.30pm; Sat 16th May: Annfield Plain (H), 2.30pm; Fri 22nd May: Teesside Athletic (H), 7pm, Shipowners Cup Final visit [www.newtonaycliffe.co.uk](http://www.newtonaycliffe.co.uk)

## Sick of Back-biting

Dear Sir, Each week we get the Newton News and it is a great way of getting information of what's on in the town. I wonder, though how many like me are sick to death of the back-biting between Councillors? I thought they were elected to help build a better way of life for us all in Newton Aycliffe such as working together to put pressure on the town centre owners etc. This would show the people of the town they are united and deserve for what they get paid, because at the moment they don't. I know you will lose out on letters to print and I am sorry about that, but we might benefit from a happier town. Mac. Ed: As much as we agree the need for a united front, there is also a need for an opposition to some moves a Council or Councillor may make. What we can hope for is unity on real matters of importance to the town even if it is against Party policy.

## New Parent & Toddler Club

A new Parent & Toddler group starts at Neville Parade Community Centre each Friday from 12.45 - 2.45p.m. The club will also run throughout School Holidays. Older children also welcome. Cost £1 per family. For more details phone 318763.

# INCLUSIVE FITNESS WEEK AT SPENNYMOOR LEISURE CENTRE



Gym Buddies - left to right: Gareth Sheldon from Spennymoor; Alan Battye from Shildon, Martin Gardner from Bishop Auckland and Keith Dolphin from West Cornforth.

Inclusive Fitness Week 2009 will take place nationwide between 11 and 17 May providing as many people as possible with the opportunity to experience new activities and highlight that exercise is for everyone. This is the second annual awareness event which on introducing disabled people to local leisure and physical activity opportunities. It encourages disabled people to try the facilities, emphasising how small behaviour changes can be incorporated into people's lives with a specific focus on physical activity and what a significant impact this

can have. Spennymoor Leisure Centre will be celebrating Inclusive Fitness Week by offering free access to disability sports sessions all week. The free sessions include 11.00am to 12noon (Tuesday) and the Sportsability Club (5.00pm to 6.30pm) on a Monday.

The leisure centre is offering free inductions to disabled people in the gym from 11 to 17 May and registered gym buddies will be available explaining their roles. For further information about IFI at Spennymoor Leisure Centre, call 01388 815827 or pop along between 11 and 17 May.

## Public Invited to Special Meeting of Town Council

### Concern Over Transfer of Town Land

The Town Council has called a special meeting to discuss the transfer of land to Sedgfield Borough Homes. The members have already won a victory over the greens and open spaces which were included in the transfer and now remain in public ownership, thanks to objections the Council made. However when they received the amended plans Councillors could still identify vast areas of open space, mainly in the newer areas of the town, which were being given to the private landlord. The meeting is called to discuss whether the council should pursue its fight to keep large areas of land in public ownership, fearful that sometime in the future it could be developed to benefit a private company. This Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council is to be held on Tuesday 12th May at 7.15pm and is open to the general public.

## RAPID ACTION

Dear Sir, Last Friday afternoon while rushing around and trying to get to the doctors, I stupidly put £25 pounds of unleaded petrol into my diesel car. "Stupid women" I can hear you say, and I can't believe I am admitting this in your newspaper! I could not phone my husband as he is in Afghanistan and I felt quite isolated as I only moved into the area a few years ago. However, I thought "sort it out" and get on with it. The kind lady in the Tesco's garage helped me to push my car back to move it out of the way. I had watched it on some Top Gear programme that I should not turn the key. I then phoned Rapid-Fit in Newton Aycliffe who have worked on my car before, and were very helpful then. The gentleman told me to leave my car key behind the garage counter and they would tow it to the garage. He also said not to worry and to get to my doctors appointment and then make my way to their garage. When I arrived at the garage there my car sat, he had not had time to fix it straight away but said he would drop me off at home and then pick me up when it was done. They picked me up from my house in my "all sorted" car and to my relief it cost considerably less than I thought.

At a time when people feel that people don't look out for each other, this has restored my faith in human nature and I just want to say a big thank you to the lads in the Garage and to recommend their garage to all as they definitely went beyond what they needed. Cheers Caroline Larsen, School Aycliffe

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Great Aycliffe Town Council operates three Pre-School Learning Centres providing care and education during school term time for children from 3 years of age.

We are currently looking for enthusiastic and hard working Assistants for our Pre-Schools, who will ensure the children are kept safe and receive fun and stimulating learning experiences appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Ideally you will hold or be working towards a relevant childcare qualification and have experience of working in a childcare setting.

The successful applicants must apply for a Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Disclosure.

Closing Date for Applications: Friday, 22nd May 2009

Application forms and further details can be obtained from:

Tel: 01325 300700  
Email: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk  
or  
Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk



## More Speed Hump Damage

Dear Sir,  
I have read over the past few weeks letters regarding speed humps in Newton Aycliffe doing damage to car suspensions.

Well, you can now add me to that list of damaged cars, whilst going over one of these outside the butchers shop in Simpasture Gate area, at slow speed may I add. My front coil spring snapped, and I am not the only person to complain about the humps, as three other people in Moule Close had the same problem.

This is now more than a coincidence, as I have been driving for the past 32 years, and in all that time have never had a front coil spring snap on me.

What are the County Council going to do about this problem? When are they going to put it right, and will we be compensated for this damage?

I will be contacting Durham County Council regarding this matter, together with the photographic evidence of said speed hump.

Name & address supplied.

Ed: Motorists whose cars have been damaged are advised to contact their Unitary Authority Councillor.

## SCUBA CLUB CHANGES NAME & BUYS BOAT



Newton Aycliffe's 'SUB AQUA CLUB', formerly known as 'Sedgefield Divers' has recently changed its name to 'Aycliffe Sub Aqua Club'.

The name change is all part of a recent move by the club to raise its profile in the Newton Aycliffe area.

A spokesman for the club stated 'this is all part of our longer term plan which includes generating a greater awareness of the sport in the area as well as attracting new members to the club'. Affiliated to the Sub Aqua Association (SAA), the club has been successfully training and developing divers for over 20 years.

Looking to build on this success the name change has

been effected alongside other measures to improve local awareness of the club, these include; the distribution of posters to advertise the club; Organising 'Try A Dive' events; plus further social and fundraising nights.

In addition the club has just bought a 6mtr Rigid Inflatable Boat which it will use to give members easier access to local dive sites, as well as significantly improving the club's ability to develop members diving and boat handling skills.

Nine of the club members have just returned from a successful trip to Oban on the West Coast of Scotland where they dived numerous sites including the wreck of the Dutch Cargo Ship SS BREDA - which sank in 1940.

Anyone interested in joining the club and learning to dive should contact either Steve Cockburn (Training Officer) Tel 01325 318357 OR Peter Haden (Dive Officer) Tel 01325 319938

## Stand Up for Aycliffe

Dear Sir,  
I agree with your editorial that the Town Council must be united and have a meaningful dialogue with the Unitary Authority for the benefit of our town.

You must however remember we have six Labour Councillors on the Unitary Authority and Labour's majority is only 8.

It would be great if they would stand up for Aycliffe, but with such a slender majority I doubt this would be allowed to happen.

If they would use the Independents motto "Aycliffe First and Foremost and People before Politics" they could do something useful . . . Reduce Council Tax to the same level as Darlington, have a decent Bus Service, Free rubbish removal, Free Car Parking at Hardwick Hall. Use of Bus Passes to travel to County Hall OR Spennymoor. Car sharing provide Public Toilets sooner rather than later.

These may only appear to be minor things, but they are major to the electorate. The New Labour Party in our Town could show that we are a democracy and vote for equality on our Town Council with Chairmen and Vice Chairmen, Mayors and Deputy Mayors, alternating between the Parties. We would then see if Gordon Brown's statements are true that the Government want openness and fairness in Local and National Government. Come on Aycliffe, lead the way.

Alan Warburton  
Independent Councillor

## QUESTION TIME GIVES PUBLIC THE CHANCE TO QUIZ COUNCIL

Members of the public with questions to raise about Durham County Council's services are once again being invited to put their points directly to the politicians at a meeting of the Authority in May.

Under the terms of the County Council's constitution, people with questions to ask can attend meetings in the Council Chamber and put their queries direct to members of the Authority's decision-making Cabinet.

And with the next full Council meeting due on Wednesday 13 May, the Authority is reminding people with questions to raise that now is the time to do it.

Any member of the public is entitled to ask up to three questions at any one meeting of the full Council, provided written or emailed notice of the questions is submitted at least three working days in advance (deadline : 12 noon Friday 8 May).

Any questions which cannot be dealt with during public question time, either because of a lack of time or because of the non-attendance of the Member to whom it was due to be put, will be dealt with by a written answer.

Questions should be sent to the following address, and help can be provided in framing their wording or with general advice and information which may assist the questioner:

**Bill McKibbin**  
Corporate Services  
Durham County Council  
County Hall  
Durham DH1 5UL  
Telephone 0191 3833507  
E-mail: publicquestions@durham.gov.uk

## MURDER & MYSTERY

Sedgefield Locality Carers Centre are holding a Murder Mystery event at Spennymoor Town Hall on Thursday 11th June from 12 noon till 3.30pm. It will be an afternoon of mystery, intrigue, murder and fun and includes hot lunch and entertainment.

Tickets are only £8 for carers and volunteers and £10 for guests. Places allocated on a first come - first served basis. Please ring to book your place on 313123 or call at the office at 3 Avenue House, Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe.

Any make any model!

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# OVER 50's WARNED ABOUT ROBBERY ON HOLIDAY

One of the UK's leading over-50s specialists, 50plus Insurance, is urging travellers to be extra vigilant as reports of crime increase in holiday areas. As unemployment rates rise across recession-hit tourist resorts, 50plus Insurance is warning that petty theft and robberies of elderly tourists are likely to increase. In Spain, for example, the unemployment rate\*\* has climbed to 17.4 percent, from 13.9 percent in the final quarter of 2008, or more than twice the European Union average, the likelihood of crime increasing in that country is heightened.

According to the latest official figures\* there were 1,123.19 recorded robberies (including muggings and theft with violence) per 100,000 of the population in Spain compared to just 183.83 in the UK – making it six times more likely for people to fall victim to the crime in the popular holiday destination than if they had stayed at home. The same risks apply to all countries where tourist revenues are falling because of the global recession. 50plusInsurance does not want to worry holidaymakers unnecessarily, as the probability of crime is still

relatively low. However it does recommend that all tourists, especially elderly holidaymakers, should be extra vigilant about their possessions and their personal safety. Furthermore it advises travellers to check the small print of their insurance policies before travelling as many travel policies may not cover all eventualities: for example, some policies don't cover mobile phones, which are often easy targets for petty thieves. **Take photos** of all valuable personal possessions and keep a copy at home **Only travel** with essentials – leave expensive jewellery, watches and items of sentimental value at home. **If you have** a digital camera, load a memory stick with photos of possessions **Include** on the memory stick copies of important documents – passports etc **Lock** passports and valuables away safely when you reach your destination **Don't carry** expensive items around in pockets or handbags, which can easily be stolen by opportunist street thieves. **Dress down** – don't make yourself a target

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Visit our showroom and view the latest technology in door and windows locking systems. All of which stood firm against a 15 minute attempted break-in test carried out in our factory using a full tool kit, including a crowbar and battery drill.
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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# SPORTS CLUB JUNIORS WIN CHAMPIONSHIP

Newton Aycliffe Sports Club Junior FC players and their families/supporters travelled to Haggerston Castle May bank holiday weekend to take part in the Haggerston Castle Championship tournament organised by R & T tours with teams entered in the under 8's, under 9's, under 10's, under 11's and under 14 age categories. The footballers did their club proud with impressive football and bringing home 3 lots of silverware.

The under 9's played 6 games over the weekend winning 4 games and drawing in 2 making them unbeaten and securing them a place in the final on Sunday afternoon. The final was tense and both teams battled with no defence errors the under 9's final score was 0-0 meaning extra time was to be played, again both team played equally good football and again the extra time scoreline was 0-0. Sadly the under 9's lost on penalties but were crowned runners up - a great achievement.

The under 11's played 8 games over the weekend winning all of their matches and only conceding one goal throughout all the games which meant they also reached the final on Sunday afternoon which was a tight hard fought game with the ball end to end. The under 11's were awarded a penalty in the first half which gave them a 1-0 lead at half time. The second half of the final was tense and the under 11's battled to ensure the scoreline remained in their favour making them the proud winners.

The under 14's opposition were 3 teams from Scotland, Lowick United, Ammerdale Sports club and Whitburn FC. The tournament format was simple with each team playing each other twice over the Saturday & Sunday and the team which accumulates the most points from their 6 games would be crowned champions. The under 14's started the tournament on the Saturday with an excellent opening win 6-0 against Lowick United which included a hatrick from Peter Wharton. This was then followed up with two more great victories, the first coming against a very strong Armadale side 2-0 and they then finished the day unbeaten when they won their final game of the day 3-1 against Whitburn conceding our first goal of the tournament from a very dubious penalty.....but I suppose I would say that !.

Leo and I could not have asked any more from any of the players as they proudly sat top of the table at the end of the first days play with Armadale in 2nd place just 3 points behind us following their defeat against us, but still able to win the tournament dependent on the following day's results. Our opening fixture on the Sunday was again against Lowick United and I am pleased to confirm the boys maintained their high footballing standards with another impressive display resulting in the boys winning the game 5-0. This now meant that the only team able to stop us winning the tournament were our next opponents from Armadale Sports club who had given us our toughest test of the tournament so far on the previous day. The first half was a tense affair as the boys for the first time looked a little anxious and the scores were deadlocked at 0-0 at half time. Straight from the kick off in the second half the boys got back to playing a more patient passing game and they soon made that all decisive break through with a well worked goal which was neatly converted by Carl Smith but despite creating several other decent opportunities we failed to score again but the final score remained 1-0 to Aycliffe which meant the celebrations could begin as the boys knew they were the Tournament champions with one game still left to be played.

I have to say it was a great feeling going into your last game of a tournament knowing

that what ever the score we would be coming away with the winners trophy. However despite knowing this the boys maintained both their focus and composure to notch up their 6th straight win of the tournament with a fine 3-0 victory against Whitburn despite 4 out of the 15 players we took with us been unable to start the game due to various injuries sustained in the previous 2 games of the day. The 3 -0 victory was extra special for one of our players as Josh Shotton scored his first goal for the club since signing for us 3 years ago and what a great goal it was too , so well done Josh.

The boys record in the tournament was outstanding and having played 6 games, they won all 6 of them scoring 20 goals and only conceding 1 goal in the process and they also played some great football as well which resulted in them finishing 6 points clear of their nearest challengers to be crowned champions. The guest speaker ex Arsenal and Celtic star and current sky sports pundit Charlie Nicholas was at the presentation evening to award each and every child a participating trophy and handed the large cup to the under 11'2 and 14's.

As always every player behaved impeccably throughout the weekend both on and off the pitch and all of the players again are a credit to both their parents and Newton Aycliffe Sports Club Junior FC If you are interested in joining or finding out more about Newton Aycliffe Sports Club Junior FC then please log onto our website - nascjuniorfc.co.uk.

# SBH Promises May be Saccharin Coated

Dear Sir, I could not believe my eyes when I read Mike Haley's letter "New Landlord will keep their promises." Mr Haley believes housing policy changes to be sufficient reason for housing bodies like Sedgfield Borough Homes to exist. This ignores the fact that more often than not, such policy changes are politically motivated, sometimes illogical and far from beneficial to the country.

Nothing could highlight this more than this idea of selling off council properties across the country to private organisations, particularly at a time when demand for affordable homes is so high and property builders have stopped building houses.

Being an experienced Trade Union branch secretary I am well used to the various techniques and spin used by large organisations and politicians to sell such great ideas.

Mr Haley finds it incredible that the Town Council are still talking about a judicial review when Sedgfield Borough Homes are offering money etc for the next 10 years. I take it he did not read a letter from Councillor Blenkinsopp on the other side of the page about pushing things through that the majority of people do not want and then crying about the cost of challenging such blatant disregard for the views of the people.

I concur with the views of the widely respected Councillor Bob Fleming on the issue of the open spaces in Newton Aycliffe. I would be interested to know from Mr. Haley what false rumours are being put out by GATC.

Rather than trying to demean Counc Blenkinsopp's efforts I would instead encourage others to get involved. It seems Mr Haley would only be happy if everyone agreed with him. (touch of the Gordon Browns there perhaps).

If Mr Haley is not himself politically motivated then, I would suggest he is accepting these saccharin coated promises as a guarantee and it is quite likely he will be disappointed at some stage. Private organisations are in the business of making profits, not providing unlimited services free.

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# RAILWAY EXHIBITION

The Shildon Model Railway Club will be holding a one-day model Railway Exhibition in St. Clare's Church Hall, Newton Aycliffe on Saturday 16th May 2009 from 10am - 4.30pm. Entrance £1.50 adults, £1.00 children and concession. There will be 5 layouts, including Thomas the Tank Engine, and 3 traders. Refreshments consisting of hot and cold food will be available, with all proceeds in aid of the Church. If you are interested in becoming a member of the club or require information, contact Dave 01325 310899 or Bryan 01325 315567 or visit [www.shildonmrc.com](http://www.shildonmrc.com).



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT HARDWICK

### MAY 2009

#### SATURDAY 16th - BBQ EVENING

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

#### WEDNESDAY 27th - WEDDING OPEN EVENING

Take this opportunity to view the Colonna Suite and newly refurbished John Barrow 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

Dust off your platform and get out your flares for a night taking you back to this groovy era. Arrive for 7.30 for as all you can eat buffet - £10.95 per person

#### FRIDAY 29th - THE YOUNG DRIFTER'S

Five gigs head 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 £10.95 per person

#### SATURDAY 30th - THE 80's EXPERIENCE

The best disco party ever, takes place. Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm for as all you can eat buffet - £10.95 per person

### June 2009

#### FRIDAY 5th - ABBA MIA!

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

#### FRIDAY 12th - QUEEN FM

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

#### FRIDAY 19th - FATHER TED TRIBUTE

Fabulous tribute show absolutely packed with fun, music, and typical Father Ted irony! Includes dinner and entertainment and disco - £10.95 per person

#### FRIDAY 26th - THE 80's EXPERIENCE

The best disco party ever, takes place. Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm for as all you can eat buffet - £10.95 per person

#### FRIDAY 26th - BBQ EVENING

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

#### SATURDAY 17th - SALSA PARTY

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

#### SATURDAY 17th - ABSOLUTE MURDER

A night of fun, intrigue and whodunnit. Arrive for 7.30pm with dinner served 8.00pm - £10.95 per person

#### SUNDAY 14th - WEDDING OPEN DAY

Take this opportunity to view the Colonna Suite and newly refurbished John Barrow Suite set up for Wedding Reception's and a Civil Ceremony. No appointment necessary just come along between 11am and 4pm.

Our popular Seaside Lunch is served in the Bayard Suite, accompanied by music from our resident pianist, 4 courses including coffee at £10.95 per person

# AYCLIFFE ATHLETES COMPETE WELL



Athletes gathered from far and wide to take part in the Anne Marie Redshaw Memorial event at Shildon. The youngest members of Newton Aycliffe Athletics team were out in force and all the competitors did very well. In the Under 11 boys 60m, William Denholm performed extremely well as he was only 8 years old, running against 11 year olds. Michael Butterfield also competed and made it into the final finishing 6th. In the Under 11 girls 60m, Lucy Postle qualified for the final and came 5th. Heather Denholm also competed in this race.

### Sedgefield Handicapped 1 mile event: All ages Wednesday 22nd April

Many children and adults turned out on the warm evening event, and young competitors from Newton Aycliffe enjoyed the running around Hardwick Park. The handicapped event meant that the oldest children had a staggered start, which did not deter young Henry Johnson (11yrs). He ran very well despite his 40 sec time delay, and finished 2nd boy. Lucy Postle ran a very good race and was 4th girl and Chloe was 2nd back for Y7. All children thoroughly enjoyed the evening and thanks go to the organisers for all their hard work.

### North Yorkshire and South Durham Track and Field Series.

A wet night did not deter the competitors from entering the track and field events held at Eastbourne Complex on Tuesday 28th April. The first meeting of the season saw a personal best for both Henry Johnson (11yrs) and James Askew (18yrs).

It was Henry's first track meeting and nerves and a stumble at the start did not detract from an excellent 200m time and second place, with 30.5sec. Henry was delighted with his result as he was competing in the under 13's having only turned 11yrs old 2 weeks earlier. A seasoned track competitor, James Askew, entered the 800m for senior men gaining an outstanding personal best time of 2 minutes and 9 secs. Well done to both boys and thanks go to their coaches George Reid and Kevin Askew (James' dad) for all their help and support.

## AYCLIFFE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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## LARGE NUMBERS AT NATURE PARK EVENT

Dear Sir,  
May I thank the parents and young people who attended the Bat and Moth Night at the Aycliffe Nature Park. We hope they enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

It was privilege to have so many people attend and we hope that they will use the Nature Park in the future. It is important to the Town and future generations to keep this going. If only one young person left remembering something about the night it was rewarding and worthwhile. All involved were polite and respectful to each other and many of the parents commented on how good the Park looked and how, when younger, they used to visit and play there.

It has changed and developed over the years from when it was described as a Moon Landscape and Bomb Site. With sympathetic management over the years it has become a very pleasant place.

Some were not happy with the fencing, around the pond but it is there to protect the banks from erosion and the plants so we have put up with this. The public also had a right to be protected from Motor Bikes and Quad Bikes.

For more details contact Dave Curran on 01325 317347 or Alan Warburton on 01325 315182

# County Introduce New Green Waste Collection



George Henderson of Newton Aycliffe and his grandson Ellis get ready to collect another load of green waste.

The new Durham County Council Green Waste Scheme is proving a huge hit with residents.

Keen gardeners George and Ann Henderson of Whiteley Grove in Newton Aycliffe have recently taken collection of their new 'wheelie bin' and have quickly put it to use.

George and Ann had the bin filled to the brim and ready for its first collection and enjoyed some excellent help from their 6-year-old grandson Ellis.

"We are delighted with the introduction of this scheme by Durham County Council. This is definitely the way ahead and something we are delighted to encourage," said George.

Ellis like most young boys was eager to help, but said he'd rather be out on the golf course or playing football!

## Aycliffe Runners at Teesside



A cool wind could not hold back the energies of the eight Newton Aycliffe AC runners who completed the Tees Barrage 10k race on May Day Bank Holiday. It was certainly no barrier to James Askew who stormed round the course in 36 minutes 23 seconds. The 500 entry limit was reached once again in event's 4th year. Following a rapid start the runners streamed into a 3 metre wide channel along the riverside path.

After navigating Newport Bridge they turned upstream reaching half way on the opposite bank of the Barrage. The headwind and loose gravel made the journey towards Stockton hard work. Once over the road bridge the course snaked through the University of Durham campus. Here the competitors had to draw on reserves of stamina because although the end was in sight, time and again the route meandered around the quays to cheering supporters at the finish.

Club results: James Askew 36:23, Peter Milburn 38:09, Richard Campbell 40:30, Susan Milburn 44:51, John Edmondson 45:35, John Young 48:49, Penny Johnson 51:38, Tracey McKenna 58:18.

## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 13th

May 2009

Council Annual 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](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open thirty minutes prior to the commencement of meetings.

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

## THE VILLAGE PHARMACY

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Telephone 01325 311297

### OPENING TIMES

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Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon

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# WHO WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC TOILETS?

Dear Editor,  
A few years ago the Town Centre Toilets (that still exist), were reported to have been closed because of an incident that apparently occurred between the Attendant and a member of the public.  
For some time after it was continuously stated that they were not to be reopened because the Council could not afford the cost.  
The Labour Party Press Officer wrote that the annual cost of some £60,000 was

prohibitive.  
Over the years when numerous residents complained about the Council's failure to provide Public Toilets, cost was always given as the reason.  
Except on one occasion when the excuse was made that Toilets weren't really necessary as Toilets were available in Tesco's and the nearby Park.  
Now residents are being told if you want Public Toilets 'then you need to

be talking with the owners, Freshwater'.  
Just what is going on?  
Perhaps it would be helpful to clarify this situation by publishing the history shown in 'Letters' in the Newton News re Public Toilets and also if we remind our Town Councillors that they are in office and are also paid to represent residents and if someone has to talk to Freshwater, then it's their duty to do so, not residents!  
Henry Ballantyne

# WHERE DID THE £200,000 COME FROM ?

Dear Sir,  
After reading the article regarding Sedgefield Borough Homes allocating £200,000 a year for various projects over the next 10 years, I would like to ask former SBC Deputy Leader Vince Crosby if this was part of the agreement when the transfer of the Housing Stock was arranged? Several Councillors cannot re-call this ever being discussed as part of the transfer.  
The transfer included borrowing £100 million for Housing Stock Improvements, Kitchens, Bathrooms, Doors, Windows, Central Heating and suchlike.  
Was the £2000 per annum a Cabinet Decision?  
Were all Councillors informed?  
Was this a New Labour Group decision?  
With regard to the cancellation of the Cobblers Hall project and Councillor Crosby passing the buck to the former leader of SBC. Surely the new administration should have tried to alter the policy and look for new investors?  
Alan Warburton  
Independent Councillor.  
Aycliffe First and Foremost - People Before Politics.

# NETWORK FAIR TO HELP COMMUNITY GROUPS



The 1st CAVOS Networking Event & Funders Fair was held at Spennymoor Town Hall on 1st May. The event was a great success with well over 100 people in attendance. It was an excellent opportunity for local community groups to promote what they do and speak to some of the North East's top funders face-to-face.  
CAVOS is a Council for Voluntary Services that helps community groups and organisations with their funding and support needs free of charge.  
Any local groups who missed out on the event shouldn't worry, CAVOS will be offering plenty of networking opportunities throughout the year. Groups can also contact CAVOS at any time for advice and support regarding funding or they can do their own funding search through our new 'CAVOS4community' funding and grants search engine at [www.cavos.org.uk](http://www.cavos.org.uk)  
For information on CAVOS services and how we can help your community group, contact us on 01388 811115.

# FIND YOUR VOICE IN REGISTER TO VOTE WEEK

Do you care about how long you spend at work each day, what goes into the food you eat and how much your mobile calls cost when you're abroad? Political decisions are being made that affect our everyday lives, yet thousands of people in Britain are without a say about who represents them because they are not registered to vote.  
This week (4 -10 May) is 'Register to Vote' week when the independent Electoral Commission is calling on everyone to take a few minutes to make sure that they are registered to vote by the 19 May deadline. A national TV, radio, online and print advertising campaign was launched last week, with the slogan: "If you want to vote, make sure nothing stops you".  
"At each election some people turn up at the polling station to vote but find they can't because they didn't realise that

they need to register before polling day," says Electoral Commission Chief Executive, Peter Wardle. "We want everyone who is eligible to be on the register and able to vote, and part of our job is to make sure they know what they need to do."  
"There are elections to the European Parliament on 4 June, as well as local elections in parts of England. Some people, especially young people and others who may be voting for the first time, may not realise they need to be on the electoral register. Other people may think they're registered, but if they've moved house they need to re-register at their new address.  
"We also find that many people who have every intention of voting are away from home on polling day, and miss their chance because they have not applied for a postal or proxy vote in advance."

To register to vote or apply for a postal or proxy vote, go to [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk), print off a form and make sure it reaches your local authority by 5pm on Tuesday 19 May. It just takes a few minutes to make sure your voice is heard. Remember, if you're not registered, you can't vote!

## Coffee Morning for Christian Aid

On Saturday May 9th 2009 St. Clare's Church will be holding a Coffee Morning in aid of Christian Aid. Cake Stall, Bacon Sandwiches, Scones, Tea and coffee available. All welcome please come along and support this worthy cause.

## J&C COACHES

### Trips, Concerts and Shows

**BATTLEFIELDS OF WW1**  
18<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
£229.00  
(5 Days - B&B)

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Notice on an

## EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that:

An extra-ordinary meeting of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on

**TUESDAY 12th MAY 2009 at 7.15pm**

The item on the agenda will be the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer of Land.

Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting ([www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk))

The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open thirty minutes prior to the commencement of meetings.

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.



# NEW SERVICE PUTS FAMILIES FIRST

Families in County Durham who need extra support will benefit from a new service.

The Family Pathfinder service is being piloted in the Sedgfield, Easington and Derwentside areas and is jointly funded by Durham County Council and County Durham Primary Care Trust (PCT). It will mean a new system of partnership working between Durham County Council's children's and adults' services, the PCT and other organisations.

Durham County Council successfully applied to the government to be a Family Pathfinder area last year. Durham's bid, which brings an additional £780,000 worth of funding over three years, was among 15 successful bids chosen out of 90 across the country.

The Family Pathfinder will ensure that help is given to families where children are suffering as a result of issues such as parental substance misuse, domestic abuse, parental mental health problems or where the parent has a learning disability.

Family Pathfinder teams include workers from a wide range of backgrounds, such as housing, education, social work, nursing, early years and youth work, who bring a wealth of knowledge and

skills.

Their role will be to provide help and support for those families who need it most and who agree to work with the Family Pathfinder team.

The teams will establish new ways of working with the whole family and with other workers from services including health, police and the voluntary sector to improve the lives of children.

Coun Claire Vasey, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services at Durham County Council, said: "Where families are facing complex problems and these problems are having a negative impact on children, it is vital that they get the support they need."

"The Family Pathfinder scheme means we will look at the needs of the whole family and make sure they get the right help at the right time."

Coun Morris Nichols, Cabinet Member for Adult Services, added: "We expect this service to make a big difference to families who are facing the most difficult of circumstances."

"The help and support is there for them and this scheme will strengthen that network of support to ensure it is properly planned and co-ordinated."

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# COMEDY TALENT HUNT RETURNS TO NORTH EAST

With millions of people tuning in weekly to Britain's Got Talent, the North-East's biggest comedy talent hunt returns to Darlington this Sunday with the first heat of the Hilarity Bites New Act of the Year competition.

Now into its second year, the competition will see fifty of the best new comedians in the

UK competing over five heats in SEEN in Beaumont Street throughout May and June, with the final taking place at Inside Out on Sunday 21st June. Rather than the likes of Simon Cowell and Piers Morgan casting their ire over competitors however, the Hilarity Bites competition will be partly judged by the

audience at each heat – along with a selection of local comedy experts, promoters, radio personalities and journalists. It's a formula that worked well last year, as promoter Neil Jollie explains:

"In last year's competition we were going to just decide everything on an audience vote, but there was such a swell of support from the local media that we were able to enlist their help in judging, which made the competition much fairer for those competitors that were travelling a long distance and couldn't bring a lot of support with them".

Another returning factor in this year's competition will be the host, with South Shields-based comedy star Chris Ramsey once more taking charge of proceedings. Since last year's competition Chris has been courted by many of the biggest agencies in the UK, but he's delighted to be returning to Darlington: "Hilarity Bites is easily one of my favourite clubs in the country, and once again they have managed to attract some of the best new talent to

this year's competition".

Each heat of the competition will contain 10 competitors, who will all be given up to 8 minutes of stage time, and the heats will all start at 8pm, with doors opening at 7pm. Entry costs £2 each, but all proceeds will be donated to local charities – with the first heat supporting Daisy Chain, which is a local charity devoted to supporting the families of children with autism. "Last year we raised several hundred pounds for local charities" explains Jollie, "and we want to do the same again this year.

All of the acts are grateful of the stage time and the exposure that winning such a competition can offer them, and if we can raise some money for local charities in the current financial climate then we're more than happy. Last year's winner, Sam Gore, has since gone on to win another four competitions and will be taking part in the final of the Chortle Student Comedy Awards this summer – if we can find another act that is even half as successful I think we'll have done a great job".

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**3 & 4 BEDROOM** properties to let in Aycliffe area from £500 per month. 3 bed in St Aiden's Walk; 3 bed in Cypress Grove; 3 bed in Deleval Close; 4 bed in Morrison Close. Housing benefit welcome. £300 admin fee to secure property. Please tel. Butler & Chester Property Management Ltd. on 07949 564116

**2 BEDROOM** house in Shildon, good area, bond and references required. Tel 07962 335405

**3 BEDROOM** house in Shildon, good area, bond and references required. Tel 07962 335405

**2 x 3 BEDROOM** houses for rent, great condition, Osbert Place & Booth Walk, Newton Aycliffe, £105 per week. No DSS. Tel 07899 076316

**3 BEDROOM** property available to rent. For details. Tel 07742 261543

**TO LET** 2 bedroom terrace in Darlington. New kitchen. New carpets. GCH. UPVC windows. Rent £89.00 per week in advance. Tel 01325 354333

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**PROPERTIES TO LET**  
Fenhall Green, Newton Aycliffe, 3 bedroom property. Rent £375, Bond £375, Admin £100. Cheltenham Way, Newton Aycliffe, 3 bedroom detached property. Rent £550, Bond £550, Admin £100. Tel 07814 022301

**TO LET** 3 bedroom house, Newton Aycliffe, £475pcm plus Bond. Tel 07963 387663

**TO LET** Large 4 bedroom detached house, large secluded gardens in Greville Way, £595per month. Call to view. Tel 07970 106393

**2 BEDROOM** semi, Pemberton Road, Woodham. New kitchen, Combi boiler, bathroom and conservatory. £475pcm. Bond and references required. Tel 07516 409175

**01325 317649**  
**0800 955 6878**



# WORKING TO HELP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre holds its A.G.M. on Monday 11th May at 7pm and anyone interested in the

## Hire the Youthy!

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre have marvellous facilities in the town centre to hire - at the weekends in particular. As an example for a Child's Birthday Party for 1 hour in the Sports Hall and 1 hour for the Room with use of the Kitchen etc. would cost only £34. There is no charge for setting up and clearing away time. The Main Hall [70 seated] is available with a Disco for a small cost and there are also several meeting rooms including a Training Room for meetings and seminars. For Voluntary and/or non profit groups we will consider a discount which will also apply to long term booking for profit making organisations. We can accommodate bookings in the week for meeting rooms par-ticularly in the evenings. We have our own Car Park which is between Tesco and the Town Park For any booking and/or information please pop in and see us or contact us on 01325-307522 from 9.30 to 3.30 Monday to Friday.

## Thank You

James William Bennett



Thank you to all the people who came to my Christening last Sunday, May 3rd, and for all the lovely presents you gave me. Thank you to my Godparents Peter, Ash and Sandra and a special big hug and kisses to my Grandma for making all the food for my party.

SMITH Madge and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them following the sad loss of George. Also for the many cards, floral tributes and generous donations raising over £600 for the British Heart Foundation
 JENNY TARVIT I'd like to say a great big thank you to all my lovely family for the fantastic birthday party. It was supposed to be just a family meal until we got to the Cumbly and saw how many were there. However it was lovely to see all my Grandchildren and Great Gandchildren together. Thanks Karen for a lovely cake and to Kath for another massive cake. Thanks to Ian for doing the house with balloons and streamers. A big thank you to Gail "little monkey" who got me out of the way. Also to our Jenny and Joan, Billy and Audra for all the lovely presents. Thanks to Silvia and Vic for a beautiful bouquet; to Jessica for the gorgeous bouquet and to all who bought lovely bunches of lovely flowers. Thanks to my friends for the lovely cards from the Legion, it's a day I'll never forget. To Jennifer for a lovely present, don't know where to put them all! Love you all, Mam

development of its service to young people in the town is invited to attend. This could be your opportunity to give something back to the community by serving on the Management Committee. The "Youthy" is one of the most sucessful Centres in the north and achieves well in numerous indoor and outdoor activities including the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

## COUNTY ANNUAL SPORT AWARDS SCHEME

County Durham Sport today launches its Annual Awards Scheme with some exciting changes which will build on the success of last year's event. This year, new categories mean that individuals and groups working in physical activity will now be recognised alongside those from the world of sport. The categories for the 2009 Awards are:

- Sports Awards
- Coch of the Year
- Young Coach of the Year
- Sports Club of the Year
- Junior Sports Club of the Year
- Sporting Achievement of the Year
- Contribution to Sport
- Physical Activity Awards
- Physical Activity Achievement of the Year
- Contribution to Physical Activity
- Combined Awards
- Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- School Awards
- Primary School Contribution to PE and School Sport
- Secondary School Contribution to PE and School Sport

This year, nominations can be made centrally to County Durham Sport and online nomination forms are also available on the County Durham Sport website www.countydurhamsport.com. The deadline for nominations is 28 August 2009. The Awards recognise the achievements of local people, sports clubs, community groups and schools who are often unsung heroes providing essential support to those interested in sport and promoting physical activity across the whole of the County Durham area. The County Durham Sport Awards Dinner will take place on Friday 9 October 2009 at the Ramside Hall Hotel, Durham, with Steve Backley, Olympic javelin champion as guest speaker and Jeff Brown from BBC Look North returning once again as compere.

## Catering

FILLING STATION. Outside catering for all occasions. Prices to suit all budgets. Call for details 01325 300 212

## For Sale



WOODEN playframe including slide, pole, rock climb, rope and ladders, great fun for the kids. £200 Tel 307530

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
 TWIN SCREEN in car DVD player with game pad, in carry bag, hardly used, £50 Tel 307530
 CONSERVATORY SET 5 piece, sofa, chair, 2 end tables, plant table (Italian) in lattice cane. £150. Tel 07999 819370
 C O N S E R V A T O R Y Dismantled, 14' x 11ft, first £500 takes, cost £7500 (not sold due to cell problems), only 4 years old. Tel 07999 819370
 NINTENDO DS 130 games, £40 Tel 07746 538537
 BEBECAR ACTIVE 3 in 1 pram in denim. Hardly used, pram, pushchair and car seat. Good condition, £200 ono Tel 07749 971994
 PINE KITCHEN table and 4 chairs, £40. Tel 07816 502883
 NEED An old domestic appliance removing? Can't wait for the Council? Tel. 321 678.

The modern, purpose built building opposite Tesco's is used fully by the community and readers are invited anytime for a tour of the premises. The facility is staffed by a Senior Youth Leader and a number of dedicated and fully qualified youth workers. The Management Committee who meet six times a year act as watchdogs and administer the accounts and general operation.

At the AGM there will be short reports on the past year's activities and an Election for President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and 12 Committee members. Part of the evening is devoted to a presentation of awards to youngsters and entertainment, followed by refreshments. Please come along - you will be very welcome.

## 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

## Lost & Found

MISSING



A house cat who answers to the name of "Nixon" has gone missing, he is mainly white with a tan tail and ears and a tan marking on his back. He belongs to the residents at Rose Lodge Care Home, he is extremely loved and being missed every moment. If anyone knows of his whereabouts please contact the care home and make the residents day. Tel 01325 304156

## Obituary


LILIAN BALDWIN (Nee Iredale) on 16th April (at home). Lilian, aged 67 years, beloved Wife of Keith (Ken). Loving Mother of David and Steven, Mother-in-Law of Tracy and Christine. A much loved Grandma of David and Michelle and also a dear Sister and Sister-in-Law. The Funeral took place on Tuesday 28th April. Doantions in lieu of flowers is fo desired, may be made to the Butterwick Hospice (to the family). Sincere apologies for any upset caused by the previous wrongly worded obituary

## Birthday Remembrance

Jody Slater

4th May 1991

I've tried to write a verse a hundred times for this your 18th sweetheart. My bin is full Jode, silly old Mam! This is from me to you Jody. Did I ever tell you that you are my hero and everything I'd would like to be. It might have appeared to go unnoticed but I've got it all in my 'heart'. I would be nothing without you. "Because you are th wind beneath my wings Jodey". Happy 18th Jodey, never forgotten, just like the song, you where my "hero". All our love, Mam, Dan, Louise, Blake and Enock



JODEY Happy 18th birthday with all my love, Aunty Mavis xxx
 JIM NAYLOR It would have been your 80th birthday today. Miss you and love you loads. The fact that you are no longer here will always cause me pain, but you are forever in my heart, until we meet again. Your loving Wife, Anne and Sister-in-Law, Margaret
 JIM NAYLOR Special Dad. You gave your love until one day, you heard the angel call and above us now in Heaven lives the best Dad of them all. From all the Sons and Daughters, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. Happy 80th birthday
 NORMA LOWE 7th May. Thinking of you on your birthday. Always thinking of you. Love, Nicola and Maggie
 PEARL WILLIAMS Loving memories on your 70th birthday. Love, Ann and family

## Congratulations

Joe Howarth



12th May 2009

Happy 6th birthday

To our very special son Joe. Hope you have a brilliant time, lots of huggles and kisses from Mam and Dad xx
 To the world's best brother. Hope you get lots of presents. Lots of hugs from Jack xx
 Happy birthday Joe. Have a great day, lots of love and kisses from Nan, Grandad, Lee, Shellie, Morgan and Callum xx
 Happy birthday Joe. Love from Grandad Syd, Uncle Paul, Auntie Beverley, Uncle Stuart, Auntie Joanne, Carrie, Matthew, Adam and Alex

Patrick Howe



Happy 11th Birthday

12th May 1998

Thanks for a great weekend and well done to you and your team for winning the Haggerston Tournament. Love, Mam, Dad, Georgia, Michael and family xxxxx

Dennis



Happy 30th Birthday

Now you are 30 Dennis, it's time to put the toy's away! Happy birthday. Love, Mam and Colin

Emma Perry



Happy 17th Birthday

Darling, all our love always, Mam and Paul xxxx

## Exchange

FROM 3 bedroom, Darlington (Haughton area) TO 3 bedroom, Newton Aycliffe, old part of town. Tel 01325 482609 or 318778

## Weddings

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Margaret McDermott



Happy 60th Birthday Mam

Have a fantastic time. All our love, Jimmy, Michelle, John and Bob

Louise Miller



18 AT LAST !

Happy 18th Birthday

Hope you have a great party! Love lots, Warren, Kelly, Bump & Wowser xx

Louise Miller




Happy 18th Birthday

7th May 1991

Happy 18th Louise. Still as cute as ever! Love you millions. Mam, Dad and Thomas. Have a great day and party xxx

John Hurst



Happy 18th Birthday

14th May

Happy birthday from all the family. We love you very much xxxx

## Hairdressing

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## World Boxing Legends to Hit Shildon

Two of Britain's all-time boxing greats are on their way to Shildon Sunnysdale Leisure Centre. 'Celtic Warrior' Steve Collins and his old Super-Middleweight foe the 'Dark Destroyer' Nigel Benn are guests of honour at an event in support of Shildon Amateur Boxing Club. Both were world champions and Benn's final two fights were against Collins in 1996 at Manchester Arena with the Irishman effectively ending Benn's career with fourth and six round wins. Benn retired soon afterwards and ended a glittering career that saw just five defeats from 42 bouts. Collins went on and retired two years later after winning 15 consecutive fights and ending with a record of just three defeats from 39 professional bouts. Following retirement Benn appeared in "I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here" and



"Gladiators" while Collins featured in the Guy Richie film, Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels. 'An Evening with Nigel Benn and Steve Collins - A Golden Era of Super Middleweight Boxing' takes place on Friday 22 May. Standard Tickets are £35 with VIP Tickets £50 and sponsorship packages are available. For ticket information, call Shildon

Sunnysdale Leisure Centre on 01388 777360, Peter 07739 574979, Glenn 07855 837204 or Steve on 07546 988685.

## NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Domino Drive commences Friday 15th May at 1pm. Admission £2 with prizes and refreshments. To book ring 313924. Exercise to Music Class, sitting on a chair. Meets each Friday from 10.30-11.30am. Just turn up, everyone welcome. Donation to Age Concern. Sponsored Family Bike Ride on Great Aycliffe Way. Sunday 26th July, 10am-1pm. Sponsor Forms in aid of Friends of Senior Citizens available from Peter Beaty on 313924. Casual Sponsored Walk around Greenfield Way on Sunday 19th July at 11am.

## JUNIOR GOLFERS WANTED FOR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

As the best young golfing talent from across the globe prepares to descend on Scotland in May for the US Kids Golf European Championships, organisers are calling on the top golfing kids from Durham and Northumberland to come forward and compete. More than 400 players from some 30 nations will be competing in the event which has emerged as Europe's premier junior tournament to showcase the next generation of golfing stars.

They will battle it out for the title of US Kids Golf European Champion as well as coveted places in the US Kids Golf World Championships at Pinehurst Golf Club, North Carolina, in August. But so far no youngsters from the Durham and Northumberland have registered to compete in the event, which means neither the Durham County Golf Union or Northumberland Union of Golf Clubs will be represented in the international field. The event - to be held across five of Scotland's historic golf courses in East Lothian from 26-28 May - sees boys and girls split into different gender and age categories from age six to 14. The top finishers in each category will then compete in the Van Horn Cup - a showpiece event, modelled on the Ryder Cup, where the best European players are pitted against the top non-Europe

golfers. The top five finishers in each age and gender group also automatically receive an invitation to the US Kids Golf World Championships in August. John Godwin, tournament director and former PGA tour player, said: "We want as many clubs, unions and associations represented as possible and would invite any talented youngsters who have not already registered for the

tournament to do so as quickly as possible. The 2009 European Championships will be played between May 26-28, 2009 on five courses in East Lothian - Gullane No. 2, Gullane No. 3, Craigielaw Golf Club, Kilsplindie Golf Club and Luffness New Golf Club. The Van Horn Cup is played on May 29 at Gullane No. 1. Dewey Crim, chairman of the US Kids Golf Foundation,

said competition, at any level, makes golf more fun and encourages young players to improve their skills and advance in the game. He added: "The US Kids Golf World Championship Qualifiers were created to provide an opportunity for kids to showcase their skills and progress in age appropriate competition. They are a part of US Kids Golf's overall mission to help kids have fun learning the game of golf at an early age and to encourage family interaction that builds lasting memories." For more information or to enter the US Kids Golf European Championships, visit [www.uskidsgolf.com](http://www.uskidsgolf.com)

## DO YOU LIKE A QUIZ?

What can't an anosmic person do? What is Britain's official bird? If you can answer these questions why not come along and try some more? Tuesday night is Quiz Night at the Oak Leaf and the fun starts at 9pm in the bar, only 50p per person to enter. Whether your strength is General Knowledge, Film & TV, Picture round or Sport come along and try your luck. For something a little different our Music round is video cuts on the big screen T.V. You could win cash

prizes, Drinks Vouchers or spot prizes. Why not make a night of it and have a meal. For further details, contact 01325 300600.

## Simpasture Convenience Store

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## Aycliffe Soldier Breaks World Record




I have now completed the London Marathon carrying 40lbs, which was a new world record, the official time being 5hrs 35 mins ([www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com)). 26.2 miles of a very hot run, but with much needed support throughout the race. By 20 miles the pain was starting to become unreal, but once I'd pushed through 23 miles it eased. With the finish line in sight, I could see the Guinness officials waiting for me, certificate in hand, I had beaten the record and was now a bona fide record breaker!!! I think the worse part of the day was trying to make it to the Underground and the train

home, with legs seizing up, a large heavy back pack, goodey bag and the cumbersome certificate in a frame. Hopefully, if getting a place on next year's Virgin London Marthon 2010, I'll give it another go!! I would like to say thank you to all the well wishers and sponsors I received from people in and around Aycliffe. You can still sponsor me at [www.justgiving.com/charliechaplin1](http://www.justgiving.com/charliechaplin1). There is a running total so far of £1964 and I hope to raise even more with more events later in the year, for MacMillan Cancer Support. Charlie, WO2 (SSM) G J Chaplin

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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**

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A&S Winchester	RRP £99.00	NOW £84.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £159.00	NOW £149.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £279.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £399.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £449.00	NOW £359.00

**4'0" and 4'6" BED SET**

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