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TOWN COUNCIL SURVEY DRAW WINNERS

Your Town, Your Choice, Your Voice
Questionnaire Draw 2009
 Great Aycliffe Town Council has once again received an excellent response to its recent survey and would like to thank all of the people who have taken the time to respond. We acknowledge this is a large survey but feel it is better, more focussed and more cost effective to gather views in one exercise. The results of the prize draw, made by the Mayor, Cllr George Gray, on Tuesday 21 April, are as follows:-
 1st prize of £100 Congratulations to Ms Gail Hudson. 2 x £25 Awards: Mr & Mrs Edwards Ms Lisa Robinson
 The surveys are currently being analysed and the results will be presented to the Council Policy and Resources Committee, before being made available to the public. Early indications are very promising with some great improvements being highlighted.

TEMPORARY LIBRARY DROPPED IN PLACE AS TOWN CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PICKS UP PACE



Residents observed a fever of activity on the old Petrol Station site as the temporary library demountables were erected this week. Next door Wilkinsons are hard at work fitting out their new store and were also in the Town Centre talking to people about job opportunities.
 MP, Phil Wilson, commenting on the siting of the library said: "The construction taking place on the site is very welcome and is proof that the regeneration of the town centre is well on the way. Obviously the work will take a few weeks and will include the transfer of books and equipment from the old library. We can now think ahead to the demolition of Dalton Way, the old Health Centre and Library, something I believe we are all looking forward to.
 Phil went on to say: "I know real progress is being made on the town centre because I have been asked to move from my Upper Beveridge Way office at the end of the year to allow further development to happen."

BUSINESS AS USUAL AT LIBRARY

Please note it will take many weeks to fit out the Library as it is just a shell and will need plumbing electric etc installed before removal takes place. Meanwhile it is business as usual and customers will receive good notice of the changeover date. Meanwhile keep using the service.

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RELUCTANT TOWN COUNCIL ACCEPT LAND TRANSFER

MORALLY WRONG BUT HANDS ARE TIED

At the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council to debate the transfer of land to Sedgfield Borough Homes it was decided to reluctantly accept the former Borough Council's transfer package. The Council was ably led by the recommendation of the Town Clerk who indicated that whilst the members might consider the SBC's action as morally wrong they acted lawfully in transferring land that was within the Housing Revenue Account.
 Bob Fleming the Leader of the Council agreed, but insisted the Town Council, by its diligence had prevented the transfer of all the greens in the town which were not in the revenue account.
 "We were able to bring this to the attention of the Borough Council and they were obliged to remove these large areas of land otherwise we would have lost those too" said Bob.
 It was revealed that 233 transfers had taken place throughout the country and the SBC had been careful to follow the same procedure. Council Val Law said: "I believe the transfer is morally wrong as we have more land and open spaces than other areas which have been transferred"
 Council Blenkinsopp said the Town Council were to be congratulated on the success they gained in retaining the greens, and they had done everything they could, but their hands were tied on other areas of land.
 Councillors agreed they had been let down by procedure and their disgust with the decision should be recorded.

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Amanda 3rd at Silverstone



Aycliffe's Amanda Whitaker finished 3rd at Silverstone International circuit after a race long battle with HSCC Formula Ford title rival Westie Mitchell. She qualified 2nd on the grid, alongside Callum MacLeod despite losing time in the pits due to a misfire. Amanda made a good start to take the lead off the line, but MacLeod was soon back past on the straight approaching Abbey hairpin. MacLeod then made a getaway as Amanda had to defend her position from Mitchell. Then ensued a race long battle and the pair were often two abreast through the corners. The positions were changed a number of times, although

Westie held on to the chequered flag. "It was a tough but fair fight" said Amanda "we gave each other just enough room!. I think I was a little down on power, and I'm struggling to slow the car down - we still need to work on the rear brake problem. We'll hopefully have it sorted soon and I can get my head down and win again". The next round of the HSCC Formula Ford Championship is in 3 weeks time at Snetterton in Norfolk. However, Amanda will be racing at Oulton Park in Classic Formula Ford (a separate championship) on 23rd May. She will also be featured in a BBC Radio Tees interview with John Foster at 9-10am on 21st May.

How M.P.'s Can Get Out of Expenses Mess

Dear Syd
I write this letter as yet more MP expense stories break in the national press. MP's have come up with all sorts of excuses as to why these "discrepancies" occur, yet if similar excuses were used by small business directors, or a single parent on benefits, legal action surely would not be too far away. The government really does seem to be struggling on this so I would like to make some suggestions on how the matter can be resolved.

1. Cancel all public monies paid relating to second homes. (Why should I pay the £900 reported on the radio in tax to pay for a second TV? My TV cost a third of that!)
2. Create a government "hotel" equipped to three star standard. Allocate each MP who represents a constituency outside Greater London a room for their personal use, but only their use. There are plenty of people working longer hours than MP's who are "on the road" during the week. Greater London MP's being forced to commute will then have a vested interest in improving public transport.
3. Link the basic allowance

paid to MP's to the average national wage. This ensures when the country is doing well, MP's do well. They also take the pain when the public do. What better motivation to ensure economic policies are fit for purpose? It is absolutely unacceptable for any public money to be claimed without a receipt and no expenses should be available for food or drink. After all, we all need to eat regardless of what job we hold so they are not a special case. Finally there should be a legal requirement for details of all expenses claimed to be made available. The government is keen to create all manner of databases on the public. Creating a database that shows every single item claimed (not currently part of the publication proposals for July), with a scanned receipt is perfectly achievable with current technology. Anyone truly committed to public service cannot have any objection to those proposals but will any of them happen? That really depends upon commitment of MPs to public service, doesn't it?
A Carter

Taekwondo Demo at Youthy AGM



The Annual General Meeting of the Youth Centre was held on Monday this week and those present heard of the achievements of our young people and the general success of the Youthy over the past year. After the reports and election of Officers and Committee a demonstration of Taekwondo was given by the club which uses the Centre as its base. President John Jones presented an award to Lee Crabtree, Nathan Buckland and David McCormack for winning the Sedgefield Enterprise Project with the best entry. The evening finished with refreshments provided free for the occasion



NO HOUSE TRANSFER OBJECTION

Dear Sir
I have been a Council tenant for over 30 years, paying my rent on time and keeping my home to a high standard. I voted for the transfer to Sedgefield Borough Homes, and I look forward to all the improvements that will take place. I hear Cllrs. Fleming & Clare are fighting against it. How dare they, when they are living

in their own fancy houses and with money available to do their own improvements.? We deserve nice homes and outdoor improvements, so I suggest these home owners should butt out. They chose to buy their houses, some of us have no choice.

Mrs J. Jackson
Ed: The Town Council have no objection to the transfer of houses. They are seeking to retain the large areas of land being gifted to a private company along with houses, believing land should stay in public ownership.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Readers are warmly invited to Breakfast/Brunch with the Rotary Club on Sunday 17th May at School Aycliffe Community Centre, Eastfields. from 10am till 1p.m. Full English Breakfast or Continental will be available. £6 for adults and £3 for children with under 5's free. Book yours by ringing 312022 or 300212. The event is held in aid of Mercy Hospital Ships delivering free health care and operations to poor people all round the world.

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4 PEOPLE ATTEND PARISH MEETING

AYCLIFFE ON VERGE OF TITLE WIN

FUN FANTASTIC FITNESS FOR CHARITY



The annual Parish Meeting is supposed to be a Public Meeting at which the residents ask questions of the council after hearing the annual reports. This meeting was called last Wednesday, but only four members of the public attended, the rest were Councillors.

They heard, despite receiving no funds from central government or revenue from business rates, the Town Council gave good value for money over a broad range of services provided. It has been a tough year financially but the Council was in a healthy position and well placed to weather the storm of recession. Indeed there had been considerable investment in parks and the environment.

The balances stand at £750,000 and the Finance Officer was asked why the money couldn't be used to freeze the Town's part of the Council Tax. He replied that balances could not be used for this purpose and are needed to meet future requirement.

On Council Tax the officer commented that the Town Council's increase was well below the rate of inflation. There was some discussion on the double taxation and rebate to be received from the County Council. (see full story on Page 7)

Each year a Town organisation gives a Presentation

on its work and Neville Parade Community Centre was invited to address the meeting. Peter Beaty outlined the history of his work as a volunteer for over 60 years and explained how he and his small committee had revitalised the former Over 60's Club to provide a facility used and valued by many people in the town for numerous activities. His achievement and success at Neville Parade was well known among those present and he received thanks and appreciation for all the time and hard work given to voluntary service.

Council Clare called Peter a 'remarkable man' who not only saved the Over 60's Club from demolition, but also led the campaign to save Greenfield School when it faced closure some years ago. "I want to pay tribute to Peter's tireless work for this community" said John.

The Annual Parish Meeting could be something really special and more people should be encouraged to attend. Perhaps the Town Council should promote it better to ensure a good turnout.

If the agenda was given some thought and its content made more interesting perhaps the meeting would attract more residents. Let's not just go through the motions - try and make a night of it!

Newton Aycliffe FC are on the verge of completing a fairytale season by winning the Wearside League.

Allan Oliver's side recorded an impressive 5-1 win at Teesside Athletic last weekend to maintain their one-point lead at the top of the league. Warren Byrne scored a hat-trick, while Elliot Gardner and Mark Wood (pictured) were also on the scoresheet at Redcar, with an impressive away following making the journey from Aycliffe.

The result mathematically confirmed their promotion to the Northern League for the 2009-10 season.

But it also means Aycliffe need only one more win, in their last league game at home to Annfield Plain this Saturday (2.30pm kick-off), to clinch the Wearside League title.

And the club are calling on Aycliffe fans to turn out in big numbers for what promises to be an historic game at Moore Lane Park.

"Winning promotion is a great achievement in itself," said boss Oliver. "This Saturday's game provides us with an opportunity to celebrate that, and it would be great to see lots of fans come along to share the enjoyment of the occasion."

"But it would also help to hopefully inspire the players to win their last game of the season and lift the Wearside League title, which would really cap the season off in style."

Aycliffe are expecting a healthy crowd on Saturday, so are therefore requesting the co-operation of visitors and understanding for nearby residents.

"The large crowds we're getting is tremendous," said

chairman Gary Farley. "But the bigger crowds we get, the more difficult parking becomes as it is limited and does therefore cause problems."

"Fans can help by trying to avoid bringing their cars unless there is no other way for them to get down. So if groups can come together in one car, or by taxi or on foot, that should help to relieve the problem. The most important thing is to please think of nearby residents - don't double park or block anyone in, and be careful driving in built-up areas. We appreciate everyone's co-operation in this."

The game against Annfield Plain kicks off at 2.30pm on Saturday (May 16), admission £2 with concessions for children, while the season will draw to a close with the Sunderland Shipowners Cup Final against Teesside Athletic next Friday night (May 22, 7pm).

Their remaining fixtures are:
Sat May 16: Annfield Plain (H), 2.30pm
Fri May 22: Teesside Athletic (H), 7pm, Shipowners Cup Final
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk



A County Durham charity is looking for ladies who feel in the 'pink' to give their support to a fund-raising event.

On Friday 29th May, ladies are invited to look pretty in pink and take part in "Fun Fantastic Fitness Fiver Friday" in Shildon - with all proceeds going to the Butterwick Hospice in Bishop Auckland.

A two hour programme has been devised for ladies aged between 16 and 25 to take part in this charity aerobathon that will include the likes of boxercise, street cheer,

pilates, aerobics and salsa. Entry is £5.00 for the session at Shildon-Sunnydale Leisure Centre (5.30pm to 7.30pm) and includes a glass of rosé sparkling wine or pink grapefruit punch upon completion. All ladies are being encouraged to wear pink girly outfits and are advised to use sensible footwear and exercise attire.

Anyone wanting to take part must register by calling Kathy Broomfield, Aerobics Fitness Coordinator on 01388 816166 Ext 4512 or 01388 815827.

May Fayre at St Francis

St Francis Church, Burnhope are holding a May Fayre on Saturday 16th May from 11am-1pm, all are welcome.

Refreshments, hot dogs, cakes, tombola, plants, raffle, jewellery and white elephant stalls.

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Road Humps Should be 75mm High

Dear Sir,
My reason for raising the issue of the height of speed humps was that some

in the Simpasture area are not of the correct height. I have no objection to speed humps or any other form of traffic calming, but feel very strongly that such measures comply with the Highways Regulations Act 1996.

The speed hump height survey was carried out by Durham County Council 19th March 2008. A copy of which is held by Newton Press.

It may be of interest that the Department of Transport now advise that road humps do not exceed 75mm as apposed to the 110mm as detailed in the DCC survey.

Gallager Basset the Insurers acting for Durham County Council have stated that instructions have been issued to correct the faults. It would be helpful if Mr Lee Mowbray, Area Traffic Officer or any of the Durham County Councillors could assist in making progress on this issue.
John Moore

WILKINSONS RECRUIT ON MARKET DAY



Around 500 people attended a recruitment event for the new Wilkinson's store, due to open in Newton Aycliffe in July 2009. Staff from Wilkinson's handed out application forms, and Jobcentre Plus staff were also on hand, to advise people about the jobs on offer. Kay Armstrong, the new store Manager, said, 'We've had a fantastic response to this recruitment, and we're working closely with Jobcentre Plus, to recruit as many people

as possible' Richard Mclean, the Assistant Manager, added, 'I'm from Newton Aycliffe, and I was really amazed at the turnout. We've had people of all ages, asking for application forms. I'm looking forward to the store opening, and seeing lots of familiar faces there'. Wendy Spooner, Recruitment Adviser for Jobcentre Plus, said, 'We're delighted that Wilkinson's are opening in Newton Aycliffe, particularly as Woolworths closed earlier this year, and have issued hundreds of application forms, to our customers. We've worked with Kay and Richard, to ensure that they recruit the right people for the right job'

Anyone who was unable to attend the event can search for vacancies on the Jobcentre Plus website www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk or contact Jobcentre Plus on 0845 60 60 234 for further details about the vacancies. Lines are open Monday to Friday between 8.00am and 6.00pm and on Saturdays from 9.00am to 1.00pm.

ROTARY CLUB CHANGE GOLF DAY VENUE

The annual Charity Golf Day organised by the Town's Rotary Club is moving to Woodham Golf Course and will be played on Friday 4th September from 1p.m. Normally a shotgun start, this year it is normal, but with tee offs from the 1st and 10th holes.

There will be food on arrival from 12 noon, bar facilities and a Carvery Dinner after the game, around 6p.m. followed by Prize Presentations. The cost has been kept to £27.50p per player which is excellent value for money.

The Rotary Club acknowledge with thanks the concession received from the Golf Course owners. All proceeds from the day will go to Charity.

This charity event is usually at the Oak Leaf Course which the Town Council donated to the cause. In return the Rotary Club donated half the proceeds to the Mayor's Charity.

A change of policy allowed only a 50% discount on fees, which Woodham bettered and as the aim is to raise as much cash as possible the decision to change venues was made.

Woodham is proving a big attraction and early entries are advised to avoid disappointment. Golfers interested in playing in the Pairs Stableford Competition with excellent prizes should contact the Match Secretary, Robert Manners on 374714 or Richard Gent on 317308.

Trader's Bad Parking on Market Days



Dear Sir,
I am all for the Tuesday Market in the town centre, but isn't it time the stallholders were asked/told to move their vans to a lorry park during the day? The parking in Newton Aycliffe town centre is limited so why do the stallholders insist on such bad manners over the way they park their vans taking the space for the whole day? I watched one of the stall holders put a large steel trolley in one parking space laying it on its side then going away only to return with another van and moving the trolley and parking his van there.

Come on you market stall holders have some consideration for the people who buy your goods.
S.J.J.



10 Minute Panic at Tesco

On Monday this week Tesco experienced IT problems relating to their mainbank tills, however the self scanning tills were fully operational. This created problems getting customers through the checkouts resulting in some large queues. Customers were stopped entering the store for approximately 10 minutes so as to reduce the queuing time and were advised they would experience delays going through the checkout.

Overgrown Hedgerows

Dear Sir,
I was out walking around the old part of the town and was amazed by the number of hedges that have been allowed to grow out reducing the size of the footpaths. Whilst walking up Finchale Road from the junction with St Cuthberts Way the footpath is reduced in width to such an extent that only single file walking is possible.

This problem can be found all over the older part of the town, so come on all you Councillors, who are always writing in this paper, let's get something done about this. Whilst doing this how about getting the police or council to move the cars that constantly park on the paths and grass verges? Just take a look at the damage being done in Sharp Road

And to the people who are going on about protecting the green spaces in Newton Aycliffe that should include the verges, if you see someone damaging them, ask them to stop! Have some pride in your area.
Mr S J Jones
Henderson Road

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MAYOR'S REPORT TO TOWN MEETING

During my year in office the following major achievements and activities have taken place:-

PARKS AND PLAY AREAS

Horndale Park – new infant play area has been provided.
Simpasture Park – a new infant play area has been provided plus some new junior equipment installed. A Multi Use Games Area and two refurbished tennis courts have also been provided.
Woodham Park – new junior play equipment and a D.D.A. roundabout have been installed together with a new Multi Use Games Area.
St. Oswald's Park – new infant and junior play areas have been installed.
Construction of a formal garden has started and will hopefully be completed for the Summer. These play areas were provided with joint funding from Great Aycliffe Town Council, Sedgefield Borough Council Local Improvement Programme and Members Neighbourhood Enhancement Programme monies.

ENVIRONMENTAL

The Council has redeveloped Moore Lane Pavilion for use as an Eco Centre.
An Environment Officer has been employed to work with local groups and schools to improve the towns natural environment.
A Town Pride Team has been set up which will assist in keeping the town clean, tidy and litter free and will also help the Environment Officer with environmental initiatives.
Aycliffe Nature Park – the final stages of the improvements at the park have been completed. This includes new fencing and dipping platforms.
Additional allotment plots have been opened for use at St. Oswald's allotment site.

QUALITY COUNCIL

The Town Council have been re-awarded and given Quality Council Status.

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Town Council has organised the setting up of the Aycliffe Youth Council who have also been given a budget to award small grants to Youth Organisations and young people.

CUSTOMER SURVEY

The Council has recently undertaken its second customer

survey and early indications are:
That satisfaction and value for money for Town Council services have all improved.
Overall satisfaction with the Town Council has risen to 75% (from 67%)
Value for money for Town Council services has risen to 70% (from 63%)
86% of people agree Great Aycliffe is a pleasant place. This has risen 10% on the previous year.

OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX

The Oakleaf has seen refurbishments taking place in the bar and function room together with the installation of a lift.

EVENTS

The Town Council continues to provide:
Senior citizens excursions
Great Aycliffe Show
Firework night
Fun in the parks
Santa tours and letters
We also support the Annual 10k. Run.

MAYORAL EVENTS

As Mayor of Great Aycliffe for the past year I have attended

and organised numerous events such as:
Mayoress 'At Home'
Civic Service
Hospitality for Sponsors at Great Aycliffe Show
Charity Golf Tournament
Civic Carol Service
Annual Civic Ball
3 Charity Cabaret Nights and a Ceilidh
Golden and Diamond Wedding Anniversaries
3 Charity Market Stalls
My chosen charities are the British Heart Foundation and BLESMA (British Limbless Ex-Service Mens Association) and I have raised an amount of £7,908.40

Pool Title On First Attempt

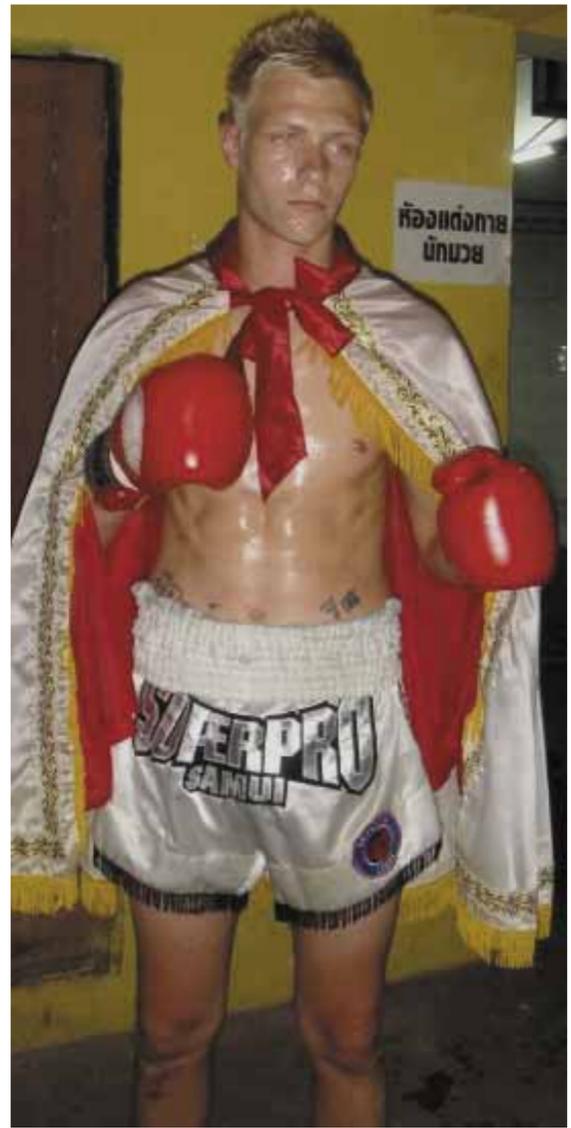
Oak Leaf Sports Complex Pool due Shay Reid and Robert Jones have just won the Aycliffe & District Pool Doubles Title, thanks to overcoming Paul Wade and Michael Staymen from the Iron Horse in the Final.

This achievement is all the sweeter because it's the first time Shay & Robert have entered the competition – well done to you both

It's Curtains for St Francis

The Congregation of St. Francis Church, Burnhope, would like to thank Mr Gerald Martin (Funeral Service Manager for John Meynell Funeral Service) for providing six curtains for their church hall. It is very much appreciated.

GREAT COMEBACK FOR THAI BOXING KID



The final leg of Reece McAllister's Journey in Thailand saw him take his second fight on April 21st of this trip against another Thai fighter. It was a great fight, but unfortunately Reece (17) was unable to clinch the victory and lost on points.

Undeterred Reece got back into training within days and asked for a re-match. The Thai promoter was very excited and complimented Reece on his courage. The fight was scheduled for May 5th with Reece entering the fight as underdog. The fight started at a very fast pace which Reece dictated, and in the first round gave his opponent a standing count caused by a jumping knee to the head. In Round 2 the Thai came back stronger putting pressure on Reece. But in Round 3 the Thai started to fade, but survived the round. As round 4 began Reece

upped the pace pulling off a great spinning elbow catching his Thai opponent cleanly and knocking him out. Reece returned home on May 9th and will return to Thailand in July for a further 3 months training and fights.

TRACING AN EX SOLDIER

Dear Sir,
Please can you help to find one of our ex army buddies from 1963 - 66? His details are James Clerkin now aged 62 who joined JLR ACC in Jan 1963. He was very musical and played the Glockenspiel in the band. A lot of his ex buddies want to contact him for a get together.
John (spud) Rudd
Tel: 01512843229
E-mail: spudrudd1947@blueyonder.co.uk

C.A.T.S. STAGE GROUP OPENS

A new experience in young people's musical theatre is coming soon, when C.A.T.S. (Childrens Amateur Theatre Society) opens it's doors to the younger young people who like to entertain.

A spokesperson for the group said " We found there was a need for a younger persons theatre group in the area, as most other groups cater for the 11 to 25 year olds.

C.A.T.S. will provide full training and coaching for all young people aged 8 to 11 years, who are interested in learning how to sing, dance and act, or to improve their present skills, with a view of them producing and performing musical productions to live theatre audiences.

Apart from learning new skills the young people will learn to work as a team, meet new friends and their creativity skills and health will improve too."

Anyone interested in joining C.A.T.S. or need any further information ring 07747 826324 or (01388) 774838

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More Praise for RapidFit

Dear Sir,
May I back up the endorsement of Mrs Larsen with reference to Rapid Fit in last week's Newton News (Rapid Action). I moved to Newton Aycliffe in 2002 after living all over the country and in Europe. I have never come across a more helpful and eager set of chaps. Admittedly my old Rover has probably paid their wages over the years, but they really do go out of their way to assist and are ever helpful. It is good that we celebrate the good in people and businesses when usually all we hear is bad. With these guys you really do get what it says on the tin.
Adrian Dart
Woodham

NEWTON NEWS

NEWTON NEWS is published and printed by Newton News, which may be contacted in 2009 at telephone 01325 321301. Website: www.newtonnews.com

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GOVERNMENT CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS

Dear Syd
I am writing in response to Phil Wilson's party political broadcast in Newton News, to provide a reality check. Phil said the Budget was 'a Budget for jobs and targeted investment so that we can secure a strong recovery', and we must 'grow our way out of the recession'. He detailed all the popular measures in the Budget but omitted all the unpopular bits. He also

neglected to point out that most economists believe that the Chancellor based his figures on over-optimistic assumptions, and hardly any of them believe his measures will achieve what he claims. Phil failed to mention where all the new jobs and growth are going to come from. Presumably not the public sector - the Government has just announced more 'efficiency gains' (eg

1% in Further Education colleges). In the past few years 'efficiency gains' have involved significant job cuts, such as those following the merger of the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise (the related loss of competent staff is, incidentally, widely recognised in the professions as being massively detrimental to services, causing huge amounts of abortive time) and the reorganisation of borough

and county councils. Just before the Budget the Treasury announced it had 'found' the potential for another £15bn worth of savings in 'operational spending'. This can only mean further job cuts (and these will be more costly for taxpayers because statutory redundancy rates are going to be increased)! That leaves the private sector, where businesses are going bust at an alarming rate. Businesses have been swamped by costly legislation and bureaucracy, and the recession has been the last straw for many. Recent changes to the taxation of multi-national companies have resulted in a significant number moving abroad. Furthermore, the people who will typically be driving business growth are those targeted for 50% higher rate tax (ie a 25% increase on the previous higher rate of 40%) and loss of 20% personal allowance. Hardly the best incentive for those key people.

Despite there being a shortage of public money, the Government continues to borrow to finance all sorts of politically correct nonsense and assist third world countries, as well as throwing more money at non-essential new initiatives. For example, £16m of taxpayers' money is to be used to provide all the children in Durham primary schools with free school meals, whether they can afford them or not. How is this going to drive the recovery? More jobs for dinner ladies? The Government wants to guarantee a job, training or work placement for all aged 18-24 who reach 12 months' unemployment. Who will employ these people, and how will they drive the country's economic recovery? The fact of the matter is that

the economy relies heavily on sentiment, and very few people have any confidence in this Government. Gordon Brown, Alistair Darling and MP's like Phil all try to sound like everything is under control, but nobody buys that any more.

When the economy was booming a few years ago, the Labour Party was quick to take credit. Now that there's a recession, they are trying to convince us that it's a global phenomenon, beyond the Government's control. Can't have it both ways!

I don't blame Phil for trying to mislead the readers, as he's just doing what head office will be telling all MPs they must do. I'm not saying he's a bad MP. I'm also not saying David Cameron's crew offer all the answers. Indeed, some of their ideas beggar belief.

What I am saying is that the Government has mismanaged the economy and must carry much of the responsibility for the current financial mess the country is in, and we now need the optimism offered by an alternative government, which surely couldn't do any worse! Could it?
John Snowball

Government Doesn't Know What to do Next

Dear Sir,
Could I ask that future Labour Party announcements from Phil Wilson MP in the guise of a public announcement is identified as such.

We have just been mortgaged as a country for future generations by a government who doesn't know what to do next other than announce more spending plans with monies that are from projected receipts which are overtaken by events within 12 hours of being announced.

As for the budget, yes, the stamp duty holiday to help sales is to continue, whilst at the same time the gov't forces would-be sellers to buy a micky mouse seller's pack BEFORE they put their house on the market. Bearing in mind the life of the information contained therein, the distrust of lenders, buyers and solicitors to the packs and often their insistence to have another pack once a purchase has been agreed, is doing nothing to help the market. 22 million got a tax cut when it went from 22p to 20p, however, 3.8 million lost out when the 10p tax rate disappeared and pay MORE tax now, and these are amongst the lowest paid and vulnerable in our society.

The £2,000 car scheme is already being exposed as a complex joke with the majority of the money ending up on foreign car purchases and most dealers putting their prices back up so they don't lose more money. Incidentally, how is it that Germany acted in November, followed by France, Italy etc whilst our gov't contemplated their navels for 6 months before coming up with this package?

As for the future, the current lot have had more 5 year plans than Stalin, be it Education, Schools, NHS, Crime, Drugs etc. and when the end date appears without the targets being reached then it is simply re-packaged and extended.

The Labour Party have regarded the North West, North East and Scotland as their fiefdoms for years, whilst forgetting that the jobs groundbase has changed and the electorate have aspirations. I hope we have a decent Independent candidate at the next election (I know the Tories probably won't win in this seat) so that people can send a message that they can't be taken for granted anymore.
Woodham Resident



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the economy relies heavily on sentiment, and very few people have any confidence in this Government. Gordon Brown, Alistair Darling and MP's like Phil all try to sound like everything is under control, but nobody buys that any more.

Annual Swimathon Raised £8k



The annual Swimathon organised by local Rotary Clubs and Lions Club was held last Sunday at Spennymoor Leisure Centre. 40 teams took part and will raise around £8,000 to be split between their own charity and the main charity Butterwick Hospice. It was an enjoyable event for the swimmers who race in teams for the number of lengths completed and the most amount of cash raised for charity. The Presentation Night is held in September when cheques are donated and trophy winners are announced. The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe enrolled a few teams and among them were Bewick Crescent Surgery (above) current and past holders of the trophy for most money raised. New to the event was Acorn Players the club for young people who present annual Shows and Pantomimes in the town. The Rotary Club members also had a team with three generations of a family in the pool. Rotarian John Billany, his Son Sean and Grandson Adam.

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The Acorn Players Swimming Team:
Jennifer Ingham, Victoria Witton, Michaela Young, Keira Durham, Abigail Kerr and Brittany Swire.



The Rotary Club team
Back: John Billany, Sean Billany,
Front: Anne Gamblin, Adam Billany and Jo Daly,

KNIGHT OF THE ROAD

Dear Sir,
I would like to express my appreciation to the man who stopped to offer me a lift on Coatsay Moor Lane (A6072) near Heighington on Tuesday evening around 8pm after I'd had a puncture on my bike. He lives in Heighington and was virtually home having picked his son up from football and yet he insisted on driving me back to Woodham for no other reason than, for him, it was the natural thing to do.
It is good to know there are still people around whose first thought is for others rather than themselves. Unfortunately I did not get the gentleman's name but he deserves to be recognised for his kindness. He saved me from about an hour's walk home and I certainly owe him a pint . . . or two!
Neil Redhead, Woodham

DOUBLE TAX RETURNED TO GREAT AYCLIFFE TAXPAYERS

One of the many issues that will need to be resolved by the new Unitary Council, following the amalgamation of all Borough and District Council Budgets with the County Council Budget on 1st April 2009 will be the eradication of 'double taxation' issues relating to Council Tax.
Double taxation occurs when a service is provided by the County Council from 1st April 2009, that is also provided by the local Town or Parish Council. A good example of this is cemetery provision. The Town Council currently provides two cemeteries at Stephenson Way and West Cemetery at School Aycliffe. The net cost of the cemeteries i.e. after all income from burial fees etc is deducted, is met by the Council Tax payers of Great Aycliffe via the Council Precept.
However, elsewhere in the County, cemeteries are currently provided by the Borough and District Councils and these will be inherited by the County Council from 1st April 2009. These cemeteries are also paid for via the Council Tax, but, because they will be provided by the County Council, all council tax payers contribute towards the cost, including Great Aycliffe tax payers.
This means that Great Aycliffe tax payers will not only pay directly for the cemeteries in Newton Aycliffe but will also contribute towards the cost of cemeteries in other towns across the County. Clearly this is not equitable and as a result the County Council have begun the process of looking at potential double taxation issues which will extend to many other service areas including allotments, public conveniences, play areas and grounds maintenance to name but a few.
The County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) and the Co-ordination Group of Town Clerks have been involved in the early discussions with the County Council regarding double taxation with a view to the agreeing the services affected and developing a methodology for eradicating double taxation issues.
Agreement was reached in January 2009 on an initial assessment and methodology to address the issue for 2009/2010 and the County Council Executive Committee agreed to this initial proposal on 21st January.
As part of the initial assessment and methodology, the first service areas considered by the Group were allotments, bus shelters, cemeteries and public conveniences and information and budgets on these service areas have been provided by the various Town and Parish Council's over the last few months.
It was agreed that the best way to deal with the issue would be through the introduction of a

Double Taxation Grant, which would be payable to Town and Parish Councils in the areas affected by double taxation issues.
As a result the Council has been informed that the Double Taxation Grant payable to Great Aycliffe Town Council from Durham County Council in 2009/2010 will be £38,475.00 This will be paid quarterly in advance alongside the Council's Precept payment.
However, it should be noted that only an initial methodology and assessment have been agreed at the present time. This is an interim measure for calculating grant payments for 2009/2010 only. The methodology for 2010/2011 onwards may differ substantially.
Clearly this is a complex area and a final resolution to double taxation issues remains some way off. However, a commitment has been made by both the local council sector, as represented by CDALC, and the County Council to continue discussions came with a view to 'fully resolving double taxation issues in a sustainable and equitable manner for the longer term by September 2009'.

IMPACT ON GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

The award of Double Taxation Grant in 2009/2010 was not assumed in the setting of 2009/2010 Revenue Budget and therefore provides one off additional resources to the Council next year.
(Council)Members are asked to consider possible uses for these resources during the next financial year. Possible options could include:-
Not using the grant and transferring the income to the Council's Balances to support future years budgets;
Passing on the grant to the community for example by setting up a one off community fund similar to the Council Donations Budget to support small community initiatives;
Use the resources to invest in the Cemeteries and Allotments services to which they relate e.g. building works, footpaths, fencing etc;
One off investment in other Council priorities e.g. environmental initiatives, play equipment, youth initiatives;
Any other options that Members may wish to put forward

The above is edited from a report to the Town Council's Policy and Resources Committee held on 4th March, 2009.

At the the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 6th May, 2009, in the Town Council Chamber, the following question was put by a member of the public, Mr A M Chandran:

In the light of the Report presented to the Policy and Resources Committee on 4th March 2009 by the Finance Officer and Town Clerk, on the subject of Double Taxation, and the Appendix 1 letter from Durham Council Council, is it the Town Council's intention to ringfence and offset the Double Taxation Grant against the Precept for the next year, and each subsequent year, thus preventing double taxation.

Or is it the Town Council's intention to simply absorb and include the Grant into the Council's balances in which case Double Taxation continues and negates the purpose of preventing the Council Taxpayers from Double Taxation. The Grant for 2009/2010 being £38,475.00.

Rotary's Annual Dinner



The Town Mayor and Mayoress, George and Maud Gray were Guests of Honour at the annual President's Dinner at the George Hotel last Friday. David Scott and his wife Nora also welcomed the North East Rotary Governor Ron Goodwin and his wife Marie.



The President presented Rotarian Dave Anderson with the Robin Watson Award for his outstanding service to the club and community during 2008/9.



Recently formed local group "The New Yorkers" gave a slick, colourful and entertaining Cabaret covering a wide range of musical tastes. The costumes were spectacular and the presentation well rehearsed, bringing applause and appreciation from guests.

BADMINTON FREE TUITION

It's not very often you can get something for nothing, but here at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex we are offering FREE junior Badminton coaching to any one aged between 8 and 15 years during our Whit week holiday coaching courses. All places have to be booked in advance and they are limited, so hurry and book yours now!

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Macadam School attend Performing Arts Dance Festival

The Macadam School of Dance took part in the North East Society for Performing Arts Annual Dance Festival which was held over the three day May Day Bank Holiday weekend. Schools from Blyth, Crumlington and Morpeth also participated and competed in fifty four sections in Tap, Modern, Ballet, Acro, Song & Dance, Solos, Duets, Trios and Troupes out of these the school gained 4 x 1st places, 31 x 2nd places, 21 x 3rd places and 15 x 4th places. They were also awarded 10 overall places. This was a great achievement as the standard was very high. We would like to thank all students who took part for all their hard work and parents for their commitment and dedication because without them it would not be possible... well done to you all. If you would like more information on any of the Macadam School Dance classes please telephone 07890 511243 or 07790 252571 Mary and Diane.



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Friday June 12th, 7.30pm - Concert by The Carol Andrew Singers in the church. Tickets £3
Saturday June 20th, 10.00am - Art Workshops in the Village Hall, Jewellery, Art, Felt Making, Millinery 2.00pm - Faure Requiem Rehearsal. All singers welcome
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PATIENTS CRITICISE OUT-DATED PRACTICE

Dear Sir
 If you live in Heighington you enjoy village life – apart from the archaic system in place at Heighington Surgery.
 There are 4 morning surgeries, from 9 – 10 am, and 2 evening surgeries, Monday and Thursdays, from 4.30- 5.30 pm. If you arrive after these times, the door is locked and you are not allowed to join the queue.
 On Bank Holiday Mondays we lose 2 surgeries – they are not replaced later in the week.
 On busy days, it is standing room only – the waiting room isn't that big.

For those who don't enjoy this pleasure, if you wish to see a GP you arrive at the surgery, take your place, and wait your turn. No such joys of an appointment system. There is no phone access to this surgery either – you have to phone the main branch in Newton Aycliffe.
 If you want to be seen early and not have to wait, you have to arrive at 8.15 am, when the doors open, but at least you know you are first in the queue.
 You then wait half an hour until the GP arrives – but you are the first to see him.
 The same applies for the only 2 "evening" surgeries that are held – arrive early, say 4.15 pm, and you might be first in the queue that night.
 As you sit and wait, everyone grumbles at the lack of an appointment system. The Practice Manager should try and sit on the hard seats incognito for an hour or more and listen to these grumbles. I've heard that patients have asked for an appointment system for more than 30 years now, and still wait for this to come. Don't hold your breath.
 Why cant they trial an

appointment system, and even install a telephone there too? Bring it into the 21st Century.
 Extra clinics and early starts have been introduced at Bewick Crescent – but where are the benefits at Heighington? None. No extra evening clinics. No early morning starts either. The lost cause? Not worth bothering with?
 The last straw I believe was a few weeks ago, when someone arrived at 5.15 pm, and there were 10 patients in front of him. Standing room

only until a seat became free. Well, he sat and waited, and waited, and by 6.15 pm, with 4 still in front of him, and now 4 more after him, he gave up and went home. No idea what time that surgery finished, but imagine after 7 pm?
 Would you sit and wait for up to 2 hours to be seen? I don't think I would either.
 Perhaps it's time too, to even supply brand new branch premises, for the 21st Century? On behalf of Heighington Surgery Patient Action Group

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The National Railway Museum at Shildon is celebrating the 'Magic of Meccano' on Sunday 24 and Monday 25 May. Anyone who has ever spent hours attempting to assemble a Meccano masterpiece before realising they have misplaced a vital component, will enjoy watching how the experts do it! This is the biggest Meccano event in the North East and is a great day out for families and model makers alike. There will be a large array of Meccano models to view, including several railway-themed items and a large scale working model tramway. Both admission and parking are free.

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More than 500 people from across the North East construction industry gathered for the 2009 Constructing Excellence in the North East Awards. The Awards dinner, on Friday, May 8, is the biggest gathering of the construction sector in the region and 520 people from all sections of the industry came together to celebrate successes and excellence. The Newcastle Marriott Hotel, Gosforth Park hosted the event and a total of 11 awards, plus commendations, were presented to projects, contractors and individuals from the Hartlepool, Newcastle, Durham, Seaham, Middlesbrough, Newton Aycliffe, Alnwick, Barnard Castle, Sunderland, Stockton and Gateshead areas. Client of the Year Winner: was Jane Ritchie for The Work Place, Newton Aycliffe. The award winners will now go on to represent the North East in the national Constructing Excellence Awards against the winners of the seven other regional awards. The UK-

wide awards, which were first held two years ago, have been inspired by the success of the North East event. Chief executive of Constructing Excellence in the North East, Catriona Lingwood, said: "This year, there are winners from every part of the North East. The region has once again demonstrated its talent, initiative and ability. Excellence in the construction industry is everywhere and the awards were a real celebration of what is good in our sector, here in the North East. In a difficult year for the economy, individuals, teams and organisations have stood up to be counted and helped to shape our built environment for the better and, as a region."

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 There is an old country saying: *Ash before oak, we'll get a soak; Oak before ash, we'll just get a splash*
 If you look around town this week, the ash trees are still in tight black buds. In fact to all intents and purposes they look dead!
 Just look at the trees along the railway line beside the station for example. In total contrast, all other trees are now in full leaf. The oak trees in town have been in leaf for about three weeks now.
 Conversely, the ash came before the oak last year and we got a soaking!
 The summer of 2006 seems like a distant memory, but dust down the barbeques and hope that the old saying is true once again
 David Scott

Thank You

HARRISON LEE COOPER a.k.a. Ben 10! . . . would like to thank everyone who braved the weather, dressed up and came to my party! Thank you so much for all of my lovely cards and presents xxx
MARIA HYMAS would like to thank everyone who came to her 40th birthday party. Thanks for all the lovely presents and cards and surprise guests!! Hope everyone had as good a night as I did. Thank you xx
CRAIG HYMAS Thanks for a brilliant weekend, lovely presents, all your help, my surprise song, but mostly for being the best Husband. Love you loads, Maria xxx
ALAN and J Thank you for James' brill Christening on 3-5-09. Also thank you for making me a proud Godparent. Love, Pete, Gill, Bev, Chilly and Kids

For all your print requirements contact your local printer
Newton Press
Tel: 01325 300212

Good Luck

HELEN MOORE Good luck with the Charity Parachute Jump! Love you. Love, Boyd, Phillip and Lucy xxx

Wanted

PETROL Lawnmower, Qualcast/Suffolk Punch in good condition. Tel 310847

Accommodation

3 & 4 BEDROOM properties to let in Aycliffe area from £500 per month. 3 bed in St Aidens 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
3 BEDROOM house in Guthrum Place, £105pw, bond required, DSS welcome. 2 bedroom house in Winterburn Place, £97.50 pw, bond required. DSS welcome. Tel 307445
TO LET 2 bedroom terrace in Darlington. New kitchen. New carpets. GCH. UVPC windows. Rent £89.00 per week in advance. Tel 01325 354333
TO LET 2 bedroom furnished house in Newton Aycliffe, £390 per month. £390 bond. Available from 1st July. Tel 07816 502883
3 BEDROOM semi for rent, Linden Place, excellent condition, parking, £475pm, £400 bond. Tel 07963 387663
BEAUTIFUL End Terraced Property to rent in peaceful scenic area of Newton Aycliffe. Consists of lounge diner, kitchen with range cooker, 3 beds, bath and over shower. Open aspect Garden to front. To rear of property is gated courtyard with raised beds, mature trees and parking area. Only £100 a week. No smokers, DSS or pets. Bond of £400. Any questions or to view call 07976 406 613 or email mrs_scott_king@hotmail.com

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MARY DALTON ELECTED AS MAYOR FOR SECOND TIME



George Gray hands over the chain of office to Mary Dalton



Charity Recipients of £8,000



Mayor Mary Dalton with her deputy Dorothy Bowman

The annual Meeting to appoint the Mayor, officers and committee of the Town Council was held on Wednesday and Mary Dalton was elected for a second term with Dorothy Bowman as her Deputy.

George Gray thanked everyone who had given him support in the past year especially in his charity fundraising where £8,000 was shared between the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association and British Heart Foundation. He thanked his wife Maud for carrying out her duties as Mayoress and presented gifts to members of staff for their support over the year.

Council Bob Fleming proposed the vote of thanks to the Past Mayor stating he and Maud had probably attended more functions than any previous holder of the office. "It is a draining experience and George and Maud put in an enormous amount of work representing the town and the Council," said Bob.

New Mayor Mary announced her chosen charities for the year as the Army Benevolent Fund and local good causes. Bob Fleming was re-elected as Leader of the Council with John Clare as his Deputy.

Obituary

MEALE, Dylan Robert. Son of Alan and Kath. Brother to Kelly, Father to Nicola, Amy and Samantha. Died suddenly on Monday 27th April 2009. You will always be in our thoughts and will be sadly missed. Rest in Peace now Dylan

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
LEATHER 3 seater and chair, midnight black, £65. Tel 07593 401628
MAHOGANY table, 4 chairs and 2 carvers, £50 VGCm Tel 319369

2 DOUBLE bed frames, chrome and brown leather and teak wooden frame, £50 each. VGC, Tel 320305

ROTARY PRESS VGC £50, Tel 320305

INDUSTRIAL PRESS VGC for ironing garments, £100 Tel 320305

STAINLESS steel Expliar hod gas and elec oven, 6 months old (prefer electric) £200 ono; Mahogany corner unit, 29" wide, 74" high, mirrored sides, £75 ono; Chaise longue and matching chair, new condition in gold material, £150. Tel 317842

ITALIAN inlaid dining table and 6 chairs (pink dralon seats), 67" x 42" includes 2 carvers, good condition, £100 ono; Mahogany wall display cabinet with glass shelves, leaded doors, 33" x 29", £30 ono. Good condition. Tel 311174

2 PAIRS duck egg blue curtains, 46x84, 66x84 with tie backs and matching cushion covers. £70 ono. Tel 312777 or 07826 526116

CREAM leather 2x2 seater plus chair, good condition, £50 ono Tel 311764

DOUBLE BED divan with mattress, £70; House of Fraser collection Penthouse shaggy rug (deep red), £50; Flavel high level grill cooker (gas) £50; Fridge (fits under worktop) £30; Glass coffee table, 2 x glass lamp tables (set) £30; Newcastle United signed Shirt in frame, £100 ono; Newcastle United signed football, Shearer, Robson, £50 ono. Tel 07725 183405

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

SCOTT ARNOLD A much loved Husband, Father and Grandfather. Died 13th May 2007. Years pass by but our memories stay, you're still dearly loved and thought of each and every day. Sadly missed by Wife Vera, Ian, Joanne, Jane, Tony, Adam, Jodie and Great Granddaughter Madelyn

SCOTT ARNOLD Died 13th May 2007. Cherished memories and quiet thoughts of our eldest Brother. Dearly loved and so sadly missed. By Brother George and Sisters Sheila, Christine, Madeline and families

DENNIS CHENTRENS 15-5-05. Remembering you is the easy part, but losing you was the really hard part Dad. We all love and miss you so much. Our lives without you has never been the same. Your loving Daughters, Margaret, Doreen and Denise xxx

SPENCER CLARKE A loving Husband, 14-5-08. Along the road of yesterday it takes me straight to you, memories of the happy years together me and you. And always every evening I seem to have a way of wandering back to meet you Spence on the road to yesterday. Your loving Wife, Grace xxx

SPENCER CLARKE A special Dad, 14-5-08. You made the world a better place in your own special way. And you're still loved so very much and missed more every day. Your leaving caused a lot of tears, so much grieving too, the hardest thing of all was to say goodbye to you. We miss you Dad. Loved and longed for always, Michael and Karen xxx

SPENCER CLARKE A loving Dad. 14-5-08. Today brings tears and memories of sorrow and regret. A day filled with sadness, it's not easy to forget. For everyone whose lives you touched, always loved you so. It was so hard to accept that you ever had to go. And so this message is for you Dad, especially to say, this world lost someone special, the day you went away. Loved always, miss you. Paul and Ann xxx

SPENCER CLARKE Loving Grandad, 14-5-08. Just a little token sent with love to say, there has been a lot of sadness since you went away. You gave so much to all the family, and in return you really were as loved as one could be. And every day you are missed so much and always will be too. For Grandad we will never forget a special person like you. Loved always, Andy, Ben and Dominic xxx

SPENCER CLARKE Loving Dad, 14-5-08. We miss you now our hearts are sore and as time goes by we miss you more. Your loving smile and gentle face, no one can fill your vacant place. Loved and remembered always, Keith and Carol xxx

SPENCER CLARKE Died 14th May 2008. One year on - will always be missed for your kindness and humour. Time goes on but you will never be forgotten. Love from your Sister Margaret and Brother-in-Law David and family

GIVE YOUR TIME TO MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Local Fundraising Manager for Macmillan Cancer Support, Michelle Muir, is encouraging Newton Aycliffe residents to consider volunteering to give something back to the local community.

Macmillan Cancer Support was founded by a volunteer and volunteers are still an integral part of the charity. Many people give their time and energy freely to help improve the lives of people living with cancer in the area.

Michelle said: "We have around 5 volunteers in the Co Durham, area who assist us with various aspects of our work; manning our supermarket collections, speaking to groups on our behalf and doing administration tasks in our office to name but a few."

"We are looking to expand our volunteer base in the area so that we can reach out to even more people that need our help."

In Memoriam

MENA COLLINSON Treasured memories of our dear Aunt Mena. Now reunited with her Husband Tot. Love you both. Niece Mena and Joe

MICHAEL STEVENS 13th May 2004. A light has gone from our family. A voice we love is still. A place is vacant in our hearts. No one can ever fill. Love and miss you always, Mam and Dad

JUNE HYATT 15-5-08. It's hard to find the words to say, how much we miss you each and every day. We will love and miss you always. Jane, Joanne, Anthony, Kirsty, Laura, Leah, Daniel, Mark, Callum, Anne, John, Dave and Oliver xxx

JOHN FLETCHER 18/1/1941-18/5/2008. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen. Unheard, but always near. Still missed and very dear. Always in our thoughts. Eunice, Colin, Brian, Sharon, Christine, Darryl and Callum

DAVID MITCHIE Died 14th May, 1998, due to a tragic accident. In our hearts you will always stay. Quietly remembered every day. Nan, Gramps, Claire, Andrew and Chris

KATHLEEN WILSON Mam. Died 18th May 2008. It was a sudden parting too bitter to forget. Those who loved you dearly are the one's who can't forget. We often think of you and think of how you died. So sad we could not say goodbye before you closed your eyes. Missed every day Mam. Love, always, Sharon and Michael

NANA WILSON Our Nana really was the best. We really hope she is at rest. Missed every day. Gemma, Jake and Jodi

KATH WILSON 18th May. Mam. It has been one long year since you left us. We miss and love you loads. Have fun with Dad. Miss you, love, Lorraine, Sean and the boys xxx

KATH WILSON Mam. It's been a year since you left us, but you are in our thoughts and hearts every day. We love and miss you. Shaun, Zoe, Sharni and Chris

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Macmillan Cancer Support improves the lives of people affected by cancer by providing practical, medical, emotional and financial support for people living with cancer, their families and carers.

Michelle Muir said: "There are so many ways to get involved in volunteering for Macmillan Cancer Support; helping out at events, undertaking administration tasks in the office, becoming a Macmillan speaker, joining a fundraising group plus much more."

Many people find the benefits of volunteering are threefold; meeting new people and making friends, gaining new skills and most importantly, having fun.

Macmillan Cancer Support is looking to hold a recruitment evening, aimed at providing more information about local volunteering opportunities at the Derwent Manor, Co Durham on the 2 June. If you'd like to attend this event please contact Michelle Muir on 01325370870 or email mmuir@macmillan.org.uk.

Congratulations

Sam Moy



Happy 21st Birthday
13th May 2009

All our love, Mam, Stu, Rachel and Chris. Love you loads, Rik & Katelyn xx

Trevor Kelly



TREVOR KELLY 18-5-09. 50th birthday. Love from the Kelly lot

TREVOR KELLY Happy 50th birthday Daddy. "You old Git, Lend us a tena!" Love, Sharma and James

TREVOR KELLY Happy 50th Dad. You got a taxi free night. Have a great time. Shane and Shari

TREVOR KELLY Happy 50th Father. First 50 pints are on me. Love, Loopy Lou

TREVOR KELLY Happy 50th birthday. Jean and Great Grandad Oakley

TREVOR KELLY To my wonderful hubby. Happy 50th birthday. Love you lots and snots. Love ya with all my heart. Shaz xxx

Births

CLARE & ADAM congratulations on the birth of "Jackson Alexander". Baby Brother to Luke and Paige. Love, Granda and Gramma Duffy

NEWTON NEWS
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NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Line Dancing – We are looking to start a class for those who want to start from scratch. To show an interest ring Peter on 313924. This would be held during the day, but yet to be finalised.
 Line Dancing for the Experienced – Every Thursday, 6.20pm – 7.20pm, just turn up, you will be welcomed by our highly trained tutor, only £2 per session.
 Domino Drive – Every Friday at 1pm if sufficient interest is shown. Ring 313 924.
 Mother/Toddlers – Every Friday 1pm – 2.30pm, £1 per family.
 Date for Your Diary
 Saturday 6th June, 11am – 4pm – North East Meccano Exhibition, admission £1, children free.
 Would you be interested in a Free Taster Session of Aromatherapy in our Lounge by a Fully Trained Therapist? Yes? Then ring to show your interest on 313 924.
 Day Trip to Eden Camp, North Yorkshire followed by Whitby, departs St. Clares at 9am pick up, Byerley Park, Station and Simpasture. Saturday 30th May.
 New Age Kurling – Free taster sessions of 1 hour, Saturday 23rd May, any age from 6 - 86 or disabled. Ring to book a slot – make it a family occasion.
 Would you be interested in joining a Choir to sing songs from the shows? Ring Peter on 313 924
 Need Advice? Ring Help The Aged on 0808 800 6565 FREE.

NEW FREE SERVICE AT C.A.B.

Sedgefield & District Citizens Advice Bureau is now offering a new free service to help people in the area to understand their finances. Trained Money Guides will give face to face information and clear guidance to people on mortgages, insurance, pensions, savings and budgeting, amongst other matters. Independent, impartial and completely confidential, the MoneyMadeClear service is a new addition to the work of the bureau.

Statistics released by Citizens Advice show that there has been a 20% increase in debt issues in the North East when comparing April– December 2007 to the same period in 2008, an indication that consumers need more support to stop them from falling into financial difficulties.

This service is designed to stop this figure from increasing in the future, by equipping consumers with the knowledge they need to avoid debt problems because of over commitment or limited savings and to empower people to plan for the future effectively.

Joan Johnson and Lisa Edwards, Money Guides from Sedgefield & District CAB said: "Many people have

questions they would like to ask about how to manage their money – this could be about savings, mortgages, insurance or budgeting. Up until now advice on these issues was all too often tied to the selling of products or too expensive for people to afford. Trained and approachable Money Guides in the CAB will be able to offer free and impartial guidance to people to help them take the next steps in managing their finances. It's easy to make a quick appointment – give us a call."

Appointments with a Money Guide are available Tuesday 9am – 4pm at the Spennymoor Office, 12 High Street and Thursday 9am – 4pm at the Newton Aycliffe Office, Beveridge Arcade Tel 01388 42017 for an appointment. Information is also available at www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk The service aims to give people the confidence they need so that they can take the next step in planning their future, understand their pension, or learn how to draw up a budget.

"The current economic situation means that many people are having to look carefully at how they spend their money. This service can provide a 'money MOT' for people, helping to make sure they won't fall into financial difficulties further down the line. It's about unravelling all the complicated jargon that can go with money matters, but with no sales pitch involved", continued Joan and Lisa
 For more information, please contact Debra Cochrane on 01388 420147

Council Caught Out With Bus Changes

Councillor Mike Dixon has checked into changes to Bus Service 16 and 19 and received a reply from Richard Startup Passenger Transport Manager.

"The changes are a result of recent re-tendering of bus services by Darlington Borough Council and both services are now operated by Scarlet Band with no changes to the previous timetable. It is disappointing that the Arriva drivers did not advise passengers when asked," said Richard.

"With regard to the diversion, I can confirm this is via The Dog and Gun Inn on the A68. We know that Arriva, who still operate service 1 through Heighington, have put an additional bus into their cycle to ensure that they keep to time and I expect that Scarlet Band will monitor their services closely, particularly over the first few days of their new operation to ensure that they are run reliably.

With regard to the Post 16 passes, Scarlet Band only offer day return tickets at the moment, but are happy to consider other types of ticket arrangements in due course. Arriva will offer refunds on the unused part of their termly tickets, which can be obtained through their office in Sunderland and these will be based on the dates they are returned to them.

The changes have not been initiated by ourselves and from Durham County Council's point of view, the timetables etc have not changed, this was simply a change of operator. Regrettably, we haven't included these changes on our website where we would usually post all changes to bus services in the County. Unfortunately, we also had not realised the impact of Post 16 tickets, which are no longer within our control, as they are bought direct by parents from the operator using our grant.

For changes we initiate, we have just established a new protocol for prior consultation on changes to bus services, which we are currently running in East Durham. So far this has provided very good notice to everyone in that area and is aimed at avoiding confusion".
 Richard Startup

NASC U15's Promoted!



After another successful campaign Newton Aycliffe Sports Club U15's have won promotion to the TJFA Division 1 for the 2009-2010 season.

This is a magnificent achievement and well deserved. The team played twenty matches from September through till May. Won 16, Drew 1 and Lost 3. They were only narrowly beaten to the title by Mount Pleasant and only by a solitary point.

For the team, 2009-2010 will be their last season and to end in the first division is a fitting tribute to the hard work put in by the players and coaches over the past couple of years.

If you are interested in being part of this successful squad in the 2009-2010 season, please contact Mick Burnham on 07736 740735 or mdb@sefor.org.uk



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Sat 16th May - "BULLET"

RIFFS Magazine review of their last visit: "The prognosis from tonight's performance is definitely a thumbs up. Passion, energy, excitement are what BULLET deliver and watching the crowd at the Turbinia go crazy for them, then it's obvious they are on the way up very quickly. Watch out for BULLET they might just have your name on them". Covers from Iron Maiden, Bon Jovi, Nirvana, Guns n Roses and much much more.
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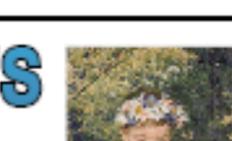
Sat 23rd May - "UNCLE GILBERT"

"I had a tremendous night watching this band play and now understand why they've been getting so much praise recently. Trust me, this band just earned themselves a promotion to the premier league"
 Col Smout (RIFFS Magazine, May 2007)

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www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 319700
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A0 (841x1189mm) =	£55.00	£40.00

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A&S Winchester	RRP £69.00	NOW £59.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £159.00	NOW £99.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £169.00	NOW £139.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £299.00	NOW £229.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £249.00
4'0" and 4'6" MATTRESSES		
A&S Candy	RRP £129.00	NOW £69.00
A&S Winchester	RRP £199.00	NOW £99.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £199.00	NOW £149.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £299.00	NOW £249.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £399.00	NOW £359.00
3'0" BED SET		
A&S Candy	RRP £69.00	NOW £59.00
A&S Winchester	RRP £99.00	NOW £94.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £159.00	NOW £149.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £279.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £399.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £449.00	NOW £359.00
4'0" and 4'6" BED SET		
A&S Candy	RRP £119.00	NOW £99.00
A&S Winchester	RRP £159.00	NOW £139.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £239.00	NOW £209.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £349.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £499.00	NOW £399.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £549.00	NOW £449.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £599.00	NOW £499.00

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