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# NEWTON NEWS

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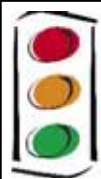
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Week Ending 29th May, 2009



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## FLYTIPPING AND DRAIN THEFT PROBLEM ON BUSINESS PARK



A spate of drain covers being stolen is alarming people on the Business Park who realise the thefts are being made under cover of darkness and at weekends.

There is also a problem over flytipping in the backyards of premises. One tenant in Northfield Way had a lorry load of waste dumped outside his premises causing problems and obstacles for delivery of goods to his warehouse.

Highway chiefs in County Durham are warning they will not hesitate to prosecute thieves who steal roadside drain covers which is a major and increasing problem throughout the country.

The drain covers are targeted by thieves as a way of making a paltry few pounds from

the scrap value but the gaping hole left at the kerbside is potentially lethal to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. Open drains also create a problem with vermin who thrive in dumped waste which in turn poses a health hazard.

Drain thefts started in 2007 and has seen over 1300 stolen. The cost of just making them safe using plastic grates stands at about £150,000. The cost of a full replacement can be about £1,000 per cover.

We need public help and if anyone sees anything suspicious being dumped, or people working at roadside gullies using vehicles that don't have Durham County Council on them, please call the Highways Action Line on 0191 370 6000.

## LETTER

### Thieves in the Night

Dear Sir,

In recent weeks alot of stuff has gone missing in our gardens someone has stolen my garden furniture.

In my sister's house across the road, someone stole an old washer and some marble in the middle of the night which she heard but was too scared to check to see who the person was.

They must have a van of some sort because what they stole was very heavy, so I'm writing in to say watch out and lock up on a night.

Worried at Horndale

## Teenager Breaks Course Record



The Woodham Golf Club Ladies record was broken on Sunday 17th May by 17 year old Stephanie Peareth with a fantastic round of 73 - level par for the course.

Her round bettered the previous record by two shots which has stood for 9 years. Her round consisted of 12 pars, 3 bogies and 3 birdies. Steph is no stranger to big honours as she is the current County Girls' Champion. She won the Scottish Under 16's Championship in 2007 and this year won the English Colleges Championship.

Remarkably she has only been playing for 4½ years. After this great score her handicap has now dropped to 5.

Steph's ambition is to secure a golf scholarship in America and her family, friends and fellow members at the club wish her well in her future career.

Ernie Wilson Golf Pro and Liaison Officer for Junior players

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# Aycliffe FC Trials for Under 18's Team This Weekend

Newly promoted Newton Aycliffe FC have launched a new youth team in a bid to help nurture the town's best young footballers.

The club, on the crest of a wave following their Wearside League title win a fortnight ago, are in the process of forming an Under-18s team to compete in the 2009-10 season, with the long-term ambition of creating a fully-fledged Youth Academy.

They're holding an open trial this Saturday May 30, from 10.15am at Aycliffe's Moore Lane Park, when Under-18s players (born between September 1991 and August 1993) are invited to impress the club's new youth team coaches.

The town's two youth football clubs, Newton Aycliffe Youth FC and the Sports Club are joining forces to help run the new Under-18s team, which will act as a direct feeder to Aycliffe's flourishing senior team, who are looking forward to Northern League football next season for the first time in Aycliffe's history.

The new U-18s team, who will compete in the Saturday Durham County Lomax Training Services U-18s League, will be run by joint-managers Gary Lowes and Paul Japs, who both boast a wealth of non-league football experience.

Paul (right) previously coached NAYFC and more recently the Sports Club, while Gary has bags of experience coaching with NAYFC, and the pair are relishing the prospect of



working together to create a competitive youth team 'feeder' for Aycliffe's senior team.

Paul said: "The new Under-18s team will provide young players with the chance to gain some valuable experience at a competitive youth team level, and hopefully a stepping stone to the senior team."

"Newton Aycliffe FC is a very forward-thinking club and this is just another part of the club's long-term development. Our young players will be offered excellent training and good facilities to enjoy their football."

Newton Aycliffe agreed to the formation of the new Under-18s team following a highly-productive meeting between the town's two youth clubs and Newton Aycliffe F.C.

Chairman Gary Farley said: "Youth football in Aycliffe has always ended at 16 and 17, and the town's best young players have in effect been at a loose end, with only pub football and Under-18's teams outside the

town being their only option.

"This is the first time the town's best young players will have the opportunity to play at a competitive youth level, while also providing us with an excellent opportunity to nurture our talent.

"It fits in perfectly with our long-term ambitions of creating a well-run, developing football club. It will not only mean we'll have a senior team the town can be proud of, but also a platform for our young players to enjoy their football and hopefully progress to the senior team."

The U-18s are also actively seeking sponsorship, and willing companies can contact Aycliffe via the club's official website.

Aycliffe's senior team were narrowly beaten in the Shipowners Cup Final at Moore Lane Park last Friday losing 1-0 to Teesside Athletic in front of a record crowd of 587. [www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk](http://www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk)

## MISTAKE IN LETTER

Dear Sir

My letter last week contained a significant and embarrassing error, which could confuse, mislead and even unduly worry some readers. In essence, my submission to you contained an obvious typo mistake, which you edited to refer to a 'loss of 20% personal allowance'. I intended to say just 'loss of personal allowance'.

Just to be clear, personal allowance is an absolute amount (not a percentage), which will be subject to a £100K income limit from April 2010, beyond which it will diminish then disappear altogether.

Apologies for any confusion or anxiety caused, especially to any readers earning above £100K! I hate incompetence, especially when it's my own, but at least I'm reassured that my mistake only requires a slice of humble pie, rather than repayment of thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money claimed for dodgy second home expenditure.

Readers should be made aware that letters may be edited. Mine was published almost verbatim, and I had no issues with the few edits, except for the one referred to above. The original typo was my own fault, and the editor can be forgiven for not being au fait with all aspects of income tax!

John Snowball

## FRIENDLY WARNING

Dear Sir,

Frank Haylett writes regarding treating children who are unwell and says 'keeping your child warm, ensuring he/she has plenty to drink and an appropriate dose of aspirin will soon cure almost anything your child has'.

I just wanted to let you know that Aspirin isn't generally recommended for children for under the age of 16 (or breast feeding mothers). I am by no means an expert but giving children Aspirin increases the chance of an illness known as Reye's Syndrome which is potentially fatal. I am quoting information given in the British National Formulary and I feel that this issue warrants a warning being given.

David Evans

## WHERE IS SUPPORT FOR THE POLICE?

Dear Sir,

At the beginning of May I attended the PACT meeting held by the Police at Burnhill Way Methodist Church. These meetings are held to enable the community, together with the Police and local councillors to raise all the issues affecting the town which both Police and councillors can tackle, including anti-social behaviour, crime, state of the area, etc.

I was very disappointed when I attended the May meeting by the very low turnout at the meeting from people in the West Ward area of the town.

Apart from myself, there were two other people (who both came to try to sort out the

same issue) and no councillors.

PCSO Amy Hutchinson gives her time and energy to this meeting and the issues raised and it is very disappointing that she gets so little response from the local community.

I do not believe that people in the area do not have issues and complaints that they would like dealing with. SO WHERE WERE YOU? And will you be at the next meeting to be held at 7pm on Tuesday 2nd June in the Burnhill Way Methodist Church? If you don't support these efforts by our local Police, then don't complain about the service you receive from them!

Rev Sheelah Stevens

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## PRIVILEGED HEIGHINGTON PATIENTS

Dear Sir,

Several people have asked me to reply to comments made by this anonymous Heighington Surgery Patient Action Group. WHO ARE THIS MYSTERY GROUP?

It is a difficult article to reply to as it has some good points and some very unfair criticism of the Doctors Surgery. They call the current system archaic, yet the person who wrote this letter obviously knows how the system works.

They will also know which

doctors are more popular and should allow for the extra time it takes to see each patient and the number of people who attend certain doctor's surgeries. If you go to the Bank at 8.45 and it does not open till 9 you have to wait. If it closes at 4.30 you know you have missed it if you arrive at 5pm.

People living in Newton Aycliffe who wish to see a doctor have to phone the Aycliffe surgery at 8am to make an appointment to see a doctor on that day and it may

be any doctor. To make an appointment with a specific doctor may take 2 days or more.

We at Heighington are in the privileged position of being able to see a doctor of your choice at the stated surgery time. You may have to wait - that's your privilege.

I have sat in the waiting room on many occasions and I have never heard one complaint, in fact it's a place where people have a good conversation. The only thing missing is a coffee machine, as you may be there for over an hour. The waiting room is small and I suppose there could be people standing for a while.

If someone, waited, then walked out he really must not have been in need of a doctor! On the point of having a purpose built surgery I would agree, but is the Action Group going to build it? Perhaps there is the need for a longer surgery early and late for working people.

The receptionists work most of the day putting up prescriptions, and the doctors when finished at Heighington resume their duties at Aycliffe.

John Malcolm Gowland

Ed: From the number of letters received it would appear most patients are happy with the current arrangements. This is the final letter we will print on the subject.

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ANONYMOUS LETTERS

Dear Sir,  
 Would you consider introducing a policy of not publishing anonymous letters, unless there are compelling reasons for doing so?  
 Two weeks ago you published a long letter from a so-called Heighington Patients' Action Group, to which no-one in the group was prepared to give their name. Such an action makes it difficult for others to challenge the comments directly with group members.  
 In contrast, all but one of the letters on the subject the following week were written by people who had sufficient courage of their convictions to identify themselves. If some-one feels strongly enough about a topic to write to you, surely they too should be expected to identify themselves likewise?  
 Richard Harvey  
 Heighington.  
*ED: Our policy is simple - if the reader feels they need anonymity we allow it providing we receive their name and address. Readers might feel fearful of being identified for reasons of their own and it would certainly prevent them from expressing their views. We are proud to provide an outlet for people to make their voice heard and it is one of the reasons Newton News is so popular.*

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 visit [www.doga68.com](http://www.doga68.com) and have a look around

**GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Audit Sub-Committee Meeting**  
 Notice is hereby given that:  
 A meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:  
**TUESDAY 9th JUNE 2009**  
 at 5.45pm  
 The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.  
 The Public entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings.  
 Agendas and Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting.  
 (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

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HONOURS FOR TOWN SQUASH CLUB



Aycliffe Squash gained further Club honours at the Durham and Cleveland Presentation Evening held at Norton Squash Club on 14 May.  
 Aycliffe junior Mathew Robinson was named joint Junior Player of the Year an award shared with Joe Dale from Redcar. This was well deserved recognition of a gifted young player who shows great promise, and who was nominated by Aycliffe Squash Club for the Player of the Year Award.  
 An Aycliffe juniors team also emerged as Under 15 Champions. The team members were Sarah Dowson, Helen Dowson, Mathew Robinson, Alex McFarlane, Alex Devlin and Adam Gardner. The club is proud of these talented young players who have regularly performed to a very high standard over recent years  
 The Endeavour Trophy



celebrates the achievements and commitment of volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes. This year it was awarded to Aycliffe's very own Margaret McFarlane who has been a much respected member of the Aycliffe Squash Committee for several years. Margaret has organised regional Junior Squash tournaments and is an avid supporter and champion of the Durham and Cleveland Junior Squash League. Everyone involved with Aycliffe Squash are pleased to have Margaret on the Committee and are proud of her well deserved recognition and achievement.  
 Aycliffe were awarded the prize as Small Club of the Year due to their continued growth in all areas especially ladies squash, their commitment to promoting junior squash and the support and encouragement given to new players. Jed Hodgson, Club Chairman and Neil Ross, Club Secretary collected the trophy. Jed commented "This is a proud occasion for all those involved with the development of Aycliffe Squash Club and reflects the hard work & dedication shown by the committee, volunteers, coaches & club members alike"  
 If you are interested in playing squash at any level/any age please contact Neil Ross 07919070507 who will be more than happy to answer any questions you have. Or you can visit the website [www.aycliffesquash.co.uk](http://www.aycliffesquash.co.uk)

DO M.P's USE THEIR SALARIES?

Dear Sir,  
 Is it within the rules for the taxpayer to pay our M.P.'s T.V. Licence, Food, Gas, Electricity Water and other bills they are

claiming for? What exactly are they spending their salaries on?  
 The ordinary working man is desperately trying to hang on

to his job, to pay their bills, mortgage and taxes out of his wage. Pensioners who have no savings struggle on a basic pension, single mothers find it hard to feed the kids and keep warm as they can't afford heating bills.  
 I will never trust a politician or vote again. Any leaflets delivered will go in the dustbin. M.P.'s only come round when they want your vote and are full of promises, but once the election is over they never appear again.  
 Our country is too placid and if the current row had happened elsewhere there would have been riots and effigy burning of M.P.'s. They should be thankful they live in Britain and it's time they did what their electors expect of them.  
 Mrs J. Bell

Public Meeting to Fight Vandalism & Anti-Social Behaviour  
 COSTLY PROBLEM MUST BE TACKLED

Great Aycliffe Residents' Association is calling a Public Meeting on Thursday 25th June at 7.30 pm in St. Mary's Church to discuss the growing problem surrounding vandalism, under-age drinking and anti-social behaviour.  
 Some of the behaviour is drink or drug related and the cost to the council taxpayer is mounting. It is felt that if this problem is not nipped in the bud it may develop into something really serious and get out of control.  
 The Association has invited a panel of people who can influence the situation, to join the debate and hopefully help come up with a strategy to combat the nuisance.  
 They are County Council Cabinet Member Counc. Lucy Hovvels, D.C.C. Community Safety Officer Steve Arkley, Police Superintendent Hall, Town Council Leader Bob Fleming, M.P. Phil Wilson and Darryn Hook Senior Leader at the Youth Centre. Syd Howarth from the Residents Association, who will act as Chairman, invites members of the public to attend and contribute to the discussion, bringing details of the problems they have

experienced and to come up with suggestions on how to tackle them.  
 "It is clear the subject is worrying a lot of townspeople and this meeting will give residents an opportunity to air their views" said Syd.

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**70s NIGHT**  
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 Tickets £4.50 each



## SAINSBURY'S STAFF CELEBRATE THE COMPANY'S 140th YEAR



This year is Sainsbury's 140th birthday, and on Friday 25th May as part of their celebrations the shop at Cobblers Hall invited the Town Mayor, Mary Dalton and her Consort Reg to cut the birthday cake to kickstart the party. Staff were in party clothes and fancy dress selling tickets for the tombola with proceeds going to the Mayor's Charity.

As part of the 140th birthday Sainsbury's are allowing each of their stores to support a local charity. Customers can nominate a charity and place their choice in a ballot box for the staff to select a winner. The result will be announced on the 21st June and the lucky winner will receive support from Sainsbury's for the next 12 months.

## NEW EXPENSES RULES FOR MEPs'

With the imminence of the European Parliament elections on 4 June, and the recent news on expenses of Westminster MPs, attention is now being given to MEPs' expenses.

Following a long campaign, a common salary for all MEPs was finally agreed on, by all EU governments and by the European Parliament, to start immediately following this year's election. Henceforward MEPs will be paid a common salary of €7,665 a month (ca. €2,000) before tax.

Several common errors need to be corrected:

- The salary is expressed in euro, not in pounds and when agreed was approximately the same as the current UK MPs salary. It has apparently risen recently only because of the decline of the pound against the euro. If in future the euro depreciates against the pound, the salary in pounds will reduce.

- The salary will be taxed at EU rates, which rise to 45% at the margin, somewhat higher than current UK rates. Moreover, the British Government has decided that UK MEPs should pay the same tax as UK taxpayers, and will levy any additional tax required to bring them up to that level.

- In parallel with the introduction of the common salary, the travel expenses regime has been reformed, and as from July 2009 MEPs' travel expenses will be reimbursed on the basis of receipts.

- The European Parliament has banned the practice, common in the House of Commons, of employing relatives as

assistants. Family members already employed by MEPs will be able to continue until 2014, but no new contracts for relatives will be allowed from July 2009.

- Assistants in future will be employed as temporary officials of the institution, and the MEP will choose the person but will have no financial relationship with them.

- MEPs do not benefit from a Second Home allowance or "John Lewis list". Instead they receive a per diem allowance, currently €298, which is intended to cover costs of accommodation, meals and local transport while in Brussels or Strasbourg.

- MEPs receive a flat-rate allowance of €4200 per month to cover the cost of running an office in their constituency, including postage, stationery, telephones, computers, subscriptions, heat and light, and travel within the constituency and the Member State, roughly on a par with the allowances for MPs. Receipts are not required.

- MEPs do not receive the following other Westminster allowances: travel for the family to the place of work; free trips to parliaments in other European Member States.

- Pension fund: this is now closed to further members, and will gradually phase out as existing members pass away. Steps have been taken to avoid any need for additional funding.

- Transitional allowances are much the same as for Westminster MPs or if anything a little less generous.

## LOCAL ANIMAL PHYSIOTHERAPIST LECTURES IN PORTUGAL

Rebecca Heald never gets bored with her working week, with physiotherapy for people, horses and dogs! As a lifelong animal lover, she qualified as a Chartered Veterinary Physiotherapist in 2005 having worked for the NHS in Darlington since 2002. She now treats a variety of animals in the Northeast and North Yorkshire.

Rebecca recently returned from Portugal where she was invited by a University to talk at an international conference for Physiotherapists. She talked about the qualifications required to become a Veterinary Physiotherapist, which takes many years as you have to train and work as a human physiotherapist first.

She had to learn about the rehabilitation and physiotherapy treatment of dogs after various injuries, operations and conditions such as arthritis. This also included the treatment of horses for back pain, poor performance and injuries.

Dogs are very similar to people to treat as they commonly suffer from the same conditions such as arthritis, ligament injuries, broken bones and road traffic accidents. "This was a new area of work for most people at the conference, but great interest was shown in this challenging but very rewarding career" said Rebecca.

Rebecca works closely with a number of Veterinary practices, and canine hydrotherapy pools to ensure pets return to pain free, fully functional, fit and



healthy lives. Animals need specific treatment to help build up muscles, use a limb properly after injury or treat stiffness and reduced ability in order to live a full and active life.

As part of a physiotherapy session for an animal, Rebecca spends time educating owners to help their pet by teaching techniques and exercises they can do at home, all specific to the dog's condition.

Rebecca enjoys talking about her work and has been involved

in teaching Veterinary nurses, lecturing to students on animal care and equine courses and running courses for dog and horse owners. She has even been involved with advising a vet and the owners of a dog in India, who had a spine injury. Rebecca is based near Newton Aycliffe and is a fully insured Member of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists. For more information see [www.healdvetphysio.com](http://www.healdvetphysio.com), or contact Rebecca on 07734 958335

## Ladies Learn Golf for £2 a Session

Get fit, get active, get golfing! Looking for a different and exciting way to exercise and meet new people? A new series of golf sessions are about to be launched exclusively for ladies wishing to undertake a different sport. A round of golf is great exercise and provides quality time to socialise with friends and family.

The sessions are being introduced by Durham County Council and are aimed primarily at young women aged between 16 and 25, as part of the Young Women's Sport and Active Recreation Programme.

The sessions will commence on Monday 8 June at Oak Leaf Leisure Complex, Newton Aycliffe, between 6.00pm and 7.00pm, and will run over a period of 10 weeks. The sessions are aimed at beginner level, however, participants of all abilities are welcome to attend. The aim of sessions will be to provide a friendly golf competition at the end of the 10 week programme.

Each session is priced at £2.00 and all equipment is provided. While the programme is specifically aimed at the 16 to 25 age group, ladies outside of this age range are invited to contact Marie Ramsey (contact details below) for more information on the classes available. All sessions must be booked in advance as places are limited.

For further information about this and other activities within the Young Women's programme, or to book a place on the Golf sessions, please contact Marie Ramsey (Young Women's Coordinator, Durham County Council) on 01388 816166 ext 4512. Appropriate footwear must be worn.

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



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## Neville Community Centre

Trip to Crook Hall and Gardens - a delightful gem in the heart of Durham City. Coach and admission is £10. Light lunch and cream teas served - you will be pleasantly surprised.

Senior Citizens Forum, Monday 1st June at 1.30p.m. £2 inc Tea and cake. To book ring 313924.

Meccano Exhibition Saturday 6th June 11am - 4pm. Admission £1, children free. Refreshments available.

Model Railway Exhibition, Saturday 13th June, 10am - 4pm. Admission £2 children free.

Table Top Sale at the Youth Centre on Saturday 27th June, 10am-1pm. Tables £6 to sell your unwanted goods. Ring 313 924.

Male Voice Choir Concert Saturday 20th June, 3p.m.. Admission £3, children free. Book on 313924.

### Women's Advice Circle

*Positive Choices*

**Are you a woman who wants to gain knowledge and build your confidence to make positive changes in your life?**

**SODApus Support Group** is holding an information drop in to be held every **Monday Morning 9.30-11.30am**

**11 Silverdale Place, Newton Aycliffe**  
(located next door to the Women's Centre - except Bank holidays)  
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Housing - Building new Friendships  
Self Esteem and Confidence Building  
Local Support Groups - and many more

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**For further info call 07767 640950 (9-5pm)**

## 20 Years of Youthy Football



The Youthy Football Club Management Team



The First Youthy Football Team - Where are they now?

2009 sees the 20th year of Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre AFC. The club was founded in 1989 as Newton Aycliffe Youth by Eddie Turner & Brian Rose. They discovered at the time there was no junior football in Newton Aycliffe, so rather than take their sons off the town for a game of football they formed their own team of under 13's players playing & training at the old Avenue School. That first season saw them in the Bishop Auckland Northern Echo League.

They won the league and all trophies bar one that was on offer. Club chairman Joe Blackett had two boys in that first side & decided to get involved as the club grew, he recalls the successes of the club & of individuals over the last twenty years starting with that first season. In 1991 the club represented South West Durham in the area finals of the Reebok 5's street football tournament after being crowned local champions in a tournament which was held in the Darlington Town hall car parks.

In seasons 1994-95 & 95-96 they were the first club to be voted TJFA club of the year in consecutive seasons. In 2004 the club was voted Durham FA Charter Standard development club of the year & representing Durham FA went on to win the Northern Regional award for Charter Standard development clubs also in the 2004. Still with the Charter Standard awards on the individual front secretary & head coach Bernie Borsberry was awarded Durham FA coach of the year in 2004. In 2005 chairman Joe Blackett was awarded administrator of the year.

On the field of play the club has had numerous successes both on the domestic front & at national competitions with various age groups & has seen a lot of individuals set off on the long road to becoming a professional footballer. Sadly the majority of them don't make it but two lads that started with the Youthy & are playing as professionals are Ross Turnbull with Middlesbrough & Simon Ramsden with Rochdale while ex professionals Danny Mellanby with Darlington & Darren Craddock with Hartlepool both started their football with the Youthy.

Another individual's success story was in 2006 when Dave Swindells was chosen to play in the Durham County Youth Club Association under 16's team. From that team he achieved the greatest honour any player could hope for & captained the England Youth Clubs Associations side. Even now in the 20th year we have had another successful season with the under 8's, under 11's & under 12's teams all being crowned champions of their respective divisions. Out of this seasons under 16's team three lads played for Durham County Youth Clubs Association, these were James Oliver, Jonathan Stokell & Adam Robinson with Adam emulating, Dave Swindells & representing his country with the England Youth Clubs Association team.

Over the twenty years Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre AFC has been run by a group of dedicated volunteers and committed parents & players. The chairman Joe Blackett would like to thank all those past and present players & people involved in running the club & long may it continue.

From that initial season the club has grown to what it is today. The club now provides a development section for 5-7 year olds, they have six small sided teams, five eleven a side boys teams, one under 15's girls team and an adult disability team.

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre is a Charter Standard Development Club dedicated to providing football to both boys & girls in a safe environment all coaches are to at least FA level one coaching badge & are trained in child protection issues, emergency first aid & are CRB checked. Anyone interested in wanting to play football for Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre AFC can contact Berni on 07939 045242 or Joe on 07983 390743 or visit www.naycafc.co.uk

## EUROVISION SONG SPURS AYCLIFFE ATHLETES

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust Yorkshire 10k race was set in the beautiful grounds of Newby Hall. BBC Radio York helped create a great atmosphere at the start. The sound of them playing Jade's Eurovision song "My Time" must have stayed on the minds of the Newton Aycliffe runners because they all ran excellent times.

Peter Milburn finished 6th overall in a fast time for the course which was mainly on grass of 39:43. Sue Milburn was the fastest lady in her category with her time of 46:90 followed closely by John Edmondson in 46:35.

Perhaps the lyrics to the chorus of Andrew Lloyd-Weber's song could make a good runner's anthem:

*"It's my time, it's my time, My moment, I'm not gonna let go of it, My time, it's my time, And I'll stand proud. There's nothing I'm afraid of, I'll show you what I'm made of, Show you that it's my time now."*

The Pier to Pier race from South Shields to Sunderland attracted a record entry this year with 980 finishers. 2nd in her category was Julia Atkinson-Tait in a time of 49:41. Other club runners were Martin Randall (49:48), Janette Raper (53:37), Janet McRae (57:11), Chris Forster (58:37), David Mackenzie (60:13), Ray Todd (60:44) and David McDonald (64:02).

Richard Harvey went up to the first NE Vets League meeting at Jarrow. Richard didn't know what to expect as he hadn't raced for 9 months so was

pleasantly surprised to win the over 65 1500m race.

John Edmondson travelled further away to race in the Buxton half marathon. Bright sunshine and a total climb of over 1500 feet conspired to make this his slowest ever 13.1 mile race in 1h 55m.

Glorious sunshine also greeted the five NAAC Runners at the Melmerby 10k. The seniors who competed were Richard Campbell (40:20), George Reid (41:11), John Young (48:58) and David Mackenzie (49:12).

## CARE HOME COFFEE MORNING

On Saturday 6th June we are holding a Coffee Morning / Book Sale at Rose Lodge Care Home from 10.30am.

This will be combined with an Open Day, giving you the opportunity to come and have a look around the Home and meet the new manager Elaine Henman and the Staff.

Whilst you have a cup of coffee you can browse through our large selection of books and grab a bargain.

Proceeds from the day are going towards the Action on Elder Abuse Charity which is holding a World Abuse Awareness Day on June 15th. All money raised on the day will be matched pound for pound by Southern Cross.

We look forward to seeing you as we raise funds for this cause.

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# Greener Showers from Roman



Local shower designer and manufacturer, Roman Ltd based at Newton Aycliffe, has achieved the internationally recognised Environmental Management Award ISO 14001. This independent assessment was conducted by the British Accreditation Bureau a leading Certification Body and demonstrates Roman's commitment to environmental awareness and sustainability.

After a series of audits over the last 12 months, Roman was awarded the ISO 14001 certificate of registration on the 15th April. The official certificate presentation took place on the 7th May at the North East based factory where the team directly involved were presented with the ISO 14001 certificate by David McLean a BSI Management Representative. The presentation was attended

by Roman's Managing Director; David Osborne, Operations Director; John Wright and Facilities & Environmental Officer; Ian Simpson.

ISO 14001 was first introduced in 1996 as a British Standard and requires Roman to have an environmental policy and action plan to manage their impact on their environment.

It demonstrates that Roman is committed to continuous improvement and ensures that this progress made by Roman is maintained, as audits are carried out on an annual basis. This also reinforces Roman's manufacturing excellence shown by the ISO 9001 Quality Management System.

David Osborne, Managing Director of Roman comments; "We are particularly pleased to have achieved the ISO14001 certification as it underlines our commitment to our customers concerns and our understanding

of sustainability in every sense. There are very few shower manufacturers that hold this type of certification and we hope that we continue to set new standards for the showering industry by encouraging others to monitor their impact on the environment."

## WILLIAMFIELD MEETING

**Williamfield Residents Association Wednesday 3rd June at 6pm. Venue Lindisfarne Care Home Silverdale Place. Come and support your local Residents Association - everyone welcome. These meetings are held the first Wednesday in every month.**

# LET'S ALL TAKE PRIDE IN OUR TOWN

Dear Sir,  
I noted in your paper recently a reference to the Town Council providing a 'Town Pride Team', although I did not read what these specific duties would be, presumably attempting to keep the town tidy would be the main one.

There would be less need for the Council to provide such a team if the people of Newton Aycliffe showed some pride in the town generally and in particular in their immediate surroundings. I walk to work each day and pass litter, weeds/plants growing along boundary fences and walls, and all manner of other 'slovenly

habits'.

If someone has dropped litter and has not picked it up there and then, they are hardly likely to come back hours or days later to pick it up. If it's in my garden, at my door, or along my fence I pick it up. When gardening I not only do the inside of my property boundary, but the outside as well - it only takes a few more minutes!

I can understand that the TPT could 'tidy' areas where perhaps Senior Citizens or disabled people live, who may be unable to do this for themselves, and who may not have helpful family, friends or neighbours, but perhaps this team should be assisted by some of our young people with nothing better to do than destroy and defile areas set aside, at great cost to us all through our Council Tax, for children to play.

I came to this town as a child in the late 1950's when most houses were Council owned - in the era of the notorious MISS HAMILTON, who, among other things would not agree to a house exchange or someone moving out unless house and garden were in a clean and tidy condition, and no-one would have dreamed of arguing with her!

There may well be more homes privately owned, but personal pride in owning the most expensive item of your entire life certainly has not followed through!

Please .... take a look around the outside of your home, take a carrier bag with you, and pick/tidy up as you go. The Town will look a much better place - and, believe it or not, you will feel a much better person!

**The Midweek Moaner**  
(Name & Address supplied)

## Market Day Parking Was Agreed

Dear Sir,  
Reference letter on Market Traders parking. The traders took over the market from SBC in 2006 and we agreed plans for our stalls and also where we would park our vans.

Does the letter writer realise the trader has to cart all his stock to and from his stall on Market Day and how hard this work is? It is essential our vans are as near as possible and it is not that we are bad mannered or inconsiderate. We need to replenish stock and it is necessary for vans to be in a secure place as they have been attacked by thieves.

There are lots of parking spaces for customers and I hope you agree one day a week for market traders is not a lot to ask.

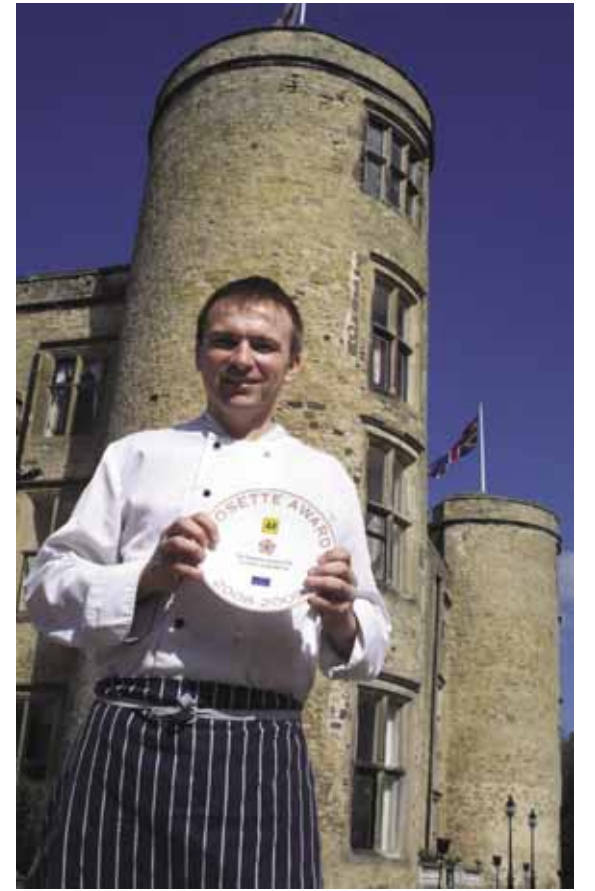
Helen Cox  
Market Secretary

# STUDENTS ENJOY A MUDDY GOOD TIME



As part of their course, 13 Uniformed Service students levels 2 and 3 at Bishop Auckland College, together with their lecturers Peter Carden and Barry Gibson spent a week at the Commando Training Centre at Lympstone, Devon finding out what it is like to train as a Royal Marine. During the intensive week the group ran the assault course, swam and took part in field survival skills. They also got the opportunity to meet Royal Marine recruits, learn about Royal Marine history and take part in sporting activities. Barry said "The group handled Royal Marine training very well, with some members of the group excelling the standards set. We all found it a hard but thoroughly enjoyable week and we would like to thank the Training Centre. The opportunity to have this experience will hopefully be a regular feature in the College's Uniformed Services calendar as we know it has helped our students gain the necessary practical and team building skills."

# FROM DISH WASHER TO HEAD CHEF



Head Chef Steven Myers looking very proud with the AA Rosette Plate. Steven who joined Best Western Walworth Castle in 1989 began his working career at the hotel washing the dishes while training at Darlington College for his current role as Head Chef. Steven Said "I am very proud that we have been given this award which is the icing on the cake for me. I source the best, fresh local produce from the Northeast which is cooked to perfection". Some of my local suppliers include Acorn Dairy and W&W Peeled Potatoes at Newton Aycliffe.

## CLIMATE OFFICER'S NATIONAL AWARD

Climate change officer Andy Stephenson has scooped a national award for his work. Andy, who has worked for Durham County Council for ten months, was made North East CAN Officer of the Year at the Carbon Action Network (CAN) conference in Leeds.

A climate change partnership officer, Andy chairs the North East Domestic Energy Forum and has worked with regional colleagues to improve information flow both in the region and externally.

He has negotiated to secure the most advantageous schemes and projects for the region and has engaged new partners in fuel poverty and climate change.

Andy also chairs a fuel poverty group set up for the regional health and well being strategy. "Receiving this award was a tremendous endorsement of the work that has been done in reducing carbon emissions in housing across County

Durham and the North East and shows that the work we are doing makes a real difference," said Andy.

CAN was previously known as the UK Home Energy Conservation Association. The conference on the cost and consequences of climate change was the first under its new identity.

## AYCLIFFE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon

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## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Wednesday 3rd June 2009**  
Policy & Resources Committee - 7.15pm

**Wednesday 10th June 2009**  
Full Council - 7.15pm

### QUESTION TIME

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



# LOCAL ARTIST EXHIBITS WORK



A new art exhibition has gone on display at the PACE shop and gallery in Newton Aycliffe. Local artist Hazel Robinson has had many exhibitions throughout the region. Her latest works are influenced by her study of the Far East. 'Silk Works' draws on traditional methods of Chinese and Japanese techniques of silk making and painting. Producing fabrics from the silk worm, through to the dyes and painting techniques from Japan, the art form dates back to the 15th century. A former primary school teacher at Vane Road School, in Newton Aycliffe, Hazel has been painting for most of her life. For the past ten years she has been studying oriental art

and culture from the Far East. The influence of the orient has prompted Hazel to make her dream trip and finally visit Japan, which she plans to do in 2010. The oriental paintings feature people, nature and landscapes, with a kaleidoscope of colours and shades. The exhibition is on display from the 25th May until the 19th June. The PACE shop and gallery in the Thames Centre, Newton Aycliffe, is keen to support local artist and display their work. Exhibitions are held throughout the year and the gallery is currently looking for artist to hold exhibitions. For further information or to book an exhibition, please contact 01325 314356.

# P.A.C.T. MEETING

**Police and Communities Together**  
Durham Constabulary are dedicated to making your neighbourhood safer. If you have any issues affecting your quality of life and want to discuss it with your local Neighbourhood Policing Team then get involved with your local PACT meeting. This is an informal discussion with the Police and Local Partners to resolve the issues where you live. The next PACT meeting for the Greenfield/Byerley Park and Horndale area is Wednesday 7pm, 3rd June at the Evangelical Church Ladybower off Meadowfield Way.

# WERE YOU A BROWNIE?

Do you remember the fun you had and the challenges you undertook? Have you a daughter or a granddaughter aged 7 - 9 years? Then why not bring her along to the 1st Newton Aycliffe Brownies on Wednesdays at 5pm at Neville Parade Methodist Church. 2010 is Girlguiding UK's centenary. Celebrations begin in September 2009. There are a number of events already planned so join now and be part of the action! For further information Tel: 313397

# BOXING LEGENDS VISIT SHILDON



Shildon Amateur Boxing Club welcomed two boxing legends to Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre on Friday 22 May 2009. Super-Middleweight World Champion boxers, "The Celtic Warrior" Steve Collins and "The Dark Destroyer" Nigel Benn, attended a boxing dinner to support Shildon Amateur Boxing Club. Proceeds from the event will help Shildon ABC with the running of the club and the purchasing of much needed equipment. Shildon ABC has an excellent reputation as one of the most successful boxing clubs in the north east, training

young individuals from varying backgrounds and turning them into motivated, self respecting sportsmen and women who are proud to be part of the club. Benn and Collins are famed for their memorable encounters with Chris Eubank in the late 1980s and 1990s. The boxing dinner at Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre gave fans young and old the opportunity able to meet their idols and hear about some of their experiences in the world of boxing, throughout their lives and careers. An auction for boxing memorabilia was held to help raise funds for Shildon ABC. Benn and Collins explained their reasons for supporting the event in Shildon and stressed the importance of amateur boxing to young people. Nigel Benn said, "Boxing can be so important to young people - it keeps you off the street and you can channel your energy and aggression in the ring. It creates opportunities for people and I know it really helped me when I was young and stopped me from going the down the wrong path. I wouldn't be where I am today without it." Steve Collins commented, "If you can get young people in the gym and out of trouble it is a great thing, boxing is a great leveller. It really can be a sport for everyone and can combat negative things in people's lives."

# Prosecute Bad M.P.'s

Dear Sir,  
I read with great interest Arun Chandran's letter. Does he mean that our MP by renting a flat may be breaking the rules as it is for overnight stays only? Does he travel every day and stop overnight? If M.P.'s shared with someone it would save Tax Payer's money. The Government have cut the number of Councillors to save money. The Commons should also be cut by 50%. How many MP's do you see in the House of Commons on T.V.? The only reason they apologised over the expenses row is because the Media exposed them! The paper tissue factories will make a fortune from sales and we should have no water shortage this year, but we would need to filter the salt from their tears. I was surprised to hear one MP said they are not above the Law as they make the Laws. Let them be prosecuted under the Law! Alan Warburton Independent Councillor.

# QUESTIONS ON S.B.H.

**APPOINTMENT OF STAFF**  
Sedgefield Borough Council facilitated the appointment of the Chief executive and Directors but the actual appointment was made by a panel from the Board of Sedgefield Borough Homes. Sedgefield Borough Homes engaged recruitment Consultants who undertook national adverts for the senior posts.  
**ACCOUNTABILITY**  
Sedgefield Borough Homes is accountable to the board and to the Tenant Services Authority.  
**BOARD MEMBERS**  
Any Council member could apply and all members were invited to do so. The four posts were over subscribed and an independent panel with external consultants considered the applications. None were made on a political party basis.  
**PAYMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS**  
Although the Housing Corporation allows payment, the Board of Sedgefield Borough Homes has determined that its members would not be paid and they have been recruited to serve on a voluntary basis. Board members are entitled to claim out of pocket expenses when incurred in carrying out Sedgefield Borough Homes' business.  
**HOW BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE CHOSEN IN FUTURE.**  
Durham County Council Board Members will continue to be nominated by the Council and hold office for a maximum three year period. They would then be eligible for nomination by the Council again. Independent and Tenant Board Members would serve for a maximum term of three years before retiring in rotation, and may choose to offer themselves up for reappointment. Tenant Board Members would be elected by tenants and details of the process will be widely advertised. New independent Board members would be chosen for their skills and recommended for election at the AGM of Sedgefield Borough Homes. This would provide continuity and a process for gradual renewal of the Board. Independent Board members would be elected by all the members of Sedgefield Borough Homes

# £900 FOR COUGARS

After watching the performance of the Cougar Cheerleaders at Greenfield School I was so overwhelmed I decided to use money from my Fundrasing Stall to help the group and have donated £900. These young people have a fantastic talent and they poured everything they had into the Show I watched. It is good to see how the children thrive and how much they love what they do - they are definitely something for which the town can take great pride. Special thanks to Head Coach Chele Connell whose passion for her boys and girls is much to be admired. Thanks also to the supporters of Cougars who have brought together an exceptional group of young Newtonians. Honest John

# WIN FOR AMANDA



Aycliffe's Amanda Whitaker completed a perfect weekend at Oulton Park by taking a win from Pole Position in the URS Classic Formula Ford 1600cc Championship. She was driving her Elden Mk8 - a 1971 car that is categorised as a "Class B" car - but that didn't deter her from qualifying on the outright Pole Position against the Class A cars that are up to 10 years newer than hers. In a dramatic last gasp effort, she posted a 1.35.9 lap on her final lap of qualifying and jumped to the front row of the grid. In the race, she made a clean getaway to lead into the first lap ahead of Colin Williams' PRS RH01 car. Williams hounded her for the first few laps and dived past to take the lead into the Island Hairpin - a weak area for Amanda as she was again struggling with brake issues. She fought back immediately out of the fast Druids corner and dived back past Williams to take the lead once again at Lodge. Once back in the lead, she

had to defend rigorously into the hairpin and attack into the Knickerbrook chicane - the 2 cars often arriving at the corners side by side. However, she gradually found a good rhythm to stay ahead of Williams & built up enough of a gap in the quick sections to hold him at bay. Williams then started to come under increased pressure from Joe Walton in his Crossle 25F. Once into the backmarkers, Amanda had built up enough of a lead and she took the flag with over a 3 second gap from Walton who nipped past Williams on the final lap. "That was hard work!" said Amanda "We are still trying to solve the problem with the rear locking up - so I had to brake very early for the tight corners and defend for most of the race. I'm pleased to take the win at my favourite circuit and look forward to next weekend's HSCC Historic Formula Ford Championship race at Snetterton - which is the main championship I'm competing in this year".

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## Home Makeover Marks Perfect Birthday Gift



Pensioner Mary Thorpe has toasted her birthday in style as the first of thousands of Sedgfield Borough Homes (SBH) tenants to benefit from a multi-million pound housing improvement programme.

Mary and husband Tom, had major improvements carried out on their adapted bungalow by their new landlord, which now owns and manages 8,500 former Council houses.

Their property has had new central heating, a fireplace and new internal and external doors fitted by SBH partners Mears Ltd, who are delivering part of SBH's £16 million improvement programme this year.

Mary, aged 73 this month, has lived in the area since 1977 and moved into her bungalow two years ago after experiencing mobility problems that left her struggling to use the stairs in her old home. Husband Tom, 77, still works as a caretaker at a local community centre.

To mark the completion of the work, they were visited at home by Colin Steel and Billy Waters from SBH and Mary was presented with a birthday bouquet of flowers.

She said: "We've always been happy living in our home, but I can't believe the difference the improvements have made."

"The workmen barely spent any time in the bungalow, only a few days at most, and they dealt with any questions we had. They were first class. Our home is greatly improved thanks to these works and we're delighted with what they have done. It's great birthday present to have had everything completed on time."

Mary and Tom's home is one of 3,700 in the Spennymoor, Ferryhill, Sedgfield, Shildon and Newton Aycliffe areas that will benefit from improvements this year. These improvements will include new kitchens, bathrooms, central heating, rewiring and doors.

The majority of homes are benefiting from a wide range of improvements including electrical rewiring, new central heating systems, new kitchens and bathrooms.

Colin Steel, Chief Executive at SBH said: "We have made it one of our main promises to provide quality housing to tenants like Mary and Tom, and it's great to see that they are happy with the work that's been carried out."

## ACCESS TO COUNTY STRONGROOM

Families in County Durham are to have a rare opportunity to go behind the scenes in archive strongrooms in the first ever National Family Week soon. (May 25-31)

Durham County Record Office, at County Hall, Durham, is throwing open its strongroom doors on Friday, May 29 for families to see where local historical documents are kept. The strongroom tours are part of a Durham County Council Archives for Families event running from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

The free event will help people learn about local and family history, find out how to use church registers to trace a

family tree, write with quill pens and ink, and make seals similar to those found on medieval documents.

There will also be a chance to listen to oral history records made by soldiers who served with the Durham Light Infantry describing their wartime experiences.

The activities are suitable for children aged over five, but all children should be supervised by a parent or carer at all times.

Families can drop in to the event as booking is not necessary.

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businesses and national brands alike, maximising the return on their marketing spend, making their communication more engaging, more memorable and most important in the sales environment, more profitable. Colin says "If your marketing is spending £100's on networking or £1000's on Marketing campaigns, now is the best time to get the best return on investment. Stop spending valuable time and money generating a target market to just fire bullet points at it expecting to get results.". Many of us at some time have been on the receiving end of an uninspiring presentation, so if you want to avoid your own presentations falling into

that category this seminar is a must. You will learn: Why most people don't remember most of your presentation and how to make sure they remember what is important How to make your presentations more engaging and personable Easy tips to avoid 'Death by PowerPoint' Following his 30min presentation, should you choose, Colin will work interactively with attendees on their own PowerPoint presentations. To Register: please contact 07947 409838 or email info@sdbn.org.uk (Capacity for 50 only)

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During the summer you don't have to be cooped up indoors to benefit from exercise. Some of the best forms of aerobic exercise are free, outdoor, eco-friendly and fun! The County Durham Primary Care Trust in partnership with Durham County Council has developed opportunities for you to try cycling in your local area. The cycling sessions will bring people together to exercise in the open air, enjoy beautiful scenery and practice their cycling skills. The weekly cycling sessions are suitable for all ages and abilities and are led by qualified cycle marshals. Participants don't need to bring their own bikes as bikes and helmets are provided by Get Active. Sessions are free to participants. The weekly cycling tour is free to join in and starts at Jubilee Park, Spennymoor 1.00pm to 2.30pm every Thursday. The tour allows cyclists to enjoy beautiful scenery along the Auckland Way. For further information please contact Steven Hart on 0191 5692847.

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# 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 or the Secretary on 07518 035320.

## NSPCC URGES PEOPLE TO ACT ON CONCERNS OVER A CHILD

The NSPCC is calling on all adults in the North East to take action if they have any concerns about the welfare of a child. Following recent high profile child protection cases, such as those involving Baby Peter and the rape of a two year old girl, the child protection charity is calling on all adults to be alert for signs of abuse and to take action, if they have any worries that a child may be suffering.

Last year over 1,940 adults from across the North East (Newcastle, Tyne and Wear, Durham, Northumberland and Cleveland) called the NSPCC’s helpline because they were concerned about a child. Callers spoke to advisors about a range of concerns including: physical and sexual abuse, neglect, family relationships and mental health.

In many cases the advisor provided support and guidance to the caller, but in many other cases the calls were so serious that they had to be referred to the police or children’s services. In a third of all referrals made across the UK by the NSPCC helpline, the individuals concerned were previously unknown to the authorities.

John Cameron, head of the NSPCC helpline, said: “High profile child protection cases like those of Baby Peter and the rape of a two year old girl result in widespread public feelings of concern and frustration. But there is something individual adults can do. By being the eyes, ears and voice of a helpless child, neighbours, families and friends can prevent or stop that child suffering. “A child may not be able to call the police, children’s services or our helpline. An adult can. That’s why adults, who may be worried a child is being abused, must know who to turn to in order to access that help and advice.

“Some people worry they have got the signs wrong, or that by reporting their concerns they will make things worse for the child and their family. Our helpline advisors are trained child protection professionals who are here to assess the concerns people describe to us and can take appropriate action on their behalf. “Sometimes they’ll provide advice and guidance, at other times they will need to make a referral. Every call is different, but all the advice we give and, where necessary, every action we take is in the best interests of the child concerned. A critical part of our role is to prevent abuse before it happens.”

Sandy, who called the NSPCC helpline after being worried about a neighbours’ children, said: “I would say to people who might be concerned about a child to call the NSPCC Helpline or the police as soon as you are concerned. Even if you don’t have all the information you think you may need, you must trust your senses if you think something is wrong. “I know the police did visit the family, but of course I won’t know what will happen from here. I know I did the right thing. I do live next door and I don’t want bad feelings or repercussions, I did it for the sake of the children. If I had any more concerns about a child I would call earlier now because I am more confident about what to do and I know that calling is definitely the right thing to do.”

Over the next three years the NSPCC plans to grow the Helpline and its ChildLine service - the UK’s free, 24-hour helpline for children in danger or distress - so that it can protect more children, through the Child’s Voice Appeal.

If you have any concerns about a child’s welfare you can ring the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk. For further information, or to donate to the Child’s Voice Appeal visit [www.childsvoiceappeal.org.uk](http://www.childsvoiceappeal.org.uk)

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# End Worst Childhood Addiction

INTERNATIONAL experts on tobacco are coming together to make smoking history for more children in the North East. Around 150 health professionals and campaigners committed to ending childhood tobacco addiction shared their expertise at the historic one-day health summit in Newcastle on Tuesday, April 28. New measures to put cigarettes out of sight in shops are being considered in the House of Lords within the draft Health Bill on the same day. Health experts agree these could bring massive benefits for around 340,000 children who try their first cigarette each year – with many becoming lifelong addicts.

“Fresh” hosted the event for healthcare staff, midwives, trading standards, SureStart, the fire brigade and many others involved in tobacco, from helping smokers to quit to under age sales and education projects in schools. There was also be input from ASH (Action on Smoking and Health), Cancer Research UK, Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs, the Department of Health and many local partners.

Professor Gerard Hastings, founder of The Centre for Tobacco Control Research and an advisor on tobacco issues to the Scottish, UK and European Parliaments and the World Health Organisation, said: “The influence of tobacco control alliances in places like the North East is so important. This is a broad movement supported by a wide range of people.

“We need to keep making our voice heard, as the tobacco industry will continue to do everything in its power to get young people to start smoking and keep them smoking regardless of the cost to life.”

Cllr Nick Forbes, Chair of the Tobacco Regional Advisory

Group and also chairing the event, said: “We need more measures to reduce smoking. It’s by far our biggest killer, as well as a massive drain on NHS resources and the local economy.

“In particular we need better legal protection for children, who can suffer lifelong harm when exposed to second hand smoke.”

Martin Dockrell, from ASH (Action on Smoking and Health), said: “Most smokers start before they’re 18 and it is a childhood addiction. Taking cigarettes out of sight will not affect adult choice, but it will protect children”.

Tobacco advertising was banned seven years ago because it attracts young smokers. Since then displays in shops have become larger, more elaborate and colourful

and with greater use of lighting and ‘gimmicks’.”

The facts on cigarette displays: Evidence from Canada shows that the cost to retailers could be under £200. And they would have until 2013 to comply. 59% of people in a poll by YouGov in England were in favour of banning the display of tobacco in the places where they are sold, with only 16% against. Cigarette displays are known to attract the youngest smokers and quitters. Cigarettes being moved out of sight have been linked to reductions in teenage smoking in Iceland and Canada.

Fresh is now urging North East MP’s to back these measures, support the strongest action to reduce tobacco promotion and marketing to children. You can contact your MP via the Fresh website at [www.freshne.com](http://www.freshne.com)

## Outstanding Care Assistant Receives Award



Care Assistant Emma Russell at Defoe Court Care Centre has achieved her NVQ level in care and received an outstanding achievement award. Congratulations to Emma from Manager Lynn Lant and all the staff and residents at Defoe Court. Photograph shows Emma Russell and her daughter Alicia receiving a congratulatory bottle of wine and flowers from Allison Lowe, Deputy Manager)

# Pirate Fun Run for Hospice

With less than one month to event families and individuals are being encouraged to sign up as soon as possible to secure their place for this 5k family Fun Run on Sunday 21st June 2009 10.30am. All proceeds will go to the Grace House North East Children’s Hospice Appeal raising money to build, equip and run an independent

children’s hospice supporting family’s right across the region. For more information or to register please contact Heather McLean at the Grace House Children’s Hospice Appeal on 0191 5166302, email [hm@gracehouse.co.uk](mailto:hm@gracehouse.co.uk) or visit the website: [www.gracehouse.co.uk](http://www.gracehouse.co.uk)

Title: ..... First Name:..... Surname .....

Address:.....

.....

.....Post Code:.....

Tel (day): ..... Tel (eve): .....

Mobile: ..... D.O.B.: .....

Email:.....

Does your employer operate a ‘matched giving scheme’? YES/NO

Do you have a special reason for taking part? If yes what is your reason? .....

.....

Do you have any existing medical conditions?

Please provide details .....

I enclose a cheque made payable to Grace House North East. Entry Fee - £10 adult, £5 aged 5-17 years, under 5’s free, £25 family (2 adults & 2 children)

Gift Aid: I am a UK taxpayer and would like my personal donation to be gift aided (increase the value of your donation by 28% at no cost to you) YES/NO

Signature .....

I, the undersigned, wish to take part in the Pirate Fun Run/Walk. I understand that this is done at my own risk and I absolve Grace House North East Children’s Hospice appeal from any injury incurred or any damage to property through participation. I fully understand that this is a sponsored event and I promise to raise the minimum sponsorship and to bring the amount on the day of the event.

Signature:..... Date:.....

Parent / guardian consent: I confirm that I am happy to allow the above under 18 to participate and will accompany that person to the event.

Signature:..... Date:.....



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## In Memoriam

### Lee Smith



#### 3rd June

Lee, it seems like yesterday that it happened, yet it seems like so long since we saw your precious face. The pain of losing you is unbearable and feels like it will never ease. We love and miss you with all our hearts. Mam and Dad

### Lee Smith



#### 3rd June

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen and unheard but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. Debbie, Paul and Connor

**FOTHERGILL,** Lawrence. 3rd June 2004. To a dear Dad and Grandad. We love and miss you always. Brenda, Douglas, Stephen and Helen  
**FOTHERGILL,** Lawrence. 3rd June 2004. In loving memory of a dear Husband, Lawrie. Sadly missed and loved always. Jenny  
**BILLY BURRELL** Treasured memories of my oldest brother Billy. You will stay in our hearts forever. God bless you always. Sisten Mena, Brother-in-Law Joe xxx  
**McFADDEN,** Ellie Grace. 4th June 2008. To our special baby girl. Remembering you is so easy, we do it every day, but its the heartache of losing you that never goes away. We miss you so much darling. We will always love you and we will never forget you. All our love, Mummy and Daddy xxxxx  
**McFADDEN,** Ellie Grace. 4th June 2008. To our special Sister. Today, tomorrow our whole life through we will always love you. Always in our hearts and thoughts. Love from your Brothers and Sister, Ricky, Demi and Callum xxx  
**McFADDEN,** Ellie Grace. 4th June 2008. To my precious little Angel, missing you so much and you are always in our thoughts. Love you always. All our love, Grandma and Grandad xxx  
**McFADDEN,** Ellie Grace. 4th June 2008. To our special Niece, we will always miss you and love you. Danielle, Lee, Elizabeth, Lucy and Terry xxx

# Councillors Help Scout Group



County Councillors Sarah Iveson and John Moran shown here donating funds to the Ayle Scout Group of Aycliffe Village.

# Minister Welcomes Our MP's Initiative to Help Unemployed

MP Phil Wilson has urged members of Parliament of all parties to hold surgeries specifically targeted at the unemployed  
The Secretary of State for Works and Pensions James Purnell welcomed this initiative on holding joint surgeries with Jobcentre Plus and other agencies to help people find work.  
Early this year, Phil Wilson, organised a series of surgeries with Jobcentre Plus, Next Step, Business Link, local FE

colleges, Inbiz and the trade unions GMB and UNITE, in Wingate, Ferryhill and Newton Aycliffe.  
A total of 104 local residents attended the events and expressed, as part of the valuation process, high levels of satisfaction. 37 per cent went onto find jobs within 6 weeks of the events.  
Phil Wilson has discussed with Jobcentre Plus the possibility of doing other surgeries in the future and both agreed that more flexibility needed to be found in the Jobcentre Plus budget so that community based events can be held so that people out of work can be contacted closer to home.  
Phil Wilson raised the issue with James Purnell in the House of Commons. The minister replied: "We would be very happy to help any honourable Member from any part of the House who wanted to provide such a service to their constituents. I congratulate my Honourable Friend on the initiative he has taken, and in particular on bringing together a number of agencies to help people who will be worried about how quickly they can get back to work. It is an excellent initiative that we are happy to support."  
Phil Wilson MP said: "At the time of the global recession, it is important that we do all we can to help those out of work. The surgeries I held were a small but effective means of reaching out to people. Jobcentre Plus needs the flexibility to

think of innovative ways of engaging with people they may otherwise miss. I'm pleased the Secretary of State is prepared to help. I encourage all MPs to play their part in ensuring as much help as possible is made available to the jobless in their constituencies. We all have a role to play.  
I remember the recession of the 1980s when those out of work were left to their own devices. This Government is doing all it can to ensure the unemployed return to work as soon as possible. In the 1980s, over 2000 people had been out of work for 12 months or more in my constituency. Today the figure is 80. But one person made unemployed is a tragedy and we should do all we can to help."

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**ROOM TO RENT** in large comfortable, clean house, School Aycliffe area. £250pcm to include all bills. Contact 07532 305891  
**4 BEDROOM** in Lightfoot Road. Large lounge with patio doors, kitchen with laminate flooring and cooker, 2 double bedrooms, 2 single bedrooms, large garden. £490pcm. Bond and references required. Tel 324949  
**1 BEDROOM** house in School Aycliffe. Bond £400 + one month rent in advance, £600. No bills to pay. Fully furnished, professionals only. Contact 07816 499567  
**TO LET** 2 bedroom furnished house in Newton Aycliffe. £390 per month, £390 bond. Available from 1st July. Tel 07816 502883  
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## Congratulations



### Chelsea Portillo



#### A Very

**Happy 18th Birthday**  
Lots of love and best wishes from Grandad, Grandma, Lesley and Steve xxxx

### Joshua McCartin



#### Happy 17th Birthday

Oodles of love on your 17th birthday. From Mum, Dad, Samuel and all the family xxx

### June - Gotcha!



#### Happy 40th Birthday

to my beautiful Daughter June. With love from Mam, Marise, Adam, Leanne, Holly, Dominic, Hannah and Jack

### Chloe Wise Stubbs



#### Happy 13th Birthday

2nd June  
Happy birthday to the best Granddaughter in the world. Lots of love from Grandma

### Michael Kidd



#### Happy 18th Birthday

Lots of love from Mam, Jack, Olivia and Jack xxx  
Lots of love from Dad, Jean, Sean and Joanna xxx  
To a wonderful Grandson. Lots of love from Grandma and Grandad xx  
To a very special Grandson. Lots of love from Grandad x  
Have a great day. Love from Auntie Linda, Uncle Dave, Kate, Lauren and Chris xx  
Lots of love from Uncle Gary, Auntie Joannah, Alex, Ellie, Mica and Callum xxx

### Scott Norris



#### Happy 30th Birthday

30th May 2009  
To a wonderful Husband and special Daddy. We love you loads, Rachel and Leo xxxxxx

### Melissa Parker



#### Happy 18th Birthday

Lots of love, Nana and Grandad Parker

### Eric Brown



#### Happy 80th Birthday

With all our love from all the family

## Clairvoyance

**SPIRITUALIST** Meetings are held at Morrison Close Community Centre every Monday evening starting 7pm sharp (closed Bank Holiday Monday). Details from Ann on 313654.  
**CLAIRVOYANT** 20 years experience, singles, parties and home visits. Tel 07833 581888

## Public Notice

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

## Thank You

**DENIS McCLOSKEY** - Thanks to family and friends who attended my party and for all the lovely gifts. Special thanks to Peter and Mark for there help  
**DAVID & JEAN KIDD** would like to thank all our family and friends for all the cards, gifts and kind wishes they received for their Wedding on 2nd May. We had a fantastic day and hope that you all did too!

## Obituary

**KIM FOWLER** Oakenfull, Newman. Aged 51 years. Kim died at her home in Essex suddenly on 25th April 2009. Her funeral took place on 22nd May. A Service is to be held at St Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on 1st June at 2pm for family and friends who remember Kim and couldn't travel to Essex. A light has gone out of our lives. Deepest love and devotion from your Mam and Dad: Tessa and Ian McDonald; Brothers Craig and Martin  
**JOHNSON,** Thomas David. 22nd May. Peacefully. Thomas Davey, aged 69 years of Aycliffe Village. A fine Dad, Grandad, Brother and friend. Funeral Wednesday 3rd June. Would friends please meet at 2.45pm for Service at St Andrew's Church prior to Cremation at Darlington



# TOWN CHEERLEADERS COMPETE SUCESSFULLY AGAINST CITY TEAMS



On the 8th May the Cougars Cheerleaders travelled to Blackpool to enter the European Empress Classic Competition. The 80 strong group of girls and boys entered a total of 20 categories and received a trophy in every one. One of the Junior groups (aged 12-15) entered level 5 the highest level they are allowed until they are 17 and received 1st place. This is a massive achievement for a town like Newton Aycliffe as these kids were competing against teams from places like Liverpool, Leeds, Hull and Cheshire. We would also like to say a HUGE thank-you to

Honest John for his constant support, and Greenfield School without whom this would not have been possible. If anybody would like to join these successful cheerleaders contact either Chele 01325 317210 or Sarah 319421. Results: Peewee Cheer Level 1 (aged 3-12) 3rd place, Junior Level 1 (aged 12-15) 2nd place, Junior Level 5 (aged 12-15) 1st place, Prep Stunt (aged 3-9) 2nd place, Peewee Stunt (aged 7-12) 3rd place, Junior all girl stunt (13-15) 4th place, Junior Co-ed Stunt (aged 13-15) 4th place, Senior all girl Stunt (aged 13 - 18) 3rd place,

Senior Co-ed Stunt (aged 12-18) 4th place, Prep Pom dance (aged 3-9) 4th place, Junior small Pom Dance (12-13) 2nd Place, Junior medium Pom (13-15) 3rd place, Junior large Pom (aged 12-15) 3rd place, Senior Small Pom (aged 15-18) 5th place, Senior Medium Pom (aged 13-15) 1st place, Senior large Funk 2nd place, Prep solo Ellie Sutherland 4th place, Peewee solo Demi Anderson 3rd place, Junior solo Charlotte Bugg 5th place and not forgetting Mamz Cheer (aged 25 plus) 2nd place.

## Famous Soprano Joins Aycliffe Group in Concert

Aycliffe Musical Theatre is holding a concert in St. Clare's Church Hall on 4th and 5th July starting at 7.30pm. The acclaimed soprano, Anna-Maria Jackson, will guest at both performances. Tickets are priced at £6 to include refreshments and can be ordered on 01325 321729 or 01325 318968.

### NEWTON NEWS

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## ABBA TRIBUTE BAND AT THE CUMBY



The world's most famous Pop Super Group ABBA will be starring at The Cumby Arms on Friday 12th June to take part in a 70's Nostalgia night that also features top male duo "The Management" and awesome female solo artist "Lizzie Bruce".

ABBA's infectious blend of timeless sing-a-long pop classics live on to this day with "Mamma Mia" the most watched Stage Musical of all time and the recently released Movie of the same name with Hollywood greats Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth & Julie Walters.

Hosted by The Cumby's very own 70's DJ "Lionel Vinyl" this promises to be a night of fun and nostalgia and is an absolute bargain at just £4.50 a ticket which also includes a 'Pie & Pea' Supper. Transport back to Newton Aycliffe after the event is also available at just £1.00 each!

Call The Cumby Arms on 01325 316753 For Further Details & Advance Ticket purchases.

(All Abba songs performed "live" by 'The Ultimate ABBA' tribute band)

## Paying to Walk on Our Land

Dear Sir,  
On Sunday last I was walking across the public fields at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex as I often do when I noticed there was an area taped off where people were charged 50p to enter.

Why should an organiser of a Car Boot Sale be allowed to charge regular walkers a fee to walk over common land for which they pay to maintain? Perhaps the Town Council to whom I pay tax could explain why I should be charged to walk on our land? Puzzled  
Name & address supplied.  
Ed: We contacted the Town Clerk who gave the following response:

## ROTARY HOLD CHARITY BRUNCH



This event was held at School Aycliffe Community Centre recently, raising cash for Mercy Ships - floating hospitals touring the world's poorest countries to provide free health care including major operations.

The support wasn't the best Rotary have experienced, but rewarding for the first attempt at this novel fundraising activity with a few hundred pounds made for the charity. The members enjoyed the morning and acknowledge the support of wives and friends in this venture and will try again at a future date when perhaps the idea for "breakfasting out" might become more popular.



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