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£1.2m EXTENSION TO PCP CENTRE GETS UNDERWAY



Last Friday, 24th July was a big day for town charity, the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) at Cobblers Hall as the turf cutting ceremony launched the building of a new £1.2 million extension to the Centre.

The project is funded mainly by a Community Assets grant from the Office of the Third Sector and Working Neighbourhood's Funds. Patron of PCP, Lord Foster of Bishop Auckland, led the ceremony along with County Councillor's Brian Stephens, Neil Foster and members of the PCP Board of Trustees and staff. The PCP has worked in partnership with the County Council and the former Borough Council to develop this Centre of Excellence and once the work is completed, the centre will be leased to the PCP by the County Council for a peppercorn rent for the next 125 years. Chief Executive of the PCP Jane Hartley said 'I am delighted this development and the partnership with the County Council has secured the future of the centre

so that we can continue to provide services and support to local people'. The Centre is to become a Centre of Excellence providing more facilities for local people to improve their health and wellbeing through exercise and activity classes, group activities, therapy and rehabilitation services. The centre will also include an Employability Suite providing training and IT facilities, meeting rooms and office accommodation to support people to develop their skills, health and confidence to move towards employment. Facilities will be available to many different organisations and groups to use to deliver their services and activities and will also enable the PCP to deliver more activities and classes for the general public currently compromised due to lack of space. There will also be extended car parking and café facilities within the centre to cope with the increased footfall. The extension is due to be completed in March 2010. Organisations wanting

information about facilities or rooms for use should contact Jane Hartley or Chris Thwaites on 321234.

Honest John Donations

Honest John's Fundraising stall at the Tuesday Market has raised £345 for the Acorn Players and £50 for the Cubby Drop-in. As last year, efforts will now be concentrated on raising cash to provide entertainment for five Care Homes in the town. Two Shows will be presented at each home, thanks to Newtonians who contribute items to sell on the stall.

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COUNTY GETS £5M TO IMPROVE BUS SERVICE

Major bus routes in County Durham are to benefit from a £5 million improvement programme. Durham County Council has been awarded government funding for the scheme – called Transit 15 – which will help to strengthen the county's public transport network, reduce traffic congestion and enable people to enjoy better access to jobs and leisure opportunities. The scheme is also aimed at

encouraging more people to travel by bus by providing a faster, more efficient service. The council will work in partnership with bus operators Go North East and Arriva to further improve the reliability and frequency of bus services and provide passengers with easy-access, low-floor buses. Work to improve parts of the road network, such as junctions and bottlenecks which can cause delays for buses, are to be carried out

and some new bus lanes are to be created. The main bus routes to benefit from the £5 million Transit 15 funding all run between Durham City and the following locations: **Bishop Auckland; Birtley; Crook; Coxhoe; Stanley; Consett; and Sherburn.** Coun Bob Young, Cabinet Member for the Environment at Durham County Council, said: "I am absolutely delighted with the

announcement of an additional £5 million of funding from the government. It will allow this important scheme, linking key residential areas, to be fast-tracked. "The funding, through the Local Transport Plan, helps one part of our drive to deliver efficient, reliable and sustainable transport fit for the 21st century. It is particularly important just now in helping to address the effects of the recession to get people to where they want to be, whether it is to work or to shops and other services. "We are currently looking at the design and cost of work to be carried out in relation to road

network improvements and the creation of bus lanes and will carry out consultations on the proposed improvements in the autumn." Construction work would be expected to start in early 2010. The overall improvements to the public transport network in County Durham will bring indirect benefits to bus users in Newton Aycliffe as many other bus routes link in with major routes in and out of Durham City. Junction improvements planned between Croxdale and Durham will also help bus routes to and from Newton Aycliffe.

Who Would Steal from a Charity Shop?

Dear Sir,

For the past 5 years I have worked as a volunteer with Sue Ryder care at the Aycliffe shop. The charity is a national one and provides compassionate care to people with end of life or long term needs.

I can say truthfully that I thoroughly enjoy the work. The two extremely hardworking managers and the rest of the volunteers are fun to be with and make a great supportive, caring team. What really disheartens though me is the amount of theft taking place. A variety of goods frequently goes missing, from a dolls house worth about £100 to a t-shirt selling for about £1.95.

Today I learnt that a beautiful leather jacket had been stolen, after being on the shop floor for less than 10 minutes. If sold it would have earned the charity about £40 and when new would have probably cost 4 times that amount, maybe even more. Does the thief intend to wear it or sell it on E-bay?

It is no good my saying, "I cannot believe this!" because unfortunately I do believe it, I see it all too often. What is it about those committing theft that makes them take from a charity shop and so take from those much more in need than them?

In this economic climate most of us have to tighten our belts, but to steal from a charity! Well, need I say more? I know many Newtonians will be shocked at this letter. I have lived here since 1978 and know most of us to be honest and decent. I have met many such people while living and working on the town.

Those who give to Sue Ryder Care do not do so to allow thieves to have a profitable time. They donate because they believe in the good work the charity does.

Remember that next time you feel like helping yourself remember the words my Gran used to say... "HE'LL GET HIS COME UPANCE". Name and address supplied

Bez & Bally Star at Aycliffe Fundraiser



Newton Aycliffe FC staged a hugely-successful fundraising evening with two North-East football legends last weekend. More than 150 guests were entertained by former Newcastle star John Beresford and Sunderland legend Kevin Ball (pictured with Aycliffe coach and ex-Sunderland player Brian Atkinson), inside a huge marquee outside Newton Aycliffe Sports Club, last Friday night.

The football legends were highly entertaining, while comedian Jimmy Bright also proved a big hit, stepping in at the last minute to replace Rudi West.

Gary Farley, the club's chairman, said: "Every single person in the marquee had a hugely enjoyable night, so from that point of view it was a resounding success.

"The eventual turnout was a little disappointing, but it was still enough for us to generate some much-needed funds for the football club, thanks largely to local lad Ross Turnbull, who donated a number of items for the auction, which raised a

little over £1,000.

"I'd like to again thank everyone who attended on the night and everyone who supported it. We have proved yet again that we're more than capable of hosting large-scale events and pulling them off, and those who decided not to bother going certainly missed out."

Meanwhile, Aycliffe stepped their pre-season up a gear this week when they held Northern League Division One big spenders Spennymoor Town to a 3-3 draw in front of 285 people at Moore Lane Park on Tuesday night.

Paul Broome, Mark Wood and Dan Mellanby were all on target to cause a bit of an upset against Spennymoor, hot favourites to win the Northern League title this coming season, who only drew level with a late equaliser from the penalty spot.

"It was a good exercise for us and a good gauge to see where we're at," said boss Allan Oliver. "Spennymoor are a quality side and we needed a big test before we started the season off. Thankfully we did OK – we still have a lot to do, but it was very encouraging."

Aycliffe claimed their first win of the pre-season last Saturday with an 8-0 victory at home to Wigan Robin Park, of the North-West Counties League, in front of just over 100 people.

Michael Cairns (2), Philip Caley (2), Paul Broome (2), Mark Wood and Elliot Gardner were all on the scoresheet. Aycliffe continue their preparations for an historic, inaugural Northern League campaign with another home pre-season friendly against former Wearside League rivals Teesside Athletic this Saturday (August 1st), kick-off 3pm, before the season curtain-raiser at home to Hebburn Town next Saturday.

FIXTURES: Sat Aug 1: Teesside Athletic (H), 3pm
NORTHERN LEAGUE SEASON: Sat Aug 8: Hebburn Town (H), 3pm
Weds Aug 12: Birtley Town (H), 7.30pm
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NEW STORE BRIGHTENS UP TOWN CENTRE

Wilkinson's new Beveridge Way store was officially opened on Wednesday, with a ribbon cutting ceremony performed by the Mayor, Mary Dalton, Phil Wilson MP, Wilkinson family director Karin Swann, head of retail Simon Hathway and store manager, Kay Armstrong. Throughout the day, giant dragonfly stilt walkers entertained shoppers and alongside the entertainment, volunteers from local charity, Butterwicks Children's Hospice, sold a range of cakes and snacks in aid of the charity. The celebrations will continue on Saturday 1st August when Wilkinson host a fun day with free

sweets, balloons and face painting from 10-4pm. Our MP Phil Wilson said: "Wilkinson's store opening this week is an impressive addition to the town centre. It proves that the town centre is turning the corner. The store brings 59 new jobs and 15,000 square feet of retail space. It shows Wilkinson's commitment to the future of Newton Aycliffe, we can now look forward to further developments in the town centre over the coming months. I will continue to press the owners of the town centre and those concerned with the centre's regeneration to ensure future improves remain on target."



PERFORM A MUSICAL IN TWO DAYS!

School holidays again! Why not do something completely different? How would you like to be apart of helping produce and perform a musical show in just two days? A spokesperson for the event said "We are looking for young people aged 8 to 16 years of age from the Newton

Aycliffe and School Aycliffe areas who like to sing, dance or act, or would just like two days of fun. The young people will decide on the cast, the music, etc. apart from learning new skills the young people will have a great time and meet new friends too". The events will be held at the

Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon on Tuesday 4th, Wednesday 5th, Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th August, from 10am to 3pm. The cost is £1 to enter the Leisure Centre, but the organisers ask you bring a packed lunch and plenty of enthusiasm. For more information ring (01388) 774838

LAND ART AT MOORE LANE



For the last three days of term Greenfield students took part in many different and creative activities. These included ghost trails in York, surfing in Saltburn, Science trips to Leeds and aerial extreme adventures. One group made a visit to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the Forbidden Corner to investigate art in the environment. They worked with artist Kay Henderson and GATC environment officer in the Greenfield Gallery to create their designs for their own piece of environmental art. The group transformed the hill next to the Eco Centre at Moore Lane Park with their own giant line drawing labyrinths. The hill was covered in giant beetles, oversized butterflies and big floppy eared dogs that you could interact with. One student said, "this was a brilliant experience, it's great to be able to make my own art work on the hill".

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LOCAL SWIMMERS COMPETE IN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

COUNCIL STING RESIDENTS WITH PEST CONTROL CHARGE



Five swimmers from Sedgfield 75 Swimming Club are putting the finishing touches to their training in preparation for their next major competition. Four of the swimmers, Caroline Saxby, Glen Martin, Philip Hodgson and Kyle Boyek are travelling to Sheffield next week to compete in the ASA Youth/Senior National Swimming Championships.

Only those swimmers who have achieved the qualifying times are invited to take part and this year Sedgfield's swimmers have produced some outstanding personal best times in the run up to the championships and they qualified for 20 swims between them. All four swimmers have also competed in Regional and District competitions in

recent months and medalled in 12 events. Caroline, Glen and Kyle also finished as North Eastern Regional Champions when they competed against other swimmers from the North East in the championships which were held at the Sunderland Aquatic Centre. Brad Dixon, who also swims with the club, had national qualifying times, will be competing further afield in the World Pentathlon Championships which will be held in Cairo on the 23rd July. He qualified for this competition following a series of selection competitions which were held earlier in the year. The competition takes place over two days with fencing and swimming on day one and the shooting and running on day two. Brad is also a member of the World Class Development Programme which helps identify talented sports people at an early stage in their development. Brad's training regime is supported by a number of local coaches and clubs, John Moore Head Coach from Sedgfield 75 Swimming Club, Gordon Surtees and Sedgfield Harriers and Lazslo Jakab, Head Coach for fencing at Durham University.

Dear Sir,
In response to the article regarding wasp treatments being charged by Durham County Council.

As reported in the last edition, they are the ones responsible for delivering pest control. When we were under a Borough Council, there was indeed a "free" service for pest control to council tenants, housing associations, private tenants, & owner occupiers, but this responsibility falls on Durham County Council, hence the charge.

I have been a pest controller in Newton Aycliffe (private) for the past 21 years and have come across this problem (since the council change over) where elderly residents and council tenants are being charged for wasp treatments. Most people have been told by the Council to pay over the phone via credit card, or call into the council offices and pay in advance.

They are being told that it can take up to 10-14 days before they come out to deal with the problem, but there are people out there that don't have a credit card, nor do they have transport to go to the council offices to pay this charge, so just how are they to pay? It really saddens me to read an article like this, especially as the person concerned was blind.

Has this council no respect or sympathy at all?

I was called out to treat for Bees in an elderly gentleman's home only last week by a nurse on call, and responded within 10 minutes to find the gentleman's kitchen full of swarming bees. After reassuring the gentleman, he asked me how much? My answer was "Nothing" as I'm only to glad

to help in an emergency" And do you know that after the job was done I was really happy with myself, knowing this gentleman would sleep peacefully that night. I would like to believe that in cases like these it's good to help others. Yes, I'm in business to make a living, but it makes me happy to

help when I can. If you feel you are getting no where with the council, or you don't know what to do next, look for alternative pest control. Please don't try and destroy a wasp nest by yourself without proper equipment and protection. Brian Sowerby NPTA Pestguard

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Parking at Tesco's

Dear Sir,
I can certainly empathise with the lady over car parking at Tesco's. Whilst not disabled or now having young children it makes my blood boil when able bodied persons use these spaces. It's just the thoughtless society we live in. Other major supermarkets do police these spaces more robustly and I feel certain have taken action against false users. I have in the past been openly sympathetic with persons trying to use these designated spots and have also been abused. It surely is Tesco's responsibility to make shopping at the store a great experience from start to finish as well as being competitively priced, and this includes parking. My wife and I have long since stopped doing our weekly shop at Tesco's, only venturing there if really desperate, and one of the reasons is the poorly organised parking arrangements. Name and Address supplied

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"I can't believe how good they were, it was like walking into a pub full of your best mates with the best goddam juke box you could hope for. Every member of the band is a really good and talented player. The timing was great, the entertainment value was great too. The audience (well packed!) loved it from the off."
"They are a superb band, probably the best in the north east, period!"
Tracks covered by The Who, Bryan Adams, Thin Lizzy, Free, Herbie, Stones, Band Company, Kings of Leon and much much more. Should be one o the gigs of the year... don't miss it!!

Saturday 8th August - "Skinflint"

One of the stars of the show on the main stage at "Stormin' the Castle '07"
"Given the chance to play "Stormin", the lads jumped at it and pulled off an absolutely tremendous debut gig on the big stage. I say 'debut', because I'm sure it won't be the last time they are invited to play the north easts biggest bike rally! Not one sign of any nerves at all, just an all out heavy metal show, with front man Dave Sharp smiling broadly knowing his band were giving it all for the massive audience to soak in. Flanked by the two Burdon brothers, hair thrashing about and supported by thumper Rocky at the back, the band won many more admireres as they climbed the next rung on the ladder! Awesome!"
Tracks by Deep Purple, Metallica, Thin Lizzy, Cult, Led Zeppelin, Billy Idol, Ozzy Osborne and loads more

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COUNTY COUNCILLORS VOTE THEMSELVES AN INCREASED ALLOWANCE

An independent panel has recommended a new range of allowances for the roles and responsibilities undertaken by Members of Durham County Council.

In its submission for Local Government Reorganisation in 2007, the former Durham County Council suggested Members receive a basic allowance of £20,000 per annum when it came into being on 1 April of this year, replacing the former county council and seven district councils.

However, the Independent Remuneration Panel has recommended that the 126 ward members of the region's biggest authority should receive a basic allowance of £13,300.

By not pursuing the original submission for allowances, savings of over £1 million will be made by Durham County Council if the panel's recommendations are accepted.

In reaching this decision, the panel gathered evidence from a range of councils, from meetings with elected Members and reviewing the expected range of responsibilities for Members. The panel felt strongly that it would be difficult to ignore the wider economic climate

and general heightened awareness of allowances paid to those holding public office but recognised the significant responsibility and roles undertaken by Members of the new council.

The new allowances were considered against other comparable authorities which identified a range of allowances up to £15,816 per annum.

The County Council will now consider the Independent Remuneration Panel's conclusions and recommendations when it meets on 31 July.

Music Exams

The following pupils of **Terence Lawson, School Aycliffe**, have been successful in the recent **Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Examinations.**

- PIANO:** Joseph Bryan Grade 5
- Michael Bedwell** Grade 6
- SINGING:** Sally Cresser Grade 1
- Tom Bussey** Grade 2
- Charlotte Heslop** Grade 7 with Merit

LAUNCH OF "THE HEAD"



Cllr Brian Myers, the Chairman of Durham County Council, Christine Bewley of Aycliffe Fabrications and David Bloomfield of Arup Structural design were presented models of the 'In our Image' sculpture at the launch.

The official launch has taken place of 'In Our Image' - the new landmark gateway feature, commissioned to celebrate the regeneration and re-branding of Aycliffe Business Park and promoting commerce and industry.

The installation of 'In Our Image' comes at the conclusion of a three year programme of investment at Aycliffe Business Park in recognition of the contribution that it makes to

the local and regional economy.

The towering head and shoulders sculpture has become the gateway feature for the Aycliffe Business Park. At 16 metres tall, it is only four metres shorter than the iconic Angel of the North in Gateshead and is six metres taller than the Bottle of Notes featured in Middlesbrough. Aycliffe Business Park is the second largest of its kind in the North East.

DARLO PROBLEM RESOLVED

RAJ SINGH has resolved a "misunderstanding" with the club's administrators recently, and says Darlington are on course to exit administration within the next week.

The club's administrators, Brackenbury Clark & Co, sent the club's staff home early, although reports that the Quakers had effectively been closed down were wide of the mark.

And chairman-elect Mr Singh is expecting the staff to be back at work very soon, with the whole admin process to be concluded by early next week.

Meanwhile, boss Colin Todd and his players are preparing for the start of the season as usual, and will play the scheduled pre-season friendly at Bradford Park Avenue on Saturday.

"There was a misunderstanding

with the administrators," said Mr Singh. "I've held lengthy discussions with them, together with my advisors, and I'm happy that the issue is now resolved. I'm expecting the club's staff to be back at the Arena as normal shortly. "The administration process is back on track, and we should complete the whole process by early next week at the latest. The CVA has successfully completed its process with no appeals, and the league situation is 70% done, which means we're almost there. As far as the team is concerned, nothing has changed, they're preparing for the start of the season as normal. "I know this continues to be a frustrating process for everyone connected to the club, not least the staff, but I'd ask everyone to bear with us."

Great Win for Polo Team

Sedgefield Water Polo Club played at the new pool in Durham City Freemans Quay against the home team Durham City in a Northumberland and Durham Senior Girls fixture.

Sedgefield expected a hard game after their hard fought 11-8 victory in the home fixture. However, with the return of ex GB junior goalkeeper Charlotte Nichols in goal, this made a big difference in defence.

Carol Mohan was in top form in attack and was too hot for the Durham defence and scored 9 goals in a win (16-4).

2 goals each from Sarah Scott, Abbey Turnbull and GB youth squad member Jessica Miller. Rhiannon Foulds got the other goal. The other team members were Megan Lamb, Alice Woods, Ellie Cliff, Georgina and Rebecca Naylor.

County Council on the Ball!

Newton News was informed of a dangerous situation at the empty shop next to Pagebet this week, where heavy boarding had come loose which could have caused injury to a passerby. No one knew who to contact and asked us to help. We made urgent attempts to contact one of our County Councillors and eventually were able to advise Mike Dixon of the situation. He acted quickly and workmen were on site almost immediately making the premises safe. Readers should be aware that these type of emergencies are now the responsibility of the County Council.

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SUMMER OF FUN AT BURNHILL ROMAN INVENT NEW SHOWER TRAY



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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL
 Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings
 of the Town Council and its Committees

Wednesday 9th Sept. 2009
 Environment Committee - 7.15pm
 Followed by the Recreation Committee

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

The press and public are cordially invited to attend.
 The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 70 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Great Aycliffe Town Council presents

FUN IN THE PARKS 2009

Friday 7th August - Simpature Park
Tuesday 11th August - Woodham Park
Friday 14th August - West Park

Friday 21st August - St Oswalds Park
Tuesday 25th August - Aycliffe Vill. Park
Friday 28th August - Town Centre Park

The Fun Starts at 11.00am until 3.00pm

FREE Rides, Bouncy Slide, Punch & Judy, Face Painting, Balloon Modelling and Magic
 For more information Telephone 01325 300600

So far this Summer there have been a number of fun events at Burnhill Way Methodist Church. There has been a Summer Fair, a concert by 'Natural High', an outing to Preston Park, a sponsored 8 mile walk, a barbecue for the JAFFA Club, an outing to South Shields for the Friendship Group (including fish & chips!), a walk at Whitworth Hall for the Ladies Group (followed by food!), an end of term party for the Brownies - the list goes on. Many of these events have been enjoyed not only by church members but also by other members of the community in the Burnhill area.

The fun will carry on during August. The Baby and Toddler Group will be meeting every Friday afternoon from 1pm - 2.30pm and on these afternoons there will also be activities for any older brothers and sisters too, including crafts, music, messy play and a visit from the Library Service - only £1 per family. Bring all the kids and have some fun together!

On Monday 17th August till Friday 21st, every morning from 9.30am-12noon, there will be a "Heroes & Superheroes" Holiday Club

for school-age children. There will be games, crafts, songs, DVD's, tuck, refreshments and lots of fun. Only 50p per child per morning. All children welcome from anywhere in the town. No need to book in advance just turn up on the day. The church is on Sid Chaplin Drive, just off Burnhill Way, near the Turbinia.

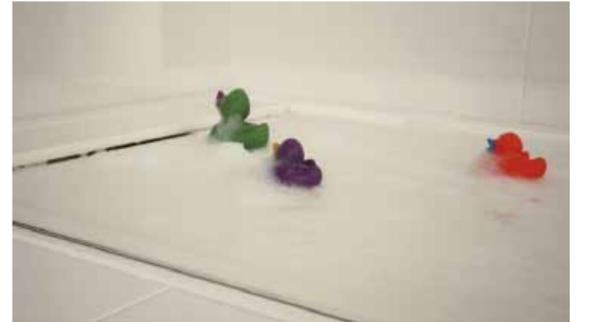
Competition for Library Members

Two lucky children who enrol on Durham County Council's Quest Seekers Challenge could win themselves a high tech prize. Quest Seekers Summer Reading Challenge runs in all 39 libraries in the county.

And two children who complete the challenge of reading six books during the school summer holidays could win a Nintendo Wii. Those who complete the challenge will receive a certificate and medal and be entered in a draw for the top prize. Children can enrol at any of the 39 libraries, details of which can be found by visiting www.durham.gov.uk

ROMAN INVENT NEW SHOWER TRAY

Local shower designer and manufacturer, Roman Ltd based at Newton Aycliffe, announces a massive break through in tray technology with the launch of their Infinity range of shower trays. The installation of shower trays will never be the same again with this ultra minimalist level access tray.



The Infinity Tray is designed to seamlessly blend into the bathroom flooring to offer complete level access without the need to step up into the enclosure. The Infinity Tray is manufactured from Roman Stone, a solid surface material which is self-reinforcing ensuring the tray remains strong, smooth and durable.

The self-reinforcing nature enables the tray to be laid directly down to joist, so that once the floor tiles are laid it creates level access into the showering area. For those that are still reluctant to install a wetroom this level access tray completely simulates the wetroom experience whilst offering the reassurance of a tray - it is an exceptionally versatile product.

The unique and flawless styling of the Infinity Tray has been designed with a single angle flow to waste to maximise flow rating. The

waste is suitable for power shower systems and carries away an exceptionally high flow rate. This exclusive chic look is completed with a stylish, load bearing, solid surface waste cover, whilst still providing access to the waste for cleaning. The contemporary white finish ensures the Infinity Tray complements all bathroom fittings.

Roman's key ranges are aimed at the luxury, style conscious whilst affordable end of the market. The Infinity Tray range is designed to perfectly complement these stunning and exclusive collections of enclosures. The infinity tray is available in four rectangle sizes; 1200 x 800, 1200 x 900, 1400 x 900, 1600 x 800mm and as a quadrant option. As well as being stylish the Infinity Tray also offers a practical

solution for all users. The tray eliminates the step up into the tray associated with more traditional designs, offering effortless entry no matter what age or ability.

David Osborne, Managing Director at Roman, commented: "At our head office in Newton Aycliffe, we have our own tray manufacturing plant. This gives us the flexibility to create everything from the initial tray design, to the tray mould, through to the final tray, all on-site.

We have been able to cleverly design a tray that incorporates a sloping angle flow to encourage the water towards the waste, whilst the cover piece discreetly covers the waste to deliver a minimalist look - it is the first of its kind."

Roman's Contact Details; Tel: 01325 311318 www.roman-showers.com

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AYCLIFFE 6th IN TOP CRICKET DIVISION

Newton Aycliffe's first team continued their recent good form with a straight forward away victory at North Bitchburn, which moves them up to 6th place in the top division of the North East Durham League.

The homeside batted first and were bowled out for just 110 with Arvind Shetty the pick of the Aycliffe bowlers, taking four wickets for just three runs. In reply, talented all rounder Shetty dominated the innings with an aggressive unbeaten 67 and with good support from captain Chris Palmer (32 not

out), Aycliffe coasted home for the loss of just 2 wickets.

Earlier in the week the first team reached the final of the Glen Pattison Memorial Trophy with a thumping 145 run win away at East Rainton. Asked to bat first, Aycliffe rattled up an impressive 198 for 4 in 20 overs with Arvind Shetty and Mahesh Shenoy both smashing 73. In reply the home side were bowled out for just 55 with youngsters Matt Wheeler, Sean Morgan and Luke Telford all taking three wickets.

Aycliffe's second team also had a very good eight wicket

victory away at Medomsley in the third division of the NEDCL. On an excellent pitch for batting, it was no surprise that Medomsley elected to bat first and totalled 156 for 3 in their 40 overs with 14 year old Daniel Weldon the only Aycliffe bowler who had any success with the ball, finishing with a creditable 3 for 39 from his 10 overs.

In reply, superb batting from Adam Gittins (88 not out) and Dave Bennett (44 not out) took Aycliffe to victory and their unbeaten third wicket partnership of 137 was a new

second team record.

The under 18's league match away at Mainsforth was postponed due to the weather and the under 13's were awarded an unexpected win away at Yarm after the home side conceded the match.

PACT MEETINGS Police and Communities Together

Greenfield/Middridge Ward on Wednesday 5th August at 7pm. Aycliffe Evangelical Church, Ladybower.

This will give you a chance to meet your Beat Officer and PCSO, and discuss any problems you may be having.

There will also be other agencies in attendance such as council wardens and council members.

We look forward to seeing you there.

WOODHAM WARD
Thursday 20th August at 6pm. Woodham Community Centre.

If you have any questions regarding these meetings you can contact the neighbourhood policing team on 0345 60 60 365.

Aycliffe Boxers Return to Thailand



Reece McAllister and Anth Shelton flew back to Thailand on July 8th. Anth is in Thailand for 2 months and Reece is there for 5 months. The lads are both training at Superpro Gym who sponsor Reece in Thailand. Both will be training and fighting whilst they are there. The club's instructor Gary McAllister said it is a great thing for these two Newton Aycliffe lads, who I know will be good Ambassadors for the Club, Country and our town. Both lads would like to thank Lorraine Moore, Brian and Anne Smith from the Lee Smith Trust for their help and support. Reece would also like to thank Aycliffe Sports Club, Steve Cunliffe, Dennis and Isabel Henderson for their assistance.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2009

Friday 14th - The 80's Experience - £10.95 per person
The best disco party ever, takes place.
Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm for an all you can eat buffet.

Friday 14th - Murder Mystery - £20.95 per person
A Night of fun, intrigue and whodunnit
Arrive for 7.30pm with dinner served at 8.00pm.

Friday 21st - The Ultimate 70's - £10.95 per person
Dust off your platforms and get out your flares for a night taking you back to this groovy era. Arrive for 7.30pm for an all you can eat buffet

Sunday 23rd - Wedding Open Day
Take this opportunity to view the Coleman Suite, John Burdon Suite and Marquee set up for Wedding Receptions and Civil Ceremony. No appointments necessary just come along between 11.00am and 4.00pm.

Friday 28th - The 80's Experience - £10.95 per person
The best disco party ever, takes place.
Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm for an all you can eat buffet.

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

SEPTEMBER 2009

Friday 4th - Murder Mystery - £20.95 per person
A night of fun, intrigue and whodunnit
Arrive for 7.30pm with dinner served at 8.00pm.

Friday 4th - BBQ Evening - £12.95 per person
Enjoy a delicious BBQ and dessert.
Then dance the night away to our resident DJ. Starts at 7.30pm

Friday 11th - 80's Experience - £10.95 per person
The best disco party ever.
Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm for an all you can eat buffet.

Faulty Towers Evening - £20.95 per person
A night of unlimited fun with Basil and Maxine
Arrive at 7.30pm with dinner served at 8.00pm

Friday 18th - Oyster Festival with Patrick Kielty
Free flowing Guinness and Kronenbourg lager all day, a bottle of wine per person and a fantastic fruit de mer per table.
Champagne Reception 11.30am - carriage: 6.00pm - £170.00 + VAT per person

Sunday 20th - Grand Wedding Fair - Entrance £3 per person
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Friday 25th - 80's Experience - £10.95 per person
The best disco party ever
Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm for an all you can eat buffet.

OCTOBER 2009

Saturday 10th - Murder Mystery - £20.95 per person
A night of fun, intrigue and whodunnit
Arrive for 7.30pm with dinner served at 8.00pm

Wednesday 18th - Wedding Open Evening
Take this opportunity to view the Coleman, Boyne Suite, John Burdon Suite and Marquee for Wedding Receptions and a Civil Ceremony.
No appointment necessary just come along between 6.00pm and 9.00pm.

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CARE HOME RAISED £1200

Residents and staff at Aycliffe Care Home thank everyone who donated items, helped on the stalls and came along to support the Summer Fete on 4th July. As it was American Independence Day the home was decorated with flags. Thank you to Margaret Norris and Janet Graham for dressing up in such great costumes. The sun shone and a lovely day was had by all raising over £1200. Thank you to Husqvarna, Eastern Spice, Stephen Russel, Bella Italia, Boots (B/A), Top Star Taxis, Tetley, Civic Theatre, Ultimate Flowers, Mr. Bialek, Mrs Moore and all the staff at Aycliffe Care Home.

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FORCES VETERANS BADGES

Readers who have served in any branch of the Armed Forces is entitled to receive a Veteran's Badge in recognition of service to your country.
 We are holding a second Presentation to Veterans on 12th December at 2pm at Neville Parade Community Centre. Please ring Peter Beaty on 313924 for an application form.
 We are introducing Nintendo Wii games for over 50's on August 31st and 4th September and thereafter each week on Mondays and Fridays from 1-3pm. The first sessions will be for demonstration purposes and volunteers are required to give instruction.
 The games will tax your brain and keep you fit and give you loads of fun. To show interest ring 313924.
 Sale of Bric-a-Brac and other goods on Saturday 8th August from 9am - 2pm.
 Knit and Natter Club every Tuesday 10am - 12 noon. Just pop in and see what we get up to - you will be very welcome.
 Dad & Family Kurling every Saturday for only £5 per family for 2 hours.
 If you would like to assist with our fundraising and get involved with events please ring Peter Beaty who will be pleased to welcome anyone 17 and over. We currently need a stand-in Bingo Caller Monday and Friday at 7p.m.

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Getting Back to Nature Events and it's all Free!

Great Aycliffe Town Council's countryside events programme kicked off last week with a series of public events including sessions on pond dipping and various walks looking at local flowers, trees and in search of hidden signs of the presence of nature.

Young children from around the town enjoyed themselves getting back to nature during the first of these free events to keep the children busy over the summer holidays. More events are planned throughout the summer including: **Moore Lane Art Attack** during which children are invited to help create a new wildlife collage to brighten up the new eco centre on



primarily for younger people, there are several other events later in the programme which are more aimed at the adult audience including a longer countryside walk and a bat and moth spotting evening'. To find out more about these and other events or to book your places please contact Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300 700. Booking is essential as places are limited.

Wednesday 5th August. **Everything Earthly Games** when participants will run off some energy while learning about nature is on Wednesday 12th August. **Monsters of the Deep** is another chance to investigate what lurks in the pond at Aycliffe Nature Park on Friday 14th August. The Town Council's Environment Officer said 'Whilst these events are

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Lost Child in Tesco's

Dear Sir,
On Monday 27th July whilst shopping in Tesco's with my partner and 2 children, my 3year old daughter slipped my hand and started to run. My partner ran straight after her but as he rounded the bottom of the flower isle she had gone from sight completely. My partner continued to search for her around near the entrance as that is the way she ran. I asked a lovely woman who was doing her shopping with her own child if she had seen my little girl. She hadn't. The woman working on self service offered to look after my other baby whilst I went and spoke to the security guard who offered me support. I was not short of offers for help looking for my little girl. After talking to the security guard I turned round and the woman I had stopped and asked first, stopped me again to ask if a little girl that was running up the wrong side of the travelator was my little girl and thankfully it was! My daughter had only been gone for 5 minutes but in that time my heart sunk and I felt sick to the stomach, it felt like the longest 5 minutes of my life and an experience I never wish to have again. The kind actions of people who I didn't know, made me realise

that there is still kindness out there. I wish to say a great big thank you to those who helped me during that day, I am eternally grateful. Thank you. Name & address supplied.

FINDERS KEEPERS?

Dear Sir,
Readers should know that when money is handed in to Tesco's as lost property it is held for three months in the hope the owner returns to collect it. After this time, the money is sent to Head Office where it is donated to Tesco's charity of the year. I didn't realise this would happen and thought I should decide where the unclaimed money should be sent and I believe Tesco's are wrong to claim ownership of money I found. The Police return lost property to the finder after 3 months and Tesco should do the same.. I find it totally unacceptable and it brings the integrity of Tesco into question. Such behaviour by Tesco is no way to encourage honesty in their customers. Chris Palmer

Over £1200 for Hospices



Dear Editor,
Many thanks to the ladies who helped on my charity stall on the 21-07-09, and also those people who donated goods to sell. It was held in the town centre and the people of the town made it a great day it was only the weather that did not play fair. The stall was for Zoe's charity for very sick children and their carers, so ladies and gentlemen, thank you all very much for your help. The sum raised was £325. Since defeated as a Labour Councillor I have held a charity stall for the Butterwick Children's Hospice and Zoe's Children's Hospice raising in excess of £1200. A.Tomlin

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WILLIAMFIELD Residents Association meet on Wednesday 5th August at 6pm in the Silverdale Place Community House. Everyone welcome.

Town Should Recognise Good Public Service

Dear Sir,
Having attended the launch to celebrate the installation of the iconic art-work, 'In Our Image' by Joe Hillier and of the skills and dedicated professionalism of the production team in the creation of it. I then toured the magnificent training and educational complex 'The Work Place' costing many millions of pounds, built and donated by Jane Ritchie for the benefit of our young people, I appreciated D.C.C.'s publicising and sponsoring the launch and the excellent presentation made to all involved on our behalf. May I now ask the residents of Great Aycliffe for their support in urging our Town Council to confer the honour, of the Freedom of Great Aycliffe upon Joe Hillier and Miss Jane Ritchie for outstanding and lasting public service to Great Aycliffe? And, to implement a new award in our name, An Especial Award of Written Commendation for Outstanding Service, to each of the work-force team involved in the creation of that sculpture?

I believe we owe them no less and the cost of so-doing would be minimal compared to the debt of gratitude Great Aycliffe owes to them all in their positive promotion and internationally beneficial publicity of our town, it's workers and facilities. With the support of the residents, we too can contribute in giving Great Aycliffe an internationally known good name. Yours faithfully
Don Fraser
Woodham

All Dogs Can Enter this Show

Does your 'best friend' have the waggiest tail? Is your pampered pooch the prettiest bitch or the handsomest dog? These, and 'Best In Show' are the classes for the Great Aycliffe Show Fun Dog Show on Saturday 29th August. All dogs are welcome (with or without a pedigree). All entries will receive a goody bag and there will be a trophy and rosette for the Best in Show and a rosette for each winner of the other classes. Entry fee is £1 per class and all proceeds will go to Wear Valley Riding for the Disabled, a registered charity which provides riding therapy for adults and children from the age of four upwards with many forms of physical and/or learning disabilities such as cerebral palsy, Downs syndrome, autism, multiple sclerosis, mental health problems and people recovering from accident or illness. Entries are welcome on the day, but prior booking is recommended. Entry forms are available from Great Aycliffe Town Council, telephone 01325 300700 or e-mail info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk. You can also download an application form from www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk and follow the link from the right hand side of the HOME page to Great Aycliffe Show.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR ARMED FORCES

On Wednesday 12th August from 9.00 am - 9.00 pm at St Clare's Church there will be A VIGIL OF PRAYER FOR THE ARMED FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN. The Church will be open and manned throughout this time and everyone is welcome to come and sit quietly in church as part of our vigil and support for the armed forces in Afghanistan regardless of political viewpoints. Candles to light will be available and donations invited for HELP FOR HEROES. A candle will be alight for every soldier who has lost their life in Afghanistan. Public prayers will be said at 9.00 am, 12 Noon, 4pm and 9 pm. All are welcome.

NEW BIKE FOR RETIRED SWIMMING TEACHER



A retired Swimming Teacher was presented with a new bicycle, purchased with donations from all primary and junior schools on the town. Andrea Bean, retired after 40 years of teaching swimming, the last twenty three of which have been in Newton Aycliffe. She has taught the children of twelve schools in the town - a throughput of over 2000 children per school year! In some cases she has taught the grandparents of present pupils. The presentation was preceded by a recital of verses written by the children, and enactments of scenarios from the pool, quoting Mrs Bean's most familiar expressions of 'encouragement'.

HONEYMOON IN CRETE



The wedding of Gary Paul Crook a sales engineering manager and Rachael Louise Taylor a claims negotiator, formerly of Newton Aycliffe, took place on Friday 24th July at Durham Registry Office. Rachael, a former employee of Newton Press, was

attended by her sister Kelly Stoker, mother Lilian Taylor and the Groom's daughter Lauren Crook. Gary's Best Man was Paul Gidley and the Usher was Cameron-Dade Greaves, nephew of the bride.

The reception took place at The Sporting Lodge followed by a party at the bride's mother's house in Hemlington. The couple honeymooned in Crete returning to their home in Hetton-le-Hole to begin married life together. Official photographers were the bride's father and step-mother.

ART GROUP EXHIBITION

Newton Aycliffe Art Group are exhibiting a range of work at The Greenfield Gallery from Wednesday 29th July until Thursday 20th August 2009. Opening times are 9am-9pm Mon-Thurs and 9am-4pm Fri. For more information contact The Arts Centre on 01325 379 048



WOODEN playframe including slide, pole, rock climb, rope and ladders, great fun for the kids. £200, no offers. Tel 307530

WALNUT Large Corner Cupboard. £30; Wood Standard Lamp with large cream shade. £15. Wood 30 day pendulum clock £15. Tel: 320901

BARGAIN BEDS for domestic appliances, beds, furniture, carpets. At our furniture warehouse on Shafto Way or call us on 01325 321678. We could save you ££££

ELECTRIC mobility chair, Quantum 600, new batteries, £600 ono. Tel 07833 944501

GORGEOUS cream leather corner sofa, immaculate condition, only 4 years old. £300. Tel 301719 or 07717 642642

A COLLECTION of old and new coins and pocket watches. Open to any offers. Tel 307026

CREAM leather 2 and 3 seater sofas, £250. Tel 311886 after 6pm

PINE TV cabinet, front doors, internal shelf, £35; Sony TV, 20", £25; Patio heater with gas, £30; Mountain bike, 26", dual suspension, £35. Tel 07904 867563 (eves)

COMPUTER with flat screen monitor, Windows XP, new 80GB hard drive, Microsoft office software, £60. Tel 07904 867563 (eves)

TIGI HAIR products Cat Walk, Bedhead and GHD all genuine products, due to closure of hair salon, due to ill health. All items £5 each. Also GHD professional mini styler and bag, £45. Tel 304397

CRICKET Holdall, bat size 6, shin guards, helmet, 54-56cms, 2 x gloves and arm guard, very good condition, £50. Tel 07508 858107

MOSES BASKET with stand, pine changing unit, pine crib with drapes, Graco pushchair (black), car seat, all £200 ono Tel 07757 525329

ROUND metal frame dining table, 90cm diameter with glass top c/w four matching chairs, £30. Tel 310593 or 07790 299806

ASSORTMENT of girls clothes, age 2-3 years, mostly from Next in excellent condition, £30 the lot. Tel 310593 or 07790 299806

CANE conservatory settee, chair and stool. Terracotta colour, £95. Tel 312680

RESTUS double bed, barely used, £70; Yamaha portable piano, song style voice, all instruments, plus stand. £60; Atlantis fibre glass pond, size 168 x 104 x 38cm, good condition, £50. Tel 301692

2 x 2 SEATER settees, 1 chair, chestnut coloured leather in wood frame, good condition, £300 ono Tel 321657

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

CLASSIC BUS RALLY AT LOCOMOTION



Aidensfield – The Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society's Bristol L bus – which has featured in episodes of the famous 'Heartbeat' Yorkshire TV series, will be appearing at the Classic Bus Rally on Sunday 2nd August at Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon. Organised in partnership with Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society.

There'll be around 20 buses on display at the event, ranging from 1940s models onwards. A classic bus will provide the museum's site shuttle bus service throughout the day and other classic buses will be offering passenger rides on routes around the local area.

FREE CHI TAEKWONDO SESSIONS DURING AUGUST FOR EVERYONE!



If you would like to try Taekwondo free of charge then now is your chance! Throughout the whole of August 2009 Woodham Chi Taekwondo Club would like to give you the opportunity to try a session without paying a penny.

Taekwondo is a sport that you really need to do to appreciate how great it is. At Woodham we do far more than just show people how to throw a punch and execute a kick, but don't take our word for it, come and see for yourself.

For the children we instill valuable character traits, beliefs and habits, the most important ones being: self control; courtesy; perseverance; integrity; and appreciation of teachers, parents and others.

For the adults we are a place to recharge; forget about the stresses of daily life; and learn about the importance of keeping fit in body and mind.

The things you will learn at Woodham Club are Traditional Taekwondo; Self Defence, Sport (Fighting style) Taekwondo Olympic event.

You will also achieve: Improved toning and fitness; Confidence; Improved aerobic/anaerobic fitness; Improved core strength and flexibility; Develop sense of well being; Reduce stress levels.

We are based at Woodham Community Centre, DL5 4AX (near the Huntsman Pub). Instructors are C.R.B. checked, insured and members of the UK Governing Body B.T.C.B.

Training times:- Tuesday 6 - 7pm New starters/junior grades Tuesday 7 - 8.15pm Senior grades. Sunday 10.30am - 12pm, all welcome.

To book your free place please contact Kevin Mitchell on 07536061450 or Andrea Mulhearn on 07790438886.

Congratulations

Danielle - 24th July 1993



CUTIE to BEAUTY

Happy 16th Birthday

To our precious Daughter Danielle. Happy 16th Birthday. Missing you while you are having a fantastic time in Bulgaria. See you soon. Love always Mam and Dad xxxxxx

To our Big Sis Danielle. Happy 16th birthday. We do love you really and miss you. Love and kisses, from your gorgeous Brothers, Jack and Harry xxx

Danielle Congratulations and best wishes on your 16th birthday, 24th July 2009. Enjoying your holiday in Bulgaria with your friend and her family? Lots of love, Nanna and Grandad xxx Danielle Happy 16th birthday. See you soon. Lots of love, Auntie Emma, Uncle Chris, Ellie, Maisie and baby Lewis xxx Danielle, Happy 16th birthday. See you soon. Lots of love, Uncle Marc, Auntie Sarah, Cameron and Katie xxx

Fearne Zhenya Brischuk



Happy 1st Birthday Love from Mammy and Daddy xx

Happy 1st Birthday Love from Nana, Grandad, Uncle Alan and Cole xxx

Sarah Collier



Congratulations on achieving your LLB with Honours in Law at Newcastle University. All our love, Mam, Dad and Emma xxxxx

Samantha Killip



Congratulations on achieving your BSc Honours Degree. We are very proud of you. All our love, Dad, Sue, Lauren, Grandma and Granda xxx

Brian Riley



Congratulations on gaining your Masters Degree in Public Sector Management with Commendation at Northumbria University. Well done! Love, Chris and Luke xxx

Thomas Howson



(Still Cute!!) Happy 18th Birthday 3rd August 2009 Enjoy your celebrations. All our love from Dad, Mam and Georgina xx

For all your print requirements Newton Press 300212

Paul Robinson



3rd August 2009

Happy 18th Birthday and congratulations on gaining a place at Northumbria University. You've worked really hard and we are very proud of you. All our love, Dad, Mam, Anna and all the family xxx

Nicola Davies



Happy 18th Birthday

30th July You are such a beautiful person, inside and out. We love you loads, Mam, Dad, Rosie and Sam xxx

Happy 18th Nic Love from your Bro, Lee xx

Happy 18th Nicola Lots of love always, Nanna Davies. Grandad would have been so proud of you

Happy 18th Birthday To our darling Granddaughter, thinking of you always. Lots of love, Nanna and Grandad Wood and Katama and family

Happy 18th Nic Lots of love from all Aunties, Uncles and Cousins. Have a good one

Birthday Remembrance

BILL BURRELL. Dad. Remembering my Dad today (25th July) and always. God bless you. Daughter Mena and Son-in-Law Joe xxx

Obituary

TEMPORARY GRAVE MARKERS Engraved, Same Day Service Aycliffe Framers & Engravers Telephone: 321280

MARY WHITTAKER Died 23rd July 2009. Peacefully at home, aged 79 years. A loving Wife of Ricky and a loving Mam to Neil. Will always be remembered and sadly missed xxxxxx

MARYWHITTAKER Behind our smiles there lies a tear. For a loving Sister-in-Law and Aunt we loved so dear. Love, Wilf, Gary and Sue xxxx

MARY WHITTAKER. Died 23-7-09. Treasured memories of a wonderful caring Aunt. Will always be remembered. From Barbara, Michael and families

ELLIS 25th July. Suddenly. Thomas Edward, aged 80 years of Newton Aycliffe. A loving Husband of Joan. Devoted Dad of David. A dear Father-in-Law of Vivien. A much loved Grandad of Karen and the late Natasha. Great Grandad of Rebecca. A dearly loved Brother and Brother-in-Law.

Funeral to be held Tuesday 4th August. Would friends please meet at 11am for Service at St Clares Church prior to burial in West Cemetery, School Aycliffe.

Kelly Lawson



Happy 34th Birthday

30th July 2009 Happy birthday Kelly, hope you enjoy the memories in the album, sorry to end it on the picture above! Lots of love, Mam and Dad

Thank You

JENKINSON Les and Pauline Turner, parents of the late Richard, would like to thank family and friends for all their kind thoughts, prayers and cards. Many thanks also to the Rev Graham Morgan for all his support and attention. We would also like to thank the Durham Constabulary and attending paramedics, Dr Scott and Co-op Funeral Care. We hope this will be acceptable to all.

DOLAN Margaret and Joe would like to thank everyone who made our Golden Wedding day so special. Thanks to relatives and friends for their lovely cards and presents; Amanda for a great buffet; KDO Discos, RAFA Club and staff. Special thanks to Father Michael Campion for a brilliant start to the day and finally Chris, Jackie, Marnie, Paul, Sarah and Jessica for everything.

STEBBINGS, Carol and Peter would like to say a big thank you to family and friends who attended their Wedding on 18th July. Thanks for your help and support and lovely cards and gifts. Hope you all had as wonderful a day as we had. Thank you. Carol & Peter xxx

Groom Arrived in a Camper Van



John Embleton and Lesley Ann Oxley were married on the 4th July 2009 at Bishop Auckland Registrar's Office. The Reception was held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. The groom travelled to his wedding with Best Man Stewart Imeson in a camper van. In contrast his bride arrived in a white stretch limousine escorted by her son Christopher, and three Bridesmaids Ellie, Kyla and Ebony. John is employed at Darchem Engineering and Lesley is a children's nurse. They enjoyed their honeymoon in Rhodes after a few days in a cottage at Whitby. The happy couple thank John's family and all their friends for making the wedding a day to remember.

KIDS FLICKS DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

St Clare's Church are opening their Children's Cinema on Tuesday 4th, Tuesday 11th, Tuesday 18th and Tuesday 25th August - all at 2.00 pm. Tickets are £1.00 and include drink and biscuits. Tuck shop also available. Family tickets available and can be bought at the Box Office at St Clare's on Monday 3rd August between 10.00 am - 12 Noon. Details of films available at the Box Office. WATCH ALSO FOR CHICK FLICKS COMING VERY SOON!

Who Decided to Charge for Pest Control?

Dear Sir,
Re: Sedgefield Borough Homes comment - Pest (Wasp) Control not their responsibility.
How convenient this charge has not been introduced by Sedgefield Borough Homes. I find it rather obscene that a service affecting the pensioner, referred to in my letter, now attracts a significant charge. Tenants should have been made aware of this as soon as it was introduced by Durham County Council. I would urge them to clearly spell out to their tenants just how it came about this charge for a service which was provided free by Sedgefield Borough Council to residents now attracts a significant fee. Why is it no longer free and who is responsible on DCC for deciding that? These services were free at the 'point of delivery' and funded by Council Tax income. We now need to review just what we pay for out of our Council Tax.

As a Council taxpayer holding strong views on what we should or should not be paying for, could Sedgefield Borough Homes please explain just when the decision to pay for these services was taken by Durham County Council? When was it agreed by Durham County Council that the charge of £35 be imposed? I look forward to a detailed explanation for this charge from our Durham County Council Councillors from Newton Aycliffe and will be asking them just why they are going along with this charge instead of ensuring it continues to be free? The group of Independent Councillors firmly stand by our mission to put "People before Politics" as opposed to that of providing money for private organisations and putting people last. It clearly identifies why you should vote Independent and not for New Labour who supported the Transfer of Housing Stock! Council. Bill Blenkinsopp (Independent)

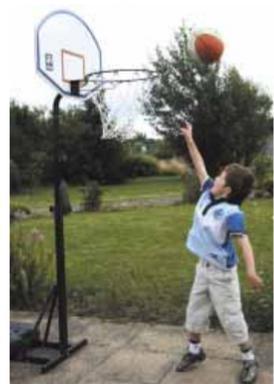
LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR INFANTS

Dear Sir,
I am writing as an angered parent as like most parents, I am trying to plan a variety of low cost activities for my children over the holidays (aged 6 and 4). After vast research I have found that Newton Aycliffe leisure providers do not provide ANY sessions such as art zone or any other activities at any sports centres/leisure centres in the Sedgefield area that can cater for my children. I have been told that this is due to age limits on certain groups, even though I have offered to assist my robust 4 year old in the activities. Why is this? Most of my friends are in the same situation having pre-school and a school aged children. Can leisure service providers please look into this in future and stop discriminating against us?
Clare Reilly, Moule Close

B.B.Q. HELD AT CARE CENTRE



Over 100 people attended a barbeque at the Pioneering Care Centre on Friday 24th July. PCP clients, staff, volunteers and their families enjoyed the event hosted by the PCP as a way of saying thank you to staff and volunteers for their contribution to the centre and its services. The weather kept fine and in addition to the barbeque, participants were able to enjoy Boules, table tennis, Giant Jenga, a disco, and even a dip in the Hydrotherapy Pool.



FAMILY FUN DAY

A free family fun day at Greenfield, creative games and a kite making challenge with Artist Kay Henderson. Join us on Friday 7th August from 10am-3pm for a day of fun! Contact the arts centre to book a place on 01325 379 048

Andre, Diane and the Oaks-Church Team

invite you to discussions about panic, anxiety, depression and sickness - how to receive or to lose your healing.

Sunday 9th & 16th August
Sunnydale Leisure Centre
Shildon, from 10.00am

"Jesus is willing to heal you"

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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
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A&S Majestic	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £279.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £399.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £449.00	NOW £359.00

4'0" and 4'6" BED SET

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