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No Public Toilets in Town Centre Plans

Great Aycliffe Residents' Association obtained the following statement under the "Freedom of Information Act"

Your request for information on public toilet provision at Newton Aycliffe Library, has been considered and I can advise you as follows.

Newton Aycliffe Town Centre is privately owned by a company called Freshwater. The redevelopment proposals were the subject of public consultation more than a year ago and this included a phasing of certain parts of the centre. The County Council is involved with the relocation of the library both on a temporary basis and a permanent basis.

The re-modelling of the Leisure Centre is approximately 3-5 years away in the draft programme and this depends on other matters being completed in the meantime.

The question of toilet provision has only been discussed in general and has not reached the stage where this would be discussed in the context of the Leisure Centre development.

Durham County Council.

Editor:
Based on this information Great Aycliffe Residents' Association are petitioning the Landlords and our local Authorities to provide public toilets in the Town Centre and ensure they are included in the scheme.

We print the petition in this issue on page two to give residents the opportunity to express their opinion. A number of shops have petition forms for customers to sign.

Another Free Gift Issued by Rotary Club at Aycliffe Show



Last year the Rotary Club gave away thousands of Energy Saving Light Bulbs as part of the Government strategy to help people save money on electric bills. The club gave them away at the Great Aycliffe Show and on their Christmas Santa Round.

This year at the Show the club will be giving away "Powerdowns" a special three pin plug valued around £10 to switch off standbys on equipment, which saves a considerable sum over a year. The first 1000 people to call at the Rotary Stall will receive their free Powerdown.

AYCLIFFE LADS WIN IN THAILAND



Reece Mcallister and Anth Shelton have been in Thailand for a month and have already made great progress. From getting off the plane in Bangkok the lads where straight into training.

With Reece being a regular at the Thai camp, the owner of Superpro had him lined up to fight on the 28th July. The fight was a step up in class for Reece as they knew him from his fights from his last visit to Thailand. It took Reece 2 rounds to clinch the win which his Thai trainers were so pleased about.

August 7th saw both boys fighting on the same night, and there was a mixture of nerves, excitement and fear. First up was Anth fighting the Thai fighter Kaowkai, with slick movement and sharp combinations Anth took control unleashing

a barrage of punches and kicks which resulted in him stopping his Thai opponent with a left kick to the body. Next up was Reece, fighting the last fight of the night which was midnight. He was on blistering form and took 30 seconds of round one to dispatch his opponent.

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4 Church Street
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This is the Way to Run a Council

Dear Sir,
A maverick Mayor elected after promising to slash council spending, clear the streets of jobs and ditch politically correct services, is the torchbearer for how towns should be run. On his first morning as Mayor of Doncaster, Peter Davies cut his salary from £73,000 to £30,000 then closed the council's newspaper for "peddling politics on the rates". Now three weeks into his job, Mr. Davies is pressing ahead with plans he hopes will see the number of

town councillors cut from 63 to just 21, saving taxpayers £800,000. Mr. Davies said: "If 100 senators can run the United States of America, I can't see how 63 councillors are needed to run Doncaster". He has withdrawn Doncaster from the Local Government Association and the Local Government Information Unit, saving another £200,000. Mr. Davies said, "They are just talking shops. Doncaster is in for some serious unwinning. We are twinned with probably nine other cities around the world and it is just for people to fly off and have a binge at the council's expense".

The mayor's chauffeur-driven car has also been axed by Mr. Davies and the driver given another job. Mr. Davies, born and bred in Doncaster, swept to power in the May election with 24,244 votes as a candidate for the English Democrats, a party that wants tight immigration curbs, an English Parliament and a law forcing every public building to fly the flag of St. George. He has promised to end council funding for

Doncaster's International Women's Day, Black History Month and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month. He said, "Politicians have got completely out of touch with what people want. We need to cut costs. I want to pass on some savings I make in reduced taxes and use the rest for things we really need, like improved children's services". Mr. Davies has received messages from well-wishers across the country and abroad as news of his no-nonsense approach spreads. Now it's our chance to spread this most sensible way to run a Council. Dave Wood

Charity Fundraiser Wins £500!



In the cash - Les Lindsay pictured with Jeanette Pickard, Chief Executive of the Tony Blair Sports Foundation and Gordon Hall, Managing Director of Lifestyle fitness.

A member of the Lifestyle Fitness Gym at Spennymoor Leisure Centre has won £500 after taking part in the Lifestyle Fitness Charity Challenge.

Mr Les Lindsay who completed the challenge was presented with a cheque for £500 to spend as he likes, having won a prize draw for participants.

Hundreds of Lifestyle Fitness members across the UK, including those at Ferryhill, Shildon Sunnydale, Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor Leisure Centres have been taking part in the challenge since 2008.

Every two years Lifestyle Fitness commits to supporting a different charity. Members of Lifestyle Fitness in 2008/2009 have been urged to complete the challenge and raise funds for the Tony Blair Sports Foundation.

For each member who completes the challenge, Lifestyle Fitness donates £5 to the charity and members across the UK have taken part in a variety of fundraising activities and so far have raised over £250,000 for a

number of charitable causes. The next big push to raise funds for the Sports Foundation is with Lifestyle Fitness Team 100, who are taking part in the 2009 Great North Run. The team are seeking support and sponsorship. The Tony Blair Sports Foundation is a charity which aims to invest in local people to help them make the most of themselves through sport. The Lifestyle Fitness Charity challenge will continue until 2010.

New Friends New Places

We Meet every Tuesday at the Navy Club, Burnhill Way from 2pm until 4pm. Come along and meet New Friends. Come with us and enjoy going to New Places together. Do not sit at home by yourselves.

We welcome new members and some who have joined us are thoroughly enjoying the company and outings. Carers often bring people who after a few meetings those people come by themselves. The comments often are "This is a friendly homely club I wish I had known about it before" We now have 42 members and will soon be setting out our winter programme and would welcome ideas. Come along and join us For further details ring Dorothy Bowman 01325 308094.

P.A.C.T. MEETINGS

GREENFIELD/MIDDRIDGE WARD

Thankyou to all those who attended the meeting on Wednesday 05th August.

The priorities that have been agreed for the area are as follows: ESKDALE PLACE - Rowdy Nuisance Behaviour/Vehicle related nuisance; WASKERLY WALK/GREENFIELD NURSING HOME - Kids causing arson to wheelie bins, and youths drinking in and around the derelict nursing home.

The next meeting will be held on September 16th at 7.00pm at AYCLIFFE EVANGELICAL CHURCH, everybody is welcome.

PCSO 6859 Mike WELCH
NEWTON AYCLIFFE BEAT TEAM
Tel: 0345 60 60 365

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Sedgefield Borough Homes is a 'not for profit' independent housing association. We were set up in March 2009 after council tenants in Sedgefield Borough voted in favour of transferring the ownership and management of their homes to SBH.

We are currently looking to appoint an Independent Board member to assist in the leadership of Sedgefield Borough Homes.

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The position will be held on a voluntary basis, however, out of pocket expenses will be paid.

If you have an interest in the local communities, in particular social housing issues and would like an application pack, please contact the Administration Team on 0845 5055500 extension 4283. For more information about the position, please contact Alan Smith, Company Secretary on 01388 824076.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Wednesday, 19th August, 2009.

If you would like further information, details can be found on Sedgefield Borough Homes' website: www.sedgefieldboroughhomes.co.uk

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RESIDENTS CALLED TO ACTION

We understand the provision of Town Centre Toilets, expected in the phase 4 of the redevelopment of the Town Centre, is still under discussion and may not happen. It is therefore important residents express their views on this matter and support the petition printed below.

GREAT AYCLIFFE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION PETITION FOR TOWN CENTRE TOILETS TEMPORARY & PERMANENT

We the undersigned call on the County Council, Town Council and the Town Centre Landlords to provide TEMPORARY PUBLIC TOILETS in the Town Centre pending PERMANENT TOILETS being provided in the new Community Hub proposed for Beveridge Arcade in Phase 4 of the Town Centre redevelopment.

Signed Name

Address

Please sign and hand in at Newton Press or our agents Newsforce, Town Centre, and Walkers, Simapsturegate. Forms for signatures are also available in some Town Centre Shops.

FUN AT BURNHILL

Don't forget - if you're looking for something for the children to do in these school holidays that there are five fun-filled mornings coming up on Monday 17th to Friday 21st August at Burnhill Way Methodist Church (near the Turbinia). The theme of the Holiday Club is Heroes and Superheroes. Each morning starts at 9.30am, finishes 12 noon and costs 50p per child. There will be fun and games, DVD's, crafts, music/singing, refreshments, tuck etc. suitable for all school age children. If you can't make every morning then just come when you can, no pre-booking needed - just turn up. All children welcome.

M.P. MADE AWARE OF SOUTHERNE CLUB EYESORE



Dear Sir,
 May I thank our M.P. Phil Wilson for sparing the time to attend Williamfield Residents' Association's last meeting.

The residents were both surprised and delighted to have such an important and influential guest who listened and took notes on their problems.

The vacant Southernne Club is now a danger and an eyesore and despite many complaints the situation remains the same. With Phil on board we may get the owners to do something before someone is injured. Vandals have already attacked the roof and repairing the slates will be very costly. Neighbours have reported youngsters getting inside the building which is dangerous and may contain asbestos.

Anti Social Behaviour is still an issue - we solve one problem but another crops up immediately. Most trouble comes from those houses owned by private landlords who seem only to be interested in their rent money. I do have contact with some of these landlords who care about the behaviour of their tenants, but not all are as conscientious.

I am very pleased that the residents of Stephenson Way are happy with the new parking layby just installed.

Enid Paylor
 County Councillor

Are we Getting Our Share of £162m?

Dear Sir,
 Re: County Council £162 investment next year.

The election of Councillors to the Unitary Authority should have resulted in Aycliffe being better represented which is why when I stood myself. I tried to impress upon residents the importance of voting for people who will represent you well. The £162 million announcement made on the front page last week only highlighted bad news for here. We have eight County Councillors but not one sits on the County Council Cabinet which might explain the lack of investment in Aycliffe next year, apart from the Library. We have 26,000 residents, yet we appear to have been treated as some tiny backwater village.

I can't get worked up about this announcement, but what I can get worked up about is the £68 million earmarked for services for children and young people. It's not the question of it being deserved or not but rather the lack of any semblance of services for elderly people! There is a definite lack of interest in our elderly people, in particular the Cubby which was

supposed to be part of phase 1 of the new town centre.

I am not alone in tackling this issue as I have the full support of Bob Fleming Leader of the Town Council and a large number of experienced councillors who have also indicated their support for immediate action for the Cubby.

Instead of making the Cubby a priority, our elderly residents have to suffer the indignity of sharing a delapidated hut to socialise and hold meetings.

They should get a suitable place of their own and I share their bitter frustrations at being denied one. The lease for the land on which the Cubby stands is owned by Durham County Council who could make it happen if they so wished. The questions needs to be asked of those people who represent the town and should be making the Council sit up and take notice of the needs of the elderly people here!

It is vital Aycliffe Unitary Authority Councillors get themselves together? They must demand that DCC provide a purpose built building for the Cubby on the original land which DDC owns. This would

give them an ideal opportunity to show their worth. It's all very well saying when I get on the Unitary Authority I will work for you, when the voting and meeting records tell a different story.

Counc. Bill Blenkinsopp

CARAVAN STOLEN

On Sunday the 9th August between the hours of 9.30 and 10pm an Elddis Mistral caravan was stolen from a drive in Kirkstone Place.

The caravan didn't have very much value, but it is of great sentimental value. Due to a bereavement in the family the caravan was left to take grandchildren on holidays.

Anyone with information please contact Newton Press on 300212. A reward is offered for information leading to the caravan being returned.

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Sandra Leaves After 16 Years Service



Staff and children at CLC Pre-School gathered on the last day of term to say goodbye to Sandra Kirby, one of their Pre-School Assistants.

Sandra is leaving after 16 years as part of the staff team to pursue her fostering ventures. She was the founding staff member of the pre-school which opened in 1993.

Rachel Bayne, Deputy Manager said 'All the children and the staff will really miss Sandra, she's been here since the beginning and has been a really important part of the Pre-School'.

Sandra was presented with a bouquet by Pastor Glyn Greenow of Xcel Church who thanked her for all her dedication and commitment over the years and expressed best wishes for her future.

CLC Pre-School has closed for the summer but will re-open under the banner of Little Cubs Day Nursery in September. Little Cubs will then be moving into a new purpose built area of the Xcel Centre in Aycliffe Business Park and will have up to 70 places for children from newborn to 5 years old full time and up to 11 years old for out of school care.

Further details can be found at xcelcentre.com/littlecubs or ring 0845 450 5871.

TOWN MAYOR OFFICIALLY OPENS NEW PHARMACY

The Mayor, Mary Dalton officially opened the town's new Lloyds pharmacy this week. Joined by members of the Primary Care Trust and the new pharmacy team, Mrs Dalton marked the occasion by cutting the ribbon and welcoming customers to the store.

Located next to the Peaseway Medical Centre the purpose-built pharmacy has a team of eleven staff and is the first in the area to offer extended opening seven days a week.

The pharmacy is open to all customers, between 8 am and 11 pm, Monday to Saturday, and 10 am to 8 pm on Sunday. In addition to a comprehensive pharmacy and dispensing service, the pharmacy offers professional health checks in the comfort of a private consultation room.

Pharmacist Pete Horrocks, of Bishop Auckland who has worked with Lloyds pharmacy for five years, leads the new team. "I'm really pleased to be working in Newton Aycliffe," explained Pete. "It is a great pleasure to open a new pharmacy close to home."

"We have a great team and the extended opening hours are proving to be very popular, as are the clinical services we provide. At the moment we offer blood pressure and diabetes testing along with emergency contraception, minor ailments and stop smoking services. We're planning to introduce more in the future including cholesterol tests."

Mike Spence, Practice Manager at Peaseway Medical Centre, said: "There are many mutual benefits having the medical practice and pharmacy on the same site. Patients are very pleased with the service they're getting and it is very convenient. The early and late opening hours help to fit around people's lifestyles and the free parking means people can literally pull up outside and pop into the pharmacy. One member of the new pharmacy team is a particularly familiar face in the town. Joan White previously worked at Woolworths for 37 years before the shop closed. Now, Joan can be found at Lloyds pharmacy assisting

with dispensing and sales of medicines.

Pete Horrocks added: "In addition to dispensing prescriptions and over the counter health and beauty products, we also offer a free express prescription collection and delivery service for the convenience

of our customers. We hope customers will take advantage of the many professional health screening services and advice available here at the pharmacy." For more information, contact 01325 318135 or visit www.lloydspharmacy.com



E.M.P. SUPPORTS TOWN'S NEW LIB DEM BRANCH

Fiona Hall (née Cutts) was born in 1955, in Manchester. She has lived in Whittingham, Northumberland since 1981 and has two grown up daughters.

Fiona graduated in Modern Languages at Oxford University and then gained a Postgraduate Certificate in Education at Oxford Polytechnic.

After leaving University, Fiona taught in a squatter settlement in Botswana for two years. On her return to England, she worked in Northumberland as a play group leader and part-time supply teacher.

In the early 1990s Fiona chaired the Druridge Bay campaign to stop nuclear power and sand extraction on the Northumberland coast. She then moved to work for the Liberal Democrats, firstly as a press/political officer and then until 2004 as a parliamentary researcher and press officer to Alan Beith MP. In 2001, Fiona acted as an International Polling Station Supervisor in the elections in Kosovo, working for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Fiona was first elected as a Liberal Democrat Member of the European Parliament



for the North East of England in June 2004. In June 2009, Fiona was re-elected as an MEP for the North East for a second term. She currently heads the delegation of UK Liberal Democrat MEPs in Brussels.

She is delighted a branch of the Liberal Democrats is to be launched in Newton Aycliffe and said:

"It is really great to see that Lib Dem supporters are getting organised in Newton Aycliffe and plan to tackle local issues such as the regeneration of the town centre and more opportunities for young people. I am very much looking forward to working closely with this new branch and they have my full support."

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MUSICAL EVENING

St. Andrews Church at Aycliffe Village present "Music for a Summers Evening" on Saturday 15th August at 7 p.m. in the church. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served. All are welcome and there will be a collection plate for donations.

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ROMAN'S EMBRACE RANGE GOES ONE STEP FURTHER

Local shower designer and manufacturer, Roman Ltd based at Newton Aycliffe, has announced a series of new and innovative additions to their Embrace range of shower enclosures. Following the success and popularity of the Embrace range since its launch, the collection now includes three additional product offerings.

The enhanced collection includes a curvaceous Quadrant enclosure, which features space-efficient sliding doors offering a large showering space whilst taking up less external space when opened. The sliding doors smoothly open to each side of the enclosure with their smooth running roller bearings - offering a seamless entry into the enclosure.

The sleek and sophisticated design of the ergonomic handle ensures safe and stylish access into the showering area. The Curved Quadrant comes with the option of the thermostatic



integrated digital valve which is discreetly incorporated into the corner profile of the

enclosure for a minimalist ultra modern look, and is available in an array of sizes; 800 x 800, 900x 900, 1000 x 1000, 800x 900, and 800 x 1000mm.

For over-bath showering, where the available space will not allow for a separate shower enclosure and bath, the Embrace range offers a clean and contemporary bath screen. The Embrace bath screen features 6mm thick toughened glass and a unique sealing system which incorporates a clear seal down the length of the pivot mechanism, ensuring that areas prone to leakage remain water tight whilst still

allowing 180 degree movement of the glass panel. For complete reassurance a barrier in the form of a subtle aluminium strip runs the length of the bath screen, and is bonded to the bath to form a secure seal ensuring it is suitable for use with power showers.

The final addition to the Embrace range is the high quality Hinged Door which features 8mm thick toughened glass and is available in a range of size options; 760, 800, 900 & 1000mm. The Hinged Door can be used alone in an alcove situation, or teamed with a side panel, to suit your space and comes with the option of the thermostatic integrated digital valve.

David Osborne, Managing Director at Roman, commented: "We are extremely pleased with the success of the Embrace range. Our Design Team have been hard at work to create the new collection of products. They are designed to perfectly suit the style conscious and price sensitive end of the market, with all the most popular shapes, sizes and styles of enclosures - without compromising on style. Roman provides showering solutions for all budgets and individual needs."

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Floral Display Appreciated

Dear Sir,
I would like to thank the Town Council gardeners and all responsible for the beautiful display of flowers, plants, beds and pots around the town, on roundabouts and in the parks.

The colourful displays are a joy to behold and a credit to our town and taxpayers money well spent.

Thank you and please keep up the good work.

Mrs. A. Humble

JUNIOR FOOTBALLERS WANTED AT SPORTS CLUB



We are recruiting new players for season 2009/2010 which kicks off soon, any boys interested please contact Michael Todd on 07983 976 263 or 01325 301993 or we train at Greenfield School on a Tuesday 5pm till 6 pm. We wish to thank Gregg Little Test Centre for sponsoring the under 12s football team.

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enclosure for a minimalist ultra modern look, and is available in an array of sizes; 800 x 800, 900x 900, 1000 x 1000, 800x 900, and 800 x 1000mm. For over-bath showering, where the available space will not allow for a separate shower enclosure and bath, the Embrace range offers a clean and contemporary bath screen. The Embrace bath screen features 6mm thick toughened glass and a unique sealing system which incorporates a clear seal down the length of the pivot mechanism, ensuring that areas prone to leakage remain water tight whilst still

Scooby Doo at Shildon

Yes, the famous character can be seen in Shildon CentreStages new production at the Civic Hall in Shildon this month. On Thursday, 20th and Friday the 21st August Scooby Doo and the rest of the gang can be seen at the Civic Hall in Shildon, with the curtain going up at 7pm. Scooby Doo will then have a day off to recover before doing one more performance on Sunday 23rd August, with curtain up at 2pm.

This show will have all the usual family fun to keep the audience entertained throughout the whole production. Be sure you'll see plenty of ghosts, mixed together with plenty of music and comedy to keep everyone amused, but please make sure you don't try to pinch the Scooby Snacks, Scooby Doo doesn't like to share them.

A member of the group said "the cast are all from Shildon, Aycliffe and the Bishop area and we love to entertain to the local community. We try and keep our prices low so everyone can come along and have a great time. The prices are £4 for adults and £2.50 for the kids.

The show will have lots of audience participation so expect to shout, point and sing along to some familiar songs, and who knows you may even end up on stage and be part of the show."

So don't forget come see the best detective team in Shildon, 20th / 21st / 23rd August a great show for all the family. Tickets can be ordered by phoning 01325 313363 / 01388 774838 or on line www.freewebs.com/centrestageatre, or follow the links on facebook.

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School Club Visit K9 Pursuits



Kendra and staff would like to thank Gill and Andrea of K9 pursuits on Aycliffe Business Park for allowing Woodham Burn Out of School Club to visit their dog day care and training centre. Gill and Andrea gave the child a fantastic, fun and exciting interactive talk which made the children

aware of techniques which they could use when around familiar and unfamiliar dogs. The children enjoyed the opportunity to practise what they had learned on the life sized toy dogs which Gill and Andrea provided. The most talked about part of the session was meeting the dogs Paddy and Tinker, who

showed the children how well trained they were. Thank you K9 for taking the time to speak to the staff and children, and we had a lovely time. The children's comment were: Lewis A, age 8 years; "I liked the tricks that the dogs showed us like rolling over, giving a paw and hopping. They were clever and well trained."

Lauren R, age 6 years: "I liked pretending to be a dog in the game we played." Christopher P, age 11 years: "I thought it was great because I met Paddy." The club is open 7.45am to 6 pm throughout the school holidays and provides a drop off and pick up service. If you would like details please do not hesitate to contact Kendra on 300080.

GOING BACK TO OPEN SEWERS?

A Young mother with her infant were in the town centre and as expected the child wanted the toilet. Knowing there was no toilet readily available the mother was prepared and brought out a potty for the child to use in the open street. Isn't that awful and a certain indication of the need for public toilets in our town centre? There are numerous stories like this causing embarrassment to residents and it must stop! We are grateful that the mother did at least use a potty, but some are forced to allow their kids to pee in the street. Peter Beaty, local champion for Senior Citizens, has many such tales to tell which have been told to him by those who have been 'caught short' and he is supporting the town's Residents Association in their petition for temporary toilets now and new toilets in the redeveloped town centre. Please show your support by signing the petition and collecting signatures. We

must show how much a priority the provision of public toilets is in our town centre.

LOCAL POET RECOGNISED

Dear Sir,
I thought the poem on Page 7 last week was familiar so I searched the book of my work which has been published over the years in the Northern Echo. It appeared in December 1999 so it was a shame my name as the author was not added to the piece. It was nice that someone sent it in so thank you, but I would have liked a moment of fame.
Mrs. M. A. Mason
Editor: We are happy to acknowledge the poem is your work. This information was not supplied and we assumed it was unknown.

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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.

£98 FOR RESIDENTS

Staff & residents at Aycliffe Care Home, would like to thank George and Maud Gray for the donation of £98.00 they made to our Residents Comfort Fund following the loss of George's lovely mum Lily. The residents will enjoy lots of different activities from their generosity. Thank you very much.

Show Golf Tournament

The Great Aycliffe Show Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday 29 August 2009 at the Oakleaf Golf Complex. The Tournament is open to all residents of Great Aycliffe, plus all Members of the Oakleaf Golf Club, regardless of where they live. Sponsored by Hays Travel and organised in conjunction with the Oakleaf Golf Club, prize money for first, second and third places will be allocated in four categories, Adults, Seniors, Ladies and Juniors, with an additional £50 voucher prize for 'Nearest the Pin'. Application forms are available from www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk or from Bob Oliver, tel: 01325 316040 or 07714 359974 and should be returned for the attention of Mr Oliver at the Oakleaf Golf Complex Pro Shop, Oakleaf Sports Complex or Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices by 17 August (extended deadline).

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Over 50's Try the Wii at Neville Community Centre

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. Dad and 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. Major Bob Jones will be the speaker at the Senior Citizens Forum on Monday 7th September at 1.30pm. His talk is on Royal connections. Admission is £2 including refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Veterans Parade and Badge Presentation by high ranking officer will be held in December. Ring 313924 to register your attendance. Free Wii Demo for over 50's on Monday 31st August. A way to have fun and keep fit. Free refreshments provided sponsored by NHS. Open Day to view all our facilities on Tuesday 1st September. Call in for a look round and Tea & Biscuits.

THE COMMITTEE OF RIDICULOUS DECISIONS

Dear Sir,

Is there a secret committee that meets and takes all of the ridiculous decisions that seem to continually blight this fair town of ours? If so where do I sign up? I could do with a good laugh at everybody else's expense.

Cobblers Hall was a blank canvass that has been filled with some useful amenities that benefit the immediate area. Except that it has possibly the worst laid out car park in the country. Seldom do I visit without either being involved in or witnessing a near miss in that car park. A mish mash of spaces and several rows all converging into one exit, but all at different angles. Was a conventionally laid out car park and a one way system really beyond the developers / planners?

The new 'artistic' and hugely expensive sign at the entrance to the town that proudly proclaims 'Aycliffe Business Park', except that the letters appear to be held on with blu tak or somebody is systematically collecting all of them until they have a full set. Obviously building them right next to a path and at ground level was the best way to solve the vandalism problems that blighted the previous signs that were 20 feet high. One of many improvements that will, apparently, attract company's to locate here. I know that if I was looking to set up a company the top of my list would be a Business Park that sported concrete balls next to the pavement and a permanently vandalised sign. At least this sign does look slightly better than the one next to the Blue Bridge that looks like its made from Stickle Bricks.

At the other end of the industrial estate / park / whatever, we have 'In Our Image.' Proudly trumpeted as the final piece in the Aycliffe Business Park makeover. A credible rival to the Angel Of The North at a mere 4 metres shorter, oh and about 200 yards from a huge Heighington Lane Business Pak sign, just so you're not quite sure exactly where you are. A new potent symbol that will regenerate the area and attract sight seers and businesses from far and wide. Except that it's been erected in the bushes and unless somebody does the pruning on a regular basis you wont actually be able to see it in a few years. Not than you can get a good look at it now unless you do three laps of the

roundabout, because there's no proper place to park up.

Then we move into the town centre and the Library. Temporarily relocated at huge expense to the old petrol station site and a location that it now also conveniently shares with Wilkinson's new delivery point. So just make sure that you aren't reading your newly borrowed book as you leave the library. You've got a good chance of being run over by a lorry! Why it couldn't have just been relocated to its permanent home now is beyond me. But hey, what's a few hundred thousand quid down the drain between taxpayers!

Finally the jewel in Aycliffes crooked crown. The mighty Tesco. The final prime building plot smack bang in the centre of town, with all roads leading to it. Except the new road layout to service the store was apparently designed by a five year old with a box of crayons. The main delivery point for countless lorries and vans is conveniently situated on one of the busiest roads in town and a good 20 yards from peoples homes and bedrooms. The entrance road to the store is in total gridlock when there are more than 6 cars in the petrol station. However the drama is

all worth it once you enter the store. A great white industrial elephant of a store that would look right at home on the new improved Business Park but is an absolute monstrosity of a building to be in our town centre. Were we really that desperate as a town to get a 'superstore' here that we had to agree that they could build a mini Fujitsu?

So, that committee! Where do I sign up? Dismayed Name & address supplied

NO PLACES LEFT FOR ROTARY GOLF DAY AT WOODHAM

The town's Rotary Club Charity Golf Day, to be held at Woodham Golf Club, is full. The competition on Friday 4th September will be a 4 Ball Better Ball Stableford with Tee Off times from 1pm from the 1st and 10th Tee. Valuable Prizes are on offer for the winners and also for the Longest Drive and Nearest to the Pin (Par 3).

The Rotary Club thanks Pro. Ernie Wilson and the owners for the special concession made to the club for this event.

Local businesses are invited to sponsor Holes and provide promotional gifts to players. Please contact Secretary R. Manners on Telephone: (01325) 374714. Mobile: 07712 771464 or Newton Press on 300212.

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SPIRITUALIST ROADSHOW

A Spiritual Roadshow is to be held on Saturday 5th September at the new Agnew Community Centre, Morrison Close.

The event from 1pm-5pm will include a talk and Demonstration of Spiritualist Healing, a demonstration of Mediumship by Anne Calder CSNU and Carol Fiddes DSNU, a slide show on Spirit Photography by Minister Bill Fiddes DSNU and a talk on the Spiritualists' Lyceum Union by Sylvia Hobro CSNU.

After a tea break there will be 2 x one-hour evening demonstrations of mediumship (6pm-7pm) by David Wheeler OSNU and Les Henderson. Tickets for the day are £5, for the evening £3 and for day and evening combined £6.

Some private sittings will be available during the day at £10 each. All proceeds to the NDC. Tickets available from the Spiritualist Church, Monday evenings at 7pm or further information from www.newtonaycliffespiritualistchurch.co.uk

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Collectors Day at the Loco

As well as visiting the collection of railway vehicles at Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon, the museum is offering the public the chance to showcase their collections - large or small - at its Local Collectors' Day on Sunday August 16. If you have a collection - whether it's books or bottles, stamps or sports kits, coins or trading cards - you'll find this a great opportunity to meet other collectors and show off your hard work. Collections already signed

up include a display of milk bottles, crates and churns; a display of 1/50 scale construction equipment; and a collection of regimental cap badges from World War 1 and World War II.

There's also a great set of leather bookmarks compiled by Anthony Coulls, Curator at Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon. If you'd like to display at Local Collectors' Day on Sunday August 16, contact Pam Porter on 01388 771445 or pporter@sedgefield.gov.uk

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UNIVERSAL PHONE CHARGER + CUTS WILL BENEFIT EVERYONE

It happens all the time - you forget your phone charger but cannot borrow a friend's because it's not the right type. But soon this nightmare will be over. Under pressure from the European Commission the ten leading manufacturers of mobile phones have agreed that from next year they will all use the same type of charger. According to North East MEP Fiona Hall, it was the threat of legal action which forced phone makers to see sense. The Liberal Democrat Euro-MP described the current confusion of electrical connections used to power the 70 million mobile phones

in use in Britain as a waste of money and resources. "This outcome shows how effective it is to have a single European market. No one country alone could have brought this about, but collectively it has been possible to bang heads together and secure a long overdue change for the better." The new charger will be based on the familiar micro-USB cable already used in some mobile phones. And there is more good news for mobile phone users going on holiday this summer, as the European Parliament has forced substantial cuts on the price of text messaging and other data roaming services

whilst abroad. From July, the price of a text message sent from abroad will fall to just €0.11 (9p) and the cost of outgoing phone calls will be restricted to €0.43 (35p) a minute excluding VAT. Incoming phone calls can only be charged at €0.19 (16p) a minute, excluding VAT. Said Fiona: "These new cuts to mobile phone tariffs will substantially reduce the cost for North East people on holiday within the EU. "Mobile phone providers failed to make sufficient price cuts voluntarily so it has been necessary to force them to offer more transparency and cheaper services."

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The awful smell coming off a farmer's field on the Eldon Road hit the town again last weekend. There were complaints a few weeks ago and we thought the problem had been resolved, but we had lots of calls this week asking if the gut retching smell could be stopped. We are aware that similar problems have occurred at other farms near Darlington and the Borough Council have taken action with statutory nuisance notices issued to the

farmer who must discontinue spreading the waste which produces such a disgusting, putrid smell. Failure to comply could result in legal action being taken as the Council are taking the matter very seriously. We need Durham County Council to do the same as they admit to having received several complaints. However an officer informed our local Councillors that the Environmental Health Department are unable to do anything about it.

They were advised that spraying would begin at Eldon. It is treated sewage (now that it can no longer be dumped at sea it is being sprayed on the land) and complies with all the necessary policy and procedures. A meeting is convened for September with representatives covering the North of England to see if something can be done to amend the procedures governing the spraying. Darlington Council are not waiting and have taken action now when it is needed.

Watch Live Football at the Sports Complex

Where are you going to watch your favourite teams play this season? Here at Oak Leaf Sports Complex we have the full Sky packages so there's no need to miss any of the action. Chelsea v Hull Kick off 12.45, Saturday 15th August Newcastle v Reading Kick off 5.20 Saturday 15th August Man U. v Birmingham Kick off 1.30 Sunday 16th August Tottenham v Liverpool Kick off 4.00 Sunday 16th August Watch all the new Premiership and Championship season on our large screen T.V.'s in our recently refurbished bar. A warm welcome awaits you. For further information, contact the Oak Leaf Sports Complex 01325-300600.

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GET SET FOR A GENERAL ELECTION

The Electoral Commission, the independent elections watchdog, is reminding potential voters that now's the time to make sure you are on the electoral register ahead of the forthcoming General Election and English local elections. Local authorities are

currently sending out registration forms to households across the country to make sure the registers are up to date so that everyone who is entitled to vote can do so.

"More people vote in General Elections than in other UK elections - but you can't vote if you're not on the electoral register," says Electoral Commission Chief Executive, Peter Wardle.

"Our next General Election must be held by June 2010, so everyone should take a few minutes to complete the registration form when it arrives. Remember: you're not automatically entitled to vote just because you pay council tax or have voted before. Make sure nothing stops you from having your say on who represents you".

Voters - especially those voting at a General Election for the first time, can find out more about what's involved and visit the Commission's virtual polling station at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

Birthday Remembrance

MAUREEN MAWSON (nee Nichol). 14th August 1946 to 14th February 2009. Happy Birthday. Today we won't let Maureen be alone. Her first since she left home. Today's her birthday, you can see, still loved and remembered at "sixty three". We all miss her on this special day. The lovely things she did and used to say. Those special times, we do recall. It's now we miss you most of all. Always forever and loved a lot, in our memories never to be forgot. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx fourteen kisses to you we blow, guided by a dove up they go. To you Maureen up above, all for you with all our love. Derrick, Donna, Stuart, Andrew, Eleanor, Liz, Jade, Leah, Jhorden, Sam, James and Rebecca

JULIE REED 19th August. On her 35th birthday. No words were ever written, no verse will ever say. How much we love and miss you on this your special day. Love you forever. Mam and Dad xxx

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Give Your Time to Macmillan Cancer Support

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

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

Michelle said: "We have around 5 volunteers in the Co Durham area who assist us with various aspects of our work; manning our supermarket collections, speaking to groups on our behalf and administration. "We are looking to expand our volunteer base in the area so that we can reach out to even more people that need our help."

Macmillan Cancer Support improves the lives of people affected by cancer by providing practical,

medical, emotional and financial support for people with cancer, their families and carers.

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

Many people find the

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

Macmillan Cancer Support are holding a recruitment Morning on August 22nd, aimed at providing more information about local volunteering opportunities. If you'd like to attend this event, contact Michelle Muir on 370870 or email mmuir@macmillan.org.uk.

Property Sale

2 BEDROOM DOWNSTAIRS FLAT with fenced garden and shed at rear and open plan garden at the front, 2 minutes from Town Centre (Newton Aycliffe).

Accommodation comprises: Lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with over bath shower, large hall with two large shelved storage cupboards, Fitted carpets throughout. Immediate vacant possession.

Price £56,500
70% ownership, this is a shared ownership flat and the applicant has to be over 55 years of age.

To view please ring 01325 308094

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SILVER MGZR 51 reg, 1.4, 1 years MoT, 5 months tax. Good condition, £1800 ono. No time wasters, genuine reason for sale. Tel 320923

Pets

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PROFESSIONAL Dog Groomer. Tel 07521 736 122

Tuition

LEARN TO SIGN - "the fun way". Every Friday morning at 11am at Woodham - for babies who already sign and toddlers who want to learn. Next set of Beginners Classes start Friday 21st Aug at 2pm - **BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW** (from 6 mths old) Contact JULES on 07966 968388 or email: signingtots@hotmail.co.uk

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"Saturday Night Live"

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*** Saturday Night Live ***
The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge

Saturday 15th August - "ALCATRAZ"

"It is very hard not to be blown over by the sheer enthusiasm of the band. To end the second set bearing encores, came 'whole lotta love', again a Zep song. This was something else, this was their banker!! This was their great finish! This was just so good! The vocals and the entire backing was bang on the money. A female Robert Plant... I think so. Let me make no bones about, these guys are good! They will be back later in the year and with more advanced notice, I would hope that the audience would double in size... you don't know what you are missing" Riffs review.

Tracks covered by Led Zeppelin, AC/DC, Rolling Stones, David Bowie, Pink Floyd, Free, Cult, Deep Purple, and lots more - Played "Stormin'" and the "Fannydied" on main stages last year.

Saturday 23rd August - "1 0 1"

We are pleased to welcome back one of the Tubs favourite bands who play a great mix of modern and classic rock. Tracks covered by Led Zeppelin, Killers, AC/DC, Kings of Leon, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Kaiser Chiefs, Nirvana, Razorlight, Pink Floyd, Green day and more.

Daveys Rock Page Review: "All in all a great night with a great atmosphere and a lot of people dancing, so if you want to hear newer covers with a good mix of older rock, 1 0 1 deliver."

For more information on bands go to www.turbiniapub.co.uk
or 319700 Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

RACECOURSE SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

For Sale



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

BARGAIN BUYS Bargain of the Week. Washing machine, 6kg load, A energy class, 2 year warranty, delivered and fitted for £219. Tel 321678

PALLETS and Pallet toppers first come first served. Free, call at Newton Press M-F, 9am-4pm

2 x TWO seater settee and chair, solid frame, new condition, light coloured, tapestry type material. Single bed, £60; Small oak Welsh dresser with two cupboards and two drawers, £75; Large 5ft fridge freezer, equal size; two bedding chests, £10 each; Various other drawers and small cupboards. Tel 308094 (evenings)

JUNIOR golf trolley and bag with 5 irons, new condition, £356. Tel 308094

5 x NEW camping chairs £3 each; 2 double sleeping bags, one used once, £15 each; Elite CR101 electronic cash register, £35; BabyLiss Superhead hairdryer, £30; Pink Microwave £25; Also Tigi, Bedhead and Catwalk products still for sale. £5 per item. Tel 304397

2 x RED hard bodied combination lock suitcases, size 75cm. £25 each one. Tel 07956 340676

2 BEAUTIFUL designer W TOO by Watters and Watters, adult bridesmaids dresses, claret colour with matching shawls and shoal, size 10 and 12. Also matching cravats and handkerchiefs, diamante cravat pins for cravats. These must be seen to be appreciated, they look fantastic on. They have just been worn for a couple of hours for a wedding in July 2009. Tel 307828

SMALL dog cage, as new with bottom cover included, £10. Tel 317384

3 SPANAU BALLETT tickets for 26th October 2009. Cost £45 each, will accept £30 each. Also 3 Mamma Mia tickets for 12th December 2009. Cost £35 each will accept £25 each. All good seats. Newcastle Arena. Tel 307026

FIBREGLASS garden pond, 5½ ft x 3½ ft 3ft, paid £85 this year, will sell for £25. Good reason for sale. Tel 301692

YAMAHA portable piano with all musical accompaniments, plus stand, £60 Tel 301692

MOTERCARE MY3 3 wheeler travel system with car seat, 1 year old, cost £400, will accept £150. Tel 318875 (after 12pm)

CHICCO DJ walker, cost £45, will accept £20. Tel 318875 after 12pm

RED "Bumbo" baby seat, cost £30, will accept £10. Tel 318875 after 12pm

MAMAS & PAPAS sound and vibrate bouncing chair with activity arch, still has tag, cost £30, will accept £10. Tel 318875 after 12pm

LARGE rug dry cleaned, out of spare room, £30, VGC; Fish tank: Large TV, good working order, Tel 310043

QUANTUM 600 electric mobility chair, new batteries, under 4 years old. £500, contact 01325 315957

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

SEDGEFIELD Racecourse resumes horse racing on Tuesday 25 August after its annual break - and is throwing a Summer Garden Party for families as it is the final week of the school holidays.

Adding to the carnival atmosphere will be the Pop Go The Movies cabaret act and disco after the horse races are finished. Pony rides will be provided by Crimdon Pony World, there will be a parade of hounds from South Durham Hunt, a parade of beagles from Stokesley Farmers Beagles, plus an outdoor play area and face painting.

As always, accompanied children under 16 will be given free admission, and there is a series of adult admission and family food packages available in advance only. Special advance admission packages in the Grandstand:

*Racecard, £2 off a £5 Tote bet, reception drink and afternoon tea - £25.

*Racecard, £2 off a £5 Tote bet, Champagne reception drink and strawberries and cream - £20.

Family food packages in the Centre Course:

*(Children) Hot dog and ketchup, plus a fruit shoot - £2

*(Adults) Racecard, burger meal, £2.50 drink voucher & £2 off a £5 Tote bet-£15.

As well as six horse races for professional riders, there will be two pony races over

five and a half and six and a half furlongs for aspiring young jockeys.

The races, organised in conjunction with the Pony Racing Authority, are among regional qualifiers for a series final to be held at Cheltenham Racecourse in October.

Jill Williamson, General Manager of Sedgefield Racecourse, said: "The experience for the youngsters will be as near to 'real racing' as possible. The riders will wear silks and body protectors, and they will weigh in and out and parade in the paddock before the race. It will be a great spectacle for the crowd who I'm sure will be most supportive."

The pony racing series is sponsored by Charles Owen, makers of riding hats, and supported by leading professional riders like Richard Johnson.

The first race is due off at 2.15pm on Tuesday 25 August.

*On-the-day admission to the racecourse, including a free racecard: Grandstand & Paddock Enclosure £15; Course Enclosure £7. Concessions (Grandstand only) £8 for OAPs, students and 16-18 year olds, available to purchase only on the day of racing with valid identification. Advance or group bookings can be made by calling the racecourse on 01740 621925. Accompanied children under 16 receive free admission. Parking is free. More information at www.sedgefield-racecourse.co.uk.

LATE SHOW FOR AYCLIFFE'S FIRST LEAGUE GAME WIN

NEWTON AYCLIFFE won their historic Northern League game at the weekend - but not without a nail-biting finale!

The County Durham club won their first-ever Northern League tie at home to Hebburn Town on Saturday, with just under 300 fans turning out at Moore Lane Park.

Allan Oliver's side won 3-2, despite going two down just after the break, after goals by Elliot Gardner and Paul Stout put Aycliffe level, before former Darlington striker Dan Mellanby grabbed an 88th-minute winner. Gary Farley, Aycliffe's chairman, said: "It was a historic and proud day for the club and for the town, and it was fantastic to see so many people turn out to enjoy it, in glorious conditions as well."

"We seem to go from one milestone to another, but hopefully we can continue to grow and enjoy our status in the Northern



League.

"On the pitch we'd like to think that we'll be able to compete, although it's difficult to say now how well we're going to do."

"Off the pitch we're always learning but we have a hard-working committee who are committed to doing a job for the club."

"We still have a long way to go as a club to meet strict ground criteria laid down by the league, but we're determined to get there as quickly as possible."

Aycliffe continue their Northern League campaign this weekend with a trip to North Shields on Saturday, followed by a long journey to Gillford Park, Carlisle, next Wednesday.

FIXTURES

Weds Aug 12: Birtley Town (H), 7.30pm

Sat Aug 15: North Shields (A), 3pm

Wed Aug 19: Gillford Park (A), 7.30pm

Sat Aug 22: Seaham Red Star (H), 3pm

Wed Aug 26: Marske Utd (A), 7.30pm

Mon Aug 31: Crook Town (A), 3pm

www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk



Congratulations

FREDA & JOHN JONES

CONGRATULATIONS

to our wonderful parents on your Golden Wedding Anniversary. May you have many more happy years together. All our love, Debbie, Gavin, Neville, Clare and Grandchildren, Ryan, Charlotte, Olivia and Emily xxxxx

Bev and Robin Kipling



Congratulations

To Bev on receiving her Honours in O.T. Also to Robin on his promotion to Flight Sergeant. Well done to you both. Love, Mam, Dad, Andrew and Ashlyn xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sharon Crossen



Happy 40th Birthday

18th August 2009
Thanks for being a great Daughter Sharon. All our love, Dad and Laura xxxxx

Reece Hirst



Congratulations

on Passing Out at Harrogate. Good luck on your Phase 2. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Taylor and Charlie xxx

Waddingham



Congratulations

on our Silver Wedding Anniversary, 18th August 2009. Thank you John for being by my side these past 25 years. I love you always, Julie xxxxx

Sheila Green



Happy 70th Birthday

15th August 2009

All my love - T xxxxx

Have a great birthday Mam. Lots of love, Angie, Mike, Karen and Billy xx
Happy birthday Nana. Love from Richard, Holly, Courtenay and Paige xxx

Births

GARY and KELLYANN Congratulations on the birth of baby "Connie". Love, Mam, Dad and Leanne xx

PALLISTER John and Melanie are proud to announce the birth of their son "Saxon Valentine Pallister" on 26th July 2009

RAINE Congratulations Richard and Jennifer on the birth of your Daughter Amelia Daisy, Sister for James. Love, Mum, Dad, Gillian and Andy xxxxx

HELEN THOMPSON Thank you so much for our gorgeous Son Alfie William, born 5-8-09, 8lbs 4oz. I am so proud of you. You were amazing. Forever, Darren x

WELCOME to the world Alfie Thompson. Love from your big and very proud Cousins, Craig, Becky, Jack, Andrew, Poppy, Joe and Lily xx

HELEN and DARREN congratulations on the birth of another beautiful Grandchild. Love, Granny, Mum and Nev xxx

WELL DONE Baby Sis and the Farz. Love to the 4 of you, (Oh, and Deliah). Nick, Em and Kate xxx

Thank You

THOMPSON Darren and Helen would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the lovely cards and gifts received on the birth of their gorgeous Son "Alfie" on 5th August 2009 xxxxx
ELLIS The family of the late Tommy would like to thank everyone for all the sympathy, kindness and support on their sad loss.

In Memoriam

RUTH METCALFE 13-8-2004. You are always in my heart Ruth. Forever, Ken xxx
RUTH METCALFE Died 13-8-2004. It's been 5 long years since you passed away Mam and there is still not a day goes by that we don't think of you and miss you. You are always in our hearts. Alli, Karen, Paul and Stephen xxxxx

RUTH METCALFE We miss and love you always Nana. Vikki, Linz, Carl, Dan, Sammy and Ads xxxxx

Christopher Tremewan



Congratulations

on achieving your BSc (Hons) Degree at Newcastle University. Good luck. Mam, Dad, Stacey, Declan, Tracy, Darren, Mark, Harry and Joanne xxxxxxx

ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION for only 15p per word! Contact Paul at Newton Press on 01325 300 212 or paul@gonp.co.uk for details.

THUMBS UP FOR NEW LAYBY TORIES SEEK TO END MINIMUM WAGE



Former Borough Councillors Edith Paylor and Helen Hutchinson with residents of Stephenson Way

Residents on Stephenson Way have reason to be pleased with their Councillors who have used their Neighbourhood Improvement cash from the former Borough Council to provide a layby outside their homes, alleviating the awful problems they were having with parking. Apart from danger from this busy road their cars will no longer have their wing mirrors broken off which was a regular

occurrence. This danger spot has been the scene of accidents and a fatality in the past. Residents complain the road is too narrow for such a busy road and the road calming changes have done little to improve matters on one of the main routes through the town. The cost of providing this layby is a staggering £30,000 and it is easy to see from what seems an excessive amount, why more aren't provided in the town.



DO YOU KNOW YOUR ONIONS AND CAN YOU BAKE CAKES?

Are your onions outstanding? Is your sponge cake divine? If so, why not enter the Handcraft and Horticulture competition at this year's Great Aycliffe Show. Entries are not restricted to cooking or growing - there are many other categories to enter including, sewing, wine making, photography, jewellery and decoupage and there are sections for both children and adults.

Prizes of £5, £4 and £3 will be awarded for first, second and third place entries in each category. In the Pot Leeks category, the first prize is a portable television, plus £30 prize money and a trophy, with second and third prizes of £20 and £10. Trophies are provided by Wilson and Vest; horticultural trophies are sponsored by Gregg Little Testing Centre.

Organised by Great Aycliffe Town Council, the very popular annual show takes place on the August Bank Holiday weekend, Saturday and Sunday 29 and 30 August and hosts a range of competitions to suit all talents. The closing date for entries for the Handcraft and Horticulture competition is Tuesday 25 August 2009.

Entry forms can be obtained from the Town Council Offices, tel 300700, from the Oak Leaf Sports Complex, tel: 300600 or downloaded from the website at www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk and follow the link on the right side of the page to Great Aycliffe Show.

Dear Editor,
I refer to comments made by two correspondents Cllr Gerald Lee and Mr Barry Cox in which they both accuse me of not checking my facts on the Minimum Wage.

Can I refer them to the Employment Opportunities Bill sponsored by no less than 12 Tory MP's with the support of David Cameron should they win the next election. Cameron has stated: "all good things must come to an end - the minimum wage being one of them".

I quote from Hansard the official minutes of Parliament as follows: -

Employment Opportunities Bill

A Bill to introduce more freedom, flexibility and opportunity for those seeking employment in the public and private sectors.

Section 2 of this Bill National minimum wage opt out clause (1) any person who would otherwise qualify for entitlement to the national minimum wage, as defined in the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 (c. 39) may elect to opt out from such entitlement. This would amount to employer's actually inviting people who are working to opt out, in effect forcing them not to accept the minimum wage.

I enclose a copy of my email to all the Tory MPs who sponsored this bill.

Dear Members of Parliament I am very concerned to hear about the Private Members Bill, Employment Opportunities,

Out of Touch AAP

Peter Beaty was very disappointed when he wrote to the new Area Action Partnership on the vexed question of public toilets. Their reply was that he would not be allowed to address them on the issue as it was not one of their priorities!

This is a new public committee formed to direct money and thought to the welfare of our town's citizens and public toilets in the town centre was not even being considered! How out of touch are these people if this matter of public concern is not even on the agenda?

down for its second reading on Friday 12th June that will seek to abolish the mandatory national minimum wage.

You are listed as one of the Bill's sponsors. The national minimum wage has benefited more than a million people since it was introduced and your Bill would effectively undermine it by allowing unscrupulous bosses to pay what they like.

Please could you let me know as a matter of urgency whether

you still plan to support this Bill and if so, why you back it? I am respectfully asking you to withdraw your backing.

Vince Crosby

Although this bill was due for the second reading on the 12th June this has now been rescheduled to the 16 October 2009. It has not been abandoned and, if as both Cllr Lee and Mr Cox suggest, why has this not been then denied by the Bills sponsors.

The Bill received the first

reading on the 10th February 2009 introduced by Mr Christopher Chope and is now rescheduled after the Parliamentary recess.

I would suggest that both Cllr. Lee and Mr Cox look it up and they will find this Bill has not been abandoned and the Tories will do away with the minimum wage and other benefits besides.

*Vince Crosby
Sedgefield Constituency
Labour Party TULO*

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A&S Majestic	RRP £169.00	NOW £139.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £299.00	NOW £229.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £249.00

4'0" and 4'6" MATTRESSES

A&S Candy	RRP £129.00	NOW £69.00
A&S Winchester	RRP £199.00	NOW £99.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £199.00	NOW £149.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £299.00	NOW £249.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £399.00	NOW £359.00

3'0" BED SET

A&S Candy	RRP £69.00	NOW £59.00
A&S Winchester	RRP £99.00	NOW £94.00
A&S Dorchester	RRP £159.00	NOW £149.00
A&S Majestic	RRP £249.00	NOW £199.00
Slumberland Blue Seal	RRP £349.00	NOW £279.00
Slumberland Red Seal	RRP £399.00	NOW £299.00
Slumberland Ortho Seal	RRP £449.00	NOW £359.00

4'0" and 4'6" BED SET

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

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BARGAIN BUYS

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We are moving!

Opening

26 August

2009

Newton Aycliffe library will close at 12.30pm on Wednesday 19 August and re-open in our new library located on Central Avenue, DL5 5QG at 9.30am on Wednesday 26 August.

Newton Aycliffe Library
Central Avenue, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5QG

☎ 01325 312856

Email: newtonayc.lib@durham.gov.uk

www.durham.gov.uk/libraries

Durham
County Council

