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PCP "OPEN DAY" OFFERS FREE HEALTHY LIVING ACTIVITIES



Local charity, the Pioneering Care Centre at Cobblers Hall will be opening its doors to celebrate Durham County Council's Home Independence Service being based at the centre for the past five years. The event, on Saturday 10th October from 10am – 2pm, will give people the opportunity to try out a number of activities for free and find out information about services that are based at the centre.

People of all ages and abilities will be able to book a free 30 minute session in one of the region's only publicly accessible hydrotherapy pools, relax with a free complementary therapy, get fit or find a new hobby by taking part in a free exercise class, join in a Jamie Oliver inspired cookery session as part of Pass It On County Durham, or find out how you can improve your health with a free mini lifestyle check.

Therapists will be offering free 20 minute sessions in reiki, reflexology, hand and neck massage or Indian head massage to help people to understand the benefits of complementary therapies in addition to medical treatments. Men and women can learn how to defend themselves from 12noon – 1pm and voice practitioner, Penelope Randall-Davis will be teaching breathing exercises and demonstrating singing can be used for relaxation from 1pm – 2pm.

Anyone looking for advice on how to develop their skills can drop by for a free job search or take part in a maths and English assessment. There will also be a free health walk at 10.30am and cycling session at 12.30pm.

In addition to this, the

Macmillan Cancer Information Service will be offering information and advice to people who drop in and the Home Independence Service will be offering equipment at very competitive prices and giving demonstrations to those who take enquire.

The café will be serving snacks and refreshments to those who come along to see what the Pioneering Care Centre has to offer. All of this will take place for FREE!

Vicki Dunn, Events Organiser commented: "The open day is an excellent opportunity for local people to discover what is available at the Pioneering Care Centre, whilst enjoying the many things that are on offer. Everybody and anybody is welcome, so we're hoping for a big turn out!"

To book a free complement therapy, session in the hydrotherapy pool or a place on one of the exercise classes available please contact 01325 321 234. However, places are limited, so booking is advisable. Alternatively, people can drop by on the day to enjoy services available at Newton Aycliffe's local healthy living centre or visit www.pcp.uk.net for more information.

West Ward United!

Dear Editor,
A Meeting of residents of West Ward is called for 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's School, Garburn Place on Wednesday 7th October.

At this meeting we expect to set up a Partnership for the West Ward; this will to some extent mirror the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership.

We are looking to develop the area in accord with the wishes of the people. The basis of the partnership is people from all walks of life and shades of opinion coming together to work together instead of in opposition or in conflict. Any matters of concern can be addressed: - environmental issues, the lake, safety, crime etc. ALL WELCOME; all that is required is that people join the partnership with a will to work in unity. Councillor Mike Dixon

AUDITOR TELLS COUNCIL TO CURB HIGH ESTIMATES Town Council Cash Reserves Too High

Dear Sir,
On 23rd September I attended GATC for the Auditor's Report to the Council on their Statement of Accounts Re-Approval.

The Auditor recommended that the Labour group's practice of consistently over estimating on budgets and banking large sums of under-spent ratepayer's cash, be replaced by accurate estimates of financial need, and a more accurate precept.

In other words, stop overcharging Newtonians on their precept without the consent or knowledge of ratepayers, and lower the Council Tax.

The underspend in 2006/7 was 23% which amounted to £374,635.00p.. In 2007/8, it was 19% an amount of £293,687.00p, and in 2008/9, 17% which was £263,896.00p. This Totalled £932,291.00p overcharged in three years by GATC.

Great news for struggling taxpayers!

For years as a Councillor on GATC I refused to agree the Labour Party precepts and recorded my vote against them for reasons given by the Auditor. His recommendations have been quietly accepted, mine were vociferously dismissed and scoffed at for years.

So, at last, will clarity and transparency prevail in GATC? Will ratepayers be informed when reserves are needed? Why and how much is needed? WHEN they are needed? And will Labour's consistently overestimating of budgets stop being used to accumulate Council cash without the knowledge or consent of the Electorate

to whom they are ACCOUNTABLE? Finally, are these Councillors's really worth over £120,000 of taxpayers

cash over four years? Has that been ANY value for money to hard-pressed, hard-up tax-payers? Don Fraser, Woodham

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Have You Seen Reggie?

If anyone has information on this miniature Jack Russel, we would be most grateful if you could get in touch with Jessica on 07917 657656.

Reggie went missing in the Coatham Munderville area on Tuesday 22nd September around 3pm. He was playing in the field where Jessica was feeding her horses, Reggie was playing with Jessica's other two dogs. All three dogs ran into the far field and it was then noticed all three dogs were out of sight.

Jessica called them all back, and two arrived but after continuous calling for Reggie and no sight of him a search began of the whole area.

He could not have got any further in the short space of time from him going missing, unless someone picked him up.

Jessica and boyfriend Shaun



have been door knocking around Brafferton Village and handing photo flyers out, they have also checked with Dog Wardens kennels and Darlington and Newton Aycliffe vets.

Someone must have Reggie or have information about his whereabouts, Reggie needs weekly medication and will become very ill, he is greatly missed and has a family that wants him back and won't stop looking for him until they get him back. There is a cash reward for Reggie's return.

Costly Calls to Surgery

Dear Sir,

I read that GP Surgeries are to be banned from using 0845 and 0844 telephone numbers. There is no date yet, but this is very welcome news.

We use the 0844 number and it costs at least 70p every time I ring the Surgery. As soon as you ring your money is being taken whilst you listen to all the spiel including the fact you may be recorded, before you get the options. After choosing the option you then wait for the answer at long last!

But then the misery! It is Monday and I want an appointment for Tuesday. The

reply is I have to ring back tomorrow at 8am. I can book a week ahead but not for the next day. I ring next day incurring the same cost only to find I am in a queue. Whilst I am waiting and counting the cost I begin to wonder why I could not have booked my appointment the day before.

We are supposed to have a walk-in Morning Clinic but the system is a shambles. People only ring the Surgery if they are ill so why give us more stress? I have asked for answers, but get nowhere. Perhaps Newton News can do better.

M. Johnstone.

Reply from Peaseway Medical Centre

GP Surgeries are not to be banned from using 0844 numbers. They are to be stopped from charging premium rates for 0844 numbers. In our case patients have only ever been charged at "Local Rates" and this will continue.

The Government did look at insisting all surgeries use new '03' numbers but these do not work in all areas so there was no alternative.

The problem seems to be that some patients have contracts with their telephone provider which includes free calls to local numbers – but their providers exclude 0844 numbers from these packages. Therefore, they will get charged at a local call rate when perhaps the call could have been expected to be 'free'. Maybe the writer should discuss with his or her provider if this is the case.

With regards to cutting down on the 'spiel'; once you are 'connected to the surgery' you can press the option choice (if you know it) and you can then miss out hearing all the messages you have probably heard before!

Surgery telephones are very busy at key times in the day. Obviously just after 8.00am is one of those times. Ideally only patients who wish to book for appointments would use our phone lines then – but unfortunately some patients insist on ordering their repeat prescriptions, or booking an ambulance, or trying to get lab results, etc all at peak times. Mondays are also particularly busy and should be avoided if possible.

At Peaseway we have monitored incoming calls and are staffed to meet most telephone requirements especially at peak times, but sometimes delays to answering calls are inevitable.

There are also a limited number of phone lines into the surgery. When they are all in use you will be placed in a queue. You should be told whereabouts you are in the queue and you can make a decision to hold on, or call back, at a less busy time.

When too many patients are waiting – our cut off is 15 – you are simply asked to call back later. This is because we do not want patients to be kept waiting if it can be avoided.

Appointment systems in GP surgeries vary. It would be great if they were all the same – but they are not. Most walk in morning surgeries stopped sometime ago when the

government insisted on patients having a set length of time for patient appointments.

At Peaseway we would prefer patients to book an appointment, rather than just turn up. Our system for appointments is designed to suit the majority of our 10,700 patients with the resources available. Unfortunately it will not suit everyone and some might find it difficult to see why we do things the way we do. But it is tried and tested and very familiar to most patients. For those who are not regular users we have a leaflet which explains our Appointment System and details are also on our website at www.peaseway.com.

Mike Spence,
Practise Manager
Peaseway Medical Centre

World War II Exhibition at Aycliffe Village

At 10am on Saturday 3rd October, in Aycliffe Village Hall, the Local History Society will launch a two day exhibition, 'Aycliffe Village Remembers World War II'. The hall will be open from 10am to 4pm each day and admission is FREE

All of the proceeds will be donated to HELP FOR HEROES, a registered charity to help those who have been wounded in Britain's current conflicts.

Outside there will be displays by the Teesside Branch of the Victory in Europe Re-enactment Association (Home Guard), 102 Battalion REME

(V) of Aycliffe Armoury, and another WWII Re-enactment Society whose members will be in military uniform and have vehicles. Worl War 2 Association whose members will wear German, Russian and British uniforms and display motor vehicles on both days.

Inside there will be music and songs of the 1940's and occasionally the sound of an air raid siren.

There will be facsimile WWII newspapers and posters and literature to read, wartime rations and recipes, artefacts and memorabilia, and much more.

Mrs Lesley Burton of

Heighington will sell Help For Heroes wristbands and lanyards and a handsome British Army teddybear will be raffled to raise funds. A canteen similar to the WWII British Restaurant will have food and home cooked fare so donations of fresh food will be much appreciated.

If you travel to Aycliffe by car, please avoid the no waiting area outside the hall that will be reserved for vehicles of REME and the War Re-enactment Associations.

Anyone who can help or donate please contact:

Harry Moses on 321773 or Brain Gargate on 312090.

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

Wednesday 21st Oct. 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.

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PUB MANAGER LOST 5 STONE & COMPLETED GREAT NORTH RUN



Two years ago Nathan Abbott, manager of Bakes at the age of 30, weighed 20 stone. He decided to change his lifestyle and has lost 5 stone. He set himself another challenge recently to complete the Great North Run and from sponsors raised £513 for the Barnado's Charity. Nathan completed the race in 2 hours, 3 mins 53 seconds which he is quite proud of and not bad for his first attempt. He says he will do it again and thanks all the customers and staff for their support.

THE SMELL RETURNED

The "Smell" returned this week with a vengeance affecting every area of the town. Newton News was inundated with calls and contacted Durham County Council who were supposed to be on top of the situation and have issued warnings to farmers. Joanne Waller, Head of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection at Durham County Council, said: "We have received a number of complaints from residents about a foul smell in the Newton Aycliffe area during the last two weeks. "Despite investigations and several visits to the area we have been unable to identify the source of the smell at this present time. This astounded us as we received calls all day from people who were ill and gagging from the smell. Many were forced to stay indoors and close their windows. Later on Tuesday the County Council did identify the culprit and as suspected it was the farmer of land down Eldon Road. He was following orders from the County to bury the offending waste and disturbing the mound revived the offensive odour.

REACTION RAVE for Under 18's

Friday 16th October
Sycamore Suite,
Leisure Centre
6pm - 9pm
D.J.'s Howey,
Shocker & Delusion.
No Drugs, No Alcohol.
Dress Smart, No Caps, No Trackies - ROAR.
Safety checks will be made to ensure a good night for everyone.
For more details contact Tom Armstrong on 07955 341434.

CSV - Great Experience

Dear Sir,
In support of the recent letter discussing Community Service Volunteers (CSV), I would also like to portray what a positive experience it can be. On finishing my A-Levels I found myself with no idea of what career I wanted but no desire to go off to university. CSV was recommended by a careers advisor and following interviews with the service I was given a placement working with a charity for homeless young people aged 16 - 24. My job was to staff an emergency shelter and a longer term hostel, and also help out in a day centre. This experience was hard and certainly took away my rose tinted view of life, but it was also the best thing I could have done. I learned many skills that would prove to be invaluable in life including living independently, managing a budget and problem solving under pressure. It also allowed me to meet and help people from all walks of life. I now have a career working with young offenders and truly believe I would not be where I am now had I not had the experience CSV gave me. Louise Dunn
Newton Aycliffe

Cost of Council Gravy Train Uncovered

Figures uncovered by the Liberal Democrats show that taxpayers in Durham are funding food bills for councillors running into thousands of pounds a month. Following a Freedom of

Councillor Leaves Labour Party

Dear Sir,
I wish inform the residents of Neville Ward, who have always supported me in elections as their Labour candidate for the past 6 years, that it is with deep regret I have now resigned from the Labour Party. The reason is that next year I will be told which members to vote for. If I don't I will be reported to the Executive Committee at the CLP and I am not going to let this happen. I want to be able to vote for what is best for our town and for the Neville Ward and to give a voice for the people that voted for me. At this present time I am not going to join any other Party and will stay as an Independent Councillor representing the people of the Neville Ward until 2013. I will still give the voters what they deserve, 100% of my time, as I have always done, serving them and not politics. Should anyone wish to contact me about this subject or any other problems, please ring 07881 784 299. Counc George Robert Gray

Information request made by Carol Woods, Lib Dem Parliamentary Spokesperson for Durham, it is revealed that Durham County Council has spent £12,200 on Councillor 'hospitality' in the last six months alone. Carol Woods has labelled the spending "indefensible waste" and called for the Council to axe the food budget. Carol said, "Almost everyone else who goes to work has to pay for their own dinner. Why should Councillors be any different? There is no reason why local taxpayers should be

paying out thousands of pounds for Councillors' sandwiches. "At a time when the Council is putting up our Council Tax and we are struggling through a recession, this is indefensible waste. I'm sure local ratepayers will be demanding to know how the Labour leadership can justify spending well over £20,000 a year on buffets for Councillors. This must end now. People are rightfully tired of their hard-earned money being wasted and the Council should now tear up this expensive and unnecessary meal ticket."

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You Can Afford to Buy Your Home at Cobblers Hall

If you are looking for an affordable and aspirational home in a family friendly neighbourhood you should look no further than Miller Homes' Cobblers Hall development in Newton Aycliffe where you will find the charming 3-bedroom Gissing. The Gissing, with study, is a townhouse with striking features including French doors opening out from the dining room into the rear garden, a charming dormer window in the spacious master bedroom and a unique archway leading into the kitchen that all combine to make a very distinctive and stylish property that is guaranteed to leave a lasting impression. Spread over three floors; you will find a separate hallway and lounge, stylish kitchen leading to an intimate dining room and the all important downstairs WC on the ground floor. On the first floor there are two bedrooms, one a good sized double, study and family bathroom and it is on the top floor where you will find the stunning master bedroom with en-suite shower room. Now available under the Government-backed Homebuy Direct scheme, The Gissing presents superb value for

money, allowing first time buyers, key workers and those in need of a more affordable way to buy their own home the opportunity to purchase the Gissing for an amazing £105,000 with the HomeBuyDirect scheme. Buyers qualifying for the scheme can purchase 100 percent of their home by paying up to 70 percent of the value, with both Miller Homes and the Government equally funding the remaining 30 percent. One of the big bonuses of the scheme is that the equity loan is only repayable after 25 years – or when the customer sells their home - and there is no interest payable for the first five years. Miller Homes' Cobblers Hall development is located on the sought-after northern edge of Newton Aycliffe. Located close to open farmland, and oodles of walking trails, the development has a countryside feel. Following the overwhelming success of the first phase which has now sold out, Miller Homes has released a second phase at the development. For further information on Miller Homes' Cobblers Hall development or on the HomeBuy Direct Scheme contact the sales office on 0800



840 8491 (open five days a week, Thursday to Monday 10.30am – 5.30pm), or email cobblershallp2.ne@miller.co.uk. Alternatively, visit www.millerhomes.co.uk for details of this and other Miller sites around the region, and to see what special offers are available to you.

Youths Steal Garden Lights

A woman was disturbed by noises in her garden, in Silkin Road between 19:30hrs and 19:49hrs on Tuesday the 22nd of September 2009. Upon checking, she disturbed 5 youths who had climbed into her garden, two of whom were female. All the youths were approximately 15 to 16 years old of proportionate height and build. One of the females was wearing a distinctive white jacket. When the the youths saw the householder, they made off towards Priestman Road. The homeowner later discovered a number of solar powered garden lights had been stolen by the youths. Anyone with any information is requested to ring PC Matt Stasiak at the Newton Aycliffe Beat Team office – 0345 6060 365



The Cumby Arms



Heighington - Telephone: 316753



Traditional Sunday Carvery

12noon-2pm from £4.95
Party Bookings Welcome for the Dining Room and Conservatory

Sunday Night Quiz

Starting at 8.30pm - Cash Prizes and Play Your Cards Right

Friday 9th October
Rocky Horror Get-Together with Rock Disco and Karaoke
£3 entry on the door includes a free glass of punch

Friday 16th October
Open Mic Night - The Cumby Stage is at your disposal

Saturday 31st October
Cumby Jumble Sale 11am-3pm (sellers 10am)
Tables £2.50 each - £1 Entry, Children 50p - Plenty of Interest!!

Saturday 31st October
Family Halloween Fancy Dress Disco - £1 Entry - Snacks Available

Christmas Party Nights throughout December
Grooup Bookings Welcome - Daytime Parties by Arrangement

New Years Eve Celebration
70's Nostalgia Night - Plenty of Entertainment only £15 per person
Including Pie and Peas Supper

TELEPHONE: 01325 316753

COUNCILLOR ACCUSES WRONG PERSON

Dear Sir,
Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to reply in full to the attack made on me by Mrs Paylor, a serving Labour councillor on two councils. It is simply NOT TRUE that I have ever written any letter mentioning Councillor Paylor, let alone openly criticising her in the Newton News. So, where is the evidence for this bogus claim? I probably hold the distinction of being one of the few who did not have a publicised view on her defection. For what it is worth, my view now is that she would have been wiser to wait - at least for a few months - before defecting to the Labour Party. She must surely have realised at the time, that at least a part of her appeal was due to increasing anti-Labour Party sentiment. Of course, if she has the courage to stand for re-election in 2013, she will have the obvious questions to answer on the doorstep! I suppose an apology would be too much to ask of Councillor Paylor? Local Labour Party councillors seem to find the word 'sorry' difficult to use! Councillor Paylor states: 'Mr Atkinson to the best of my knowledge has now been in three political parties'. Mrs Paylor's, 'knowledge' - dressed up as fact - is wrong. I joined the Labour Party in about 1981. I resigned my membership in May 2009, for both national and local reasons. Until I recently joined The Liberal Democrat Party and was asked to ASSIST in the setting up a branch of the Lib Dems - in the town where I have chosen to live for nearly fifty years - I have been a member of NO other political party or had a loose affiliation.

Counc. Paylor Replies . . .

Dear Sir,
In reply to Mr. Atkinson's letter the facts speak for themselves. He was Labour first then became independent of political parties before finally joining the Lib Dems. As for knocking on doors I do this on a regular basis and receive a very friendly and positive repsonse. I'm sorry to disappoint him and the Lib Dems, but I will be seeking re-elction in 2013 and will continue to work jard for my ward as I have always done. Counc E. M. Paylor

LEGION SHOW WINNERS

Best Pair of Leeks: D. Percival, measuring 164 22 cu. ins., Stoker Trophy. **Pot Leek Winner,** Peter May Trophy – D. Percival, (164 22 cu. ins.), 2nd – G. Askew, (15133 cu. ins.) 3rd – D. Ledly, (145 05 cu. ins). **Trench Leek Winner**/Shaw & Sons Trophy, D. Percival, (22793 cu. ins),. **Intermediate Winner**/Blewitt Bros. Trophy - G. Askew. (11698 cu. ins). **Most Improved** – D. Ledly, Armstrong Trophy **Most Points in Leek Section** by a Leek Club member – D. Percival, B.L. Branch Cup. **Most Points in Veg Section** by a Leek Club member – G. Emmerson, Bell Trophy

Autumn Fayre at St. Clare's

Autumn Glory at St. Clare,s Church on Saturday 10th October 2009 10am-12noon. This is to be a BIG EVENT with the BROWNIES INVOLVEMENT, Welly Wanging, Welly Gunge, Brownies Bran Tub, Bottle Stall ! Top Prize Bottle of Whisky!, Home bake Stall, Tombola, Surprises, Hot Dogs, Bacon Butties and other refreshments. Please come along. Everyone Welcome.

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by our new resident barber

Emre

Ladies, Gents and Senior's Offers available all day
Tuesday & Wednesday

THE VILLAGE PHARMACY

Pioneering Care Centre, Cobblers Hall
Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe
Telephone 01325 311297

OPENING TIMES

Monday - Thursday 8.30am-5.30pm, Friday 8.30am-6.00pm
(Closed 1.00pm-2.00pm for Lunch)
Saturday 9.00am-12.000noon

We offer a full range of services including: Free Prescription Collection and Delivery Service from any Surgery in Newton Aycliffe, Pregnancy Testing, Care in the Chemist, Pharmacist always available for help and advice
Also visit our NHS Stop Smoking Clinic on Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am-11.30am (Commit to Quit)

Pharmacist: Alisdair McConnell MRPharmS
Call us for more details on 311297 where our friendly staff will be happy to help



Mini Activity Sessions

New to Oak Leaf Sports Complex an activity session for 4 – 7yrs, held during the school holidays.
Monday 26th October from 9.30 – 11.00am. Games, crafts and sports. Only £2.25 members and £2.65 non members
For further information contact reception on 01325-300600 but hurry as all courses have limited availability and are very popular.

SENIORLINK - ROUND THE CLOCK LIFELINE FOR £1.76p A WEEK

Peter Beaty has informed Newton News that “Help the Aged” have developed a one touch response service that works through your own phone line, designed to give you and your family peace of mind 24-7. Whatever your circumstances ‘SeniorLink’ provides an immediate response with help to your concern and also to react within seconds to any emergency. **You wear a discreet**

pendant or wrist strap which will work anywhere in your home or garden all for less than 24p per day. In an emergency just press the button on your base unit or wrist strap and you will be talking to a real person within a few moments. A response team will summon the help you need without even hearing your voice. They will send for help at once. They will also stay on the line until one of your nominated keyholders or the emergency services arrive. People over 50 can

start enjoying greater independence and security in their own home. This could affect people on their own, or who have an illness or mobility problem. SeniorLink removes a big worry and is so easy to install. There is funding available to provide FREE SeniorLink units to people over 60yrs who have less than £20,000 in savings excluding the value of their home. Tel: Kathryn on 0845 603 4576 asap. This offer is on a first come-first served basis.



NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

We have a vacancy for a volunteer active Chairman to be involved in running clubs in the centre and starting new ones. The person must be experienced in running clubs and fundraising. It would be ideal for a retired person looking for an interesting way to give something back to the community. It could also be a younger person seeking to gain experience to help with other ambitions. Please contact Peter Beaty on 313924.

Don't forget the Big Band Concert on Saturday 6th October at 2pm. To book to collect your tickets at the door please ring 313924. Line Dancing for beginners every Monday at 1.30pm Just turn up for a warm welcome. Sainsbury are holding a Charity Karaoke event for us at the Oak Tree on Thursday 15th October at 7pm. To book ring 313924.

If you are interested in an Over 50's Tea Dance with tuition by Dianne Howe please ring the same number. We need a volunteer to run our Wii Club every Monday from 1pm-3pm. Line Dancing for beginners is on every Monday 1-3pm with tuition by a professional. Just turn up - you can do it! You may think it impossible but come along and you will see it is something quite enjoyable and easy to do! Book our main hall and kitchen for your private party. It is only £15 per hour. To view ring 313924.

BOUNDARIES COMMISSION APOLOGISE FOR MISTAKE

Jessica Metheringham the Review Officer for Boundaries at the Electoral Commission has apologised for the error made in their report for Great Aycliffe where they missed out a complete Ward. A correction is being posted on their website and a new report issued. Thanks to Arun Chandran of the Residents' Association for spotting this serious error.

CAKES AUCTIONED

Dear Sir,
I'm a local business woman who is helping support charity. Two cakes made have recently been auctioned to raise funds for Help for Heroes, one at Bishop Auckland Rugby club and one at The British Legion in Newton Aycliffe, both cakes went down a storm. A third cake was made to help a boy who has been the victim of Shaking Baby Syndrome raising funds for much needed equipment. While been incredible busy



with novelty, wedding and Christening cakes I always try and give a little back to the community. Joanna
joanna-crazycakes.co.uk

AYCLIFFE EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Ladybower (signed off Meadowfield Way)
HARVEST WEEKEND
Friday, 9th October, 7pm
Harvest Family Fun Night
(Children MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult)
Sunday, 11th October, 10.30am
Harvest Service
Just come along, or for further details call 07703 464971

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. 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

Signed Name

Address

Signed Name

Address

Signed Name

Address

Signed Name

Address

DLA IS NOT UNDER THREAT

In what may represent a dramatic victory for campaigners, Care Services Minister Phil Hope told a reporter at the Labour Party conference that DLA is not under threat by the Care Green Paper. According to the Disability Now website, Phil Hope, when asked if he would abolish Disability Living Allowance after the election, replied: “No, all the models that we have done have not included DLA. But if people were to make a case to integrate DLA into a comprehensive system, then I’m very happy to hear that case and have those arguments. “DLA is not under threat and people can be very happy”.

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Newton Aycliffe Town Centre - Telephone: 321280
THIS MONTHS SPECIAL OFFER
Genuine Half Price Sale on a selection of Kenro Photo Frames
Pop in to see our large range of Henley Watches and other gift lines - a small deposit secures any item in our Xmas club
Come in and pick up your FREE Star Radio car stickers
OPEN: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am-6pm
Wednesday and Saturday 9.30am-1pm

Neville Community Centre
Newton Aycliffe
DARLINGTON BIG BAND
Saturday 10th October
2.00pm

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For directions visit: www.aycliffeselfstorage.com

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

St. Andrew's on Sunday 4th October. Harvest Praise at 4pm. Monday 5th October Village School Service at 9.30am. Harvest Supper and Auction in the School Hall at 7pm, cost £3. Proceeds to Farm Africa

SUPER OPEN DAY AT AGNEW CENTRE



With the Gods once again on the side of the Agnew Community Centre we held our first Open Day in glorious weather.

The Mayor, Mary Dalton with her consort Reg kindly performed the official opening and accepted a gift of flowers from Kelsey Fletcher. It was noted the Mayor stayed until 2.00 pm and we thank her very much for this and all the work you do over your year of office.

MC for the proceedings was Counc. Paul Gittins who provided background music during the day. As well as having Face Painting and Craft work for young people there were displays by Tai Chi provided by the Brett Lambert School which meets at the Centre each Wednesday from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm.

Freestyle dancing was provided by young people from the Caroline Race School of Dance who run a session each Saturday from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm. The young dancers were Summer Fenwick, Amy Dolan, Reece Atherton, Chloe Farrey & Annis Race.

A demonstration of Line Dancers was led by Lileen Cuthbertson with a mixture of our own members and others who joined in the fun. The entertainment finished with a rousing performance from the Towns Pipe Band. A Big Thank You to all the performers from the Committee and Members of the Agnew Community Association. Mention should be made of the sterling work done by our



organizer of this event the energetic Margaret Lovelady assisted prior to the event by hubby Trevor and sister June. On the day Lileen Cuthbertson and Margaret Lovelady for worked hard in the Kitchen, Brenda Fraser and June ran the Tombola Stall, Paul & Judith Chamberlain the Bric a Brac Stall. This enabled us to show a profit as well as showing what our new building has to offer. Many thanks to all who turned up on the day and should you to want to chat about any bookings or possible groups that could be run for the benefit of the Community please ring Ron on 0751 8035320.

YOUNGSTERS "GREASE UP"

Eighty seven members of The Tearaways Youth Theatre Group, Shildon, will be taking to the stage next week, at the Civic Hall, to perform their latest production "Grease". Amongst the young cast of 11 to 19 year olds, are local girls Katie Baldwin, Lauryn Bennett and Olivia Dunn, who provide the vocals in the show. Hannah

Day, Courtney Oxley and Keeley Heslop are amongst the troupe of dancers. Newtonian Charlotte McAdam is one of the singers. As usual local lad Andrew Timmiss will be keeping a watchful eye on the productions. A spokesperson said "Along with all the favourite songs from the musical, the young

people have added a few Rock 'n Roll ones too from 1959". The four performances are on Thursday 8th, Friday 9th October at 7.30pm and Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th at 2pm. To get your tickets, priced at £4 Adults and £2.50 Children and Concessions, before they go like "Greased Lightning" ring (01388) 774838.

Great Aycliffe Town Council

APPOINTMENT OF PARK PATROL OPERATIVES

(Three Posts) - Salary Scale - Point 11-14 (£14,733-£15,725)

Post holders will provide a patrol service in the Council's, parks, play areas, cemeteries and other Council facilities and property.

The patrol service will provide a presence in Council property and facilities to ensure that they are clean, tidy and well maintained, appropriately and safely used and will discourage anti-social behaviour.

The post holder will work a shift rota, mainly during evenings and weekends.

A CRB check is required for these posts.
A full driving licence is required.

Closing Date for Applications: Friday, 16th October 2009

Application forms and further details can be obtained from either:
Tel: 01325 300700
e-mail: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk or our
Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk



PCP

We are a local charity providing services to improve health, wellbeing and quality of life working across County Durham and Darlington, based at the award winning Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe.

We are recruiting:

Facilities Officer (FAC1)

Circa £16-£19,000 per annum dependant on experience
37½ hours per week

To assist in providing an efficient and effective facilities service within the Pioneering Care Centre.

Key tasks:

- To be responsible for the cleaning and controlling of the hydro pool system.
- Ensure appropriate procedures are followed to maintain a safe and secure environment.

Key skills required:

- Previous facilities / site management experience.
- Exceptional organisational and administration skills.

HR Support/Administration Officer (HR1)

Circa £18,500 per annum
Scale 4, Point 20-21 dependant on experience
37½ hours per week

This is a new position and we are looking to have a single point of contact for general HR queries and process HR related administration.

Key tasks:

- To undertake all HR administration duties.
- Act as first point of contact for HR related queries.
- Evaluate and monitor HR data.

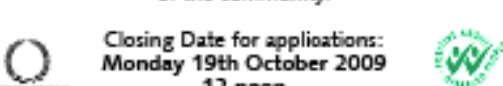
Key skills required:

- NVQ level III/IV in business administration, with a recognised HR qualification being desirable
- Experience of HR processes and associated administration
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills

For further information (Quoting Job ref. no):
Website: www.pcp.uk.net
Telephone: (01325) 321234
Email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net
Fax: (01325) 301129

As an equal opportunities employer, PCP values diversity and welcomes applications from all members of the community.

Closing Date for applications:
Monday 19th October 2009
12 noon



POPULAR AUCTION

Following our successful auction last year St. Elizabeth's Church at Woodham are holding another on Saturday 10th October in the Church Hall commencing 10am.

ANOTHER COUNCILLOR JOINS LIB DEMS

Dear Sir,
Through your paper may I inform people of Byerley Park, Horndale, and Cobblers Hall Ward whom I represent, that I have now joined the Lib Dems Party.

The reason is I feel their policies could lead thme to be the future government and also bring great benefit to the people of Aycliffe.

I am aware a number of other people think and feel the same way and are considering joining the party. This is my choice, and no one has had any influence on my decision to join the Lib Dem party.

I will still continue to work to the best of my ability for the people of Aycliffe.
Cllr Alison Palmer

Great Aycliffe Town Council

COMPLETION OF AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09

In accordance with Regulation 18(1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003, I hereby give notice of the conclusion of the annual audit of the Council's Accounts for 2008/2009 and the availability of the Accounts for inspection by local government electors.

Anyone wishing to inspect the Accounts should telephone the Council Offices on 01325 300700 to make an appointment with the Finance Manager. Appointments are available between the hours of 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

In addition the Statement of Accounts has also been made available for inspection on the Council's website at greataycliffe.sedgefield.gov.uk.

Dated this 30th day of September.

Mr Dan Austin
Finance Manager
Great Aycliffe Town Council

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

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New Netball Sessions

On 15th September a NEW Netball Skills Sessions aimed at young women aged 16 to 25 years was launched as part of Durham County Council's Young Women's Sport and Active Recreation Project. The sessions will take place on Tuesday evenings 5.30pm to 6.30pm at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. The sessions are designed for anyone who wants to learn a new skill to those with previous experience of the sport who want to brush up their skills and team playing. Netball is an exciting sport that will help build fitness levels. Following completion of the course the players will have the opportunity to take part in a friendly competition to practice what they have learnt. The Young Women's Sport and Active Recreation Project aims

to increase participation in sport for young women aged between 16 and 25 years. The programme works to bring down potential barriers to involvement in physical activity, and introduce new and exciting sessions that are targeted at this age group. A wide range of different activities have been introduced for young women across the area including running, golf, street cheer, trampolining, rock climbing and indoor and outdoor cycling. Over 140 participants have taken part in a new activity during the first year of this project. If you are interested in taking part, or finding out more information, please contact Marie Urwin, Young Women Co-ordinator on 01388 816166 ext. 4512, or ring or text on 07834 569 436.

The Great British Urinal

Dear Editor,
Surrounding villages have Gentleman's Urinals with piddling populations measured in hundreds but Newton Aycliffe with some 30,000 people has no urinal. The controlling Labour Party considers a gentleman's urinal not essential even for the disabled, elderly and the prostate troubled. Are there no Gentlemen Labour Councillors? Historically, Gentlemen's Urinals have been the backbone of Britain. Waterloo is said to be named after them. It's the place where Granddads teach their charges to aim high in life. It's where old friends gather to shake hands. and where the well endowed can't be accused of Indecent

Exposure. They are the Flag Ship that keeps Britain afloat. Many a transaction has taken place in the urinal that has been of great significance to English speaking people, especially where politicians have been exposed for forming firm, long standing relationships. Unlike the surrounding villages, Newton Aycliffe has a large Industrial Estate and thriving Town Centre with many Banks, Building Societies, Department Stores and so on. It is many years in advance of all other surrounding settlements. On Market Day for example, 100's of Gentlemen visit Newton Aycliffe on pilgrimage in search of the Holy Grail of Netty's, but sadly they go home empty handed. At the next General Election, the need for Gentlemen's Urinals should be the central political battleground. But which Party will lead the flow of change? Is the local MP a Gentleman? Gentlemen's Urinals in Newton Aycliffe needs to be put on a firm Political footing. Henry Ballantyne

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IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH WHILST HAVING FUN

Local people are being encouraged to get involved in the local 5-a-side football leagues which has proved that you can have fun whilst improving your health.

The community leagues run every Sunday afternoon in the Sports Hall at the Leisure Centre and around 100 locals now involved every week. Organiser Chris Sockett said, "I speak to most of the people participating every week and the overwhelming feedback has been that they enjoy playing as it gives them a weekly workout whilst having fun.

Quite a number of individuals said they disliked going to the gym and running on a treadmill, but said they were happy to take part in a team sport as it is much easier to get motivated when others around you are doing the same."

The league gives local teams the chance to participate in an event which is professionally organised, however the emphasis is much more on fun and enjoyment.

Anyone interested in taking part can either contact Prostar Leagues on 0870 3300 888 for more information or teams can register online at www.prostarleagues.com

COUNTY COUNCIL IS STREETS AHEAD

A council's efforts to ease traffic congestion have been given the thumbs up by members of the public. Durham County Council has been ranked top out of 76 local authorities, by residents rating

their satisfaction with traffic management arrangements. Hundreds of people living in the county responded to a survey conducted by the National Highways and Transport Network (NHT), rating all aspects of road and transport services.

In recent years, the council has introduced the country's first congestion charge, implemented a successful Park and Ride scheme, and carried out a number of major road improvements in an effort to reduce congestion on its roads. Cllr Bob Young, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have received such positive feedback from the public and to know that our efforts to make life easier for motorists are recognised and appreciated.

"We have always felt it important not just to carry out this work but also to keep people informed of what we have done and why we have done it."

The authority also topped the national table for satisfaction with road safety education, with respondents recognising its efforts to reduce accidents by educating road users. As well as running high-profile safety campaigns in the media, council officers pay regular visits to schools and colleges to speak to young people. Overall, the authority was ranked top in nine of 26 categories, winning the seal of approval from the public in areas including street lighting, cycle routes and access to key services for disabled people.

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HEALTH APPOINTMENT CAR SCHEME - A MARVELLOUS SERVICE

The third Annual Report has been produced for the Health Appointment Car Scheme that operates within the districts of Easington and Sedgfield. The Social Resource Centre at Ferryhill provides the service for people of all ages with mobility problems, using volunteer drivers/Communicare of Peterlee and taxis.

Last year a total of 4582 journeys were undertaken in the Easington district, 2496 journeys were undertaken in the Sedgfield district, 3116 of the total of 7078 journeys that were undertaken were to hospital appointments (712 to the University Hospital of Hartlepool and 560 to Sunderland Royal Hospital). The total number of journeys increased by 3290 from the previous year, an increase of over 86%. 141 new members were registered in the Easington district, 212 new members were registered in the Sedgfield district. The total of new members increased by 129 from the previous year of 224, an increase of over 57%. 21 new volunteer drivers were recruited from April 2008 to March 2009

– 8 from the Sedgfield district and 3 from the Easington district, the remaining number from other areas of County Durham. A family member of one the passengers of the scheme in a letter to the SRC stated that: "The courtesy and friendliness of all members of the team was outstanding. My the service IS absolutely marvellous.... The service that your team provided took away a lot of the stress and strain regarding my mother's illness and trips to the hospital. We are truly grateful." Information gathered from a recent survey of the scheme showed that Bishop Auckland Hospital was the most popular destination from the district of Sedgfield. 96.6% of the passengers rated the service as excellent with 3.4% rating it as good.

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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DISPOSE OF OPEN SPACE

Local Government Act 1972, Section 123, (2A)

Notice is hereby given that Durham County Council proposes to dispose of 95.5 sq.m of amenity open space to the rear of 15 Simpature Gate (Play day Nursery Ltd) for use as a children's 'out of doors' play area.

A plan showing the area concerned may be inspected at the County Council Offices, Asset Management at Green Lane, Spennymoor DL16 6JQ.

By virtue of Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 123, (2A) the County Council is required to give formal notice of its intention to dispose of Open Space and consider any objections to the proposed disposal.

Objections to the intended disposal must be made in writing and addressed to:- Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, The County Council of Durham, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL

By no later than 23rd October 2009.

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Don't forget the Big Band Concert on Saturday 6th October at 2pm. To book to collect your tickets at the door please ring 313924. Line Dancing for beginners every Monday at 1.30pm. Just turn up for a warm welcome.

Sainsburys at Woodham are holding a Charity Karaoke event for us at the Oak Tree on Thursday 15th October at 7pm. To book ring 313924.

If you are interested in an Over 50's Tea Dance with tuition by Dianne Howe please ring the same number. We need a volunteer to run our Wii Club every Monday from 1pm-3pm.

Line Dancing for beginners is on every Monday 1-3pm with tuition by a professional. Just turn up - you can do it! You may think it impossible but come along and you will see it is something quite enjoyable and easy to do!

Christmas Fayre Saturday 5th December 1-4pm. Tables for hire at £6 to sell your own goods. Ring 313924.

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STUDENTS RECEIVE WORK EXPERIENCE CERTIFICATES

Students from County Durham and Darlington schools will join with employers and staff from the Durham Education Business Partnership (DEBP) to celebrate their personal success in the 2008-2009 work experience programme.

DEBP has been successfully arranging quality work experience for local schools for 20 years after being formed in 1989. Jaqui Gardiner, Work Experience Manager said 'Work Experience forms a valuable part of our students' development towards their understanding of the world of work. We offer every single student the chance to sample a working environment for a week or two'.

The celebration event will take place on the evening of 6th October at The Work Place on Aycliffe Business Park. Students attending will be presented with a certificate of achievement, with some getting a special award and gift certificate. Many students now choose alternative educational programmes such as

Diplomas and Young Apprenticeships.

These programmes focus on a more vocational theme and allow them to spend more time on work experience with supporting employers. DEBP manager, Anne Gibbs is grateful for the support from the local employers, 'Without the continuing valuable support from local businesses our students cannot learn the skills they need to be the useful workforce of the future.

We are always looking to recruit new employers to get involved with our students and schools. It is a very rewarding experience for businesses to share their skills and knowledge in a beneficial way'.

Anyone interested in the event or the work that DEBP does should contact the team on durhamebp@durham.gov.uk

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A photograph of three people, two women and one man, standing in front of a brick house. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The man in the center is holding a large, open book or document. The woman on the left is also holding the document. The woman on the right is standing slightly behind the other two. The background shows a brick house with white window frames and a white door. The sky is blue with some clouds.

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LOCAL COMPANY SPONSORS PIPE BAND

Sabre Rail Services Ltd in Newton Aycliffe were proud to donate a new suite of drums to our local Pipe Band to maintain their high standards of music the band has produced for many years. Stephen Thompson, Managing Director of Sabre Rail said, "Our offer of support came after learning of the contribution Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band makes in the community. We are pleased to support them not only in their commitment to music and culture within Newton Aycliffe, but also in the way they offer young people, who may not otherwise have the opportunity, the chance to learn a musical instrument". The Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band were delighted to hear the news that the drums were being donated by the Company after two of the Company employees, who play with the band, were approached by the Managing Director with an offer of some much needed financial support. The band is a non-profitable organisation that normally relies on its own members to participate with fund raising events, to help maintain the costs of uniform and equipment. This donation will allow the band time to relax and concentrate on their playing



performance ready for the forthcoming competition season. Secretary, Susan Nicholson, on behalf of the Pipe Band thanks Sabre Rail Services for their generosity, and hopes the relationship between both organisations continues to grow for many years to come. If you would like further information of the Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band, you can contact the Secretary on: 0787 532 1425



Aycliffe Swamp Neighbours

Sedgefield 17 Newton Aycliffe 57

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club's first season back in the Durham and Northumberland Leagues continued with them making the short journey to neighbours Sedgefield. The Aycliffe side again featured a number of changes from the previous week. Straight from the kick-off, Aycliffe went on the attack

and soon scored a try through Warren Parsonage. Sedgefield responded immediately when poor midfield defence let them through for an equalising score. Excellent interplay by the forwards saw Aycliffe regain the lead with a try by Craig Wynn which Tommy Cooper converted. Again, the hosts struck back straight away, and again it was due to poor defence. Aycliffe's advantage in the forward play continued and tries by Deryk Cairns and Alan Layfield saw the score at the break 26 - 12 to Aycliffe.

In the second half Aycliffe turned the screw and added tries by Cairns, Luke Crossen, Andy Newman and Phill Sangster. Sedgefield managed to score after a 5m metre scrum, but Jonny Stevens added another within seconds of coming on as a substitute, running in the try from 40 metres. A total of 5 conversions by Cooper and one from Cairns left the score 57 - 17 to the visitors.

This was further improvement from last week and a most satisfying derby victory. More information is available at www.ayclifferugby.co.uk.

Garden Theft

Dear Sir,
To the person or persons who stole the Mother's Day present, a planter from my garden, bought by my daughter. I would ask you to step back and examine your conscience. How could you knowingly steal from a pensioner. Just think how you would feel if this happened to your Mam or Nan.

The planter looks like a pair of children's dungarees with blue-tit birds on the pocket and the strap of the trousers. If anyone reading this has been offered this planter or bought it from anyone I will gladly refund any money you have paid to get the planter back. It is not about the money it is about the sentimental value of the gift. Ring 07535 626689

BOXING SEASON STARTS

Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club has reopened for the 2009/10 boxing season. After a 6 week break, the talented team now hope to do well in the national championships. First will be Sean Denham he is the TT & Wear Heavyweight Belt Champion and he has to defend his title on 25th October at Ramside Hall. Then it is the National Junior Novice Championships for Mark Dial and Marley Abadom. Shortly after will be the Senior Novice Championships for Michael Turnbull. The Open Championships start shortly after Christmas for Aston Fairhurst, Marley Abadom and Mark Dial in the National Schoolboy Championships and Danny Fox, Gary Gibson and Sean Denham in the Senior Open Championships. We wish all of them the best of luck. The next tournament held by Aycliffe ABC is at the Newton Aycliffe WMC on Friday 20th November 2009. Training is at the Youth Centre on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6pm to 7.30pm for anyone that would like to come along, even just to keep fit. Male or Female from the age of 8 years to pensioners all welcome. For further information contact Head Coach Les Gibson on 01325 308830 or 313855.

Let's Get Cooking



Students and their parents at Woodham Community Technology College are taking part in an exciting new initiative. Let's Get Cooking is a national network of cooking clubs for children, families and their communities across England. The three main aims of Let's Get Cooking are that family members and members of the local community will increase their food preparation or cooking skills, learn a new healthy eating skill and use that skill at home, and that children, young people and families who participate will increase their intake of nutritionally healthy food. The launch night for the Let's Get Cooking Club held on Wednesday 23rd September was attended by over seventy students, parents and members of the local community. The evening consisted of

an introduction to Let's Get Cooking with cookery demonstrations and tastings introducing the use of spices. The evening was a great success with over 40 people signing up to be members. Recipes were available for all the dishes demonstrated and those present were informed about a pass it on scheme and a planned monthly newsletter/recipe. More evenings are planned when different themes will be introduced. A number of community events are also planned as part of the initiative and the college is keen to involve the local community in their cooking activities in order to help local residents learn new cooking skills too. If you would like more information, please contact Phil Goldsborough, resident chef at Woodham CTC on 01325 300328

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