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## COMMUNITY GET-TOGETHER THIS WEEKEND AT NEW XCEL CONFERENCE CENTRE

**ADMISSION FREE - OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW NEW FACILITY**

This Sunday, 13th December, the community comes together for the Annual Christmas Community Concert organised by the town's Rotary Club at the Xcel Conference Centre on the Business Park, (opposite the Recycling Depot).

Schools and groups from the town will perform and the audience can join in popular Christmas Songs and Carols led by our Town Band.

This is the opening event at this fabulous new facility and before the concert starts the general public will be able to look round and enjoy refreshments in the restaurant and coffee areas.

The new Centre is open from 2pm and buses kindly provided by J & C Coaches, will be leaving from St. Clares starting at 1.45pm. For those travelling by car there is ample car parking on site. The Concert starts at 3pm at this magnificent new venue which has been given free by the Directors of Xcel.

There is plenty of room in the 1200 seat auditorium which will showcase its state of the art sound and lighting giving the performers a taste of singing on a professional stage.

The Rotary Club warmly invite residents to attend this 20th Community Sing Along. Admission is free, but there will be a valuable raffle and a retiring collection for needy families and our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Please come - everyone welcome.



An exterior view of the Xcel Centre from the large car park



The main auditorium which will seat 1200 people



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## Cooking Group Serve a Christmas Treat



On Wednesday 2nd December Woodham CTC invited local residents to a Christmas Tea prepared by the Woodham 'Let's Get Cooking' group of students. The group meet every Wednesday after school to learn about preparing and cooking healthy food. The residents were entertained by Tom Bussey on guitar and Mrs Taylor on keyboard. The tables were adorned with festive food, crackers and party hats. A raffle was drawn to add to the enjoyment of the evening. Phil Goldsborough, Woodham's resident catering manager, demonstrated how to make a delicious Christmas pudding ice-cream with cranberry fruit sauce which had a 'thumbs up' from everybody! It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all. Well done Phil and the 'Let's Get Cooking' team!

## Helping Needy Families in the Town

The town's Rotary Club are in Tesco's collecting for needy families in Newton Aycliffe and our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Santa Claus will make an appearance, handing out lollies to the children and any donation large or small is gratefully accepted. If you miss the collectors please use the permanent large red collection box in the store. The club members thank Tesco Management and staff for their assistance in helping provide Xmas Hampers for those families facing financial difficulties.

## "Sing Along" with Coffee & Mince Pies

St. Andrew's Church Mothers Union is holding a "Sing Along" in Aycliffe Village Hall on Monday 14th December at 7 pm. Coffee and Mince Pies will be served.

## Catch Irresponsible Dog Owners

Dear Sir,  
It is a pity some of the dog owners who walk their pets through Humphrey Close have not read the recent article in Newton News regarding a clamp down on their irresponsible behaviour. As far as dog fouling hot spots are concerned our street being en-route to the Burn, must be top of the league!  
Last Wednesday my husband left the house to pick me up and by the time we returned 30 minutes later our front was literally covered with the stuff. It was also clear that children coming out of the nearby school had trodden in it several times, spreading the muck as they walked. My disabled husband had to spend 20 minutes hosing the mess away. This wasn't an isolated incident, but a regular occurrence. Apart from the work it causes I worry about the health risk it poses to schoolchildren who walk up and down our Close. Woodham Burn School must be awash with Toxicaria on its floors as children trail the dog dirt into the premises. It is a good job the school has daily cleaners, but I

still would not want my Grandchildren sitting on the floor in the school hall. When are we going to see any of the culprits fined £80? There's never anyone around to catch the offenders and unless there is a real clamp down our streets will remain a health hazard. Concerned Resident  
Name & address supplied

## Fundraising for MIND

From his stall Honest John has raised £320 for the Aycliffe Angels Cheerleading Group and £500 for the Turbinia Bike Club who provide Christmas Parcels for disadvantaged children. Funds are now being raised for Aycliffe MIND. John thanks all those donate goods for him to sell at his stall in aid of charity.

## Lib Dems Xmas Party



On Tuesday evening, the Great Aycliffe Area branch of the Liberal Democrat Party, held a highly-successful, well-attended Christmas, Pie and Peas supper, in the North Briton, Aycliffe Village. Nearly forty members and supporters gathered to celebrate, not only the festive season - and the turn of yet another year - but also the steady increase in Lib Dem membership throughout the Aycliffe area. The evening was organised by GATC, Lib Dem Councillors, Bill Blenkinsopp and Alison Palmer. Representatives of The Cubby, thankful for the continued support given by the Lib Dems, in its fight for an acceptable long-term

home, were most warmly welcomed. At the conclusion of the evening a raffle, in aid of The Cubby, was drawn by Paul Thomas, Secretary. The proceeds are being used to buy The Cubby, refreshment supplies. Anne-Marie Curry, Chair of GAA Liberal Democrat branch, thanked Brian and Karen, mine-hosts of The North Briton, for their first-rate hospitality and for producing such convivial surroundings. It was wholeheartedly agreed that the evening had been most enjoyable and should in one form or another, be repeated next year. Derek G Atkinson, GAA Lib Dem.

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## Strong Aycliffe Performance

Newton Aycliffe 32 Seaham 5



Despite a soft pitch, the weather was fine for the latest match in Durham and Northumberland Division 3 when Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club hosted Seaham. The game was played in the presence of the President of the Durham RFU, Dave Thompson. Seaham arrived without their shirts and, after discussion, they turned out in a set of Aycliffe kit with training bibs on top. From the outset, Aycliffe were dominant in the scrums, winning many balls against the head. This possession enabled the Aycliffe backs to have the chance to run at their opponents. Warren Parsonage opened the scoring with a try after a powerful run. A further try was added when Jonny Stevens struck from full-back, his attacking line and strong running seeing him over. Seaham now fought back and applied pressure on the Aycliffe line, finally going over in the corner to reduce the deficit to 5 points. The lead was soon restored when Sam Daltry scored his first try of the season and Luke Tinkler, likewise scoring his first of the year, added a fourth to give Aycliffe a 20 - 5 half-time lead. The second half was more of the same; the scrumgame remaining dominant with Cymon Lee outplaying his opposite prop. Gareth Parsonage added another try with a typical jinking run and

Chris Wilson also scored as the two remained tied at the top of the try-scoring list; Deryk Cairns adding a conversion. With the final play, Phill Sangster was unable to score after only being on the pitch for 1 minute. This was a good performance by Aycliffe, but the opposition were not the strongest, the final score was 32 - 5. On 12th December Aycliffe visit Middlesbrough 3rds for a friendly, kick-off 2:15. Aycliffe's sponsors are Fabtech Engineering and Workshop Supplies. More information is available at [www.ayclifferrugby.co.uk](http://www.ayclifferrugby.co.uk).

**Christmas Issues of Newton News**

Friday 18th December - Christmas Edition  
Deadline: Wednesday 16th December

Thursday 30th December - New Year Edition  
Deadline: Thursday 24th December

Friday 6th January 2010  
Deadline: Wednesday 6th January

Advertisements can be placed at our agents:  
Walkers at Simpasture,  
Newsforce in the Town Centre  
or online at [www.newtonnewsads.co.uk](http://www.newtonnewsads.co.uk)

**Newton Press Opening Times**

Closing 3pm on Wednesday 23rd December  
Skeleton Staff in attendance until reopening on Monday 4th January 2010 at 8.30am

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# Bike Club Xmas Toy Appeal



ABC Annual Toy Run will be held on Sunday 13th December. Every year the Turbinia and

Aycliffe Bike Club donate toys, books and games to disadvantaged children in our area at Christmas.

The appeal has been running for 4 years now and has supplied £7000 worth of presents to needy children.

**How you can help:** Please buy an extra present this year and leave it at the Locomotion, The Bay Horse, Huntsman or Turbinia staff or better still why not bring it along on the collection day and hand it over in person. See a cavalcade of 30/40 motorcycles of all types, many in fancy dress and the Party Fire Engine (kindly supplied by the Blazin' Squad).

The procession will arrive at the Turbinia at 2.30pm on Sunday 13th December. Unfortunately we can only accept new toys in their original packaging.

Riders are most welcome, the run will be suitable for bikes, trikes and scooters of all sizes, just bring a toy along with you (fancy dress optional). The ride will start at the Turbinia at 11.30am. For more information call Gary on 319700.

This year we are helping Bishop Auckland Womens Refuge, Darlington & Bishop Auckland Hospital Childrens Ward and the Salvation Army who have targeted families who are having difficulties.

# New Hot Meal Service for Newton Aycliffe

Claire & Andrew Clarke from "Meals made Easy" in Shildon have a successful daily, hot ready-made meal service for the elderly and housebound in the area and are now expanding into Newton Aycliffe.

They own the Square Cafe in Shildon and took over the lease on Platform 7 Cafe, at the "Locomotion - the National Railway Museum in Shildon in March 2008

They later identified a gap in the market for hot meals delivered daily to clients in their area. Not wanting to send out regenerated food, they sourced a "hot box" system that keeps meals piping hot for over 2 hours.

The box is kept by the client and picked up on the next delivery.

The museum kindly let them

use their facilities which helped keep staff busy through the quieter winter months

Claire and Andrew originally delivered to Shildon with one van, but then bought a second van and expanded into Bishop Auckland.

Recently they were contacted by Social Services in Newton Aycliffe asking to deliver to Newton Aycliffe as they feel there is a need for this service.

All meals are prepared fresh every day and are delivered 7 days a week, 365 days a year and are hot & ready to eat. The cost of the meal is £3.95 including delivery. The meal changes each day and is nutritionally balanced. A cold dessert is available for 65p. For more details and to order Ring 01388 771434.



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## Payback Time

Having received nearly £8 million for the land on which Tesco stands Durham County Council can surely afford to give something back to Newton Aycliffe.

Could they not provide proper public toilets or a small permanent drop-in facility for use by the elderly to replace the dilapidated Cubby on the corner of Dalton Way?

Both the County Council and the former Borough Council have received countless millions from the sale of Newton Aycliffe land and many complain we have received very little in return.

## Mayor's Civic Carol Service

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Mary Dalton, will host a Civic Carol Service on Sunday, 20th December 2009 in St. Clare's Church, St. Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe, at 6.00 p.m.

The Service will be attended by Civic Dignitaries from the surrounding areas and Councillor Mrs. Dalton would also like to cordially invite members of the public to join her in this celebration of Christmas. Refreshments will be available in the Church Hall following the service.

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## Lead Theft in Aycliffe

During November 9th to 13th 2009 numerous thefts were reported to the police when occupants of houses within Newton Aycliffe were having the lead stolen from the external walls of their homes around Kirkstone Place, Silverdale Place, Honister Place, Langdale Place, Whinlatter Place & Garburn Place. A large amount of lead was recovered from an address in Newton Aycliffe and there have been 5 arrests to date; police have charged 2 offenders and a 15-year-old male from Newton Aycliffe and a 19-year-old male from Shildon. They have both been charged with lead theft and asked for several other offences to be taken into consideration. In

total 19 offences have been detected. Officers from the newly-formed offender management unit at Bishop Auckland are still investigating the spate of thefts for which the aforementioned are appeared at Newton Aycliffe Magistrates Court on December 2nd. Police would also reiterate that the investigation is continuing and anyone with information can contact them on 0345 60 60 365 ext 673 2121 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. Meanwhile to help catch thieves Police are treating the lead on town properties with a special permanent chemical to show it is stolen.



## Town's Junior Gymnasts in First Competition



Over the last two weeks several girls from Newton Aycliffe have been competing in the inter club championships at South Durham Gymnastics based at Spennymoor Leisure Centre.

This is the first time these girls have competed in any competition and as they have only been training for a year they were all very nervous.

Katie Leadbitter (7 years old) on Sunday 29th November in the Elite Club Championships in the 7 and under category did very well and gained 2 gold, 1 silver and silver all round. On 6th December competing in the Intermediate Club Championships in the 7



and under group, Amelia Harrison (7 years old), gained Gold for the Vault, Silver for the Beam, Bronze for the Floor and Silver All round. Lucy Thompson (7 years old) gained Gold for the Beam.

Kira Watson (7 years old) gained Gold for the Floor and Silver for the Vault. In the 9 and under group Ellie Gibson (7 years old) gained Bronze for the Vault, Silver for the Floor and Silver for the Beam.

Megan Lee (8 years old) who had previously broken a bone in her foot and unable to train properly for the six weeks prior to the competition, still entered and competed very well indeed. All the girls gained a medal for entering the competition.

We are very, very proud of them all and hope they keep up the good work and continue to train hard. Katie Leadbitter

## 3 Times Champs May Finish Runners Up

Sedgefield Water Polo Club played their final game of the season in the Men's Northern League against Team Durham at the new pool in Durham City. With top player Scott Carpenter playing Professional Polo in Australia for Victoria Tigers and other GB players Chis Gilbertson and Glenn Robinson also unable to play, Sedgefield had to rely on their younger players to try and fill the gap.

In a competitive game Sedgefield were always in command to win by 11-7. Patrick Callan 16 had an excellent game and scored 3 goals and he was ably supported by Joseph Reed with 3 goals, new signing Tom Holland with 2 and ex GB men's Captain Neil Bowers with the other 3.

The other members of the Sedgefield team were Lee Cooke, Richard Macallister, Frazer Foulds, Sebastian and Mathias Reichel, Mark Gabrielle and Greg and Joe Barker.

Sedgefield look like finishing runners up in the League after being Champions for the last 3 Years, despite 6 wins from 6 away games, Sedgefield have struggled to field strong sides for their home fixtures and have dropped 5 points.

## P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police & Community Together

PC Alan Thompson will be holding a PACT Meeting on Tuesday 15th Dec 2009 at Simpature Court Coffee Lounge 6-30pm to 8pm.

### PACT MEETINGS

Durham Constabulary are dedicated to making your neighbourhood safer. If you have any issues affecting your quality of life and want to discuss it with your neighbourhood Police Team then get involved in your local PACT Meeting. This is an informal discussion with the Police and local partners to resolve problems where you live. Tel: 0345 6060 365

## Maintaining Delivery of Daily Newspapers

Dear Sir,  
Re 'no newspaper delivery service' for Heighington and School Aycliffe.

Readers have contacted me about this and I am currently working with Martin McColls, Simpature Gate, who are interested in providing the service after Saturday 12th December.

I will have a team out in the areas concerned this week, door to door knocking and leafleting informing them of the new service available. If we get enough response this week then the deliveries will start on Monday 14th December, if not, the Monday after.

We work very closely with our newsagents with the joint aim of providing a service to our readers. When one stops providing a service, we will always find an alternative. Our readers are very important to us and we endeavour to meet the readers needs wherever possible.

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## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 16th Dec. 2009  
Full Council - 7.15pm

### QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 30 minutes has been set aside for electors of the Parish to ask questions of appropriate members of the Council at its Council Meeting. Questions should relate to the work of the Council or affect the Parish in some way and they should be given in writing to the Town Clerk at least five clear days prior to the date upon which they will be asked.

Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting.  
www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open thirty minutes prior to the commencement of meetings.

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

## THE VILLAGE PHARMACY

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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

## Athletics Club Juniors Lead the Way

The Junior Section of Newton Aycliffe Athletics team are having an amazing season, both for the club and representing their secondary schools.

All the junior members have continued to train hard throughout the past few months, and in preparation for the forthcoming NE Cross Country Championships in December, some of the juniors visited Farringdon, (NE Harrier League) in an attempt to assess their competition!

Henry Johnson (U13) ran a great race setting of with the slow pack, as it was his first time out with this league. He lead the boys all the way round the lumpy and water logged course. However, at the last hill some more experienced runners just had more strength and he came home joint 5th position in 10.59. An amazing achievement over the 2 mile course, especially as he is bottom of the age group.

Also, at the same event Ryan Walton and William Crossen, battled it out in the U15. They both looked very strong over the same 2 mile event, but younger legs in Ryan just beat William, with a 3rd position in 10.03 and William gained 5th place in 10.11 sec.

William Crossen, Year 10, was selected to represent Darlington Schools in the recent cross country event in the Tees Valley. He came in a very close 3rd place, only beaten by Year 11 boys on

the day.

Daniel Inglis recently took part in the District Championships at Hermitage School in Chester le Street. Encouraged around the 3 lap course, by his family and coach, Daniel took 8th place in the first race of the afternoon. He ran against Year 12 and Year 13 boys. His position means that he has qualified for the next round of the competition stakes. On the same day his fellow NAAC team mate, Ryan Walton, ran a solid race in the Year 9 boys race to also qualify, winning his 2 lap event. Next stop Meadowfield for both these outstanding athletes.

The youngest member of the NAAC, Henry Johnson, (Year 7) continues to perform well and has now been selected to represent the District, following his recent success at Greenfield School.

Henry was also proud to receive an award last week, from Darlington Sportswinner's Scheme. This is in recognition for his achievements in primary school, whilst at High Coniscliffe. The "Highly Commended" shield for Special Achievements, was awarded by the Mayor of Darlington at the ceremony in the Dolphin Centre.

The junior boys accredited their success mostly to hard work and a little bit of good luck! They all look forward to taking their running to the next level and thank their coaches for their dedication.

## OUR MP WRITES ON THE PRE-BUDGET REPORT

In the Pre Budget Report, the Chancellor Alistair Darling set out Labour's three-point plan for Britain's future – securing the recovery and going for growth; taking tough choices necessary to half the deficit in four years – and protecting vital frontline public services. It's the right plan for Britain and for the North East.

It's increasingly clear that Labour is the only party in British politics that puts securing the recovery first and introduces new measures to stimulate economic growth. We'll continue support to keep people in work and in their homes by guaranteeing every young person out of work for more than six months the offer of a job, training or college place, and maintaining our support for people who lose their job to keep their homes.

We will continue support to businesses so they can manage tough times by pressing the banks to start lending more to business and helping businesses to defer their tax payments until they can better afford to pay – a scheme which has helped 1,450 businesses in County Durham to defer £23m. And we announced new measures that "go for growth", making green growth a real priority for the nation's future. Although unemployment in Sedgefield has increased in the last year, it is still half the figure of the 1990s and 1980s. 70% of those out of work today find a job within six months.

We're the only party in British politics with a proper plan to half the deficit, through a tax rise package that is tough but fair and a spending cut package that has been carefully worked through, including tough action on public sector pay and new efficiency savings of £12bn per year. We'll

make it law to cut the deficit in half over four years.

And because we have taken those tough choices on spending and on tax, I believe that Labour is the only party in British politics deeply committed to protecting frontline public services. Even in tough times, we will protect in real terms investment in the NHS frontline, Sure Start, schools and police numbers over the next 3 years. This builds on our progress in County Durham over the last twelve years. Since 1997, for example police numbers in the region have gone up by over 750.

What a contrast with the Tories! On recovery and growth, the Conservatives would put the recovery at risk by cutting back too fast, too soon. They would cut vital public services like sure start and education to pay for unfair tax cuts for the wealthiest in our society – like a £200,000 inheritance tax giveaway to 3000 wealthiest estates.

And they refuse to say how they would half the deficit! Well, I'll tell you – we've worked out that if they did it faster than us – in three years not four, they'd have to find an EXTRA £26 BILLION – that's half the schools budget or 5.5p on VAT! We have seen recently that Conservatives refuse to act responsibly. I believe the Government are acting tough by introducing a one off payroll tax on bank bonuses to deter bumper bonuses. We are also ensuring that those with the broadest shoulders can carry more of the burden. That is why over half of any increase in taxes will be paid for by the top 2% of earners. We are coming out of the recession because the Government is prepared to take the tough decisions necessary.

Phil Wilson MP

## Watch Out for Business Directory Offer

Correspondence from "European City Guide" proposes to offer companies advertising space in a "Inter Professional Guide on CD-ROM and the Internet".

The idea is to build a directory in enquiries for businesses for a fee of €97.00 per edition.

However, in practice the company offer very little

in return for the fee. The publication does not appear to be advertised effectively and the termination clauses are extremely favourable to the European City Guide.

It also means the contract will be automatically extended each year incurring a further cost of €97.00 per edition.

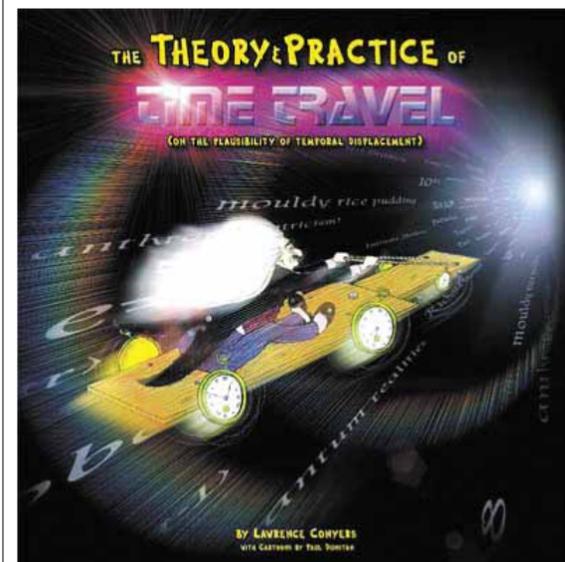
There is however a

cancellation clause, but in some cases this clause has been difficult to settle.

European City Guide are based in Valencia in Spain. The contract is governed by Spanish Law should a dispute arise.

Business people are strongly recommended not to return the form and simply destroy the letter upon receipt.

## FIRST BOOK FROM TOWN AUTHOR



Lawrence Conyers from Aycliffe is proud to introduce his first book, "The Theory and Practice of Time Travel": (On The Plausibility of Temporal Displacement).

The book discusses what happens when you start to think, just for a moment, about the real-world implications of time travel. It's not just physics, its intelligent philosophy, theology and a bucket-load of off-beat humour all mixed up in a delicious cake.

Lawrence Conyers, from Aycliffe is better known as a professional photographer but has, in a varied but interesting career, been an actor, musician, videographer, animator and museum-exhibit designer. He said: "The purpose of this book is to answer the

question: "OK, how do I do it? I want to see a dinosaur. I don't have a space-ship and there are no wormholes in my back garden - what do I do?"

"Possible Answer 1: Borrow Richard Branson's Rocket ship and zoom off before he notices... Possible Answer 2: Work out what reality is first, then work out how you worked that out".

The answer is of course to read the book. The science and physics is presented in a light hearted and easy way, the philosophy is deeply thought provoking and the theology... well, as Einstein said. "Science without religion is lame". Lawrence admits that although he is fluent in the language of utter nonsense, in fact, quite a lot of some of this book actually makes sense.

Forthcoming events at

## THE SCOUTS CENTRE

Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 7PW

Telephone: 01325 318 901

**Sunday 13th December, 2pm-5pm**

A chance to visit us and view the plans for the proposed extension of the centre.

A member of the committee will be on hand to talk interested parties through the details of the planned extension and show 3D models of the new build.

**Saturday 19th December, 7.30pm-11.30pm**

The Heroes of Recovery Motorcycle Club are holding a Christmas Party.

Entertainment will be provided by local band Four Year Winter. Entrance is FREE.

Join like minded people who want to rock out this Christmas!

**Thursday 31st December, 7.30pm-12am**

See in the New Year at our Family New Years Eve Party.

Tickets are £3.00 per adult and £1.00 per child and are available now.

Book early to avoid missing out!



# Why 11 Labour Party Members Resigned

Dear Sir,  
Recently eleven West Ward Labour Party members, some with over 30 years loyal service, resigned their membership. There was mistrust, resentment and open verbal warfare between them and what they term the "Trimdon Mafia".

The roots of discontent go back to 2007 when the Labour Party was trounced in the May Local Elections for Sedgfield Borough Council. Up to that time there were many big hitters representing Newton Aycliffe on the SBC. We were doing well out of this situation with the certainty of much capital investment in the town. The election meltdown ended those hopes!

There were those from Trimdon that resented the influence wielded by Aycliffe politicians and were determined they should lose the balance of power. When MP Phil Wilson set up his office in Newton Aycliffe he naturally wanted his own trusted Lieutenants from Trimdon beside him. He did however welcome help from less influential local Labour Party members.

The bitterness revived in 2008 when selection was made by the Northern Region Labour Party (heavily influenced by Trimdon Labour group) to choose candidates for the prestigious and lucrative new Unitary Authority.

The former powerful and able Aycliffe Party members were refused admission to the selection process in favour, in my opinion, of less able and more compliant types who though worthy enough were never going to make a real impact or push the name of Newton Aycliffe to the fore. In my view, for all his smiles, behind the scenes Phil Wilson is a very worried man. "You reap what you sow".

Aycliffe Resident  
Name & address supplied

## Santa at Neville Community Centre

Week commencing Monday 21st December a Christmas Tree Extravaganza and Santa Claus will be held during the following times:

- Monday 21st**  
10-12, 2-4pm & 5-6pm
- Tuesday 22nd**  
10-12, 3-5pm
- Wednesday 23rd**  
10-12, 3-5pm
- Thursday 24th**  
10-12, 2-4pm

Booking is essential, telephone 313924. Admission is £2 per child, everyone is welcome. Volunteer Santa Clause required please ring Peter Beaty on 313924.

Sponsor a Christmas Tree by giving a donation. Ring for information on the above number.

We at Neville Community Centre wish all our friends and supporters a very Happy and Healthy Christmas  
Peter Beaty

# ROYAL MAIL'S CHRISTMAS STORY

It's not only Santa who will be busy this Christmas as Royal Mail gears up for a bumper festive mailbag with around 2 billion items expected to be posted. The busiest day is predicted to be Monday 14th December when around 140 million items will enter the system – compared to an average daily

figure of 75 million. And as people continue the growing trend of internet Christmas shopping, Royal Mail expects to deliver more than 155 million items ordered online. The millions of people who are sending billions of items can help Royal Mail to deliver a great Christmas by

posting early – ahead of the last posting dates.

### LAST POSTING DATES

International airmail: Friday 4 December: Australia and New Zealand, South and Central America, Caribbean, Africa, Middle East, Asia and the Far East (except Japan)  
Thursday 10 December: USA, Canada, Japan and Eastern Europe  
Friday 11 December: Western Europe  
Second Class: Friday 18 December  
First Class: Monday 21 December  
Special Delivery: Wednesday 23 December

International Signed For products to make mailing overseas easy.

Parcelforce Worldwide Parcelforce Worldwide offers a range of next day services in the UK: Parcelforce 48 is delivery within two working days, Parcelforce 24 is for next working day delivery, and there are three next day time-guaranteed services: by 9am, by 10am and by noon. Prices vary according to weight. Parcelforce Worldwide's Express service offers fast international delivery across

the world from next working day while the Scheduled service takes from three working days. Available to 225 countries worldwide, both are ideal for sending valuable and treasured items across the globe.

International Standard (to Europe) and International Economy (rest of the world) are Parcelforce's cheaper alternatives when cost is a greater consideration than speed.

For latest posting dates, which vary depending on the destination, visit [www.parcelforce.com](http://www.parcelforce.com).

## Santa on His Rounds

The town's Rotary Club assisted by cadets from the Air Training Corps, is taking Santa round the streets of Newton Aycliffe in aid of needy families and our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is a special time of year and Rotarians have met with the usual good spirit and generosity of Newtonians. Santa talks to children, taking Christmas requests and handing out lollipops while his helpers receive donations in buckets. Around 50 hampers are distributed at Christmas for those families in the town going through difficult times. This weekend the club starts its collections in Tesco's.



The vehicle for the sleigh was donated by Linden Group



### WHAT SERVICE SHOULD YOU USE?

Royal Mail For valuable or last minute Christmas gifts and cards Royal Mail's Special Delivery can be used up to 23rd December, for delivery by Christmas Eve, with prices starting from £4.95.

For extra peace of mind when sending items overseas our Airture service takes mail from the UK on the first available flight to 30 countries worldwide. It then receives priority handling abroad and items are electronically tracked on their way to their destination. Prices start at £4.50 plus airmail postage.

Our International Signed For service means items are signed for on delivery and receive a quick dispatch from the UK. Prices start at £3.70 plus airmail or surface postage and the service is available to most countries worldwide.

Visit [www.royalmail.com/deliveryservices](http://www.royalmail.com/deliveryservices) for a full range of Airture and

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**Salary: £6.30-£7.50 per hour + Mileage + NVQ Training**

**We are now recruiting in Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding areas**

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[www.dale-care.co.uk](http://www.dale-care.co.uk)



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**THE CHRISTMAS TICKET**

£30 for season-ticket holders  
£35 for non-season-ticket holders  
£30 for non-season ticket holders when bought in groups of four or more  
£20 for concessions; £5 for under-16s

T&Cs: Ticket valid only for games against opposition stated. If a game is rearranged, ticket will be valid for the rearranged fixture. Live acts in the Corner Bar from 5.15pm (subject to change without notice).

**Only £5 for U-16s!**

Tel: 0871 855 1883  
[www.darlington-fc.net](http://www.darlington-fc.net)

# TOWN'S RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES

The Boundary Commission deadline for final submissions was the 7th December, and it is anticipated all submissions will be available for viewing about a week later on its website.

The website address is: <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/north-east/durham-county-durham-electoral-review>

The Great Aycliffe Residents Association (GARA) sent its final submission several weeks ago. Among the main proposals by GARA were the renaming of Wards for Unitary and Parish to more accurately reflect Great Aycliffe locality, and the preservation of 8 Wards for the Town Council, as well as rejecting the Boundary Commissions proposals on Parish Wards.

Specifically, GARA rejected the Commission's proposals to join School Aycliffe with Neville Ward both on unitary and parish level as a nonsense. These

wards are separated by over a mile of industrial estate and having Councillors represent this area is barmy to say the least.

GARA presented a strong case for restoring the School Aycliffe Ward with Aycliffe West for Unitary and Parish as the closest geographical and demographic link. School Aycliffe is too small under the Boundary and Electoral Commission principles (of electorate to councillors) to stand alone as a ward. Powerful historical and cultural arguments were put by GARA for the retention of the Simpature and Neville

Wards at Parish level, and also for redrawing of boundaries for West Ward. The Boundary Commission proposed the disappearance of Simpature Ward which GARA oppose. GARA agreed with the Woodham South Ward being incorporated as a new ward, since it wasn't part of Woodham, GARA believes that its proposals, whilst not perfect, are the best solution to the Boundary Commissions own initial proposals. GARA reflected a non party political view of how the Great Aycliffe electoral area should be

drawn up for the Unitary (Durham County) Council and Parish Council (Great Aycliffe Town Council). Using the Commissions own methods GARA put forward proposals that prevent gerrymandering, reflect balanced wards geographically, and demographically, and retain the maximum possible choice for the electorate of Aycliffe so that anyone interested in local politics could participate be they Party or individually motivated.

The GARA case can be seen on the above website some time after 7th December, but we understand it may be a week before the Commission have everything up on its site. Then we must await the final decision to be made. The Commissions conclusions will be what the next Unitary and Parish elections in 2013 will be fought on.

The Committee Great Aycliffe Residents Association

# GIVING TREE HELPS RAISE FUNDS FOR LOCAL MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

The PCP has launched a 'Christmas Giving Tree' in the Pioneering Care Centre at Burn Lane in Newton Aycliffe. Local people can place their personal message for loved ones on the tree. The message tags are available from reception and everyone that places a message will take home with them a Christmas bauble to decorate their own tree.

Jane Hartley, chief executive said: "At this time of year our thoughts are often with loved ones, and this seemed an ideal opportunity to remember them whilst supporting an important cause, and to celebrate our new partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support and Public Health County Durham and Darlington."

The new service directly supports people living in the Sedgfield area, and is an innovative and exciting joint venture between Macmillan Cancer Support, NHS Public Health County Durham and Darlington and the Pioneering Care Partnership enabling information and advice to be offered at any stage of the illness."

The new service in Newton Aycliffe is part of an existing Cancer Information and Support Service already in operation within the Easington District. The service is available to all people affected by cancer or worried about cancer and offers practical advice on cancer, cancer prevention and early detection as well as providing emotional support and a listening ear.

**Other services available at the centre will be:**  
Information and advice on coping and living with cancer

Advice on spotting symptoms, reducing the risk of cancer and the importance of screening through the 'Talking about Cancer' initiative  
Someone to listen and talk things through  
Information on appropriate support services, including self-help and support groups  
Benefits information and advice  
Travel insurance information.

Fiona McQuiston, Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Manager and Health Improvement for NHS County Durham, said: "It is a sad fact, but one in three people will be affected by cancer in their lifetime. These people will require information and support during a time of confusion and anxiety. The Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service can provide the information and expertise to help people through their individual journeys. As well as advice people how they can reduce the risk of developing some cancers and reinforce the importance of taking part in cancer screening programs"

Staff are available at the new centre on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings between 9.30am and 12.30pm, and a freephone helpline on 0800 178 3277 is also available from 9.30am to 5pm.



# TOILET PROVISION AT THE LEISURE CENTRE

A recent memo to the Area Action Partnership updated details on the Redevelopment of Newton Aycliffe Town Centre:

*It reported works are progressing as per briefing dated 25th September. Other phases are progressing as per the Master Plan timeline.*

*The Leisure Centre are now offering their toilets for public use and signs have been ordered, and will be erected to direct/inform members of the public once delivered.*

We note with interest the Leisure Centre are now officially saying their toilets are available and will be directing people to them with new signs.

People are aware there are toilets in the Leisure Centre. The problem is you have to queue to gain entry through the turnstile and explain to the staff behind the counter

you want to use the toilet to gain admission.

The toilets are then on the first floor and if you are elderly and infirm it is a bit of a trek. The lift is not always available and rather slow, so if you are caught short and want quick relief the convenience can prove to be inconvenient.

The problem may be reduced if you didn't have to ask to go to the toilet, and could walk straight through, but that would upset the security

# Closure of Toddler Group Disappointing

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my disappointment at the closure of St Clare's Mother and Toddler Group.

My child regularly attended the group and it provided a good source of interaction for him and many other children.

The group was in an ideal location for families who, for whatever reason, are unable to travel to similar groups across the town.

The Church prides itself on being the hub of the community, or once did, and yet cuts this vital service. It is my understanding that a playgroup of sorts has been located at the church for 20+ years and has provided many children with interaction, fun and fond memories.

The cost of a session at the group was only a pound. Has it not occurred to the church that this group was also providing a service for financially disadvantaged families in the community, who are unable to pay for other play facilities? Is helping the disadvantaged no longer a role for the church?

I believe that the reason for the closure was that the church was demanding an unreasonable sum of rent. Whilst I accept that everyone has overheads, including the church, how much can one hour's electricity really cost? The church encourages charitable donations to itself and yet where is its sense of charity for the children and families attending the mother and toddler group.

It appears to me that the church should be above petty squabbles about pennies!  
Angela Sanderson

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**Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe**  
**Christmas Appeal 2009**  
GIVE A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO PEOPLE IN THE WORLD LESS FORTUNATE THAN YOURSELF

**HELP CHANGE A LIFE THIS CHRISTMAS**  
The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe is known in the town for its work in the local community, but it also seeks to serve a wider community throughout the world.  
This year, in partnership with the Newton News, have produced this advertisement illustrating how a little bit of money can go a long way to helping the poorest people in the world.  
It offers you the opportunity to help those much less fortunate than yourself by purchasing gifts in your own name, or those of your relatives and friends - gifts that will be truly appreciated for years to come, not just thrown away on the Christmas scrapheap or tucked away in a corner of a cupboard.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?**  
Simply choose the project you wish to support, complete the donation form below, giving your name and the name and address of the person on whose behalf you are making the gift - we will do the rest.  
EVERY PENNY of your donation will go to the gift you have indicated. The Rotary Club will send a card to the person you have chosen informing them what you have done in their name.  
If you wish to make a donation in your own name, then you will be informed that your wishes have been carried out. If you cannot afford the full amount suggested, the Rotary Club will make sure that your contribution is combined with others for the nominated project.

**CHILDREN WITH AIDS** £20  
Peter and Maureen Wood (ex Newtonians) retired to Kenya 2 years ago and joined the local Rotary Club. One of the major projects for the club is helping children orphaned by AIDS (accommodation, medication and food).

**EDUCATE AN ORPHAN** £20  
For £20 per year an Orphan girl is given school supplies and a uniform.

**MOSQUITO NETS** £2  
Malaria is a killer if not treated properly, mosquito nets are good prevention.

**PROSTHETIC LIMBS** £20  
The Jaipur Clinic provides prosthetic limbs for children as well as therapy and accommodation during rehabilitation and the fitting of the new limbs.

**POLIOPLUS** £1  
Vaccinate a child against this crippling disease.

**CATARACT OPERATION** £17  
Restore sight to a child/elderly person with a cataract operation.

**BUY A GOAT** £15  
A goat will provide milk for a whole family and can be used for breeding.

**FRESH WATER** £10  
To provide a fresh water well for a small village.

**EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES** £5  
Children cannot attend school unless they have the supplies, and for only £5 a child could attend school for a year with the basic supplies required.

**OTHER IDEAS FOR GIVING THROUGH ROTARY** (at any time, not just Christmas)  
We are also able to make use of Unwanted Mobile Phones, Used Postage Stamps, Toner/Inkjet Cartridges, Good Unwanted Clothes and Foreign Currency.

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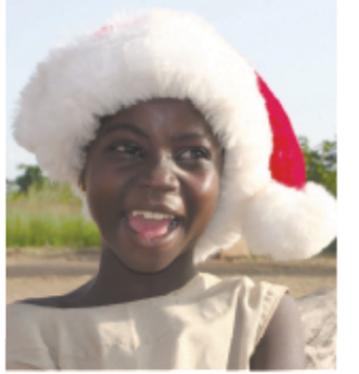
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Address .....

Your Name .....

Address .....

Please make cheques payable to "THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE".  
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**Local History Society Celebrate 5th Year**

Aycliffe Village Local History Society was five years old in November. Members meet in the Village Hall at 7pm on irregular Wednesdays where they are educated and entertained by visiting speakers. If you are interested in local and/or general history, why not join us?

Over a weekend in October, the Society staged an exhibition, "Aycliffe Village Remembers World War II", when £700 was raised for the Help for Heroes charity by its members, Warrant Officer David Hattle and his colleagues of 103 Battalion REME [V] Aycliffe Armoury, and Mrs Lesley Burton of Heighington. World War 2 Re-enactment Societies also demonstrated their military vehicles and weaponry. Annual membership of the Society is £5, plus £1 when there is meeting. Non-members pay £2 at the door. Refreshments are provided and there is on-street parking. There is no

meeting in August. The Society's activities for 2010 include:  
 January 13th: "Roman Military"  
 February 10th. "Yes, We Have a National Costume"  
 March 10th. Memories of a Ladies Man.  
 April 7th. Women of the Victorian Pit Village"  
 May 5th. Roman Bridges in North East England"  
 June 9th. "The Quaker Trail". A guided walk around Darlington.  
 July 14th. "Voices From the Past".

August: No meeting.  
 September 8th. "Of Fish and Actors".  
 October 6th. Durham City in old Photographs".  
 November 3rd. "Witton Park".  
 December 15th. AGM and Christmas Social evening.  
 If you need more information, the Secretary's phone number is 01325-312090 and his email address is gib8868@googlemail.com. The Society's website address is www.aycliffehistory.org.uk. It is worth a look.

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# Durham's City of Culture supporters top 27,000 mark

Support for Durham's bid to be the UK's first City of Culture in 2013 has snowballed. With just days to go before initial bids are submitted to the government, the total number backing Durham has soared over the 27,000 mark, with a massive following from the city and towns and villages throughout the county. "This huge groundswell of support is absolutely terrific," said Councillor

Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council. "To have so many people from all over Durham, the region and across the UK behind us is a measure of just how much our bid means to everyone. "Around 4,000 people from all corners of the region signed up during last month's spectacular Lumiere winterlight festival which is an impressive testimony to the all round strength of support for

Durham's bid. "At the last count, 27,778 people had signed up to support the bid but we want to push the total even higher. The more people who sign up, the greater our chances of success will be. "Among our leading backers are towns such as Crook, Sedgefield, Ferryhill and Peterlee but every single vote registered at www.durhamcityofculture.co.uk is vitally important," he said. Some of the support has even come from rival bidding cities including Portsmouth, York, Carlisle, Manchester and Hull. People from towns and cities across the UK and in Europe, including Paris, Prague and Madrid, are also backing the bid along with signatures from

countries worldwide such as Guatemala, Australia, India, Canada, Singapore, and Egypt. Durham's initial bid, which has to be handed to government by December 11, spearheads an ambitious programme which aims to attract more visitors, generate investment, create jobs, and give people better prospects for the future. A shortlist of bids will be announced in the New Year with the deadline for final bids in May. The winner will be announced in the summer. But Durham will host a Year of Culture in 2013 even if it does not capture the UK City of Culture prize.

People can still back Durham's bid by visiting the website at www.durhamcityofculture.co.uk

# POOR RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY CALL

Dear Sir  
About 10 weeks ago (25th September) I rang the out of hours repairs team at Mears (SBH Contractors) to inform them that my heating had gone off and the boiler was banging very loudly, like it was going to explode. The man told me to switch the boiler off and he would send someone round that night to fix it. No one came, so on the Saturday I rang them back and explained what I'd said the night before to which I was asked to turn the boiler back on which I did and a pipe exploded in the boiler! There was a loud bang and a cloud of smoke. I ran back to where my phone was and then water gushed from the downstairs ceiling, absolutely flooding my hall, downstairs toilet and kitchen. Then the lights went out. The man on the phone said he would have someone at my home within the next half hour. It took over 2 hours for the plumber and electrician to arrive. In the meantime there were 6 neighbours running around with buckets, bins, basins and towels etc to catch the water. My ceiling started bulging and the walls came apart. The flood gushed into next doors house and damaged her kitchen. It has taken her 4 weeks to dry her walls out with a humidifier and a fan on 24/7. The Council gave me

one for a couple days, but my walls are still soaking wet. I am asking for compensation for the damage the water has caused (electrical goods, shoes, used electric, furniture, flooring etc.), but no one wants to know! Yet it was that bad they were going to pay for me and my daughter to stop in a B&B for the rest of the weekend. Mears can't find the recording of my call on the Friday night, but they've found Saturday's recording with only snippets of the conversation, which doesn't include the important parts. Now I've told them I want to hear the recording and they said they don't know if I'm allowed to. They are blaming "wear and tear" of the boiler, but if they "supposedly" get checked properly every year then they would have noticed the pipe etc. Also if they had come out on the Friday night like they said they were, then none of this would have happened. They are quick to demand a week's rent, but when something goes wrong and it's their fault they don't know what to do. My airing cupboard still smells of damp and when I take my towels and sheets out they smell. My whole house smells of damp, I want what is owed to me in compensation. Name & Address Supplied

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**EXPERIENCED** Domestic and carer. Reliable, yustworthy, reasonable prices, references available. Tel 01388 778343

## Health & Beauty

**WAVES** ladies hairdressing and nails. Reliable and friendly. Discounts for OAPs! Mini manicure and Pedicure only £12.00! Tel 01325 308099 or 07986 620 397.

**EDEN ARMS** Day Spa, Rushyford. Non-surgical Facelift, Massage, Waxing, Facials, Nail Extensions. Contact Emma on 07594 921758 or 01388 720541

## Accommodation

**4 BEDROOM** house for rent with garden and garage in Newton Aycliffe, £590 rent per month + bond and references required. Tel 07891 031728 for details

**3 BEDROOM** semi detached house to let. £480pcm. Tel 07882 440377

**3 BEDROOM** Arncliffe Place, town house, available now. Tel 07850 561381 for details

**SMALL 2/3 BEDROOM** semi in quiet cul-de-sac, Woodham. Available now. Tel 07850 561381 for details

## Pets

**DOG WALKER** available, contact 07512 358452

**TOP DOG Groomers**  
Whoson Road  
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SPECIAL MAIL CLIPPING ONLY £5.00  
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## Computers

### AYCLIFFE COMPUTERS

Computers Built to your own Specification:  
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Call out within 24 hours, usually same day  
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Andy McLean 07828 012 607  
or 01325 312970

# CHRISTMAS ICE RINK AT THE YOUTH CENTRE

Young people in Newton Aycliffe are getting an early Christmas present - their very own ice rink. The purpose-built facility

## Property Wanted

**WANTED** 2 or 3 bedroom house in local area to rent and/or buy. Please call Julie on 07971 278250

## Childminder

**CHILDCARE** Before / After School Drop Off and Collect from St. Francis, Byerly Park and Horndale. Tel 07971 1112

## Sits Vacant

**DELIVERY** Driver required, experience preferred, but not essential. Own vehicle required. Tel 07890 081 189

## Childminder

**CHILDCARE** Before / After School Drop Off and Collect from St. Francis, Byerly Park and Horndale. Tel 07971 111201

## Weddings

**BEAUFORDS**, Daimler limousines, Rolls Royce's, Mercedes and Jaguars available for weddings, anniversaries and special occasions. Tel 01740 620147 (Sedgefield), 07721 771 113 or visit our website on: www.durhamweddingcars.co.uk

## Public Notice

**WATCH BATTERIES** now available at Taylors Newsforce DONATIONS needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring John 316630

**RSPCA** Durham and District cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and id chip. Please Tel 311215

## Personal

**BVA Foundation**  
FREE Confidential Post Abortion Counselling available  
Telephone: 01642 616077

**SAMARITANS** - 13 Woodland Road, Darlington. We are here for you 24 hours a day. Telephone 08457 90 90 90

## Wanted

### BENTLEY SWIFT & CO

Antique Valuers and Buyers

WE WISH TO PURCHASE:  
Antique Furniture, Watches, Pre-War Furniture & Paintings, Old China & Clocks, Old Books Post Cards, Cigarette Cards, Medals, Militaria, Coins, Toys, Dolls, Silver and all Jewellery Photographic Equipment, Linen, Autographs, Fishing Tackle, Deceased Estates etc.  
All transactions in confidence  
ALL AREAS COVERED  
(01325) 480561  
www.bentleyswift.co.uk

will be at the Youth Centre for a week from Monday December 14 with special nights set aside (Dec 16th and 18th) as 'FIESTA' celebrations for local young people.

The ice rink is linked to Durham County Council Positive Activities Programme, all part of the Government's Aiming High initiative with money set aside to give youngsters something to do in the evenings rather than hang about the streets.

Funding from the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (Area Action Partnership) has been key to ensuring the FIESTA takes places and it has joint funded the Ice Rink Youth Worker Darryn Hook said: "The area partnership wanted to provide something positive for the young people of Newton Aycliffe to enjoy."

The week will be a fun-filled seasonal event complete with ice skating, snow and a host of other activities. It will be a nice way to build-up to Christmas and I am

sure it will be a wonderful week."

The ice rink, measuring 12 metres by 12 metres, will be in the sports hall at the Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. It is to be open to as many people in the local community as possible with schools allocated 11am to 3pm slots every day. Between 4pm and 6pm daily it is open to under-13's and their families. 6pm -9pm it is open for those aged 13-19.

On Wednesday evening (December 16th), young people will be invited from across the Sedgefield Area to celebrate all the good work being done by the various youth projects.

The final night, Friday December 18, will be a celebration event for youngsters aged 13 and over in the Newton Aycliffe Area, with a range of activities and presenters from Galaxy radio.

Entry to the final night is free but young people must have a wrist band which is available in advance from the Youth Centre.

# Right to Buy Homes and Garages

Dear Sir,  
Any council tenant who has the right to buy their home, would keep that right after transfer to Sedgefield Borough Homes (known as the Preserved Right To Buy). This right would remain with the tenant, or any member of their family who takes over the tenancy (succeeds them). The right remains, even if the tenant later moves to another home owned by Sedgefield Borough Homes, as long as that home is not exempt from the right to buy scheme. Tenants would also keep the right even if they later choose to move to a council home in another area. Any discounts payable within

the right to buy scheme would include time spent as a tenant of Sedgefield Borough Homes and time spent with Sedgefield Borough Council. Further to the request in relation to Sedgefield Borough Homes (SBH) policy on the sale of garages. SBH agreed to continue to honour the existing Council policy of selling garages for applications received up to the point of transfer on the 30 March 2009.

Please Note that all garage sales are at an open market value and do not attract any discount which was the policy of Sedgefield Borough Council!  
Cllr. Terry Hogan

## Hairdressing

**COLOUR CUTZ** Latest techniques in hair design. Tel 07732 188090 - www.colourcutz.co.uk

## SUE

Freelance Hairstylist

Top Salon Trained

Telephone: 07773 812 786

FREE CUT & COLOUR FOR MEN

During Nov and Dec at Saks Academics, Duke Street, Darlington. Call 01325 341 621 to book



## Licence Applications

### Notice of Application for Grant of Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003

Xcel Holdings Ltd applied to Durham County Council on 4th December 2009 for a license to use the premises at The Xcel Centre, Long Tens Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6AP for the sale of retail alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment and the provision of late night refreshments between the hours of 0700-0000, Monday to Thursday and 0700-0100 Friday and Saturday and 0700-000 on Sundays. Representations should be made in writing to Durham County Council Licensing Section, Council Offices, Spennymoor DL16 6JQ by 1st January 2010. Persons wishing to inspect the Licensing Register may do so at the above address between the hours of 0900-1700 Monday to Thursday and 0900-1630 Friday. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application which carries a maximum fine of £5000.  
11th December 2009

# Employers are Abusing Employment Law

Dear Sir,  
The letter last week on behalf of Phil Wilsons office asked are you being forced to work more than 48 hours per week, are you having unfair deductions from your pay for things like uniform and safety equipment? Pardon me for being thick! Obviously someone is hoping to push Labour's only saving grace. If I were to write to an MP asking the same information I would be informed by a letter that the statistics were in the House of Commons library which all MP's have access to. They all know that they have access to all the relevant information and statistics. Added to which the real time information alluded to are compiled by the TUC who carried out their own survey which was paid scant attention to by the majority of current politicians in government. It would also be fair to point out that the opposition to the 48 hour week across the board came from our own Labour Government, which is why it is now a miss mash where employers can and do abuse it. Otherwise Paul Trippett would not be seeking info on employers not abiding by it in

the first place. As an experienced Trade Union representative If I discovered information as described, myself and colleagues would be doing a whole lot more than contacting Paul Trippett. Yours sincerely Kenneth Stubbs (Secretary to the Great Aycliffe Independents)

## S.V.P. Help Appreciated

Dear Sir,  
My husband and I would like to show our gratitude and appreciation to Mary from SVP, Newton Aycliffe. She has been an angel and has helped us at the most troubled of times. It was fantastic to finally meet her in person and show her our bundle of joy at the end of a very troubled pregnancy. We don't know what we would have done without you. There should be more people in the world like you, but you are unique and one of a kind. Many thanks, Sarah and Rob

**ADVERTISE: SALES, WANTS, CONGRATULATIONS, MAKE YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS, PUBLIC NOTICES, WANTED, IN MEMORIAM NOTICES, BIRTHS, DEATHS/MARRIAGES etc IN THE NEWTON NEWS**  
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Simpasture gate

**Sorry, but we CANNOT accept telephone orders for classified ads**

# DARLO URGE FANS TO SNAP UP CHRISTMAS CUT PRICE TICKETS

Darlington players are urging supporters to snap up cut-price Christmas tickets over the festive

period in a bid to boost crowds for three key games at the Northern Echo Arena.

Quakers fans have just nine days to take advantage of the price-busting 'Christmas Ticket' initiative.

The three-game plan gives season ticket holders the chance to buy one ticket for three games for friends or family for just £30, a saving of £24 per person on matchday prices.

And non-season ticket holders can also make savings, with the three-match ticket available on general sale for £35 each, a saving of £19 on matchday prices, or £30 each if bought in a group of four or more.

The deal, which covers the Northampton game on December 19, Lincoln on December 28 and Port Vale on January 2, enables concessions to purchase the three-game ticket for just £20, a saving of £16, while Under-16s can save £19, with the three-game ticket available to them for just a fiver!

Star defender Ian Miller and young midfielder Dan Groves are now urging supporters to get behind the offer to boost attendances for the big games.

"These are three huge games for the club," said Miller. "They're against sides all within the bottom

nine so positive results in these games would come as a huge boost to us and having good crowds for them will certainly be a help.

"We realise this is a difficult time for everyone connected to the club, not least the fans, but it would be great to see increased

crowds for these key games."

The Christmas Ticket package is available from the ticket office at the Northern Echo Arena or the Cornmill Centre, or call the ticket office on 0871 855 1883.



For Sale

**WOODEN** playframe including slide, pole, rock climb, rope and ladders, great fun for the kids. £160 (no offers). Dismantled and ready to go 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

**LADIES** bike, 18 gears, 26" wheels, black frame, £35; Boys bike, Claude Butler Raleigh, full suspension, 18 gears, 24" wheels, £45; Boys bike, BMX, 20" wheels, £40; Cycle carrier, attaches to towbar, carries 3 cycles, £40; Mothercare fireguard, £15; Fire surround, medium oak with cream marble laminate back and hearth complete with electric coal effect fire, £110. Tel 319991 or 07714 430478

**TOSHIBA** Widescreen TV and stand with shelves. With remote control. Newton Aycliffe. 26" screen. £50 ONO call 07721656764 for details and/or viewing. Comes with surround sound speakers and stands. Make us an offer.

**LARGE** car bed, light shade, tv + dvd, bins, all Disney Lightning McQueen c/w bedding £300 07502 216 376

**CHILD's** 1st bike with stabilisers, £25 ring 307530  
**COFFEE** table, 120cmx70cm, wood with glass insert, £95 ring 307530

**BI-ORB 30** with led light and accessories, £50 ring 307530  
**2 ORANGE** and beige jumbo foam filled fatsacs (beanbags), £50 each or both for £90, ring 307530

**GAMING** chair, excellent condition, £50. Tel 307667  
**ICE SKATES** (Hockey), size 3, black and silver, brand new. £25. Tel 319491

**HITACHI** Silver Tuner/CD Player with Speakers on Glass Stand lights up when on. VGC £25 01325 311474

**TOSHIBA** Silver Portable TV/ DVD Combi with Remote, Wall Bracket, Excellent VGC £40 Tel: 01325 311474

**X-BOX** FIFA 2010, Sealed, duplicate present, £20, tel: 07758 126 083

**DESKTOP** computer 1 terabyte hd web cam printer, scanner, fax speakers web cam roll down cabinet chair software bargain at only £375. Tel 321778

**HENLEY** V neck jumpers, blue, lemon and grey, excellent condition, large, £10 each. Nike 5 tracksuit, unworn, large £10. Tel 301158

**MAHOGANY** extending table with 2 carvers and 4 chairs, dusky pink upholstery £200. Mahogany display cabinet £75. Tel 315640

**20" FRAME** suspension bike, 21 speed, disc brakes, hardly used, excellent condition, cost £160, accept £80. Tel 07988 901682

**AS NEW** cream leather Italian 3 seater + 2 seater, will separate, £400. Reproduction shop glass top table, four chairs, as new, £80. Modern large picture, Diago Riviera, £10 as new. Tel 308629

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

## In Memoriam

Edward Arthur Weldon (Ted)



**Died 10th December 1979** 30 years have gone by, but memories are everlasting. Loving Wife Ruth, Daughters Denise, Linda, Susan, Elaine, Julie, Brenda, Son, Raymond, sixteen Grandchildren and fourteen Great Grandchildren. We will remember always

**JOYCE MARSHALL** Died 14-12-2002. A loving Wife, Mother and Nana. Never forgotten, always in our hearts. Love, Wilf, Gary and Sue xxx  
**STEPHEN PARKER** 12th December 2004. Close to my heart you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. Love always, Margaret xxx

**STEPHEN PARKER** 12th December 2004. If tears could make a stairway and memories a lane, I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again. From your loving Daughter Susan and Grandson Shaun xxx

**ENID PARKER** 17th December 1995. Loving memories we have locked in our hearts, you shall not be forgotten because we are apart. From your loving Daughter Susan and Grandson Shaun xx  
**TERRY LENDRUM** 12th December 2002. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. Your loving Husband, John and family

**JOHN GASKARTH** 13th December 2001. Oh Dad, if we could turn back time and once more hear your voice; we'd tell you that out of all the Dads, you would still be our choice. Today, Jesus, as you are listening in your home above, would you go and find our Dad and give him all our love. From your loving family xxx

**RITA THOMPSON** 11-12-08. Your presence we miss, memories we treasure, loving you always, forgetting you never. Doris and family xxx  
**JOHN CASSIDY** (Cass). 12-12-1987. Memories of a loving Husband and Dad. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and ever dear. Doris, Family and Grandchildren

**JEAN PARKER** Mam. Thinking of you every day sadly, missed in every way. Karen, Sim and Grandchildren Jason, Lee and Sarah

**BOB DICKINSON** Died 10th December 1991. Years may pass and fade away, but silent thoughts and memories stay. A little tribute small and tender, just to say we still remember. From loving Wife, Peggy and all the family xxx

## Births

Brandon



Mr and Mrs Dightam would like to announce the birth of their son Brandon who was born at Durham Hospital, on the 20.11.2009 at 18:52hrs weighing 8lbs and 11oz. No other life event we experience can come close to the birth of our Son and we would like to welcome him to the world! We love you very much Brandon. Love Mam and Dad. x

Anthony and Mandy Shaw



are proud to announce the safe arrival of their Daughter "Imogen", born on 29th November, 8lbs 9oz. We would like to say thank you to mam, Dad and Angela for all their help throughout the pregnancy and a special thank you to Andrea who delivered Imogen, you are a truly special friend. xxx

**Thank you** for our Sister "Imogen", she is beautiful. Love, Stacey, Liam, Macaulay, Keaten, Ethan-J and Wyatt xxx

**A Big** thank you Mandy and Anthony for the safe arrival of your beautiful little girl. From Mam and Dad, two very proud grandparents.

**Mandy and Anthony** congratulations, she is beautiful. A little Niece, thank you. Love, Julie, Peter, Gary, Charlotte and Rebekah xxx  
**Shaw**, Mandy and Anthony, congratulations on the birth of Imogen, lots of love from Mary, Dominic, Gina, Andrew, Christopher and Arron xxxxx

**STEPHEN and TANYA** congratulations on the birth of baby Mia, love from Gran and Grandad. Thanks for our first Great Granddaughter xx  
**STEPHEN and TANYA** Congratulations from Grandma Carol and Uncle Ryan on the birth of Mia xxx  
**STEPHEN and TANYA** congratulations on the birth of your daughter "Mia" on 5th September. Love from Grandma Carol. Congratualtions, love from Ryan.

## Congratulations

Leigh-Ann Francis



Happy 30th Birthday 17th December

**Happy 30th** birthday gorgeous, have a great day. Love always and forever Craig and Boo! xxx  
**Happy 30th** to my little sister, time to invest in a good face cream!! Love you millions Emma, Morgan, Sonny and Noah xx  
**Happy 30th** to our darling Daughter, hope you're spoiled rotten. Lots of love Mam and Dad xx  
**Happy 30th** birthday, hope you get everything you wish for, love Grandma Vera, Aunties, Uncles and all your cousins xx

Emma Lawrence



**WELL DONE** Congratulations Emma for becoming the IDTA Medallist of the Year in both Ballroom and Latin. We are so proud of you. Love, Mam, Dad and Scott xxx  
**A big** thank you to Claire and Brenda  
**Congratulations** Emma and well done. Love from Bea and family xxx

Sydney Etherington



WELL DONE

2nd in Under 6 Beginner at Blackpool. So proud of you Princess. From all your family xxxxx  
Thanks to Clare Walton

Jemma Pollock



**Happy 21st** Birthday  
**Happy 21st** to my big Sister, very proud of you! Hope you enjoy your party. Lots of love, Lucy xxx  
**13th** December  
Congratulations to my lovely Granddaughter on your 21st. Love, Nan xxx  
**Congratulations** on your 21st. All our love and best wishes for the future. Mam and Dad xxx

Kayleigh Coulthard



Happy Birthday 15th December

**Happy** birthday, have a great time on your 18th. Love, Mam, Dad and Col  
**Congratulations** Kayleigh on your 18th. Love, Nanna and Granda  
**Happy** birthday Kayse. Love, Liam

Ashleigh-Anne Barker



Happy 13th Birthday 14th December

**Happy** teen day Ash. Have fun! Love you to bits, Mum, Russ, Danielle and Ryan  
**Happy** birthday Ash. Lots of love, Dad and Megan xxx

**CLAYTON FACINELLI** To our special little boy happy 1st birthday hope all your dreams come true, love you always and forever Mummy and Daddy xxxxxx

**BETHANY PARSLEY-FOWLER** 14th December Happy 7th birthday Bethany. Lots of love Mam and Dad xxx

**REBECCA STERLING** Congratulations on your 21st birthday on 13th December. Love and best wishes, Grandma and Grandad Sterling xxx

**REBECCA STERLING** 13th December. Happy 21st birthday Darling. Hope you have a fab weekend. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, James and Nanna xxxxx

**CHRIS HALL** Eighteen at last! Have a great day. Love, Mam and Dad

**CHLOE MARIE MILLER** Happy 12th birthday on the 15th December 2009 to our beautiful Princess. We love you lots and lots, have a lovely day. All our love, Nana and Grandad xxxxx

**CHLOE MILLER** 15-12-97. Happy birthday, now you are 12, have a great day. Lots of love, Mam and Dad xx

**CLARE FORSTER** Congratulations on passing your BA Hons in Social Work. All our love, Jon, Dylan and Olivia

**BARKER** Ashleigh Anne. Happy 13th birthday gorgeous. Love you so much, Auntie Linds and Uncle Mark

**ASH** To the best Cuz ever, lots of love, Niall and Bo xxx

**JAYDEN BLACK** congratulations Jay on your 18th birthday. Love and best wishes always from Grandma and Granda and Nana xxx

**LYN GARLAND** The big 40, happy birthday. Love, Ian, Lauren, Mam, Dad and John. Have a brill 80's party. Love Denise, Allan, Emma, Sam, Becky, Rich, Chris and Nikkie - don't get drunk !!! xxxxx

**CLAYTON** Happy 1st birthday to a special little boy. Lots of love from Yaya, Grandad Steve, Uncle Neil and Auntie Katie

## Birthday Remembrance

**MARGARET KELLY** 12th December. Love and miss you so much. Paddy xxx

**WENDY GRAHAM** 12th December. Thinking of you Wendy on this special day. Miss and love you always. Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxx

**WENDY GRAHAM** 12th December. Birthday wishes Wendy, miss you and love you, Mandy x

**WENDY GRAHAM** 12th December. Happy birthday to my beautiful Wife Wendy. Also happy wedding anniversary on 9th December. You were my best friend and things are hard without you around. I love you and miss you, but you are always in my heart. Loving Husband Charles xxx

## Christmas Issues of Newton News

Friday 18th December - Christmas Edition  
Deadline: Wednesday 16th December

Thursday 30th December - New Year Edition  
Deadline: Thursday 24th December

Friday 8th January 2010  
Deadline: Wednesday 6th January

Advertisements can be placed at our agents:  
Walkers at Simpasture,  
Newsforce in the Town Centre  
or online at www.newtonnewsads.co.uk

## Newton Press Opening Times

Closing 3pm on Wednesday 23rd December  
Skeleton Staff in attendance until reopening on Monday 4th January 2010 at 8.30am

Lauren Ward



Teenager at Last

Love from Dad, Grandma, Granda, Auntie Julie, Uncle Craig, Charley, Lexi, Uncle John, Auntie Tara, Neve and Flynn xxx

# BIN COLLECTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

To help residents stay green this Christmas Durham County Council is publishing festive refuse and recycling collection dates. In the Derwentside, Durham City and Sedgfield areas, there is no change to the collection day. Bins will still be collected on Monday 28 December, even though it is a Bank Holiday. In Easington the day is as normal apart from Friday, when collections

will change from Friday 25 December to Monday 28 December and from Friday 1 January to Monday 4 January 2010. In the Chester le Street, Teesdale and Wear Valley areas, collection dates will be the same as usual up to and including Christmas Eve. From Friday 25 December until Wednesday 30 December, bins will be collected one working weekday later than usual, including Monday 28 December

even though it is a Bank Holiday. Bins that would usually be collected on Thursday 31 December will be emptied on Saturday 2 January 2010, and a usual collection on Friday 1 January will move to Monday 4 January 2010. All collections throughout the county will be back to normal from Monday 4 January 2010. Residents with any queries should contact their local council office.

# AYCLIFFE 3M BOOST YOUNG INTEREST IN SCIENCE & MATHS

A new online resource has been launched by local employers 3M to help secondary schools in County Durham to teach pupils about sustainable living and the key role that scientists and engineers will play in tackling the challenges of climate change. The 3M Worldwise website has been developed by 3M - which manufactures respirators at its Aycliffe site - working with the Government-supported organisation STEMNET.

The website - 3Mworldwise.co.uk - is designed to boost young interest in studying the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering and maths from GCSE to A-level and on to university. Currently only 13 per cent of undergraduates are studying these subjects. According to the Confederation of British Industry, this shortfall leaves two-thirds of UK businesses with

recruitment difficulties. The new initiative aims to reverse this trend by tapping into young people's concern for the environment and inspiring them to find out more. Its launch is being backed by environmental campaigner Dick Strawbridge, the presenter of TV's Scrapheap Challenge and author of "It's Not Easy Being Green". Former Lt Col Strawbridge, himself an engineering graduate, said: "I am delighted to be involved with such a fantastic project, which aims to ignite children's passion for science and maths while

raising their awareness of environmental issues. "I am confident that 3M Worldwise will inspire more young people to go on and study STEM subjects and ensure there are enough scientists and engineers to continue looking after the world and its resources for generations to come." 3M's UK managing director Doug Mitchell said: "As a technology company our future success

is dependent on having employees with the right skills, so we want to do what we can to encourage greater interest in STEM subjects at GCSE level. "This will create a greater pool of students to consider taking the subjects forward to degree level. We hope to engage and motivate students to choose science, technology, engineering and maths when it comes to selecting qualifications and careers."

**THE TURBINIA**

**\* Saturday Night Live \***

*The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge*

**Saturday 12th December - "F.M."**

"Was this our best mid week pub gig ever? ... Probably !!!"

What can I say about F.M., this was rock and metal utopia, a classic journey through the rock and roll hall of fame. They did the lot, Kaiser Chiefs, Foo Fighters, Black Sabbath, AC/DC, Guns and Roses, Led Zeppelin and much more. How long have F.M. been around now? Many a year and on this performance many a year to come. Thanks lads you were awesome"

**Saturday 19th December - "CAPTAIN ROCK"**

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a gig from Big Stevie and the boys, our traditional Crimbo offering, always one of the best gigs of the year. Fantastic musicians and great entertainers, if you like to rick and like to party, don't miss this one. Singing covers by Who, Blue Oyster Cult, Thin Lizzy, Black Sabbath, Jimmy Hendrix, AC/DC, Deep Purple, Pearl Jam and much much more

For more information on bands go to [www.turbiniapub.co.uk](http://www.turbiniapub.co.uk) or 319700 Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

**Furniture Factory Outlet**

Fulbeck Road, Aycliffe Business Park. 0782 5777966

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all

**Leather suites**

**Fabric suites**

**Corner groups**

**Sofabeds**

**Chairs**

**Beds**

**Wardrobes**

Many other items in stock







**Open Weekdays and Saturday**

Closed from Wednesday 23rd Re-opening Monday 28th December

**NEW MEGA SHOWROOM**



COOKERS + WASHERS + FRIDGES + FREEZERS + TUMBLE DRYERS + DISHWASHERS etc.

**23 Northfield Way, Aycliffe Business Park**

Tel: 01325 301916

## Carol Service

Everyone is welcome to a Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at 6.00pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Shafto Way, Newton Aycliffe. "Joy to the World, the Lord is come!"

## AYCLIFFE CLAIM EIGHTH LEAGUE WIN

Newton Aycliffe claimed their eighth league win of the season with a 2-0 victory at Team Northumbria last Saturday to maintain their impressive recent form. Allan Oliver's side began December where November left off as they stretched their unbeaten record to seven games, before their scheduled cup game at home to North Shields on Wednesday night. Daniel Lennon's individual brilliance brought the first goal after just five minutes and, despite having Dave Forrest dismissed for two bookable offences, Aycliffe held on and sealed the points when substitute Chase McMullen (pictured) netted 10 minutes from time within 15 seconds of his introduction. Anth Campbell's strong run and shot was only parried and McMullen finished with aplomb.



Dan Mitton was faultless in central defence on his return following injury and despite Mark Wood volleying against his own crossbar midway through the second half, Ste Richardson was rarely threatened as Northumbria's finishing let them down several times despite good build up play. Aycliffe overtook neighbours Crook with the three points and remain on the periphery of the top three with five points separating seven teams, albeit by virtue of a superior amount of games played over their rivals. They go to Darlington RA this Saturday (December 12) and then Birtley Town next weekend before their big Boxing Day derby clash with Crook at Moore Lane Park. Meanwhile, there are still copies of Aycliffe's official 2010 Calendar available to buy, priced just £5. They're available from the refreshments cabin on matchdays, from any member of the committee, or call Martin Walker on 07826 525907, email martinwalker50@hotmail.com

**FIXTURES**

Sat Dec 12: Darlington RA (A), 3pm

Sat Dec 19: Birtley Town (A), 3pm

Sat Dec 26: Crook Town (H), 3pm

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