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NEW XCEL CONFERENCE CENTRE PROVES ITS WORTH



The annual Community Concert, organised by the Rotary Club was held this year in the new Xcel Conference Centre and it was a huge success with over 1000 people attending. This was the first public event in this new magnificent 1200 seat auditorium. It was

given by the Directors free to allow the community an opportunity to see what it offers. And what an asset to the town and the region this fabulous building is with state of the art sound, lighting, and an extra large stage.

Local schoolchildren and the community performed the programme brilliantly, warming the hearts of the audience with pre-Christmas joy. Our Town Band played for the community singing of popular carols and songs. All the performers received sustained applause from the appreciative spectators as they enjoyed the experience of singing in the new venue.

Prior to the start Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band played welcoming and stirring music outside as the audience arrived at the Centre. Some took advantage of the invitation to look around the spacious premises which has numerous rooms and a separate Coffee Lounge and Children's area. A raffle was organised and a retiring collection made for the Rotary Club's Christmas Appeal for hampers for needy families in Newton Aycliffe and also for our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. A sum in excess of £650 was raised. There is no doubt this new County Durham Conference Centre will attract customers from all over the region, bringing jobs for Newtonians and benefits for our local economy.



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CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE

At 7.30pm on Tuesday 22nd December there will be a Service of Holy Communion with prayer for healing and the remembrance of loved ones, at Burnhill Way Methodist Church. Anyone who wishes to spend a short time remembering their loved ones who have passed away are very welcome at this Service. There will be an opportunity to light a candle and hang a star on the Christmas tree in their memory. The Service will be followed by refreshments and a chance to talk.

SKY TV SCAM

Readers are warned to be aware of telephone callers pretending to be insurers of Sky TV equipment. They refer to recent purchases and offer to repair or replace if it breaks down. The truth is after taking payment of £25 from credit card details over the phone that is the last you hear. Then you have to go the the trouble of going to your bank and changing all your details to avoid further cash being withdrawn. The simple answer is do not give your details over the phone unless you know the company is genuine and they have credit card security.



would like to wish

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Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year



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Monday-Friday 8am-6pm; Saturday 8.30am-2pm

SANTA'S TOUR OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Santa’s coming!!! Watch and listen for him on Christmas Eve, he will be ringing his bell in your area very soon. However, as Santa doesn’t know how many children will be at each location, and tries hard not to disappoint anyone, the times below can only be approximate. Please be patient. If you live in a cul-de-sac help Santa by coming to the entrance, if there are several groups of people in your street join up and see Santa as one – share the Christmas spirit, and please remember, Santa’s helpers are all volunteers who give their time on Christmas Eve for the benefit of the children in our area. LET’S ALL HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

ROUTE 1
3.45pm-4pm - Aycliffe Young Peoples Centre, Welbury Grove
4pm-5pm - St Oswalds, Central Avenue, Washington area
Wycliffe, Armstrong, Wren, Whitehead, Hutchinson, Hylton, Matthew, Wolsey, Richardson, Trevor, St Aidans, Felton
5pm-5.30pm - Neile, Defoe, Trevor, Porter, Wheeler, Lamb, Espin, Bellasis
5.30-6pm - Wiseman, Ewbank, Hardinge, Chandler, Chapman, Crowley, Harding, Bousefield, Faber, Kendrew, Sanderson, Redworth Grange, Elstob, Burn, Westmorland, Henson, Whiteley, Thurlow, Aylmer
6pm-6.45pm - Dalton, Hartley, Faulkner, Hullock, Allington, Walcher, Lilburne, Macmillan, Bertie, Alington, Webb, Westmorland, Newburn
6.45pm-7.30pm - Humphrey, Silkin, Stead, Wright, Priestman, Marshall, Burdon, Lightfoot, Stephenson
7.30pm-8.15pm - Barrington, Ashfield, Tunstall, Carileph, Ebba, Bruce, Pease
8.15pm - Past RAFA club to Paulinus

ROUTE 2
3.45pm-4.05pm - Bede, Anne Swyft, Clarence Chare, Clarence Close, Clarence Green, Clarence, Baliol, Hackworth
4.05pm-4.45pm - Baliol, Travellers, Linguard, Seton, Gilpin, Clanny, Palmer, Cosin
4.45pm-5.15pm - Bury, Wilkinson, Van Mildert, Greathead, Co-operative Store, Shafto, Greville, St Cuthberts
5.15pm-5.30pm - St Clare’s Church
5.30pm-6pm - Sharp, Lumley, Hunter, Sharp, Crewe, Henderson, Crawford, Sheraton Road, Sheraton Close
6pm-6.25pm - Hatfield, Heild, Biscop, Skirlaw, Flynn, Beck
6.25pm-7.15pm - Creighton, Moore, Swan, Gunn, Mellanby, Liddell, Kenny, Carr, Markham, Secker, Joicey, Kemble, Bulmer, Vane, Fowler, Warburton, Jackson
7.15pm-8pm - Shafto Way, Shield Walk, Stanfield Road, Denham Place, Ramsey Place, Eden Road, Langley Road, Malling Green, Central Avenue (Fire Station), Church Close

ROUTE 3
3.45pm-4.45pm - Greenfield, Burnhill, Malham, Reeth, Rylstone, Askrigg, Skipton, Arncliffe, Aysgarth, Hawes, Pateley, Stainforth, Keld, Marrick
4.45pm-5.35pm - Garburn, The Lanes, Burnhill, Hawkshead, Honister, Silverdale, Kirkstone, Langdale, Whinlatter, Eskdale, Greenfield
5.35pm-6.15pm - Linden, Greenfield, Beechfield, Rowan, Elmfield, Pease, Oakfield
6.15pm-7pm - Cumby, Crosby, Doxford, Crosby, Lowery, St Godrics, Mills
7pm-7.15pm - St Godrics, Cumby, Watson, Simpasture, Simpasture Gate, Moule, Finchale, Gregory Court, Lambton, Lee Green, Hopper
7.15pm-7.30pm - Finchale, Dixon, Walker Lane, Simpasture Gate, Emerson, Butler, Castlereagh, Merz
7.30pm-8.10pm - Butler, Ritson, Bowes, Lyon Walk, Bowes, Marley, Wallas, Isherwood, Bewick, Emerson

ROUTE 4
3.45pm-4.45pm - Aycliffe Village, Durham, Millfields, Atkinson, Orlands, Green (Mill House), South, St. Andrews, High St, Heighington, Oakley, Congreve, Bickford
4.45pm-5.30pm - School Aycliffe, West Cottages, North Cottages, Eastfields, The Garth, Midfields, Lord Neville, Binchester, Menville, Burnynghill, Forresters, Smythsons, Sheppards, Thursby, Wilbore
5.30pm-6.10pm - High Barn, Meatlesburn, Springfields, Hazelrigg, Lowfields, Hansard, Jennison, Westfields, Hillfields
6.10pm-6.30pm - Greenfield, Malvern, Colwell, Bedford, Wilton
6.30pm-7.10pm - Greenfield, Staintondale, Rookwood, Zetland, Covert, Stirrup, Bramham, Bedale, Post Horn, Saddlery, Greenfield
7.10pm-7.45pm - Lascelles, Luttryngton, Hambleton, Ranulf, Jesmond, Colburn, Elwick, Claxton, Russell, Yoden, Wynyard

**I MAY BE A LITTLE LATE
LISTEN OUT FOR MY BELLS**

ROUTE 5
3.45pm-4.10pm - Brafferton, Grange, Chilton, Grindon, Whitton, Woodham
4.10pm-4.45pm - Lowther, Brook, Cartington, Mulgrave, Helmsley, Middleham, Burleigh, Badminton, Stoneleigh, Lowther
4.45pm-5pm - Hickstead, Stag, Kennilworth, Cheltenham, Gatcome
5pm-5.35pm - Epsom, Kempton, Windsor, Fallow, Fawn, Hind, Raby, Brancepeth

5.35pm-6pm - Village, Bamburgh, Chillingham, Alnwick, Barnard, Pemberton, Farnham
6pm-6.35pm - Beaumont, Kirkham, Egerton, Dudley, Howson, Clover, Sorrel, Yarrow, Harebell, Campion
6.35pm-6.45pm - St. Elizabeth’s Church car park
6.45pm-7.05pm - Sandowne, Tattersall, The Oaks, Beechers, Paddock, Croft, Woodham, Sunningdale, Low Green
7.05pm-7.45pm - Spinney, High Green, Granges 1-4, Bridle, Woodham Gate

ROUTE 6
3.45pm-4.30pm - Hallington, Tindale, Derwent, Angram, Scholars, Broomlee, Stocks, Wakerley, Fewston, Blackiston
4.30pm-5.15pm - Meadowfield, Ladybower, Greenlee, Stainmore, Winterburn, Grassholme, Burnhope, Stainmore, Meadowfield, Hareson, Cestria
5.15pm-5.45pm - Lisle, Lockyer, Hoode, Cheviot, Pennine
5.45pm-6.30pm - Bluebell Close, Coverdale, Bluebell Meadows, Alverton, Wolvestone, Hamsterley, Barton, Paxton
6.30pm-7pm - Lancelot, Temple, Gamul, Raddive, Spooner, Thwaites, Eade
7pm-7.15pm - Avon Court
7.15pm-8pm - Scott, Bakewell, Booth, Bates, Sid Chaplin, Fox, Brockett, Loraine, Thornton, Sampson, Merlin, Kestrel

ROUTE 7
3.45pm-4.15pm - Rose Lodge at Cobblers Hall, Foxglove, Ashtree, Pinewood
4.15pm-5.10pm - Ropemoor Way, Forster, Patenson, Wakenham, Youens, Haselwood, Blackiston, Carwardine, Karles, Bloomesley
5.10pm-5.30pm - Acle Burn, Acle Meadows, St. Andrews, Ryder, Agnew, Kings, Ida, Osbert, Guthrum, Osric, Aldfrid
5.30pm-6pm - Wellhouse, Morrison, Tanfield, Stargate
6pm-6.15pm - The Ballarat
6.15pm-7pm - Kimblesworth Walk, Fenhall Green, Hutton Place, Callerton Rise, Deval Close, Elemore Place, Phoenix Place, Brockwell Close, Heatherburn Court
7pm-8pm - Foxton Close, Herrington Court, Hardwick Court, Butterwick Court, Rushyford Court, Layton Court, Woodham Way

Interfaith Conference

During November, 10 Year 11 pupils from Greenfield attended an Interfaith Conference in Durham at County Hall, put on as part of National Interfaith Week. About 200 pupils attended the conference from schools around the county. Pupils were in workshops for the afternoon, finishing off in the Debating Chambers where questions were put to representatives of a range of different local faith communities including Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists. The Humanist Society was also represented. It was a very stimulating afternoon with interesting discussion and the opportunity to learn about different cultures, beliefs and lifestyles.

MAKING FRIENDS & VISITS

New Friends New Places meet every Tuesday 2pm until 4pm at the Navy Club Burnhill Way. Next Tuesday we are having line dancing instruction followed by a “Bran Tub” for Christmas. Our Party is on Tuesday 12th January and there is a warm welcome to everyone who would like to join. Come and meet new friends. On 30th March we are going to Meadowhall Shopping Mall Sheffield. Please come and join us. Our monthly Meal/Mystery Tours start on the FIRST SUNDAY of each month. We have plenty of other ideas FOR THE FUTURE. For further details ring 01325 308094.

Christmas Issues of Newton News

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

Wednesday 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

Newton Press Opening Times

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

Aycliffe Evangelical Church
 Ladybower (signed off Meadowfield Way) - www.aycliffe-ec.org.uk

*You are warmly invited to our
 Christmas Events and Services*

Friday 18th December - 7.00pm
CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN NIGHT
 (Children must be with a responsible adult)

Sunday 20th December
10.30am - CAROL SERVICE
4.00pm - CHRISTMAS FOR THE FAMILY
 (including carols, tea and a Christmas message)
 (This will finish by 6.30pm, then no evening service)

Christmas Day - 10.00am
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

*Christmas Greetings from
 Aycliffe Evangelical Church*

**For further details call 07703 464971
 or e-mail enquiries@aycliffe-ec.org.uk**

Merry Christmas and a Happy,
 Prosperous New Year to all the
 residents of Aycliffe Village and
 Neville Ward of Newton Aycliffe

Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp

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Death of Mayor's Husband



With deep regret we record the death of Reginald Dalton, husband and consort of our current Town Mayor, Councillor Mary Dalton. Reg died suddenly on 12th December aged 86 after a short illness when admitted to Darlington Hospital. He was a constant companion of Mary during her service as a Councillor. He was Mary's Consort in her first term as Mayor as well as in this, her second year of office. Mary was born in Holland and their meeting and subsequent marriage is a love story which started when Reg was a Tank Soldier helping to liberate Mary's village during the second world war. Two young people met and enjoyed a long life together in this country, eventually moving to Newton Aycliffe to retire. Reg will be remembered as a quiet, kind gentleman who supported his wife in her civic duties with pride and dignity. On behalf of the townspeople we extend sincere sympathy to Mary and all her family, remembering with gratitude the service Reg gave to our community. The Funeral Service will be held at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 22nd December at 10.15am.

DON'T LET TURKEY SPOIL YOUR XMAS

The Food Standards Agency is hoping to reduce the number of food safety clangers served up this Christmas, with its Christmas food safety advertising campaign. TV and radio adverts are jovial but have serious underlying messages about the preparation and cooking of turkey:

**DON'T WASH IT (YOU DON'T NEED TO);
 DEFROST IT THOROUGHLY;
 COOK IT PROPERLY.**

The advice is just as important whether people are cooking traditional turkey, or any other poultry. Research has shown that many people wash their turkeys before cooking, with older women the most frequent turkey-washing offenders 80% of people wash their turkeys before cooking, significantly increasing the risk of food poisoning. (FSA survey of 2148 people, UK, 2007). Washing meat or poultry can cause harmful food poisoning bacteria to splash on to worktops, chopping boards, dishes and utensils, where they can linger for days. Partially defrosted turkeys are another common festive food safety blunder. When it's completely thawed there won't be any ice crystals inside the cavity of the bird. You can also test it with a fork to tell whether the meat feels frozen. Thorough cooking will ensure that any food poisoning bugs are killed. To ensure that the turkey is cooked properly, make sure it is piping hot all the way through. Cut into the thickest part (between the breast and thigh) to check that none of the meat is pink, and the juices run clear. Bob Martin, food safety expert at the Food Standards Agency, said: "Cooking the Christmas dinner can sometimes feel like feeding the five thousand, what with aunts, cousins and everybody else that comes along. For most, the extra effort is worth it and everything will be great. But the fact we tend to cook for more people than usual at Christmas, and often with foods we don't cook regularly, means there's a bigger chance of dishing up a nasty dose of food poisoning unless we are careful. "Our turkey tips apply to all poultry – they're just as important whether you'll be cooking turkey, goose, chicken or pheasant."

GREENFIELD WELCOME BACK "OUT OF THE BLUE"

Greenfield Community and Arts Centre are proud to see the return of Out of the Blue on Saturday 19th December 2009, 7.00 pm. Out of the Blue are Oxford's all male vocal group that have achieved both national and international success with their signature blend of dazzling harmony and outrageously unprofessional choreography. After three successive sell-out runs at the Edinburgh fringe festival, and having performed in front of thousands at prestigious venues including the Lincoln Arts Centre

and Nassau Coliseum, New York, the European champions of a cappella are back at the Oxford New Theatre for one night only. With award-winning arrangements of songs by artists ranging from The Beatles and Stevie Wonder to Outkast and Lady Gaga, this is guaranteed fun for all ages and musical tastes. Back by popular demand, John Melvin has organised this event and tickets are available from him for £5, on 07796 817 356 or you can pick up a ticket from the Arts Centre reception.

KARATE KIDS IN TOP TEN



GKR Karate Dojo in Newton Aycliffe entered a number of competitions this year for the north. All the entrants: Dez Tinkler, Annalise Tinkler, James Blades and Daniel Askew have won medals at the events which gave them entry into the GKR National Championships held in Sheffield in November. Competitors from all over the UK descended on Sheffield to pit their skills against the best GKR UK had to offer. We are pleased to report that the Aycliffe contingent did extremely well flying the flag for our town. All finished high in the top 10 of their groups and there were more than 20 competitors in each group. They each had hard groups as these were the best in the UK. The club is extremely proud of them all especially Jim who won silver for both events he entered. This is only his 3rd tournament and he has always come away with medals. The others have always finished with medals, but this was the hardest tournament they've entered and to finish in the top 10 nationally shows the strength of their Karate. The club will see more success in 2010 for the Karate Kids from Newton Aycliffe.

As well as not washing, defrosting thoroughly and cooking the turkey properly, the Agency also has the following advice to help prevent an upset tummy spoiling the festive season: Only buy as much food as you have space to store. If the fridge is overfilled with perishable food, it's likely that it won't be cold enough and you'll be risking food poisoning. Try to buy a turkey that's realistic for your needs - the bigger the turkey the more difficult it is to prepare and cook safely. Store raw meat at the bottom of the fridge, preferably in a covered container where it can't drip onto other foods. Always keep raw meat and poultry away from ready-to-eat foods. Don't leave buffet or party food out all day. Better to put out small amounts at a time, so that what has been on the table has just been cooked or just come out of the fridge. If you're reheating turkey, or other leftovers, always make sure it's steaming hot all the way through before you eat it. And don't reheat more than once. Ideally, try to eat, cook or freeze your leftovers within 48 hours. For more information on how to prepare your Christmas dinner safely, or to use our online turkey cooking or defrosting calculators, log on to www.eatwell.gov.uk/keepingfoodsafe. Alternatively email our Christmas food safety experts at turkeymail@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Great Achievement



13 year old Georgina Clifford has passed the Grade 7 piano examination with the ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music). It is very unusual for someone this young to pass such a high grade. 4-5 weeks before the exam, Georgina broke one of her fingers and wasn't able to practice for 2 weeks. The exam was going to be cancelled but Georgina insisted on taking it even though it was thought she'd not be able to pass. Even on the day of the exam it was still painful for her to use that finger. She has now started to practice for the next grade, hoping she'll be ready to take it this time next year. Georgina is being taught by former Avenue School Teacher Reita Pierce. Congratulations Georgina, it's good to hear one of our youngsters making outstanding progress.

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 ends Monday 28th December*

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SANTA MEETS HIS SUCCESSOR?



Santa Claus met Honest John at his Car Boot Stall last week to thank him for all his good work over the past year to help local charities. Judging by John’s beard he could be in line for Santa’s job when it goes grey in a year or two?

NO TRIP TO YORK

There was long discussion at the Town Council meeting on 16th December over a proposal to include York in the annual Senior Citizen’s outings next summer. Due to heavy congestion in that city and the need to use park and ride the Council were asked to consider giving the pensioners on that trip a sum of money to buy their own lunch. Billy Blenkinsopp thought it a good idea as some OAP’s couldn’t eat the 3 course meal paid for by the Council. But Counc. Clare suggested the idea of doling out money was contrary to the nature of the trips and York was abandoned as one of the venues.

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

Wednesday 13th Jan. 2010
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.

CHARITIES FLOOD MARKET WITH CALLS FOR DONATIONS

UK charities are counting the cost of the recent postal strikes and stepping up their appeals by bombarding families with an unprecedented level of telephone calls for donations, according to new findings from one of the UK’s leading consumer privacy services. The Call Prevention Registry, the UK’s leading anti-nuisance calls service provider, an organisation which puts a stop to all unsolicited telemarketing calls made to consumers registered on its service, has found that there has been a sharp rise in the number of calls made to UK households by charities in the four weeks leading up to the end of November. According to the Call Prevention Registry’s ‘Nature of Nuisance Calls in the UK’ November survey, a monthly analysis of thousands of consumers across the UK who are receiving unsolicited sales and nuisance calls, 1 in 5 (21%) of all calls made to UK households are currently being made by charities – the highest volume than at any time since the start of the credit crunch-come-recession at the end of 2007 and early 2008. “Christmas is a key time for fundraising and a combination of factors has conspired to make this year’s charity campaigns particularly challenging,” said Paul MacKenzie-Cummins, spokesperson for the Call Prevention Registry. “The postal strikes in October have evidently had an adverse affect on many charities’ autumn campaigns which have subsequently impacted on their appeals in the run up to Christmas – traditionally the most important time of the year for charities. This has been exacerbated by the current economic downturn,” he added. With most charities reliant

on postal donations it would appear that many have been forced into seeking alternative methods to attract much needed funds this year, combined with the unprecedented levels of telemarketing calls currently being made by loan and debt management companies, means that consumers are being bombarded by a record volume of telephone sales calls this Christmas.

STUDENT DESIGNS XMAS CARD

Key partners of Greenfield College will be receiving a special eye catching Christmas Card this year which is designed by Laura Blenkinsopp Year 9. Laura received a certificate from Headteacher, Mr David Priestley to record her achievement.

SBH PROVIDE XMAS PARTIES FOR ELDERLY

Almost 600 residents of Sedgefield Borough Homes (SBH) Sheltered Housing Schemes are set to enjoy a festive season during a month of Christmas Parties. Parties have been organised in 22 Sheltered Housing Schemes with the events featuring a buffet with wine and drink to toast the health and wellbeing of all. Shirley Quinn Supported Housing Coordinator said “The Christmas Parties are very important to the residents as it encourages social interaction. A lot of residents don’t have family and shouldn’t be alone at Christmas. This is our way of giving something back at this time of year”.

Family History Society Meet

Members are reminded that there will be no meeting this month. The Society would like to thank the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for allowing us to use their facilities during the year. Special thanks go to Grace for providing refreshments at every meeting and to our retiring secretary, John Barraclough, for his sterling work over many years. NAFHS wishes everyone a happy, peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. For further information on NAFHS please visit our website at www.communigate.co.uk/ne/nafhs or contact Keith Bell on 01325 – 307905

SANTA VISITS IN RED BUS



Kool Young Jim’s Mobile Activity Bus will be bringing Father Christmas to your door FREE on Sunday from 1pm until 2pm, Silverdale Place, 2.30pm until 3pm at the Turbinia Car park and then Hallington Head and surrounding areas. On Wednesday 23rd: 11pm until 3pm in Langdale Place, Silverdale Place, Turbinia, Horndale, Hallington Head/Fewstone Close area. On Thursday 24th, 11.am until 2pm.

the bus will be parked on the Navy Club Car Park. Everyone is welcome to bring their young children to see Santa, free of charge. Why spend money on bus fares when you can walk or take a short car ride to see him. If you want further details ring his office on 308094 most evenings, through the day he has an answering machine. Happy Christmas to all young people in Newton Aycliffe.

Burns Night

with Darlington Football Club

Saturday 23rd January

Come and enjoy a traditional Burns Night at the Northern Echo Arena.
Menu includes Scotch Broth, Haggis, Neaps and Tatties, Roast Beef with Vegetables and a Dessert – followed by a disco
Just £16.95 per head

To book, call 01325 387000
www.darlington-fc.net

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-12.00noon

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

Woodham's Christmas Concert



Woodham Technology College held their annual Christmas Concert last Wednesday in front of a large audience. The students presented a varied programme of music from some very talented musicians and singers who received tumultuous applause. Woodham Sound were particularly good to listen to as were duetists Amy Cossins and Beth Gibson with their "Santa Baby". Adam Nicholas performed well on the piano, but Owen Crake a future star, stole the show with some lively, animated pop numbers which were very well received.



Kind Christmas Gesture by Newtonian

Dear Sir,
President Jean Thompson and members of The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe were very moved by the kindness of a gentleman in our town this week. He decided to give up driving and took his car to Gregg Little Testing Centre asking them to sell the car for whatever it was worth and give the money to The Rotary Club for their work in the community. I have written to thank this gentleman, but would like our fellow citizens to know of this kind gesture. You are all aware that over these two pre Christmas weeks we are doing Street Collections with Santa Claus, and also tin shaking in Tesco Store. The money we collect will go towards

providing food parcels to the needy families of our town who are identified by the supportive services. This year too we are pleased to be raising money for Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. To those of you who attended the wonderful Christmas Carol Concert at Xcel Centre on Sunday December 13th we say a sincere thank you for the total of £650 raised for the above causes from the raffle and the collection. We will inform you in January of the total amount collected over this period. Meanwhile may the peace of Christmas be with you and the blessing of good health and happiness be yours in 2010
Patricia Henderson, Secretary

OLD PALS HEAD-TO-HEAD IN DERBY

Old pals Gary Farley and Dave Hall go head-to-head in what is expected to be a tense Boxing Day Derby next weekend. Their 35-year friendship will be put to the test when Aycliffe chairman Farley (pictured left) will host Newtonian Dave Hall, Crook Town's caretaker manager, next Saturday (kick-off 1pm). The fixture, a local derby, is expected to attract Aycliffe's biggest crowd of the season in what is turning out to be a positive inaugural Northern League campaign. Farley admits it'll be a tense affair with precious league points and local pride at stake. "It should be a great occasion and hopefully a good match," said Farley. "Everyone looks forward to Boxing Day games, but with us facing Crook, one of our local rivals, it adds a bit more to the game, and we're expecting a big crowd, hopefully our biggest of the season so far." Hall, meanwhile, has hailed old friend Farley as an ace communicator and someone Aycliffe are lucky to have. "As a friend and as a football person, he's just the best," he said. "Sometimes it's not so much what you say to people, it's how you deliver it and how you put things across, and Gary's a master at that. "Also his technical knowledge of the game of football is second to none. For me he's one of the most knowledgeable people in this area and Aycliffe are lucky to



have him." Aycliffe hit five for the first time in their Northern League history last Saturday as they won 5-3 at Darlington RA in another Derby, stretching their unbeaten league run to six games. Mark Bell opened the scoring after just two minutes before RA equalised moments later. The impressive Danny Robinson got his first of the afternoon with a blockbusting shot from 25-yards, and then Elliot Gardner bagged his tenth league goal of the campaign. Robinson got his second shortly after half-time but the home side were soon back in it with two quick goals, before sub Chase McMullen made sure of the win with Aycliffe's fifth. 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 19: Birtley Town

(A), 3pm
Sat Dec 26: Crook Town (H) 1pm
Sat Jan 2: Thornaby (A), 3pm
Weds Jan 6: Billingham Synthonia, cup (A), 7.30pm
www.newtonaycliffe.co.uk



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Cobblers Hall Award Donated to Daisychain



A few weeks ago Collette, the Landlady at Cobblers Hall Pub won an award at the Blakemore Food Service Awards - For Community Interaction - which was judged on fundraising for local charities and encouraging locals and regulars to look on the pub as the heart of the community and to get involved.

This is a national award and a way of recognising the work businesses do within the community. Collette told Newton News "The nominations are from the public and private sector so to get a nomination is wonderful but to win is very prestigious in our business.

Daisychain is one of the charities Cobblers Hall raise money for and the Blakemore Foundation awarded a cheque to Collette for £250.00 to donate to this deserving charity. She is shown here handing it over to Daisychain Youth Worker Nathan Money.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Neville Parade Methodist Church

Sunday 20th: 10.30am
Family Service & 6.30pm
Candlelit Carol Service
Wednesday 23rd: 6pm
Family Christingle Service
with refreshments to follow
Friday 25th: 10am Family
Carol Service.

NEWSPAPER DELIVERIES

A number of people in outlying villages have taken advantage of information we gave on delivery of daily newspapers organised by the Northern Echo.

Martins at Simpasturegate seem to have the job in hand and anyone having difficulties should contact them on 300340.

Students Produce Business Ideas



Students from Greenfield School had a taste of what it's like to start your own business when they embarked on the "Make Your Mark Challenge", organised by the ICT and Business Department. Teams from year nine worked throughout the day and presented their ideas to a 'Dragons Den' style panel of judges.

The ideas included brilliant businesses such as tracking devices to help find lost local cats, dogs, mobile phones or keys, social networking ideas, safety wear, jewellery and computerised hand held revision tool.

The winning idea which was put forward as Greenfield's entry into the national competition was selected due to its fulfilment of the brief, innovation and quality of the final pitch. The team 'Greenfield Enterprises' won the challenge with their idea of creating an online game called 'Ayc-LIFE' an innovative idea

which incorporated a local social networking with a "SIMSesq" life

One of the other teams pitch was also so impressive the school has decided to incorporate it into the current school enterprise of T-shirt and merchandise printing. The pitch involved creating a recycled and locally themed

charm bracelet which will undoubtedly be the 'must have' fashion item of 2010. All the students worked well throughout the day, under difficult time constraints and all performed well under the "High Pressure Dragons' Den" style panel, so well done to all involved.

Rabbit Stolen from Garden

Dear Sir,
We had a theft from our garden, sometime on Thursday evening 10th of December when a very unscrupulous character entered our rear garden and stole our son's rabbit. If anyone should receive a black Siamese Sable Rabbit for Christmas (it does have a identification ring on its back leg) would they please kindly

return it to its rightful home. It is not of great monetary value but it does have sentimental value. After a tough year including the death of our daughter Abbie it would be nice to minimize any more upset to our other child. If anyone has any information please would they get in touch
Clarissa Selvey
18WycliffeClose. Tel:307253

Xmas Message for Town Centre Workers

Dear Sir,
During the past year as Town Centre Chaplain I have been warmly welcomed by all who work in retail in the area. We have seen the arrival of Wilkinsons Store and Steven Holmes Engraving Shop.

Many shopkeepers remain positive as we see a slight lift out of recession and

look forward optimistically to 2010.

May I wish each and every one who serve our town a Happy and prosperous Christmas with warm wishes for a New year filled with hope and promise for the future regeneration of our town centre.

Pam Lovelass
Town Centre Chaplain

Situations Vacant

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NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

At our recent Veterans Day Parade we took a collection for Help for Heroes and raised £90. Thanks to all those who contributed to help soldiers injured in battle.

On Saturday 13th February at 2pm we host Durham County Youth Band in the Centre.

Bingo resumes on Wednesdays at 1pm commencing 6th January. The Luncheon Club has now ceased.

Visit Santa and view our Christmas Tree Extravaganza. Anyone who can't make a Santa slot please ring Peter on 313924.

Santa visits Monday 21st December 10am-12, 2-4pm and 5-6pm. Tuesday 22nd Dec. 10am-12 and 3-5pm. Wednesday 23rd Dec. 10-12 and 3-5pm. Thursday 24th Dec. 10-12 and 2-4pm.

Booking essential - please ring 313924 to book your appointment with Santa.

We thank all our supporters and wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

The Centre re-opens on 4th January.

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Visit our showroom and view the latest technology in door and windows locking systems. All of which stood firm against a 15 minute attempted break-in test carried out in our factory using a full tool kit, including a crowbar and battery drill.

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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Ice Skating at the Youthy



Lots of youngsters from the town are enjoying free Ice Skating sessions at the Youth Centre the week before Christmas all funded by the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership.

Message from Agnew

May we take this opportunity to wish our Members, Users & Friends festive greetings over Christmas and a healthy & prosperous New Year and they include the Icing Ladies, Spiritualist Church, Innovations, Photo Group, Tai Chi Club, Line Dance Class, Bingo Club & Taekwondo Club plus the occasional users such as Caroline Race Dance School, individual dancers, Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Club and many others who have supported our Community Centre.
Ron Mitche, Secretary and on behalf of the Management Committee.

ROTARY CLUB COLLECT IN TESCO FOR NEEDY FAMILIES & SOLDIERS



The town's Rotary Club are in Tesco up until Christmas collecting to give hampers to needy families in the town for Christmas. They are also using some of the cash to send gifts to our soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The members are confident Newtonians will be as generous as usual for this appeal.

Rain Stopped Sleigh!

The Rotary Club Santa Sleigh had to call off the tour of the Chestnuts, School Aycliffe this week due to heavy rain.

Santa has re-scheduled his route and will call to see everyone on Monday night around 6pm.

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KATE WINS BRONZE AT EUROPEAN CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Kate Avery (Shildon AC) from Newton Aycliffe ran brilliantly at the European Cross Country Championships in Dublin on 13th December, winning the bronze medal in the women's Under 20 race. Kate has been a member of double Olympic champion Dame Kelly Holmes' 'On Camp with Kelly' mentoring and education initiative for talented young middle distance athletes, supported by Aviva, since 2008.

Kate was always at the front of the chasing group and pulled away on the third of the three laps to secure the bronze medal in 14:27. Grovdal clocked 14:10 to take gold and Fazlitdinova 14:12 for silver. Kate said: "I just tried to work my way through because I didn't want to start too fast because you're just going to die if you do that. I always thought Grovdal was going to go out like that, I've seen her run before and that's what she does. It felt fast all the way round, but it didn't feel easy at any part. I'm not sure if I expected a medal coming into the race, I think I expected top ten. I was so excited when I crossed the line!" Kate's performance also

led the Aviva GB Team to silver medals with 51 points behind Russia's 47. Dame Kelly said: "Kate's bronze medal at the European Cross caps an excellent year for her and her coach Bob Ashwood. I look forward to watching her continue to progress in 2010."

LET'S TALK TURKEY!

Turkeys have good hearing but no external ears. Turkeys can see in colour and have a wide field of vision of about 270° (humans have just a 90° field of vision). Domesticated turkeys cannot fly, however wild turkeys can fly for short distances at speeds of up to 55 miles per hour. The turkey was first roasted on 27 June 1570 at the wedding feast of King Charles XI of France. The average weight of a wild turkey is about 7.5kgs. However through selective breeding, a standard male domesticated turkey can weigh as much as 25 kilogrammes (approximately the weight of a small Labrador).

"Saturday Night Live"

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Sat 26th December
Boxing Day Extravaganza featuring
Top North East Tribute Band
'Thyn Lizzy'

Thyn Lizzy are a good authentic 70's sounding reproduction of the classic Live and Dangerous era of the famous band. In fact, some of the song versions that they played were more like studio ones, which showed that they have listened to the material.
The band looked good on stage and Lee (vox) was very comfortable as if an old familiar pair of PANTS (arghhh). Vocally I thought he was excellent and the 2 guitarists, Anthony and Dan, were great backing singers too. The best for me was the twin guitars, which sounded absolutely great, and the bass player was very very competent, excellent in fact. A superb performance, especially for their 3rd gig!!!
Nice One Thyn Lizzy - you'll do for real! *toonrockpage review*

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

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Celebrations for Christmas this year at Burnhill Way Methodist Church include the following: Sunday 20th December, 10am, Family Nativity Service suitable for all ages with carols and nativity given by the children - refreshments to follow. Monday 21st December from 10am-12noon there is the chance to see the DVD 'Three wise men and a baby' by the Saltmine Theatre Company - interval with refreshments - the DVD is suitable for all

ages. On Christmas Eve at 3pm there will be Carols round the tree and at 4pm Christmas Communion. Refreshments will be served between the services. On Sunday 27th December at 10am there will be a Carol Service, again suitable for all ages. All the community is welcome to come and share in any or all of these celebrations and to put the true meaning of Christmas at the heart of all we do this year.

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.

Sadly there will always be disease and hunger somewhere around the world, but these projects will bring lasting happiness to those you help. Together we can make Christmas a time for people all over the world to celebrate and enjoy.

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.

WHY NOT DONATE ONLINE?

Visit Newton News Advertising site for details: www.newtonnewsads.co.uk

DONATION FORM

I would like to donate £ to the Appeal

As a taxpayer, I agree to Gift Aid the total (giving an extra 28%) ☐ Sign:

Person in whose name you wish to make the gift

Address

Your Name

Address

Please make cheques payable to "THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEWTON AYLCLIFFE".
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Taylors Newsforce, Town Centre or Don Walkers, Simpasturegate



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Greenfield Win Hoax Calls Drama Award

Greenfield School Community and Arts College were nominated for the Community Spirit Award at the annual County Durham and Darlington Fire Rescue Awards ceremony. Head of Drama, Lesley Watt, and Dave Turnbull from the fire service, worked with ten year 11 drama students last year on a hoax calls drama project with the fire and rescue service.

The group devised participatory workshops for year 5 and 6. The work was shared with Primary School children in the Sedgefield area and has supported the work of the fire service in preventing hoax calls. The group, accompanied by Katy Milne and Susan Abed-Ali from the Arts Centre, attended the awards ceremony at Hardwick Hall for a celebration meal on Friday 20th November. Congratulations to them.

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JUNIOR GYMNAST

Katie Leadbitter's photo was missed from the article about successful town Junior Gymnasts at an Inter Club Championship in last last week's issue. Katie came away with gold and silver medals. Lisa Gibson apologises for her error.

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GREENFIELD WORK WITH THEATRE ROYAL

Greenfield School Community and Arts College is working in partnership with the Theatre Royal Newcastle on two exciting projects as part of the Cultural Olympiad.

The first is a project called "Fighting Shakespeare" and develops techniques in stage combat. We are using this work to look at issues of conflict with our Creative and Personal Development group in year 10. We are able to offer free workshops up until Christmas every Tuesday with the possibility of workshops continuing

after Feb half term. It has been exciting to use the stage combat techniques to work with other subjects including History, English and Maths. One year 7 group worked with the artists using stage combat to explore the battle of 1066, tactics and shield defences.

The other project is a Script writing project with the Theatre Royal's writer in residence, Dave Edwards. Teacher's Shirley Douglas and John Tobin have picked this opportunity up and are working collaboratively with 9L to improve literacy using our Arts specialism and to build team skills

and respect. The group are working with Dave Edwards to develop a script using drama techniques and they will play part of a soundtrack down to the work in their music lesson.

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SHAFTO HOUSE UNDER THREAT FOR THIRD TIME

Dear Sir,
Twice in recent years, the Labour Party controlled Durham County Council have attempted to close down Shafto House retirement home. On both occasions, public pressure forced them to back down. Is it to be third time lucky then?

It is reported the controlling Durham County Council Labour Group has yet again decided, after a period of 'consultation' to attempt to close down Shafto House and remove the old people from their home. Is this to be the last Christmas Dinner they enjoy there?

There are eight Newton Aycliffe Councillors, who represent us - and the residents of Shafto House on the Unitary Authority. How hard are they willing to fight to protect those residents?

How loudly did they protest in the Labour Group meeting? The Labour Party has a wafer-thin majority on DCC. Concerted action by OUR councillors could possibly force the controlling Labour Party group to think again.

In a letter in last week's Newton News, the writer called many of them 'compliant'. Let them prove to us all that this is not the case. It is time that they rolled up their sleeves and fought for those, who need them most, those who live and work in Shafto House.

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Christmas Memoriam

Farrell nee Connell

Our Beloved Sister Janet
Our first Christmas without you, we love you dearly, Norma and Alan, Jean, Derek and family



With Love xx

JANET FARRELL

Janet, you left us so quietly, we think of you each day. We were left with lots of special memories. We fondly remember these, especially at this time of year. No cards to write, no presents to buy. All our love from John, Jackie, Sue, Andy and children Connor and Lexie xx

Thank You

JANET JACKSON. Newton Aycliffe. Brian and family would like to thank everyone who attended Janet's Funeral Service and the celebration of her life which we shared at Woodham Golf club on November the 11th. The collection you all so generously donated to in lieu of flowers amounted to £700 which is shared between The Cancer Research Charity and Cerebral Palsy. The many cards and messages of support are a great comfort to us all at this sad time as was the kindness and help we received from Reverend Julie Wing and Gillian Morley at The Co-Operative Funeral Care. Brian and Family

MANY THANKS to the kind ladies and ambulance men who helped me when I fell in Bewick Crescent. I am pleased to say I am alright. Happy Christmas to you all. Marjorie Irvin

LYN GARTLAND. Thank you to all family and friends for the lovely gifts I received for my 40th. Hope you all enjoyed the party. Also thanks to KDO Disco, Joanna of Crazy Cakes, Val and Mam for all your help. Love Lyn x

DENIZE CROFT. The family of the late Denize Croft would like to thank the Nurses and Doctors on ITCU of North Tees Hospital for all the care they gave. Also thank you to Curate John of St. Edmunds Church, Sedgefield for a wonderful Service, to the Co-operative Funeral Service for their kindness shown, many thanks go to friends of Denize for flowers and cards received. Denize will be missed by her family and by all of her friends.

THE FAMILY of the late Robert Morrell wish to thank relatives, neighbours and friends for their kindness and sympathy during their recent bereavement. Also for cards and flowers received. Thank you to the Rev. Linda Potter for a lovely Service and special thank you to Aycliffe Care Home Bethany House and the carers, who cared for Bobbie. Thank you all. Agnes and family

MANY THANKS to the people who helped me after my car crash on Saturday. From Sue Hodgson

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WAYMAN 21-12-03; Colley 27-3-04. To my Husband George and Daughter Judy. I love and miss you both so much. We will be thinking of you at Christmas time. Winnie

MAUREEN MAWSON (nee Nichol)

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

Dear Maureen

To me you were always my precious Wife, you were always loved so much. When it comes to Christmas time, you added a special touch. What could be more wonderful, than sharing Christmas cheer, with all those who meant so much to us, and all our loved ones near. You will always be our treasure, to be kept inside our heart, as you have been so very special, right from the very start. So at this time of sharing, and making dreams come true, with lots of Christmas wishes, being sent on their way to you. Many loving kisses and tender hugs, during precious times together we spent, Christmases will always be a special time, with memories of this wonderful event. All our love at Christmas, loving Husband Derrick and families

ELLEN ATHERTON. Softly the leaves of memory fall. Gently I gather and treasure them all. Unseen, unheard, you are always near. So missed - so loved - so very dear. Night night Mum. Love always, your Daughter Mary xx

ELLEN ATHERTON. 1916-2009. Around our Christmas table, there will be an empty chair. I don't know how we will cope, with you not sitting there. Our family chain is broken now, things will never be the same. All we have are memories, and your picture in a frame. They say there is a reason, they say that time will heal, but neither time nor reason, will ease the way I feel. So I have to say good night now Mum, and hope you are at rest. God broke our hearts to prove, he only takes the best. Love and miss you Mum. Loving Daughter Eleanor and family xxx

JANE WAKE (BURRELL). Christmas memories of our Mam and Dad, my two Brothers (Billy and Eddie) and my Dearly Loved Sister Jenny. Gone are the days when we were all together, will stay in my heart forever. God Bless you all, Mena, Joe and families xxx xx

MALONE. Merry Christmas Val. Lots of love, Graham, Kay, Jill and Sammi xxx

BILLY AND MONICA DIXON. Thinking of you both at Christmas time. Love and miss you both. Wendy, Paul and Emma xx

Birthday Remembrance

McNEILLIE, RALPH

19th December

Thinking of you on your birthday, with sadness in our hearts, for a very special someone, from whom we had to part. All our love, Hazel and all the family xxx

BRIAN MEALE. 20th December. Warm memories are a special part of Christmas and you're a special part of many warm memories. Love, Eileen xx

PAUL BOWTELL. 16th December. If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, we'd walk right up to heaven and bring you back again. Happy 49th birthday Dad. Love always, Katie, Paul and Thomas. xxx

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Gracie Marram



Happy 1st Birthday
to a Beautiful Daughter.
Love From Mummy,
Daddy and Best Friend
Reggie The Dog

HIP HIP HOORAY Gracie is 1 today. Love you loads from Nana and Granda Mook

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to a Wonderful Granddaughter. Sending you lots of love from Granda and Grandpa Marram

CHELSEA KELL. 19.12.09. Happy 16th birthday Big Sis. Love from Dylan and Lauren xx

DALE JARY. Happy 18th birthday. Love, Mam, Jordan, Nana, Karl, Sam and Jonny xx

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Joseph Thompson. Love from Nana xxx

RICHARD MAUGHAN. Happy 40th old Man! Have a great day. Love, the Wife xxx

RICHARD MAUGHAN. Happy birthday, 40 on 20.12.09. Love Sophie, Kieran, Andrew and Tori xxx

HAPPY 16th BIRTHDAY JOE. Tons of love from Grandma Bryan xx

GALLAGHER. 26th December. Happy 18th birthday Natalie and Daniel. Lots of love to you both from Mam, Dad, Andrew and Vanessa xxxx

DAWN WILSON. To a dear Daughter on your 18th birthday. We love you, Mam, Dad and Katie xx

Birthday Remembrance

BRYCE PETER FOSTER-FARRELL. 21st December 2001. Put your arms around him Lord; don't leave him on his own, for today is our Grandson's birthday, another one away from home. Happy 8th Birthday to our special Grandson, All our love Nan and Granda x

BRYCE PETER FOSTER-FARRELL. 21st December 2001. Happy 8th birthday Bryce another birthday has come around, and there's nothing we can do, but hope your party up in heaven is as special as you. Auntie Rach, Uncle Mark and Evie x

BRYCE PETER FOSTER-FARRELL. 21st December 2001. Happy Birthday our little boy who's 8, as we opened our eyes this morning, we looked up to the heavens above, we whispered "Happy Birthday Baby" and we send you all our love. We love and miss you, Mam, Dad, Jordan, Tia, Ethan. X

BRYCE PETER FOSTER-FARRELL. 21st December 2001. Happy 8th Birthday Bryce, our loved and missed Nephew, Thinking of you today, forever and always. All our Love Uncle Malcolm, Auntie Tracey, Ashley & Ellie x

BRYCE PETER FOSTER-FARRELL. 21st December 2001. Happy 8th Birthday, our treasured Godson, with an ache in our hearts, we whisper low, Happy Birthday Bryce we miss you so. Lots of love, Pauline, Paul, Andy & James X

BRYCE PETER FOSTER-FARRELL. 21st December 2001. Happy 8th Birthday to my beloved Great Grandson. Always and for evermore in my heart and thoughts. All my love Great Gran xx

MARY RACE. 18.12.45. Remembering you today on your birthday. Love and miss you so much, always. Love all your family xxx

Paula Hill (nee Brown)



Happy 40th Birthday
22nd December
Have a lovely day.
Love, Steve, Rosie, Lucie,
Mam and Dad, Peggy
and Jackson xxx

Hollie Langsley



'Sweet Sixteen'
on 21st December
Time to stop growing
so tall we think!!!
All our love Sweet, from
Mam, Dad, Nycola,
Emily, Gary and
all your family xxx

Jack Hughes



Happy 18th Birthday
18th December
Happy 18th birthday Son.
All our love,
Mam and Dad x
Happy 18th Birthday Bro
Love from Bethany, James
and Ann x
Uncle Jack
Happy 18th birthday.
Love, Elanor x

Congratulations

Craig Jackman



Happy Birthday 23.12.09
Hope you have a fabulous birthday. All my love always, S-J xxxxxx
Happy Birthday Dad. Lots of love from Madison and Mackenzie xxx & the animals xx
Love and best wishes from all your family and friends xx

Mia Dunbar



Congratualtions on winning the Under 12 North East Latin Medallist of the Year. We are so proud of you. Thank you to partner Linz and to Brenda from Lee Green Dance School. All our love, Mam, Franki and all the family

SARSFIELD Silver Wedding Anniversary



Keith and Elizabeth
29.11.09
Congratulations to the best Mam and Dad. All our love and have a lovely day. From all the Gang and all the Grandchildren xx
Congratulations Keith and Elizabeth
Have a great day, you deserve it. Mam and Dad xx

COOKIE



BIG 50 on Christmas Eve
Lots of love Trevor from Mam, Dad and family

LIAM ANDERSON. Happy 13th birthday Son. Love, Mam x

EVIE JANE WADE. Happy 1st birthday to a gorgeous Niece. Love, Auntie Sarah and Drew. Happy 1st birthday Cousin. Lots of love, Olivia

EVIE JANE WADE. Happy 1st birthday to a Special Granddaughter. Love and kisses, Nanna

EVIE JANE WADE. Happy 1st birthday to our beautiful Niece. Love, Auntie Lisa and Uncle Sean

FAYE MORRISON. Happy 4th birthday on 25th December. Lots of love, Mammy, Daddy, Owen, Grandma and Grandad xxx

CHESLEA KELL. 19.12.09. Happy 16th birthday. Love from Mam and Dad xx

Joanne Howarth



Happy 40th Birthday

As Promised, low key, quiet and no fuss. Have a great birthday, party and Dubai trip. Lots and lots and lots of love, Stuart, Adam & Alex xxxxxxxxxxxx

To our extra special daughter on her birthday, thank you for being the best daughter we could ask for, always there with a kind word and deed, you make us so proud to be your parents. Lots of love Mam and Dad xxxxxxxxxxxx

Hey little Sis, happy birthday and welcome to the 40's club!! Have a great day, party and holiday, Ian, Stephanie & Claire.

Happy Birthday Joanne Have a great birthday and holiday in Dubai. Don't try to rescue the Dubai economy while you are there, but do have lots of fun . . . Syd, Barbara, Paul, Beverley, Chris, Michelle, John-Paul, Carrie, Matthew, Jack and Joe

Ian Blacklock



Happy Birthday Ian - well we couldn't miss you out !!

Have a great time. Love Mam & Dad, Joanne, Stuart, Adam & Alex.

Happy Birthday Ian - Love from Stephanie & Claire

DEBBIE JOHNSON



Happy 40th Birthday
23rd December
Happy birthday Deb. All our love from Marc, Paige, Harrison and Benjamin xxx

Happy 40th Birthday Darling
Have a great day. All our love, Mam and Dad xxx

Happy 40th Birthday Debbie
Lots of love, Mark and Sara xxx

DAWN WILSON. A wonderful Granddaughter on your 18th birthday. Love you loads, Nanna xx

KIERAN PARKINSON. Happy birthday Son, a teenager at last. Love you loads from Mam, Dad and Jason.

HAPPY 13th KIERAN. Lots of love, Gran and Granda

BETH GIBSON. Well done to my Little Fish on your first gala and knocking 5 seconds off your personal best. So proud of you. Love, Mam, Josh and Ellie xx

ELLIE GIBSON. Happy 8th birthday to our Bendy Girl. Love, Mam, Josh and Beth xx

OVER-GENEROUS GRANT TO MIND BY TOWN COUNCIL

Dear Sir,
I am sure that you will be reporting the proposed £10,000 grant from the Great Aycliffe Town Council to MIND, Newton Aycliffe to help fund their new premises in St. Mary's Church Hall. Newtonians may have read I was opposed to the level of grant and proposed a much smaller one of £1,000 which was turned down. One of the factors in my opposition was that donations to charities like MIND are normally made

by individuals who choose to help their favourite charities and the charity also gets gift aid from the National Taxpayer for those donations.

In my view, it is not appropriate for a Council funded by local rate and general tax payers to make a major donation to a charity and, while the case was made as to the costs the charity had made to its previous Council owned property, no account was taken of the generous subsidy that the Council

gave in previous years by charging a nominal rent for that accommodation.

In short, I think that such a decision opens the door for other deserving local charities to make a case for substantial financial assistance from Great Aycliffe Town Council and, I don't think that in the current economic climate, the Labour controlled Council should have set that precedent.

Yours sincerely,
Counc Terry Hogan
Independent

NOT SO POOR CHARITY

Dear Sir,
This week I attended the Town Council meeting as a member of the public. The topic was raised of a grant to the local branch of MIND which grabbed my interest as I am aware of how Mind operates nationally. I have in the past taken issue with MIND's National Chief Executive over comments she made in the press over Remploy Factory closures. When I read that Newton Aycliffe Mind Manager had referred to Mind as being a small charity with limited funding I was aware how

some people might get the wrong impression. If you wish to know more about MIND visit their website at <http://www.mind.org.uk/> about

But don't mistake 'charity' for lacking resources. MIND is the leading mental health charity for England and Wales. I have visited their plush conference centre in their London National Headquarters and it is not lacking financial support. Of course they insist each local association is responsible for its own funding and the services

it provides, but all are affiliated to Mind.

This made me reflect on the request for a grant of £20,000 from the Town Council, This was reduced to £10,000 and will be paid.

Durham County Foundation have also funded Newton Aycliffe Mind to operate from St Clare's hall as an out of hours service for 6 months to March 2010 prior to the new day facility commencing.

Yours Sincerely
Kenneth Stubbs

WOODHAM STUDENTS DELIVER HAMPERS TO LOCAL RESIDENTS



The weeks leading up to Christmas are busy in any school with carol concerts and other activities taking place.

At Woodham Community Technology College part of the Christmas preparations includes the making up and delivering of hampers to nominated local residents, particularly senior citizens and families in difficult circumstances. The process involves every student – and their families. Decorating the boxes with festive wrapping and tinsel not only makes them look more attractive; it's good fun too. A prize is awarded to the tutor group in each year group creating the best-decorated hamper. This year, classes each put together not one but several superbly decorated Christmas hampers, the most attractive and imaginative ever. Standards were so high it was really difficult to decide the winners!

Each student in Years 7 – 11 donates a grocery item, the boxes are packed with goodies and then the school mini bus is drafted into operation for the task of delivering the hampers around the area. One student from each tutor group helps with the deliveries.

The recipients of the hampers are always delighted and often register their appreciation by sending letters, cards and notes into the college saying how grateful they are. Marie Oswald, "Hamper Co-ordinator" explained, "This is a very heart-warming project, the local residents really appreciate the hampers and the tutors and students put in a tremendous effort.

This venture is not only of benefit to those receiving the hampers but engenders a feeling of pride within the college at having made a real contribution to the Christmas of those within their community. This is very much a part of the spirit of Christmas, and in keeping with the ethos of Woodham."

Students are then entitled to come to the college in non-uniform on the last day of term as a thank you for all their hard work.

The Editor, Syd Howarth and the Directors of Newton Press wish all readers the Merriest Christmas with health and prosperity in the New Year.

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7.00 pm St. Francis Family Christingle
7.00 pm St. Elizabeth Family Communion Service
11.30 pm St. Clare & St. Andrew: Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY
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