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TOWN HERITAGE ITEMS RETURNED



Our Mayor Mary Dalton gratefully received back into Council custody two items of town memorabilia which were recently recovered by the Police. The engraved spade and the first sod of earth cut to begin the development of Newton Aycliffe in 1948 is now safely back in the hands of the Town Council after 13 years. The police discovered the precious pieces of our heritage while investigating another incident at the home of the former Town Clerk John Farquhar.

YOUTH CENTRE AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS



The Youth Centre now has capacity for bookings on Sundays for any organisation wishing to establish their meetings there. The modern premises opposite Tesco, with Gymnasium, Main Hall, Kitchen Facilities and Meeting Rooms is a popular, convenient venue, with reasonable hire charges. To view and or obtain more details ring 307522.

Tesco Help Rotary Club with Hampers for Needy Families



Tesco Customer Services Manager Paul Davies and staff packing the 60 Christmas hampers for needy families in Newton Aycliffe, from cash raised by the town's Rotary Club in their annual appeal. The President and members wish to thank Tesco's for their invaluable support in

providing the hampers and allowing the collection in their store. "The townspeople have again been brilliant and responded with their usual generosity for which we are very grateful. The families who received hampers had a much better Christmas than they expected" said President Jean Thompson.

Agnew Community Centre AGM

AGNEW COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION will hold its 27th Annual General Meeting on Thursday 28th January 2010 at 8.15 pm. The meeting will be open to all, but only paid up 2010 members will be able to vote for items on the agenda.

Nominations for officers, committee members and/or proposals must be with the Secretary on or before the 14th January 2010.

Present members will receive a copy of the agenda, nomination form and a membership form. For those wishing to join as new members may do so on receipt of dues.

A copy of the minutes is posted on the main notice board and all attending the meeting will receive a copy on the night.

Facilities for both renewal and new memberships will be available prior to the date given above up to 7.30pm on the day of the meeting for those wanting to qualify to vote.

Please note the Parent/Carer/Baby/Toddler Group has closed for the festive season and will reopen on Thursday 7th January 2010 at 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm. All welcome.

R. G. Michie 07518 035320
Hon. Secretary

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BEWARE OF ICE BANDITS

Motorists are warned to be vigilant as temperatures plummet this week. Organised car thieves will be roaming the streets this week looking for innocent motorists attempting to defrost their cars. With a bitterly cold front forecast to sweep over the UK this week, some areas are facing temperatures as low as minus five Celsius. Motorists who leave their cars unattended to de-ice windscreens give thieves an open invitation and worse still, invalidate insurance policies says the UK's leading high street car insurance retailer, Swinton. Swinton is warning drivers that their policy won't cover them for theft if their

car is stolen as a result of leaving keys in an unattended vehicle. Steve Chelton, Insurer Development Manager at Swinton said: "We are predicting a hike in these type of attacks during the cold snap this week. Year after year we see at least a 20% hike in the theft of cars by opportunistic ice bandit type thieves during winter. On frosty days it's incredible how many drivers leave their car running and nip back inside to finish getting ready - an open invitation for thieves." On frosty winter mornings drivers should cover their windscreen with a shield or newspaper to keep the frost off and use de-icer and an ice scraper on the windscreen.

HEALTH AND SAFETY VISIT FOR LOCAL SCHOOLCHILDREN



Children from Vane Road Primary School in Newton Aycliffe donned their hard hats and protective clothing at Miller Homes' Cobblers Hall development to find out about the dangers of playing on a construction site. The Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed a visit to the development to find out exactly what goes on behind the scenes on a working building site.

After discussing the perils of playing on or near the site, the children watched skilled craftsmen at work and helped lay bricks at the housing development which is located on the northern edge of Newton Aycliffe, minutes from Aycliffe Nature Walk. Maureen Trotter, regional sales manager for Miller Homes, who organised the visit with the school children said: "We were

keen to talk to the children about the dangers of a building site as we have significantly increased the level of construction work at Cobblers Hall in recent weeks in order to meet the demand for the properties and cause as little disturbance for existing residents as possible. "We know that a building site can look like an adventure play ground to some young children, but it is such a dangerous place to be, particularly now during the dark winter days. "We wanted the visit to be both informative and fun, which is why the children helped lay some bricks and



Are you 14+ and looking for challenge and adventure in 2010? Do you want to make new friends and learn new skills? Join your local Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group, based at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. We will be starting Expedition training at all levels on Sunday January 10th at 6pm. We meet each Sunday evening from 6.00pm - 8.00pm. Why not come down on our first session on Sunday 10th Jan 2010. For further details email to: info@naycdofeaward.org.uk

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Small Shops Can Open on Xmas Day

McColls at Beechfield have notified customers they would be opening on Christmas Day until 3pm. This annoyed some neighbours of the shop who hoped there would be one day in the year they would be spared the noise that comes from this superstore. They queried whether shops are allowed to open on this day. We asked a County Councillor who obtained the answer from the department which regulates opening times. Current legislation states that if the sales area of a shop premises exceeds 3,000 square feet, the premises must remain closed on Christmas Day. Shops with a sales area of less than 3,000 square feet are not affected. Although the total premises area of McColls is in excess of 3,000 square feet, because the actual sales area is only 2,308 square feet they can legally open on Christmas Day and all day if they so wish.

HARDWICK HALL HOTEL
 SEDGFIELD . CO. DURHAM . TS21 2EH

JANUARY 2010

FORTHCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AT HARDWICK HALL HOTEL

WEDDING OPEN EVENING
Wednesday 6th
 Take this opportunity to view the Coleman Suite and John Burdon Suite set up for Wedding Receptions and a Civil Ceremony.
 No appointment necessary just come along between 6.00pm and 9.00pm.

JACKSON
Friday 8th
 The ultimate tribute to the King of Pop - featuring James Aston. A superb live band and a truly authentic lookalike and soundalike.
 Arrive 7.00pm for 7.30pm.
 ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET & ENTERTAINMENT £12.95 PP

THE 80'S EXPERIENCE
Saturday 9th
 The best disco party ever takes place.
 Arrive 7.00pm for 7.30pm.
 ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET & ENTERTAINMENT £10.95 PP

ABSOLUTE MURDER
Saturday 16th
 A night of fun, intrigue and whodunit.
 Arrive 7.30pm. Dinner served 8.00pm.
 ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET & ENTERTAINMENT £20.95 PP

ABBA SUPREME
Friday 22nd
 The greatest hits - seventy fun packed minutes of nostalgia. Name of the game, Does your mother know, Voulez vous and many more.
 Arrive 7.00pm for 7.30pm
 ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET & ENTERTAINMENT £12.95 PP

THE ULTIMATE 70'S
Saturday 23rd
 Dust off your platform shoes and get out your flares for a night taking you back to this groovy era.
 Arrive 7.00pm for 7.30pm.
 ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET & ENTERTAINMENT £10.95 PP

FAULTY TOWERS EVENING
Friday 29th
 A night of unlimited fun
 Arrive 7.30pm. Dinner served 8.00pm.
 DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT £20.95 PP

SUNDAY LUNCH
 Our popular Sunday Lunch is served in the Boyne Suite, accompanied by music from our resident pianist.
 4 COURSES INCLUDING COFFEE £17.95 PP

OTHER SPECIAL PROMOTIONS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT JANUARY & FEBRUARY

TELEPHONE: 01740 620253
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SQUASH CLUB CELEBRATE 3rd JUNIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS



Jed Hodgson (left) with Joe Dale and Duncan Robson

The 3rd Aycliffe Junior Squash Open was held at the Oak Leaf Centre over the weekend of 5/6th December and was a terrific success. This year's tournament attracted 106 entrants, almost double that of last year, making it one of the biggest in the North of England with juniors travelling from as far away as Somerset and Merseyside.

was more than matched by quality with great squash played throughout the weekend. It was especially pleasing to see the high number of entrants in the girls events where in the under 13 section we had some exciting squash played by some very young competitors with 11 year old Millie Soulbly from Yorkshire narrowly defeating 9 year Laura Neil from Northumbria in an exciting

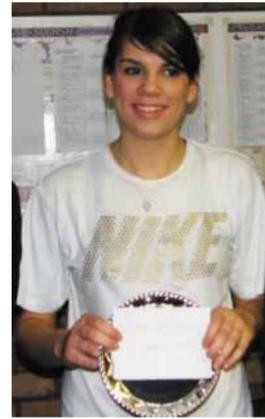
first final of the weekend. The other girls events were equally impressive with wins by Maria Bainbridge in the under 15s and Samantha Ward in the under 17s, both from Northumbria. Durham and Cleveland had a clean sweep of the boys' events with under 13s Joe

Dale (Redcar), under 15s Luke Mabbott (Redcar) and under 17s Danny Hockburn (Norton) all having fine wins.

The presentation was carried out by Mr Duncan Robson, a Director of Holiways Ford, accompanied by Jed Hodgson Chairman at Aycliffe Squash Club. Mr Robson commented on how well the tournament was organised.

Aycliffe squash club is proud of its achievement in hosting such a prestigious event and would like to thank the organisers: Margaret, Richard, June and Neil for their hard work and dedication to promoting Junior squash in our area. The Aycliffe Squash Committee would like to thank Holiways Ford for their continued support as the club's major sponsor and Pulman Volkswagen for their generous contribution towards the cost of the event. Special thanks go to Great Aycliffe Town Council and the Oak Leaf Centre. As far as we are aware this is the only England Squash sanctioned

tournament to be held at a council owned facility.



Samantha Ward

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS OF VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

CAVOS held their second annual Christmas Event which celebrated the achievements of voluntary and community groups across the former Borough of Sedgfield.

This year CAVOS requested nominations for an Achievement Award. Many nominations were received and the winners were: 1st Newton Aycliffe Scouts, Shildon Community Safety Group, Shildon Community Bus, Youth Link, Shildon Counselling Service and Spennynews. The CAVOS Organisation of the Year 2009 was awarded to Trimdon Community Gardens for their achievements, which included securing £9000 of funding which has helped them expand their services and improve their facilities, including installing a composting toilet and solar panels and

increasing the number of workshops they provide on environmental topics. Entertainment on the evening was provided by Tearaways Youth Theatre Group from Shildon.

The Celebration Event was attended by many different organisations from across the area and ended with everyone up on the dance floor!

CAVOS would like to thank the Tearaways for their performance and Colin's Disco for entertaining us on the night. CAVOS provides support for community and voluntary groups across the former borough of Sedgfield around funding, governance, registering as a charity and a whole lot more, all for free. For more information contact Laura or Michelle on 01388 811115 or www.cavos.org.uk.

RETRACTION

Dear Sir,
I wish to apologise for an incorrect statement in my letter last week about a grant of £10,000 to MIND which states St Mary's Church, when it should in fact read St Clare's Church.
Yours Sincerely
Council. Terry Hogan
Independent

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Danny Hockburn



Maria Bainbridge



Millie Soulbly

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FEBRUARY 2010

FORTHCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AT HARDWICK HALL HOTEL

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Friday 5th
Celebrate this great artist in a spectacular show, all your favourite Buddy songs like Run Around Sue, Donna, Chantilly Lace and many more.
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VALENTINE'S DINNER
Saturday 13th
Enjoy a romantic 3 course dinner with a bottle of wine per couple. Music from our resident pianist.
ROMANTIC 3 COURSE DINNER £25.00 PP

WEDDING OPEN DAY
Sunday 14th
Take this opportunity to view the Coleman Suite and John Burdon Suite set up for Wedding Receptions and a Civil Ceremony.
No appointment necessary just come along between 11.00am and 4.00pm.

THE 80'S EXPERIENCE
Friday 19th
The best disco party ever takes place.
Arrive 7:00pm for 7:30pm.
ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET & ENTERTAINMENT £10.95 PP

THE REVOLUTIONAIRES
Friday 26th
Scorching a trail across the live music venues is this sizzlin' hot 1950's R&B combo The Revolutionaires.
Arrive 7.00pm for 7.30pm.
ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET & ENTERTAINMENT £9.95 PP

SUNDAY LUNCH
Our popular Sunday Lunch is served in the Boyne Suite, accompanied by music from our resident pianist.
4 COURSES INCLUDING COFFEE £17.95 PP

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Santa Claus at Neville Community Centre



Alison and Jason Armstrong and their five children with Santa Claus who was available in his Grotto before Christmas to meet and take requests from the children.



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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 to 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.

BRAVE MAYOR CARRIES OUT CIVIC DUTIES

There was great support for our Mayor, Mary Dalton at her Civic Carol Service held last Sunday at St. Clares Church which went ahead even though Mary was facing the Funeral of her beloved husband Reg, in the same church, two days later.

Mary, equally brave, chaired the final Council Meeting of the year last Wednesday, much to the admiration of all present.

Mary told everyone that her husband Reg would have wanted her to carry on with her civic duties.

Dignitaries from the County Council and other nearby towns attended the Service of Carols and Lessons on a very cold night. The Service



featured a lovely choir from St. Francis School and, although small in number, sang beautifully and with great confidence.

Two young girls from Byerley Park recited a Christmas Poem and the church choir sang

special items between popular carols sung by the congregation. Afterwards everyone was invited into the Church Hall to enjoy refreshments provided by the Town Council. Although tinged with sadness it was a pleasant event.



WOODHAM TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE NOW A CAD/CAM SUPPORT CENTRE



Woodham College is delighted to announce it has been designated as a CAD / CAM focussed Digital D&T Support Centre for the North East region by the Design and Technology Association.

The support centre will work with partners across the region in developing the teaching of CAD / CAM, in addition to producing exemplar materials for the CAD / CAM curriculum framework and providing a range of other support for local trainers and teachers. "We are absolutely delighted to be able to take on this supporting role for the region" said Mike Nelson, Head of the Design and Technology department at Woodham.

Year 9 students have enjoyed studying Engineering and Manufacturing in the Design and Technology department and a group of students have used CAD / CAM technology to design and produce the College Christmas card this year.

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

BAD WEATHER STOPS SANTA TOUR

Severe weather conditions curtailed the Rotary Club's tour of the town with Santa's Sleigh this year. The members apologise for having to disappoint so many people who look forward to meeting Santa before Christmas.

Obviously this affected the collection total for the appeal for the town's needy families, but the members were confident they will meet their obligation to help those in difficulty over the festive period.

THE VILLAGE PHARMACY

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Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe
Telephone 01325 311297



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(Closed 1.00pm-2.00pm for Lunch)
Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon

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Also visit our NHS Stop Smoking Clinic on Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am-11.30am (Commit to Quit)

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Call us for more details on 311297 where our friendly staff will be happy to help

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CHRISTMAS LEFTOVERS

With Christmas being the time for indulgence, most fridges are full to the brim over the festive period. However, this inevitably results in plenty of leftovers.

Most households tend to overstock when it comes to food at this time of year, but more often than not, our eyes tend to be bigger than our bellies!

Nobody likes to throw food away, especially as people's purse strings have been tightened, so it's important to store leftover food correctly to make sure things don't go to waste.

Here is a set of tips: It's important to let cooked food cool down before refrigerating, but make sure you place it in the fridge as soon as it reaches a suitable temperature to avoid the risk

of contamination.

Store your leftovers in airtight containers and consider wrapping any cooked meat in cling film or foil to stop it drying out. Place a label on any containers to remind you of what's inside and, more importantly, the date you placed them in the fridge or freezer.

Keep a close eye on the temperature of your fridge. It should be at 5°C for optimum working efficiency and safety. Always store cooked food on the top shelves of the fridge, with raw ingredients at the bottom - that way there's no chance of the raw produce dripping and contaminating the foods below.

Try and use leftovers as soon as possible and never exceed the original 'use by' date, unless you're placing items in

the freezer.

Remember, leftovers need not just be solid food. You can always freeze excess gravy or milk for example to use again another day, as well as produce like herbs and bread crumbs.

Leftover food can result in a strange mix of smells in your fridge. Try using a deodoriser to combat them, but make sure you choose one that's been especially designed for use in refrigerators.

If you have lots of fruit and vegetables that are yet to be cut, there are products available that can be placed directly into the drawers at the bottom of the fridge to keep them fresher for longer. Once all the leftovers have been used and stocks are running low, take time to give your fridge a good clean.

Final Comment on Toddler Group by Rector

Dear Sir,

Having read last week's letter and now Mrs Kemp's letter, I write my final comment in the newspaper on this matter.

I stand by what I have said previously. Amicable discussion resulted in a new rent being agreed at £3.75 per hour x 2 hours x 40 sessions = £300 to be gradually staged in by 2011. At the same time I advised that following the church's insurance company's instructions, groups using the halls were to have their own specific insurance and advised Mrs Kemp how to seek that and where to seek it. Life has changed in the world of finance and statutory regulations in the past nine years.

The subject of grants and a fundraising event was discussed with the church offering support and premises for this. Mrs Kemp has changed her mind, which she is entitled to do, and has chosen to close the group. Sadly, and disappointingly, she did this in a rather unpleasant letter which I chose not to dignify with a reply. I have retained the letter in church files. I did indeed offer a Pray and Praise session in the church play area (not the hall) and I offered twice - once three years ago and once this year. It was to be an invitation for those who chose to take part. Mrs Kemp didn't want this for the reason she has stated: this was accepted without further discussion.

I later advised that instead we were to offer baptism families some opportunities for Christian teaching through play and praise, but at a different time so there would be no clash for the group. I thought it showed that we had taken her viewpoint seriously and that I was assuring her that she need not worry about any pressure being exerted. In her letter Mrs Kemp advised me that it was illegal to do this and that it was discrimination in only having it for baptism families. We can't win!

I said nothing about being independent because the group has always been run independently with no restrictions on the way it was run. That has meant enjoying use of premises at the lowest rent in town for any independent group (ie not one run by a church or a statutory body): the use of good facilities including an indoor pram park, being known as St Clare's Toddler Group because it gives us an identity, but without having to take part in the life of the church. That is independence. Church affiliated groups using the hall pay more rent than the Toddler Group as well as working their socks off to maintain the premises for the use of the community.

Other groups paying the full rent offer help in different ways to support the efforts of the church to maintain and improve the facilities for the use of the whole community. The newspapers always include adverts for fundraising events in support of groups and organisations - everyone has to pay rents and insurance and cover costs for running groups and everyone has to supplement their income in this way. It isn't the Church

that is quibbling over pennies. In a fantasy world, the church garden would have money trees growing in it, instead of fruit and vegetables grown to supplement its income: pennies would rain from heaven instead of rain that came through the hole in the roof which we had to pay to have repaired - not at peppercorn rates but at business rates because the roofers also have to pay their running costs. This is the real world.

Public buildings accessed by the general public, have statutory requirements to meet Health and Safety standards, Disability Access Regulations, fire safety, gas and electric safety checks, to maintain buildings in good repair and to meet environmental health regulations. The church is not exempt and none of this comes free of charge. It's very easy to bury heads in sand when we don't want to know about these matters.

The question has been asked regarding the Church serving the community, including any underprivileged children. I fully agree that it should - and it does. It supports families in this town by collecting, week by week, staple items of food and household goods for needy families in this town, with Social Services distributing the goods. The Church building and

halls have been used by most of the schools in the town for various occasions with generous hospitality being given. Alongside of that local, national and overseas charities are supported as shown in the church accounts. The Christmas collections all go to charities - but we don't make a song and a dance about that, we simply get on with it as part of our mission and ministry. The word community must be taken in its full context - mutual support - for it to be lived at its best. Every world faith and those of no faith would hold that as a maxim. It's a good one to practice and the church plays a full part in doing so.

I hold firm to warm regard for Mrs Kemp and her achievement: she has not let people down but has reached a point where she has decided not to continue. I hope parents were suitably appreciative on the last day. Mrs Peart has a wonderful record of service to others over very many years, and continues to help another community group in the church hall.

The respect and affection for her by both church and community are undiminished by this very sad and sorry business. I think Lily and Anne should now be allowed to retire with grace. I have been approached by a couple of parents about the continuance of the group, and they giving this some thought over the coming weeks. I accept that as the Rector I will be loved when things go right and everyone is happy with the church's largesse, and vilified when I have to help people face reality and on occasions challenge behaviour, statements and mischief making. That's the real world too.

Revd Linda Potter, Rector of Great Aycliffe.

LETTER to the EDITOR

PIPE BAND AT XCEL CENTRE



The Rotary Club thank Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band for their magnificent music at the entrance to the Xcel Conference Centre on the occasion of the annual Community Christmas Concert. They added something really special to the event and are a credit to themselves, bringing prestige to the town wherever they play.

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EX-CHAMPION POLICE OFFICER & WIFE CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF MARRIAGE



Fred and Beatrice Purser of Cumby Road celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 17th December and received a special card of congratulations from the Queen.

Deputy Mayor Dorothy Bowman visited the couple with a bouquet, bringing congratulations on behalf of the townspeople.

As a former Police Inspector and Superintendent Fred received a personal letter from the Chief Constable in recognition of his distinguished service in various parts of the County, including Newton Aycliffe, over 30 years.

Many will remember Fred as a quiet spoken gentleman yet, surprisingly, he was a super athlete winning trophies in weight lifting and Judo at world level. He later judged International competitions.

Beatrice was also interested in sport and won the North



Fred the Policeman

of England Health and Strength trophy in her early years.

Fred started his working life at a Shoe factory in Leicester where he had to go to get a job. He then came home to work at the Colliery Railway before joining the Police Force.

Fred met Beatrice on a camping holiday at Crimdon, he came from Seaham and Beatrice was

born in Thornley.

After their wedding at All Saints Church, Wheatley Hill they spent their honeymoon in Newcastle at a third rate hotel. "That is all anyone could afford in 1949, the weather was poor, but we were young, happy and still enjoyed ourselves" said Beatrice.

He and Beatrice moved to the town in 1955 and Fred was on duty in Newton Aycliffe when the Queen made her visit in 1960.

Beatrice was a Retail Manageress and for a while worked as an Avon Lady around the town.

The couple have a Son and two Grandsons. Fred Junior is in the music industry and lives with his wife and family in Newcastle.

The family came together for a family celebration and we join with them in wishing Fred and Beatrice many more happy years together.

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Application forms to be returned to: Mr. D. Priestley, Headteacher, Greenfield School Community & Arts College

Closing Date: 14th January 2010

LETTER to the EDITOR MIND Maligned

Dear Sir
I would like to correct some of the misconceptions published in your letter column about Newton Aycliffe Mind.

Kenneth Stubbs states that we are a branch of a large, well funded, national charity and implies we receive funding from national Mind.

The truth is that Mind is affiliated to national Mind, each "branch" is a separate charity, responsible for its own funding and running costs and receives no funds from the national organisation, Mr Stubbs is welcome to come and visit us in St Clare's Church if he wants to know more.

As for the over generous grant, Councillor Hogan neglected to mention the fact that the figure does not cover what Mind has invested in St Oswald's Old Pavilion, that the town council now has a building with superior facilities to the one

it leased to Mind 14 years ago and that the money, £10,000, awarded by the council will be used to improve facilities in St Clare's Church Hall for the benefit of all Newtonians, all of which I'm sure were factors in the Council's decision.

Newton Aycliffe Mind has embarked on a new phase of its history at St Clare's Church; we aim to make it a successful one because the misery of poor mental health is a blight on too many and many more will be affected as they struggle to cope with the effects of the recession.

We have opened our doors and our hearts to those who are in pain, all we ask is that others do the same. Mind want to thank everyone at St Clare's for making us welcome and we invite anyone to call in and visit us in our new home.

Muriel Gordon, Manager

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Tories Get Sums Wrong

Dear Sir,

I noticed the Tories proposed tax plan to cut Child Tax Credits for households on more than £50,000 per year in total, would raise only £45 million - not the £400 million they claimed it would.

To raise £400 million they would have to cut Child Tax Credits from couples earning as little as £16,000 each.

Can local Tories answer the following: Is this miscalculation simply a sign of the Tories lack of experience and inability to do their sums, or do they intend to remove Child Tax from lower earning couples?

Rita Taylor

Secretary

Sedgefield Labour Party

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LETTER to the EDITOR

SBH FAILURE TO REPAIR DRAINPIPE CAUSES DAMP IN PRIVATE PROPERTIES

Dear Sir,
A few weeks ago after a heavy downpour of rain we noticed the wallpaper in the corner of our living room peeling. Our home is part of four linked properties in Agnew, three are private and one is owned by Sedgfield Borough Homes. The SBH property is next to mine which is in the middle and another private house is behind. Any rainwater coming off our roofs run down the drainpipe on the SBH property and this is our complaint. This drainpipe is blocked so any rain runs down the walls and into the cavity wall insulation, making my living room wall damp. All three private homeowners have complained, but SBH will only talk to their tenant who told me yesterday that SBH admitted they had similar problems elsewhere.

It appears they are not going to take any action to sort out the problem and are leaving it to the homeowners. My wife and I suffer from lung related illnesses and are concerned the damp coming into our property will have an adverse effect on our health. If SBH will not accept responsibility for the blocked pipe we will consider legal proceedings for damage to health and property.

A. Johnson
229 Aldrid Place
ED: We contacted Sedgfield Borough Homes who issued the following response:
"We have spoken to Mr Johnson and assured him that the first we heard of this problem was when the repair was reported on Thursday, 17th December. The work was issued to Mears the next working day and we would normally expect the work to be carried out this week. However, I have explained that due to the extreme weather conditions and health and safety requirements the work may not be carried out in this time and Mr Johnson was happy with our response. Mr Johnson also confirms that he has not contacted our complaints team about this previously. I have asked Mr Johnson to contact us again if there are any further problems with the down pipes." SBH Spokesperson.

BIKERS COLLECTION FOR HOSPITAL & WOMEN'S REFUGE



Sunday 13th December saw the latest annual Aycliffe Bike Club Charity Toy Run event. Throughout the year, in conjunction with The Turbinia Pub and its Ladies Darts Section, the club raises money for local causes. This year we chose the children's wards of Darlington and Bishop Auckland Hospitals and local Women's Refuge locations to provide a much needed boost to those less fortunate. Over 30 bikes, including some members of the local Wanderers Motorcycle Club, left the Turbinia with support vans from Dave, Rob & Julie, and set off on a circuit of local pubs to collect new toys that had been donated by customers. Support was also received from Burnhill Way Methodist Church and local businessman Ian Cowey of USAB Co. Ltd. The generosity of local publicans and their customers was overwhelming. As well as the Ladies Darts Section, who donated £300, a very generous donation of £500 was received from 'Honest John' and our heartfelt thanks go out to them for their continued support. As you can see in the picture, we also had the support once again from Martin Norris and The Blazing Squad party fire engine. This was a huge attraction at all the venues on route and our thanks extend to Martin and his team. In total, we were able to donate close to £2500 worth of toys to those

charities, which in these tough times is a staggering amount. We would like to thank the following Pubs and their staff and customers for making this a hugely successful year: The Turbinia, The Locomotion (Heighington), The Dog Inn (Heighington), Wear View Café (Toft Hill), The Victoria (Witton Le Wear), Bay Horse (Bp Auckland), Manor House (Ferryhill), Half Moon (Kirk Merrington), The Ship (Middleton), Elm Rd WMC (Shildon), Bay Horse (Middridge), and the Huntsman (Woodham). If anyone is interested in joining Aycliffe Bike Club we

meet at the Turbinia on the first Sunday in the month at 1pm and the next meeting is Sunday 3rd Jan 2010. Our members have bikes of all kinds from scooters to hyper-bikes and everything in-between. When the weather improves we organise ride-outs during the weeknights, weekends and also attend rallies and other events with other motorcycle clubs. If you need any more information call at the Turbinia anytime as there will probably be one of our members propping up the bar or talk to Gary Soakell, owner of the Turbinia, on 319700

STAGECOACH COMES TO ROBIN'S RESCUE

Local children are showing real talent through their performance in Bishop Auckland Theatre Society's production Robin Hood oh yes they are! Bishop Auckland Theatre Society used to have a strong youth section however the number of young people in the Society has fallen in recent years. It was therefore necessary to look to Stagecoach, a local performing arts school, for young talent to be involved with the Society's next pantomime. Stagecoach Bishop Auckland's Principal, Kate Ruddick, set up her Bishop Auckland franchise at King James I Community College over 5 years ago having already worked in other Stagecoach Schools as a teacher for ten years. Pantomime director Rob Berry said "this is a great way for us to engage with local children. Their quality individual and group performances have really

brought the pantomime to life". I hope as many people as possible take up the chance to see the show before it's too late - and with tickets at just £7 each, there's no excuse for staying at home!" Kate believes that the students at Bishop Auckland have been the best she has taught at any school, many of whom have been successful in securing leading parts in famous musical productions such as Oliver and Annie. "We have a number of committed, focused and talented young people at Stagecoach. This pantomime is a fantastic opportunity for local children to use their theatrical skills in a fun and creative environment" said Kate. Robin Hood is on at the Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland Town Hall, from Wednesday 13th - Saturday 16th January. Telephone bookings can be made on 01388 604351.

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LETTER Councillors Get the Job Done!

Dear Sir,
I wish to thank Councillors Dixon and Iveson for their help in getting a parking bay in Peace Way. It was very dangerous the way it was, but now we can unload our groceries and get in and out of our cars without the worry of being knocked down. There is another bay further down the street, but it was too far to carry groceries, especially if you are infirm or disabled. It is also more convenient for ambulances and other service vehicles to get to the bungalows. It is nice to know our requests are observed and I would like to thank the men for the excellent work carried out with minimum inconvenience. Delia Stout.

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

FRESH WATER £10
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Taylors Newsforce, Town Centre or Don Walkers, Stimpasturegate



CHILDREN IN NEWTON AYCLIFFE AT RISK says N.S.P.C.C.

Children in Newton Aycliffe could be left at serious risk of harm over the holidays because people are less likely to report abuse over the festive season, the NSPCC warns today. The charity is reminding the public that the NSPCC helpline - 0800 800 5000 - is available 24/7, 365 days a year. As families gather for a prolonged period, the reminder is timely that support is at hand for people that are experiencing family tensions and have concerns about a child, be it within their own family or in the local neighbourhood. Help is also at hand as well for adults who may have concerns

about their own behaviour. Almost 65,000 people throughout England, including worried individuals from Newton Aycliffe, called the NSPCC Helpline last year with concerns about a child. This works out as an average of 178 each day. However, over the Christmas period calls started to drop and on Christmas Day 2008 only 63 calls were received. John Cameron, Head of the Helpline which is open 24 hours a day all year, said: "Some children don't get a Christmas break from cruelty. It can happen at any time, any

day. But people seem reluctant to report cases of abuse and neglect at this time of year, possibly because they see it as a happy occasion and don't want to spoil it. "However, this means some children could be left in dangerous situations when help should be on its way. Hopefully this year people will realise that a child's safety is more important and give us a call. We are here round-the-clock, 365 days a year." Last Christmas many of the calls were about children being physically and sexually assaulted or being badly

neglected. Six calls from across the North East were serious enough to need immediate police or social services help. One caller rang on Christmas Day to report a family of three young children who were often missing school and slept on bare beds. When the counsellor alerted social services it was discovered the youngsters, aged, five, seven and nine, had walked over a mile to their grandparents for Christmas dinner because there was no food in their own house. The children eventually went to live with other relatives while their mother underwent treatment for a drink problem. The NSPCC aims to raise £50m for its Child's Voice Appeal over three years to expand the Helpline and ChildLine.

AYCLIFFE XMAS FACTOR



Aycliffe got the Xmas Factor when Aycliffe Care Home's staff and friends put on a show for the residents.

It was an afternoon of dancing, singing and laughing. Can we say a big thank you to all those who took part and a very big thank you to Neil and Ann for coming and lending us their equipment.

The winner of the Xmas Factor 2009 was Heather Taylor as Dame Shirley Bassey and the runners up were Ray Pattison and Bradley Bialek.

Medals for Local Swimmers

Swimmers from Sedgfield 75 Swimming Club have once again come away from a major championship with a haul of medals. Earlier in November, Caroline Saxby, Philip Hodgson and Kyle Boyek came away from the North Eastern Regional Short course championships at Freemans Quay, Durham with 4 medals after a good weekends swimming.

Caroline won a silver medal in the 100m, 200m and 400m freestyle. Philip finished 3rd in the 400m freestyle and 6th in both the 100m freestyle and 400m Individual Medley. Kyle Boyek finished 4th in the 100m breaststroke and 5th in the 50m freestyle.

Two of our younger swimmers competed last weekend in their Regional Short Course championships at the Aquatic Centre, Sunderland. Sam Dixon finished 2nd in the 100m freestyle and swam personal best times in 5 out of 6 of his swims and Hannah Featherstone finished 2nd in the 200m freestyle and 3rd in the 100m freestyle and also managed to swim personal best times in 4 of her 6 swims.

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Thanks to all who helped decorate our fifty Christmas Trees in readiness for the Santa Claus Grotto: Jim, Elsie, Norma and Maureen.
 Special thanks to our sponsors for the Extravaganza held before Christmas: Councillors Sarah Iveson and John Moran, Town Council, Bewick Crescent Surgery, B&Q, Tesco, Lidl, Wilkinsons, Mr & Mrs Twigger, Newton Aycliffe

Rotary Club and Sainsburys.
 We wish everyone a happy New Year and remind you activities for 2010 begin on 4th January.
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Watch out for our expansion plans in the New Year.

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TOP 20 FAMILY ARGUMENTS

- Household chores
- Treating the house like a hotel
- Taking each other for granted
- Being unable to find something in the house
- What to watch on TV
- Whose turn it is to wash up
- Whose turn it is to go on the computer
- The cost of the telephone bill
- Loud music
- Homework
- Constantly being asked for money
- Bad driving
- Where the remote control is
- What to have for tea
- Putting an empty juice/milk carton back in the fridge
- What time the children should go to bed
- Never ending sport on TV
- People spending too long in the bathroom
- What time teenagers should be back
- Who should empty the dishwasher

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COUNCILLORS SHOULD PUT COMPASSION BEFORE MONEY

Dear Sir,
It is often discussed about what has happened to people's respect for one another. I for one truly believe that you should always lead by example and treat people on how you would like to be treated yourself.
With this in mind I find it unbelievable that Durham County Council can once again put Shafto House's future in the balance for the third time in as many years.
The decision to move into a Care Home is not taken lightly

and many having no choice because of the need of 24 hour care or the loss of a loved one. Some also will have to sell their loved family homes to pay for their care, adding to the distress. Anyone who has moved house knows how stressful this can be at any age never mind later in life.
In Shafto House the residents have security and stability with most of the staff working hard there for many years. Family members have peace of mind that their loved ones are well looked after in a professional manner, knowing that they are receiving balanced daily meals and friendship.
If this Council has any heart they should think of the residents first and the caring staff who work there, before they entertain any ideas of the value on the land which the care home stands, because sadly it will always come down to money and not compassion.
If Shafto House was to close it will be a huge loss for the people of Newton Aycliffe
Miss Toni Hudson
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TOP TIPS FOR WINTER DRIVING

As chaos continues on the roads safety experts have called on motorists to take more care to avoid being one of thousands of accidents that will clog the roads, and cost billions in lost productivity and extra insurance claims.
Accidents rise as people struggle to know how to drive in difficult conditions.
Drivers are having to cope with any combination of deep snow, ice, localized flooding and excessive surface water.
As a result of the poor driving by many and the impaired performance of conventional tyres at lower temperatures tens of thousands are heading for a prang or more serious collision.

Gay Frobisher, head of road safety for Continental said: "Every winter we have problems because motorists are poorly equipped to cope. Many of us still refuse to slow down and leave greater distance to the vehicle in front."

"We have a mix of snow, ice and excess water and all of these conditions combined with low temperatures will reduce the performance of conventional tyres and create the misery of an accident that could be avoided".

The number of road accidents is six times higher in winter than the rest of the year as a result of road conditions and plummeting temperatures. Drivers are being urged to make the switch to cold weather tyres as in other parts in Europe.

"If UK road users were on cold weather tyres we would not have seen as many problems as we have had with the enormous cost to the economy that represents.

Much of our road network is at capacity so any disruption has a disproportionate effect and means the kind of chaos we are seeing now".

Across Europe drivers will switch to cold weather tyres to combat the combination of poor conditions and freezing temperatures. The rubber compound in cold weather tyres is designed to perform better below seven degrees Celsius.

Tyres remain supple thanks to a softer and cold-resistant rubber compound. The special tread pattern also adds to reduce the braking distance.

At just 20 mph on an icy road a car with conventional tyres will come to a standstill after 68 metres, some 11 metres -

or over two car lengths - more than a car fitted with cold weather tyres.
Even as snow and ice melts road users will face problems and the risk of aquaplaning. At 62 mph on a wet road with temperatures below seven degrees Celsius the stopping distance on conventional tyres is five metres more than with cold weather tyres fitted - more than the length of a car and potentially the difference between stopping safely or an accident.
Continental also recommend the following checklist:

- Visibility is vital. Keep your windscreen and windows clear
- Check your lights are

- clean and working
- Reduce your speed on slippery surfaces and avoid harsh braking or acceleration
- At low speeds use second rather than first gear to avoid starting to spin the wheels and gently apply and lift the clutch to allow safer engine braking without the need to step on the brakes
- Increase the distance between you and the vehicle in front - in rain, ice and snow leave enough space to stop safely
- Allow up to ten times the normal braking distance, especially on motorways

DARLO OFFER CHEAP TICKETS!

Darlington fans can still take advantage of the club's Christmas Ticket initiative after Saturday's game against Northampton was postponed.

The Quakers were offering cut-price Christmas tickets over the festive period in a bid to boost crowds for three key games at the Northern Echo Arena.

The three-game ticket included their home tie with Northampton Town which was postponed.

It means supporters can still take advantage of the offer, with the price-busting Christmas Ticket made available for the games against Lincoln on December 28, Port Vale on January 2 and now Aldershot on January 16.

Current Christmas Ticket holders who can't make the re-arranged Northampton date of January 26 can also swap that game for the Aldershot match.

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

It also 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 £5.

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.

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Holiday

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Well Done Ladies



On behalf of Woodham Village Community Centre's Committee, Chairman Joan Gray presented flowers to Betty Henderson, Margaret Leighton and Wyn Lydon (not available for the photograph).

This was in recognition of their hard work for the last 21 years in staging the weekly Tea Dance every Friday from 2pm to 4pm. "It is down to the efforts of unsung volunteers like these ladies that many Community activities take place. May I thank all the many users of our Community Centre over the last year for their participation. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year," said Joan.

LETTER to the EDITOR

Vicar Wanted Christian Worship at Toddler Group Session

Dear Sir,
Lily and I, after a lot of thought, reluctantly closed the Toddler Group at St. Clare's Church as we didn't have much choice!

Rev. Potter had on more than one occasion asked to bring prayers and religion into the group, but we did not agree as we have a large mix of children with different religious backgrounds. It would be unfair to ask these children to take part in Christian worship.

We started the group with no funds, raiding our children's toy cupboards and paying for everything out of our own pockets.
The previous Rector, Rev. Broad, told us it was our group to run as we saw fit and not to worry about insurance as the Church was covered.

When we told Rev. Potter that we could not include religion she said we would have to be declared "independent" and the rent would be raised.
She misled you on the figure which is actually going to be £400 per year or £10 a week, not the £3.75p per hour. The insurance would be another £65 per year.
Some weeks we barely take an amount to cover our costs

and the organisers pay for refreshments themselves to provide this service to children.

We don't supply Birthday Cakes as the parents and carers bring those, but we have given treats to the children.

The new rent was to be payable from 2010 not 2011 as stated by Rev. Potter and if she is so concerned about the group closing why has she not replied to my letter? At first we thought we might be able to manage the rent, but on careful consideration found we would have to be guaranteed 15 families using the service every week and that was impossible to foresee.

We are really thankful to all the wonderful people we have met over 9 years, many whom have become firm friends. Lily Peart will always have a special place in my heart, as she will with lots of parents, carers and children who attended our sessions.

We feel guilty about closing and letting people down. I also feel a great sadness, but we did not have much choice.

Mrs. A. Kemp.
See page 5 for Rector's reply!

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NEWTONIANS MARRIED IN AUCKLAND CASTLE



Lindsay Rebecca Carlton, a Nursery Assistant at House of Eden Nursery, married Christopher Ian Palmer a Service Team Leader at Reflex Vehicle Solutions, on Saturday 19th December 2009. They were married in St. Peter's Chapel, Auckland Castle followed by a reception in the function room. The Bridesmaids were Ashley Carlton, Kimberley Richardson and Susan

Nicholson. The Best Man was Craig Clark, the Ushers/Groomsmen: Ricky Scott and Michael Fawcett. Sean Richardson was the Ring Bearer. A big surprise on the day for Lindsay was the choir "Gospel Shock" arranged for her wedding by her parents. The newly-weds have set up home in Newton Aycliffe. Photo Stuart J Allison

TAXI ADVICE FOR PARTY-GOERS

Durham County Council has issued the timely warning for the festive season and is urging people to check the taxi they are using is properly licensed. All licensed taxis and private hire vehicles have a licence plate on the back of the vehicle, showing the unique licence number, and all drivers should have a valid identification badge issued by the Council. Drivers and vehicles must go through rigorous tests in order to receive their licence, while unlicensed drivers and their cars will not have been subject to checks to confirm their suitability and safety. Neil Smalley, Public Safety Manager for the Council, said: "Members of the public should think twice before accepting a ride in an unlicensed taxi - they quite literally could be putting their life at risk. "Unlicensed taxis may not be roadworthy, they will not have the appropriate insurance and the drivers will not have had the necessary checks, such as criminal records checks. "We'd strongly advise people to check that the taxi they are about to get into is licensed and to check the drivers' ID badge. Where possible they should pre-

book their journeys or use one of the council's approved taxi ranks." Durham County Council enforcement officers are always looking out for unlicensed taxis and will investigate any concerns from the public who suspect that unlicensed vehicles are operating within the County. People can report concerns by contacting the Council on 01388 765555 and asking to speak to the licensing team.

THE TURBINIA
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HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?
 We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service.
Tel: Syd on 01325 300212
 or Email: syd@newtonnews.co.uk

NASTY LETTERS CONCERNING 'MIND'

Dear Sir, It is bad enough suffering with a mental illness without the service, which gives help and support to some of the most needy people in society, than being castigated by those who do not fully understand the needs of the mentally ill. Being blinded by a sum of money, which in fact is not a grant but recompense for money spent on the council's property which was five times the amount which is being reimbursed, detracts from the real issue of those in need. If people were seen with open festering sores or

broken limbs which would not heal there would be a public outcry that something should be done but as mental illness is an illusive destroyer of people's lives which hides behind a cloak of seeming normality, it goes unrecognised by those who have not had first hand knowledge of the disease. So national 'MIND' is run from London in 'plush' offices, would it be more acceptable if it were run

from a shed at the bottom of someone's garden? It saddens me once again to find at this season of peace and goodwill, that intolerance and bigotry against the mentally ill is alive and well and resides in Newton Aycliffe. S. Blenkinsopp Mental health survivor

Obituary

GORDON MENNIS aged 89. Died 16th December 2009, peacefully at Liasdun Care Home. Much loved Husband of Maria and Father of Dorothy and Barbara, Father in Law of Colla and Bill. A loving Grandfather and Great Grandfather. A very kind and respected Gentleman. Cared for with great affection by all the staff at Liasdun Care Home. Cremation 29.12.09 at 3pm, Durham. No flowers please.

NEWTON AYCLIFFE JUNIOR ATHLETES IN TOP TEN

On December 12th at Branksome School, junior members of Newton Aycliffe Athletics Club, proved their training had gained many of them a place in the top 10 for the North East.

The North East Cross Country Championship event draws talented runners from far and wide, and the day did not disappoint. The field was strong and the course was muddy, but Henry Johnson made his debut in the U13 event, a moment to be

proud of. Only 11 years old, he was running against athletes who were more experienced and older. However, sticking with the lead pack meant that he completed the 3k course only 1 minute behind the winner, and in 8th place with 12.58. The U15 4k race gave strong competition for the more experienced runners, William Crossen and Ryan Walton. They ran extremely well, despite the tough conditions. Ryan was close on the

heels of older boy William, and they both finished with very little breath left! A tremendous sprint finish for Ryan gave him 13th position with 15.01, but just in the lead was William with 9th place in 14.54. U20 was a longer course of 8.3k, and James Askew took the distance in his stride. He seemed to slice

through the mud with ease to bring himself home in 11th place with 30.50. All the boys feel confident to tackle next big calendar event which will be the Northern Championships in the beginning of January. Thanks go to their coaches and families who give up time to help the boys with their training.

Xmas Gifts for Care Home



Aycliffe Care Home would like to thank Ken, Mavis and Alan Proffitt who have kindly donated a new 42 inch LCD television for our residential unit. The Care Home would also like to thank Aycliffe Police for the kind donation of a hamper, which our residents thoroughly enjoyed.

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 707570

BARGAIN BUYS Bargains of the Week. Washing machine, 6kg load, A energy class, 2 year warranty, delivered and fitted for £219. Tel 721678
PALLETS and Pallet toppers first come first served. Free, call at Newton Press M-F, 9am-4pm
YAMAHA portable piano with musical accompaniment. Barely used, with stand, £50. 701692
DURHAM PINE / Rubber wood dining table and 4 chairs, £75 exo. Tel 07966 542445
NEED An old domestic appliance removing? Can't wait for the Council? Tel. 721 678.

Birthday Remembrance

EDITH KELL. Thinking of you on your birthday. Love and miss you, Bob and family x

Accommodation

KESTRAL COURT, Newton Aycliffe, 3 bed semi det with garage. Rent £500, board £500, admin £100. **HALLINGTON HEAD**, 2 bedroomed property. Rent £400, board £400, admin £100. **CYPRUS GROVE**, School Aycliffe, 2 bedroomed property. Rent £425, board £425, admin £100. Tel. 07814 022701
3 BED HOUSE, Fewston Close, £455 board, £105 per week rent. Tel. 01725 707445
4 BEDROOM house for rent with garden and garage. Rent £590 per month, board and references required. Tel. 07891 071729 for details
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New Year Wishes

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Godfrey and Shirley Braeact to Friends: old and new

Christmas Memoriam

CRAIG, SARAH-JANE, Madisen and Mackenzie Tackles with all their family and friends a very Happy New Year.
3 BEDROOMED property to rent. For details telephone 07714 714499
BETTER HOUSES to let. Free if you get housing allowance. Call 01725 778206
TWO x 3 BEDROOMED terraced houses available in Hoalster Place, N/A, D.H.S.S. welcome. Rent £110 per week. Contact 07900 430 200

In Memoriam

TOMMY ELLIS. 05.01.05. Five years have passed since you went away. We love and miss you more than words can say. All our love, Ian, Linda, Dale, Scott and all the family xx

TOMMY ELLIS. 05.01.05. Deep is my heart, your memory is kept. Someone too special, to ever forget. Your Loving Wife, Jess xx

LENA JACKSON. 27.12.97. love and miss you loads Mum, from Linda, Gary, Amber and Jake x
WINIFRED HAYES. Died 29.12.99. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Always loved and very dear. your loving Husband, Daughter and Family

Stacey Newton



Happy 18th Birthday
 Squidgy
 07.01.92
 All our love. Mum and Dad

Congratulations

Sam Hurst



Happy 18th Birthday
 January 2nd 2010
 You have grown from a beautiful baby to a wonderful young man who we are all really proud of. Enjoy your day. Love you loads, Mum, Dad, Joe and Louis xxxx

SARSFIELD Silver Wedding Anniversary



Keith and Elizabeth
 29.12.09
 Congratulations to the best Mum 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.
 Mum and Dad xx

Thank You

SCRAFTON. Jess would like to thank all her many friends for cards etc, received for her 50th Birthday.
 For all your print requirements contact your local printer
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SHARON'S MEAL FOR CHARITY: BEETLE, WORMS, FISH EYE, RAW KIDNEY & LIVER



Premier Inn Team in Fancy Dress

turn out in fancy dress however. Sharon has NO FEAR, and was really enthusiastic about the task! Thursday 17th December 2009 at 7pm was the date and time of the challenge. A couple of team members prepared Sharon's unique evening meal menu. This comprised for Starters a BEETLE, and 2 GIANT WORMS, The Fish course was THE EYE OF A LARGE COD, Main Course - RAW KIDNEY, and Dessert - RAW LIVER. This was all washed down with a pint of water! Up to the day of the event Sharon had £250 worth of sponsorship. Despite the blizzard blowing outside spectators turned out and the challenge in the reception of Newton Aycliffe Premier Inn began. Family and friends came to watch and people travelled from far and wide to support Sharon, while Sharon's team members cheered her on.



In May this year it was announced that Premier Inn was adopting 'Water Aid' as their charity. This charity helps support the one in eight people in the world who don't have safe water to drink, along with the two and a half billion people that live without somewhere safe and clean to go to the toilet. As a result 4000 children die EVERY DAY, and communities remain trapped in a cycle of poverty and disease. There are 590 Premier

Inns in the UK and each hotel team were asked to raise funds to support this well deserving charity. The Team at Newton Aycliffe had several brain storming sessions to come up with an unusual way of fund raising. Sharon Scott, volunteered herself to take part in a 'Bush Tucker Trial'. All of the team were more than happy to sponsor Sharon, as all admitted that they would never be able to complete such a challenge. They did



Sharon was true to her word, and completed the entire meal prepared by Colette Calverley, Deputy Manager at Premier Inn. Mr. Western, a regular guest at Premier originally sponsored Sharon £20, but after witnessing how brave she was, he TREBLED the money. Sharon and the Team raised an amazing £420.00 for Water Aid.



LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE PLOT THICKENS

Dear Sir,
Why did every Labour Councillor vote to give MIND a £10,000 relocation grant to move to St. Clare's Church Hall.
Apparently the money will be spent on a new kitchen, tables and chairs from which the Church will benefit.
Could this be the reason why the Rector was so keen to get rid of the Toddler Group which had met there for more than 20 years? It seems to me a very convenient coincidence. It will also be interesting to see what now becomes of the premises MIND vacated in St. Oswald's Park. Does someone have lucrative plans for the building? I believe this is why the Council was so determined to get MIND out. The plot thickens, so we will wait and see!
Suspicious
Name & address supplied

SNOW & ICE IN THE TOWN CENTRE

Dear Sir
During the recent bad weather conditions with snow and low temperatures, the town centre has been a "snow go" area for many people due to difficulty in walking.
There would appear to have been no visual attempts to clear the snow and ice. Surely in this day and age we have a pavement snowplough? Our town centre is a sorry sight when you compare it with other towns.
I hope we can look forward to a better response from the Council in the future
J.M Gowland
Hopelands Court
Ed: We have to point out the Town Centre is privately owned and the Council are not responsible for snow and ice clearing in that area.

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DARLO PLAYERS BRING CHEER TO CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL



Quakers players brought some festive cheer to poorly children in hospital before Christmas. Ten Darlington stars visited sick youngsters at Darlington Memorial Hospital's Children's Ward including Ian Miller, Dan Groves, David Davis, James Collins, Simon Thomas, Stephen Foster, Stuart Giddings, Ashlee Jones, Mor Diop and Nathan Mulligan. They dropped by the ward to deliver presents, sign autographs and pose for pictures. Captain Miller said: "It's difficult to comprehend what it must be like for these youngsters who have to spend Christmas time in hospital. Hopefully we were able to cheer them up with a few presents and bring a few smiles to faces."

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