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## FRONT PAGE LETTER

# Sedgefield Borough did not act like Scrooge

Says Leader

Your article entitled "No help for the town's needy from Scrooge Council", (Newton News, Christmas 1996) was misleading. Sedgefield Borough Council is rightly proud of its long-standing record in supporting local charities and voluntary organisations and we have maintained our charities budget, in spite of severe spending cuts. We also operate a generous policy of giving discretionary rate relief to charities in the Borough which goes a long way to easing their financial burdens.

For the past five years, the Borough Council has subsidised the Rotary Club's Community Christmas Concert and this year's subsidy amounts to over £600.00.

For the record, the figure of £230 which the Rotary Club was going to be charged to hire the Main Sports Hall at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, is about a third of the true cost to the Borough, for staging the event. The Hall is taken up for a full day and a half. The Borough Council brings in and sets up seating for 800 people. We also set up staging, provide Christmas decorations and flowers for decorating the hall. Extra staff have to be brought in to prepare for the concert and to dismantle everything afterwards.

During the past four years the real subsidy from the Borough Council has amounted to around £2,000, a fact which may not have been apparent to the Rotary Club and in addition the nominal £230 charge, for the 1996 concert, has been waived.

While we are very pleased that the event is successful and enjoyed by many local people, it is disappointing that the Council's contribution has not been appreciated.

The concert takes place at one of the busiest times of the year, when staff are already working hard on community projects and Christmas events throughout the Borough.

And incidentally, we are working for the people of Newton Aycliffe 365 days a year. Many of our services to the needy, such as the Meals on Wheels service, continue without a break over the holiday period, and in 1997, we shall continue to support the Community Bus, the Carer's Centre, the Advice and Information Service, and a wide range of charities and individuals with grants and subsidies, as before.

Yours faithfully  
**B Stephens**  
Leader of Borough Council

ED:

A Rotary Club spokesman told "Newton News" the members were unaware of any subsidy being made for this annual event. They relied heavily on the Council's concession on what they believed was the full commercial rate. Had they known the facts, outlined above, it is unlikely any criticism would have been made.

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## Corticosteroid Treatment Unavoidable

Dear Sir,  
Many of your readers may have seen the recent coverage on ITN News at Ten (Tuesday 10th Dec.) regarding the long-term effects of treatment with oral corticosteroids.

Oral corticosteroids, used to treat for example, asthma, skin diseases, rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease, will eventually lead to osteoporosis if doses equal to or exceeding 7.5mg of oral prednisolone per day are used for several months or more.

Corticosteroid treatment is often unavoidable, and in many cases can be life-saving, and it is unsafe to stop treatment suddenly. But many patients may not

have received information and advice on how to reduce its effects on bone. The National Osteoporosis Society published last week a detailed booklet on corticosteroids and bone which addresses the problem of preventing bone loss during long term oral corticosteroid use, including advice on using minimum dose, locally targeted steroids where possible, and adopting lifestyle measures to promote bone health. The booklet, *Corticosteroids and Bone*, priced at £2.00 is available to patients and GPs by writing to the National Osteoporosis Society, PO Box 10, Radstock, Bath, BA3 3YB. Yours Faithfully, Rosemary Rowe

## HYPOTHERMIA IS A KILLER IN WINTER

A warm home is a luxury that most of us take for granted, it is an essential component to our wellbeing but especially so for older people.

### St. Clares Church Hold Christingle Service

A 'Christingle Service' is being held at St. Clare's Church on Sunday 5th Jan. at 4.30pm.

The Christingle is an orange, which represents the world, the red ribbon around it represents the blood of Christ, four cocktail sticks with fruit represent the four seasons of the year, and the lighted candle symbolises Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

This simple service has great appeal to children, young people and their families. A 'Christingle' is given to every child and gifts of money are offered for the work of the Children's Society. Everyone is invited to come along to take part in this lovely service.

Last winter 265 pensioners in England and Wales and 90 pensioners in Scotland died from hypothermia and there is considerable evidence to suggest that this figure could be much higher.

Over 46,000 more people over 60 died during last winter than during the previous summer, a regular pattern that is not evident in countries such as Germany and Sweden where winters are much more severe but homes are warmer and better insulated.

About 750,000 UK pensioners live in homes cold enough to put them at risk of hypothermia according to research from the Age Concern Institute of Gerontology.

Hypothermia is when the inner body temperature drops to 35°C (95°F); it can be difficult to detect because the standard clinical thermometer does not record temperatures below 35°C.

Consequently, although hypothermia may be the prime cause of death, it may go undiagnosed as a main or contributory factor and a related illness is often recorded on the death certificate.

As people get older, their bodies can become less able to maintain a constant temperature, and at the same time grow less sensitive to changes in external temperatures. This means that older people are often affected by low temperatures without actually feeling it and may be unaware that they are slipping into a perilously cold state.

The outward signs of hypothermia include drowsiness, slurred speech, pale and puffy face, mental confusion and covered skin (e.g. armpits) is very cold to touch.

If you find a person suffering from the symptoms of hypothermia, take immediate action. Call a doctor and then try to warm the person up slowly.

Don't subject them to sudden changes in temperature, but gently turn up the heating and keep them wrapped in light layers. Don't put them directly next to a fire or give them hot water bottles or heavy clothing or blankets.

Avoid alcohol, it will only encourage further heat loss, but warm, nourishing drinks will aid recovery.

### Senior Citizens Thank K. & J.

Grateful thanks to K & J Travel for the free use of a bus and to all volunteers, on the occasion of the Senior Citizens Christmas Party, held at the Southerne Club on 14th December.

## ATHLETICS NEWS AYCLIFFE ATHLETICS TO CELEBRATE TWELVE YEARS

The year's best age graded performance was achieved by 28 year old Joe McCready whose performance of 69.11 at the Redcar Half Marathon was worth 85.1%.

Forty year old Paul Harker had an 82.7% rating for his time of 34.30 at the Darlington 10k.

Sue Milburn rated 75.6% at Redcar and Julia Atkinson scored 70.9% for her time of 42.08 at Darlington.

In the North East County Championships, on December 14th at Blaydon, club Chairman Mick Brunskill led the club home and finished in 99th position, closely followed by Colin Gibson in 111th position. Chris White was 197th, Dave Middleton 232, Trevor Needham 244, Ray Todd 247. The team finished 22nd out of 65 North East Clubs.

ON the track at Gateshead, Martin Turnbull won the under 14 3000 meters race in 11min 59secs. Sean Arnott finished third. Fifteen year old Richard

Wade who recorded victories in a race and a road duathlon at Hamsterley Forest finished second in under 15 3000m. In 10m 30secs. Chris White was first veteran in 11 min after finishing second the Gateshead 5k handi the day before.

Sue Milburn and CL Butterfield flew the flag for Aycliffe ladies Blydon and finished 2nd and 38th.

In the club's month long Lamplight 5 mile race Dec. 18th Joe McCready won in 26.46. Paul Harker was second veteran in 28.17, Colin Gibson 29.06, Derek Smith 29.58, Alan Wilkes 30.51 and Richard Harvey first over fifty in 33.29, Dave Thomas finished 30th in 37. The next race will be January 29th.

New members who wish to be part of the club's successful year will be welcomed at the Oak Sports Complex at any Tuesday.

Did you know that wherever you are in the country, there is now only one Gas Emergency Number?

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While the old numbers will continue to work for an interim period, it is in readers' interests to use the new national Freephone number. Please make sure that this is the only number you list for gas emergencies.

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NSPCC  
A cry for children.



# SCHOOL AYCLIFFE SPEED RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE REVISED

School Aycliffe residents are not happy with the traffic calming method in their village.

The road refuges seem to be attracting speedsters rather than slowing vehicles down.

Twice within a week cars have crashed into and destroyed bollards on School Aycliffe Lane, and residents fear it won't be too long before there is a fatality.

The recent restriction of heavy lorries on the Lane may have now allowed cars more freedom to speed.

"The 40mph limit and the traffic calming needs to be revised - possibly by making the limit 30mph and introducing cameras" said a resident.

We asked Councillor Jack Flynn of Newton Aycliffe, who is Vice Chairman of the Highways Committee, to comment.

"I recognise speed limits are ineffective and we have 100's of similar problems throughout the County. I have always been critical of speed limits in general as I truly believe people drive as fast as the environment they are travelling in allows.

"Take for instance Stephenson Way, which is very slow moving due to the road being narrow, cluttered with cars and buses. Motorists are generally forced to keep within the speed limit, and there are fewer accidents as a result.

But unfortunately, wherever you are, there is always those who speed without regard or consideration" said Councillor Flynn.

We believe the Councillor is saying that traffic calming is the answer to speedsters in built-up areas. Where there is a danger to life and property we should force cars to travel slowly by placing obstacles in their way - Do you agree?

# METHOD OF CONTROLLING UNRULY CHILDREN PROVING TO BE A WINNER

Education Chiefs from throughout the Northern region met on Monday to hear from an International Guru of good behaviour whose methods for controlling unruly pupils have won worldwide acclaim.

The 'Assertive Discipline' technique, developed by US teacher and schools consultant Lee Canter, has been used extensively in American schools for the past 20 years and in Britain since 1990.

It was piloted at schools in County Durham two years ago, since when 113 primary and eight secondary schools have adopted his approach.

Durham Education Director Keith Michell said: "Without exception there has been a significant improvement in classroom behaviour at the schools involved.

"As a result there is now an overwhelming demand from other schools to be trained in its use."

This summer, members of Durham Education Authorities Assertive Discipline training team visited the USA to work alongside Canter and his staff as they trained teachers from schools in Los Angeles.

The visit reinforced the existing strong link between Canter and Durham, and last Monday 18th November, Canter visited the Education Authority's Management Development Centre in Durham City to speak to an invited audience from education authorities in the region about his current and future developments in the field of behavioural management.

"His latest training materials address the problem caused by the most disruptive pupils and, bearing in mind the current debate about discipline in schools, proved to be of considerable interest," said Mr Michell.

"As Lee Canter himself acknowledges, assertive discipline is not a 'miracle cure', but a way of enabling teachers to improve their classroom skills with the result that disruptive behaviour is reduced, teacher stress is reduced and there is more time devoted to teaching."

# Border to Takeover Sun City Radio

The Radio Authority has received notice from Border Television plc that it wishes to acquire Sun City Radio Limited, which is currently owned by Minster Sound Ltd. Sun City 103.4 broadcasts on FM in the Sunderland area. Border Television currently owns Century Radio Limited, which broadcasts as Century Radio in North East England.

Under the Broadcasting Act 1996, a company cannot hold two licences in the same waveband in the same area unless the Radio Authority determines that the holding of those licences could not be expected to operate against the public interest.

Comments on the impact of the proposed acquisition can be sent to The Secretary, The Radio Authority, Holbrook House, 14 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5DG to arrive by 21st January 1997.

A copy of the current "promise of performance" for Sun City is available for viewing in the reference section of the City Library and Arts Centre in Sunderland.

# After School Care at Christian Centre

Christian Life Centre at Woodham will be starting After School Care on 7th January for school children aged 4 - 11 years.

ACTIV is funded initially by Durham Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) and aims to provide affordable child-care for working parents in Newton Aycliffe and Woodham.

Children will be collected from school by a qualified member of staff and once at the Centre, a variety of activities will be available, e.g. computers, short-tennis, table tennis, art work, games and reading. Refreshments will be available for children on arrival.

All staff are qualified and experienced in children's work and both staff and facilities are registered with Social Services.

Times are 3pm - 6pm Monday to Friday during term time.

The cost is £5 per day or £20 per week.

For more information please ring Christian Life Centre, Woodham 301760.

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» LATE OFFERS - TELETEXT PAGE 279 «

## "Free Food & Booze at Council Offices"

Dear Sir,

Once again there has been another free food and booze up party at the Council Offices at Green Lane, Spennymoor for Councillors and guests.

I have sent the enclosed letter to the Director of Finance requesting the cost of this shindig.

...Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Council Taxpayers of Sedgfield Borough Council, I respectfully request the answers to the following questions regarding the Christmas Party which was held on Friday 20th December 1996.

1. How many Councillors and guest attended the function?
2. How much was spent on food and its preparation.
3. How much was spent on alcoholic and soft drinks?
4. Was this function sponsored or paid for out of Council Tax funds?

Yours faithfully.....  
Councillor Tony Moore



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## Alpha Meetings at Neville Parade Methodist Church

Dear Sir,  
We have been asked many times two questions about the Alpha Courses which, through our friends at

Newton News, we would like to answer.

Firstly, although Alpha is called a course, there are no tests, no homework.

Everyone says as much or as little as they wish.

Next - What Happens? We start with a meal (and a gossip) followed by a video of about 40 minutes dealing with aspects of the Christian Faith.

We then break into small groups to talk about the video. Many lasting friendships have been made through these groups.

The next Alpha meetings at Neville Parade Methodist Church will start at 7.30pm on 8th January 1997, this will include a young peoples group - 13 years and upwards, which will run alongside the other groups. We in Alpha believe that these young people are not the Church of tomorrow they are the Church of today.

Everyone is welcome, and the firm instructions we have from the compilers of Alpha are that no pressure must be applied to anyone who attends - so why not join us on 8th January 1997! You will be made most welcome.

Yours faithfully  
The Alpha Team

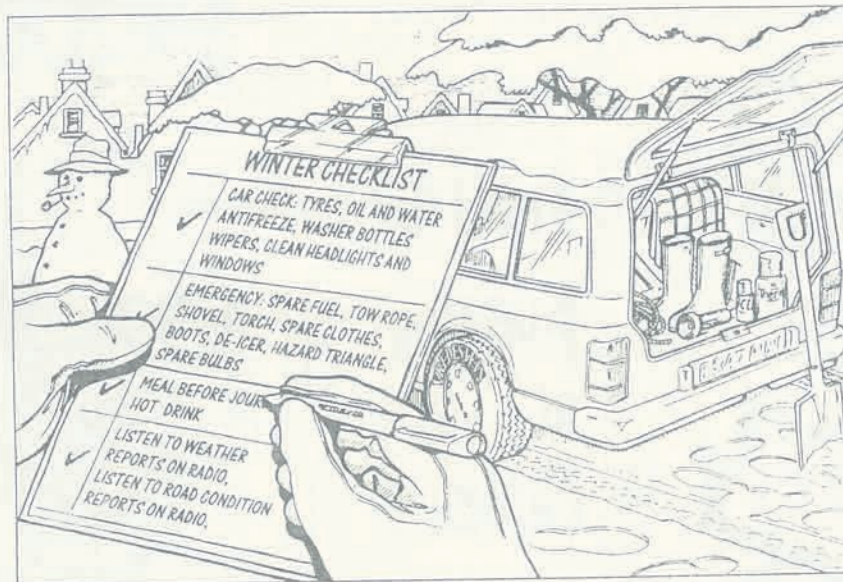
## 3M's ROAD SAFETY PRODUCT IS CHEAPER AND BETTER



Road safety engineers in Durham, who are fast earning a reputation for innovative solutions to visibility-related problems, have improved safety on road bends by using reflective material on fence posts.

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## Drivers Checklist



## National Express Offer £9.99 Return to anywhere in Britain

National Express is slashing fares for the third year running for its customers over 50 years old, offering them the chance to travel - for a limited period in the new year - to anywhere in Britain for just £9.99 return. The offer will be available from 6th January 1997 until 13 February 1997 inclusive. Travel can be made on any day of the week except Friday and Sunday, and all return journeys must be completed by the end of 13th February.

To qualify for the offer, passengers must be in possession of a National Express Advantage 50 discount coach-card. They can then travel anywhere on the National Express nationwide network to visit family, friends or places of interest - making as many journeys during the offer period as they wish - with

each trip costing just £9.99 return.

There are amazing savings to be made while this offer lasts. Anyone travelling from Penzance to Inverness, for example, the longest journey on the National Express route map, will save more than £75 on the economy return fare\*.

(\* Note: Economy fares are available any day except Friday. Fares around 10% lower are available on tickets booked at least 7 days in advance of travel.)

The 1996 offer, which ran at the start of last year and was open for the first time to people as young as 50 years, encouraged thousands of enthusiastic travellers to make extra trips all round the country. This lower age limit will be maintained for 1997. Commenting on the offer, Bob

Wiper, Chief Executive of National Express, said: "We have a long tradition of looking after our older passengers, and this great offer shows our continuing commitment to meeting their needs. The New Year is a perfect time to visit family and friends, wherever they are, and this offer is designed to make this easy and affordable."

Tickets for the £9.99 offer (which are, of course, subject to availability), and the Advantage 50 discount coach-card which costs £8.00 for one year and £19.00 for three years, can be obtained from any one of National Express' 2,000 ticket agents nationwide. The Advantage 50 Card will continue to entitle the holder to around 30% off standard fares once this offer has ended. For details of your nearest agent telephone 0900 01 01 04.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK, FOR NEW YEAR

by David Jebson

A man was trying in vain to sell his car which had 150,000 miles on the clock. One day he met a dishonest friend who suggested he put the clock back to 75,000 miles.

After a few weeks the two men met again. "Did you put the clock back?" - "Yes" - "Have you sold it?" - "No, I decided not to now that it's only done 75,000 miles!"

We may smile, but at New Year don't we try to kid ourselves that the new figures on the calendar can in some magical way set us free from past sins and brighten future prospects? It is, of course, good to make resolutions and try to turn over a new leaf, but sadly we find our noble aspirations evaporate within a week! Someone said, "It's not a new leaf we need but a new life". "The road to hell is paved with good intentions" because many rely upon their own

strength instead of upon God's. "He that has no sense of weakness has weakness in his sense!"

So what's good advice for 1997? First, face up to the fact that you'll only get through the year by God's grace. The air you breathe, the food you eat, the plane you live on, are all provided by Him.

Secondly, give top priority to coming to know the loving God who sent His Son to be our Saviour at the first Christmas.

Through His sacrificial death we can be forgiven and through His resurrection we can be empowered to live the noble and useful life God intended.

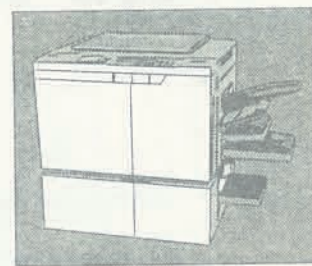
Here's a Bible text for 1997. "In all thy way acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths". (S. Proverbs ch3 v 5-6).

We know not what the future holds, but it is wonderful to know that One who holds the future

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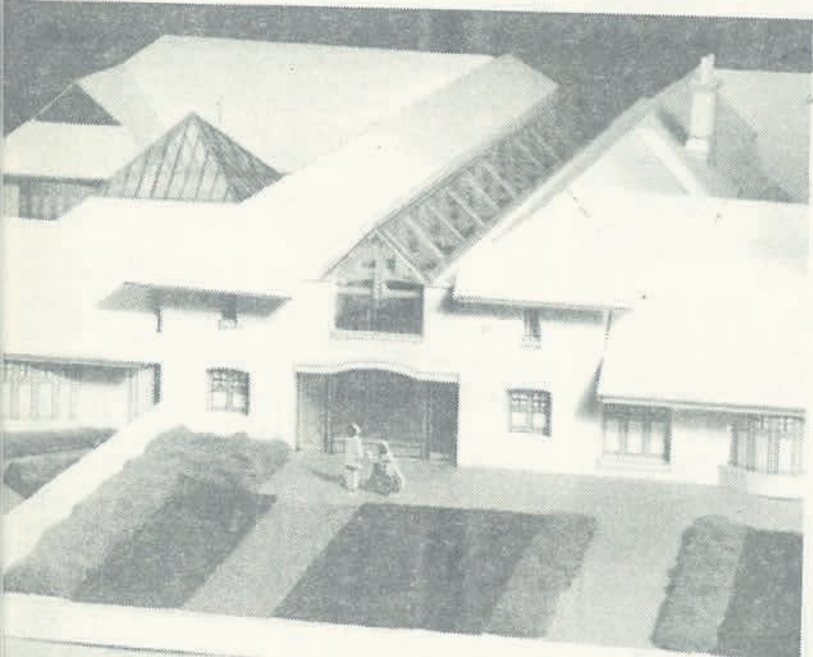


### NEWTON PRESS

St Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe  
Tel: 300212 - Fax: 312893



# LOTTERY BID REFUSED FOR LOCAL CARE PARTNERSHIP



Artists impression of new centre

bled people and their  
rs are 'downhearted  
not defeated' says Cecil  
ood OBE, Chairman  
the newly formed  
ritable Trust 'The  
neering Care  
nership' at the news  
their Lottery bid for £1  
ion has not been  
essful.

Partnership is  
een disabled people  
their carers, local  
ntary organisations  
community groups and  
efield Health  
ince: the Borough  
cil, Health Authority  
ocial Services in the  
The proposed centre  
d house a range of  
isations providing  
ces and support for  
led people and their  
s and will have a  
er of facilities and  
s for use by local  
tary and community  
s.

though the bid has  
een successful the  
ership will continue  
to raise the necessary  
ig for the centre from  
sources. The  
ugh Council has  
nstrated its  
itment to the project  
taking the land  
ble for the centre  
ill continue to help

the Partnership in  
achieving its ultimate aim.  
The Chairman of the  
Borough Council's Health  
Alliance Sub Committee,  
Councillor Tom Conley,  
said when he heard the  
news "I believe this is a  
missed opportunity by the  
Lottery Board to support  
this unique partnership  
between disabled people,  
carers, professionals and  
voluntary groups to  
provide services for the  
most vulnerable people in  
the Borough. I am sure the  
Council will continue to do  
everything in its power to  
see the project succeed."

The Pioneering Care  
Premiership is keen to  
develop services across the  
whole of the Borough of  
Sedgefield to target the  
need of people  
disadvantaged by  
disability or ill health and  
their carers.  
They are also looking to  
improve the health of local  
people in the area through  
developing projects to  
target such things as drug  
abuse and teenage  
pregnancy and will in the  
mean time continue  
working on developing  
individual services and  
projects whilst still trying  
to fund the building of the  
centre.

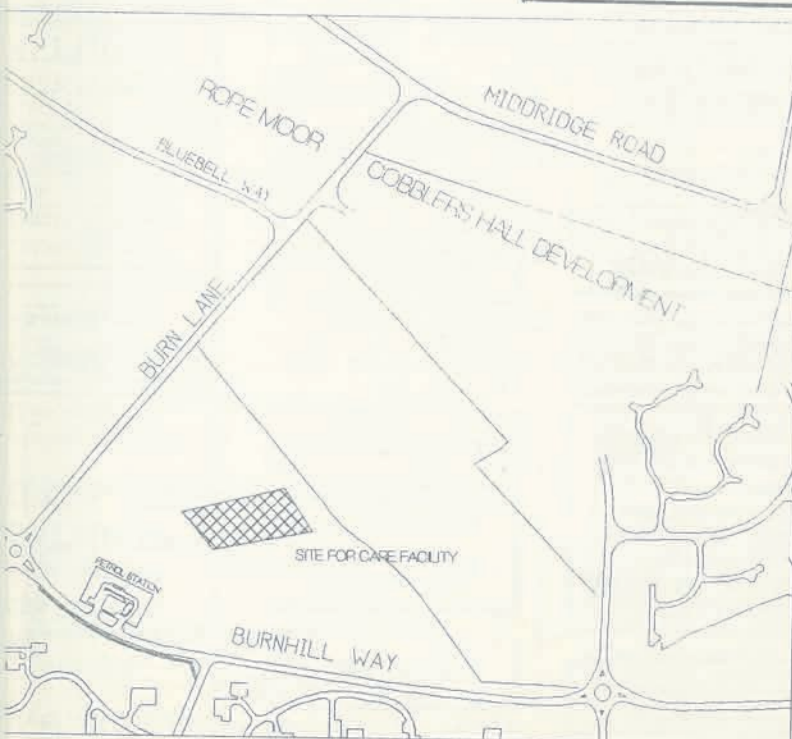
## Local Help For Company Exhibitions

Exhibitions are an excellent  
marketing tool for  
companies who want their  
products better known in  
the market place, but they  
can be prohibitively  
expensive without financial  
support.

Proof of this comes from a  
Co. Durham based  
company that has returned  
from an exhibition with  
potential business of at least  
£120,000 which will lead to  
the creation of four new  
jobs following attendance  
at the Leisure Industry  
Week exhibition at  
Birmingham's NEC.

AW Partitions is the latest  
company to receive an  
exhibition grant from Co.  
Durham Development  
Company, the inward  
investment, trade  
development and business  
support arm of Durham  
County Council.

Other companies that  
benefited include: August  
Berger, Pride Valley Foods,  
EMO Systems and Hosch  
(GB).



Location of proposed new centre

## Morrison Close Community Centre Christingle Service

Dear Sir,  
There is to be another  
service for the people of  
the Agnew Estates in the  
Morrison Close  
Community Centre on  
Sunday 5th January at  
4.00pm.

This will now be a regular  
event on the first Sunday  
of each month. The  
services are run by  
members of the Church of

England Parish of Great  
Aycliffe and they extend a  
warm welcome to anyone  
who would like to come.  
This month's service will  
be a 'Christingle Service'  
where we celebrate the  
light of Christ coming into  
the world.

For further details or if you  
would like transport to the  
service, contact Rev'd  
Colin Jay on 320112.

## Walworth School thank all who have donated

Walworth School would  
like to thank:- The Bay  
Horse, Heighington: Great  
Lakes Chemicals: The  
Royal Navy Club: Fujitsu:  
Great Lakes Darts and  
Dominoes: Classical  
Creamware: Calsonic:  
Tolwood Multifasteners:  
Hair Care 1: Tetley's:  
Neighbouring Houses:  
School Staff, Parents and  
Governors for their kind

and generous donations  
either by way of money,  
can collecting or to the  
Christmas raffle.

All help, support and  
donations during 1996  
have been greatly  
appreciated and we hope  
you all had a Merry  
Christmas and we wish  
you all a Happy New Year.  
Thank you

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## Hydro Receive Northern Region Training Award Winners of 1996



HYDRO POLYMERS LTD. OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE WERE AMONG THE 17 NORTHERN REGIONAL WINNERS IN THE 1996 NATIONAL TRAINING AWARDS PRESENTED BY GULF WAR PILOT JOHN PETERS (Centre).

ALSO PICTURED (Left to right) ARE; PAUL BURNS, BRIAN DELL, LEE KILLIP AND VANESSA KILLOUGHERY.

## BLUE PETER BRING & BUY SALE AT ST. CLARES

The 2nd Newton Aycliffe (St. Clare's) Guides are holding a 'Bring and Buy' Sale for the Blue Peter Leprosy appeal.

The sale is being held in St. Clare's Church Hall on Monday 6th January at 2.00pm. There will be

various stalls, including cakes, so do come along to support the Guides efforts to raise money for this appeal.

If you have any items to donate to the stalls they can be left at the Church Hall on the day.

## "A Success Story" Teesside Airport's Increased Programme for Summer 1997

There's been another boost for the North's 'success story' Airport, with both leading travel agents and a major tour operator reporting excellent sales on next summer's massively-increased programme from Teesside International.

The news on the booming summer programme - which has a 200% capacity increase - follows the recent 56% rise reported on Teesside's scheduled services to Amsterdam, evidence, says Airport Marketing Manager Kate O'Hara, that 'people throughout the North are recognising the attractions of the Teesside option for choice of destinations, ease of access and excellent facilities.'

New destinations being serviced from Teesside next year include, Malaga, Ibiza, the Algarve, Rhodes, Bulgaria, Gran Canaria and one of the fastest-growing long-haul destinations, the Dominican Republic.

Bill McGorty, Planning Direct of Airtours, stresses the company's commitment to Teesside International with their decision to base one of their aircraft there next summer - commitment which he says, is being justified with the bookings response.

"We are making a tremendous investment in Teesside next summer, with 17 flights a week and a capacity of over 75,000 holidays. The good news is that our sales are on target, with all destinations selling well and strong support from the trade."

Sandra Morgan, Regional Sales Manager with Lunn Poly, is also confident that more and more holidaymakers are taking an interest in what Teesside has to offer.

"Obviously what many holidaymakers value is choice and convenience and they are recognising the investment in Teesside by both the operators and the Airport itself with its £6.3 million expansion and improvement programme. For our part we're delighted to see sales going so well".

John Corlett, General Manager for Dawson and Sanderson in Middlesbrough, confirms the growing awareness of the range of destinations now available from Teesside.

"We are certainly experiencing a lot more interest in Teesside and there is no doubt that it has been boosted by the greatly increased choice of flights and destinations - including the fact that next summer the only service from the North East to the Dominican Republic will be operating out of Teesside. It does seem that more and more people in the region are recognising that the Airport has a lot to offer."

All of this is welcome news for Teesside International's Marketing Manager, Kate O'Hara who is well aware that they are dealing with a market which is fiercely competitive and that Teesside's increasing success in both schedule and holiday charter markets is bound to attract increasing attention from rivals.

"Some of the rather more way-out activities being used by some airports seem to be designed as much to undermine the opposition as to positively promote themselves, but we're happy to be judged on what we have to offer because we think it's a great package for everyone."

"With a 200% increase in capacity next summer, we've clearly got the fastest growth rate in the holiday charter sector and the boom in business on the Amsterdam scheduled services show that the business community throughout the North now recognise Teesside as the ideal gateway to the rest of Europe and beyond."

"It's great news that our confidence - and those of our passengers - is also being backed up by the operators and agents".

## SPORT Sedgefield '75 Excelled in the Wear Valley Xmas Stocking Gala

In December Wear Valley's Christmas Stocking Gala, Sedgefield 75 excelled themselves having 32 finalists and collecting 4 gold, 5 silver and 6 bronze medals. To quote chief coach Mr. John Moore, "This is an example of what happens when you have a good squad on poolside, great weekend, good company."

Leading the medal haul was 15 year old Kathleen Mohan who collected the top girl award by collecting: 50m Backstroke gold, 50m Freestyle bronze, 100m Backstroke silver medal, 100m Breaststroke bronze medal and 100m freestyle bronze medal.

Zoe Mitchel collected a gold medal, Adam Burton (11) collected a gold medal and was 5th in the Backstroke.

Kiyo Kobayashi (15/over) collected silver in the 50m Breaststroke and was 5th in the 50m freestyle.

Matthew Bowden (13) collected gold in the 100m Breaststroke in and was reserve finalist in the 100m Backstroke event.

Christopher Boden (11) collected the silver medal and was reserve finalist in the Freestyle and Breaststroke event in personal best times.

Samantha Mitchell (10) finished in bronze medal position in the 100m Breaststroke.

Lyndsey Atkinson (14) was 3rd in the 100m Butterfly and 5th in the 100 Freestyle.

Mark Surtees (14) finished 3rd in the 100m Butterfly 4th in the 100m Freestyle and 5th in 100m Backstroke and 100m Breaststroke.

Jill Hunter (10) finished 4th in the 100m Butterfly and 6th in the Breaststroke

Natalie Thomson (10) finished in 4th in the 100m Butterfly and 6th in the 100m Freestyle event.

Carol Mohan (10) finished in 5th position in the 100m Freestyle and 100m Butterfly and 100m Backstroke events.

Michael Turnbull (13) finished 5th in the 100m Freestyle event

George Carpenter (10) finished 6th in the 100m freestyle event.

Sarah Kelly (13) was reserve finalist in the 100m Backstroke.

Alison Storey (14) was reserve finalists in the 100m Backstroke event.

The atmosphere of the final session was truly electric with swimmers regularly doing the 'Mexican wave' around the edge of the pool.

In the true spirit of the gala a good time was had by all who attended, particularly the 15 years and over boys who compete in their last event wearing ladies swim wear.

Sedgefield 75 S.C. wish you and your readers a Happy New Year, on behalf of the swimmers and coaches.

Sheila Storey

## Darlington's Head of Theatre and Arts to move on

Ruth Eastwood, Darlington Borough Council's Head of Theatre and Arts for the last four years, is set to take up a new post as Chief Executive of Poole Arts Centre in February 1997. A catalogue of achievements has marked Ruth's career in Darlington.

Ruth came to Darlington from Bradford Theatres and her key task has been to bring together the provision of Theatre and Arts for Darlington Borough Council, running Darlington Civic Theatre and Darlington Arts Centre together for the first time.

She has progressed a series of improvements in each venue both physically and in working methods. These have included a new box office computer system in both venues, new theatre style flexible seating for the Arts Centre, a full market research programme for the organisation.

These have been achieved with the support of Darlington Borough Council and through grants secured by Ruth from

various bodies including Arts Council of England, Northern Arts Board and Foundation for Sports and Arts. This year two substantial sponsorship agreements with local companies, The Corn Shopping Centre Darlington and Darlington Building Society, were secured for Civic Theatre.

A comprehensive programme of events at both venues brought in new audiences has increasingly involved local people in the Arts. The 'Hour Madshow' which involved over 250 people putting on a performance of Guys and Dolls in just two hours, is one of a number of outstanding and memorable achievements.

On hearing the news of Ruth's departure, Councillor Doris Long, Chair of Leisure Darlington Borough Council said: "As Chair of the Leisure Services Committee, I will miss Ruth's help, advice and expertise. She has always been a lively, challenging and effective officer".

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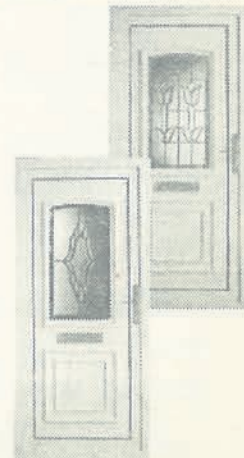


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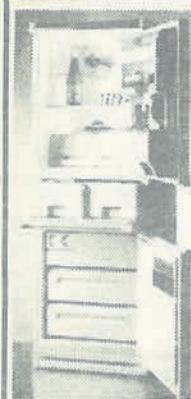
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