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Week Ending 27th March, 1997

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"COUNCIL'S SELF INDULGENCE AT TAX PAYERS EXPENSE"

Dear Sir

I refer to the headline of your front page article concerning the 14.7% increase in Council Tax due to government cut backs.

After the initial shock of this increase and with most councils now having declared their charges it is probably an appropriate time to verify the truth of that headline statement.

The average increase in council tax nationally is 6%, roughly twice the rate of inflation. In the case of residents within Great Aycliffe our tax has been set at 5 times the rate of inflation. Bearing in mind government cut backs have been made nationally, why is this? The short answer is that we are suffering from excess bureaucracy. Do we really need three tiers of local government? Are those councils we pay efficient? A brief appraisal might give me an insight.

Durham County Council arguably one of the highest charging county councils in the country and in certain departments one of the least efficient. This council has been criticised by the environment ministry for poor performance of their direct labour organisation, which have made financial losses. All losses have as usual to be paid for by council tax payers. Durham C.C. Social Services is another area where money is being squandered.

Last year a three bedroom house situated in Woodham was purchased in conjunction with Nomad Housing Assoc. for circa £60,000 to house 3 residents from Horndale House. This year, however, I have recently discovered that another house is being purchased some 250 yards away to accommodate another 3 tenants from Horndale House. This is an executive 4 bedroom split level house with double garage, currently on the market at £125,000. Why, when there are a considerable number of 3 and 4 bedroom houses for sale at half that price? "Ah well you see brother, we have to get rid of this money before the year, if we don't they won't give us so much next year". "But that seems unreasonable, we could get two houses for that price". "Oh! Don't worry so my brother, I tell you what, let's have a meeting to discuss it further, anyway my expenses are a bit low this month, they could do with a boost". "What say you brother?" Sedgefield District Council, well run in most departments should look to make savings by abandoning Community policing as they have no more power of arrest than

you or I and in any case we are being charged an increase of 14.85% by the police authority - Trust them to get in on the act. The inform community newspaper is another unnecessary cost far less should be spent on conferences and the £13,000 cost of so called Borough Status was another example of unnecessary self indulgences mostly at the tax payers expense. Let us now take a look at great Aycliffe Town Council, empire builders and wasters extraordinaire. Council tax should be used for essential services, what essential services do GATC provide? Very few in fact.

continued on page 2

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U10's Promotion Push

Newton Aycliffe U10's 3 v New Marske U10s 0
With only two league games to go, Aycliffe Under 10's continued to push for promotion with a well deserved victory over New Marske.

Aycliffe dominated play right from the start and after 7 minutes Graham Johnson's perseverance paid off as he pounced on slack defending to score from close range. It was not until dead on half-time before the lads scored a second when John Johnston's long range shot slipped through the keeper's hands.

After the break, all the play took place in the visitor's half and Matthew Dodds was desperately unlucky when he hit the post then the crossbar all within the first 4 minutes. Carl Robinson then pounced on a loose ball after good work by Craig Johnston to rifle in Aycliffe's third. No more goals after that but Craig himself was unlucky with a thundering header from a Michael Purves corner.

Overall a well-deserved victory. It was a close call for MOM between Graham Johnson and Matthew Dodds but Matthew got the vote for yet another dominant performance, one of the many since Christmas - Well done lads.

Under 16's in Quarter Final

On Sunday 23rd March, Aycliffe Under 16's were at home to South Cleveland Boys in the Quarter Final of the Alternative Cup.

Aycliffe were at full strength and were on a high after two good results in past weeks. Aycliffe soon took control and after 10 minutes went one-up when Louis Martin ran onto a through ball and lobbed the Cleveland Goalkeeper.

Aycliffe created chance after chance but it wasn't until the 36th minute that they went two up through Daniel Plews.

Aycliffe defence was solid, the midfield was running the show and the forwards were showing real pace and giving Cleveland a hard time, half time 2-0 to Aycliffe.

The second half saw Aycliffe carry on where they left off, and they went further ahead in the 50th minute with David Clay lashing the ball home.

Aycliffe defence were in total command where as the Cleveland defence could not cope with the Aycliffe attack. In the 56th minute Daniel Plews left the Cleveland defence standing and calmly pushed the ball past the goalkeeper into the net to make it 4-0.

A minute later it was nearly 5 when David Clay shot just over the bar with the goalkeeper beaten.

Cleveland rallied and Gareth Richardson cleared off the line in the 65th minute.

Aycliffe dominated the last 15 minutes and scored two more goals. The 78th minute and the 80th, both by David Clay to complete his hat-trick. This solid team performance puts Aycliffe into the semi-final against Woodgarth.

Next Sunday Aycliffe are at home to South Cleveland Boys again, this time in the league.

Lady Bowlers Promoted

The Ladies of Great Aycliffe Bowling Club played their last match of the season against Consett. Hoping to keep their lead over Gateshead by 4½ points and Consett by 9½ points at the top of Division 2 in the County Inter Club League.

But they only managed to pick up 2 points out of a possible 11. Their 2 points proved to be just enough to win by ½ point to give them promotion to the First Division.

Two men from the Club have reached the Final of the County pairs Championship. John Palmer and Clive Knott from South Shields in an exciting semi-final with 4 hours of excellent bowling from both sides. At the end the score stood at 22 all, with one end left to play, the South Shields team took the mat up the green and with their first bowl tried to ditch the jack, but narrowly missed, John Palmer drew his bowl just behind the Jack, neither the bowl nor the jack moved during the rest of the end. Putting the Great Aycliffe pair into the final on April 5th at Durham. We wish them all the best in the men's Interclub, the team played Stanley, picking up 7½ points with 4½ against giving them a well deserved win.

The A.G.M. will be held on 16th April and the Presentation Evening on 8th May with music. The Summer leagues start on 11 May, anyone wishing to join or enter a rink, please contact Mr S Chapman on 469639 or come along to the oak leaf Sports Complex and see a committee member.

"Self indulgence at Tax Payers expense"

Continued from front page

Why should our money be thrown year after year at the poorly attended annual show?
Why should so much as £5 be spent on a single firework?
More than a widow gets for her weekly pension.
Why should pensioners have an annual outing at the tax payers expense? If everyone who was entitled to go went it would frighten the council and also tax payers next year when we picked up the bill. I am a pensioner myself. I would sooner have the £100 that could be saved if this council acted responsibly to spend on the things I wanted.

Cllr. Tony Moore suggested in his article last week that it's time to abolish the Town Council and I wholeheartedly agree with him. I see four options that may be available:

- 1) - abolish the council and transfer essential services to Sedgfield Borough;
- 2) - split up G.A.T.C. into neighbourhood councils as suggested by Cllr Moore;
- 3) - keep G.A.T.C. but request via the government of the day that the audit commission appoint a regulator;
- 4) - make a fresh request for unitary status with Sedgfield Borough taking over all responsibilities.

For comparison I list the council tax changes improved by some of the other North east councils (Band D):
Chester le Street £702, Darlington £597, Durham City £717, Northallerton £571, Thirsk £576, Great Aycliffe £853.

Most areas of the midlands and south pay much less than this. "Why do we have to pay so much more Council Tax in Aycliffe than many other towns brother. Is it due to old Labour or new Labour?" "It's old Labour under new Labour, you will probably have to pay 20% more". Squeeze 'em till the pips squeak, that's still our motto". "Anyway you worry far too much brother, they will have forgotten about council tax in a couple of weeks". "Just keep slapping in your expenses and vote the way I tell you and you won't go far wrong in the Labour party"

Yours sincerely
John Upton, Kenilworth Court, Woodham

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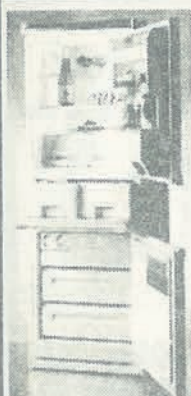
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Jobs at Risk on Tory Splits over Europe

"164,500 jobs in the North of England are at risk because of Tory splits over Europe" said Robin Cook MP, Shadow Foreign Secretary this week.

"It's not just inward investment that is at risk - it's home-grown jobs too". Robin Cook MP was speaking after a keynote speech on Europe at the Institute of Civil Engineers, London.

Labour was releasing new statistics based on CBI figures which, adjusted for economic growth, show that 3,500,000 jobs depend on trade with member states of the European Union. The North represents 4.7% of the UK economy - that's a total of 164,500 jobs.

And Robin Cook challenged British Business to join with Labour in an alliance to protect Britain's interests as a member of the single market. He said a coalition against the Euro-sceptics was already growing: In a recent Institute of Management survey, 72% of managers said they feared adoption of Euro-sceptic agenda on Europe would adversely affect UK business.

Niall Fitzgerald, Chairman of the CBI's Europe Committee, said "Let's not kid ourselves. Careless talk of Britain leaving the EU will cost jobs".

And as Tory splits on Europe deepen, government technology minister Ian Taylor MP has conceded that "the uncertainty created even by the prospect of loosening our relationship with

the EU would be damaging to UK industry and our economy". Robin Cook continued: "There's no doubt about it - jobs in the North are being put at risk by Conservative splits on Europe. The Single Market secures jobs, investment and opportunities for Britain, but the Tory Party is split from top to bottom on this issue.

"John Major's failure to lead his Party on this issue is hurting the North - it's time we had a Labour Government, which would be strong in Europe, only agreeing with what is in Britain's interests."

Thanks for Care & Devotion

Dear Sir
Can I through your newspaper thank the carers, nurses and doctors who have looked after my late mother-in-law, Mrs Eva Tennick.

The care and devotion of the carers was above and beyond the call of duty. They became friends and at times seemed part of the family.

Thank you Sylvia, Mary, Jackie, Vickie and Beverley who was with her at the last. From Harold, Sheila and John, Malcolm and Brenda

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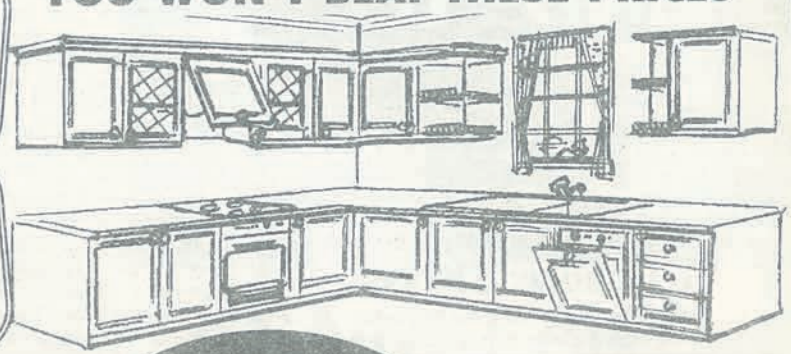
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Oldest Business to Cease Trading

Following the recent untimely death of the owner of Hardings, Alan Knox, the business is to cease trading. Hardings must be one of the oldest, if not the oldest established business in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre and it is sad to see yet another prominent business closing down. Trading conditions in Newton Aycliffe have been extremely difficult for several years now and with the advent of this closure, the town centre is becoming less and less attractive to people, making it more necessary for them to travel to other local town centres, thereby taking yet more trade away from those businesses still struggling to make a living and meet their rents.

Alan took over the business of Hardings almost five years ago and was formerly the proprietor of a milk round in the Newton Aycliffe area. He was a much respected business man and his death will be a great loss to many people, especially his close and loving family.

Before the doors finally close, Hardings are holding a closing down sale where everything will be half retailers recommended price. The sale starts on Thursday 3rd April, 1997 and is not to be missed!

THE FOOD WEIGHHOUSE

As from Monday 7th April we will be staying open until 5.30pm

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The Food Weighhouse - Aycliffe - Putting Customers First
20 Beveridge Way - Telephone 301326

Councillors Claim High Expenses

Dear Sir

Council tax payers have heavy bills to pay and they are getting heavier every year. At the same time council spending budgets are getting tighter and it is increasingly difficult to maintain essential services especially for our children and senior citizens.

What we do not need is Councillors from what is not more than a glorified Parish Council claiming high sums in expenses and going on costly journeys to remote parts of the country.

I have never claimed a penny from great Aycliffe Town Council because I believe those serving the community at this level should expect no payment. I know of other present and former members of the authority from all political standpoints who take the same view.

Unfortunately there are others who are happy to take money from the Town Council, thus adding an extra burden to council tax payers.

Unlike the County and District Councils there is no obligation on the Town Council to publish expenses paid to Councillors. This is probably because those who drew up the rules did not imagine that an authority whose duties extend only to areas like the upkeep of bus shelters, would be paying out huge sums to its elected members.

I therefore intend to publish details of these expenses myself on a regular basis. Here are the amounts claimed by members of Great Aycliffe Town Council in 1995-6 and 1996-7. All five of the Councillors whose claims total several hundred pounds have attended very costly conferences at the expense of council tax payers, often by first class rail and staying at expensive hotels.

1995-6

T Hogan £676.04 - M Locklin £490.27

J Moran £438.63 - J Piggett £56.42

W Blenkinsopp £39.30 - D Locklin £22.36

1996-7

W Blenkinsopp £1081.12 - T Hogan £962.06

J Moran £611.02 - A Walls £611.02

Mrs S Todd £193.00 - G Gray £81.42

A Bergg £81.42 - M Locklin £50.82

Yours faithfully

County Councillor Tony Moore

Letter New Works Create Danger

Dear Sir

I feel I must draw your attention to a situation which has great danger for pedestrians and in particular children.

This is the newly constructed parking area on Shafto Way/Greville Way, opposite a problem of traffic congestion outside these shops, and I assume this was the reason for this new paved area.

Whether it has reduced this problem is a good point, in my opinion it has not, but it has created a much more dangerous area.

People crossing Shafto Way from the Henderson Road side, have to walk between parked vehicles and these vehicles make it impossible to see any traffic coming down Shafto Way unless one steps out onto the road for several feet, this action obviously places one into the path of traffic.

Add to this the traffic coming out of Neville Parade and I believe you have a recipe for future disaster. My greatest fear is for the safety of unaccompanied children returning that way from School.

Yours sincerely

A. Guy, Gilpin Road



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Letter to the Editor Litter Campaign to Raise Awareness

Dear Sir

May I thank Mr Findley for his letter on litter and refuse.

As Chairman of the Town Council's Environment Committee and Vice-Chairman of the 50th Anniversary Committee, I agree with him - it is vital that we get our town cleaned up!

Next Year, the Town Council hopes to employ a "Graffiti Man" to wage war on the graffiti which defaces our subways and bus-shelters.

However, it is important to realise that all litter has been dropped by someone! "National Spring Clean" (18-27th April) is a country-wide campaign organised by the Tidy Britain Group and sponsored by Coca-Cola, McDonalds and the Wrigley Company. It is not a Council trick to avoid it's obligations! The campaign encourages volunteer groups to "get

involved" by cleaning up close to home, by going on organised clean-up events in their area, by displaying a poster, or just by supporting the event locally. The aim is to raise people's awareness, especially children. Every school receives a free education pack.

Last year, the Town Council supplied gloves and equipment to help two groups of young people who tackled clean-up projects. Afterwards the Council made a small contribution to their funds to say thank you.

As every mother knows, we live in a "I'll-make-a-mess-you-clean-it-up" culture! "National Spring Clean" is a fine attempt to make young people realise that we have to keep Britain tidy and the town council was happy to take part yet again. I hope all Aycliffe residents will also give it every support.

Cllr Terry Hogan

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Gretna's Easter Raffle

The manager of the Gretna Green Inn, Mr David Hawksworth has agreed to raffle a Thorntons Giant Easter Egg, in aid of the Darlington Samaritans, tickets are 5 for £1, the Draw will take place on Easter Sunday and all the proceeds will be going to support the Darlington Branch who are of course a registered Charity

Coffee Morning

A coffee morning will be held at St Elizabeth's Church Hall at Woodham on Saturday 5th April from 9.30pm till noon. Cake and pie stall, various raffles, tombola, knitwear for sale - Do come and join us, all welcome

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DAY EXCURSIONS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The Council are again organising Day Excursions for Senior Citizens during the Summer of 1997. The Excursions this year will be to Blackpool and will be free of charge. There will be NO deposit payable for these excursions.

The trips will ne held during June and July 1997 and will be from Monday to Friday inclusive.

NB: Application forms and further details can either be collected from the Council Offices between the hours of 11.00am and 3.00pm, Monday to Friday or will be posted to you by telephoning 300700.

Completed forms must be returned by no later than **FRIDAY 9th MAY, 1997.**

M. Rice
Chief Executive

EX SCHOOL GOVERNOR REMEMBERED



The Deputy Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Sarah Iveson, unveiled a plaque on a Flowering Cherry tree at a ceremony held at Vane Road School on Friday 14th March 1997. The tree had been planted in memory of Councillor Win Dormer who had been a long standing Governor and Friend to the School. Her husband, Councillor John Dormer, was in attendance at the ceremony

Letter to the Editor TOWN COUNCIL RATES LOWER

Dear Sir
Tony Moore wants to abolish the Town Council! WHY??

This year Great Aycliffe rates are LOWER than those in both Shildon and Spennymoor and for the second year running the Town Council has increased its precept by LESS than the rate of inflation.

Yet for the small town council element of our rates, we get:

* TEN subsidised playgroups * an 18-hole golf course and driving range * the Oak Leaf Sports Complex * free pensioners trips to the seaside * subsidised school holiday coaching and playschemes * an annual show * a life-saving November firework display * Christmas lights and Santa Tours * five maintained public parks and two cemeteries.

Meanwhile in the last year, great Aycliffe Town Council has: finished replacing the bus shelters with stone-built ones * supported a substantial community development in the Greenfield area * initiated a circular walk and started opening up local footpaths * updated its audit and financial systems * overhauled its committee structure and * changed its ethos to make it more "consumer friendly".

All this plus the routine work, allotments, footpaths, play areas, sports fields, seats, litter bins, planning applications etc. etc.

I know that everybody hates paying taxes, and we

all complain about the Council! But our Town council represents good value for money and it does a good job.

Great Aycliffe Town Council is lively and responsive and twenty or so dedicated Councillors - turn up regularly, at nights, unpaid, in their own time, to manage its obligations as efficiently as possible

I am amazed that a Councillor who has attended only 14 times in the last year counts himself qualified to comment on such matters (for comparison, in the same period, I went to 50 meetings). Rather than raise a fuss against the Town Council, I suspect that the ratepayer who elected Mr Moore would prefer him to GO to the meetings to represent them there.

Yours faithfully
John D. Clare

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TEC SPONSOR INVESTS IN AYCLIFFE COMPANY

Business building techniques designed to help launch new firms in County Durham are now being used to stimulate a 20% per annum growth in turnover at a Newton Aycliffe vehicle livery and sign-making business.

Former international print company production director John Bowler joined the Enterprise Cells programme sponsored by County Durham Training and Enterprise Council with the intention of launching a new business.

However, he switched to a 'management buy-in' at Imex Grafix, a vehicle livery and sign manufacturer at Newton Aycliffe, which he acquired in early February, having been introduced to the then owner by Darlington-based Businesses for Sale PLC.

Now, using the techniques promoted by the Enterprise Cells programme, he is aiming to raise turnover at Imex Grafix by 20% in the first year.

"Techniques for business success are substantially the same irrespective of the size of the company," said John, 46. "I have always believed in the importance of employing good people, building a team spirit, providing on-going training and development and delegating authority."

"All businesses need to be market-driven, always aiming to exceed customer expectations. These and many other managements development techniques were emphasised as part of the Enterprise Cells programme and helped me to formulate my own business plan."

Mick Wood, enterprise manager with County Durham TEC, said: "The Enterprise Cells process creates management teams and provides the support they need to launch successful new fast-growth firms."

"We're pleased that the benefits John obtained by participating in the Cells process will now contribute to the region's economic growth and hopefully, the creation of additional jobs."

The Enterprise Cells concept was devised and is administered by the David Hall Partnership Ltd., which specialises in business creation and developmental techniques.

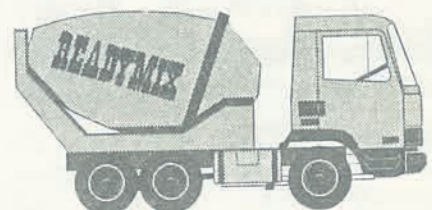
Enterprise director John Heckingbottom said: "John was an ideal candidate of the Cells programme, which aims to recruit strongly motivated, ambitious people who want to launch and manage their own business. We are pleased he is now putting his expertise to work with the prospects of substantial growth at his new firm."

Imex Grafix has a staff of six people operating from a 5,400 square foot unit at Aycliffe Industrial Park. Its production capability extends from signs for office desks to giant football pitch covers for such top teams as Glasgow Rangers and vehicle livery for everything from a small van to an articulated lorry.

Mr Bowler has spent most of his career in the printing industry. He worked in Britain, Canada, Switzerland, France and Austria for a business forms printer before moving to Sunderland as production director. He was made redundant following a company re-structure. For more information about Enterprise Cells, telephone Mick Wood at County Durham Training & Enterprise Council - 01325 387013.

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Letter

**Mental
Health
Line
Launch**

Dear Sir
On Friday 4th April at 4pm John Moran, Mayor of Great Aycliffe Town Council will launch a new telephone helpline for mental health service users and their carers in Newton Aycliffe. The number will be 309999 and the line will be open from 5pm to 10pm. The helpline is the result of a working partnership between Newton Aycliffe MIND, Sedgfield Area Service user Project, South Durham NHS Trust and the Advocacy Service at Winterton Hospital. Initially the telephone helpline will operate one night a week, but this will be reviewed and extended as needed, it will be manned by trained volunteers and will offer information and support those experiencing mental health problems of any nature. This is a much-needed and exciting project which will be of practical help to its users and by offering a lifeline to people in times of stress - may save lives. I wish it every success. If you need any more information please contact me on 308057
Bill Blenkinsopp
Town Councillor

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If you'd like to show off a new slim you on the beach this summer, then maybe the latest breakthrough from SLIMMING WORLD, the country's leading slimming club, is just what the doctor ordered. Would you like to know how you sabotage your slimming? Would you like to know how to protect yourself from falling into the same traps again and again? In April, SLIMMING WORLD introduce a system that will give you all the answers, it's tried, it's tested and it works. The SAS System (Slimmers Against Sabotage) works by helping slimmers unlock their subconscious in order to discover how they can be setting themselves up for failure. As Debbie Wilson, who runs classes at St. Clares church every Thursday 5pm and 7.30pm says "It goes beyond the why and how and really helps slimmers deal with the sabotage by helping

them plan their defence strategy. The key to all is the confidentiality. Even I never know what it is my members have discovered about themselves. It's very exciting for them - and for me" So if you had a rather chocolaty time of it lately and Easter has not been one of your best holidays, there is fresh hope for us all. For further details about classes in Newton Aycliffe contact Debbie on 300615

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Novice Championships
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The weekend of Saturday
21st March, Newton
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was the venue chosen by
the British Federation of
Skating to hold their
novice championship for
Roller Skating.
Competitors travelled
from all over the country
to take part. All children
who won were presented
with medals and trophies
by our local British and
European Champion,

Lee Taylor from
Darlington who trains at
the Caprice Roller
Skating Club.

The Caprice Roller
Skating Club based at
Sunnydale Leisure
Centre, entered five of
their students to compete.
Christopher Bell, age 9,
won overall in the
Novice Competition for
men and came first for
figures, free skating and
the combined which
attained him the
Thompson Cup and 3
Gold Medals.

Ashley Gill, age 10, from
Newton Aycliffe gained
third place in the Novice
Ladies Figure
Competition and was
fourth in the combined.

Michelle Cockburn from
Newton Aycliffe did an
excellent performance in
her Free Dance and came
6th.

Samantha Bell, age 12,
and Eloise Tarling, age
10 from Newton Aycliffe
also gained good marks.
Well done to these
children and their trainer,
Ian Watkins and all the
others who entered.

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Thank You

THANKS To Auntie Jen for a lovely holiday in Euro Disney from your nephew Michael Lewis XXX

I WOULD Like to thank Stan Fuller for the wonderful party he had for my Dad. You fulfilled all his wishes Stan and I am eternally grateful to you. I would also like to thank Tracy for making a brilliant cake and also thanks to Steve for taking the video and thanks to everyone who came and made it a memorable occasion, love to you all from Bev and Alan Cooke

MICHELLE MILLER and Richard Mason would like to thank family and friends for their support on the death of their son "Kieran"

THANKS to Tom - A1 Taxis for the donation of a huge box of chocolates to the residents of Inglewood Villa, Earls House Hospital

THE INNER Wheel Club of Newton Aycliffe thanks everyone who supported the Fashion Show on 11th March £220 was raised for Wateraid

THE FAMILY of the late Nancy Hodgson would like to thank the following people for their kindness and support during their sad time: Dr. McKinty and Dr. Ramsey and all the staff on Ward 14, Bishop Auckland General Hospital for their care of Nancy, Brian Shepherd who showed such caring, kindness and sympathy, also Reverend Robyn Fletcher and Paul Cook (piper). A special thank you to Colleen, Audrey and Trish for all their help, thank you also to all relatives and friends for their floral tributes, messages of sympathy and Beacon Taxis

THANK YOU Suzanne and Steven for a beautiful Granddaughter Lexie, born 20-3-97, love to you all Mam XX

MUNCASTER Darren and Wayne, happy Easter and thank you to our God Fathers for our eggs, love Lee and Craig

TELFORD Kenn and Laura would like to thank family and friends especially the Rev. Pat Percival, Rob, Dave, Colin, Carol, Renia, Irene and Enid for making their wedding day so special

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Congratulations

ADAM HOWARTH Happy 1st Birthday to our special little boy, love and kisses Mammy and Daddy

ADAM HOWARTH To our wonderful grandson on your 1st birthday, lots of love Grandma and Grandad Blacklock

ADAM HOWARTH Happy 1st birthday Adam, love Uncle Ian and Auntie Kath

ADAM HOWARTH Happy 1st birthday, 31st March 1997, love from Granda Syd and Grandma Christine

ADAM HOWARTH Happy 1st birthday to our cousin Adam, love from J.P., Carrie-Louise and Matthew

ADAM HOWARTH Happy 1st birthday to a wonderful nephew, love from Uncle Paul and Auntie Beverley

ADAM HOWARTH Happy birthday to our youngest nephew, love from Uncle Christopher and Auntie Michelle

ALICE BENTLEY Happy 50th birthday Mam on 21st March 1997, love Debbie

MITCHINSON, Melanie congratulations on your 30th birthday, 31-3-97, love and best wishes Mam and Dad. Lots of love and kisses Mammy from Stacey and Adam XX

MITCHINSON Happy 30th birthday Melanie, 31-3-97, love from Lesley and Dave XX

MITCHINSON Hip Hip Hooray Auntie Melanie is 30 today, lots of hugs and kisses from Stuart and Samantha XX

OWEN Happy birthday Grandma "Dusk", 30-3-97, lots of hugs and kisses from Stuart and Samantha XX

HIND (nee Greaves) Congratulations on your Silver Wedding Anniversary on 1st April, 1997. Linda & Rob, lots of love Mam XX

HIND Rob and Linda congratulations on 1st April for your Silver Wedding Anniversary Mam and Dad. So which one was the fool? All our love Sarah, Paul and David XX

HIND Linda and Rob, love and best wishes on your Silver

WEDDING Anniversary, from all your nephews and nieces XX

HIND Rob and Linda, congratulations for April 1st 1997, on your 25th Wedding Anniversary, lots of love Jackie and Tony XXX

HIND Rob and Linda best wishes on your Silver Wedding Anniversary, lots of love Ronnie and Jean XX

HIND Linda and Rob, many congratulations on your Silver

WEDDING Anniversary, lots of love from your Aunties and Uncles XX

HUTCHISON, Michelle Happy birthday to my little Tweety, love and kisses from your Tazmanian Devil XX

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In Memorium

BOB PORTER Died 1st April 1989. Loving memories of a dear Husband, Dad and Grandfather, greatly missed, June and all the family

ALBERT ALLINSON 30-3-96. Dad, I hurt so much inside, since God took you from my side, I think of you in silence, and often speak your name, but you will never leave me, like your picture in the frame. Loved and remembered always, daughter Pauline and Allan

EVELYN BROWN 1-4-96. In memory of a wonderful wife and mother, who is always in all our thoughts. Husband Jim and all the family

ROBERTS In treasured memories of my dear Wife, Norma, Mam and Nanna, died 27th March 1996. Our thoughts are always with you, your place no-one can fill, in life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still, we know you walk beside us, and when our lives are through, we pray that God will take our hand and lead us straight to you. Loving husband Wellard, son and daughter John and Angela, son and daughter-in-law Mick and Iris, grandchildren Lesley, Anthony, John, Richard, Jennie, Emma and Charles

JOE TODD Died March 29th, 1994. Always loved and remembered by his wife and family, Kathleen, Avril, Katie and Joseph

Diane Caine



Happy 40th birthday Diane, have a good weekend, life begins at forty. Love Mam, Dad, Lynne, Kelvin, Andrea, Janice, Gary, Geoff, Morag, Rebecca, Georgina, Keith, Vikki and Sam

DIANE CAINE Have a wonderful birthday and may there be many more, my love is yours forever, Keith

DIANE CAINE Congratulations on your 40th birthday, lots of love from the girls at work

DIANE CAINE Happy 40th birthday Mam, lots of love Vikki XX

RHIANNA BONAS 1-4-97, happy 3rd birthday to my special little girl, love you always, Mammy XXX

BONAS Rhianna Louise, happy 3rd birthday to my special girl, from your loving Grandma "Special Mammy" XXX

ANGELA WATSON 28th March, happy 40th birthday Angie, have a wonderful day with all our love from Maria, Teresa and families

SAUL KENNEDY Hip Hip Hooray Uncle Saul doesn't look any older than 28 today, luv 'n' stuff Rhianna XX

GALLAGHER, Andrew 31st March, happy 18th birthday from Mam, Dad, Daniel, Natalie and Gran

GINA & KEVIN Congratulations on your wedding day, 29th March, love and best wishes Denise, David and family

HIPHIP Hooray, guess who is 30 today? 27th March (Christine Walling), happy birthday, love Denise, David and family

STEPHEN BANNISTER is 9 today, 29-3-97, lots of love from Mam and Dad

STEPHEN BANNISTER Happy 9th birthday to my big brother, Stephen, love from Ryan X

PAULINE BRADSHAW Happy 40th birthday, 30-3-97, from all your work colleagues at "Somerfield"

SUZANNE & STEVEN Congratulations on the birth of your daughter Lexie on 20-3-97, love to you all from Auntie Carol and Uncle Alan XX

ANNE MARIE KELL Happy 18th sis, 28th March, love Claire

ANNE MARIE KELL Hip Hip Hooray, my lovely Auntie Anne Marie is 18 today, love Chelsea

ANNE MARIE KELL Well you have finally made 18, now you can stop using false ID, love from Mam

PRYOR Sarah Louise you are 4 on the 26-3-97, have a happy birthday, love Gran and PJ

PRYOR Sarah Louise, Happy birthday on the 26th March 1997. Lots of love from Mam and Dad XX

PRYOR Sarah Louise have a happy birthday on the 26th March, love from Nana Miriam, Grandad Charlie

Birthday Remembrance

ELSIE DICKINSON 27th March. Always in our thoughts, love Diane, Victor, Mark, Emma and Amy X

ELSIE DICKINSON Dearly missed Mother and Nana, love Marina, Mike and John XX

ELSIE DICKINSON 27th March. No cards to send, no presents to give, but in our hearts you will always live. Much loved Mother and Nana, who is missed every day. Lots of love Denise, Tony, Walter, Craig, Clarissa and Channon

EDGAR GRANT A darling son on his 29th birthday, 27th March. A thousand words won't bring you back, we know because we've tried, nor will a million tears, we know because we have cried. Precious are the memories that we have of you, but we never wanted memories son, we only wanted you. Loved forever, forgotten never, always Mam and Paul XXX

EDGAR GRANT Our great brother on his 29th birthday, 27th March. We think of you in silence, and make no outward show, but the heartache of that tragic day, no-one will ever know, with tears in our eyes, we whisper low, God bless you Grant, we love and miss you so. Loved now and forever, brothers Lee and Andy XXX

ISOBELL MACKENZIE April 5th. On your 40th birthday, we love you and miss you so much. Love forever, Mam and Dad XX

JIM LOFTUS 28th March. Remember me my Lord, one not with sorrow or regret, for we are but briefly parted and how can lovers ever forget. Through those precious words you remain with us still, Betty and family

Sits Vacant

GEORGE HOTEL, Piercebridge needs extra weekend cook/chef, full time deputy head waitress/er Tel 01325 374576

GEORGE HOTEL, Piercebridge needs extra weekend staff for breakfast, restaurant and kitchen work, Tel 01325 374576

For Sale

RICOH KR-10 Super standard lense and wide angle, flash unit, filters, carrying case, as new (only used 4 films), bargain at £125 Tel 300212 (office)

SEED POTATOES Now in stock, 15 varieties all at 32p lb ALSO Onion Sets seeds from 50p packet - Parkin Ness Tel 304022

PRIMROSES and Pansies, £1.50 for 6, Travellers Green Nursery Tel 312453

GOOD QUALITY Scotch potatoes £3.00 for 55lb, delivered free in Aycliffe area Tel 316208

3 TICKETS for Beautiful South concert (with "Space") on 2nd April, £20 each (transport included) contact Dawn on 321833

FULL SIZE office desk with 6 drawers £50 ONO Tel 0468 486076

LARGE Fibre glass canoe, no extras £50 Tel 0468 486076

COAT/HAT Stand, cane/whicker, 6ft, excellent condition £30 Tel 313764

NINTENDO NES 10 games, 2 joypads, zapper gun, boxed as new, £50 ONO Tel 315139

MACLAREN 2-in-1 pram/pushchair, mosaic design with matching cosy toes and sun canopy, excellent condition, 1 year old, cost £300, accept £80 Tel 315752

SELECTION of girls dancewear, including tutu's, various costumes, footwear and accessories, approximate age 8-13 years, £40 (will not separate) Tel 316992

Wanted

WANTED

China Cabinets, Old Furniture, China, Silver, Linen, Clocks, Watches, Jewellery, Mirrors, Lamps

HOUSES CLEARED Any area - 7 days

(01388) 608042

BEST CASH prices for furniture, 3 piece suites, china, cabinets, tables, drawers, china, linen, clocks etc., full or part houses cleared 314885

THREE PIECE Suites and Dining Tables, fast friendly service, spot cash, ring anytime, Tel 01325 381027 or 0973 222866

ALL 3 PIECE suites, dining tables, chairs, cookers and fridges wanted, best cash paid, Tel 314417 or 0421 067933 anytime

CARAVAN wanted 14ft/15ft, 4 berth, lightweight, plastic windows, Tel 311168

RUBBER STAMPS

MADE TO ORDER ON THE PREMISES

Newton Press

St Cuthberts Way - Newton Aycliffe

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NORMAL RATES APPLY
DURING EASTER HOLIDAYS

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WE ARE OPEN AS NORMAL

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THROUGHOUT THE EASTER PERIOD
FOR ALL YOUR SHOPPING NEEDS

MOT'S £22.95

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Personal

Sewing Alterations

10 years experience
Zips, Hems, Darts etc.
Personal service

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JUNE'S HAT HIRE

Beautiful hats for
all occasions

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Showroom D'ton 355128
View by appointment

Bona fide

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/Medium

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ZIP BROKEN? See Zipzin Plus in the Public Notice column

EXPERIENCED REGISTERED CHILDMINDER

N.C.M.A. Member
non smoker
Bluebell Park area

has 1 full-time vacancy

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CRAFTY CAKES for any occasion, cakes made and iced or just iced Tel 316084

Hair Dressers

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DEVONPORT
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On Holiday from
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(13 years experience)

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Public Notice

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mouldings and 50 mount

colours to choose from and

1000's of prints, glue, glaze

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take place on Tuesday and

Wednesday evenings, and

Wednesday daytime. Ring or

call in for further details

Mon-Thur 9.30-4.30pm

Friday 9.30-3.00pm

Sat 9.30am-12.30pm

Tue/Wed Eve 7-8.45pm

ZIPZIN + PLUS

01325 307756 (anytime)

For all zip replacements,

jeans, trousers, anoraks,

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(£1 off with this advert) only

top quality zips used.

Leather accepted, also jeans,

and anorak studs and popper

replacements. Plus curtain

alterations, shorten, new

headings etc. Curtains made

(own material) curtains

lined, festoons, jabots, bows,

tie-backs, etc - 20% off with

this advert. Free measuring

service and estimates.

Clothing alterations 15% off

with this advert. Friendly

quality service. Over 30

years experience. Insured,

guarantees, door to door

service (free in town)

contracts taken, cheques

accepted, senior citizens

discounts. Business hours

8.30-5.30pm enquiries

welcome anytime

WHIST DRIVE Tuesday

night 7pm at the Cubby, 50p

LINE DANCING and

Country and Western Night,

Wednesday 2nd April, Royal

Air Forces Association,

Canopus Club, Barrington

Road, admission £1.00

TRAINING FOR THE GREAT NORTH RUN?

We sell top quality running

gear at the lowest

Letter

Mary Hancock

Large parties and special occasions also catered for, as well as outside parties. Once again thank you for your patience and we hope to see you soon.

SATURDAY TO MONDAY 11.00 am TO 5.00 pm Tel: 01325 320404



Keith and all the staff
at Roots would like
to wish all customers,
past and present a
very happy Easter

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MAIN

**DEALER**

94 (L) ESCORT 1.6L 5 door, only 29000 miles by 1 owner, FSH, finished in ontario blue, superb throughout £6,495

94 (L) FORD ESCORT 1.6LX 5 door, finished in nouveau red, only 32000 miles, power steering, sunroof £7,295

93 (L) FORD FIESTA 1.1 3 door finished in diamond white, only 14000 miles by one meticulous owner, you won't find better £4,995

93 (L) FORD MONDEO 1.8LX 5 door finished in cayman blue metallic, one owner, Holiways supplied, we can't get enough of these £6,995

94 (L) FORD FIESTA 1.1 FREESTYLE 5 door, finished in moon dust silver, only 28000 miles by one owner, possibly one of the best we've seen £5,795

94 (L) FORD FIESTA 1.1 3 door, finished in oportto red, one owner, Holiways supplied, only 9000 miles, YES, 9000 miles £4,995

93 (L) FORD ESCORT 1.3 3 door hatchback, finished in garnet red, one owner, Holiways supplied, colour coded bumpers, good value £5,495

93 (K) FORD SIERRA 1.8 SAPPHIRE azure finished in blue metallic, two owners, only 39000 miles, still as popular as ever £4,995

92 (K) FORD FIESTA FREESTYLE silver metallic, one owner, must be a bargain £3995

92 (K) FORD SIERRA 1.8LX 5 door hatchback, finished in tasmin blue metallic, one owner in superb all round condition, ideal family car £4,995

93 (K) FORD ORION 1.6LX finished in radiant red, only two owners since new, ideal family motoring £5,395

92 (J) FORD ORION 1.4 LX Finished in magenta metallic, two owners only 51000 miles, ideal family car £2,995

92 (J) FORD ESCORT 1.6 ENCORE Finished in bahama blue metallic one owner, Holiways supplied, boot spoiler, sun roof £4,895

91 (H) FORD SIERRA 1.8LX finished in maritime blue, superb condition £3995

90 (H) FORD FIESTA 1.1 5 door automatic, finished in diamond white, only 39000 miles by two owners, superb condition £3,995

**A HUGE RANGE OF USED
CARS ALWAYS IN STOCK**

**HORNDALE AVENUE
AYCLIFFE IND. PARK
NEWTON AYCLIFFE
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MINIMUM
ALLOWANCE

**AGAINST ANY
USED CAR**
(Must have a current MoT)

**PLUS FREE
12 MONTHS
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