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Week Ending 16th May, 1997

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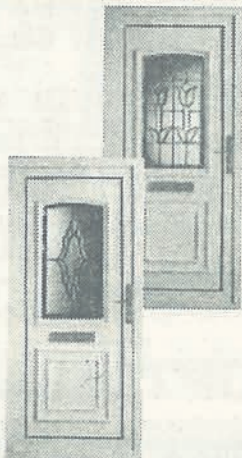
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NEW MACDONALD'S DRIVE - IN TO OPEN AT NEWTON PARK

Fred Forrest, the owner of 'Newton Park', the Petrol Station at the junction of the A167/A1M, told 'Newton News' this week that the documents securing 'Macdonalds' the popular and prestigious fast food outlet on the site have been signed.

Horndale Taxis 3 0 7 3 0 7

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It has taken Fred a long time to obtain 'Macdonalds' commitment but having succeeded in setting the drive-in he can virtually say his whole project is now secure, as all other services will benefit from spin-off business.

And Fred has plenty of ideas for the site, if the planners would give him a free hand.

"Macdonalds' should create 60 jobs and I could bring a lot more if I was free of planning authority restraints" said Fred.

The Hotel and Restaurant has planning permission and is waiting for a developer, but Fred says he might build it himself to make progress. Going through planning at the moment is another new project an 'OK Diner'.

Fred is keen to utilise all of the 150 acres he has at his disposal, but is critical of the obstacles he has met so far with Sedgefield Borough Council, which he says has lost this area hundreds of new jobs. The planners main objection to the new development proposed is its affect on the countryside.

The Petrol Station is not officially open yet, but a trial run is underway, training staff in preparation for the opening.

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NEWTONIAN STARTS DETECTIVE AGENCY

A native of Newton Aycliffe, Paul Mitchell, has recently started his own Detective Agency on the town. Thanks to help from S.A.S.D.A. and funding from the New Enterprise Allowance Scheme Paul started the Agency on 10th March this year. Paul left the Avenue Comprehensive School in 1977 with no qualifications. A series of dead-end jobs and unemployment followed until, in 1985, he left the town for College in Birmingham and after taking his 'A' levels obtained a place reading Literature and Linguistics at the University College of Ripon & York St John. He graduated in 1992. After University Paul worked for the Civil Service as an Adjudication Officer in the West Midlands. In his spare time he trained as a Private Detective.

the West Midlands, really likes the town. "The green and open spaces make a refreshing change from Birmingham" says Sarah. Paul first considered becoming a Private Detective when he read an advertisement for "Peace of Mind" reports when working in the West Midlands. These reports may be about anything that worries a client from suspicion that a child is taking drugs for parents, to reporting on whether a particular set of neighbours are noisy for prospective house buyers. It is the job of a Private Detective to provide these reports. Paul's company is called 'INVESTIGATIONS' and also offers expertise in; Tracing People, Surveillance Work, Process Serving and Statement Taking. **Anyone interested in these services should contact him on 0976 937 537 at any time.**

Woodham Team Through to Semi Final

A team of 13 to 16 year-olds from Newton Aycliffe has won the day-long local heat of the 13th annual BT Kielder Challenge, an outdoor problem solving competition for teams of eight teenagers, four with disabilities and four without. The team representing Woodham Comprehensive School, completed five activities at the heat, based on a 'communication' theme, including the navigation, through team communication, of a rope maze and an exercise based on plant photosynthesis. The school was judged on its initiative, ability to work together and the active involvement of all members. The other teams competing in the heat were from Ashington and Newcastle. The event, supported by BT as part of its Community Partnership Programme, is organised by the Fieldfare Trust, a Sheffield-based national charity working to enable people with disabilities to enjoy countryside activities. Rod Holmes, Fieldfare activities co-ordinator, said: "We congratulate the Woodham team on its achievement in working so well together. All of the team members worked hard but had fun at the same time. We wish them every success in the semi-finals. Twenty six further heats are being held nationwide and the winning Newton Aycliffe team will now compete in the semi-finals in June. Winning teams will go forward to the final, which is held as a residential event in Northumberland's Kielder Forest in September.



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FAMILY SERVICE

On Sunday 25th May, Burnhill Way Methodist Church (near the Turbina) is holding its regular Family Service at 10.45am. This month's theme will be the Holy Spirit and the Service is especially tailored to be suitable for all ages. Everyone is welcome. In the evening on 25th May there will be a PENTECOST PRAISE, Songs of Praise Service at 6pm which will include hymns requested by the congregation and anyone, whether a regular worshipper or not, is very welcome to come and share in this special evening.

WELCOME FOR CUP FINALISTS

Thousands of supporters of Middlesbrough are expected to line the town centre's streets to welcome Boro's FA Cup Final squad back to Middlesbrough this Sunday (18th May). Bryan Robson and the team will tour the town centre streets on an open top bus before enjoying a Civic Reception at the Celnet Riverside Stadium with the Mayor. The bus will set off from Exchange Square, opposite the Ayresome Park Pub, at about 5.30pm before taking a route along Albert Road, turning right on to Corporation Road and

continuing on to Newport Road. It will then turn left on to Hartington Road and left again on to Borough Road before travelling on to the stadium. The parade will end at the Westbourne Grove traffic lights on Borough Road. Supporters are invited to line the streets and give the players a heroes' welcome - win or lose - after the first FA Cup Final in the Clubs 121 year history. Large crowds are expected to turn out for the parade but the Police are advising fans that they will be mounting a normal matchday operation with regards to traffic control and will strictly enforce parking restrictions along Dockside Road and Shepherdson Way. Fans should also note that normal matchday car parking passes for the stadium car park do not apply on the day of the tour.

Avenue Pupil's Reunion

Are you aged 32? - (birthday between Sept '96 - Aug '97) and did you go to the Avenue Comp. School. - If so, this is for you! Would you be interested in attending an AVENUE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL REUNION? Did you sit beside any of these at school?..... Lorraine Elliott, Debbie Wise, Rossy Hogan, Jane Katai, Val

Cooper, Janice Allen, Ia Bellas, Stuart Howarth, Tony Young, Glen Richmond, Neville Jones, Stephen Pyle.....

Please get in touch if you are interested in meeting - the Reunion will be held in June 1997 - 'Watch this space for more details'.

Telephone any of the following numbers - 312105 - 311054 - 300498 - NOW for details!

Dance School Showcase

Dear Sir, I would like to say 'Well done' to the girls from the Tyne Theatre Stage School (Newton Aycliffe) who danced in a 'Showcase' at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle on 20th April 1997. They joined the Newcastle dancers for a 2 hour show of dance and drama to a packed theatre. They were a credit to their

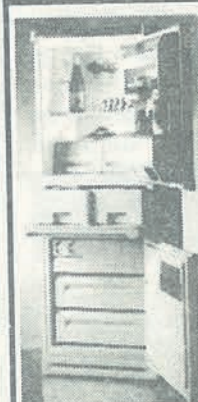
teacher Michaela Wilkinson. For anyone interested in joining them, classes are held every Friday evening, Elmfield School, Newton Aycliffe, in tap, modern, stage ballet and disco.

Further information can be obtained by calling Michaela on 0191 488 5837. Yours faithfully Mrs M M Bentley

TAKE CARE FEEDING BIRDS

Dear Editor, As most of us feed birds, especially during the winter months, I would like to pass on some vital information gained from a distant local magazine by a lady who has made an intensive study into the reason for so many wild birds, who feed from bird food and nut containers, having damaged and infected beaks and eyes. Her wide survey has found that the main reason is the use of bird feeders with wire mesh coverings, which cut into the birds faces as they push hara against the mesh to feed. Like her, I have now changed my bird feeders to either nylon mesh, or plastic ones and also I now crush up the peanuts before putting them in, to make access easier. May I therefore ask your readers to follow this example, so that we all may really help our feathered friends, without unwittingly causing them harm and damage while doing so. Yours faithfully Mrs June Heads

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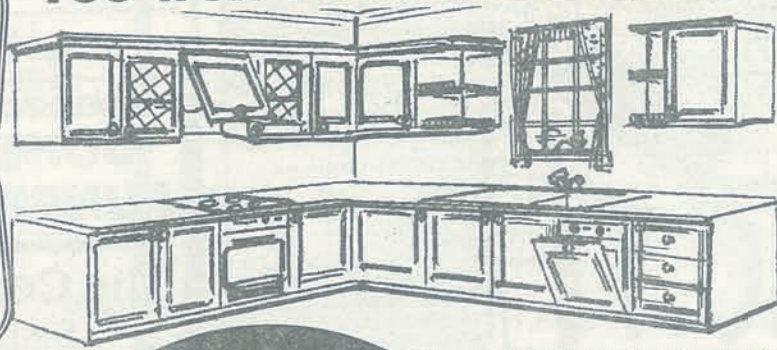
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Council Officer Visits

Dear Sir,
I would like to thank you for publishing my letter two weeks ago. If you can remember I invited Mr Bray of Sedgfield Borough Council, on the subject of Williamfield, to visit me, I am pleased to say he accepted my invitation and he called at my home on Friday 2nd May.

I found him to be very interested and sympathetic towards the problems we are facing and he is prepared to discuss this matter further. I would like to take this opportunity of making it perfectly clear that the letter I wrote was my own, and had nothing whatsoever to do with the Williamfield Residents Association.

Thanking you
Mrs Paylor

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Youth Centre Hopes that "New Labour" will bring New Money

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre held their AGM last Friday with Phil Ball, Head of Leisure at the Borough Council, as guest speaker.

In an excellent presentation he spoke about the Council's Youth Development Fund and the vital need to provide good facilities and equipment for our youngsters.

The £300,000 in the fund expects to be spent next year and, as it is the end of the project, many organisations who have benefited from the finance will be wondering how they will survive when the funds run out.

Not least the Youth Centre's own project of two detached workers who operate on the streets of the town helping homeless youngsters and drug and alcohol abusers.

The Management Committee will have to seek funds from other sources to keep this vital service.

There was a good attendance at the AGM

which heard the Chairman, Syd Howarth, say how much he hoped 'New Labour' would mean new money for the Youth Service.

He looked for increased resources in order that the Youth Centre could fund new ideas favoured by the government such as 'Kids Club' and 'Homework Clubs', whereby Youth Centre premises are open immediately after school and during holidays for the youngsters to meet and socialise, rather than roam the streets or go home to an empty house.

The Youth Centre does excellent work in Newton Aycliffe. Last year over 43,000 attendances were registered and it is expected to increase this year.

A new Management Committee was elected and after the meeting everyone enjoyed the free buffet provided, thanks to staff and members, Andrew Blackburn, Carl Sinim, Stacey Snowball and Charlene Pulford who helped with the preparation.

TOWN COACH FIRM PARTNER MARRIES



Joint Proprietor of J & C Coaches, Neville Jones, married Carol Brack, a Catering Manageress, of Darlington on Friday 2nd May.

The wedding took place at Trinity Church with a Reception at the Rugby Club. The couple left for a honeymoon in the Dominican Republic and on return will make their home at Bowes Road.

Neville met Carol on one of his regular coach contract visits to Bek House where his bride works.

SCHOOL HOLDS BALLOON RACE

Dear Sir,
St. Mary R.C. School, Newton Aycliffe is holding a Balloon Race on 12th July, 1997, in order to raise funds for extra school security. The rules of the race are as follows:
Each helium filled balloon costs £1 and has a ticket attached.

The balloons will be released by the children during our school summer barbecue. After release we hope the balloons will travel as far as possible and be found and returned to our school in return for entry into the draw for a 'Mystery Prize'.

The buyer of the ticket that is returned from furthest away

wins the fantastic first prize of £100.

Balloon tickets can be purchased from the school secretary or from any pupil who attends St. Mary's.

We hope the townspeople of Newton Aycliffe will support us in this venture by buying balloon tickets - the more balloons sold, the more we can raise to ensure the safety of our school children.

Remember to look out for Balloon Race Tickets from 12th July. Return any found to the school for the chance of winning a 'Mystery Prize'. Good luck to you all.

Yours faithfully
Mrs J Watson, St. Mary's PTA

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FLEABITTEN JOB CENTRE!

Dear Sir,
I, like many people throughout the country, am out of work and have the unfortunate task of having to visit a local Job Centre. On Wednesday 7th May 1997, whilst visiting the Newton Aycliffe Office, I was disgusted to find that, while standing in the queue to find out about a job, I had been bitten.

Yes - that's right - bitten! Not by a dog or a child - but by fleas!

As a result of being bitten a large lump appeared on my lower leg. I mentioned this to one of the staff and I was shocked to be told that there was not a lot that the staff could do about it as they themselves are quite often bitten.

The member of staff continued that the Office is often fumigated by Rentokil as it is a public place. It's not just the Office but the stairways also that smell.

Is this the sort of Office the people of Newton Aycliffe have to put up with?

It is bad enough that we have to put up with dirty dog owners, litter in the town, pigeons, graffiti and

at times arrogant staff in shop's. This we have to put up with, but do we really have to put up with the dirty, smelly, flea ridden Job Centre?

The Office is never allowed to get any fresh air as it used to, when situated on the upper floor of the town centre. I think the Job Centre should be moved back to an easier situation like the old Walter Wilson shop as this would also make it easier for wheelchair users to access the Benefit Offices.

Yours faithfully
Aycliffe resident

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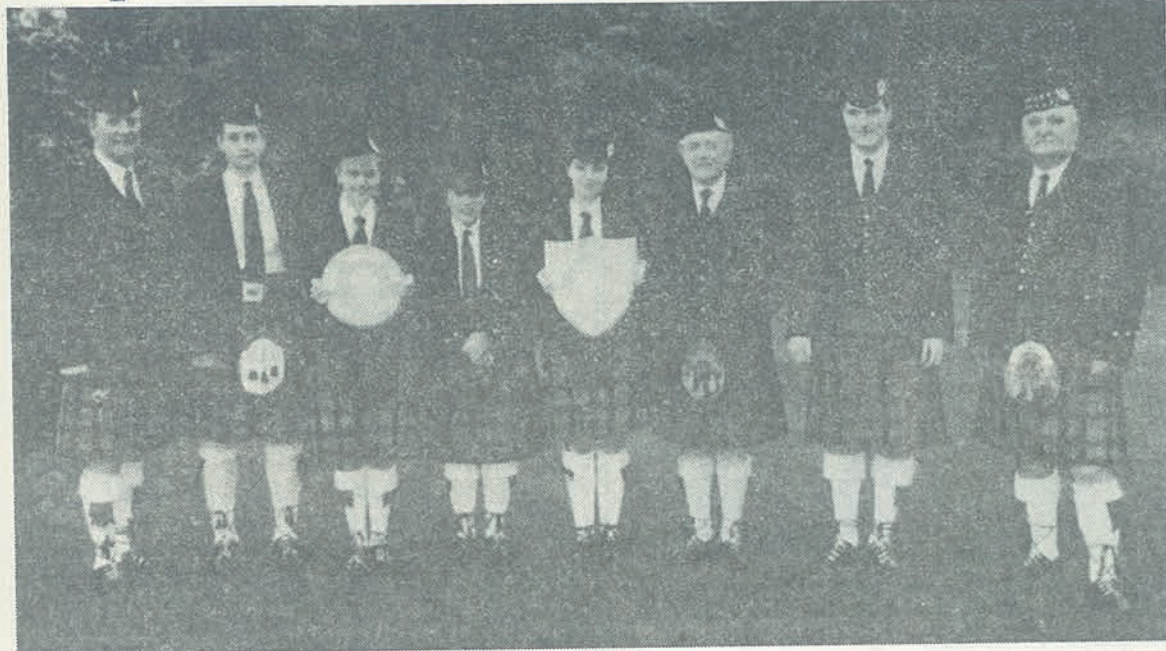
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Pipe Band Win Contest



Newtonians, Jeff and son Andrew Richardson, Garry Pugh, Louise Neal, Kathrine Ward, along with Miss Sarah Waldren from Staindrop were instrumental in gaining for the Jarrow Ex-Servicemen's Pipes and Drums, two major trophies when they hit the high notes at an all English Mini-band competition held at Shephed near Nottingham. The Competition team, at its own expense, travelled down the evening before and stayed overnight at a Travellodge near Nottingham, just to be fresh for the hard task that lay ahead. Band secretary Harry Clephan said: "This was our first competition of the season, and after nearly six months of sheer hard work and dedication has shown that the Pipe Band is going to be a force to be reckoned with this season. Nine playing members travel to Jarrow every Monday from Newton Aycliffe, all former members of the Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band. The Jarrow Ex-Servicemen's band also competed at Dunbar on Saturday 10th May.

OUR CHEMIST IS VERY OBLIGING

Dear Sir,
May I make a comment regarding Chemist Hours: Newton News: 2nd May. I disagree with comments made by J Cockburn and J Katai who are asking Chemists to get together to provide cover for residents needing their services. In my experience, Chemists already do give this cover and some more than duty need. I live at Woodham and use Kemps on a very regular basis. I find Alistair at Woodham helps more than duty need and is very obliging. I have called for a prescription on 2 or 3 occasions after Alistair has closed, yet he has re-opened his doors again. One Saturday lunchtime, Alistair's half day closing, my husband was ill in bed, I was ill and he delivered my prescription to the house, then went back to the shop for my husband's prescription and delivered that prescription also. Other chemists were open, yet, Alistair was prepared to re-

open the shop and maybe spoil his Saturday afternoon plans. I am sure if either J Cockburn or J Katai's doctor telephoned Mr Kemp he would arrange for either himself or Alistair to accommodate residents needs, if a prescription was urgent. The police have a telephone number for the emergency dispensing of prescriptions in the area, for which every chemists is on duty, for emergency or urgent dispensing. Surely this is sufficient cover for all residents living in Newton Aycliffe and Woodham. Yours faithfully Mrs M Milling Sunningdale, Woodham

Williamfield Residents Public Meeting

Williamfield Residents will have the opportunity to meet and talk to Councillors on the problems that beset their area. The Residents Association have called a Public Meeting for Wednesday 21st May at Silverdale Community House from 7pm - 9pm. Everyone Welcome.

ROMANIANS VISIT TOWN AS GREENFIELD GUESTS

The Greenfield Challenge - Romania Appeal - Challenge Group has continued its work with magnificent support from pupils, parents and the local community. A recent school Aerobathon and small group enterprises - jobs, sponsored walks, videothon, car wash and raffle have added to the funds. Our Romanian friends arrive in

Newton Aycliffe on Saturday 24th May and will be our guests for one week. A rich and varied programme has been organised for them. Many thanks to all who have supported this worthwhile cause which has generated such interest. Thanks to all the retailers in Newton Aycliffe who have kindly provided prizes for Georgina Seal's school raffle which will be drawn on Friday 23rd May. The clothes and toys collection continues for the orphanage, a short time remains before plans are put into operation to transport the goods out to Bucharest. Any final offerings can be delivered to the school or we can arrange collection (300378). Good quality, clean clothes suitable for 2 - 18 year olds, toys and garden play equipment would be welcomed at the orphanage. Particular thanks go to Sylvia Hubbard for her support and to Eric Alexander of Alexander-le-Skerne for providing storage space and transportation.

NO WARNING OF SCHOOL PROBLEMS

Dear Sir,
In regard to your article in the Newton News about the disruption and partial closure of Woodham Comprehensive School, I would like to put forward a parent's view. On Friday night my daughter delivered a note informing us that she would not be attending school for the next two weeks. There was no warning even though we had just attended an open night two days before. The School only arranged homework after a telephone conversation with my wife. The actual incident where the pane of glass fell on a pupil's head occurred more than two weeks previous, giving the school adequate

time to inform parents, and arrange suitable teaching arrangements. Instead the solution adopted by the school has been the most convenient for the staff, and not for the education of its pupils. While I agree that the pupils had to be sent home until the windows could be repaired or replaced, this could have been carried out in such a manner that they received some tuition, backed up with homework. After all it is the responsibility of the School and the Local Education Authority to provide adequate facilities to educate our children throughout the academic year. Yours faithfully A Concerned Parent

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CHEMISTS EMERGENCY ROTA

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Sunday 25th May 1997
12noon-1pm - Neville Pharmacy
Monday 26th May 1997
12noon-1pm - Hancock & Ainsley

J & C RECEIVE NEW LUXURY COACH



J & C Coaches of Newton Aycliffe are proud to announce the new arrival of their 'P' reg, Hotel Class, Touring Coach. The vehicle was delivered from BOVA in Holland, just in time for Neville's Wedding Day - 'A rather unusual Wedding Gift, but much better than a new pan set!' Said Neville. The Coach is fitted with 39 fully reclining seats, not the usual 49. Seats come complete with calf supports and foot rests and enormous amounts of leg room. All seats are fitted with inertia seat belts. The coach boasts a superb 'SERVERY' with Micro-Wave, Coffee Percolators, 2 Fridges and even a Hot Dog Boiler. The comfort element is greatly enhanced with Air-conditioning and there is also a Toilet/Washroom facility on board. This particular vehicle is the most expensive Single Deck Coach ever to be exported by the Dutch Company, Bova and it was supplied by The Moseley Group of Pontefract. The Coach will specialise in High Class Touring Holidays and is contracted to Siesta Holidays of Middlesbrough, who were responsible for the innovative interior design of the vehicle. Pictured are Neville Jones of J & C Coaches and Tim Fairless of Moseleys.

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Mondays, 5pm & 7.30pm - June 01325 255057

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Morrison Close
Wednesday, 7pm - Lesley 01388 451161

St. Clares Church Hall
Thursdays 5pm & 7.30pm - Debbie 300615

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre

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ON SATURDAY 31st MAY 1997

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College Show "Wows" Audience



Ricks College, from Idaho USA, brought an amazing Variety Show to Spennymoor Leisure Centre last week. The students gave a spectacular talented performance, equal if not better, than similar professional shows seen anywhere. It was slick, non-stop, top class entertainment bringing enthusiastic applause from a mesmerised and delighted audience. Ricks College is the largest private college in America and is operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The College consists of 7,500 students from the USA and over 40 foreign countries. Their tour of Great Britain has been very successful and it is not surprising after experiencing the well rehearsed and cleverly stage managed programme, covering an age of music from old Hollywood through to the 60's, Webber and other popular modern musicals including 'Les Miserables'. The group could sing, dance, perform acrobatics to a breathtaking standard. They brought their own band, magnificent costumes and props in a tour bus. They also brought a lot of pleasure to a lot of people in this truly inspirational performance. Congratulations to the Musical Director, Choreographer and all the students for a memorable show. Meeting them was a real pleasure; their politeness and sincerity shone through and they were a credit to their College and Country. We look forward to seeing them again and again . . .

Serving on Two Councils

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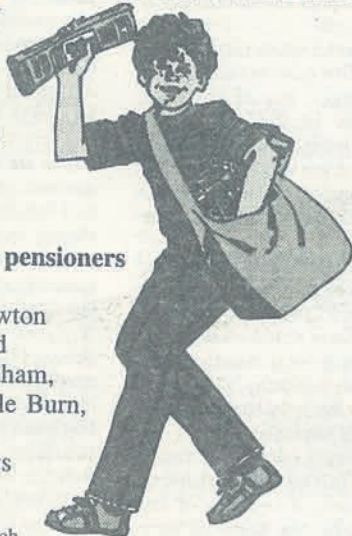
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Dear Sir,
Now the elections are over, I see that the Borough Councillor for our ward, Cllr. Fleming is now also a County Councillor for a different ward.

This makes it impossible for him to give 100% for our ward, for if he is attending County meetings he is missing Borough meetings. The most he can give is 50% to each and he should choose which one, not both! I know he will receive payment from both no matter which meeting he attends if any.

It is the only job I know where they pay you for not attending. I think a change is needed and payment should be made only for attendance. This would ensure a good turn out, our welfare looked after and our Council tax used correctly. A Cllr Fleming Voter.

Ed: Many Councillors serve at Town, District and County level and some will argue it gives them more opportunity to represent the people as each Council has different responsibilities.

MAYOR'S THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR



My term of office ended on Wednesday 14th May. Can I thank the people of Great Aycliffe and the many organizations and industrialists, for your support over the last year. It's been an honour and pleasure to represent you. Thanks to Newton Press for all the lovely photographs, John & Mary Moran, Mayor & Mayoress 1996/97

YOUNG CON TRICK

Rugby Team Beat Shildon

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club's final match of the season was a finely contested affair against Shildon.

It was played fairly but very competitively and Aycliffe had the pleasure of victory 73-34. It was great to see Aycliffe playing flowing rugby and we look forward to more of this next season, we thank Shildon for helping us with the fixture and wish them all the best in the league next year.

The match was followed by the annual presentation awards. The following people deserve thanks and credit for the following awards:- Chairman's Award - S. Carrol; President's Award - C. Heslop; Most Improved Player - D. Ballentine; Players Player of the Year - S. Petit.

Please be aware that past, present and new members are welcome to come and train over the summer each Saturday at 1pm. We are also showing on the large screen all of the British Lions games - please join us - all are welcome!

Lastly we would like to thank Great Lakes Chemicals for their sponsorship and look forward to their help next season.

I would also like to thank Newton Press for the invaluable publicity we obtain through the 'Newton News'.

See you at the Club!

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WHEN WILL THE COUNCIL SPEND MONEY ON OUR TOWN CENTRE?

Dear Sir,
With reference to the report that Sedgefield Borough Council has decided to discontinue the use of the toilets in the town centre - once again it shows the attitude of the Borough Council towards Newton Aycliffe.

Vast sums of money are being spent on revamping Shildon, money has been spent on Spennymoor town centre, also Sedgefield itself.

We in Newton Aycliffe are having money spent on revamping the old Toothill site on the industrial park. Many folk in Newton Aycliffe are asking when the Borough Council are going to spend money making the town itself attractive.

We have a vast site on the old Avenue school which the County Council or the

Borough seem eager to have developed.

The toilets in the town centre are a requirement which is needed. If closed what, for instance, are the market traders going to do for toilet facilities.

I wonder how Councillors would feel if they looked beyond their back gardens to see people urinating as I sometimes do.

It is about time that local Councillors started to have the concerns of the town at heart.

A few weeks ago one Councillor seeking election asked his electorate, 'trust me'. I ask, 'WHY'.

Sincerely

D. Evans

P.S. The toilets are open 9am - 5pm Monday to Saturday yet it is stated there are 24 hour facilities at the premises. How come?

Town Centre Toilets

Dalton Way toilets are owned by Sedgefield Borough Council. Because of its financial position, Sedgefield Borough Council has decided to discontinue their use.

Great Aycliffe Town Council has declared that it will underwrite the running costs of the toilets, until the end of June 1997. Before that date it will need to make a decision on whether the toilets should remain open in the long term.

To enable the Council to come to a decision on the future of the toilets, it would be grateful if you would complete the attached form and return it to: Mr. M. Rice, Chief Executive, Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6QF.

The following information may be useful: -

- * The annual running cost of the toilets is currently nearly £19,000.
- * The ladies' toilet is currently staffed. The gent's toilet is not.
- * If both toilets were staffed, the cost would be in the region of £30,000 per annum.
- * Works of repair are needed to both toilets, (£1,400 approximately to the gents, £750 approximately to the ladies).
- * Vandal proof equipment could be provided in both toilets at an approximate cost of £16,000.
- * No charge is currently made to the public for the use of either toilets.
- * The toilets are open 9am - 5pm, Monday - Saturday (4pm Wednesday).
- * They are not open on Sundays or Bank Holidays.
- * There are 24 hour facilities at the premises.

What do you want the Council to do?

- Yes No
- ☐ ☐ Do you wish the Public Toilets to remain open?
- ☐ ☐ Would you prefer to see both the gents and ladies toilets staffed?
- ☐ ☐ Are you satisfied with the current hours of opening? - If not, what alternatives would you suggest?
- ☐ ☐ Would you be prepared to pay to use the facilities?
- ☐ ☐ Are you satisfied with the current conditions?
- A B - If not, should the Council (a) spend money to undertake basic repairs or should it (b) seek to upgrade the facilities?
- ☐ ☐

Please place a tick in box provided - then return to above address - Thank you.

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Dear Sir,
It has come to our notice that children are touring the estates purporting to be taking part in Sponsored Fund-raising Events at our school. This is not true.

The Police have now apprehended the culprits but should anyone else try the same stunt can I give you all a golden rule to follow:

If you do not know the child do not sponsor them! - Schools only encourage children to approach Friends and Relatives.

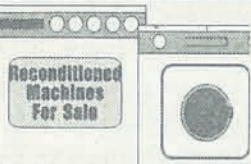
Mr Wakers - Headteacher
Stephenson Way Primary School

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New Services
to Give Carers
More Help

If you are a Carer in Sedgefield
Borough, the Sedgefield
Locality Carers Centre at 19
Upper Dalton Way, Newton
Aycliffe is there to offer you
help, support and specialist
advice.

Around forty local Carers use
the Centre every week and new
services have been introduced to
provide Carers with more help.
Claiming the right benefits can
be a problem to Carers and a
free form filling service has been
introduced on Monday and
Wednesday afternoons.

If you think you need help, then
make an appointment and not
only can you have help to
complete the forms - you can
also have a 'Benefits Check' to
make sure you are claiming the
best benefits for you and have
everything you are entitled to
receive.

If you need to talk, there's an
opportunity for an informal chat
with other Carers or the Carers
Centre Staff, but if you feel you
need counselling, then one-to-
one counselling sessions are
available on Tuesdays, by
appointment, at the Carers
Centre. The Counsellor
provides a strictly confidential,
long term professional service.

There's also a Peer Support
Group held on Thursday
afternoons from 1.30pm at the
Carers Centre. Again, it's a
chance to talk over ideas and
problems with people in a
similar situation.

As a further development a
bereavement/loss counselling
group session will be
introduced, in the near future.
A freephone helpline was
recently introduced and this is
staffed on Monday, Wednesday
and Friday afternoons (1pm to
4pm) by trained volunteers,
many of whom are Carers
themselves.

They are there to listen to Carers
and provide support and
information, especially to
Carers who are unable to visit
the Centre.

The FREEPHONE number is
0800 435 299 and it is available
to anyone looking after an
elderly, frail or disabled person
at home.

Outreach services in the
community provide local
support in Ferryhill,

Spennymoor and Trimdon.

The Ferryhill Support Group
meets on the first Wednesday of
every month at Cleves Cross
Grange, from 1.30pm.

'Sharing or Caring' courses are
running on alternate Fridays in
Spennymoor and alternate
Tuesdays at Trimdon. Sessions
at Spennymoor are held at
Hartley Terrace, and in Trimdon
at Tremaduna Grange Nursing
Home. They start at 1.30pm and
last for about 2 hours.

The courses run for 12 weeks
and are free to Carers. They are
led by professionals and cover
subjects like lifting and moving,
medication, first aid, health care
for Carers, back care, and
pressure point care. Carers can
join the groups at any time.

There is also a support group at
Sedgefield which meets at Ward
4, Sedgefield Community
Hospital every Tuesday at 2pm.
For further information on any
of these services please contact
Louise or Shirley at The
Princess Royal Trust,
Sedgefield Locality Carers
Centre on 01325 308100.

JOIN
THE
BROWNIES

At 6pm on Thursday 5th June
(the Thursday after half-term)
the BROWNIE PACK is
restarting at Burnhill Way
Methodist Church (near the
Turbina).

The Pack will meet every
Thursday from 6pm to 7.30pm
and will be led by Julie Darkes.
If you were a member of our
Pack which closed in November
and would like to be a Brownie
again we would be very pleased
to see you.

Any other girls aged between 7
and 10 who would like to
become Brownies are also
welcome to join, especially if
you live in Burn Lane, Burnhill
Way, Bluebell Way, Woodham
areas.

Brownies have lots of fun and
take part in a wide variety of
activities. If you would like
more information Julie can be
contacted on 301937 or parents
can bring their daughters at 6pm
on 5th June.

Why not come along and give
it a try.

Robotics Company
Move to Aycliffe

Oxfordshire-based Motoman
Robotics (UK) is to set up a
sales and technical support
operation in Aycliffe creating at
least 15 jobs over the next three
years.

The project has been prompted
by Motoman's recent success in
being awarded 'preferred
supplier' status to Tallent
Engineering in Aycliffe and
supported by a grant approved
by Durham County Council
through its business support
arm, the County Durham
Development Company.

Motoman Robotics' UK
founder and managing director
Mike Wilkins said he sees great
potential for industrial robots in
the North.

"Tallent Engineering was our
very first customer and is now
the largest user of Motoman
robots in the UK. It is
undergoing a major expansion
programme which will involve
substantial investment in new
robot lines over the next four
years.

"Part of the package in winning
the very stiff competition to
become Tallent's preferred
supplier of robots was to set up
a training and technical support
operation nearby. Our other
customers in the North will also
benefit from this.

"Having a base in the North
gives us a great opportunity to
accelerate the growth of our
business. The region is very

attractive to us both in terms of
potential customers and in
terms of our ability to recruit
people with a manufacturing
and technical background.

"The support agencies such as
County Durham Development
Company and SASDA have
been superb in helping this
project become a reality".

Motoman Robotics (UK) was
one of 14 businesses receiving a
total of 16 grants worth
£46,000 from Durham County
Council. Between them they
project the creation of 121 jobs
over the next three years.

Ken Frankish, managing
director of CDDC and director
of economic development and
planning at Durham County
Council, said: "We are
delighted to welcome
Motoman Robotics (UK) to
County Durham. Industrial
robots are still seen, in some
quarters, as the stuff of science
fiction, but Motoman's move to
County Durham to support a
successful and expanding local
company shows the fact that
our companies are investing in
the latest technology to stay
ahead of the competition,
creating jobs for local people in
the process".

Motoman Robotics (UK) is a
subsidiary of Motoman
Robotics of Sweden which is
owned by Yaskawa Electric of
Japan.

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Manchester Airport the group
toured Cumbria, North West,
Northumbria and Yorkshire
recording their experiences on
video.

Comments from the group
included:

"...I will personally encourage
the huge numbers of
Americans to come" - "...Very
much easier to speak about an
area when you have been
there" - "...Just a few miles
outside each city there is such
beautiful countryside".

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Graham Smith



Nice shirt Graham
Happy 21st Birthday
15th May 1997
Love Mam & Steve X

Graham Johnson



Congratulations on
earning a place at the
Northern Area Squash
Centre of Excellence.
Love Mum, Dad
and family

MIKE GENT Happy birthday Dad, I love you very much, you are my father, my mother, my best friend and you are the most important person in my life, love Nicola XX

WOODHEAD The big 60 - Happy birthday Peter on the 20-5-97, love Frances
WOODHEAD There is life in the old dog yet, only 60 years young, happy birthday Dad (20-5-97) love Mandy
PALMER Christopher Happy 13th birthday (16th May 1997) love Mam, Dad, Kimberley and all the family XX

SHOULDER Steve, Happy 40th birthday love Wendy, Yolanda and all the family
WATKINS Geordie, May 18th. To my wonderful loving husband on his 50th birthday, all my love from Linda XX
WATKINS Happy 50th birthday granddad, with all my love Leigh-Ann XX

THOMPSON Christine, 21-5-97, Best wishes on your 40th birthday, lots of love from Les

THOMPSON Christine Happy 40th birthday, 21st may, lots of love Mam X
THOMPSON Happy 40th birthday Chris, love Pauline, Clare and Christopher XX

ALLEN Happy 1st birthday to our little darling "Charlotte Rose", 18th May, love from Grandma and Grandad, Uncle Craig and Great Nana Peggy XX

MULLEY Bob and Sheila are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their first grandchild "Jason Paul" born 30-4-97. Love and congratulations to Paul and Michelle
ANDREW DAWSON My best mate, my hubby, my all and everything, I love more than ever!! Happy Anniversary, yours Wendy XX

ABBY SWAINSTON Happy 3rd birthday to our lovely daughter 18-5-97, lots of love Mammy and Daddy XX
ABBY Happy 3rd birthday to my little sister, and I hope you enjoy your first day at nursery, lots of love Holly XX

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Birthday Remembrance

KEVIN WRIGHT 17-5-97. Sometimes we sit and still we cry, that day you never said goodbye, the only brother that we had, God took away and made us sad. Happy birthday from your loving sisters Karen and Alison

KEVIN WRIGHT To our favourite Uncle, who was very special, miss you very much, love Michael, Matthew and Bethany
KEVIN WRIGHT 17-5-97. On your birthday dear son, you were someone special, some set apart, your memory lives forever, engraved deep in my heart. Devoted Mum and George

TOM PURDIE (16-5-33) Dad on your birthday we have no gifts to give, just tears to shed. Loved and missed everyday, Terry and Corena
TOM PURDIE We miss and love you Grandad, Lindsay, Jonathan and Andrew XXX
EDDIE McCABE 18th May. Birthday memories of a dear Dad and Father-in-law, we will miss you always, lots of love Eddie and Tracey XX

JOHN ROBSON Birthday memories of a dear son, 17th May, sadly missed Mam and Dad

BILLY WILSON May 15th. Remembering a very dear husband on his 78th birthday. So sadly missed by us all, love always loving wife Betty

BILLY WILSON May 15th, birthday memories for a dear Dad, not just today but everyday, love you Kathleen
BILLY WILSON Birthday memories for a very loving Grandad and Great Grandad, love you always from us all, Lisa, Ray, Katie, Lewis and Amber

EDWARD McCABE 18th May. No birthday cards to give you, as we did for all those years, just an empty chair and aching heart, and a riverfall of tears. Love and miss you Ed, your loving wife Mary and family

WAYNE BAXTER 21st May 1967. Thinking of you birthday boy, with great sadness instead of joy, breaking hearts and falling tears, the only presents left we fear, Melissa cuddle and kiss his cheek, and show our love as we speak, to wish him every happiness today, on this his special 30th birthday. Love you forever Mam and Dad

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In Memoriam

JUNE MILSOM Died 18th May 1994. I thank you for the years we shared, the love you have the way you cared. God saw the rugged pathway was getting hard to climb, so he closed your weary eyelids and whispered "peace be thine". Sadly missed and always loved, husband Donald

TOOLE WILSON Died 17-5-96. In memory of our friend Wilson, kindly remembered, Jack and Eileen

ERNEST FROST 18-5-94. Precious memories of a very special Dad, love and miss you always, Jean, Peter, Simon, Emily and Michael XX

JACK LAND 17-5-87. Much missed Father, although you are not here, you will always be in my thoughts and in my heart, loving son Paul
JACK LAND Died 17th May 1987. Time heals the pain but doesn't take away the memories, loving wife Vera
JACK LAND Died 17th May 1987. How can we write on paper, the way we feel inside, the heartache and the emptiness when the Dad we love has died, much loved Dad of Denise and David, Father-in-law of Steve and Sharon and Grandad of Liam, David and Laura

ELLEN DIXON Died 10th May 1990. Beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, loved missed and remembered every day. God bless Mam. Daughter Pat, Doug and family
BETTY MEALE 14-5-96. Forever remembered, forever missed, love Pauline, Jack and family (Canada) XX
BETTY MEALE 14-5-96. Time passes, memories stay, quietly remembered everyday, love Eileen and Kelvin XX
BETTY MEALE 14-5-96. Sadly missed and dearly loved Grandma, always in my thoughts, love Amanda X
BETTY MEALE 14-5-96. Will always be loved and remembered Grandma, love Paula X

BETTY MEALE 14-5-96. Special thoughts today Betty. Sundays never seem the same without your Salmon sandwiches and chocolate cake, you are sadly missed by Pauline and Ann XX

MARJORIE KEARSLEY 20th May 1996. Always in our thoughts, miss you dearly, Yvonne, Colin, Ian, Gary and Victor XX
MARJORIE KEARSLEY If you have a Grandma, treasure her with care, because no-one knows the heartache when they are no longer there, Nicola and Anthony XX

GEORGE REAY (Dad) Died 19th May 1996
GLADYS REAY (Mam) Died 7th June 1991

Dear Dad and Mam. I am missing you both more and more every day. Why did God have to take you both away. I miss the way you both used to smile. The one that made me want to travel a mile. The kids, I know they miss you both too. I know someday we will be with you both. I know that it is that time of the year again. But there isn't a way that I can hide the pain. As you both died in my arms, I hope you both know I love you with all my heart and there will be a day we are never going to part. I still go and put flowers on your grave stone, it is lovely to see both your names on it. I will never stop going till I meet you both myself. I love you both so much, your loving daughter Betty. Son-in-law John, Cathy, grandchildren and great grandchildren
JIM CREANEY Died 19th May 1995. Loving memories of a dear husband, Dad and Grandad. Remembered always wife Eva and family
GLADYS HALL In loving memory of a very dear wife, who died on 20th May 1994. You are always in our thoughts. Love from bill and all the family

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The environmental future of County Durham is to be highlighted at a special session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Assembly is meeting in June to discuss the implementation of Agenda 21, the environmental blueprint drawn up at the Earth Summit of world leaders in Rio de Janeiro five years ago.

Now, the Assembly is to hear of progress made since Rio, including examples of good practice from County Durham. 'Our local Agenda 21 is highly regarded in this country and we receive requests daily for our sustainability indicators booklet, 'Life in Country Durham - More of Less Sustainable?' Said David Newbegin,

"It has been selected by the Local Government Management Board (LGMB) as an example of good practice and circulated to every local authority in the country.

"The LGMB is now preparing a document on Agenda 21 for the United Nations meeting and wants to include work done in the County", he said.

The UN will hear about:
* The Country's regular Round Table meetings involving over 300 organisations under the local Agenda 21 banner.

* The 25 sustainability indicators used to measure whether the county is becoming a better or worse place in which to live.

* A Partnership Project Fund set up by the County Council to help support projects which make a substantial step towards a sustainable future. In the first year of the Fund, the Council gave £14,600 to 11 projects which was matched by £366,800 of partnership funding.

Thank You

TO WAYNE and Sue, thanks for our Grandson and Nephew, lots of love Dad, Mam and Mark

LES SWINTON - Mrs Swinton and family of the late Les Swinton would like to thank relatives and friends for their cards of condolence and floral tributes following their sad loss. Our special thanks to Dr Ferguson of Bewick Crescent for all the care he gave, also to the Reverend Michelle Ferguson for a beautiful service. Thank you to Bryan A. Shepherd Funeral Director for his kindness and sympathy. Thank you to Gail Stephenson and a special thank you to mark Whiting for all his help and kindness at this sad time.

JAMES MICHAEL SMITH (Jimmy). Jimmy's Mam and Dad would like to thank relatives and friends for their cards of condolence and beautiful floral tributes following their sad-loss. Our special thanks to Doctors and staff of the ITU Unit of Bishop Auckland General Hospital for all the care they gave him. Thank you to Reverend Colin Jay for a beautiful service, also John Meynell for their care and help. And a special thank you to Mr Keith Sams for helping Jimmy. Thank you all George and Irene

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