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NEWTON NEWS

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Contact: IAN BAIN

5 Gurney Way, Aycliffe Ind. Park

TELEPHONE: 301007

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Week Ending 18th July, 1997

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AYCLIFFE COULD JOIN NETWORK OF LEARNING TOWNS

This week, in another brave initiative, Greenfield Comprehensive School called a meeting of interested parties to consider Aycliffe becoming a "Learning Town".

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The idea falls in line with the School's exciting plans to provide a large community arts facility now and sports provision later. Work commences on the first phase soon following a successful bid for support from the Lottery Board.

If this latest initiative succeeds our town could become part of a National network of town and cities committed to improving opportunities for everyone to use existing and new resources to increase knowledge and learn new skills.

It is an ideal which encourages people to become life-long learners - taking part in numerous diverse activities, broadening horizons, releasing latent talent and bringing new

interest to their lives.

Opportunities could be available in every area of community life, and, with the co-operation of employers, even in commerce or industry.

The main aim is to develop basic skills of all citizens in cultural, educational, occupational and recreational activities.

The project is not a "back to school" scheme or an extension of evening classes in a classroom environment.

It is envisaged people will learn by informal "hands on" participation, in an enjoyable atmosphere, without pressure on the individual and in a wide variety of venues. The scheme began in 1995 and 20 Learning Towns and Cities exist including Sheffield, Nottingham and Norwich.

This is seen as a long term project with Newton Aycliffe in an ideal situation to be the next town to join the network.

Greenfield's Deputy Headteacher, Karen Robson, called the meeting and was encouraged by the positive response.

A steering group is to be formed with further meetings to be called at a later date to take the project further. Further details can be obtained from Karen on 300378.

WHO IS THE OLDEST?

On Sunday 17th August ASK (Aycliffe Support in the Community) are holding their second Fun Day in and around the Community House in Silverdale Place.

They are seeking the town's oldest resident to open this special occasion, but they need help in identifying the person to send an invitation.

Is it you or do you know who is our most Senior Citizen?

Please contact the community House on 307539

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WEEKEND BARBECUES - Ring for details
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SPORTS DAY AT SUGAR HILL NURSERY SCHOOL



On Friday 11th July the Nursery children at Sugar Hill School thrilled their families at the annual Sports Day. All the children participated in teams and much fun was had by parent and toddlers in their races. They all received Teddy Sports Certificates and afterwards refreshments were provided including strawberries and cream. The staff thank everyone who took part, helping to make the day a success and they send best wishes to Mrs. Holmes who is leaving Sugar Hill. They also wish the children every happiness in their new schools. Photo: Andy Banks

CIVIC RECEPTION FOR GERMAN GUESTS



Mayor Sarah Iveson and Chief Executive Michael Rice with German guests who visited Woodham Comprehensive School recently

Swimming Notes

On the weekend 28th 29th June at the first of the North East Counties Long Course events Kathleen Mohan collected two bronze medals. The event was held at Sheffield International 50m Pool. Club captain Kathleen collected bronze in the 50m Freestyle in a time of 26:77 and the 200m Backstroke in a time of 2:34.3. She finished 7th in the 100m Butterfly event in 1:10.82. Mark Surtees finished 4th in both the 100m Free (58:31) and achieved the national

qualifying time in the 50m Free (26:77). Jill Hunter narrowly beat her team mate Zoe Mitchell (1:26.25) in the final of the 100m Breaststroke in a time of 1:26.23. Congratulations to all those swimmers who qualified to attend the N.E.C. Championships: Angela W-Smith, Carol Mohan, Matthew Bowden, Lindsey Atkinson, Kimberley Vickers, Natalie Thompson, Samantha Mitchell, and Chris Bowden.

Preserving Our Pathways



Another work programme to upgrade one of our local rights of way has been arranged for SUNDAY, 20th JULY. If you would like to help, meet by the former Gretna Green Wedding Inn, on the A167, at 10 a.m. May I recommend this event to readers of the Newton News. I had a very enjoyable time when I joined the small group of volunteers on the last GAPS work programme. GAPS, you will remember, is the Great Aycliffe Paths Support group, and its members plan to get all our rights of way open and walkable by the year 2000. The event I attended was part of that plan; to open up 'Walk 17', which runs along the side of the River Skerne from Aycliffe Village to Ricknall Mill Farm. The event was led by Durham

County Council countryside officer, Mark Owen and the GAPS co-ordinator, Andy Morton. With a will, the group set about building stiles (four during the day). Other helpers scythed down long grass which had overgrown the path. I set off down the path with hammer, nails and 'way markers' (little arrow signs). Although I would in no way count myself a carpenter or handyman, I had a good day, in which country air, pleasant company and some physical exertion was crowned by a sense of shared achievement. A small number of caring people are doing a great deal of work to give us a network of walkable paths; please give them your support. John D. Clare

YOUTH CENTRE HOLIDAY HOURS

LADIES KEEP FIT

Monday 11th August - Ladies Keep Fit re-starts after holidays. Do YOU need to reshape? Come along and join us for that 'Feel Good Factor' go on you know it makes sense.

YOUTH CLUBS

21st July to 17th August

Tuesdays Junior Disco and Activity Night 6.15 to 9.00pm
Thursday Bear Club Disco 5.45 to 7.15pm
Senior Club 7.30 to 1 0.00pm

CLOSURE OF CENTRE 18th to 31st August

Normal programme of activities will resume on Monday 1st September 1997

A new programme of Adult Education Classes will be starting in mid September. For any information about any of the Youth Centre's Activities Ring Mike Home or Margaret Guy on Aycliffe 312520

Sedgefield Borough Council will be running their Summer Playscheme based in the Youth Centre from Monday 18th August for two weeks. Information from Council Offices, Green Lane, Spennymoor. Tel: (01388) 816166.

Songs of Praise

As there will be no evening services at Burnhill Way Methodist Church during the school holidays, it has been decided to hold the popular monthly SONGS OF PRAISE services on the mornings of 27 July and 24 August at 10.45am. As usual, these services will be suitable for all ages and will include hymns and songs chosen by the congregation. Requests for hymns can be given to the Minister (Sheelah Stevens, 307127) or the Church Steward (Belle Higgins, 317659).

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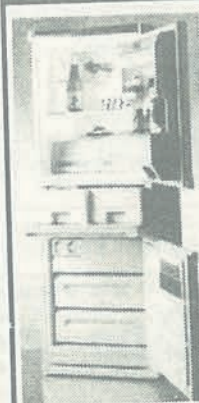
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Golden Wedding Couple Attend Royal Party



Olive and Joe Appleton of Cadogan Square were among the 4,000 couples invited to attend the Queen's Garden Party for those celebrating, with her and Prince Phillip, their 50th Wedding Anniversaries this year. Over 40,000 applied from all over the Commonwealth and the lucky ones were chosen by ballot. Only 41 from County Durham made the journey to Buckingham Palace. Olive and Joe celebrated their own Golden Day in March with family and friends. Their son Brian, and daughter-in-law June, who live in Basingstoke, organised the event held at the British Legion Club. Their very special family occasion was made even more enjoyable when grandson David took the opportunity to announce his engagement to Gemma.

GOOD SUPPORT FOR HIGHTINGTON SCOUTS

Hightington BP Scouts report a big success for their Strawberry Evening held on 11th July at the Village Hall.

The sun shone and over 200 people joined in the fun which included Horse Rides, Tombola, stalls, raffle, games and stocks to soak the muddy Cubs and Scouts.

The leaders, parents and

children would like to express their thanks to all who supported this event, with special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson for the use of their garden.

Raffle prizes unclaimed are numbers 3, 169, 307 and can be claimed Tuesday or Wednesday evenings at the Village Hall.

Alan Wilson

GREENFIELD HOUSE

Nursing and Residential EMI Care for the Elderly
Greenfield Way - Newton Aycliffe - 307393

We now have vacancies for DSS and Private Clients who may require permanent or respite care

Contact: The Manager, Mr Brian Mundell and his staff who will be pleased to give any help or advice - phone or call anytime

Cycleforce NOTES

by P.C. SARAH BULLICK

As already mentioned in this column if you see someone acting suspiciously you should call the police but you need to provide a good description to help identify offenders.

Try to notice and write down if possible, important characteristics to give to the Police.

Age, sex, race, height using your own height or surroundings to base your estimate. The same applies to weight and build to describe the frame as large, small, slim medium stocky or fat.

Hair colour and style, whether it is thin, thick balding, beard or moustache. The clothing worn, starting at the top from hat to shoes and whether there was a particular brand, print or logo.

Did the suspect have a scar or a tattoo, manner of speech, wore jewellery or glasses? What direction did they travel, on foot, bike or car?

What colour was the vehicle, make and model, was it a 2 door, saloon or hatchback?

IDENTIFY IT!

Valuable property should be engraved with an etching tool or marked with a security pen using your post code.

Serial numbers should be recorded and kept in a safe place along with the account numbers of credit cards.

Items which cannot be marked should be photographed in colour with the owner's identification card and a complete description recorded on the back of the photo. A video is also a good method using a voice-over to describe each item.

Your record should include the full name of the article, make and model, serial number and where to find your identification mark.

CRIME STOPPERS

This is an anonymous way of passing information to the Police about people you believe are or have committed an offence. Use this number 0800 55511 and there could be a cash reward. COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL

More Adults Wanted to learn First Aid

Newton Aycliffe St. John Ambulance Brigade urgently need adults to maintain their valuable service to the community.

In addition to learning and practicing First Aid the members provide cover at public events giving emergency treatment to casualties.

Members are needed also to help with Junior members, driving, store keeping, attend parades and camps, become familiar with radio communications and general administration work.

The brigade now meets at the Youth Centre on Wednesdays 7 - 9 p.m. Cadets (10-16 yrs): Wednesdays 7 - 8.30 pm. Badgers 6-10yrs): Fridays 7-8 pm.

For more details contact the Superintendent Alex Gibson on 318912.

Dixon's Growth Brings Town Jobs

Dixons Group Plc, today announced plans to create 3000 new jobs throughout the UK, including the Newton Aycliffe area, as part of a new £100 million store opening and customer service investment programme. The new jobs will be spread throughout the Country as the Dixons Group accelerates its store opening programme for Currys, PC World and The Link and increased sales create expansion opportunities at the Dixons chain. The jobs will comprise both full and part time opportunities both in stores and at the local distribution centre in Newton Aycliffe.

The investment programme includes the development of 35 new Currys Superstores, 12 new PC World Superstores, at least 40 The Link stores and the completion of the Dixons 2000 refurbishment programme. Selling space will increase to around 4.7 million square feet. Additional staff are being recruited to support the Group's investment in customer service including the group's recently launched seven days a week, next day guaranteed home delivery service for its full range of over 600 domestic appliances and televisions. Dixons' PC Services customer support facility in Nottingham is also set to expand which will create additional jobs. Dixons Group Plc Chief Executive

John Clare, commented: "This major investment programme is a reflection of Dixons' success in the electrical retailing market place and underlines the Dixons Group's commitment to job creation, training and customer service."

MAYOR ATTENDS McDONALD'S OPENING



Boro mascot "Roary" also came to the opening

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Preston le Skerne, near Aycliffe (turn off the A167 at the Gretna for 1 mile)

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Interesting new lunch and dinner menu's with real ale available in the friendly atmosphere of the Stables Country Pub - some of the new dishes are

STARTERS

Deep Fried Potato Wedges with Tomato and Basil Relish,	
Grilled Cheese and a Sour Cream and Chive Dip	£3.25
Coarse Country Pate with Cumberland Sauce and French Bread	£3.45
French Onion Soup with Cheddar and Gruyere Croutons and Garlic Bread	£2.95

MAIN COURSE

Beef and "Black Sheep" Ale Pie with a "Yorkshire Crust"	£6.95
Deep Fried Fillet of Fresh Whitby Cod, Chips and Mushy Peas with Homemade Tartare Sauce	£6.25
Grilled Venison Sausages on Mashed Potato and Red Onion Sauce	£6.95

Sunday Carvery Still Available at £6.95

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STABLES COUNTRY PUB, HALL GARTH HOTEL, COATHAM MUNDEVILLE, NR. DARLINGTON, CO. DURHAM DL1 3LU.

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre

CAR BOOT SALE

on SATURDAY 26th JULY, 1997

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Open to the Public from 10.00am

To book your place Tel 312520

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D. V. L. A.

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

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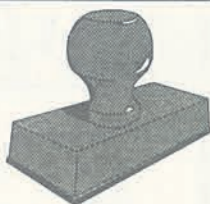
OK Bus Trips and Primrose Blackpool

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Regal King Size (20's) - £2.85
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Superkings (20's) - £2.72
Benson and Hedges (20's) - £2.89
Berkley (20's) - £2.72
Mayfair (20's) - £2.35
Maxim (20's) - £2.38
Sovereign (20's) - £2.45
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VACANCIES FOR NEW MEMBERS AT STROKE CLUB

We are a group of volunteers who run the above club every Wednesday at the Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre between 10.00a.m. and 2.00p.m.

Our day starts off with tea and biscuits, usually followed by a quiz and club business. At lunch-time a two course meal is served at a reasonable cost. After lunch activities include Dominos, Bingo or just a friendly chat whatever the members want, remembering we have to keep within our members capabilities. We occasionally have a day out when funds permit.

Due to circumstances beyond our control our membership has dropped slightly over the past few months, therefore, we are now in a position to take new members, who can with walking assistance use the toilet facilities. I am

pleased to say we also have live entertainment once a month, our next afternoon for this is 23rd July. We would welcome anyone who has suffered or convalescing from a stroke to come along on the 23rd, you can bring your carer with you. You will be most welcome 12.45p.m. to 2.00p.m. If you need more information give me a ring on Aycliffe 312714.

Olive McCabe
Organiser

Death Ads. too Expensive

Dear Sir,
Preying on and exploiting people who are bereaved seems to be the practice of two Northern regional newspapers.

They exploit people when they are most vulnerable through unreasonable and exorbitant advertising rates for death notices.

Thankfully this cannot be said of the homely community conscious "Newton News" who only charge a few coppers, compared with these "vultures" whose rates just can't be justified on any level.

Those who are bereaved often have to rely on meagre benefits which preclude them from advertising.

Well done "Newton News" for setting an example which others would do well to follow.

Yours faithfully,
Ken Jackson
Beechfield

VAT REDUCTION ON FUEL FROM SEPTEMBER

Northern Electric welcomes the reduction of VAT on domestic electricity from 8% to 5% as announced in the budget.

The new lower rate will be applied to all bills issued on and after 1 September 1997, even though these bills will include electricity used before that date.

Northern Electric wishes to ensure equal treatment and benefit for all customers from the VAT reduction. Customers who are on payment schemes and pay by instalments may be in credit at the date of the rate of change. Under current VAT rules these customers would be disadvantaged by having to be charged at the old higher VAT rate on credit balances.

Northern Electric will remain liable to pay 8% VAT to Customs and Excise

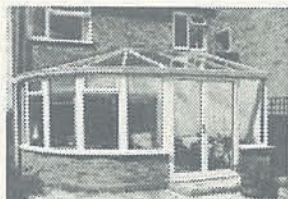
on these credit balances. However, the Company has decided to invoice customers at the new, low rate of 5%, "Northern Electric will pay the difference between the 5% and 8% rates to Customs and Excise" said Greg Abbott, President and Chief Operating Officer of Northern Electric. "This policy will ensure that the VAT reduction benefits all of our customers equally, irrespective of their method of bill payment."

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Advertise your private sales and wants, personal, public notices and announcements in Newton News for only 8p per word. Take your ad. to Stevens in the Town Centre before 11 am on Thursday for that weeks issue.

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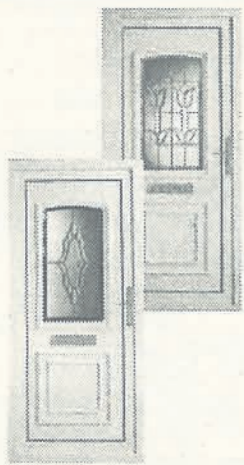
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01325 300879

Making Roads Safer

Local Councillors are hoping to make Newton Aycliffe's roads safer. Traffic calming measures are to be introduced along Greenfield Way and Pease Way in the western part of the town. The works, which will cost +22,000, will be jointly funded by Durham County Council and Great Aycliffe Town Council.

Bob Fleming, County Councillor and Leader of Great Aycliffe Town Council said: 'These measures are badly needed. Greenfield Way is a busy, 60 m.p.h. road through a built-up area; at times it resembles a race track. Last year Pease Way was the site of a distressing fatality involving a small child. It is nice to see the County Council and Town Council working together to try to prevent such tragedies ever happening again.'

Walk for School Funds

Last Monday, the pupils of Greenfield School took the afternoon off their studies to do a sponsored walk in aid of the school fund. Through a steady rain, they walked the course of Great Aycliffe Town Council's proposed 'Aycliffe Circular Walk'. A small group of pupils cycled the course, led by teacher Peter Bell and two policewomen on bicycles.

Raffle Winners

Dear Sir,
Having helped us thank the supporters of our fund raising efforts in your much read publication, may I publish the winners of our School Summer Raffle drawn on 30th June:

19, 927, 3429, 3796, 4149, 957, 3567, 196, 2031, 1785, 1916, 1553, 3518, 3494, 2316, 3812, 2481, 1789, 578, 4042, 3145, 3438, 2476, 3897, 1921, 4036, 3215, 639.
P. Harrison

SITUATIONS VACANT NEWTON PRESS

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Opening Times: Saturday 9am-6pm; Sunday 9am-5pm; Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm

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MAIN



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91 J FORD GRANADA 2.0GL automatic, finished in moon dust silver effortless motoring	£4495
90 H FORD ORION 1.4 LX finished in blue metallic, only 60000 miles by one owner, full history	£3595
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96 N FORD ESCORT 1.6L 5 door finished in petrol blue metallic, only 12000 miles, power steering	£P.O.A.
96 N FORD ESCORT 1.6LX 5 door finished in radiant red, power steering our workshop managers own vehicle	£9595