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Week Ending 28th November, 1997

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Tendering, introduced in the 1980's has given outside organisations a chance to compete for this work, but a recent analysis has shown in Sedgefield's case, the Borough Council's own Direct Labour Organisation is still providing the best value for money. Twenty three contracts, valued

at a total of £6,999,000 have been let comparatively since 1st April 1997.

Eighteen of these contracts, worth £6,200,000, have been won by the Direct Labour Organisation. This means the D.L.O. have won 78% of the contracts let, and 89% in terms of value.

Net savings of £517,000 over the next lowest tender, combined with trading surpluses of £93,913, achieved by the D.L.O. during the same period, means that over £600,000 has been saved for the Council, in the past six months.

Commenting on this performance, Brian Stephens, Leader of Sedgefield Borough Council, said "We have 350 people working for the Direct Labour Organisation in Sedgefield Borough. I am delighted with the results they are achieving. The efficiency of the present tendering system means the Council can make major savings which will benefit the whole community."

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HUNTSMEN 2nd FAVOURITE TO WIN CHAMPIONSHIP

Huntsman -8
Europa FC - 2
lit association with J&C Coaches and Blenheim Furniture.

Huntsman dealt out yet another sound thrashing as their championship bandwagon rolls on and on, writes Martin Walker.

The home side were true to form and were as ruthless as previous games as they power towards the top of the table, winning their past seven games and elevating to third in the league.

Huntsman took the lead through striker Wayne Marram and then Morgan Fielding scored a header to put Huntsman 2-0 up before Europa snatched one back with ten minutes left before the break.

But Fielding grabbed his second and Huntsman's third to go into half-time with a two goal advantage. The visitors had a man sent off before Fielding grabbed another two and the man-of-the-match award. Marram also scored another two to set his batterick while Jin XcCabe scored one - 'Theo' also won his second minger-of-the-match in a row (his third of the season as he leads the minger tally).

Team: Kent 7, R.Hodgson 7, T.Walker 7, R.Walker 7 (Leonard 7), Hammond 7, Haigh 7, Briddick 7, Travis 7, (Nelson 7), FIELDING 9, Marram 8, McCabe 6.

Europa chief Gary Preston slammed his side's

performance, saying: "We were absolutely abysmal and the sending off was totally justified. I just hope that we provide better opposition when we meet again in the cup in January."

Huntsman stand-in gaffer Chris Walker, who returns to the side after this week's trip to DPD Heating, said: "The lads played really well - the football at times was a joy to watch and we're certain contenders for the title looking at our recent results."

Bookies now have British Legion favourites for the championship on 3/1 while Huntsman stay on 7/2. Fox and Hounds trail after being tipped for the title an 7/1 with DCSS fourth faves at 10/1.

XMAS TRIP TO LINCOLN MARKET

Local Fundraiser Peter Beaty is organising a bus trip to the famous Lincoln Christmas Market for Saturday 6th December.

The coach will leave Byerley Park at 7 am, picking up passengers outside the Cemetery, St. Clares, Aycliffe Village, Heighington and Darlington.

The price is only £12 and reservations can be made by ringing Peter on 313924.

ITEC Help Children in Need



Staff and trainees at ITEC North East braved the cold on Friday to collect money for the BBC's Children in Need appeal.

The total raised to date is a magnificent £2,425 and the money is still rolling in. ITEC expects the end total to be over £2,500 beating last years total by over £400.

The trainees, who had a day off from their normal training, collected donations whilst in fancy dress on the Aycliffe Industrial Park, Aycliffe Town Centre and Darlington Town Centre.

Fancy dress costumes included The Spice Girls, a Monkey, a Jester, Batman and Robin and Santa to name a few.

ITEC North East would like to thank the local people who contributed so generously to their appeal which they hold every year. They would especially like to thank all the companies on the Aycliffe

industrial Estate who allowed them on their premises to collect from their staff.

Every penny raised will be distributed by Children in Need to help thousands of disadvantaged children in the local area.

TOP FILM SHOW AT AYCLIFFE FOR £1

Sedgefield Borough Leisure Centres are showing the full length feature film "Men in Black" on selected dates from 18th-21st December. The ticket price is only £1 and as they are limited it would be wise to purchase early.

Newton Aycliffe's Cinema opens Sunday 21st December at 3p.m. Tickets on sale from 1st December at the Leisure Centre

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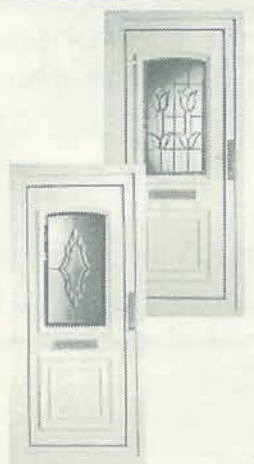
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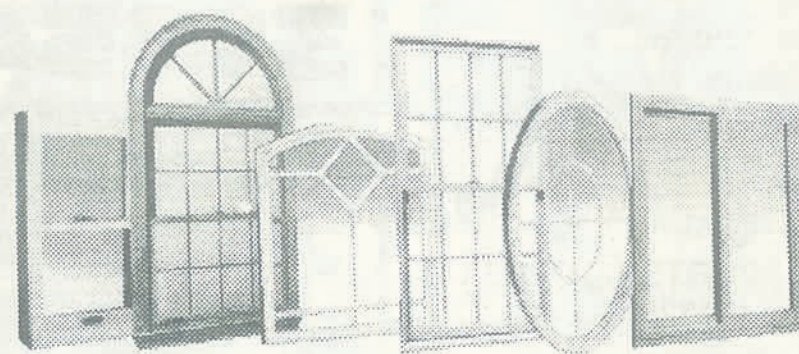
Sedgefield Borough Community Rangers and Silverdale Community House have organised an event to publicise World Aids Day on 1st December. Young people are invited to join them at the Silverdale Community House from 3.30 - 5pm to learn more about Aids and how it could affect them. Free leaflets will be available.

RAFFLE WINNERS

The following numbers were winners in the Greenfield School Christmas Raffle: 19601, 09866, 00802, 0812, 06166, 03901, 06830. A total of £250 in cash was won.

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HEIGHINGTON GEAR UP FOR THE MILLENNIUM

The Heighington Millennium Team is now up and running. Local people were consulted and a list of projects, to celebrate the birth of the New Millennium were drawn up. After a vote involving all interested parties, it was decided that the project to be adopted would be the refurbishment of the village hall. This will benefit the most people.

We would like to provide access for the disabled, rebuild the antiquated toilet facilities, spruce up the building in general and to connect both halls which are on different levels with a ramp. The outside of the building will also be included in the work to be carried out, and a new and handsome wood carved sign erected outside of the hall. We are of course working hand in glove with the village hall committee to achieve these objectives.

To do all this will cost a lot of money. We have applied for funding to the 'Millennium Village Halls for England' lottery fund.

At the present time we have come through stage 1 of the process and will have to submit our application in more

detail, early in the New Year. Alas, even with a grant we are faced with raising 50% of the finance involved. However, undaunted, we as a committee intend that this money will be raised. To do this will require the support and goodwill of all villagers, local people and businesses.

There are a lot of future events being organised with something to suit all tastes, from Discos to male voice choirs, in the village hall.

The Committee would be delighted to receive any offer of help. This may be in cash or kind. Surprising how much a bottle of whisky can raise when raffled, or even better, get yourself along and join the fund raising team. We intend that raising the cash should also be fun and an exercise in community relations.

SEE YOU THERE!

Many thanks,
Yours faithfully
JOHN MCGUCKIN
Chairman

Donations may be paid to: Heighington Millennium Committee Account No. 41542141 or contact our Treasurer, Mr Barry Spink, Tel: 01325 313903

JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB PRODUCES PLAYERS FOR TOP F.A. LEAGUE TEAMS

Newton Aycliffe Junior Football club was formed in 1989 with just one under 13's team. Today it runs eight teams covering an age range from under 10 to 18 years old.

Over the years the club has produced some excellent players proving this is where the roots of football are and where professional players are chosen by talent scouts.

The Club has two under 16 players, Chris Burns and Andrew Pierce, in the County Squad and last week Newton News reported another under 16 player, Simon Ramsden,

has signed a 3 year contract with Sunderland F.C.

Another of our players, Craig Rand is with Sheffield Wednesday and the Club would like to congratulate them all and offer every encouragement to stick in and work hard to reach the top. Newton Aycliffe YAFU encourages junior football and needs sponsors to help the town's youngsters to achieve perfection in the sport.

Any help with our running costs would be welcome. Please contact Keith on 318731 or Brian on 316269.

Letter to the Editor

WE NEED TO MANAGE OUR ENVIRONMENT

Dear Reader,
In last week's Newton News, a correspondent suggested that nature would provide walks and a wildlife habitat if only it was 'left to its own devices'.

This, of course, is completely mistaken. The Woodham Burn area to the north of Burn Lane shows what happens when we leave nature to its own devices: invasive non-native species such as Indian Balsam swamp out less aggressive wildflowers and grasses, paths become overgrown with nettles, and

the stream disappears down a hole!

We need to manage our environment to make sure that we are taking best care of it ecologically and getting the most out of it recreationally. Last week, the Town Council appointed, on a two-year contract, an 'environment ranger'. His job will be to audit the Town Council's lands to assess their potential, and then to develop (in consultation with the community) a sympathetic management plan.

The Anniversary Circular Walk is at the centre of our environmental policy. It will provide access to our green areas (for everybody, including wheelchair users and pushchairs). And at the same time, it will allow animal and plant species to migrate naturally.

Even in the country, nature is harmed by human activity. In a town, it needs careful, considered help. That is what we intend to do. It will give Great Aycliffe a more beautiful, more accessible, more natural, healthier environment.

If you have any comments, or if you can provide help or advice, please write to me at the Town Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, DL5 6QE.

Yours faithfully,
Terry Hogan
Hartley Road

Borough Council Halves Prices at Leisure Centres

Sedgefield Borough Council are launching a half price Christmas Package at their Leisure Centres.

From 1st December until 31st they are offering half price swimming, table tennis, sauna and fitness facilities at all times and half price netball, football, basketball and badminton between 9am and 4 p.m.

RUGBY NEWS

Newton Aycliffe turned out a full side for the first time in many weeks for this match despite being without two of the season's ever presents.

Darby (Dazza) Petit had a poorly foot and Steve "Crunchie" Turnbull was in search of grapes in Oxford Street. He denies he was Christmas shopping!

The Consett Club have got stronger in recent years and they sent a good side to Aycliffe. The home side matched Consett's best efforts and were particularly strong in the scrum.

Indeed Aycliffe won more of the ball to win the game, but too many unforced errors broke down play for Consett to take full advantage.

Many Aycliffe players hadn't been in a game for weeks due to injury or work commitments and this was the major feature in their scrappy play.

The spirit in the side, matched by 110% effort paid off with a great try from Wazza Parsonage. Pressure from Consett saw them give away a number of penalties one of which was converted by Tommy Cooper.

Mick Casey made his return after an absence of three years and put in a good display. Peter Sheen did not score although most agreed he looked like doing so.

We still need more players - come along and join us at Moore Lane Sports Club for training on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Thanks to Club Sponsors: Great Lakes Chemicals.

CORRECTION

John Richardson and Martin Fireworks Company provided the display at the Scouts Centre Bonfire Night event.

Rotary Club Organise Community Christmas Concert

The Annual Christmas Concert, organised by the Rotary Club, is to be held in the Leisure Centre Main Hall on Sunday 14th December at 2.30pm.

With a capacity of over 750 it is the largest hall in the town and copes well with big events such as this Xmas Sing-Along which draws a large audience. Our Twon Band and Woodham Youth Choir will lead the singing and in

between popular songs and carols children from town schools will provide festive entertainment.

The Concert provides a mixture of Xmas music for the audience to sing including 'White Christmas', 'When a Child is Born', 'Rudolph' and many of the popular carols. Come along, sing - along with our first class brass band and enjoy a real community family outing. You will all be welcome.

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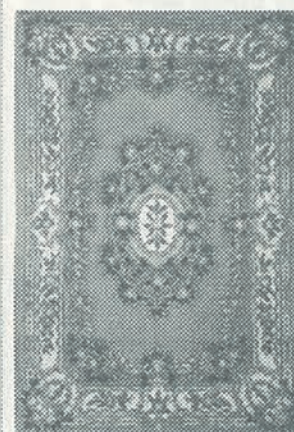
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Spennymoor Leisure Centre **01388 815627**

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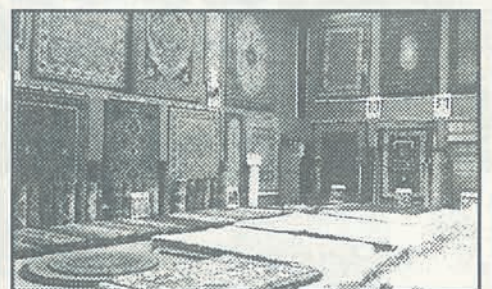
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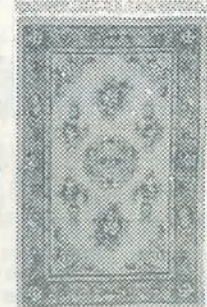
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"IF YOU HAVE NOTHING NICE TO SAY, DON'T SAY IT"!

Dear Sir,
I agree with Marjorie Spark! She has no reason at all to celebrate Newton Aycliffe's 50th anniversary. According to her, our town is dreadful and your children are moronic vandals. Her bitter, negative letter brought to mind my mother's dictum: 'if you haven't anything nice to say, don't say it'.
As we approach 1998, surely we need to encourage some civic pride. For Newton Aycliffe has much to be proud about.
Formed out of the very cauldron of war, Newton Aycliffe was the flagship of Lord Beveridge's programme for security and equality. And during the last fifty years we

have moved here in our tens of thousands - every one of us an 'incomer' - and yet we have created a busy, generally peaceful and happy community. We can be proud of our clubs, our churches and our societies, all of them built from nothing by the hard work of volunteers. Try telling the officers and leaders of the Cadets and Scouts, the Youth Centre, the 5-a-side Football League and countless other organisations that they have done nothing worthwhile. Try telling our grandparents, who have seen their families take root and grow, that we have nothing to celebrate.
I do not pretend that there is nothing wrong. Far from it - there's enough to take the next 50 years putting it right! But our 50th anniversary deserves celebration. Like fun runners in a marathon, maybe we haven't arrived in much style, but you can't deny the sense of achievement.
It's easy to knock down and find fault. It's much harder to build, to edify and to CREATE. So let's look around us, celebrate what we have created in our first half century, and plan what we want to achieve in the next.
Yours faithfully,
John D. Clare

Praise for Doctor

Dear Sir,
I would like to praise Dr. Bhagat, our family doctor, and hope the allegations of false prescriptions will soon be cleared. He is always friendly and helpful and we wish him and Mr. Zin Hag all the best, continuing to pray for them.
Yours sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. B. Kerr
Derwent Place

"Anniversary Path Has Overwhelming Support" says Councillor

Dear Sir,
Majorie Spark (last week) is completely wrong when she says that the Anniversary Walk arrived without anyone's views being asked for.

Last year the Newton News published advance notice of the plan, together with a detailed map, asking for comment.

The Council then set up manned stalls for two days in the Recreation Centre, and two days in Somerfield's, where members of the public were asked what they thought about the idea.

A public meeting was then held in the Council Chambers, which remained open throughout the afternoon and evening. In addition, notices have been filed in the Northern Echo, and a manned stall was set up at the Great Aycliffe Show.

At every stage, we have tried to respond to comments by members of the public. The

walk has been overwhelmingly well-received, and has particularly caught the imagination of local firms, who have generously sponsored sign-posts, sculptures and seats for the walk.

At the same time, the walk has inspired the GAPS members to open many other rights of way (they have voted with their time and effort).

Only last month I wrote in the Newton News that the Walk was our main project for the Fiftieth Anniversary and asked people to respond to me at the Town Council Offices. And last week the Newton News asked people to suggest a suitable name for the Walk.

To suggest that the scheme has been imposed out of the blue because the Council has got a 'bee in its bonnet' is seriously to misrepresent the facts.

With thanks,
Councillor Billy Blenkinsopp,
Chairman, GATC 50th Anniversary Committee

AYCLIFFE COACH ATTACKED BY TEENAGE THUGS

TEENAGE thugs ambushed and stoned a coach carrying defenceless adults with learning difficulties last week. The J&C Coaches vehicle was doing its usual route when the youths, thought to be from Branksome School, Darlington, started to bombard it with stones.

J&C pick up passengers from Beck House Day Centre in Faverdale at 3.15pm every day. When it was passing through Whitby Way, Branksome, the mindless juveniles attacked the 35-seater shattering one of the side bay windows and showering the occupants with glass. The passengers were very shaken by the incident though no one was injured.

Company Director of J&C Coaches Neville Jones, 32, said: "It's absolutely terrible that this happened. I just hope that the culprits are caught and severely dealt with."

Driver of the coach Barry Green, who tried at first to catch some of the youths, was visibly upset by the attack.

"Myself and the escort had to spend a little time afterwards calming them down," he said. "they were understandably very distressed and we had to reassure them."

"We're all very upset about the whole incident. These people are extremely friendly and I don't understand how anyone could do such a thing."

CHEMISTS EMERGENCY ROTARY

Sunday 30th November 1997
12noon-1pm - Boots
Sunday 7th December 1997
12noon-1pm - Neville Pharmacy

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SUNDAY 14th DEC.

2.30 - 4 p.m.

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Admission FREE!

Be early to get a good seat

Speeding Taxis

Dear Sir,
I am absolutely furious at the speed of some taxi drivers who speeds reach at least 60mph around the roads of our town.

Do they realise they are in a built-up area and must they drive on their brakes, screeching to a stop only feet away from pedestrians attempting to cross in front of them?

One day they will get a shock when brakes fail and they face a manslaughter charge.

I would suggest speed ramps be placed in appropriate places, specifically along St. Cuthberts Way, Stephenson Way and Shafto Way.

It is dangerous to cross these roads even with the aid of bollards and wonder if these could be substituted for zebra crossings with lights?

I have been put in danger a few times by reckless taxi drivers who think they own the road, making no allowance for women with prams, the elderly and disabled people.

The car park opposite the Vets at Neville Parade creates a bad blind spot as it is impossible to see if cars are approaching. The town wasn't built for so much traffic and zebra crossings seem to be the only way to allow pedestrians to cross roads in safety.

Yours sincerely,
Norma Shirley-Pounder
Bek Road

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NEW MUSICAL AT GREENFIELD

Greenfield School have been busy for the past two days recording the sound and music from 'The Spirits of Hawksley' which is the next musical to be performed at Greenfield on December 15th, 16th and 17th. Once again the musical has been written by Peter Simpson, Head of Music and produced by Claire Deighton. The musical tells the story of a group of tourists who visit Hawksley Castle and are then subjected to spirits of the past during an exciting discovery of treasure and ghosts from the past. The music suite at Greenfield includes a purpose built recording suite and the songs and music have taken two days to record to professional standards.

The recording equipment is currently on loan from Darlington College of Technology but during the coming months the suite will be fitted out with equipment funded from the National Lottery Grant recently awarded to the Greenfield Centre which is available to the community. Greenfield School has also recently applied to the Government for specialist schools status as an Arts College and hopes to become the first such school in the northern region. A decision is anticipated from the DFEE towards the end of this term. Further information about ticket sales is available from the school office. Tel. no. 300378.

Woodham School Presentation Night Highly Successful

On Thursday 13th November 1997, the Main Hall at Woodham School was filled to overflowing as more than 250 pupils, parents, family, friends, teachers and governors gathered to enjoy the presentation of awards, certificates and testimonials to the Class of '92. In the first part of the evening the Headteacher, Steven Harness presented 34 students with awards sponsored by Wrights Property Services and Perstorp for academic endeavour and achievement, and for contribution to school

life. The 'Electrolux' awards for academic excellence were presented to Joanne Hull and Elizabeth Proud. The 'Eaton' award went to Kathleen Mohan who achieved an impressive set of examination results while at the same time, swimming at local, regional county and national level. The former Head Girl and Head Boy at Woodham, Kay Robson and Andrew Noble, received the MacMurray and Burton awards which recognised their energetic and positive commitment to the life of the school. The award for outstanding academic achievement was shared by Sarah Gilligan and Lucy Pearson. Sarah attained 6 A* grades and 4 A grades in the G.C.S.E. examinations and Lucy's results were 5 A* grades, 5 A grades and 1 B grade. The School Governors then presented over 100 pupils with a folder containing their G.C.S.E. certificates. Work Experience award and testimonial.

The quest speaker for the evening was Mr. A. F. Hunt. A former teacher at Woodham. He entertained the audience with tales of his early teaching career in East Durham and left the pupils to reflect on his advice that, while they should not be afraid to fail, they should never be accused of not trying. The audience also enjoyed a performance from the school's 'a capella' choir, Vocal Chords, conducted by English teacher, Helen Cross. The pupils made their own contribution to the evening, making 'alternative' awards to some of their teachers and presenting gifts to Mr. Harness, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Crawford and Mrs. Sewell. The most interesting and, certainly, the loudest contribution of the evening was made by Weekend Millionaires, a rock group made up of two Woodham 6th Form students, Barrie Walker and Claire Rutter, and Nail Alliston. They impressed the audience with their musical skills, even if several of the older guests were begging for ear plugs by the end of their performance! The evening was judged to be a huge success by all who attended and was testimony, not only to the hard work and dedication of both staff and pupils, but also to the positive relationships and sense of belonging which Woodham values highly.

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variable fee deductible from payout

Letter to the Editor OVER £1300 RAISED AT St. MARY'S P.T.A. SCHOOL FAIR

Dear Sir,
St. Mary's R.C. School held their annual Christmas Fair on Friday, 21st November, 1997. There was a marvellous turnout and the PTA committee would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all those who donated items to sell, baked cakes and gave their valuable time on the night to help in the organisation. All your hard work was very much appreciated and everyone involved on the night deserves a big pat on the back. The total amount raised is still under consideration but preliminary estimates are in the region of £1300. This money, added to that already raised this year, will be used to purchase a Multimedia CD Ram Computer and a photocopier and as so much was raised we will now be able to purchase both these items to be in use at the school very shortly.

We would like to thank the following for donating prizes for our Grand Draw :- Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, Fujitsu, Hydro Polymers, The British Legion, The Blackwell Grange Hotel, Hathaway Roofing, Pauline McCormick, Jackie Watson, The Civic Theatre, Great Lakes Chemicals, Kwiksav, Halfords, Hollywood Bowl, Morrisons, Asda, Tyneside Packaging and 3M (UK) Ltd. The unclaimed raffle ticket numbers for the Grand Prize Draw are:- 2574, 2939, 1399, 2699, 0521, 2698, 0737, 2658, 0984, 0146, 0514, 0806, 1349, and 2187. The unclaimed raffle ticket numbers for the Hamper Draw are:- 290, 446, 235 and 232. Once again we would like to express our gratitude to all those who helped in any way. Yours sincerely, Mrs. J. Watson, Secretary, PTA

Santa's Postbox

Santa's post boxes will be out on locations in Aycliffe, from December 1st so all the boys and girls in Newton Aycliffe and Aycliffe Village who who write to Santa and post their letters in the special boxes will get a reply, addressed to them and be delivered to their home. Santa replied to over 1,000 letters last Christmas but quite a few letters did not have the name and address of the children on them... and Santa was very disappointed that he could not write back. Santa has asked especially for mums and dads to make sure, that the child's name and address is printed clearly at the top of their letter this year. The special post boxes will be at Stevens Newsagents in Beveridge Way. Stevens Newsagents in Neville Parade Aycliffe Village Post Office, Redhouse Post Office Woodham Post Office Make sure that you post your letter before Friday 19th December because that is when the post boxes will be taken back to the Ice Palace in Greenland.

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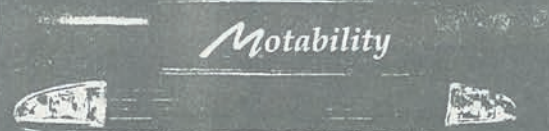
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HOLIWAYS

RECOGNITION OF THE TOWN'S 50th YEAR IS APPROPRIATE

Dear Sir,
Last weeks comment by M. Spark regarding the 50th Anniversary Path was unfortunate as Graham Clinghan is not a policymaker, being employed by the Borough Council as Countryside Management Officer.

He has been instrumental in making amny improvements to our environment and we are fortunate to have him working for our benefit. Any of the Town Council

initiatives can be criticised, but to do nothing would also have brought criticism and contrary to the comments made the Council gave us ample opportunity to inspect plans for the walk and invited suggestions. The comment about vandalism is so negative and the account of disappearing birds is odd as over 30 species can be seen in garfens within 300 yards of the town centre. In the early days Newton Aycliffe was known as a housing estate near Darlington

with many residents referring to home as the place where they came from. This has now changed with nearby areas located as being near Newton Aycliffe with a large proportion of our population calling this their home.

It would seem therefore that recognition of the town's first 50 years is appropriate and the creation of a circular walk to give more paths, suitable for the disabled, very welcome.

Yours sincerely,
P Robinson

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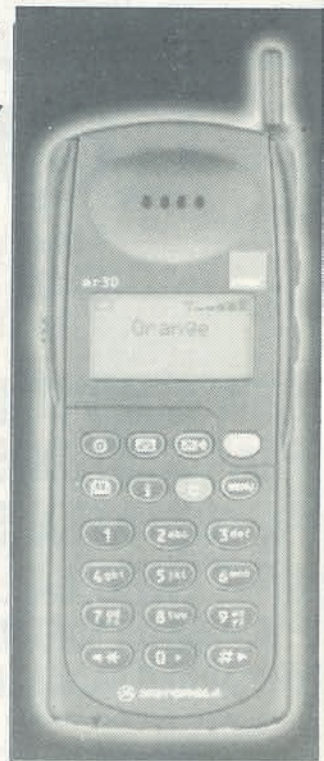
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UNDER 11's FORCE A DRAW

Newton Aycliffe U/11's - 3
Stockton West End - 3.

Last Sunday, Aycliffe Under 11's were involved in another thrilling - game this time against Stockton West End. The lads started brightly and after 5 minutes they took the lead when Michael Purves' left-footer slipped through the keeper's hands. 10 minutes later goalkeeper Scott Roscher pulled off a brilliant save when the opposing forward looked odds-on to score.

Approaching half-time, Anthony Ross's pile driver just cleared the bar and Liam Cooper's shot just flashed past the post.

Right on the half-time whistle however, a through ball caught out the home defence and despite a heroic save again by Scott, the rebound fell kindly for the visitors to equalise. Within minutes of the re-start Stockton scored a second before Graham Johnson cracked home Aycliffe's reply after a blocked shot from

Anthony Ross.

With 5 minutes to go, the referee who had had a good game throughout awarded Stockton a dubious penalty from which they regained the lead.

The lads didn't buckle however and after Anthony Ross went close from a great Lee Skinner pass, Matthew Dodds pulled back a great cross for Liam Cooper to thump home a last-gasp but deserved equaliser. All in all, a fair result. Skipper Matthew Dodds took the 'man of the match' award for his never-say-die performance with Kyle Summersby a close second. Thanks to all the spectators who supported the team - the lads' first win must surely come soon.

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Congratulations

HYATT (nee Porter) Congratulations Anne and Anthony on the birth of your son "Mark", a brother to Daniel, born 26th November 1997. Lots of love from Mam, Joan, Angela, John, Rebecca, Andrew, John, Coleen, Jenny and Helen

HYATT (nee Porter) Anne and Anthony, congratulations on the birth of your son, "Mark", born 26th November 1997. Love from Mam, Joanne, Kirsty, Jane, Laura and Lea

LEE - PRESCOTT Congratulations Jayne and Lee on your engagement, good luck and happiness for the future. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Karen and Adam. Lots of love from Grandma Ramsden, Grandma and Grandad Lee

PETER STEED - 29-11-97, happy birthday "Max", lots of love Always Gillian XX

PETER STEED - To a very special Dad on your birthday, lots of love and kisses from Michael and Mason XX

HARPER Stephen Ronald, Happy 17th birthday, 25th November, love from Mam, Dad and Family

HARPER Stephen Ronald, congratulations Stephen on your passing out parade with the Royal Signals on 28th November at Royston, love from Mam, Dad & family XX

CHLOE HINDLE is 2 today! Happy birthday to our darling daughter for 30th November, lots of love and kisses sweetheart from Mammy and Daddy XX

CHLOE HINDLE Our beautiful granddaughter is 2 on Sunday 30th November. Happy birthday sweetheart, have a lovely party, Chloe. Lots of love Nanna and Grandad XX

WAYNE JOHNSON (27-11-97) Happy 18th birthday Babe, love always Kelly XX

WAYNE JOHNSON Happy 18th birthday love Liz, Ian and Daniel X

WAYNE JOHNSON Happy 18th birthday, love Aunt Pam, Uncle Michael and all

DOBSON - MURRAY Congratulations and best wishes Andrea and Gavin on your engagement on 29th November, have a great night, love Mam XX

MICHAEL DUNN 30-11-97, happy 21st birthday, All my love Michelle X

RICHARD INGMAN Congratulations on winning the Witton-le-Wear Club Person of the Year Award, also happy birthday for 3rd December, lots of love Kirston and Charver XX

HARNETT 4-12-97, Happy 40th birthday Frank, love Mam, Dad and Maureen

HOWARTH Fayemarie congratulations Fayemarie on receiving your BA Honours Degree in style. Good luck in your new job, we knew you could do it and we are so very proud of you. All our love Mam, Dad and Shayne

WILLIAMSON - MADDISON Many congratulations Scott and Nicola on your engagement, wishing you both a long and happy future together. Love from Mam, Dad and Roy XX

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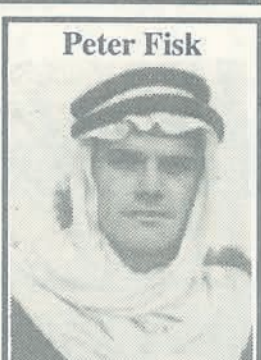
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Deaths



Peter Fisk
Hip Hip Hooray Peter Fisk is 60 today (3rd Dec) Have a happy 60th birthday Dad, lots of love Anna, Kevin, Patrick, Sandra, Phillip and June and love from Grandchildren Tom, Bridie, Paige and Joseph



John Brittain
28th November 1967
Happy 30th birthday John with love from Dianne, daughters Amy & Paige and all the family XX

AMY BRITTAIN 27th November 1990. Happy 7th birthday Amy, with love from Mum, Dad and sister Paige and all the family XXX

Thank You

GRATEFUL Thanks to my friend Peter, the landlady and customers of the Oak Tree Public House and the ambulance service, who all came to my assistance when I uncharacteristically collapsed last Friday night

McROYALL Jean and the family of the late Jack, wish to thank the doctors and nurses of Ward 9 Bishop Auckland Hospital, Shirley and staff of John Meynells Funeral Service for their kindness and sympathy, the Rev Broad for his support and many friends and neighbours for their lovely cards and letters of condolence. God bless you all, especially the Royal British Legion

TALBOT Debbie and Mr and Mrs Talbot would like to thank everybody for attending Debbie's surprise birthday party and a big thank you for all the cards and gifts - we hope you all had a good time

GRIFFITHS Darren and Amanda would like to thank all their friends and family for the gifts and cards received on their wedding day, 22nd November. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

TROUTEN George and Hazel would like to thank all of our family, friends and neighbours and also all of our friends at the British Legion Club for the beautiful gifts and many cards on the occasion of their recent marriage. A big thanks to you all

Autos

CAR ALARMS fitted while-u-wait, 120db, remote, shock sensor and panic buttons, LED flashing light £45 inclusive Tel Victoria Cars 01325 464759, mobile 0860 452337

BUDGET Carpet and car valeting service Tel 01388 776875

ROVER MONTECO 1.6 metallic red., G reg, genuine 59000 miles, tested 'till end of October 98, taxed till end of April 98 £1000 Tel 318351

FORD FIESTA F reg, excellent condition inside and out Tel 01325 307177

VAUXHALL NOVA 1200cc, new shape 91 model, first see will buy, £1995 Tel 307177

Deaths

HANCOCK Jordan Gary. This little angel returned to Heaven on 20th November 1997, aged 5 weeks, 4 days. Our lives will never be the same. We will love you forever. Grandma and Grandpa Wallis, Kyle and Mark

HANCOCK Jordan Gary You were the most precious little boy, I'm so grateful to your Mammy and Daddy, for letting me take care of you sometimes. I'll treasure the time I spent with you. You'll be forever in my heart and my thoughts. I love you so much, Auntie Irene XX

JORDAN My special cousin, I love you so much, and will never ever forget you, lots of love Jenna XX

Situations Vacant

GEORGE HOTEL, Piercebridge needs weekend banquet and bar staff Tel 01325 374576

Public Notice

ASHWOOD ARTS
Blue Bridge Centre
Horndale Avenue - 300185
Decoupage and framing specialists. Same/next day service. Over 40 wood mouldings and 50 mount colours to choose from and 1000's of prints, glue, glaze etc. etc. Classes in decoupage take place on Wednesday evenings, and Wednesday daytime. Ring or call in for further details

Mon-Thur 9.30-4.30pm
Friday 9.30-3.00pm
Saturday 9.30am-12.30pm
Wednesday Eve 7-8.45pm

DINING OUT - Do you want something to do on cold winter evenings? Come into our warm and friendly atmosphere and join us for dinner and conversation. This is the easy way to meet new friends Tel 01325 320352

FAX BUREAU For a nominal charge readers may use our fax number to receive and send information FAX 312893

HORNDAL W. M. C. Function Room Hire, every day and night of the week (except Sunday) night) available for weddings, anniversaries, parties etc Book now (£10 fee)

LINE DANCE PARTY NIGHT at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Tuesday 16th December 1997 from 7.30-11pm. Tickets £4 (\$5 on the door) with entertainment from The Rye Brothers and sausage and bean supper. Tel 317983 for more information and tickets

SEDGEFIELD and District Help Furniture Scheme AGM has been postponed from 13th November to Tuesday 2nd December in St Clares Vestry

DAY TRIP to Lincoln Christmas Market on Saturday 6th December 1997, adult £12, child £10 Tel 313924 for details

NEVILLE, Shafto and Simpasturegate Ward Surgery. Your District and Town Councillors will be available for you to discuss your problems or complaints at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Saturday 6th December between 11am-12

THE WILLIAMFIELD Residents Association will hold it's First Annual General meeting on Wednesday 3rd December 1997. It will be held at St Francis School and starts at 7pm. All members of the community are invited to attend and are reminded that the Residents Association is there to assist you and can only be successful with your support.

A2B TAXIS
now provide
SHOPPING TRIPS
to Bishop Auckland and Darlington (£10.00 return) from 9am-5pm Monday to Saturday
Tel 314545

In Memory

DERRICK WALKER Died 30th November 1995. Treasured memories of a much loved father and grandfather. Sadly missed, love forever, Gary, Samantha and Nicolè-Tamara

CATHERINE YOUNG Died 30th November 1989. In loving memory of a very special Mam, remembered with love not just today, but everyday, miss you more and more, love Jean and grandson Andrew

JAMES BANKS, 25th November 1994. Days, months and years may have passed, but memories of you were made to last. Love always, Manda

MAYO In remembrance of Enid who died a year ago, from Jack, Connie and her beloved cat Dolly

NORMAN SMITH Died 30th November 1989. Loving memories of my dear Dad, just a thought away, love always, son George

NORMAN SMITH Died 30th November 1989. Another year has slowly passed without you by my side. But still within my lonely heart you will always take place of pride. Yours till the end of time, Norman. Loving wife Jean X

MARGARET MILLER In loving memory of a dear Mum who died 29th November 1996. I watched you suffer day by day. It gave me bitter grief to see you slowly pine away, and could not give relief. I stood beside your bed that night, my heart was cross and sore, I did my duty to the last and I could do no more. I shed many a tear in silence, breathe a sigh of regret. Mum you are mine to remember, one I will never forget. Love Margaret and family

MARGARET MILLER In loving memory of a dear Gran who died 29th November 1996. One year gone by since that sad day, the day God took our Gran away. Without farewell you fell asleep, leaving only memories to keep. Love Brian, Bev, Stephen and Shane

Birthday Remembrances

BENNET FORGHAM Birthday memories of our dear son, born 28-11-57. Forty years ago we were full of joy, into our came "Forge Boy", we loved you, treasured you and watched you grow into a man. But all too soon, you got the call, you got on your bike and left us all. The special years will not return, when we were all together, but with the love that's in our hearts, you'll walk with us forever. Our birthday wish is now a prayer, we'll meet again, sometime, somewhere, your ever loving Mam and Dad

BENNET FORGHAM - 28th November, 40 today. Everyday I think of you and the pain is still there. Today is your special birthday and we should have all been celebrating. I'll lift my glass and toast you on Friday night. I miss you Forgham, love from your little sis, Sheila, Carl and family

TOMMY OWEN 28-11-97. Gentle Jesus up above, please give grandad a great big hug, lots of love and kisses from Stuart and Samantha XX

TOMMY OWEN 28-11-97. This is a birthday we can not share, but in our hearts you are always there. Love you always Dad, from Dave and Lesley XX

Pets

BOARDING KENNELS and **CATTERY** (established 18 years), White House Farm, Bolam, Near Darlington (off A68). Approximately 3 miles from Heighington - 01388 832635.

ROTWEILLER X PUPS for sale £40 each Tel 311116

VAL BROWN
Dog Beautician
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For Sale

WINTER Pansies and Violas £1.50 for six. Wall flowers also available, free delivery Travellers Green Nursery 312453

THREE PIECE suites clearance, brand new, Regency stripe and dralon, all colours only £230. Delivery/PX 01324 488706

THREE PIECE Suite new and second-hand from £100, clean, good quality, free local delivery Tel 01325 266137

TOYS FOR SALE: Girls zigzag Townend bike, pink with wind jammer wheels, suit 5-8 years £25 (Shimano gears). Dolls, turquoise pram, suit 3-6 years, £10. Dolls navy pushchair hood and lower carrying tray, good condition £10. Barbie horse (blonde) plus Barbie stable and accessories £25. Barbie 4x4 picnic van and accessories £15 Tel 0374 921986

SLOT IN gas cooker, white, fold down lid, 2 years old, £70 ONO Tel 313166

BERCHET Activity rock n ride car. Removable rocker, can be used as a car or rocker, suit 6 months-3 years £20. Fisher Price childs feeding chair with tray and harness, will also fit onto dining chair £25. Push n ride baby walker. In excellent condition 307996

MR POP, Dash the Dog, Magic Wand (ELC) Owl Clock (ELC), Sindy make-up room £5 each. Magnetic fish pond (ELC) £3. VGC 317489

ELECTRIC Cooker, Belling Classic, double oven, perfect order £65 Tel 314885

SECONDHAND Cycle spares. Midi HiFi £40 ONO. Stereo HiFi £20 ONO Tel 01325 300811

5 BEAUTIFUL light fittings, tulip design with black and gold leaf + crystal petals £40 ONO Tel 315139

SEGA MEGA Drive, 2 joypads, one 6 game cartridge, £60 ONO, Tel 315139

AMSTRAD PC 2386, colour monitor, keyboard, mouse, Windows 3.1, star LC200 colour printer, in excellent working order. £275 ONO 315571

DARK OAK Effect kitchen dresser, round table and four chairs, excellent condition, £150 Tel after 5pm 314245

TEAK WALL Unit, approximately 4'x5', double doors at base, glass display unit £60 Tel 315139

5 PORCELAIN dolls £8 each, Tel 316705

THREE Seater and two seater settee in brown, £150 ONO Tel 310342

SEGA MEGA Drive II, 2 control pads plus 2 pro control pads, Street Fighter 2 game, £20 Tel 310652

TEAK Double wardrobe in very good condition £20 Tel 312673

Wanted

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

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ALL THREE Piece suites and furniture wanted, cash paid tel: 0976 579862 or 01325 314417

CD's ROCK, pop, soul, punk etc. Also up to date videos, all considered, cash paid Tel 01325 311465

GO-KART wanted for up to 10 years, must be very good condition, Tel 320296 after 6pm

STOP PRESS INFORMATION FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

Our Town Council has engaged local bands to entertain shoppers in the Town Centre on Saturdays 6th, 13th and 20th December.

Our own Town Band, Shildon Brass Band and a Pipe Band will help bring Christmas spirit into the shopping area.

The Town Centre Landlords have purchased a Xmas tree for the Town Council to erect and decorate with lights.

A local Brownie pack will sing carols in Boots Store on 20th December.

The Town Council has appointed an attendant for the Male toilets in the town centre which opens on Monday from 9am-5pm. The other toilet which was open at all times is to be closed permanently.

‘Pay as you Talk’

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13th December 1997
8.30am pick up - 5.00pm return
Adults £5.50, OAPs £5.00, Children £4.50
Book: 01325 466477 or 312705

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At one time, Sedgefield Borough Council would automatically use its own workforce, the Direct Labour Organisation, for maintaining and refurbishing its houses, refuse collection, roadworks, street cleansing and managing the Leisure Centres.

Compulsory Competitive

Tendering, introduced in the 1980's has given outside organisations a chance to compete for this work, but a recent analysis has shown in Sedgefield's case, the Borough Council's own Direct Labour Organisation is still providing the best value for money.

Twenty three contracts, valued

at a total of £6,999,000 have been let comparatively since 1st April 1997.

Eighteen of these contracts, worth £6,200,000, have been won by the Direct Labour Organisation. This means the D.L.O. have won 78% of the contracts let, and 89% in terms of value.

Net savings of £517,000 over the next lowest tender, combined with trading surpluses of £93,913, achieved by the D.L.O. during the same period, means that over £600,000 has been saved for the Council, in the past six months.

Commenting on this performance, Brian Stephens, Leader of Sedgefield Borough Council, said "We have 350 people working for the Direct Labour Organisation in Sedgefield Borough. I am delighted with the results they are achieving. The efficiency of the present tendering system means the Council can make major savings which will benefit the whole community."

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