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Council Brings in the Bailiffs on Rent Arrears

Tenants who fall a long way behind with their rent are being warned about Sedgefield Borough Council's latest ally in a campaign to recover outstanding arrears.

The Council has reintroduced the practice of using the Bailiff to recover unpaid rent.

Where a tenant has fallen into arrears, the Bailiff will have the powers to seize and sell the person's goods and personal effects, to recover the rent owed to the Council.

Glyn Hall, Sedgefield Borough's Director of Housing and Environmental Health said "Payment of rent is part of the contractual obligation that is entered into at the start of any tenancy and is vital to the funding of the

housing service. It would be unfair to the many thousands of tenants who pay their rent on time, if the Council did not take vigorous steps to recover outstanding rent from those who don't pay.

Involving the Bailiff in seizing goods and possessions is an option open to the Council and one we won't hesitate to use, if necessary". Borough Housing Manager, Steve Bray, commented "We want to send out a clear message to our tenants that we treat non-payment of rent very seriously indeed. We mean business when it comes to using Bailiff services and our advice to those who are behind with their rent would be this - don't run the risk of having your possessions taken away and sold.

If you are in genuine financial difficulties then you should contact the Housing Department, as soon as possible, on (01388) 816166 and they will try to come to an arrangement to deal with your situation. However, the Borough Council cannot afford to let rent arrears build up and go unpaid".

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Slimming - A Family Effort



Not only do members receive great motivation and support from Slimming World at St Clare's on a Thursday evening but also from their very own families.

It certainly is a family affair; mums, daughters, mum-in-laws and sisters, pictured above are just a few of the member who joined Slimming World together with a relative. Many of who are now at their own chosen target. While the others are well on the way. If your New Year's resolution was to lose weight, why not come along to St Clare's on a Thursday at 5pm or 7.30pm, if you haven't got a family member who wants to lose weight with you, just come on your own and soon you will be part of the Slimming World family. If you would like more details telephone Debbie on 01325 300615

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 week's issue.

Our Euro M.P. Supports Plan to Get Lorries Off the Roads

Local Labour Euro MP Stephen Hughes is backing a plan to get things moving by rail - and get lorries off roads such as the A1M and A66. Stephen Hughes, Labour Euro MP for Durham and Blaydon explained "Although our railways desperately need a boost and rail is much more environmentally friendly than road, less than one in every five loads of freight is transported by train."

The reason for freight movers preferring lorries is clear. Mr Hughes said "The fact is that rail freight cannot compete with road transport for price, speed, flexibility or reliability - particularly when it comes to transport across Europe. So for the sake of our environment and for the sake of our railways we had better do something to revitalise rail freight transport."

Stephen Hughes voted for a report in the European Parliament responding to and largely backing a plan by Transport Commissioner Neil

Kinnock to get things moving by rail.

The plan involves:

- * Rail freight freeways which give unobstructed and uninterrupted transport across Europe - with none of the delays or red tape currently associated with goods trains crossing national borders. Firm plans for rail freeways do not yet include Britain but Mr Hughes hopes that eventually the North East line and some freight depots could benefit from this ambitious proposal.
- * Allowing all rail freight companies to run their goods trains throughout Europe - breaking the monopoly of national rail companies.

Stephen Hughes said "A number of freight freeways have already been announced on the continent. If these prove successful I hope that in the future goods trains could run from Scotland through Durham to France, Belgium and beyond to the rest of the EU and eastern Europe."

C.S. SPRAY IS HERE TO STAY

FEWER County Durham police officers are being assaulted on duty and they're taking fewer days off sick, thanks in part to the introduction of CS aerosol incapacitants a year ago.

And the force says the sprays, issued to all front-line officers last January, have given extra reassurance to bobbies dealing with violent disturbances, and will continue to be used. Commenting on the effects the sprays have had, Durham's acting Assistant Chief Constable Alan MILLER said they had definitely played a part in reducing the number of officers being attacked.

In the first twelve months (Jan - Dec 1997) the incapacitants were in use, they were drawn and used on 335 occasions throughout Co Durham and Darlington. In a further 32 instances officers drew their CS issue but did not feel it was necessary to discharge the jet of liquid from the canisters. In the same period, there were 149 assaults on officers as against the 1996 figure of 191. The resulting number of days lost fell from 570 to 289. The drop in days lost on sick leave is not being put down solely to the sprays; the issue

of protective equipment, including stab-proof waistcoats, and the introduction of an occupational health scheme throughout the force are also having major effects. But senior officers are in no doubt the CS sprays have played a significant part.

"Their use has also led to no increase in the number of official complaints from members of the public," said Alan Miller.

"There have been some complaints, as you would expect, from people saying they felt they had been sprayed when it was not necessary."

"But over the same period there was a corresponding decrease in complaints made regarding the use of the ASP, or extended baton. Officers are taught to use the spray before the baton, as it has a disabling effect without physical force on those causing trouble."

Operational officers will continue to use the CS incapacitants wherever necessary, he commented. "We have experienced no real problems in the training, storage and use of the sprays and we will certainly continue to issue them," said Mr Miller.

Aycliffe Nature Park Assoc.

List of events & activities - Spring/ Summer 1998

March 7th (Sat.) Practical tasks - site clean up.

March 29th (Sun.) Early Spring flowers.

April 11th (Sat.) Practical tasks - site clean up.

April 25th (Sat.) Spring open day - pond dipping & other activities. Also visit to Simpature Plantation with the Y.O.C.

May 3rd (Sun.) Late Spring flowers.

May 9th (Sat.) Practical tasks - site clean up.

May 23rd (Sat.) Activity day (Details nearer day)

June 12th (Fri.) Practical tasks - site clean up.

June 14th (Sun.) Early Summer flowers.

June 20th (Sat.) Community Fair.

June Barbecue (date to be announced)

July 10th (Fri.) Practical tasks - site clean up.

July 12th (Sun.) Summer open day - pond dipping & other activities.

July 25th (Sat.) Moth trapping evening.

Many of the activities listed above are in conjunction with the Newton Aycliffe Young Ornithologists Club. Further details of these events may be obtained from the Committee of the Association. Tel. 318984; 315182 or answering service/fax 317347 Changes may be made to this list if circumstances demand. Other events may be added during the course of the year.

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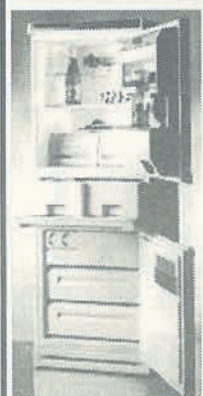
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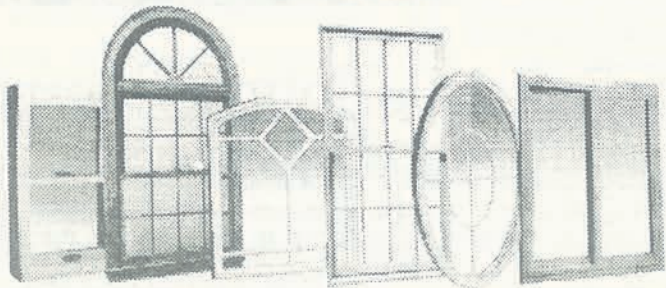
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Cricket Training

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club begin pre-season training with a 10 week session of indoor nets at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex, starting Sunday 1st February from 9.45am-11.45am and all new and old members, both senior and junior are invited to attend. The clubs first and second team are members of the Darlington & District League A and C division respectively and the juniors are members of the Durham County League under 18s division. We are currently looking for new players in all our teams especially the junior section and anybody with any interest or has any queries regarding the clubs activities should contact Lee Weldon on 2424

Borough Council Partner in £200,000 Fitness Suite

Sedgefield Borough Leisure Services is to launch its second major partnership with Competition Line when the Spennymoor Lifestyle Fitness suite is opened on 2nd February 1998.

The Lifestyle Suite will consist of 61 pieces of equipment such as rowers, joggers, steppers and bikes with the remainder of the Suite made up of a tremendous range of resistance machines.

With full air conditioning and Cardio Theatre Satellite TV, the Suite will prove to be one of the finest in the UK.

The total investment in this facility based at Spennymoor Leisure Centre including equipment and construction is in excess of £200,000 and according to our private sector

partners, the facility will be the biggest Fitness suite outside of London.

With low monthly membership, no joining fee and extensive opening times, it is now within everyone's grasp to benefit from a top class facility and everyone who takes out membership of the suite will receive a free T-shirt. Sedgefield Borough Leisure services and Competition Line are confident the Suite will provide an excellent training facility for every level of customer.

For further information on Lifestyle at Spennymoor Leisure Centre, please contact 01388 815827.

READERS' RESPONSE TO POLICE APPEAL CAUGHT BURGLAR

Further to my article in the Newton News two weeks ago regarding house burglaries in Woodham, I am pleased to report the response received to the article has been excellent. Further to this a man has been arrested and charged with a number of Dwelling Burglaries in Woodham and Newton Aycliffe.

I would encourage residents in Newton Aycliffe to maintain their vigilance and report anything untoward to the Police. (Tel 314401)

Burglary still remains a problem, with thieves targeting jewellery, Computers and hi-fi's.

Together with the efforts of the public and the support via the Newton News, we can beat the burglar and continue our success.

D.C. Neil Langthorne
Crime Prevention officer

Council Help Rotary Club with Aycliffe's Industrial Fair

The Exhibition stand the Borough Council use for prestigious International Industrial Fairs to promote our district, will be the centre piece in the Industrial Fair to be held in June to mark the towns 50th Anniversary.

This will give visitors to the Community and Industrial Fair an opportunity to see the stand and the promotional literature it displays.

Companies on the Industrial Park are being invited to take exhibition space at the Fair to show Aycliffe's services and products.

The town's Rotary Club are organising the Community and Industrial Fair which is being held in the Leisure Centre on Saturday 20th June from 10am-4pm. Sedgefield Borough Council have allowed use of the main hall, and the adjacent Practice Hall, free of charge for the occasion.

Our MP Tony Blair, is expected to attend the Fair along with many other VIP's. Further details can be obtained from John Billany (Linden Group) Tel 311331 Gregg Little (MOT Station) 321621 or Syd Howarth (Newton Press) 300212

HEALTHY SCHOOL AWARD

Stephenson Way Primary School is one of only two schools in South Durham to receive the "Healthy School Award". The award, presented on Friday 23rd January, recognises ongoing health promotion throughout the whole school over the past year.

Our Mayor, Sarah Iveson attended the ceremony and congratulated the school on their achievement.

COUNCIL DONATE PARK BENCHES

Dear Sir,
Good news for people visiting the Aycliffe Nature Park - we have recently had two benches installed on the park around the pond area.

These were donated to us by the Town Council. This donation was very gratefully received by the Association, and we would like to publicly thank the Town Council for their generosity.

Installation took place on 10th January by members of the Aycliffe Nature Park Association, under the guidance of the Council.

The seating will be welcomed by many people visiting the park, in particular the elderly and disabled who have asked for seating to be provided.

We would also like to re-inform the public that the Nature Park is open to all those who visit, either as a group, or

as individuals interested in natural history. Arrangements can be made for guided tours of the site, showing the wide variety of plants and animals to whom it is home. We have had in the past, school, church, youth, and community groups visit us, and shown around. The diversity on the site is great. There are hundreds of kinds of plants, and about 20 kinds of butterfly. As well as numerous other insects and

birds.

Anyone wishing for more information about visits etc, or the Nature Park in general, please ring: 318984 or 315182, or 317347 (answering service).

Thank you very much.

Your sincerely
David J Curran
Secretary Vice-Chairman
Aycliffe Nature Park Association

"MAGIC" TRIBUTE TO QUEEN

"Magic" now dedicate a full show to the music of Freddie Mercury and Queen. There is no attempt to emulate Queen visually in this show but rather to celebrate the music of one of the greatest bands in the world by performing it live as good as any band other than Queen can.

Magic always receive a rapturous welcome at Spennymoor Leisure Centre and Sedgefield Borough Council Leisure Services Department believe that Saturday 14th February will be no exception.

Tickets are available now. Box office number is 01388 815627 - cost £8.50.

Rocking Shakespeare

FROM A JACK TO A KING (9-14 February) is the latest of Shakespeare's plays to be turned into a rock'n'roll musical by the incredible talent of Bob Carlton, the writer, producer and director of the smash hit musical Return To The Forbidden Planet.

Based on Macbeth, FROM A JACK TO A KING is bursting with classic songs including 'Leader of the Pack', 'When a Man Loves a Woman', 'You Really Got Me' and 'Jailhouse Rock'. It follows the humble beginnings of Eric Glamis and his rise to fame as a rocket roll star... but did he use fair means or foul? Set against the backdrop of Tin

Pan Alley in the 1950's, FROM A JACK TO A KING is a glorious romp of Kings, Witches and Murderers.

FROM A JACK TO A KING arrives at Darlington Civic Theatre on Monday 9 February and plays until Saturday 14 February. Tickets are now on sale, priced between £10 and £19.50, with discounts available for most performances for party bookings of 8 or more. For more details or to reserve seats for this rock 'n' roll masterpiece, call in or telephone the Box Office on (01325) 486555.

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Slimfit Succeeds

After a fantastic first two weeks, the slimmers (men and women) at the new Slimfit slimming club at Sugar Hill Primary School have lost an amazing 32 stones, members were climbing on the scales nervously then jumping for joy after seeing their weight loss with members individual weight losses of up to 11 pounds in their week. Slimfit have some of the most accurate scales that can weigh

anyone up to 30 stones and your weight is completely private and confidential. Members enjoy the variety of Slimfit Multi-choice eating plans and in particular the Booster plan which gives people up to six meals a day to really get their metabolism working, plus the convenience plan which suits people who are really busy and cannot always find the time to cook meals, members also enjoyed the friendly atmosphere in class and interesting food and motivation demonstrations. Because of the fantastic response of over 150 members in only 2 weeks Slimfit have announced it will be holding a class at 5.30pm from 3rd February as well as the 7pm class, also a morning class is to open in February to give members a choice of sessions. Anyone interested in joining can just come along or contact Mandy Drake on 01325 260060 or 0385 772029

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Country & Western Line Dancing Evening with pie & peas - £4.50 Friday 23rd January

Local Sponsors Fund Teacher's Trip to Ghana

Dear Sir,
I would like to express my thanks to the people of the town that rallied behind me in my appeal to raise the funds I need to send me to Ghana as a volunteer teacher for 7 months.

I will be teaching conversational English in schools and getting them to help themselves by teaching them sustainable skills in agriculture.

In particular, I would like to thank Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre and South West Durham Structures for their recent sponsorship and Darlington Lions Club, Hydro Polymers and Midland Bank for their financial support.

Many businesses in the area also were invaluable in selling my raffle tickets and I thank them dearly; Silverscreen, Darlington Directory Assistance Centre, Thames Butchers, Sedgfield District Council, The Huntsman, The Tap & Spile, JR Videos and Bishop Auckland Day Nursery.

The winning numbers were: 0011, 0075, 0167, 0301, 0387, 0390, 0710, 0862, 0898, 1087, 1098, 1108, 1131.

I leave on the 27th of January as expected but it would not have been possible if it was not for the support of those mentioned above, and for a small number of individuals from the town who did their best to sell the remaining

tickets.

I leave just short of my target of £2500 but anyone who wants to make a donation can call my family on Aycliffe 318683.

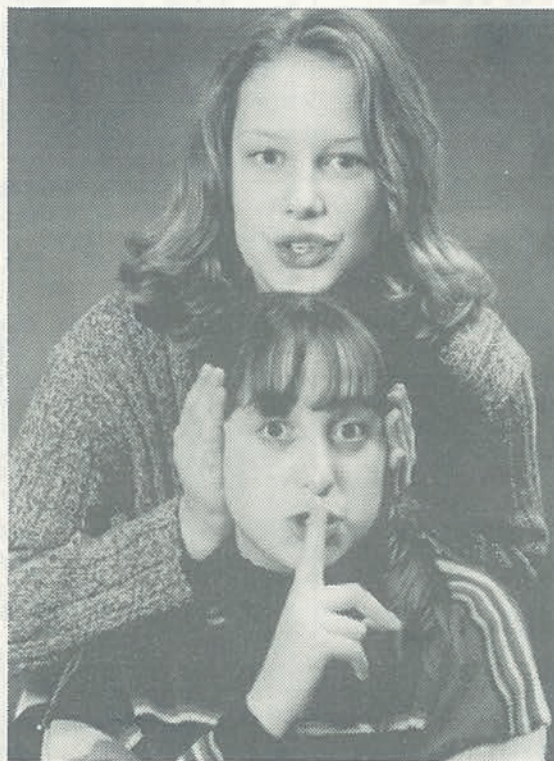
Thank You,
John Lawler
Environmental & Ecological Engineering Student,
Newcastle University

LESBIAN CLUB'S 1st BIRTHDAY

A lesbian group in Darlington that had a tentative start early in 1997 is looking forward to its first birthday soon. Within a couple of months it had attracted members from all over Co Durham and North Yorkshire area and soon expanded from a monthly drop-in session to various activities including social nights, discos and even regular weekend rambles. The group has a regular "core" of around 20 members, with around another 30 who attend less frequently due to work or family commitments. Ages range from mid-20's to early 50's with varied interests and lifestyles.

New members are always welcome, as are suggestions for future events and activities. Contact with the group can be made via Cleveland Lesbian Line - Monday evenings between 8-10pm on 01642 217955 (ansaphone at other times)

Sponsored Silence For Cancer Research



Young TV actors Gemma Bissix and Natalie Cassidy (who play Claire and Sonia in the BBC soap Eastenders) are asking schoolchildren across the country to shut their mouths to raise funds for cancer charity Macmillan Cancer Relief on Friday 6 March 1998.

A hush will fall in schools across Britain as the ten-minute sponsored silence for children of all ages gets underway and teachers get a blessed 600 seconds of peace. Kids can 'be silent' in any way they choose - belting up in fancy dress, keeping schtum in the gym, putting a sock in it during maths or piping down in PE. Plus, some schools will end their 'silent period' by a mass outburst of noise!

Gemma and Natalie said: "We are really pleased to be assisting with the Hold Your Tongue Challenge and want to get as many kids to take part as possible. Most of us find it pretty hard to stay quiet for very long, so it will be a challenge! It should be a real laugh, though, and the main thing is that it is for a really good cause. Macmillan Nurses do brilliant work for people, including children, with cancer."

Every school that registers to take part will be sent a registration pack, containing sponsorship forms and ideas of how to make the sponsored silence fun, along with information for teachers on how to use the event to develop an understanding of cancer amongst students, which cover many of the key elements of the National Curriculum and PSBE programme.

The Hold Your Tongue Challenge is kindly sponsored by Nationwide Building Society. To register to take part call Macmillan education officer, Murray Lindo on 0181 222 7724.

A School That Cares



RUGBY CLUB REPORT

Newton Aycliffe 54
Billingham III - 10

This was the third win out of four for a rejuvenated Aycliffe rugby club. Recent results have seen Darlington III beaten 17-5 and Richmond beaten 20-0, before this emphatic win against an experienced Billingham side, who battled until the final whistle. The Aycliffe back row were outstanding as the home side ran everything at the opposition. Casey, Greathead and House all scored tries as they lead the charge which saw Aycliffe transformed from early season strugglers into a set of players who enthused in their efforts to play running rugby.

Further tries came from second row Ronnie, scrum half Wazza and winger Jonathan. With three new players joining the lads who've kept rugby alive in Aycliffe, this was the strangest side to take the field in two seasons, Malcolm Woodward put in another outstanding display in only his second game - his defence was rock solid and his powerful runs sucked in the opposition. Mark "over the hill" just oozed class. Billingham never gave up though, but they were run ragged on the day, with two key players to return following work commitment and injury. Aycliffe are poised for some great results in the second half of the season with Tommy Cooper's trusty goal kicking (he scored a hatful of points with the boot today) and coach Malvern's increasing influence on and off the field, things can only get better. So if you want to be part of the band wagon, come and join us, we are on the move: training on Thursdays, starts in the changing rooms at Moore Lane Sports Club at 6.45pm. The absence of match reports has caused many fans to campaign for the sight of Peter Sheen's name in the paper - power to the people and thanks to club sponsors Great Lakes Chemicals.

GIRLS' RANGER UNIT RE-OPENS

Guiders have now come forward to take over the running of the Newton Aycliffe Rangers Unit and the first meeting will be on Monday 26th January at 7pm in the Green Room at St Clares Church. Girls, if you are 15 or over and would like to know more please come along or phone Mrs Coates on 308191 (after 5.30pm) for further details.

OFSTED Inspectors who visited St. Francis Church of England junior School highlighted the school's caring atmosphere. They also praised the consistently good quality of teaching, and the dedication and hard work of the staff. The OFSTED Report said that the school 'has created a very good ethos in which pupils develop as individuals and as members of the community.' Church of England Inspector Revd. Philip North also stressed the caring nature of the school. He commented: 'Staff and governors have created a warm and close-knit

community that reflects Christian values. The school has excellent links with the local church and good links with the wider community.' His report found that St Francis provided 'many positive opportunities' for its pupils.

Since the inspection, St Francis has a new Head Teacher - Jill Gleghorn - who started work in January. Mrs Gleghorn said: 'I am delighted to be here. I have been warmly welcomed by staff, children and parents, and look forward to leading the school's development.' Mrs Gleghorn outlined her priority as, 'in common with schools across the country, I will concentrate on continuing to raise standards in English Maths and Science.'

Racing at Greenfield

Race Night at Greenfield School, Saturday 7th March, 7pm for 7.30pm until 11.00pm with a licensed bar. If anyone would like to support the evening by either providing a donation, raffle prize or selling raffle tickets, please contact Jill Burdis, Susan Mouyiassi or Sue Jones at Greenfield School Tel 300378 or 200386. Our target figure for this worthy cause is £1500.

Our main sponsor is Alexander-le-Skerne and the main raffle prize, mini-cruise for two to Belgium has been provided by J&C Coaches

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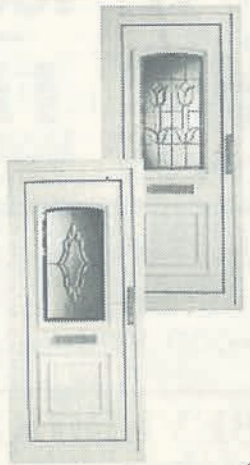
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90 Year old Chanpagne Donated to DLI Museum

A mystery bottle of 'champers' brought back unopened from the Great War by a DLI soldier is the toast of a County Durham museum.

The champagne has been donated to the prestigious DLI Museum by a member of the family of William Harrison who served at the Western Front from 1915 to 1918.

But no-one knows where or how William, who was born and lived in New Row, Wingate, came to acquire the Bubbly.

According to the donor, who is a niece of William Harrison living in Cheshire, he acquired the bottle some time during the Great War, managed to keep it intact, and brought it back from France," said Steve Shannon, of the DLI Museum, at Aykley Heads, Durham. Despite the temptation to celebrate his home-coming, the bottle remained steadfastly unopened throughout the years.

"It was found in his home after his death and the family has very generously donated it to the museum's collection," he said.

"We believe the champagne to be about 90 years old. We don't know if it is vintage or not and no, we're not going to open the bottle to find out," he said.

The champagne - Monopole RED TOP - was made by Heidsieck and Co of Reims

and has the slightly torn label over-stamped 'Reserved for Allied Armies' in red.

Another, partially missing stamp in French reads 'Achat et revant..... Bought and sold.....'

Other information on the label shows it is dry, the bottle is marked Goat American - American taste - and there is an extremely small printed number 30.01.08 which may be the bottling date. No other date is visible on the bottle suggesting it is not vintage.

It's possible that William was given the bottle as a reward for some deed he was Mentioned in Despatches.

Have You Left Your Photos?

A large number of photographs, submitted by readers to be reproduced in "Newton News" have not been collected.

Some of the photos are original prints and may be the only copies in existence. These must be valuable to the owners and we suggest they collect them from Newton Press offices at St Cuthberts Way, during normal office hours

WARM SOUTHERN WELCOME



Last year Ann and David Morris of Newton Aycliffe visited the GMex Holiday Show in Manchester, taking particular interest in the Alabama stand, as they intended to spend their USA holiday in Mobile. The lady attending the stand, Brenda Scott, was very helpful - even insisting they got in touch with her on their arrival. They were met and given a super time by Brenda and her husband. Ann and David were taken out for meals, trips to museum, a battleship and on a swamp-boat tour. "We were made to feel like royalty even though I am just a truck driver from Newton Aycliffe" said David "We were really impressed by the welcome we received everywhere when people realised we were British" he added. To show their appreciation Ann and David invited their American friends to visit Newton Aycliffe.

THIS TONIC COULD WORK WONDERS FOR YOU TOO!

Dear Sir,
Five years ago my 80-year-old mother suffered an aortic aneurysm and underwent major surgery. The surgery was a success, but she

continued to suffer from angina, slight disability affecting her movement and became generally run down and stiffer in her joints.

In July 1997, we purchased a bottle of a herbal tonic, which she began to take immediately. Within three days she could snap her fingers and climb the stairs with greater ease. After three weeks she walked around a superstore, whereas previously she had needed a wheelchair, and also enjoyed a stroll along a seaside promenade in the late summer. My mother admits she would hate to miss a daily dose of this product.

In September 1997 I took ill, becoming physically and mentally exhausted. Knowing how the tonic had helped my mother, I began to take it too. In November I had major surgery and found my recovery rate to be excellent. I am convinced my present good health is due to this tonic.

Our personal success with this product caused us to become distributors, many of our family members and personal

friends have bought the tonic and have had excellent results. One of our new customers suffers from M.E. and is already finding life much easier. Her energy levels are higher and she is able to cope with some things now, that previously would have left her exhausted.

Dr Albert Leung, a Chinese herbal medicine expert, developed this tonic, called INTRA. It is a blend of 23 botanicals and does not treat nor cure any illness, but keeps our bodies harmoniously balanced.

Yours truly,
Elizabeth Blaylock
Tel: 315586

Borough Solicitor's Degree Award

Peter Devlin, Solicitor with Sedgefield Borough Council has been awarded the Degree of Master of Laws through the University of London, with a mark of merit. Mr Devlin already holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Bradford University, Bachelor of Laws through the University of

London and has a diploma in Management Studies through the University of Teesside. He is a former pupil of St Mary's College, Middlesbrough and is a member of Shildon Running and Athletic Club, Swaledale Road Runners and Richmond (Yorkshire) Golf Club

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P.T.A. HOLD TABLE TOP SALE

St. Mary's PTA are organising a Table Top Sale to be held in the school hall on Saturday, 7th February, 1998 at 10 am. Tables are available at a cost of £4 and can be booked by phoning 318632 (Jackie) or 301005 (Bev) with payment in advance please.

Sellers are to arrive at 9.30 am and doors open for buyers at 10am. Early booking is advisable as tables will be given on a first come, first served basis. Refreshments will be available as well as our famous cake stall.

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Strikers Picket Magnet AGM

Representatives of the 350 Magnet strikers from Darlington who were sacked in September 1996 were in London to picket the company AGM.

The strike started in August 1996 when the company refused a 3% pay increase to 40% (150) of the workforce. This was after the entire workforce had agreed to a pay freeze in the previous three years to help the company through bad times. It would have cost the company

£114,000 to pay the increase to the 150. After one week of strike the company sacked the entire workforce and the dispute has been in progress since.

The dispute has been inflamed by the disclosure last week that the Chief Executive Alan John Bowkett himself received a pay award of £125,000 over the same period. His salary rose from £321,620 to £446,013 in the year to September 1997. Mr Bowkett's new money would have paid the increase for the 150 workers denied a pay rise. DJ Mulhall, the Finance Director saw his salary increase from £207,568 to £613,183 almost four times what it would have cost to settle the dispute. The strikers from four unions GMB, T&GWU, AEEU and UCATT have maintained a permanent picket at the factory and the company's 200 stores have been picketed on a regular basis to persuade the British public not to buy the company's products until the dispute is resolved. The state the factory lost £1.6 million as a result of the stoppage.

T.V. LICENCE DODGING

TV Licensing rounded off 1997 with enquiry officers stepping up their visits to the homes of suspected licence dodgers across the UK throughout the Christmas period in order to crack down in licence evasion. The results were astonishing 5798 licence evaders were caught nationwide in two weeks, proving that it was worth the extra effort made by enquiry officers over Yuletide.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE ORDER 1995

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING & CONSERVATION AREAS) REGULATIONS 1990

The Local Planning Authority has received the following applications:

7/98/0004/DM
LOCATION: LAND TO SOUTH OF ASHWOOD PARK
AND TO WEST OF WOODHAM BURN
(LAND AT STAG LANE) NEWTON
AYCLIFFE CO. DURHAM
PROPOSAL: ERECTION OF 18 DWELLINGS
APPLICANT: Barratt Newcastle Barratt House Airport Ind
Est Kenton Newcastle Upon Tyne

Copies of the applications and plans which have been received for consideration are available for inspection at the Council Offices, during normal office hours.

Any representations about the proposals for planning permissions should be made, in writing, to me within 14 days from the date of the appearance of this Notice, or 21 days in any other case.

Under the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 any representations made are available for public inspection.

J. LITHERLAND
Director of Planning
and Technical Services
Sedgefield Borough
Council Offices
Spennymoor, Co. Durham DL16 6JQ



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RACE NIGHT FOR Y.A.F.C.

Newton Aycliffe Y.A.F.C. are holding a RACE NIGHT On Thursday 29th January at the Southerne Club. Gates open 7.30pm, so come on you Manchester United supporters, this is your chance to win a signed Andy Cole shirt in a frame. It is really a beautiful prize for any young football fan. The shirt is up for grabs in the auction race which is the last race of the night. There are eight horses for auction and the owner of the winning horse will get the Andy Cole shirt.

The club needs funds and it needs the support of the people of Newton Aycliffe, so please come along and have a fun night. If anyone wants to put an early bid in, please ring Keith on 318731 or Brian on 316269

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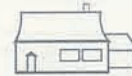
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Newton Aycliffe U/11's-1
North Ormesby U/ 11's-1

Last weekend, Aycliffe Under 11's were desperately unlucky not to record their first win of the season when visitors North Ormesby scored a cruel equaliser in injury time. In atrocious weather conditions, Aycliffe pressed forward from the start and within 5 minutes Liam Cooper's fierce shot flashed past the post. After 12 minutes though, Matthew Dodds' free kick was knocked forward for Anthony Ross to thump home a great left-footer to give the lads a deserved lead. As conditions deteriorated in the second half, the back four of Andrew Richardson, Kyle Allen, Matthew Dodds &

Stewie Owen performed heroics as the lads desperately tried to play the ball out wide. In the dying minutes both Graham Johnson and Mattie Laverick-Elliott forced good saves from the opposing goalkeeper in their attempts to make the game safe but unfortunately an injury time mistake brought about the equaliser. Team coach Alan Johnston was pleased with the team's improved commitment this week and Michael Purves, in his new midfield role, took the 'man of the match' award. This Sunday (25th January) the lads are at home again this time to Darlington Spraire Lads in the Alternative Cup (10.30 am kick-off at Greenfield School). All support welcome.

CAMPAIGN TO CUT ADULT PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS

Garages, libraries, businesses and community groups are to help in a massive publicity campaign to cut road casualties in County Durham. Nearly 50,000 leaflets and posters backed up by a new radio advertising campaign aim to press home the message to pedestrians to **DOUBLE CHECK FOR TRAFFIC** when crossing the County's roads. Accident statistics show that in the three years from 1994, over 200 adult pedestrians a year

were killed or injured crossing the road. Last year, there were 237 adult pedestrian accidents involving death or injury, and of these, 116 were at junctions, and 95 were at night. "The stark reality of these sobering statistics is loud and clear," said David Holland, Durham County Council's senior road safety officer. "The worst possible place to cross is at a junction and the worst possible time is at night, especially if you are wearing dark clothes."

"The two combined sadly result in death or serious injury because people, especially young men, just don't take enough care." Two out of three new radio commercials will particularly target young men. One focuses on the consequences for a footballer who dashes out between parked cars, another on a bridegroom-to-be who hurries over a junction to get to the bank but gets only as far as the wheels of a turning car, while the third concentrates on a young woman dressing up in black to look cool for her first date and finding it hard to look cool in a wheelchair. "The fastest place you get to if you cross a road in a rush is either the mortuary or a wheelchair," said Mr Holland. "Drivers are constantly told to slow down and kill their speed and pedestrians need to do the same when crossing roads."

Don't Miss the Tax Deadline

As the 31 January deadline for filing 1996-97 tax returns is approaching some tax offices around the country will be opening on that day to provide last minute help and advice.

But at this late stage we will only deal with specific issues and won't be able to sit down with people for the completion of whole returns or the calculation of tax.

If completed tax returns are not received back by the deadline an automatic fixed penalty of £100 will be charged. If the return remains outstanding six months after the deadline a further automatic penalty of £100 will be charged.

Bishop Auckland tax office will be open from 8.30am to 4.30pm on 31 January. Jean Chambers Customer Service Manager at Bishop Auckland

tax office said: "We want all our customers to send in their returns on time so that the question of penalties will not arise. If people need help with their tax returns they should contact their tax office or our self assessment helpline right away (0645 000444). We are open until 4.30pm on Saturday 31st." Bishop Auckland Office Tel: 01388 602212.

SLIMMING CLUB BURSTING AT THE SEAMS

Sugar Hill Primary School
NEWTON AYCLIFFE
Tuesdays at 7.00pm

Larchfield Sports Centre
DARLINGTON
Mondays at 5pm & 7pm



Weekly Fee only £2.75
Enrolment only £5.50

SPECIAL OFFER
Save £2.75 weekly fee
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Congratulations to all the Slimfit members on their fantastic **32 stone weight loss in only 2 weeks**, keep up the good work, you will be wearing exactly what you want this summer.

If you would like to join this successful class just cime along or telephone Mandy Drake on 01325 260060 or 0385 772029

NEW CLASSIC FITNESS CENTRE

(Formerly Newbodies) - I.E.S. Centre, Horndale Avenue,
Newton Aycliffe Industrial Park - Telephone: 01325 319935

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Founder Memberships 2 years for the price of 1

Mixed Gym with 20 cardio, steppers, rower cycles, walkers and joggers + 30 Panatta resistance machines
Good range of free weights, careful figure and fitness - personal training available

PHASE 2

LADIES ONLY - OPENING EARLY FEBRUARY



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LOW LOW PRICES

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Free Tracking Check with every pair of tyres purchased and fitted

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SERVICING

Full Service £49.95

(up to 2000cc)

includes oil and filter (castrol GTX)
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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

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Saturday 8.30am-4pm

Sunday 9am-4pm

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With Two Year Warranty

Brake Pads fitted from an incredibly low £19.95 (inc vat) (EG Fiesta)

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£500 OFF ALL SCREEN PRICES THIS WEEKEND

(Excluding Holiways Demonstration Vehicles)

Part Exchange's welcome - No deal too difficult
Here is a small selection of our used vehicles

97 P FORD ESCORT 1600 5 door, Ghia, in dark aubergine, luxury motoring	£9795
97 P FORD FIESTA 1.25 LX 5 door, neaveux red met, 9000 miles, new 16v engine	£7995
96 P FORD FIESTA 1.8 Diesel Ghia 5 door finished in diamond white, beige velour trim, colour coded mirrors and bumpers, power steering, the list goes on and on	£8795
95 M FORD MONDEO 1.8LX 5 door "automatic", cayman blue metallic, grey trim, one owner, Holiways supplied, FSH, not many around, especially at only	£7995
95 M FORD ESCORT 1.6 Sapphire 5 door, moon dust silver, one owner, Holiways supplied, FSH, looks sensational	£7595
95 M FORD FIESTA 1.8LX 5 door diesel finished in radiant red only 23000 miles, sunroof, one owner, economy and performance for only	£6295
95 M FORD FIESTA 1.1 3 door Quartz blue met, 1 owner, Holiways supplied 22000 miles	£5995
95 N FORD MONDEO 1.8LX 5 door, in electric current red, superb throughout	£8995
94 M FORD FIESTA 1.6 Java 5dr, Java blue met, alloys, power steering	£6995
93 K FORD FIESTA 1.3 Ghia 5dr, moon dust silver, 1 owner, 37000 miles, Holiways supplied, alloy wheels, looks sensational	£4995
93 K ROVER 414 SLI 4dr, saloon, Glacier white, 47000 miles, superb	£4995
91 J FORD SIERRA 1.8LX Sapphire 4dr in Diamond white, excellent throughout ..	£3195
94 L FORD FIESTA 1.3 Cayman 5dr alloy wheels, full Ghia spec, bargain	£4995
93 L FORD FIESTA 1.1 3dr, Fresco, in Tourmallard green met, 42000 miles, 2 owners	£4595

HOLIWAYS
MAIN DEALER

Horndale Avenue Aycliffe Industrial Park
Telephone (01325) 300003

* All Ford Direct cars now come with a free GSM phone. Subject to status and conditions and connections to Cellnet.