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PLANNERS RECOMMEND REFUSAL OF WOODHAM GOLF CLUB'S EXPANSION

Planning Officers this week recommended refusal of Woodham Golf Club's application to extend their premises to accommodate a Conference Centre, Swimming Pool, Office and Gymnasium.

In their opinion the proposal would lead to an increase in parking demand which cannot be accommodated on the site and which in turn would result in parking along the adjoining highway.

This of course would be detrimental to road safety and the free flow of traffic.

The planners were also concerned that two key aspects of the application have not been resolved relating to highway safety and noise and disturbance.

Regulation state leisure facilities may be allowed in these circumstance provided the development is not harmful to the living conditions of local residents and does not cause congestion.

The design of the new facility was acceptable and there is no doubt it would be a marvellous amenity for members.

A Conference and Banqueting Centre on the town would also be very useful as local organisations have to use hotels out of town at the

moment. The Council have received ten letters of objection from residents in the locality who feared the extensions would create more noise and disturbance. They also expressed concern about on street parking, drainage and loss of view.

British Acrobat Competition at Aycliffe

Britain is currently ranked fourth in the world in Sports Acrobatics and on the weekend of 2nd-3rd of May Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre will host the 1998 British Championships.

150 young people from 35 Clubs will take part in the Competition which involves tumbling, back flip, triple turns and spins.

A separate competition floor will be used to stage Balance, Tempo and Combined Exercises to music.

Local competitors include a strong contingent from Deerness Valley Club. Martyn Smith and Mark Flores were 1995 World Junior Champions and Bronze Medallists in the 1997 Championships. Winners at this Competition will go on to compete in the World Championships in Belarussia at the end of October.

Doors open at 8.30 am. Tickets are £3.50p per day and are available from the Leisure Centre. Tel: 300500 or 300800.

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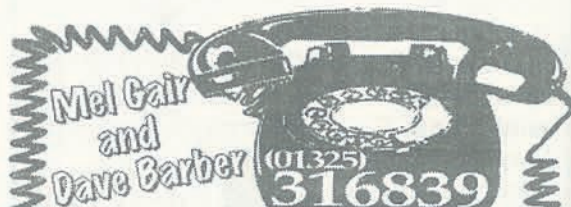
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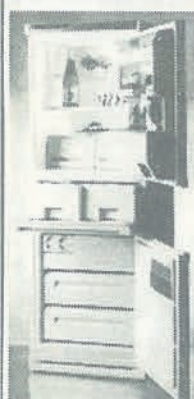
Newton Aycliffe Under 11's - 4 21st Allstars Under 11's - 1
After a 4-week layoff due to the bad weather, Aycliffe Under 11's roared back to action & in a tremendous game, recorded their first league win of the season.

After a shaky start, the lads fought their way back into the game & after 15 minutes, from a Kyle Summersby pass, Anthony Ross netted the first with a low right-footer. Shortly afterwards, David Furgoose's trickery caused a defender to bring him down inside the penalty area but the referee, who otherwise had a good game throughout, gave a free-kick just outside the box.

Within 30 seconds of the 2nd half, goalkeeper Scott Roscher produced the first of his many brilliant saves of the game and 2 minutes later, from a good Stewie Owen free-kick, Kyle Summersby flicked on the ball for Anthony Ross to thump home his second. 10 minutes later Liam Cooper flicked on a goal-kick for Anthony Ross to outpace the defence to complete his hat-trick with another beauty. Allstars scored a consolation shortly afterwards but then neat interplay with Graham Johnson enabled Anthony Ross to net his fourth.

Overall, team coach Alan Johnston was delighted with his team's all round fully committed performance. 'Rossi' received the 'man of the match' award but centre-halves Lee Skinner & Kyle Allen kept a tight hold on the visiting forwards throughout. This first win epitomises the lads' determination to battle out their league programme to the end.

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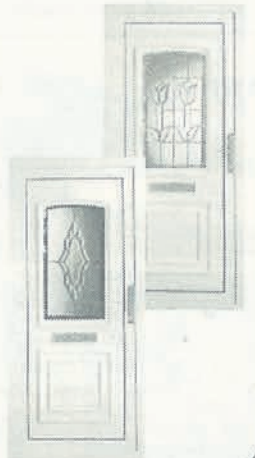
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HEALTH AUTHORITY TO REVIEW WINTER PRESSURES

A report reviewing the management of emergency health services in County Durham over the winter period is to be discussed at the Health Authority today (16 April). The report will indicate that County Durham has experienced an exceptionally mild winter with lower admissions to hospital than anticipated.

Over the winter period hospitals across the county remained busy with the greatest demand for emergency general medical services and for elderly care. However, pressures appeared to be steady and demand lower than previous years with fewer closures to hospital admissions than in 1996/97.

By working closely with local Trusts and social services departments the Health Authority ensured that services pressures were managed as a priority. £1.4 million additional winter pressures funding allocated by central government was invested in:-

- * **the opening** of a medical admissions ward providing an extra 14 beds at Bishop Auckland General Hospital and an extra 12 medical beds at Dryburn Hospital. The additional medical capacity played a significant role in allowing the Trusts to manage increased levels of work.

- * **greater use** of discharge assessment beds in Nursing Homes for people who were ready to begin their convalescence before returning home. Over the winter period 57 beds were used.

- * **investment** in ambulance services in the County including funding for additional paramedic staffing, five new A&E vehicles and two new patient transport vehicles.

- * **the creation** of a discharge lounge at Darlington Memorial Hospital to support the development of more effective discharge arrangements.

- * **additional** funding to help reduce waiting times for non urgent treatment across the County

- * **additional** for home loan equipment to help people in their own homes

Concern will be raised at the meeting that the lower level of serious illness over the winter period may result in demands on services continuing into future months. The first weeks of April have seen emergency medical services in the County, and around the region, under greater pressure than was the case throughout the whole winter period.

Jim Easton, director of planning at County Durham Health Authority said: "This year we have seen a steady demand on services not just over the winter period but throughout the year. The measures put in place over the past four months have helped to deal with additional pressures and the Authority will be drawing up plans over the coming months to ensure that Trusts can cope with continued high demand on services all year round."

The Authority's plans to deal with potential pressures on services will build on the successful practice of previous years and emphasis will be placed on balancing emergency care and the reduction of waiting lists. To support this the Authority has already committed to keeping the additional medical beds at Bishop Auckland and Dryburn Hospitals throughout this year.

VINTAGE CAR CLUB'S 21st BIRTHDAY

The N.U.T.R. was formed in August 1977 by a small group of vintage car enthusiasts and has grown over the past 21 years into a thriving club with membership which embraces all types of vintage and classic vehicles and machinery. The N.U.T.R. is proud of its tradition of being a friendly family club.

Membership currently stands at around 4513 members of all ages, a few of whom are merely interested in vintage vehicles without actually owning an on-the-road vehicle or are in the process of restoring such a vehicle.

The majority are regular users and exhibitors of their vehicle or machinery. Members are mainly from the North Eastern area although there are a number from South and West Yorkshire, Northumberland, Lancashire and Scotland.

Club meetings are held at the Southerne Club in Newton Aycliffe and each month there is a different "activity" or just an opportunity to chat to like-minded individuals.

The N.U.T.R. will also be closely involved in the staging of six static vehicle displays at Jackson's Landing Factory Shopping Outlet

Hartlepool on Sunday April 26, at Kiplin Hall near Catterick on Sunday May 3, at Sion Hill Hall, Kirby Wiske near Thirsk on May 39 and 31, as part of Shildon Community Gala on Saturday June 13 and the Auto Classic Spectacular at Bishop Auckland Rugby Club on Sunday August 16 as well as at Auckland Castle, Bishop

Auckland for the four day "A Journey through time in Weardale" organised in aid of the 'Save the Children Fund' from Friday to Monday, August 28-31.

Another major event in the Club's rally calendar is the annual Concourse Night held at the Club's monthly meeting place on the evening of Tuesday June 16 to which everyone is welcome.

The N.U.T.R. committee also organise camping weekends, road runs and social occasions throughout the year. Plans are well in hand for special twenty first birthday celebrations for members in mid summer 1998 which will be attended by some of the original members as well as relative newcomers and friends.

Further information from Sue Davies on 01429 268768 (after 5.30).

GCSE MATHS REVISION WORKSHOPS

(open to all exam candidates for 1998)

Bishop Auckland College will be holding a series of free GCSE Maths Revision Workshops every Tuesday from 28 April 1998 (4.00pm - 5.30pm) until examination time.

Anyone interested please contact Lesley Taylor on (01388) 443070.

Ex Town Minister Dies

It is with regret we inform you of the death on April 18th of the Rev. Kenneth Kilby who served as a Minister at Neville Parade Methodist Church.

Ken was forced to make an untimely move due to ill health in the early summer of 1997.

He had been Superintendent Minister of the Shildon Circuit of Methodist Churches with responsibilities at Neville Parade, Burnhill Way and Coundon. In his time in this area he had been Chaplain to Aycliffe Hospital and been active within the Council of Churches.

He and Pam had enjoyed some time together in their adapted bungalow and Ken had until recently been able to continue his preaching.

We shall remember him as a very organised man and as a great preacher who was "on fire" for his Lord. He has now entered that great place of rest prepared for those who have put their trust in Jesus.

Ken's funeral will take place at Winhill on Monday 27th April at 2.15pm.

Our thoughts and prayers are now for Pam and her family at this time.

Alwyn White

Obituary Popular Aycliffe Bandsman Dies

On Saturday 4th April, Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band suffered the loss of their member, Ron Hay, who died after suffering many months from a terrible illness.

The Band played at Ron's funeral which was a very emotional occasion for his fellow members and also for Ron's family.

Ronnie was one of the last original members and played trombone. He attended every practice and was much involved in meeting whic concerned the future of the band.

We are all deeply saddened to lose such a valuable member who was so keen and full of life and whose courage and determination will be an inspiration to us all.

On behalf of all members and supporters of Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band I pass sincere condolences to Ron Hay's family. K. Miller

Easter Raffle

The winners of the Easter Coffee Morning Raffle at St. Clares are as follows: 448, 440, 377, 496, 476. All prizes have been claimed, thanks to all supporters. Please note there will be no Coffee Morning on Saturday 3rd May.

60's Music Night at Spennymoor



Few people would argue that there are a great many groups playing music from that best loved era of popular music - "The 60's" - but if you want the best possible re-production why settle for less than the best possible group to re-create all those fabulous sounds you remember so well.

THE IMPOSTERS are that group, it's as simple as that! With material ranging from Cliff & The Shadows to The Rolling Stones, from The Dave

Clark Five to Bob Dylan - Monkees Searchers - Everly Bros.- Simon & Garfunkel - The Who and of course the fabulous Beatles. All performed the way you remember hearing them back in the 60's.

Add the numerous equally authentic original style guitars, the Vox amps, the costumes and you have the best possible 60's re-production show money can buy. THE IMPOSTERS have a real 'feel' for 60's era of music, they enjoy playing it and you will enjoy seeing & hearing them. THE IMPOSTERS have appeared with equal success in Theatre & Civic venues, Cabaret lounges and Hotels. They have many Radio and T.V. performances to their credit and a whole host of very satisfied clients and bookers who constantly refer to them when they are talking 60's Music.

In short if you want the best you need THE IMPOSTERS !! No 60's re-creation band does it better and you can see them live at Spennymoor Leisure Centre on 8th May. Tickets are on sale now at £7 each. Ring (01388) 816166.

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Mrs M: Is no longer dependent on her wheelchair;

Mr P has a general feeling of well-being and; Mr H an arthritis suffered is now feeling less pain and under medical supervision is reducing his drugs.

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For information without obligation please phone Elizabeth Blaylock on 315586 day or evening.

Redworth Village Hall May be Sold

Redworth may lose its small Village Hall if residents do not show more interest in its upkeep.

The handful of residents who attended the AGM this week agreed to call an Extraordinary General Meeting to decide the future of the Association and the Hall.

A proposal will be put at the EGM that the Village Hall Association be dissolved and the assets, including the premises, be sold.

The same few people have kept the Village Hall maintained for a number of years with little help or interest from the majority of residents.

A monthly draw, the odd hire fee and a couple of social events during the year provides the only income.

Last year £1600 was spent on roof repairs and more cash will be needed for other work. The small committee feel they are raising cash just to keep a "White Elephant".

"It appears from attendances at meetings and the lack of volunteers to serve on the Committee that there is no longer any interest in keeping the Village Hall. Sadly we have to consider winding up and disposing of the premises," said Chairman Cath Swan.

The EGM will be held on Sunday 10th May at 2.30 p.m. and all residents are urged to attend.

Letter to the Editor

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST "OVER 60's" GOLFERS ?

Dear Sir,

I read with surprise and disgust the letter by Counc. Blenkinsopp on Golf for Over 60's. How can he write a letter without knowing the full facts?

First he states the season ticket prices have not gone up and remain the same as last year at £100.

But last year's fees included weekends and if we want the same facility this year it is £140 - a rise of £40! It doesn't take a mathematician to work that!

Secondly he states most golfers over 60 play midweek, but then says other golfers cannot get a game at the weekend because of over 60's hogging the course.

In any case a member in any age group who pays the full season ticket fee is entitled to play at any time of the week.

As for being able to play for 260 days midweek during the year is utter rubbish. A pensioner would find it a physical impossibility and the course is closed for long periods of the winter months anyway.

I wonder if these price rises and Counc. Blenkinsopp's comments are not bordering on the verge of Age Discrimination.

Yours truly,
H. Dunning

GREAT AYCLIFFE WAY CONSULTATION MEETING WITH WHEELCHAIR USERS

On Wednesday, 29th April, a consultation meeting is being held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, Beveridge Arcade, to improve access to the Great Aycliffe Way, for wheelchair users.

The footpath is soon to be opened to mark Newton Aycliffe's fiftieth anniversary and should be available for everyone. However, safety barriers to exclude motorcycles have caused some access problems for people in wheelchairs.

To find a safe solution, Sedgefield Borough Council and Great Aycliffe Town Council are jointly holding a consultation meeting, where people can discuss their needs and changes to the barriers can be agreed, to give wheelchair users unrestricted access to the footpath.

The meeting will take place from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 29th April.

For further information, please contact Ian Henry, Highways, Sedgefield Borough Council, on (01388) 816166.

Letter to the Editor

PAG Aren't Troublemakers

Dear Sir,

We respectfully suggest (a concept he does not seem familiar with) that Mr. Raymond does some serious ground work before offering his opinion on Vane Road School and the concerned parents of children attending.

Before anything ever went to print we spoke at length to our Chair of Governors and our statement merely highlighted problems ALREADY brought to the attention of the Education Authority by the Governing body as far back as October 1997. The LEA have confirmed to both thererepresentatives of the Governors and our group that Vane Road is "not without its problems."

We formed the Action Group as a form of assistance to the well-being of the school and NOT as trouble making busy bodies. As for minding our own business, we are ALL parents and this is as much our business as it is Mr. Raymonds.

Maybe if he were to speak to the Governors he would gain some much needed information or does he consider our ELECTED GOVERNORS to be interfering busy bodies also?

Yours faithfully
Parent Action Group

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Japanese Ambassador

County Durham Development Company has appointed Mr. Hirofumi Itakura, General Manager, of Oshino Manufacturing UK Ltd as an Honorary Ambassador for County Durham.

CDDC chairman Peter D Cart CBE presented the award to Mr Itakura only days before he returns to Japan after three and a half years running Oshino, in Newton Aycliffe.

Mr Carr said: "We started the Honorary Ambassador awards to acknowledge people who have shown great enthusiasm and commitment to the region. Mr Itakura is very deserving of the title and we look forward to working with him again in the future"

Flower Club Help Deaf Children



President Marjorie Cooper presents a cheque to Linda Vevvers of the Deaf Children's Society with Linda Gregg who has a deaf child

At the Annual General Meeting on 5th January 1998 Shildon & District Flower Club were pleased to hand over a cheque for £500.00 to Durham & Darlington Deaf Children's Society. Marjorie Cooper the Club's President presented the cheque to Mrs. Linda Vevvers, Chairman of the society and Mrs. Linda Gregg the parent of a deaf child.

On 2nd. March 1998 a very successful Members Evening was enjoyed by all who attended. An excellent meal was provided by Peter Shires and his staff at Shildon Civic Hall which was followed by an entertaining, light hearted talk from Maisie Donnington on "Making the most of Oneself".

The first Open Evening of the year will be held at Shildon Civic Hall on Monday 11th May 1998 when Carol Firmstone a creative and innovative National Flower Demonstrator from Clitheroe in Lancashire will demonstrate "Of Unusual Beauty". There will be a variety of stalls, plants pottery, silk and dried flowers and home baking plus a licensed Bar. Anyone who is interested in flower arranging is welcome to come along to this evening Tickets cost £5.00 and are available by telephoning 01325 315103.

Should you have any queries please feel free to contact me. Thanking you for your co-operation.

Mildred Stafford (Secretary).

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£1,000 worth of prizes

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CONSUMER WATCHDOGS JOIN FORCES TO PROTECT NORTH OF ENGLAND

County trading standards experts serving more than five million people across the northern region are joining forces to give greater protection to consumers and honest businesses.

The six county services stretching from Northumberland across to Lancashire plan to work together in areas such as agriculture, animal health, consumer fraud, food standards and consumer safety.

"We believe that together we will be able to make a positive contribution to the process of raising standards and restoring public confidence," said Phillip Holman, Head of Consumer Services for Durham County Council.

"We have to deal with many cases, particularly in relation to animal health food standards and consumer fraud, which don't stop at local government boundaries.

"We need to have the co-operation of neighbouring authorities to make sure that all legislation is effectively enforced."

The new Northern Counties Liaison Group supports a population of more than 5.2 million and is responsible for 146,000 businesses including 26,000 agricultural and 57,000 food enterprises.

It is made up of the heads of trading standards services for Cumbria, County Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland, North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire who have agreed collaboration arrangements.

The six counties share many problems which are unique to the region and it is thought that the new group will help create best value initiatives, joint ventures and share specialist expertise and resources.

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5pm & 7.30pm - Angela 01325 308002

St. Joseph's School, Stephenson Way
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St. Clares Church Hall
(hall at back of church) Thursdays
5pm & 7.30pm - Debbie 01325 300615

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COUNCIL COACH TRIPS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The Town Council is organising the annual trips for Senior Citizens to Blackpool. Last year over 1000 took up the invitation to join the coach parties.

This year the Council wish to provide trips for those Senior Citizens who can't use a normal coach and are working with the Social Service to identify those who are eligible.

Please make sure the Council know your particular requirements on the application forms so that provision can be made for your comfort.

Forms are obtainable by ringing the Council Offices on 300700.

CHEMISTS EMERGENCY ROTA

Sunday 26th April

12noon-1pm - Boots the Chemist

Sunday 3rd May

12noon-1pm - Neville Pharmacy

Monday 4th May

12noon-1pm - Hancock & Ainsley

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Newton Aycliffe Town Centre - 312532

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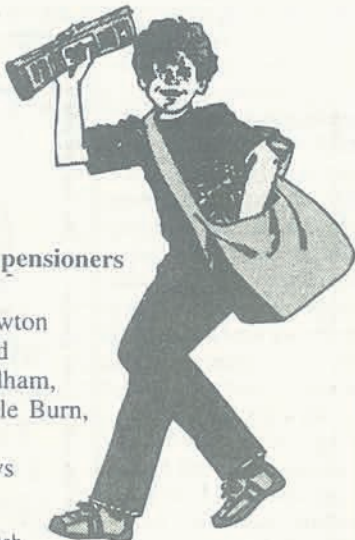
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Casual Service Agent, Newton Aycliffe. Wage tba, according to age and experience. 30 hours a week could be over 7 days or evenings. Permanent. Car Hire Firm, duties inc. Valeting, collecting and delivering cars. Prev. experience preferred, must have full, clean current licence and be over 21. Ref NEU 11981.

Full Time Groundsman, Newton Aycliffe. Wage depending on age and experience. 37 hours, Sat working essential. Permanent (seasonal). Age 25+ with experience of Cricket, Football and Rugby pitch maintenance. Urgent Vacancy Ref: NEU 11873.

Part time Cook, Newton Aycliffe. Wage: negotiable according to experience. Flexible hours inc. weekends approx 44hrs. Permanent. Pub Work, basic cooking, making sandwiches, general kitchen duties. Must have City & Guilds 706/1 and a basic Food & Hygiene Cert. Own transport essential. NEU 11984.

HGV Fitter, Newton Aycliffe. Wage TBA. Hours 8.30am-5.30pm. Friday overtime available. Permanent. Local company working on various vehicles and trailers. Experience essential. Start as soon as poss. NEU 11943.

D.B.S. EXPANDS INTO CROOK AND SHILDON



Senior Partner of Roddam Smith, Neville Fairclough (left) with David Blair of Darlington Building Society

Darlington Building Society has expanded its agency network in County Durham by opening new agencies in Crook and Shildon. The new facilities are located in the premises of Smith Roddam, solicitors at Corner Chambers, Market Place, Crook and 18 Church Street, Shildon.

The Society now has a network of 12 branches and 16 agencies located in County Durham, Tees Valley and North Yorkshire. (In addition a new branch in Guisborough is scheduled to open on 1st May 1998).

Commenting on these latest additions to the network David Blair, General Manager (Operations) said, "We regard the provision of easily accessible financial services outlets as paramount in our local area of operations. 'Many large building societies and banks are closing outlets locally, this latest move from the Darlington clearly demonstrates our dedication to looking after local interests'. He continued, "We extend a warm welcome to all residents in the Crook and Shildon areas to visit our new agency premises. Anyone looking for traditional face to face service coupled with excellent mortgage and investment products from a committed mutual building society need look no further than the new Darlington Building Society agencies".

Neville Fairclough, Senior Partner at Smith Roddam commented, "We are delighted to be able to continue and improve upon our long established service to the people of South West Durham by teaming up with the Local Building Society which remains dedicated to the cause of mutuality and provides the best service for the small investor and the intending borrower".

COUNTYWIDE CRACK DOWN ON TRUANCY

Satellite technology goes live throughout County Durham's comprehensive schools this week (Wednesday, April 22) in a bid to crack down on truancy.

Over 35 schools will go 'on line' from the start of the summer term on Wednesday when electronic telephone pagers will be given to parents to deter pupils from missing lessons.

The move follows a successful pilot scheme run by Durham County Council at two comprehensives - Wellfield and Seaham - where parents of pupils showing signs of becoming persistent truants were issued with pagers.

If a pupil failed to answer the register or missed a class, teachers triggered the pagers by satellite informing parents and asking them to contact the school.

During the trial, attendance generally showed a marked improvement.

Russell Lee, the County Council's principal education welfare officer, said the decision to extend the scheme to all comprehensives was based on the success of the pilot and the positive response of head teachers. Each school will receive 10 pagers for parents.

"Research shows that the sooner you get a message to parents that their child is not in school, the sooner the pupil returns," he said. "During the pilot, the attendance of seven of the 11 pupils at Wellfield improved greatly while two others had genuine reasons for absence."

"Although the attendance of the remaining two did not improve, the information gathered will prove useful in pursuing the matter further."

Councillor Derek Bates, chairman of Durham County Council's Education Committee said: "Truancy rates for the County are only slightly higher than the national average but, more importantly, there was an increase in attendance in the County's schools last year."

"We will be giving the pagers to parents who are genuinely concerned about their children's welfare and education. Persistent truancy can put both in jeopardy."

"As a result of our work, this scheme is spreading rapidly throughout the country and many Local Education Authorities are now following our lead," he said.

Earlier successful initiatives pioneered in County Durham, and since adopted by other education authorities, have included -

- * sweeps of known truancy 'hot spots' in individual towns
- * the introduction of 'playground passports'
- * 20-fold increase in the last five years in the number of parents the LEA has taken to court for failing to ensure their children attend school regularly.

High Marks for Julie

Julies Cafe on the Industrial Estate is featured in the 1998 Good Cafe Guide, scoring 96% for friendliness, Speed of Service, Quality, Value for Money and Customer Satisfaction.

The Cafe has scored one of the highest marks in the country and is "Highly Recommended" in the publication.

Julie Martin, the proprietor is delighted with the listing and puts it down to providing what the customer wants and having a good team of expert staff.

A WILCON WELCOME

National housebuilder Wilcon Homes is offering an even warmer welcome to new home buyers from this month, with the introduction of a superb 'Welcome Pack'. Containing everything from light bulbs to bin liners, the new pack, which comes with every Wilcon property, has all the essentials to get you settled in your new home.

Margaret Welton, group marketing manager, says the new Welcome Pack is just another example of how Wilcon is going the extra mile in ensuring that purchasers enjoy a straightforward and hassle-free move.

She comments: "Moving into a brand new house is always an exciting time, with buyers having about 101 different things to think about! Ensuring they have items such as picture hooks, tea and coffee is perhaps not top of their list of priorities, so we've done the thinking for them. There are 25 different items in the Welcome Pack, all top brand names, and all essentials for the first few days in a new house."

Wilcon really have thought of everything, right down to notepaper and pens and a cork screw with which to open the complimentary bottles of wine!

For further information on the Welcome Pack, and to find out more about Wilcon's excellent range of homes, visit your nearest development or telephone the company's regional head office on 01642 560222.

Wilcon is currently offering new homes on the following developments at The Glade, Newton Aycliffe



Utah Students' Tour Includes Spennymoor

The Brigham Young University from Utah in the U.S.A. will be stopping off in Spennymoor on Saturday, 6th June, as part of their tour of Britain and Ireland.

The rare talent and colourful costumes of the Ballroom Dance Company captivate audiences of all ages around the world. Many are surprised when the team performs an upbeat and energetic routine and awed when they witness the beauty and -race as they float across the stage during a traditional waltz.

As world-recognised formation team competitors, the group has consistently won honours in national and international competitions, including the prestigious British Formation Championships.

Their varied and exciting routines have captivated audiences throughout the U.S.A. and more recently in the Ukraine and Belgium. The show provides excellent

family entertainment tickets are selling fast. Tickets cost £4.00 for adults and £2.00 for O.A.P.'s and juniors. A similar American tour attended last year and tickets were a sell out, so don't be disappointed, telephone Spennymoor Leisure Centre box office on (01388) 815000.

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Huntsmen CRASH!

HUNTSMAN crashed out of the League Cup with a sorry performance losing 3 -1 to Halfmoon Rangers, effectively ending any hope of silverware this year.

Two months ago the ywere in a healthy position, but a string of bad results has shattered their dreams for both League and Cup glory.

Team stats: Everyone: 6 but Man of the Match was Jim McCabe - 7.

Loyal fan and former player Dave wilkinson is said to be in a stable condition after recovering from a damn good dressing down at last week's match. The retired full back, midfielder, striker, now co-commentator for Huntsman was deeply shocked when a player turned on him with a frenzied verbal attack. It sounds a bit chinese to me, but Martin Haigh understood every word.

It now seems the spanish tour will not go ahead. A lack of interest has resulted in cancellation. Huntsman cannot apologise enough to those who booked and clients will be contacted and refunded in full.



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Letter to the Editor TOWN COUNCIL CAUSED DELAY ON DEVELOPMENT

Dear Sir,

Many residents have asked why the redevelopment of the Avenue School, Town Centre, site has been delayed, stood vacant, an eyesore, for so many years.

May I remind residents that, in their wisdom, the "Decision Makers" on Aycliffe Town Council, decided in 1995, to seek a high profile 'prime presence' on the site.

They asked Durham County officers to draw up new plans and costings for G.A.T.C. ideas. For an Auditorium-Hall, Meeting Rooms, Cubby, Library, Arts Centre, Kitchen and Information Centre.

Basic costings ranged from £1 Million to £2,450,000. The actual development costs could have doubled the estimates. As I wrote at the time, G.A.T.C. had no means I could find to raise such money, except from Town Ratepayers.

G.A.T.C. proposals had to be taken into account in the Borough Council's Planning Brief. Which affects what potential developers are expected to comply with and make space for the site.

All of that contributed to delays, consultations, re-plans of prospective site lay-outs, and spaces available.

After all that delay, and indecision, G.A.T.C. "Decision Makers" decided on 11th March 1998, they would NOT seek a presence on the site. What I had found out earlier proved true. The costs to G.A.T.C. of their 1995 proposals were not financially viable.

After adding to the delays of redevelopment, and costs to other councils, as well as GATC, in Officer time, effort and plans, consultations, public expectations, GATC "Decision Makers" decided "NOT" to seek a presence on the site within ANY community facilities".

If non-Labour Councillors had been responsible for such decisions, what would Labour Party members have said about them?

Might it be, other councils and the people of this town are due an explanation and, an apology from the GATC "Decision Makers" for contributing to those delays and waste of Officer efforts?

Might Officers efforts have been much better employed for the direct, daily benefit of the people?

Cllr. Don Fraser. Woodham Ward. S.B.C. & G.A.T.C.

Any Memories of the First World War?

Dear Sir,

I am researching a BBC documentary about the First World War and am looking for women who are still alive and served in this war between 1914 and 1918 or who have special memories associated with it.

I am especially looking for women who worked in munitions factories. Making arms and ammunitions was an unpleasant job - the women were called Canary Girls because it turned their skin yellow. There were also many dangerous explosions - perhaps you can remember such an incident? I am also looking for nurses and ambulance drivers who served in the front line.

In addition I would like to hear from women who have vivid memories of their father, brother, or sweetheart fighting during the First World War. How did it feel when they left? Did you write to them? Did they ever come home on leave? If they were injured or died how did you and your family cope with this? Can you remember being reunited when the war was over? If you have memories like these or know of anyone alive who does, please write or telephone Mary Rees at Testimony Films, 12 Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5. Tel 0117-925 8589.

WOODHAM'S ANNUAL FUN WEEKEND

Woodham Village Green is the place to be on Thursday 7th of May until Saturday the 9th of May, as the annual Family Fun Weekend gets off to a start.

There's something for all the family including Alice in Wonderland rides, Victorian Swing Boats, Face Painting, Rifle Ranges, Karaoke Disco,

Punch and Judy, Stocks, Tug of War, U.S.A. Basketball and much more.

All the family are more than welcome, the fun starts at 6.00pm Thursday 7th of May, 6.00pm Friday 8th of May and the Grand Gala day is Saturday 9th of May. For more information please contact 0836 350507.

OPEN AIR CONCERT AT RABY CASTLE

It's nearly time to polish the candelabra, sort out the rugs, picnics and chairs.

With balmy weather just around the corner I hope you will be thinking about bringing family, friends, picnics and candelabra to the Gala Performance at Raby Castle on Friday 5th June 1998.

Raby Castle, near Staindrop will open its beautiful grounds to play host to an open air concert in the parkland with the magnificent Raby Castle as its background.

Performing Arts Symphony Orchestra will perform a programme of popular music including Mozart, Bizet, Sousa, Gershwin, Smetana and lots of more.

Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture with a spectacular fireworks display will complete the evening.

This unique event is in support of the South Durham Hospice, Bishop Auckland, which provides care of the terminally ill from the area of Wear Valley and Sedgefield District. For further information please contact Sue Snowden, the Hospice's fundraiser who will be delighted to speak to you - Tel 01388 603003

JUNIOR SOCCER COACHING COURSE

There will be a Junior Soccer Coaching Course at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex commencing Saturday, 2 May 1998 and running for 4 consecutive Saturdays. The age groups will be .5 - 7 year olds from 9 - 10.00 am, 7 - 9 year olds from 10 - 11.00 am and 9 years and over from 11 - 12 noon.

The cost per course is £6 per child and anyone interested should contact the Sports Complex for an application form or telephone 01325-300600. Places are limited so book early. The course will be running in conjunction with Durham County Football Development Scheme.

Success for Local Rallydriver

On April 11th local racing driver Geoff Wright, competed in the National Rally Championships held at Llandovery in Wales.

There were 120 entries and he finished 21st, 2nd in his class and he is still leading his class in the overall Championship.

The weather was bad with snow and blizzards with some stages cancelled. Many of the top drivers dropped out due to conditions.

Recent sponsors include KeylineGraphix of Aycliffe and Hambleton Steel Co. Geoff competes at Bedford next and is still looking for sponsors. Please ring him on 310800.

Scratchcard Profits Donated to Charity

Would you like the opportunity to win £75,000 and to help a local good cause at the same time?

That's exactly the opportunity that Somerfield are offering if you buy a Somerfield Community Charity scratchcard. The nett proceeds from the sale of Somerfield Community Charity scratchcards over the next six months will be donated to the following local good causes that have just been nominated by Somerfield customers to benefit from the Charity.

Darlington Talking Newspaper
Stephenson Way School

The Somerfield Community Charity is a non-profit making organisation which was established in February 1997. The specific objective of the Charity is to raise money to support local good causes in the areas surrounding Somerfield stores. In the first twelve months the Somerfield Community Charity has already raised over half a million pounds for local good causes.

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More Bobbies on the Beat and More to Come

A record number of bobbies are pounding the streets of Durham and more recruits are still being sought. The latest batch of 15 newcomers, 11 men and 4 women, who reported for duty for the first time this week has pushed the force strength above the 1500 mark for the first time. Two years ago the force launched a major recruiting drive and for the first time used paid for newspaper advertising to underpin the campaign. Since then nearly 250 new officers - nearly half of them women - have taken to the streets.

Recruiting specialists hoped the force strength would have hit a target of 1541 by the end of March, but the benefits of the arrival of scores of "rookies" has been off-set by officers stepping into retirement, many of them after more than 30 years service. In the 12 months between April of last year and the end of last month, 110 new officers were sworn in. But during the same period 75 retired. New recruiting targets will push the total strength out even further to an expected 1571 within the next few months and the force is now actively seeking applicants who want to pursue a police career.

The force's recruiting officer, Inspector Dick Dodds said "Durham is totally committed to the development of a high quality community based force and front line policing is the key to some of the outstanding successes they have been enjoying. "Members of the public have consistently told us they want to see even more officers on the beat and we are doing our very best to do that in line with recently introduced policies which emphasise the growing importance of the role of foot patrol officers and in particular those walking designated beats."

The force is searching for men and women over the age of 18 from across the educational, social and ethnic range. Candidates must be physically fit but also demonstrate sound common sense and an ability to work as part of a team. Personal qualities, which include integrity, honesty and a desire to serve the people of Durham are essential.

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Newton News

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call in for further details
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Friday 9.30-3.00pm
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problems or complaints.
Neville Parade Methodi
Church on Saturday 2
May between 11am and
noon

NOTICE TO WOODHAM WARD RESIDENTS

Sedgefield Borough
Councillor Alan Gray an
Durham County Councill
Terry Hogan will be holdi
a ward surgery at Agne
Community Centre o
Sunday 3rd May betwee
10am and 12 noon
discuss your complaints
problems. If you are unab
to attend you can conta
Councillor Gray t
telephone on 313778 an
Councillor Hogan o
313828
FLORAL ART classes sta
again on Thursday 30t
April, 7.30pm, 8 week terr
using fresh flowers, conta
Elizabeth Lewis 319196
GREENFIELD Centri
based at Greenfield Scho
are running a 10 week Bas
Computing Course whic
commenced Tuesday 21
April 8-10pm. We have
number of places availabl
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enrolling for the cours
please contact the centre o
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Tuesday evening 28-4-91
between 6-7pm
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summer planter
demonstration and sale o
plants by Ravenswort
Nurseries at 7.30pm o
Wednesday 29th Apri
Vane Road School
Admission £1 for adult
everyone welcome

Newton News

Contact Paul
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or mobile 0836 690211

In Memoriam

ROBERT DIXON Died 25-4-97. God came and stood beside our bed, he took your hand and softly said, you suffered more than you could stand, I miss you so much, love you always, Loving wife, Colleen and all the family

ALAN COOKE Died 25th April 1997, aged 56. Loved and remembered more and more each day. Miss you loads, your devoted daughter, Beverly XXX

NEIL JOHNSON 26th April 1997. One year since you were taken from us and not a day goes by that we don't think of you and wish you were here with us. Please God take care of him, until we are together, give him all our love, sister Lisa, Paul, Joshua and Beth

HUTCHINSON (Ron) On loving memory of a dear husband died 25th 1993. They say it's a beautiful journey from the old world to the new and someday I will make that journey Ron, which will lead me to you and when I reach that garden where there are no cares or pain, I will put my arms around you so we are never apart again. Your loving wife Cora

RON HUTCHINSON 25-4-93. Never more than a thought away, loved and missed every day, love always Ronnie

RAYMOND GILLHAM Died 22nd April 1994. You never said goodbye to us, perhaps that's just as well, we never could have said goodbye to one we loved so well. To lose someone you've loved for years, is hard beyond belief, your heart comes near to breaking point and no one knows your grief. You never would have hurt us upon this earthly plane, but then you stepped beyond the plane and left us with our pain. Sadly missed, Julie, Edward and family. Anne, Shaun and family. Sarah and Andrew

RAYMOND GILLHAM Died 22nd April 1994. There are things we cannot measure, like the depth of waves and the sea and the heights of stars in Heaven and the joy you brought to me. Like eternity's long endlessness and the sunset's golden hue, there is no way to measure the love I have for you. Loving wife Phyllis. Always in my thoughts

NEIL JOHNSON Things have never been the same, since you've been gone. I miss you terribly and wish you were here to hold you in my arms. And not just in my heart I think of all the joy you've brought into my life and I count myself lucky to have known and loved you. It's not easy to be away from you. So until I see you again, I'll keep thinking of you with a love forever strong and always true, missing you, big sister Sue, Jordan and Kurtis

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MANNY HOSTEIN Died 21-4-96. In the words of an old song "all kinds of everything remind me of you". Miss you so much, love you always, Loving wife, Colleen and all the family

ALAN COOKE Died 25th April 1997, aged 56. Loved and remembered more and more each day. Miss you loads, your devoted daughter, Beverly XXX

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Birthday Remembrance

WOODHEAD Ryan Andrew 25-4-94. To our sweet little brother on your birthday, thinking of you always, all our love Charly and Tony XX

WOODHEAD Ryan Andrew 25-4-94 to 5-5-94. Birthday boy we miss you so, How much we miss you, you will never know, now in Heaven up above, we send to you all our love, love and miss you from Mummy and Daddy

WOODHEAD Ryan Andrew, My baby brother I want to say, I still talk about you everyday, I wish you could be here for your birthday tea, I wish that you were still here with me. Love and kisses from Craig

MEL BUTTERFIELD 27th April (52 years old). Birthday memories of a dear husband, dad and grandad. Deeply missed by wife Hetty, son Melvin (Dad you were simply the best), step-daughter Michelle, Denise, Kirsten - Please give grandad all our love, Pip, Josh, Jerico and Carlton XX

SAMANTHA MADDISON 26-4-78. A daughter is a precious thing, a diamond and a pearl, but you were more precious, because you were our little girl. You were beyond all value like the moon and stars above, nobody will ever evaluate our special love. We look back in reflection over the years that swiftly went and try to count our blessings of those few years that we spent. Love and miss you on your birthday, Mam and Dad

SAMANTHA MADDISON 26-4-78. Forever in our thoughts Samantha, especially on this your 20th birthday, Auntie Eleanor, Uncle Barrie, Shaun and Sarah

SAMANTHA MADDISON 26-4-78. For a special sister, remembering you today and always, love on your 20th birthday. Deeply missed and loved Nicola and Robert

SAMANTHA MADDISON 26-4-78. Cherished memories to a much loved granddaughter and niece on this your 20th birthday. Nana, Grandad and John

SAMANTHA MADDISON 26-4-78. A ray of sunshine in my heart, but all too soon we had to part. Love to Samantha on your 20th birthday, Grandad (M)

WAISTELL Jean Ann, 26th April, birthday memories of a dear wife, mam and grandma, love and miss you always. Harry and family

Pets

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

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Congratulations

Bas Thompson



27th April 1998
"See he was cute once!"
Happy birthday pops, lots of love Karen, David, Luke, Jayden and Lyndsey

BAS THOMPSON Happy birthday to the best brother in the world. Love from Ann, Tony and family

Gary Briggs



25th April 1998
Happy birthday to a special son on your 7th birthday, love Mammy and baby sister Charlotte XXX

GARY BRIGGS 25-4-98, happy birthday Gary, love you lots, from Nanna and Grandad XXX

Kenneth Bayne



Happy 30th Birthday
Love from Mum, Dad and all the family, once a poser always a poser

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THREE PIECE Suites, sofa's, sofabeds, good quality, ex-catalogue, all brand new, most colours and styles from £199, friendly advice, free delivery Tel 01325 266137 anytime

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TEAK WALL Unit, 6' high x 6' long x 16" deep £60 Tel 315032

CALOR Mobile fire, 2 gas bottles, ex-condition, £30 Tel 313193

WHITE Cabin bed with mattress, 18 months old also cupboard and drawers etc £60 no offers Tel 312772

AMIGA 500 little used, boxed, joystick, mouse, games etc £100 ONO Tel 312772

BROWN Sheepskin flying jacket, immaculate condition, size 14, unisex, beautiful jacket, £250 cost new, accept 3130 ONO Tel 312772

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Thank you

SONIA & SUSAN (nee Stephenson) would like to thank all concerned during the recent bereavement of their Dad, John Stephenson, 16-4-98. Beloved Grandad and Father-in-Law

MANDY, JUNE & JULIE Can I say thank you for all your help and support as Slimfit consultants. I am well on track for target now, I was about to give up on diets, but with your help, here I am faith restored. May you long continue to help, not only me, but others out there who need a weight loss. It can be done and I am proof of this, you girls are simply the best - Love Pauline XX

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