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AYCLIFFE'S NEW MAYOR FOR 1998/99

Councillor Angela Fleming was elected as Mayor of Great Aycliffe for the year 1998/99 at the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 13th May 1998.

Angela has been a Councillor with Great Aycliffe Town Council since 1990 and she resides in Welbury Grove. Mrs Fleming will be accompanied at her events by her husband Councillor Bob Fleming, who is the Leader of the Council. During her year in office Angela's charity appeal will be to create an Anniversary Garden which will be sited close to the "Aycliffe Angels" commemorative seat and she hopes that everyone will support her with this venture



MAYORS FUND RAISES £4,300.00



Councillor Mrs Sarah Iveson officially presented a cheque for the sum of £4,300 to one of the organisers of her nominated charity. Her charity for the year of office was a "Special Needs Playgroup" which operated from St. Mary's School. The Mayor presented the cheque to Mrs. Tracey Roberts at the annual meeting of the Council on the 13th May 1998.

The money will be used to purchase new equipment and take the children on outings.

Mrs Iveson would like to thank everyone who has supported her charity for their exceptional generosity

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SENIORLINE "Help The Aged" Save Money

Older people are being asked for money towards their council tax even though many do not have to pay. Staff on SeniorLine, the advice line run by 'Help the Aged', have been taking calls from worried pensioners who have received bills for their council tax despite living on a very low income. The situation has arisen after a last minute change to council tax rules. The Government was about to introduce a new system which would have meant pensioners on council tax benefit who live in certain properties (band F and above) would have to start paying part of their council tax bill. However campaigners forced a U-turn by the Government

and the new rules were scrapped for existing claimants. But Town Halls around the country did not have time to stop the original demands for the new payments going out. And pensioners have been receiving bills they should not be expected to pay. SeniorLine Manager Elizabeth Lodge says "These bills are being sent to people on low incomes who are struggling to get by. We really want older people to give us a ring at SeniorLine to make sure what they're paying is correct. The number's easy to remember and its FREE - 0800 65 00 65."

SeniorLine received one call from a 70 year old widow who lives alone. She has no savings and her only income is a Widows Pension and Income Support which entitled her to the full council tax benefit.

She recently received a council tax bill for £237.06 which she cannot pay. Help the Aged is writing to every local authority asking how they will make sure people do not pay this new amount!

NEW TEMPLE OPEN HOUSE

Recently completed, the new Temple built by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is proving to be of great interest to Church members and non-members alike.

In excess of 150,000 visitors are expected at the 15 acre site at Hartwood Green, Chorley, near Preston Lancashire, during the Open House.

A modern building, it was completed only recently, having taken almost four years to build. Finished in Olympia white granite with a huge gold statue of the Angel Moroni atop its spire, it is an arresting landmark in the area.

The Open-house from 16th to 30th May (except Sundays), is the opportunity for the general public to view the interior of the Temple.

Only members of the Church in good standing will be allowed entrance after the dedication which will take place in early June.

266 chapels throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland serve as local meeting houses for approximately 180,000 members. The Church worldwide has a membership of over 10 million.

The so-called London Temple at Newchapel near Lingfield in Surrey, was completed in 1958 and refurbished in 1992. On both occasions, members of the public were invited to attend an open-house prior to dedication.

The Church has 52 Temples throughout the world with various others planned or under construction.

Darlington Greenpeace Support Group Table Top Sale

The Darlington Greenpeace Support Group are holding a Table Top Sale at St. Cuthberts Church Hall in the towns market place.

The event will take place on Saturday 30th May between 10am and 1pm.

Admission will be 20p per person and table hire is £5. Tables can be reserved by contacting Darren on Darlington 251713.

Local Greenpeace volunteers across the country are organising a series of events in support of the 'Atlantic Frontier' campaign.

The 'Atlantic Frontier' is an area of ocean wilderness to the west of Scotland, the richest habitat in Europe for whales and dolphins - a "Motorway for Whale". It is under serious threat from companies exploring for new reserves of oil.

Greenpeace has been campaigning to stop oil exploration for over a year and will conduct a scientific survey of the whale and dolphin population of the area this summer.

contact: 01325 487336.

Williams Syndrome Awareness Week

With the forthcoming 'Williams Syndrome Awareness Week' - 25th to 30th May, we would like to thank the staff at Darlington Memorial Hospital, Health Visitors, family and friends for their help and support. Our son Aaron was diagnosed as having this condition in February 1997 and, as it only affects 1 in

25,000 people, is very rare.

Williams Syndrome is a genetic illness causing mental and physical impairment.

Anyone wishing to know more should contact: The Williams Syndrome Foundation, 161 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1BX. - Many thanks

Andrew & Natalie Green

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Aycliffe Nature Park Association



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YOC Pond-Dipping at Aycliffe Nature Park

Dear Sir,
I would like to inform yourselves and your readers that the **Aycliffe Nature Park Association AGM** is to be held on Sunday 7th June at 2pm, at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe. All interested parties are invited to attend and new members are always welcome. We would like to remind everyone that access to the Park is 365 days a year and we would like to see more townspeople becoming involved in running and maintaining the site. We are a group interested in natural history, ecology and watching wildlife. We are an organisation which relies solely on help from donations, (see photo) - so we would also be interested in hearing from anyone (private individuals, groups or businesses) who could help us in any way with equipment (for maintenance, education, survey work etc.), materials (for improving the site, pathways etc.), services (photocopying, printing, photography, advertising etc.), financial (sponsorship, donations for various projects and events). If you can think of any other way in which you or perhaps your organisation can help, we will be only too glad to hear from you. An example of what we need: a **moth trap for the 25th July 1998**. Anyone who can loan, donate, sponsor or otherwise obtain such a trap would be helping us greatly. On Saturday 25th April children from the **Newton Aycliffe Young Ornithologists Club** spent over two hours on the Park, activities involved pond-dipping (see photo), exploring and cleaning up. The children found a variety of pond-life including fish, newts, tadpoles, beetles, leeches and aquatic larvae. Other things seen were butterflies and caterpillars and various plants. They asked questions about what they found and we hope learned something about the natural world around them. The Aycliffe Nature Park Association are happy to have individuals and groups come along to enjoy similar events. Anyone wishing to do so should contact our members on one of the numbers below. The Y.O.C. is the junior section of the R.S.P.B.. Meetings are held regularly each month at St. Clare's Church Hall. Anyone interested in this group should contact Mr Alan Warburton, 21 Butler Road. Tel: 01325 315182. *Anyone with enquiries or help should Tel: 01325 315182, 312491, 318984*
Thank you very much - Dave Curran (Secretary)

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SHERWOODS COME TOPS IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Sherwoods Masterfit in Chesnut Street, Darlington are in the top four of a national competition to assess the telephone skills of Masterfit technicians.

Masterfit is a 'no appointment necessary', while-you-wait centre backed by Vauxhall. Masterfit at Sherwoods have an area extending from Newton Aycliffe in the north, down to the Barnard Castle, Richmond, Catterick and Northallerton areas in the south.

They offer a comprehensive range of services covering tyres, batteries, exhausts, shock absorbers and brakes as well as routine servicing and MOTS, all at competitive rates.

The technicians were assessed by mystery shoppers, who awarded them points on the manner in which they answered the telephone, the way in which they listened to customer problems and the help and solutions that they offered.

There are currently 163 Masterfits in the U.K., and the technicians at Sherwoods Masterfit won the regional competition which includes the North-East of England and Northern Ireland for the second year in a row, which means they are one of the top four in the United Kingdom.

Speaking at the award presentation, Alasdair MacConachie, managing director of Sherwoods, expressed his delight. "It is quite an achievement for the Masterfit technicians that they have won the competition for the second time in consecutive years. It is a tribute to the high standards and effort which they put into making Masterfit such a success in our region."

Eddie Connolly, Vauxhall Masterfit Support Manager, congratulated them on their success. "The friendly and professional manner in which technicians deal with Masterfit customers is such an important part of their job and once again goes to prove that these technicians are amongst the best in the country".

In addition to receiving personalised tankards, the technicians and their partners will be VIP guests at the British Touring Car Championships at Croft Circuit later this year.

Featured are: (Top from L/R) Lesley Dexter, Business Development Co-ordinator; Ivan Best, Workshop Manager; Wayne Hall, Masterfit Technician; David Greenhalgh, Service Manager; Alasdair MacConachie, Managing Director; Eddie Connolly, Vauxhall Masterfit Support Manager. (Bottom from L/R): Nigel Humble, Masterfit Technician; Mike Bean, Masterfit Technician; Steve Alcock, Masterfit Supervisor; David Armstrong, Masterfit Technician; Craig Tolley, Masterfit Supervisor.



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LAUNCH OF RAIL AND TOURISM CAMPAIGNS

Durham County Council is joining forces with long distance train company Great North Eastern Railway and five other tourist authorities to launch one of the biggest ever rail and tourism campaigns on the east coast main line.

Great North and Eastern Destinations exhibitions will be staged at seven stations along the London-Scotland line by tourist authorities from May 18 to June 4.

More than 170,000 people who use the stations during the exhibition will be able to learn more about popular destinations which can be reached easily on GNER trains and have the chance to win an hotel and travel prize.

Information, leaflets, ideas and advice will be available from representatives of destinations featured in the exhibitions including Berwick upon Tweed, Newcastle, County Durham, Durham City, Darlington and Peterborough.

Councillor Don Robson, Leader of Durham County Council, said: "Tourism is a multi-million pound industry in County Durham and, by taking these exhibitions to potential visitors by train, we hope to generate more business for the local economy."

Mike Staff, Customer Operations Manager for GNER, said: "We are delighted to be able to stage this joint venture to create greater awareness of the variety of interesting destinations that can be reached by train."

"Staging the exhibition on stations allows us to reach those who are already rail users and likely to travel by train in their leisure time."

First stop for the exhibition was Peterborough on May 18 & 19, this was followed by Doncaster on May 20 & 21, the next stops are: York May 22 & 23, Durham May 26 & 27, Newcastle May 28 & 29, Darlington June 1 & 2, and Edinburgh June 3 & 4.

Cowboy traders offering to do anything from roof repairs to driveways are fleecing trusting County Durham householders of hard earned cash.

Despite repeated warnings not to fall prey to fly-by-night traders, people are still handing over cash and getting a shoddy job.

A rash of complaints about poor workmanship has been made to Durham County Council's Consumer Services in recent weeks involving several different traders.

Phillip Holman, Head of Consumer Services, said it seemed that warnings not to give money to traders who call uninvited offering to do home repairs weren't being heeded.

"Over the last few days, a number of complaints have been received concerning several different traders who had called offering services such as replacing UPVC fascia boards, roof repairs or driveway resurfacing," he said.

"Unfortunately, some consumers appear to have acted in haste and parted with several hundred pounds in cash only to find the jobs have been carried out unsatisfactorily."

"None has obtained a proper receipt, nor knew the true name and address of the people who had carried out the work," he said.

Councillor Ken Manton, chairman of the County Council's Environment and Technical Services Committee, said: "With virtually no information to go on, there is little we can do to help. I only hope that by publicising the predicament many people now find themselves in that other householders will think twice before parting with their hard earned cash."

There's a lot to be said for dealing with traders who are not only here today, but will be here tomorrow too," he said.

LIKE MOTHER LIKE DAUGHTER



Tracey Morgan from Darlington is certainly following in mother's footsteps because she has not only shown a great interest in things medical - she has even joined the same Territorial Army unit as her mother.

Tracey who is 25 is now a Lance Corporal with 201 (Northern) Field Hospital and based at Newton Aycliffe - the very same unit where her mother, Jenny Kell from Trimdon Village holds the rank of Major.

In civil life Jenny, 48, is a Senior Lecturer in Nursing Studies at Teesside University and she is based at unit headquarters at Fenham Barracks in Newcastle.

Whereas Jenny is obviously fully qualified in Nursing, Tracey has also been working hard as she is now a fully qualified Combat Medical Technician Class 1, in other words, an Army nurse.

Both have served in several parts of the United Kingdom and North West Europe.

Jenny says, "I'm very proud of Tracey for doing so well," and in turn Tracey says, "It's not every girl in the world who calls her Mam 'Ma'am' at weekends, is it?"

GARDENS GUILD

It is still Chrysanthemum time at the Guild, the plants are top quality, also in stock are your usual garden requirements and Gro-Organic, which is highly recommended.

The Hut is open Sunday mornings 10am until 12 noon.

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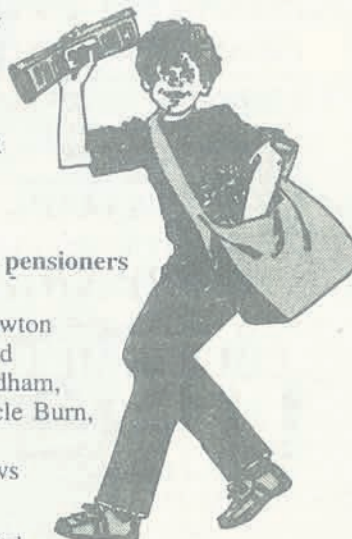
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CYCLE THE WORLD

A local branch of the 'Cycle the World' event is holding their annual event on Saturday May 1st. The event takes place all day and involves teenagers cycling on their bikes for as many miles as they can manage. The local Army Cadets will be present from 9am to 11am to help in the event which will be taking place all over the country. Over the last 3 years volunteers have managed 1 lap of the world in year 1, 2 laps in year 2 and are hoping to improve on this achievement this year. The event is held in aid of the charity 'Whizz Kidz' and anyone requiring further information should contact the Manager on 312936.

SHARMONY DOCUMENTARY

They have announced this week a search for local people involved in marital disharmony to take part in a major new documentary series, 'Till Divorce Do Us Part', scheduled for next year. The series is proving to be as popular as ever and, unfortunately, divorce is still a common occurrence. Recent figures show a staggering 40% of marriages in the region, based on national statistics, are in danger of a breakdown in the vows.

Divorce can be a catastrophic wreckage from which it is never entirely emerge," explains programme researcher Marshall. "For others it is freedom. Our programme will show the lives of couples currently living the divorce process, amid the anger, the betrayal, the justice and the triumph and it will tell us what's unfair about the process."

Divorce affects nearly everybody in one way or another. 'Till Divorce Do Us Part' is a series of six half-hour factual programmes about separating couples. The films will be recorded over a period of months and are expected to capture each memorable moment. From the anger that fills couples with frustration, to the moment of regret and the moments of sadness, the programme will also witness couples as they emotionally grow on.

Divorce is not the easy option. Genuine instances of marital disharmony have resulted in some interesting and bizarre cases. A builder constructed a brick wall through the centre of his house to section off his own space from that of his wife's. A wife who, frustrated by her husband's vanity and infidelity, rubbed chilly pepper into his underpants, and found putting marmalade in all his suit pockets.

Other cases include the husband who was tortured at the thought of his wife receiving the house and possessions in the pending divorce, and burnt it down, and the man who took revenge by putting his furniture in half, he removed all the legs and doors of the furniture and the remainder he cut into little pieces. In one case he had his dog put down.

Interviews are expected to take place locally over the next few months. In the mean time, if you have a story, contact 'Till Divorce Do Us Part', Chameleon Television, Television Centre, 104 Kirkstall Road, Leeds LS3 1JS, or tel: 0113 222 1044.

BIG NAMES APPEARING AT THE CIVIC THEATRE

Darlington Arts is delighted to announce dates for two top shows this autumn - with comedians as different as they are brilliant.

For the first time ever at Darlington Civic Theatre, the incredibly talented JASPER CARROT will have the audiences rolling in the aisles on Sunday 20th September.

In the 20 years since he first appeared on national television, his TV shows and live concerts have sold out time and again both nationally and internationally. Booking has just opened and tickets priced at £12.50, £14.50 and £16.50 are already selling fast.

By complete contrast, the Civic is delighted to welcome back to Darlington by popular demand, the diddy-man himself, KEN DODD.

The one-nighter of last season proved so successful, that this year he's booked for Wednesday 30th September and Thursday 1st October, two uproarious evenings of tittefilarious entertainment. Ticket prices are £8, £9, £11 and £12.

Peter Cutchie, Head of Theatre & Arts says, "It's a pleasure to be able to offer comedy of this calibre and to welcome new and familiar faces to Darlington Civic Theatre. We know these shows are both going to be extremely popular, so we'd recommend booking as soon as possible."

Tickets can be booked by telephoning the Box Office on (01325) 486555.

LEGION DO THE TREBLE

The Royal British Legion clinched their third trophy in a week when they beat Fox & Hounds in the A.S.E. Cup Final.

The first 15 minutes of the game was even with both defences holding solid. The Legion opened the scoring in the 17th minute with a

superb goal from Doug Grant, he beat his man to the ball and hit a well placed shot into the corner of the net 1-0.

In the 43rd minute the Legion went two up when Chris Johnson rounded a defender and hit a pin point cross for Mark Delucia to head home - half time 2-0. Legion knew the Fox were going to come at them in the 2nd half which they did from the start and got their reward with a well taken goal, 2-1.

Legion replied immediately when Dave Taylor ran on and put a low cross in for Micky Malloy to tap in Legion's third.

The Fox never gave up but in pressing forward left gaps at the back and the Legion missed several easy chances.

In the 76th minute Mark Delucia took the ball on and slotted it past the Fox keeper to score his second and Legion's fourth. This still did not deter the Fox and Tony Landsdown in the Legion goal made two excellent saves near the end to keep Fox at bay.

The final whistle went to end an exciting game with the Legion running out winners 4-1.

Captain Darren Griffiths stepped up to lift the trophy for the Legion. Commiserations to the Fox who came out, made a game of it and played football.

Man of the Match was the whole team for this excellent team performance.

It is with sad regret that I have to report that the Legion's game with Half Moon was cancelled due to the sudden death of Half Moon player Colin Russell. The Royal British Legion F. C. sends its deepest sympathy to Colin's family - our thoughts are with you.

Report by Keith Brassell

MINI GYMKHANA

MG cars spanning over 60 years go through their paces in special tests in County Durham at the end of the month.

The manoeuvres - known as a mini gymkhana - are included in the 11th annual Prince Bishops Run for the first time this year and come at the climax of the event on Sunday, May 31. Organised by the MG Car Club and sponsored by Moss, Darlington, this year's run from York to Durham's County Hall will feature about 60 vehicles. The cherished MG cars from the earliest to the very latest models leave York at 10am and stop off for lunch on the journey north at Richmond.

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LEARNING TOWN PARTNERSHIPS

We are pleased to invite you to join us at Great Aycliffe Show.

As part of our campaign to launch the Learning Town Partnership the Steering Group will have a marquee at the show with the following organisations taking part: Woodham Comprehensive School, Silverdale Community Project, Durham County Council Arts, Libraries and Museums Department Community Education Service, County Durham and Darlington

Training and Enterprise Council Aycliffe Young People's Centre, Greenfield Comprehensive School, Bishop Auckland College, Durham Constabulary. We have adopted 1948 as our theme to coincide with the 50th Year Celebrations.

If your organisation would like to join us or have information displayed on one of our stands, please contact Marie Adamson at Woodham Comprehensive School no later than Thursday 21st May. Thank you for your support.

SCORE BOARD

9/5/98 - Aldbrough St John 1st XI v N/Aycliffe 1st XI

Match sponsored by Great Lakes Chemicals
Newton Aycliffe 158 for 9 (40 overs) - Glen Williams 76, John Williams 16, John Gledhill 14

Aldbrough St John 136 for 8 (40 overs) - Peter Roberts 4 for 60
9/5/98 - N/Aycliffe 2nd XI v Aldbrough St John 2nd XI

Match sponsored by Darlington Heat Treatment
Newton Aycliffe 98 all out (37 overs) - Lee Weldon 25, Rob Clarke 19, Peter Coleby 13 / Aldbrough St John 99 for 1 (22.1 overs)

15/5/98 - N/Aycliffe 1st XI v Lanchester 2nd XI
Newton Aycliffe 125 for 8 (20 overs) - Stuart Mitchie 52, Kevin Mitchie 22, Glen Williams 15 / Lanchester 99 for 7 (20 overs) - John Gledhill 5-44

16/5/98 - N/Aycliffe 1st XI v Rockcliffe Park 1st XI
Match sponsored by Great Lakes Chemicals

Rockcliffe Park 188 for 8 (40 overs) - John Williams 3-28 / Newton Aycliffe 191 for 6 (36.5 overs) - Glen Williams 76, John Williams 54 not out, Stuart Mitchie 23

16/5/98 - Yarm 3rd XI v N/Aycliffe 2nd XI
Match sponsored by Darlington Heat Treatment
Newton Aycliffe 190 for 6 (40 overs) - John Kitching 59 not out, Peter Coleby 43, Mark Fawcett 17 / Yarm 155 all out (38.4 overs) - David Lythe 4-55, John Kitching 3-26

CHEMISTS EMERGENCY ROTA

Sunday 24th May 1998

12noon-1pm - Moss Chemists

Monday 25th May 1998

12noon-1pm - Boots

Sunday 31st May 1998

12noon-1pm - Woodham Pharmacy

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