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Week Ending 4th December, 1998

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AYCLIFFE SUFFERS MORE JOB LOSSES

Counc. Tony Moore Calls for Help for Employees

Another 120 jobs were lost in Newton Aycliffe this week as Courtaulds announced the closure of their Claremont Garments factory at Northfield Way.

In total they are closing eight factories resulting in 1125 redundancies and this has been condemned by the GMB Union as asset stripping by Courtaulds who only acquired Claremont two months ago. The Union does not accept the need to close the factories and accuse Courtaulds of acting irresponsibly.

Since gaining control Courtaulds say they have made a detailed review and identified changes necessary to restore the business to profitability.

County Councillor Tony Moore was among the first to go into action to help the Aycliffe employees and we print details below:
Textile workers in Newton Aycliffe, where Courtaulds has announced the closure of its factory, had their hopes for the future raised today. (2/12/98)
Councillor Tony Moore is hoping that a regional task force can be set up to help find alternative employment

for the workers - the same as those set up for Fujitsu & Siemens.

"I have spoken to the regional director of the Government Office for the North East and suggested to him the Government should class the total job losses at Courtaulds in the region as full scale redundancies, the same way that they designated Fujitsu and Siemens," he said.

"I also suggested that a regional task force should be set up to help people find alternative employment and to persuade Courtaulds to give adequate funding to help support these workers. "The director has said that he will look at rapid response funding for Claremont Garments in Aycliffe and he also mentioned special retraining funds which could be allocated to the local technical colleges.

DON'T GET CAUGHT BY THIS SCAM

Durham County Council consumer watchdogs today warned the public to be on the alert for a mail shot 'scam' which could result in phone users running up a £9 bill in as many minutes.

Netherlands-based Metro International Limited are sending letters to householders congratulating them on winning a prize which it claims could be anything from a luxury Mercedes car to a wrist watch or even £1,010 in cash.

Durham County Council's Head of Consumer Services Phillip Holman said it appeared to be the latest in a "seemingly endless stream" of similar mail shots.

"Experience of similar schemes has shown that anyone responding usually runs up a large phone bill and that if a prize arrives it is not worth much and can involve the need to spend more."

Mr Holman said the latest letters to householders are personalised in an attempt to lure recipients to act quickly to secure their prize.

"People then have to call an 0906 number to find out which prize they have won. The calls are charged at £1 per minute and can last up to nine minutes," he added. "The odds of winning each prize are detailed in small print on the letter and it would appear that people who have rung up to claim their prize invariably receive either a wrist watch or a mobile phone for which call time has to be bought."

Coun Ken Manton, Chairman of the County Council's Environment and Technical Services Committee said: "It is very rare to get anything for nothing in this world. We would urge people to think very carefully before spending any hard-earned money on ringing this premium rate line."

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Letter to the Editor PUTTING OUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET!

Dear Sir,
With reference to the 'Poem' written by WIC in the Week Ending of 27th November 1998, I take it that the person refers to the problem of Fujitsu, well this is what you get for putting all your eggs in one basket, and from what I can determine from the Press, Fujitsu has been loosing money since 1996 when the previous Tory Government was in. What does that person want Tony to do? He cannot change the World economy on his own; the effects of the problems in the Far East and Russia will have some repercussions on all the World economies, that is how World Trading works. In this World it can be often very risky just to make one product, and to rely on the product being in constant demand at the same price. As with many I.T. things it is an ever changing world, and Computer Memory Chips which was made at Fujitsu, the prices have always been dropping as each few months new machines are brought onto the market with higher specifications including more memory, this has been happening over the last two decades. If those running Fujitsu had looked at the rise in the use of CD-ROMS, DVDs, Graphics Cards in PCs, they could have diversified into other markets. Perhaps they could have even produced a clone of Intel's Pentium Chip, like Cyrix and AMD. Many years ago whilst studying at University, I learnt that one Japanese Company which was a heavy engineering manufacturer was faced with losing its share of the market, so within three weeks they completely refurbished the company and changed its production to the making of Children's toy bicycles. David Shellhorn.

MORE GIRLS JOIN FOOTBALL TEAMS IN THE BOROUGH



Ranger Girls of Woodham Comprehensive, winner in the Under 12's with Sedgfield Borough Mayor and Mayoress John and Mary Moran.

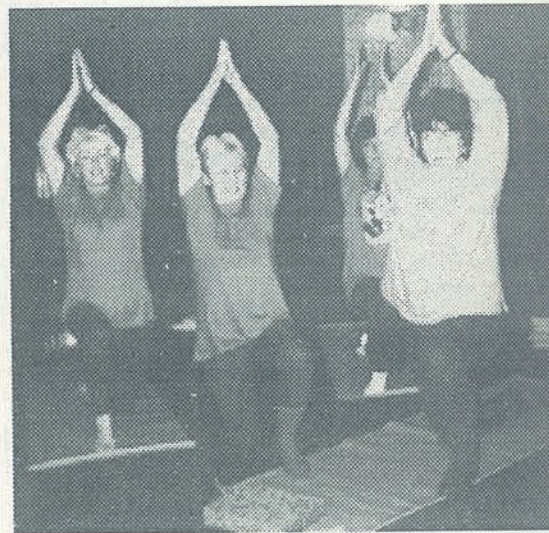
Girls' football is growing in popularity and Sedgfield Borough Council is keen to help the sport to develop throughout the Borough. Sedgfield Borough Ladies Club is looking for new members. Girls over 14 years can join and there is no upper age limit. The team competes in the Northern Women's League and is eighth in the league at the moment. Ferryhill Leisure Centre is their home ground and they train on Wednesday evenings (8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.) at Sedgfield Community College. Ladies who would like to train and enjoy the social side of the club are also welcome. It is not essential to play competitive football to become a member. For more details contact Ferryhill Leisure Centre on (01740) 654121. Elsewhere in the Borough, fifteen year old Vicky Watson of Newton Aycliffe recently organised a Girls' 5-A-Side Football Tournament which was held at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club. Seventeen local girls teams played in the competition which had support from Sedgfield Borough Community Rangers, the Police, the Fire Brigade and St. John's Ambulance. Winners were: Under 12's - Rangers Girls from Woodham Comprehensive; Under 14's - Greenfield Comprehensive and Under 16's - Sedgfield Community College. Joy Fletcher, Community Rangers Co-ordinator said: "Vicky Watson did a brilliant job in organising the competition and we were delighted to be able to support her. Girls football is developing quickly in the North East. The tournament was not so much about winning on the day, as to give girls a chance to compete. Anyone who is at all interested should give it a try. At the moment there are lots of opportunities for good players to progress". Newton Aycliffe Sports Club, Moore Lane has training sessions for ladies football on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings, telephone Claire Towers on (01325) 321768 for details. For further information please contact Joy Fletcher, Community Rangers Co-ordinator, Sedgfield Borough Council on (01388) 816166.

YOGA CLASSES AT OAKLEAF PROVE POPULAR

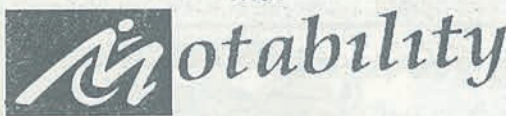
A new Yoga Session has been running at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex for the past two months and is open to people of all standards. Newly qualified teacher Marian Keay is also very keen to encourage beginners to this activity which is growing fast in popularity.

Yoga is an ideal sport for any age or ability as people are free to work to their own limits and can make it as hard or easy as they wish. It is also highly thought of by people across the medical profession and can help many medical conditions although for serious conditions it is always wise to seek your doctors advice. You need no special equipment to participate, just wear loose fitting clothes.

The session is every Thursday 7.00pm - 8.30pm at the Oakleaf Sports Complex, if you require any further information please contact the Complex on Aycliffe 300600.



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RUGBY CLUB NEWS

Shildon Town - 10
Newton Aycliffe - 41
Aycliffe travelled to Shildon this week in a desperate bid to improve their league position. Two points were

on offer, points that Aycliffe have found hard to come by over recent weeks. With so many previous games, especially league, marginally lost, this fixture was a chance to consolidate and defeat the old enemy; "Man learns little from success, but much from failure" according to the Arabic proverb.

Three points in the opening minutes from stand-off D. Pettit secured the early score with Aycliffe looking rampant for more. There seemed to be something different in the camp this week, a desire to win, a passion to compete and overwhelm the opposition. The first half scoreline lay evidence to this, Aycliffe were 34-0 ahead, they had torn Shildon's defence apart and a 2nd half thrashing was imminent. A total of five tries excited the huge crowd before half time.

Two coming from coach and centre Mark Hill who powered his way to the line with strong aggressive running, a third from even support with back row Kevin Greathead and a fine solo effort to score under the posts by Bud Shaw.

The 1st half scoring was completed by D. Pettit who converted his own try along with two others. A worthy first half performance, a performance which would grace any club in the same league or even one higher. Despite huge expectations, the 2nd period didn't live up to the elegance, ferocity and success of the first. Mistakes crept in, wrong options taken, the solid structured performance of the first half was never emulated. There were some high points

during the 2nd half, Mark Hill scored another try to give him a well earned hat trick, Stuart McIver had an exceptional game before being substituted late in the 2nd half with a leg injury and line out ball from both 2nd rows, Ronnie Gilyeat and Mick Nolan continued to produce quality ball for the backs.

To finish the scoring D. Pettit converted the only try of the half to make the score Shildon Town 10 - Newton Aycliffe 41. Tries: D. Pettit, M Hill x 3, Bud Shaw, K Greathead Cons: D. Pettit 4 / Pens: D. Pettit 1. Thanks to this weeks match ball sponsors Hosch (GB) Ltd., last weeks J & C Coaches and the week before Aycliffe Young Peoples Centre Staff Football Team. Continued on-going major sponsorship from Great Lakes Chemicals Ltd. is much appreciated.

FREE TRAINING

Durham Rural Community Council are providing free training for community groups within the County. The programme, funded by the National Lottery Charities Board and the European Social Fund, includes: - Management Committee Skills, Step by Step Funding Applications and Promotion and Publicity. For further information contact: DRCC on 01207 529621.

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Christmas Party Time

Hats, Novelties etc.



Christmas Fayre Lunch Menu
Three Course £10.00 per person

Christmas Fayre Evening Menu, 4 course £12.50 per person
Vegetable Beef Broth

Pate and Cranberry Jelly

Roast Turkey garnished with stuffed tomato, game chips, bacon roll and cranberry sauce

Roast Loin of Pork with savoury stuffing and apple sauce

Roast Sirloin of Beef with a bordelaise sauce garnished with stuffed tomatoes

Poached Delice of Salmon on a bed of vegetables with a leek and stilton sauce

Stuffed Peppers served with a nicoise salad

Vegetarian Pasta Bake served with a nicoise salad

Traditional Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce

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HOSPITAL GAINS INVESTOR AWARD



Memorial Hospital has been awarded a prestigious Investors in People award for the high quality of its training and communications systems. We're very proud of the wonderful team effort that all our 1574 staff put in to win this award" said John Saxby the Chief Executive of South Durham Health NHS Trust, which also covers Bishop Auckland General Hospital and the community services throughout the South of County Durham and Darlington.

Improving the quality of our training and communications with our staff I believe has brought real benefit to the quality of the health services we deliver".

Memorial Hospital merged on 1 April with Bishop Auckland General Hospital and South Durham community services to form South Durham Health Care NHS Trust.

John Saxby commented, "Many of our staff felt very apprehensive about the impact the merger might have on their future careers. The commitment they showed during the week the Investors in People assessors were in the hospital was first class".

The Trust has now made a commitment to aim for Investors in People recognition for the whole organisation. Bruce Elliott, the Trust's Head of Organisational Development said: "We hope that the Investors in People framework will help us to share good practice, and further improve the quality of training and communications for all of our 3,600 staff."

We have a huge range of professions within our Trust including doctors, nurses, radiographers, health visitors, speech therapists, porters, chefs and receptionists who we all hope will see real positive benefits from our commitment to the standard".

Picture shows hospital staff proudly displaying the award - From left to right: Angela Lamb - Director of Personnel, Carole O'Toole - Day Surgery Unit Administration Supervisor, Peter Hobson - Head of Radiography, Dr Gerard Walls - SHO ENT; Sister Maggie Donoghue - General Surgery, Linda Nicholson - Medical Secretary and UNISON representative. For further information please contact Julie Oliver on 01388 454011

Free Mobile Heater Health Check



Safety is everyone's priority these days and, with this in mind, Calor Gas, the UK's leading supplier of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), is offering free visual Heater Health Checks to all mobile LPG heater owners. The nine-point visual check of the heater ensures it is safe for operation. Customers will be able to bring their heater in to their nearest participating Calor outlet for inspection or the delivery driver will check the heater in the comfort of their own homes when he delivers the gas. Customers can locate their nearest participating Calor Gas outlet by calling 0345 234 432.

Santa Booked for Street Tour

Santa will once more tour the streets of Newton Aycliffe on Christmas Eve this year. The tours, organised by Great Aycliffe Town Council and staffed by volunteers, are now an established part of the Christmas Celebrations in the Town.

Santa will start the tour at 3.45 on Thursday 24th December and the approximate timetable will be printed in the Newton News for a guide to residents. While the volunteers try hard to keep to the timetable, sometimes they do run a little bit late and residents are asked to be patient.

A slight change to the tours this year, will be that Santa has a new look sleigh which will emit Christmas music this year instead of the bells that he usually rings.

LUCKY LEN WINS FIRST LOCAL LOTTERY

Mr. Len Turner, 49, of Hawes Place, was the lucky £2,000 First Prize winner of the 'One Wish' lottery draw on Friday, 20th November 1998. There are 150 prizes drawn every Friday. Len, who has lived in the town for the past 24 years and has been a regular subscriber to the lottery since its launch on the 4th September was extremely delighted with this unexpected windfall. He intends spending some of his winnings on having a really good Christmas, but also saving something for a 'rainy day'. Len considers the lottery which supports four

hospices in the North East to be a very worthy cause and intends to continue with his much valued support. If you would like to make your Xmas special and support us by becoming a member of the 'One Wish' lottery, why not join between now and the 16th December when we will automatically enter you into a free draw for a coloured television (to be drawn on 23 December). To join, simply call 01388 450750. If you have a few hours to spare every week, why not become a Collector for the lottery and earn some extra cash for Xmas. Anyone interested, please contact the above number.

Bachelor Marries Batchelor

Amanda Batchelor, formerly of Aylmer Grove, married Andrew Capocci of Newcastle on Saturday 21st November at Close Hall Mansion.

Readers will remember Amanda's parents Geoff, and his late wife Ann, who owned the popular off-licence business in the Town Centre.

Geoff, who is still in the Wine & Spirits trade and lives in Newton Aycliffe, gave away the bride, while his other daughter, Leslea, acted a Maid of Honour. The happy couple left for a honeymoon in Paris and will return to live in Jesmond.

Annual Christmas Fair

St. Mary's R.C. School held their annual Christmas Fair on Friday, 27th November 1998.

There was a marvellous turnout and the PTA Committee would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all those who donated items to sell, baked cakes and gave their valuable time on the night to help in the organisation. All your hard work was very much appreciated.

The total amount raised is £1539 which is the most we have ever raised and we consider this year's Fair to have been a resounding success

We would like to thank the following for donating prizes for our Grand Draw:- Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, 3M, Perstorp Warerite, Hathaway Roofing, Blackwell Grange, Eden Arms, Darlington Civic Theatre, Great Lakes, Hydro Polymers, Black & Decker, Marie Matthews and Greg Little. The winning raffle ticket numbers for the Grand Draw are: 2205, 787, 944, 239, 3815, 3356, 2184, 644, 356, 2478, 499, 2604, 3183, 1542 and 1313. The winning raffle ticket numbers for the Hamper Draw are: 176, 48, 64, 439, 61, 360, 214, 541, 225, 349, 341, 139 and 415. Prizes can be collected from the school during normal school hours or by ringing Jackie on 318632. Congratulations to everyone who won prizes. Once again we would like to express our gratitude to all those who helped in any way. Yours sincerely Mrs. J Watson Secretary, PTA

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Tins Roses	£10.30 now £8.99
Tins Quality Street	£12.49 now £9.99
500g Roses	£4.09 now £3.49
454g Quality Street	£3.59 now £2.99
1lb Milk Tray	£6.15 now £4.99
1lb Dairy Box	£5.69 now £4.99
Terrys Orange	2 for £2.99

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LETTER GREAT LIGHT SHOW

Dear Sir,
I would just like to write in the Newton News to say to whoever lives in the top flat near Burnhill Way - what a fantastic job you have done with the Xmas light display once again. It gets better every year. It definitely brightens up Newton Aycliffe. Congratulations on a brilliant display to whoever lives there! Me and my children look forward to it every year. Well done.
(Name & Address supplied).

SWAN LAKE

An excited resident called in to tell Newton News he had seen a swan on the Aycliffe Nature Park Lake. We believe this is the first sighting of a swan, and there have been reports of ducks and Heron on this natural oasis sandwiched between the busy A167 and Aycliffe Industrial Estate.

Sherry & Mince Pies

Morrison Close Community Centre will hold a Christingle Service at 4pm on Sunday 6th December. Come and join us and enjoy Sherry and Mince Pies afterwards.
ALL WELCOME

ROTARY CLUB OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

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SUNDAY 20th DEC.

2.30 - 4 p.m.

Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre

Admission FREE!

Be early to get a good seat

Could You Run an Event to Help Aged?

Calling all schools, organisations, factories and individuals, in Newton Aycliffe - Would you please consider organising an event to raise money for senior citizens in Newton Aycliffe. Register your event with Peter Beatty who will liaise the event with you, ring 313924.

If you would like to make a cash donation please send it to Help the Aged, c/o 5 Ainsty Hunt, The Chase, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7PH. All events and donations will be acknowledged.

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ACORN PLAYERS PRODUCE WONDERFUL PANTOMIME



The Acorn Players presented a wonderful performance of 'Aladdin', written by Jeff Waites, on Saturday 28th November in Woodham Comprehensive School Hall.

The acting, costumes, music and scenery were all well worth turning out to see on such a cold, miserable night. There were some magnificent performances by everyone involved, including Aladdin (Helen Swanwick), Abanazar (Glen Cochrane), Widow Twankey (Bill Robson), Wishee Washee (Helen Ingham) and of course Hilo (Nichola Brodhurst) and Lo-Hi (Clare Noble), everyone really put their

heart into the performance and you could tell they were really enjoying themselves. A lot of hard work and dedication had obviously gone into the show, and it was a delight to watch these young (and not so young!) people doing something they really enjoyed for the benefit and pleasure of others.

After the show there were presentations and thanks to all concerned, with special presentations to Anne Harland (better known as Auntie Anne), who had resigned as Chairman. She was presented with flowers and a brooch and also the

privilege of becoming life president for all her hard work and dedication over the last few years. And also to the Front of House Managers, Shiona Cochrane and Brenda Laight for all their hard work, and the wife of the Producer, Michael Carlton, for putting up with him over the last few months.

New Chairman Sue Hindle thanked everyone for all their time and effort, especially the production team, stage crew, lighting, sound, choreography, props and John Childs - the Musical Director.

Letter to the Editor

POORLY ADVISED TO ATTACK TONY BLAIR IN HIS HEARTLAND

Dear Sir,

I was outraged by N MacGregor's letter last week in the Newton News. About which I have the following points to make:

1. Was it not a disgrace that he should take, out-of-context, the unguarded statements of children and use them to attack Tony Blair? If somebody takes my comments and twists them to score political points, then I am an adult and that's politics. But to do it to children, who had been asked to chat openly with their MP, is to intellectually molest them. Did Mr MacGregor ASK the pupils if he could use their comments to mount an attack on Tony Blair? I think not.

Secondly, is that all Mr MacGregor has to offer us - the questions of two children? It may be cute when a child asks 'why can't all the nations be friends', and the question may embody a principle to which we adhere - but, as adults, we understand that the questions of the world can rarely be framed in such simplistic terms. Are these the terms in which Mr MacGregor sees the issues? Does he get all his political ideas from Newsround - or does he just think that the people of Newton Aycliffe haven't the intelligence to appreciate the complexities of the case?

Thirdly, I am amazed that Mr MacGregor chose to open his campaign, in Tony Blair's constituency, with an attack on Tony Blair! At the last General Election, the people of Newton Aycliffe turned out in their thousands to support Tony Blair. We are immensely proud that he is the Prime Minister. He is doing wonderfully well. Does Mr MacGregor really think that we are about to switch our allegiance? Or should he not have realised that, when we saw Tony Blair being attacked by some outsider, like family we would band closer together to support our MP? Which brings me to my fourth point: isn't it disappointing that Mr MacGregor's spin doctors should be so incompetent that they should advise him to start his campaign for the European Parliament - in the Blair heartlands - with an attack on Tony Blair? Have you ever seen a party so out-of-touch with what ordinary people think and feel? If I had been Mr MacGregor's advisor I would have told him that to attack Tony Blair would be political suicide, and to try to keep the discussion to European issues - it is, after all, a European election!

And thus to my fifth point: Why didn't Mr MacGregor do that? The answer, of course, is that the Tories don't really have anything to say about Europe, apart from the fact that they don't like it. Their policy on Europe, in layman's terms, is to wish it would go away. Which is why a vote for a Tory candidate in a European election is a wasted vote. I suspect we all have questions about Europe which we want answered. But they are not the questions of two school pupils in a 'meet your MP' session. In Stephen Hughes, our sitting Labour Euro-MP, we have a good man of stature, well-informed and well-respected, who is capable of representing our questions and our concerns on the European stage. And I suspect we would do best to leave Mr MacGregor listening to the comments of children on TV's Newsround.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor John D. Clare.

LETTER Cheaper to Buy Abroad

Dear Sir,

We have just experienced yet another example of what the government will call 'an example of International Downturn', 400 jobs will go at Dewhurst clothing in Dormanstown on Teesside and more jobs will disappear in Newton Aycliffe as part of 1200 redundancies at the Claremont clothing group. The fact is that many of these jobs are going as a result of Marks an Spencer changing its purchasing policy from UK first. This in turn is because they can buy cheaper abroad.

A major factor towards this uncompetitiveness is the fact that the Government has allowed interest rates to go higher, raising the pound to uncompetitively high levels and creating the 'environment for redundancy'. When will Tony Blair and Gordon Brown wake up to the fact that it is not rosy in the garden, as they would like us to believe. It is very tough and more people are going to be out of work because of their handling of the economy.

We need more help for manufacturing immediately and this means lower interest rates, withdrawal from the job destroying European Social Chapter and more incentives for companies to invest in the UK.

If these policies are not adopted, the legacy of this Labour Government will be one of closures, redundancy and rising unemployment.

Yours faithfully
N Gregor Macgregor

NEW EURO STANDARD FOR BUSES

New buses operating in County Durham could soon be easier for people pushing prams or pushchairs, the elderly and the disabled to get on and off - thanks to Labour MP Stephen Hughes, voted today European law setting out standards for new buses. Legislation has been taken through the European Parliament by Labour MEPs on the Parliaments Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee.

The proposed law lays down obligatory standards in the height of step on and off buses; handrails to boarding, the height of controls such as bells to request stop and buttons to open doors; levels of lighting etc. These standards would apply to all new urban and urban buses, but manufacturers could still produce designed to different standards if they meet existing national standards - but they would not necessarily be authorised for export to other countries. The previous threat to double the cost of some types of 'mini' buses has, therefore, been lifted.

Stephen Hughes, Labour Euro MP for Durham and Blaisdon said "So often it is the elderly and people with young children who most depend on buses who find them most difficult to use. European standards for new buses will bring in a generation of user friendly buses. Once again it shows Europe does bring many benefits for ordinary people. The draft law has taken a very long time to agree but it is a patient work by Labour MEPs have given Europe standards a safe passage through the European Parliament. Stephen Hughes said "Labour has achieved a good deal for British bus passengers and a brighter future for public transport."

European standards for buses also mean that popular British buses can be exported all over Europe without depending on national standards which in some cases were used to protect national bus manufacturers. Stephen Hughes added "European standards are good for trade as well as for the consumer."

POET'S CORNER

I'm a candidate for Horndale House
A junkie who's no good
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I've had my chance - threw it away
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Got hooked on drugs - laughed at you
And just went back for more.
Now decent people go without
Because the likes of me
Command resources, cash & time
Which they should get for free.
When will the rest of you wake up
And face the facts you know.
This idiot's thrown his life away
It's time for him to go.

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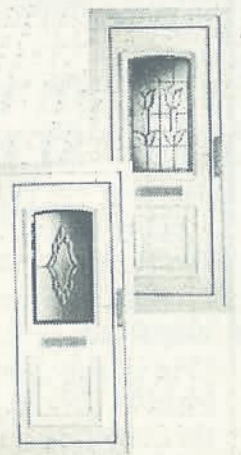


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Lady's Team Wear Town Crest



The Major Angela Fleming presenting the official Newton Aycliffe Ladies F.C. with the town crest, which they proudly display on their club shirts and shorts. The town team was formed in October 1997. After a few initial difficulties the team were accepted into the Northern Women's League, which is in the pyramid system joining the likes of Carlisle, Newcastle and Guisborough. They are now half way through the season, playing with a squad of 25 females whose ages range from 14 to 40 and are managed and coached by Frank Buss, along with co-coach Jon Spencer. The home venue is the Oakleaf Sports Complex where they have trained and played at since March 1998, Newton Aycliffe Ladies F.C. would like to express their sincere thanks to Great Aycliffe Town Council for granting us the privilege of using the town crest and would also like to thank Alexander-le-Skerne Ltd. for their sponsorship, support and for providing us with a large floodlit training area. If anyone would like further information on the team please contact Marilyn on 315802 after 5pm or on 308156 before 5pm.

£1½m to Deal With the Bug!

Year 2000 bug catchers in County Durham are confident of a smooth passage to the new millennium.

The problem caused by the switch from 1999 to 2000 was recognised by Durham County Council as early as 1986 and all reasonable steps are being taken to ensure essential services will not be prejudiced.

The County Council is also to sign up to Pledge 2000, the Department of Trade and Industry campaign, to demonstrate its commitment to resolving the problem. Progress made so far is now recorded on the Authority's own Internal web site (durham.gov.uk). This year, the County

Council has set aside £500,000 to deal with the costs of tackling the problem.

Affected computers are being replaced and those not replaced will be 'fixed' or used in areas where the date problem is not an issue. Inventories of all automated controls in buildings such as access, fire alarms and security, and in equipment such as traffic lights, signalling and telecommunications systems have been conducted.

"All essential systems will be audited for Year 2000 compliance and those which don't comply will be replaced or repaired," said Berry Forster, the County Council's Year 2000 Project Manager.

"The Authority is taking all reasonable steps to ensure that it will be able to continue to carry out its responsibilities and functions before, during and after the Year 2000 with respect to the computerised management of dates," he said.

UNDER 12's FOOTBALL

Marton U12's - 5 Newton Aycliffe U12's - 2 Last week, fourth-placed Aycliffe Under 12's travelled to third-placed Marton but couldn't take the opportunity to overhaul their rivals.

The lads made a sloppy start conceding a goal within 2 minutes and a second from a penalty soon afterwards. Matthew Dodds then came to the rescue with two goals line clearances before Marton scored a third from long range. David Turgoose then forced the home keeper into a fine save just before the break.

With coach Alan Johnston's wrath ringing in their ears, the lads battled back in the second half with Scott Roscher pulling off several fine saves.

Anthony Ross then pulled a goal back and David Turgoose's long range effort slipped through the keeper's hands to make it 3-2 and give the lads hope but Marton turned on the heat again and scored two more goals in the last two minutes. Overall a bit disappointing but Andrew Richardson deserved the 'man of the match' award with some fine defending.

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AYCLIFFE YOUTH FOOTBALL REPORT

Last weekends fixtures were reduced due to waterlogged pitches at Greenfield School resulting in postponements for the under 10's, 11's and 14's.

The remaining sides all travelled to various parts of the region and had mixed success. The 15's were on County Cup duty at Washington against Ayton under 16's and lost by 9

goals to two, this was not the one-sided game the result would indicate, as the town boys created several chances to score. As they chased the game in the second half. The older boys capitalised on lack of defensive cover. Rob Symes scored both of the Aycliffe goals.

The 12's travelled to Marton FC and gave a below par performance to lose by 5 goals to two, with Anthony Ross and an OG being the goal providers.

The performance of the day was the 13's who won at Hartlepool Power Station by 4 goals to 1. The home side took the lead early in the game but gradually the town boys gained control of the game and equalised before half-time. They then scored a further three in the second half with Michael Carr (3) and Gavin Swankey being the marksmen. M.O.M was Brendan Hindle.

Most of the forthcoming weekends fixture involve the Clubs sides in League Cup fixtures. The 10's, 11's and 15's all being drawn at home in fixtures to be played at Greenfield - Weather Permitting.

DARLINGTON CIVIC PANTO IN REHEARSAL

Rehearsals began this weekend in Darlington for the childrens favourite pantomime in the region, Dick Whittington which this year stars the hilarious Chuckle Brothers (Chucklevision, To Me, To You).

Paul and Barry Chuckle are joined by a star-studded cast, including Robin Askwith (remember the Confessions films?), TV star Peter Byrne and favourite pantomime dame, Tony Peers. TFM's Afternoon DJ, Peter Grant plays The Sultan, Tania Whatley takes the role of Fairy Bow Bells and Dick Whittington is played by Catherine Grace.

The cast is assembled in Darlington and is using space at Darlington Arts Centre to rehearse and

undergo final costume fittings in preparation for the opening night next Wednesday 9 December.

In total there are 74 performances of Dick Whittington, which runs throughout the holiday period, ending on Saturday 23 January. Matinees begin at 2.30pm and evening performances at 7pm. Families should note that there are two performances on each of the first two Sundays of 1999. Ticket prices range from £6.50 to £13.50.

Certain performances are already fully booked, and those who have yet to get their tickets for this traditional Christmas family outing, are advised to call the Sales Office as soon as possible, on (01325) 486555.

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings of the Town Council and its Committees

TUESDAY 5th JANUARY 1999

Learning Centres - 7.15pm

WEDNESDAY 6th JANUARY 1999

D.L.O. Sub Committee - 7.15pm

The General Public are invited to attend all meetings

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XMAS CRAFT FAIR

On Thursday, 17th December at 6pm, Santa Claus will lead the 'Procession of Light'. Come along and soak up the atmosphere and join the procession down Newgate Street into the Market Place in Bishop Auckland.

There will be a Christmas Craft Fair in the Market Place from 6pm - 8pm. An ideal opportunity to buy unusual Christmas gifts, e.g. hand quilted cushions, quilts, cakes, wooden toys, books, to name a few.

There will be a demonstration of glass engraving with goods to buy.

Santa will have goodies for the children. Enjoy Alice in Wonderland children's roundabout.

Refreshments available, plus Carol Singing. Come along and join in the celebrations.

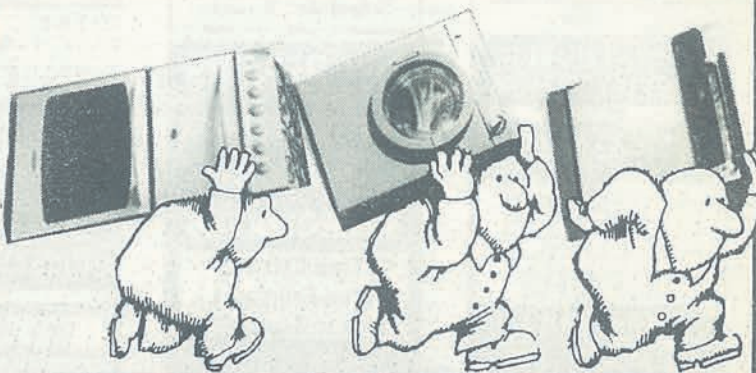
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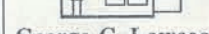
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Of course, Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without the sparkle, so Pilot's giving away 20 twin packs of its extra fine Gold and Silver Markers, each worth £6.00. They make a great stocking filler and are ideal for personalizing presents, as they write on almost any surface, and can be used to brighten up candles, glasses, plastic, wood, metal or leather.

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Dear Sir,
I am a member of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and take in sick/injured hedgehogs until they are well enough to be released once again into the wild.

But what I would like to say is - any hedgehog found out in the open in, day light hours, is not right and therefore should not be left, it should either be placed into a box with shredded paper, kept in a warm dry place and fed cat/dog food, or call me on 01325 315057, and I will gladly collect the hogs from you.

At this time of the year hedgehogs should be in hibernation, but if a hedgehog is not up to weight they can not hibernate, this must be at least 2lbs for them to survive the winter, any weighing less than this will be incapable of surviving hibernation in the wild, so late babies born September do not stand a chance of surviving the winter without help.

I had a call today from a lady at Shildon who had found 2 young hedgehogs laid out in the open and had phoned the RSPCA who told her to just

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DJ RECORDS on labels like Manifesto, Positiva, Hooy Choons etc, all in excellent condition and recent/new telephone for further details (01388) 772921

JVC PORTABLE CD player with tape deck, radio, alarm functions, ideal Christmas pressie, excellent condition £75 ONO (01388) 772921

GOLF CLUBS full set, irons 3-5W, 1-3-5 woods and putter with Wilson bag and quality trolley, head covers, balls etc - the lot, everything you need. Would make an ideal Christmas gift, excellent condition £175 or very nearest offer, Tel (01388) 772921 for more details

LOUNGE display unit, black ash/white plus lowline storage unit £50; black ash coffee table square with glass insert in top £20; White melamine circular table plus 4 chairs, £40, all good condition Tel 317701

FULL PA system, amp, speakers, stands, 2 microphones, 1 echo desk, plus leads £300 no offers; 2 double tape decks, good condition, Muranz £50 each; 1200 records, 70s, 80s and early 90s, 12" singles and 7" singles £150 ONO Tel 308837

YAMAHA portasound PSS-780, music station keyboard, 61 keys, stand, adaptor, instruction book, for details Tel 308580

PASSENGER DOOR for Nova 1.3SR £15; Sunbed, good working order £10; Super SER heater with bottle £10; Roller boots, size 10 £15 Tel 311320

MICROWAVE - THORN (MW17M) excellent condition £35 ONO Tel 317291 (can deliver in Aycliffe)

ZANUSSI condenser/tumble dryer, good condition £40 Tel 316598

BENDIX automatic washing machine in excellent working order £50 Tel 320313

GAS HEATER with full bottle, £10 Tel 316705

KLIPPAN carrycot, car seat, £12 Tel 310565

SEGA MEGADRIVE 10 games, 3 controller pads, light gun, all boxed in good condition £50 Tel 310392

When writing your greetings or notices please write in block capitals to avoid distressing errors

Public Notice

TABLE TOP SALE 12th December at the Over 60s Club, Neville Parade, Newton Aycliffe, entrance fee 20p, tables £5 To book ring 01325 316123

NEVILLE, SIMPASTURE and SHAFTO WARD Surgery. Your District and Town Councillors will be available for you to discuss your problems or complaints at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Saturday 5th December between 11am and 12 noon

CHARITY NIGHT Tickets are now on sale for the live music evening featuring "Beggars Row" which is being held at the Scout Centre on Saturday 12th December, commencing at 8pm. Hog Roast or Vegetarian supper is available. Tickets are priced £2 or £4 (to include supper), anyone interested please Tel 318901 after 7pm

SUPERDRUG

Newton Aycliffe
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
UP TO CHRISTMAS
Dec 6th 10.30-1.30pm
Dec 13th 10.30-2.30pm
Dec 20th 10-4pm
Wishing you a Merry Christmas
from all at Superdrug

NEWTON Aycliffe Library has two of a series of walks into the surrounding countryside available on request at the desk. They can be photocopied on the premises

Personal

CRAFTY CAKES for any occasion, cakes made and iced or just iced Tel 316084

DINING OUT Join us and extend your social life, make new friends and meet new and interesting people. Eat out with us and join in our many other social activities and add a new dimension to your life, Tel 01325 320352

CLOTHING PARTIES top quality clothing at top quality prices, phone Leeanne on (01325) 308121

DAWN SAMANTHA STEELE The sight of you and bump, makes in my throat a lump, you are all I adore, every day I love you more, we have an occasional fight, it's because I am not always a delight, this I cannot deny, when you say you love me, I should ask why? I am ginger, skinny and old, and no great sight to behold, but I know this in my heart to be true, that for always and forever I will love you. So if the damage I've done will repair, for you I will always be there. Love and hope for the future, love Andrew

WORK FROM HOME
Earn £70 per hundred, obtaining and mailing envelopes.

For details send SAE to:
Neath Mailing Services,
Dept. NEWT,
PO Box 3,
Neath, SA11 3WG

Congratulations

Donna Marie Thompson



Happy 18th Birthday
Lots of love Mum,
Dad and Lee XXX

Scott Vickers



Happy 10th Birthday
6th December 1988
Lots of love from Mam,
Andrew, Gary, Jess,
Nana and Grandad Taylor
and Grandma X

Beverley Paton



Happy 40th Birthday
Lots of love Mam, Mel,
Wendy + all the family X

Constance Davies



Congratulations Connie
on passing your 6th Kyll
green belt and on
achieving junior grade
"Student of the Year".
Well done, love from
Mam, Dad and Katie XX

STUART SCOTT Happy 21st, best wishes love Mam, all the family and Lisa

NICOLA BLENKINSOPP Happy 16th birthday, good luck in everything you do, love Nana, Pop and Zoe XXX

NICOLA BLENKINSOPP Happy 16th birthday on 4th December, have a good one, love Mam, Dad, Graham, Gran and a special hug and kiss from Amy XX

Health/Beauty

HOLISTIC BEAUTY
Aromatherapy
Reflexology, Facials
Make-up, Brow shape/tints
Manicure, Pedicure, Waxing

CALL LORNA MLCHT
01325 312796

BEAUTY TREATMENTS IN THE PRIVACY OF YOUR OWN HOME
Treatments include waxing, facials, manicure, pedicure, lash tints, brow trims and make-up etc.

Contact Joanne
professional beauty therapist on
TEL: 316044

COLLEY



Congratulations
Mam and Dad on your
Pearl Wedding
anniversary and may
the next 30 years in our
new home, be as fun
loving as the last 30.
Love always Karen

COLLEY

Congratulations Mam
and Dad on your 30th
Wedding Anniversary.
Here's to the next
THIRTY wonderful
years, love to you both
from Nicola and Nick

GOTCHA



Happy Birthday Sean
Love from Shane,
Martin, Matthew and
Mam and Dad

Lost & Found

LOST 24th November, cockatiel, grey/yellow, Mormon church area, Tel 300469

LOST Male pewter (grey) Persian cat, lost Friday 27th in Honister Place, Newton Aycliffe. Cat 10 years old and requires special diet, reward offered contact 07971 533251

FOUND Large grey male cat with white chest and paws. Could have been missing from home for up to a year, as he has only just started to trust us enough to stroke and cuddle him. He is a very friendly, lovable cat and if it wasn't for our own two cats we would adopt him ourselves. He is probably 2/3 years old and is now living in The Grange area of Woodham. He may have come from anywhere in Woodham or the Acle Burn or Golf Club area. For more information Tel 316353

Hair Dressers

LYNNS Mobile hairdresser have your hair styled in the comfort of your own home by an experienced hairdresser, evening appointments available Tel 319497

HAIR BRAIDING prices start at £10.00, depending on length of hair, Tel Tara or Leeanne on (01325) 308207

GAILS unisex hairdressing in the privacy of your own home Tel 301024 or mobile 07801 348169

Accommodation

HOMELY LODGINGS available, long and short term, bed and breakfast and evening meal, DSS welcome Tel 01325 252133

JUBILEE GUEST House, 2 Bury Road, unemployed welcome Telephone 319850

FLAT TO LET

over 54/disabled person

Bethany Court
Woodham Village
Tel 312006

Thanks

ALL, TIM, MARIA and SUE Thanks for your help, appreciate all you have done, love Connie

THE HUSBAND and family of the late Annie (Nancy) Tilley would like to thank everyone for the donation of £107 for Alzheimer's Society

Entertainment

Millennium Mobile Entertainments
DISCO & KARAOKE
Available for all occasions and events
Bookings still being taken for Christmas

For the best in music and entertainment at competitive rates
(Kids parties welcome)

CALL GARY ON
(01325) 319787

Autos

24 HOUR Auto recovery, also scarp cars towed away, cash paid for MoT failures Tel 0797 1342083

FORD SIERRA 1986, test until February, no tax, good all round, £250 ONO Tel 301578

ASTRA a reg, not tax or test, spares or repair £80 ONO Tel 310565

ROVER 216S full test, as new, tyres and exhaust, FFSR, good condition inside and out, £495 ONO Tel 311755

Wanted

HOUSES CLEARED

CASH PAID for antiques, old & modern furniture, tables, chairs, drawers, china cabinets, dressers also old china, linen, clocks pictures, jewellery etc.

(01388) 608042

3 PIECE Suites, fridges and cookers wanted, cash paid Tel 01388 608042

WANTED

Collector wanted for Littlewoods Football Pools in Newton Aycliffe. Good commission on established round
Tel 01388 772559

WANTED 2 x Gameboys and games, must be in good condition Tel 317838

In Memoriam

GORDON HALL Always in our thoughts from all at Linear Ltd.

TOT COLLINSON. In memory of my dear uncle, always loved, never forgotten, God bless, niece Mena, Joe and family XX

TOT COLLINSON, died 6th December. Ten years have passed without you, the longest I have known, I sit with just my memories when I am on my own. May the winds of love blow gently and whisper for you to hear, that I will always love you and wish that you were here. Always remembered God bless wife Mena

OLIVE BENTLEY Nine years have passed since that tragic day, when you closed your eyes and slipped away, love always Mena Collinson

JOHN STIRLING 1-12-96. Two years ago since you went away, but you are in our thoughts nearly every day, your mate Joe, Wishing Well Club

BILL CROSSEN died 9-12-97. Just a prayer from those who loved you, just a memory fond and true, in our hearts you will live forever, because we thought the world of you. Devoted brother of Ann, Peter, Tony, John and Michael. Precious uncle of Nigel and Anthony, good night and God bless

Hospice Sponsored Lights

The Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland serves the area of Sedgefield District, Weardale and the surrounding districts of South West Durham. Our objectives are to improve the quality of life for the terminally ill and offer emotional support to their families.

At Christmas we are given the opportunity to celebrate the gift of friendship and to show appreciation of family and friends, it is also a time of remembrance.

One of the lovely traditions of Christmas is to have a tree decorated with lights. This Christmas we invite you to help decorate the Christmas Tree at The Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland by sponsoring a light in memory of someone you love, family or friend or simply in celebration of Christmas.

The cost of sponsorship will be a minimum donation of £1, and the names of all those remembered will be recorded in a Book of Remembrance.

On Tuesday, 15th December at 6.00pm a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration will be held at the Hospice. We hope you will be able to join us.

Envelopes are available from the Hospice and the Butterwick Hospice charity shops in Newton Aycliffe and Bishop Auckland.

If you wish to make a donation, please place your gift in the envelope provided and return it to the Hospice by Thursday, 31st December 1998.

Sits Vacant

DJs WANTED Telephone Garry on 319787

Exchange

FROM 2 bedroom, old part of town **TO** 3 bedroom, old part of town Tel 315556

Photography

STUART J. ALLISON Wedding, Portrait and Pet Photographer Tel 300036

Pets

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

CARING HOME wanted for 2 neutered house cats, genuine reason for parting, Tel 319561

Tutorial

PIANO, Recorder and Music theory tuition, also GCSE and A level Music tuition by qualified teacher, contact (01325 308802)

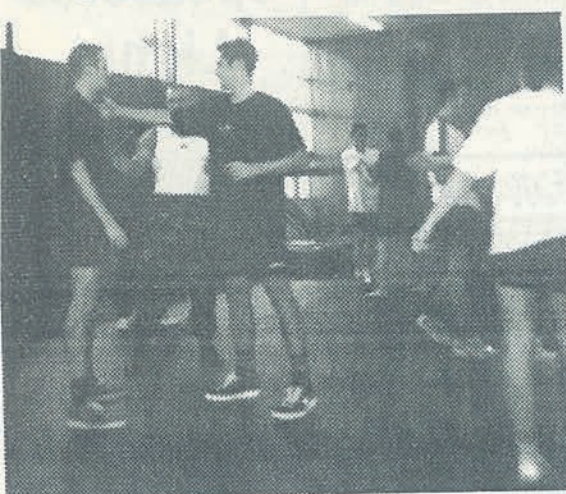
ENGLISH Tuition, Primary, SATs, GCSE and A level, also 3Rs by qualified teacher contact (01325) 308802

Wedding

SPECIAL MOMENTS Wedding Photography, excellent packages, telephone Michael on 01325 301953

Hire Mercedes Benz for that special occasion. White Mercedes, new model, elegance, telephone **HMB** 01325 313573

WOODHAM PUPILS RECEIVE P.E. CLASS - ARMY STYLE



When Woodham Comprehensive wanted to give PE lessons a new twist they enlisted the help of the military, the Royal Marines to be precise. Two sergeants have just finished a fortnights intensive work with classes at Woodham, designed to give pupils an interest in the military and physical fitness. Sergeant Cureton and Sergeant Berry would usually be found in Devon putting new recruits through 30 weeks of demanding training before they are accepted into the marines. The two of them have also worked in Ireland and Sgt. Berry in Iraq. However earlier this year they were handed the chance of a detachment working in schools in the North East and Scotland, from September to Christmas. The marines have worked with pupils involving them in many aspects of military training including assault courses, cross country, self defence and Swedish PT, a form of Marines coordination exercise. The marines were very impressed by the pupils - "At this school we found them (the children) very willing to work, in that respect its probably the best school ... the teacher's have been impressive too", commented Sgt. Berry. The marines have been working with all of Woodham's pupils, despite females not being accepted into the Marines. They worked with all year groups gearing the intensity of their sessions accordingly.

The experience was not necessarily to recruit pupils though, but mainly to foster an interest in a wider range of physical opportunities available in the marines. "It's to give them an insight into what PE can be all about outside school, instead of Football or Rugby we can take them through an assault course or self defence" added Sgt. Cureton. The pupils were not the only people to enjoy the change, it provided the staff of Woodham's PE Department the opportunity to learn new skills and provides the pupils with a change to their usual lessons. Mr. Purcell, head of PE at Woodham said "The lads have provided the department with a breath of fresh air, its been good for us and the pupils. Its been entertaining at times too". Woodham would like to thank the two Marines for spending the two weeks at Woodham.

by Andrew Noble

The staff at Paul J. Wilson Veterinary Surgeons

are pleased to announce the completion of their expansion to the surgery at

1 NEVILLE PARADE
NEWTON AYCLIFFE



The surgery now has full consulting, operating and X-ray facilities to offer and would welcome any clients who would wish to view the surgery and meet our practice staff.

Please contact the Surgery on

01325 321871

for an appointment
or to view our Surgery facilities.

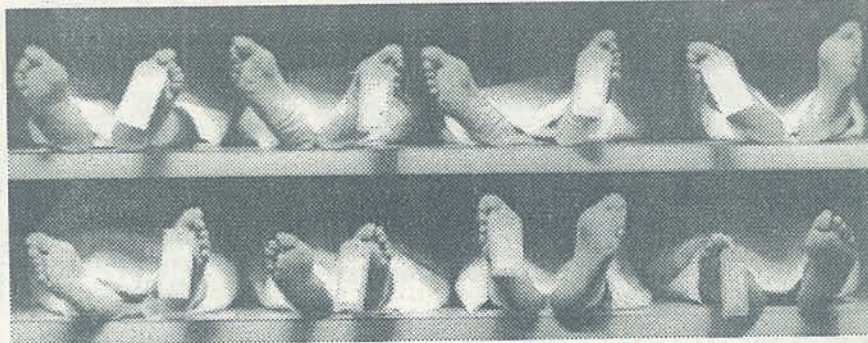
LOCOMOTION ONE
Heighington Station
Tel: 320132 - Fax: 301974

2 FOR 1 CHRISTMAS MENU
served Monday to Thursday Evenings
Lunchtime Christmas Fayre Special

Book Early for our Popular Sunday Lunch
Sunday Night is Quiz Night
Christmas Quiz Special - 20th December

NEW BEERS: Bomberdier and Ruddles
Guest Ale - "Black Sheep Special" (ABV 4.4%)

1000'S OF OLD PEOPLE WILL STOP FEELING THE COLD THIS WINTER



LEGION BEAT HUNTSMAN 7-1

On Sunday 29th November the Royal British Legion were at home to local rivals the Huntsman in the ASE Cup. The Legion are the cup holders and were out to continue their winning run from last season.

The first ten minutes saw the Huntsman putting the Legion under pressure and they could and should have taken the lead but Martin Walker missed the easy chance. It was Legion who opened the scoring after 15 minutes from a corner, Huntsman goalkeeper C. Wilson fumbled and Doug Grant slammed the ball in from close range.

The Legion then came more into the game and after 35 minutes with some neat inter passing the ball went to Doug Grant who sent a tremendous volley into the roof of the net. However 3 minutes later Huntsman came back with an excellent free kick from the edge of the box to make it 2-1. Then in the 43 minute Dion Raitt scored for the Legion with a goal that, if it were on TV, would win goal of the season. Dion picked the ball up just inside Huntsman's half, beat 3 players, rounded the goalkeeper to tap in 3-1 half time.

The second half saw the Huntsman push forward to try and close the gap but it was the Legion who went further ahead when Trevor Cooke tapped in a difficult cross at the far post. Doug

Grant then missed a penalty for the Legion but made amends in the 65th minute Legion then went 6-1 up when Stephen Szobosza scored from close range. In the 75th minute Legion went 7-1 up with some excellent play, the ball went to David Brassell who rounded the goalkeeper and tapped in. This was a good win for the Legion, a team performance all round. The Royal British Legion M.O.M award goes to Dion Raitt for a first class game.

Report by Keith Brassell

St. Clares Family Service

A Family Service will take place at St. Clare's Church on Sunday 13th December, to which a warm invitation is extended to everyone, from babies to senior citizens, to come along and share in this short, informal, all-age act of worship. The service starts at 9.15am, and this month's theme is 'Advent', the season when we prepare for the coming of the Christ child. Refreshments will be available in the hall afterwards to which everyone is invited.

A postcard portraying rows of older people's bodies lying in a morgue has been sent by Help the Aged to the MP for the Durham area.

21,000 pensioners in Durham live on such a low income they have to claim benefits. For many of these low income pensioners, the winter choice between heating or eating is a stark reality. Each year, thousands die from the cold.

Help the Aged is using the postcard and hard hitting posters to launch a nationwide appeal to raise £1million for its 'Heating or Eating Appeal'.

The Facts: Older people spend more time indoors in poorly insulated homes and so spend more money on fuel bills. - During last year's mild winter twenty one thousand pensioners died from cold-related illnesses.

The Solution: Help the Aged is asking half the households in the country to support the charity's 'Heating or Eating Appeal' which aims to raise £1million during the winter months. Money raised from the Appeal will help older people heat their homes, install home insulation materials and provide the funding for hot meals in day centres.

Director General of Help the Aged, Michael Lake, said: "The disturbing truth is that thousands of vulnerable older people will die as a result of the cold this winter. It is an overwhelming tragedy, and I want this shocking image to bring home the reality of these facts. One unnecessary death is one too many".

To make a donation to the 'Heating or Eating Appeal' call Help the Aged on: 0800 750075.

THE HUNTSMAN

St Elizabeths Close, Woodham Village presents a

PSYCHIC EVENING

with International Psychics

Wednesday 9th December from 7pm

Free tape with reading Tarot and Runes

BELLS DRY CLEANING

83 Church Street, Shildon - 01388 777211

Free Collection and Delivery
Ironing Service Available

Jackets from £3.00	Curtains per lb £1.70
Trousers from £2.60	Suite Covers per lb £1.80
Skirts (plain) £2.60	Single Duvet £5.50
Skirts (pleated) £2.80	Double Duvet £7.50
Dresses from £2.60	King Size Duvet £9.00
Coats & Macs from £3.70	Sleeping Bags £5.50

TEL (01388) 777211



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The best deals around

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ALL FOR THE INCREDIBLE PRICE OF £7595
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