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AYCLIFFE'S TOWN CENTRE POTENTIAL UNTAPPED

As we look forward to the New Year the main hope is that more industrialists will move to Aycliffe to offer job opportunities to school leavers and to those who lost employment through closure or redundancy.

Jobs are essential for any future aspirations of improvements to our general standard of living. Without a healthy income our local economy will suffer and there is little chance of extras or improvements - unless the Government pump in grants and incentives. But investment in the future has not always been evident in Great Britain and we have seen other countries snatch away our industries. Newton Aycliffe has the potential to be pre-eminent, being the largest town in the Durham County Council area and having the second largest Industrial Estate in the North.

But we have to face the fact that our Town Centre lets us down badly and is damaging to our prestige. If anything has to change quickly it is this, and it is beyond belief that those marketing Newton Aycliffe cannot attract a developer.

Asda is opening in Bishop Auckland, Peterlee is to have a multi million pound town centre improvement yet there is no-one showing interest in Newton Aycliffe. We hope the New Year brings the long-awaited news.

APPLICATION FOR SCRAPYARD NEXT TO NATURE PARK

Dear Sir

I refer to letter to the editor "application for scrapyard". It is quite annoying that your correspondent in that particular issue gives no identity.

Letter published are sometimes anonymous with others giving identities and you appear to respect the wishes of those expressing opinions and concerns. It is quite different when a correspondent states he/she/they have been consulted by the Planning Authority.

Your correspondent asks "Are Aycliffe Councillors aware of the Proposal?", surely a question to be directed to the elected representative of whichever Council is referred to?

We can comment as we wish on any matter before the Planning Authority, but it is not for an unnamed person(s) to advise us. Your correspondent should inform us if a resident of Great Aycliffe, an owner/representative of a business in Groat Road or an outsider.

Yours faithfully
P. Robinson



LETTER COUNTY COUNCIL FAILS TO CLEAN-UP

Dear Sir

Many thanks for your report about the filthy state of the Town Centre. Whilst I agree that the landlords of the Town Centre have much to do in clearing litter etc. our own Council's have a lot to do in playing their part. One of these filthy areas belongs to the County Council - that around the Library and Health Centre. A week before Christmas I contacted one local County Councillor, he promised to report it at County Hall the next morning.

The appalling state of litter, plastic, paper, bottles etc was still there at 10am on Christmas Eve.

In all fairness to the various Authorities, one must ask who places the litter, and I am sure we have seen thoughtless folk, idly disposing of various types of litter by just "throwing it to the wind". So while you say the landlords have a part to play, so have we all!

Whilst on the subject of the Town Centre, may I ask why was the roads in complete darkness over the Xmas period? No street lights, no decoration lights. Did someone pull the plug out or was Newton Aycliffe visited early by the Millennium bug!?

D. Evans

AYCLIFFE CHOP SUEY HOUSE

next to the Turbinia Public House

Re-opening on 4th January

Michael and his staff would like to wish all his customers a Healthy and Prosperous New Year

GIFTS FOR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

To our absent M.P., Tony Blair, a handkerchief with a knot in it to remind him he has a constituency.

To our absent Town Centre Landlords a sweeping brush to clean the shopping area and help them improve the environment. Perhaps also a photo of a modern, covered and heated shopping Mall to suggest how Newton Aycliffe could look.

Drawing pins on chairs for those Councillors and Officers who are sitting too long on their backsides talking about improving our Town Centre.

A tin of paint to the Leisure Centre in need of renovation.

A key to Horndale House, or to some other establishment in the town to provide shelter to Aycliffe's homeless teenagers who for too long have been forced to leave their community.

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Over 50's Travel Anywhere for £9.99

Veteran mountaineer Sir Chris Bonington CBE has launched National Express' annual New Year promotion aimed at its customers over 50. The offer enables passengers holding an Advantage 50 discount coach-card to travel anywhere on the company's nationwide coach network for just £9.99 return. 1999 will be the fifth consecutive year that National Express has run this offer - and the third in which the price has been held at just £9.99 per journey.

The offer is available for almost three whole months between 4 January and 25 March 1999, except Fridays and Sundays, and excluding 13 - 20 February inclusive on all National Express and Flightlink services. All return journeys must be completed by 25 March 1999.

And every passenger buying a £9.99 ticket will also have the chance to win a fortune on Vernons Pools with four weeks' entries completely free, courtesy of National Express. Passengers will also be able to take advantage of a great range of '2 for 1' offers on world famous attractions such as Madame Tussaud's, The London Planetarium, Lord's Cricket Ground, The Museum of London - plus sixteen Sealife Centres around the country.

National Express has also set up a selection of special 'short breaks' for passengers to enjoy as part of the promotion, including a travel and accommodation-inclusive London package from as little as £38.99 per person per night. Great value packages are also available in Bournemouth, Blackpool, Bath, York and Edinburgh.

A special leaflet detailing all these offers is available from any one of National Express' 2,000 agents, who also sell Advantage 50 cards and travel tickets. Advantage 50 cards cost £8.00 for one year or £19.00 for three years and also entitle holders to between 20% and 30% discount on many fares plus other seasonal offers. £9.99 travel is not available on any non National Express services including routes operated by Scottish Citylink. Check with your agent for details.

For details of your nearest agent call 0990 01 01 04.

There are massive savings to be made while the offer lasts. Passengers can save over £56.00 on the normal fare from Penzance to Inverness, a journey of 807 miles one of the longest routes on the National Express network.

There is no limit to how many journeys each passenger can make, and as in previous years passengers are expected to take full advantage of the offer. In 1997 Mr Dick Wittmore, a retired shopkeeper from Dover in Kent, travelled over 7,458 miles on 18 separate journeys. This cost him just £179.82 - or 0.024p per mile, and the only thing that stopped him travelling further was a case of the flu!

Bob Wiper, chief executive of National Express, said, "This promotion has become a regular fixture for us and for our older passengers and it seems that it is becoming more and more popular as time goes on."

"Not only is the offer a perfect introduction for new customers to try out our services, but it is also a 'thank you' to all those Advantage 50 coach-card holders who travel with us all year round. The extra benefits we have added this year promise to make it the most popular offer we have ever run."

Advantage 50 coachcards and £9.99 tickets, which are of course subject to availability, can also be obtained by calling the credit/debit card hotline on 0990 80 80 80.

As part of next year's promotion National Express has also joined forces with retirement housebuilder McCarthy and Stone to host a series of roadshows around the country at which visitors can learn more about this unbeatable offer and McCarthy and Stone's properties at the same time.

National Express is Britain's only nationwide network of scheduled express coach services, carrying around 12 million people every year to more than 1200 destinations across the country.

WILL YOU CHOOSE DEGRADABLE PLASTIC?

Do you know that till now plastic has taken 100 years to degrade?

We now have the solution - degradable plastic. You too could be environmentally friendly without any effort, on December 3 1998 television personality and wildlife photographer Chris Packham along with a host of NT's and environmentalists, launched the revolutionary SPI-TEK degradable plastic, introduced by Symphony Environmental Ltd.

Plastic waste currently takes at least a century before it breaks down, this new technology means that it can take as little as 60 days or as long as 5 - 6 years depending on the requirements of the product.

For the last 65 years since

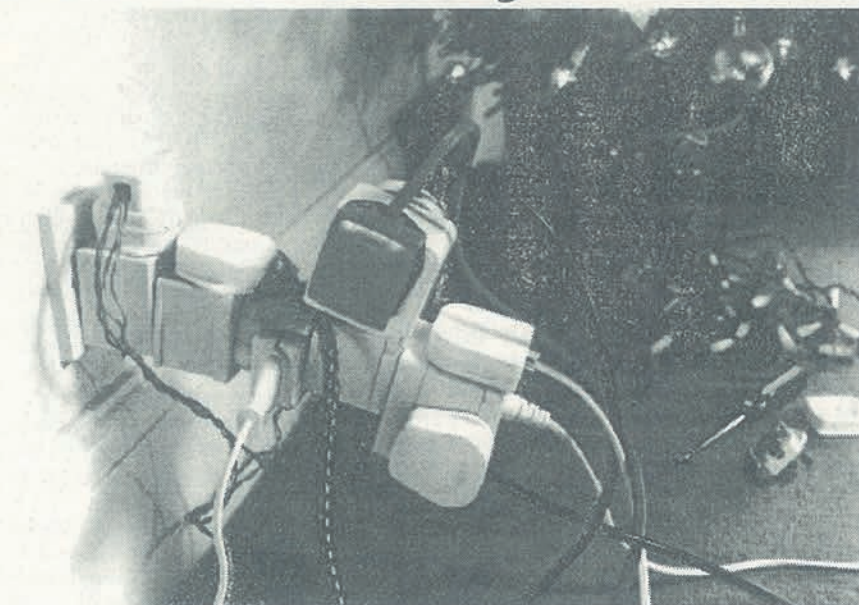
polythene was invented, the use of plastic has grown to become a pollution hazard. Waste and in particular plastic fills our landfill sites, litters and defaces our towns, countryside and beaches, endangers our wildlife and spoils the enjoyment of our surroundings. Current methods of disposal include landfill sites (which we are rapidly running out of), recycling (which cannot be used for food packaging) and incineration (which currently lacks capacity).

Symphony Environmental degradable plastic has for the first time given you, the ordinary family a choice; a choice to use conventional plastics which take 100 years to degrade or to choose the new degradable

product that disappears into H₂O and CO₂ in as little as 60 days; Created for the first time a truly degradable plastic that works and is safe and reliable; Given local authorities another policy choice - a true alternative to recycling and incineration. Chris Packham has lent his support to the launch as he is advisor to The Wildlife Trusts, and is committed to the environment and to making sure our children have a waste-free future.

Please ask your high street retailer whether or not they are using degradable plastic, either in their products' packaging, or in own label or plastic shopping bags. Protect our children's inheritance, our wildlife and our world.

Are You Guilty of This?



If you use too many adaptors on one socket (appropriately called the Christmas Tree effect) as in this alarming picture, there is a risk of overheating the socket and causing a fire. Get extra sockets installed by an expert Electrician - it could save your life!

NEW DIET FOR THE MILLENNIUM



Kath Moss Area Service Manager of Weight Watchers in NEWTON AYCLIFFE and TV celebrity Chris Barrie, star of Red Dwarf and Brittas Empire, celebrate Weight Watchers diet for the millennium - *1,2,3 Success 2000!*

Kath Moss comments: "We are all very excited about the new diet. Based on the original Weight Watchers Points Diet, *1, 2, 3 Success 2000* is a totally flexible programme that lets you eat the way you want to, whatever your lifestyle, and it is now even easier to follow."

"The beauty of the new diet is that no matter whether you are cooking for your entire family, just cooking for yourself or cooking on a budget, the *1, 2, 3 Success 2000* diet will work for you and because there are no forbidden foods it's so easy to stick to."

Call 0345 123000 for details of the Weight Watchers meeting in your area.

Weight Watchers Top Ten Tips To Trim That Turkey Tummy! When the last needle has dropped off the Christmas tree and the tinsel and baubles have been packed away for another year, the long month of January beckons and that festive cheer seems a distant memory. But with your New Year resolutions still fresh in your mind this can also be a time for new positive thinking about the year ahead. To ease you through the cold and wintry days Weight Watchers has come up with ten great tips on how to really kick-start the last year of the current millennium in style!

1. New Year Parties don't have to be daunting. At the buffet the salad garnish is always left to go to waste. So why not pile your plate up with crispy lettuce, sliced cucumber and tomatoes? A healthy option to keep your fingers from straying to the party food temptations!

2. Follow the two golden party rules - don't pick an argument and get socialising! Once you've filled your plate up, move away and make a beeline for your partner or friend. If you're involved in an animated conversation your mind cannot wander back to the buffet table!

3. If a group of friends are planning a celebratory New Year's drink in the pub where alcohol is likely to be flowing freely, offer to drive. They certainly won't turn you down and you've got the perfect excuse to stick to diet soft drink all evening.

4. What about some positive thinking to kick-start the New Year? Always remind yourself: if you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it.

5. It's never too early to begin Spring Cleaning! The start of the year is a great time to have a good old clear out of that spare room, loft or garage. It'll mean great exercise for you and will even spring clean your emotions ready for the fresh start.

6. You're never too busy for exercise even if the central heating is more inviting than the great outdoors! If the thought of going to the gym fills you with dread, then get off the bus in the morning a stop earlier, or park further from work than usual and walk the rest of the way.

7. Cold winter evenings definitely require warm, hearty meals. Root vegetables are at their best this time of year - why not dip into one of Weight Watchers cookery books and choose a satisfying recipe for thick winter soup or a warming casserole?

8. If you're looking for a seasonal dessert then easy peaches, satsumas or clementines are perfect. They are a quick and tasty way to finish a meal and the refreshing taste of citrus fruits could bring a little bit of summer sunshine to a cold and frosty day!

9. Take a trip to your local library and find out what's on offer in the way of evening classes and weekend workshops beginning in the New Year. Keeping occupied is a sure way to avoid the temptation to graze and there is so much to choose from - why not learn a language ready for your summer holiday?

10. Welcome the New Year in with a new look. Now all the frantic activity of Christmas is over for another year, make an appointment at the hairdressers for a daring new restyle and treat yourself to that outfit you've had your eye on. You'll give your self-confidence a real boost and your resolve will be strengthened!

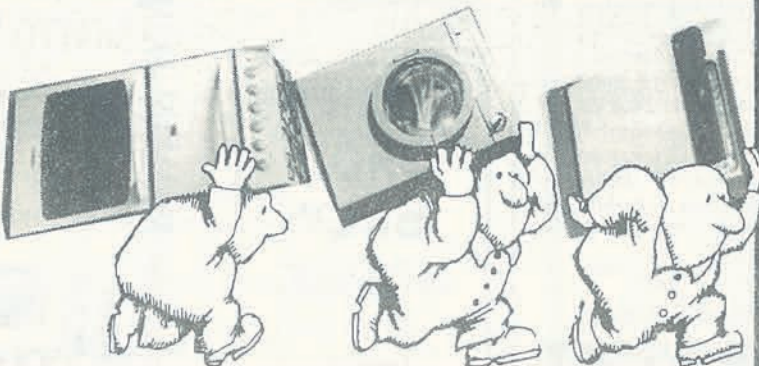
From January 1st 1999, *1, 2, 3 Success 2000* will also be available on an interactive CD ROM. This allows you to personalise the diet still further and has over 14,000 products listed so you can calculate the Points in any portion of your favourite foods. Pick up a leaflet at your local Weight Watchers Meeting.

If you feel that you would benefit from the group support of Weight Watchers, then please telephone for your nearest meeting.

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ROTARY CLUB THANKS GENEROUS NEWTONIANS FOR THEIR SUPPORT



Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club wish to thank Newtonians for the extremely generous response to their Christmas Appeal to help the town's charities and needy families this Christmas. The Club toured part of the town with a toy train and Santa Claus and raised over £200. With kind permission and the friendly co-operation of Somerfield's Superstore the Rotary Club held collections and raised over £1400 in cash and vouchers. A collection at the annual Christmas Concert, held in the Leisure Centre, raised another £200.

"All together this has been a record Christmas Appeal and we appreciate all the help given - especially from Somerfields and the Town Council who this year for the first time combined their Civic Xmas Service with the Rotary Club's Community Concert. It has been memorable and successful thanks to the support we have received," said Rotary President Syd Howarth.

LETTER Government Overheats Economy

Dear Sir,

Let me say how pleased I am to hear that Eddie George is visiting the North East. It is important that he sees the effect of his high interest policies on the whole region. We have seen so many job losses in the manufacturing sector and we will see more. The real problem though is the other half of the economic management of the economy, the government!

With so many ministers based in constituencies here you would think that they would have more feeling for the problems of the area, and yet it is they who have allowed the economy to become overheated.

The Bank of England have raised interest rates to an extent that jobs have been destroyed, but the Government in allowing them to do this and by their poor fiscal management, have seen a service sector boom - in the South - combined with a manufacturing depression - here in the North East.

Yours Faithfully
N. Gregor Macgregor
Conservative Euro
Spokesman

"NEWTON NEWS" APPRECIATED

Dear Editor,

I have lived in Newton Aycliffe for 48 years and can remember receiving the "Newton News" and its predecessor the "Newtonian" for most of those years.

I take it for granted that it will pop through my letter box at the end of each week (and get very upset & disappointed when it doesn't).

I suddenly realised that this FREE Community newspaper, comes to us because Syd Howarth and his family business, the Newton Press, cares enough about the town and its people to want to give us the publication free.

Can I take this opportunity Syd, to say a big thank you, for your generosity to us over the years, the local news is greatly appreciated.

Also can I say thank you to all the kind people who light up their houses at this time of the year, for the pleasure of those outside.

What about a competition (like the summer garden competition) for the best

decorated houses? Can we find a sponsor, to encourage this festive generosity, and let those responsible for their beautiful homes, know that we really appreciate their work.

Yours Truly
Norma Wise

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"SCOPE" THANKS FOR SUPPORT

Dear Sir,

May I take this opportunity to send Season's Greetings to all your readers, and special thanks to those who have helped Scope (formerly The Spastics Society) with their valuable time through volunteering,

donations or support of our shops.

We are now reaching out to more people with cerebral palsy, their families and carers than ever before through our services, in the support, information and advice that we offer, and through our network of local groups. Since the launch of Scope's individual membership scheme disabled people, their families and carers have become more involved with the charity's decision making.

Over the past year, Scope has been playing a key role in lobbying the Government over its welfare reform proposals. We have been working hard to ensure that 'Welfare to work' will work for disabled people and not against them, by highlighting people's real needs.

The announcement in the recent Queen's Speech that the Government plans to introduce a Disability Rights Commission was welcomed by Scope, as we had been campaigning for this for many years. It is excellent news for disabled people, as long as it is adequately resourced. If it is, then it should help to make the Disability Discrimination Act more enforceable. Scope will continue to campaign for full civil rights and we hope the Commission will bring people with disabilities closer to gaining equal rights.

Thank you for your support over the past year, and I look forward to your continued support as Scope heads towards the new Millennium, working with us to create a fairer society for all disabled people, their families, carers and supporters.

Best wishes for the New Year,
Jim Hoskisson, Chairman, Scope

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LATE OFFERS - TELETXT PAGE 279

DON GETS THE RED FLAG



Local Butcher Don Walker and J & C Coaches Director, John Jones (alias Santa), originators of the Rotary Club's Toy Train Project which featured in the Christmas Appeal for needy families.

Members had a bit of fun at the Club Meeting when Don was presented with a Railwayman's flag and a miniature train. The large Toy Train (see Page 3) was made for the Club by Perstorp worker Barry Adamson and prepared for its Christmas outing by trainees at Aycliffe Young People's Centre.

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NO RIP-OFFS AFTER 2000

The clock is ticking away for those businesses who try to rip off consumers by fixing prices. From 1 March 2000 they could face fines of up to 10 per cent of turnover under a new law, the Competition Act, if they continue to engage in anti-competitive practices.

Businesses have just 15 months to prepare for the new competition law which will prohibit them from engaging in anti-competitive agreements, such as price fixing and market sharing cartels, and from abusing their market power.

The Director General of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, is urging businesses to take advantage of this opportunity to train staff to recognise anti-competitive activity and to ensure they comply with the requirements of the Act. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is issuing general advice and information to assist businesses in this task and has recently launched a programme of education.

From 1 March 2000 the UK will have a much tougher regime in line with the rest of Europe, allowing OFT staff to have much greater power of investigation and enforcement.

John Bridgeman said: "Too often under the existing competition regime we have been unable to respond effectively to complaints. We have had limited powers to obtain the evidence needed to stop secret price fixing or market sharing cartels and the bullying behaviour which drives smaller competitors out of a market."

Unlike the existing regime, the new Competition Act will not require firms to notify the OFT of agreements that do not have a significant effect on competition.

Mr Bridgeman said: "The Competition Act will release business from the expense and burden of having to notify us of harmless agreements which don't affect competition. In future, it will be up to businesses to decide whether agreements are prohibited under the Act. There will be few cases of doubt where businesses need to get guidance from the OFT as to whether their agreements are caught by the new law." Even with its very limited powers, the OFT has had considerable success recently in stopping cartels which were working against the interests of consumers. Recent cases have been found concerning laboratory filters, ceiling tiles, buses, car replacement panels, MOT test centres, polyester bomb proofing film, powder paints and freight forwarding. The wide range of sectors suggests cartel activity may be widespread.

Despite these successes, it has not been unheard of for the victims of anti-competitive behaviour to go out of business before the lengthy investigative processes required by the existing regime have been completed. But things are set to change. John Bridgeman said: "Under the new law we will have the power to move much more swiftly and order firms to stop their anti-competitive behaviour while the OFT investigates."

"Only those firms with something to hide should be alarmed by the stronger powers that the new law will bring. The rest should see the new law as an opportunity to seek swift action from the OFT if they suspect that their rivals are not playing fair. I want to see price fixing and market sharing cartels become things of the past."

During the next 15 months the OFT will be running an education programme to help businesses prepare for the new law. As part of this programme, the OFT has produced a leaflet called "What your business needs to know". It sets out the basic provisions of the Competition Act and points readers in the direction of more detailed advice. A video showing what could happen to businesses which infringe the new law is also available on request. And the OFT is offering speakers to assist in seminars and workshops on the new legislation.

For more details about the Competition Act and the education programme, you can contact the OFT on 0171 211 8989.

ERIC GATES VISITS AYCLIFFE



Eric Gates will be bringing his much acclaimed talk-in show to Newton Aycliffe British Legion Club on Thursday 14 January 1999.

Eric, who can now be heard on Metro FM every Saturday, commenting on Sunderland matches, once formed the deadly Sunderland G Force partnership with Marco Gabbiadini, now of Darlington, and will be talking of his days with Sunderland, Ipswich and England as well as relaying stories about his new commentating G Force of Gatesy, Gilly and Guy.

As well as his talk Eric will conduct a question and answer session and host a fun sports quiz.

Tickets for the evening, which includes a Pie & Pea supper, cost £3.50 and can be obtained from the British Legion, Newton Press, Stan Hall on 313172 or Ian Palmer on 312086.

This Could Be Your Last Present

Festive fun seekers who drink and drive could get their very own special Christmas box - a coffin.

And young men aged 17 to 24 are more likely than others to pick up their last 'present' this year.

In a bid to stem the death and serious injury toll, road safety officers in County Durham are distributing over 63,000 leaflets and posters as part of a national campaign launched by Transport Minister Dr John Reid spelling out the Don't Drink and Drive message.

New figures show that nationally 540 people died in drink driving accidents in 1997 and 860,000 were breath-tested.

In 1996, 95,000 were convicted of alcohol related driving offences.

"People who drink and drive really are an accident waiting to happen," said David Holland, Durham County Council's senior road safety officer.

"It doesn't matter what people say, you can't calculate your own alcohol limit, and any alcohol - even a small drink - does impair your driving ability and affects your judgement."

"The only way to be safe is not to drink and drive," he said.

Businesses, garages, firms and local organisations are helping to spread the campaign message in the County by displaying the posters and leaflets.

"Drink-driving has dropped dramatically over the last 10 years but the number of people killed - there were 540 last year - is still far too high," said Mr Holland.

"The latest figures show that in the 16 to 24 age group, 1,090 car drivers and passengers were killed or seriously injured in drink related accidents."

"Everyone, and this age group in particular, has to realise that drinking and driving are a lethal cocktail. "There's no failsafe guide to how much you can drink and stay under the legal limit."

"Even if you are under the limit, that doesn't mean you're fit to drive as even one drink affects your reactions and your ability to judge speed and distance."

"Having none for the road is the only way you, and innocent victims, can be sure of being around to enjoy next Christmas," he said.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION AT DURHAM

A non-traditional view of the landscape of Derwentside has been captured in photographs for a new exhibition at Durham Art Gallery.

Lynne Otter spent a year taking photographs in the area to show familiar and not so familiar views.

Called 'Attitudes and Sensibilities', it opens a week early at Durham Art Gallery on Tuesday, December 29, and runs until January 31.

"The photographs represent a year's work in and around Derwentside, and include some lovely shots of both familiar and 'off the track' views," she said.

"This exhibition is not the usual 'pictures of lovely landscapes'," she said.

"Until quite recently, the traditional view of the landscape has been one formed by the characteristics of 'wild' and 'unspoiled' nature."

"My point of view seeks to offer another look at what others may not always perceive as landscape - real not the imagined, which notices the banal, bizarre and the obsessive," she said.

Attitudes and Sensibilities, which runs alongside Tins of Tents, an exhibition of textiles and embroidery celebrating the millennium, will go on a short tour of County Durham, starting at Stanley Civic Hall, after closes at Durham Art Gallery.

Avoid a Bad Early Start

Early morning car starting difficulties are the biggest single cause of motoring inconvenience in the winter months. But problems can be avoided, says Unipart, Europe's leading automotive parts and accessories company under a single brand.

The problem can often be as simple as an under performing battery. However, Unipart says that the state of the engine tune is often the cause.

Lack of regular, inexpensive preventative maintenance can avoid the frustration and downright inconvenience of cold morning surprises.

Unipart advice is to take your car to your local Unipart Care Centre (Gregg Little, Leaside) which can carry out a check including the engine's condition, the strength of antifreeze and state of the battery.

Unipart Winter Checklist: Check that your windscreen washer bottle has the winter/all seasons cleaning fluid added to the water so your windscreen doesn't freeze over if you squirt it while you are driving along.

Keep a good windscreen scraper/squeegee in your car, use it on all windows to ensure clear, all-round vision. Sprinkle de-icer works faster on thick window ice; keep this in your house or desk at work (away from the reach of small children).

A small chamois leather or clean lint-free cloth dampened with anti-mist fluid will also help clear vision.

If you live in an area prone to very cold temperatures, keep a spray can of Unipart WD40 fluid and 'quick start' fluid in the garage can help get you going more quickly.

Keep a small can of lock de-icer handy - in the house or work in a desk drawer or briefcase (away from the reach of small children) - along with a small torch.

Check that your lights are clean and in full working order before setting out.

Finally, when the weather is unkind, try to leave the house a little earlier than usual to avoid having to rush to your destination, risking a mishap in the process. And, listen to local radio weather and traffic reports.

For greater peace of mind keep a box in your boot with the following: blanket (metal foil 'space blankets' are very efficient), strong torch and flasher beacon with extra batteries, snow chains, canvas sacks or metal mesh strips for under-tyre grip, battery jump leads, tow rope, small snow shovel, a good weather proof coat and waterproof shoes.

On longer journeys, take a flask of hot tea/coffee and some chocolate bars. Sports shops or chemists also stock small plastic sachets of gel which (when squeezed) will generate enough heat to keep your hands or feet warm for an hour so if you get stranded. Also consider taking - or borrowing - a mobile telephone.



Heighington Over 50's

We began by arranging our usual Coach Trip in November to the Metro Centre for Christmas Shopping and to see the lights.

We managed to fill the coach, thanks to many of the village folk who joined us for the outing.

A week before Christmas we enjoyed a lovely evening in the Village Hall when we were served a four course Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings, crackers and wine etc. by the Heighington Baden Powell Scout Group. It was beautifully cooked and served by Alan and Andy with many young helpers.

Mrs. Sedgwick, on behalf of all the members thanked the Scouts very much for the meal and for all their hard work. She then presented them with a £300 donation towards their fund to purchase new equipment.

After the meal games were played including dominoes, whist and Bingo all enjoyed thoroughly by the members who won numerous prizes provided for the occasion.

The lucky winners were Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Heppel, Miss Skipsey and Miss Jacques. Raffle winners were Mr. & Mrs. Heppel and Mrs. Brownson. Lucky Plate winner was Mrs. Whelan. A Christmas Gift of £10 was presented to each member.

We were very pleased to have Mrs. Catton as a guest for the evening in appreciation of all the help given over the year in leading the Club in the 1/2 hour exercise sessions.

Our very grateful thanks go to the Darlington Mayor's Fund for the donation of £100 towards the Club's Christmas Party. May we take this opportunity to give Season's Greetings to all our members and wish them a very healthy New Year. We resume our Club activities on Monday 11th January 1999 at 2 p.m.

Chairman Mrs J. Sedgwick
Secretary Miss M. Skipsey
Treasurer Mrs. M. Forrester

BEST MORTGAGE RATE

Darlington Building Society will launch a new fixed rate mortgage at 5.74% fixed until 28th February 2002. This is one of the best fixed rate mortgages available nationally for a similar period and funds are expected to be reserved quickly. There is no mortgage reservation fee to pay, which is unusual for such a quality fixed rate mortgage and providing the property is situated in County Durham, Tees Valley or North Yorkshire, there is no valuation fee to pay either. In addition, the Society will reimburse up to £200 to cover legal fees, on completion of this mortgage. Peter Rowley, chief executive of Darlington Building Society said, "This is an excellent opportunity for local people to take advantage of a mortgage offering a fixed rate of only 5.74% for a period in excess of 3 years".

POEM MY AUNTIE NELL

My Auntie Nell was very fat.
So grossly overweight.
The doctor said she'd have to slim
Before it was too late.
She tried the gym, she tried the pills,
But all without success.
Despite the fact she worked so hard,
She looked an awful mess.
My uncle was a betting man -
Watched horses on the telly -
It suddenly occurred to him
Horse-riding might help Nelly.
She signed up at a riding school
And galloped in the sun.
'T was hard work for the poor old horse
For Nelly it was fun.
The six-week course is ended now.
I got the news by phone.
My Auntie Nell lost fifteen pounds.
The horse lost fifteen stone.

WIC

WOODHAM YOUTH CHOIR AT REDWORTH HALL



The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Angela and her husband Counc. Bob Fleming, were guests of the Rotary Club's Christmas meeting at Redworth Hall where local Pastor, John Greenow, of the Woodham Christian Centre, gave a Christmas Message. Afterwards members of the Youth Choir entertained and led Carol singing.

HEALTH AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT

The report looked back on a year during which the Authority: consulted on a major reorganisation of its service providers resulting in the formation of three new trusts; encouraged more GPs to work in County Durham and Darlington by a range of innovative schemes including Career Start, GP Sabbatical and GP Research Fellowships; worked more closely with partners in social service and the voluntary sector to improve standards of health and health care; and met all of its financial targets, ending the year with a small cash surplus of £1.6 million.

County Durham Health Authority Chief Executive Ken Jarrold said: The Authority welcomes the publication of its Annual Report and Summary Financial Statement for 1997/98. We see it as an important means of being more accountable to the population we serve. The Report will be made accessible to the general public through distribution to GP Practices, public libraries.

He continued: "The Authority's annual performance assessment by the NHS Executive recently complemented the Authority on the good management which delivered a balanced year end position.

"It also noted the Authority's strong performance in dealing with the pressures on health services in County Durham and Darlington in terms of emergency and elective workload, our poor capital stock, the need to improve learning disabilities services and the need to provide permanent mental health facilities in the South of the county following the closure of Winterton Hospital.

"We are working closely with the three new Trusts on all these issues: we plan to meet our waiting list and waiting time targets by the need of March 1999, with no patients waiting over 12 months; building work has already begun at Dryburn Hospital, and we look forward to the completion of the PFI plans for Bishop Auckland soon. Plans are also being developed for new buildings at the community hospitals in Shotley Bridge, Sedgfield and Chester-le-Street; and we are developing detailed strategy for mental health and learning disability services".

The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health was also launched in November. The report points out that there are higher levels of ill health in County Durham and Darlington than occur nationally. It makes recommendations on a range of issues which contribute to poor health, including: tackling drugs misuse - the most important developing threat to health in the area; improving health through reducing the impact of crime on communities and individuals; and paying more attention to the impact of housing on health.

The report, by Dr. John Woodhouse, emphasises the importance of collaborative working between statutory and voluntary agencies in dealing with these problems. Dr. Woodhouse said: "The government's focus on public health policy in the Green Paper 'Our Healthier Nation' is welcome. It recognises the impact on health of social and environmental factors, as well as the individual's behaviour.

"Joint working between the public sector agencies and with the public can yield real benefits for health in relation to public safety, environmental safety, the prevention of accidents and the impact of crime on health".

Dr. Woodhouse's report also emphasised the importance of continuing to find ways of improving services. He said: "The NHS is gradually becoming more self critical, looking at ways to improve what we do. This process must continue to be supported, encouraged and developed."

INNER STRENGTH OF MIND AND BODY

The ancient art of Tai Chi can help to promote inner strength of body and mind. To relieve tension and stress from every day life, gentle exercises, meditation and soft massage have been practised by the Chinese for 2500 years.

The exercises are simple to learn and can help to improve health problems, increase vitality and promote relaxation.

Instructor, Tony Robinson, is also qualified in the Taoist Internal Art 'Opening the Energy Gates of the Body' which is a rare form of the art, strengthening the joints

and energising the internal organs. He says fifteen minutes exercise per day can make a difference and it is ideal for people who do not have much spare time.

Tai Chi and Chi Gung classes are being held at Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre on Sunday evenings, 6 - 8pm, Monday evenings at Spennymoor Leisure Centre from 6.30pm - 8.30pm and on Wednesdays at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre from 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Sessions cost £2.10 each. For further details contact Tony Robinson on (01388) 816166.

OVER 40's FOOTBALL IN NEWTON AYCLIFFE

In our last game of the year we entertained the league leaders and came out worthy winners.

In an even 1st half we lead 1-0 through a brilliant goal scored by Kevan Stephenson. Kevan who is in his 1st season of over 40's football is proving a valuable asset, he is scoring with great regularity and leads the line well.

The 2nd half our visitors started to take control and eventually equalised. To our credit we never gave up and won the game with a magnificent goal. Colin Smith hit a 40 yards pass to pick out Jimmy Toal who then ran through challenged

all the way by two defenders to casually slot the ball under the keeper for the winner.

Team: Brian Curtis, Robbie Brown, Dave Lee, Steve Garnett, Bryn Nowell, Colin Smith, Geoff Grieves, Ian Blenkinsopp, Ian Alderson, Kevan Stephenson, Charlie Smith, Jack Kasher, Jimmy Toal, Micky Richards and Kevin Alderson.

MOM: Geoff Grieves.
Forthcoming fixtures:
2nd Jan - Darsley Park Newcastle (H).
9 Jan - Greyhound Ferryhill (A).
Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to everyone from the over 40's.

Report by Arthur Vickerstaff

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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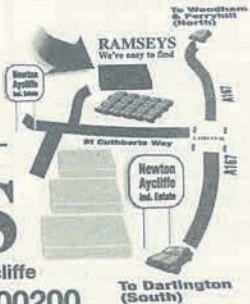
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(Any time)

CORRECTION

The 1999 Community Calendar, delivered last week with the Newton News was printed with the 1998 Bank Holidays, for which we apologise and print the correct information below:

**1999
BANK HOLIDAYS**

January 1st - New Years Day

April 2nd - Good Friday

April 5th - Easter Monday

May 3rd & 31st - Spring Bank Holidays

August 30th - Summer Bank Holiday

Protect

I'll just nip down the shops for a couple of things

I'll just nip through this open window

I'll just nick that stereo in the conservatory

I'll just nip 'round the back for a couple of things

YOUR HOME

Don't give Crime the Time!

**CLASSIFIED
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Advertise your private sales and wants, personal, public notices and announcements in Newton News for only 8p per word. Commercial Ads are charged at 14p per word inc VAT. Take your ad. to Stevens in the Town Centre before 11 am on Thursday for that week's issue.

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Memoriam

Hard F. Brown
January 5th, 1994

onward in my journey
e to understand - that
hair is numbered, like
ery grain of sand.

Always. A

RY ATKINS 26th
ber, Dad, sadly
l, son Harry,
ons Paul and David
ROBSON died 30-
December comes
d regret, the day the
e will never forget.
rs we have cried we
way, but the pain in
art is here to stay.
always, wife Betty,
d Anne, Linda and
randsons Daniel and
J.P.

Birthday membrance

D MITCHIE 3-1-
nking of you on this
y and missing you
all our love Mam,
Claire, Andrew and
nphers
URNS 4-1-33. To a
husband and dad on
5th birthday. We miss
d love you as always.
a, Susan, Gillian,
and grandsons,
el and Mason
OYS REAY 3rd
y, Mum. A mum's
a precious gift that
g can replace. Which
sometimes inside of
s a big empty space.
feel you close to us,
we walk down
y lane and we'll keep
ream locked in our
till we meet again.
you with my heart,
and John,
children and great
children
ARMSTRONG 5/
8/98. We love and
you so very much,
r in our thoughts,
Joan and Colin

Deaths

JEFF STURE

STURE Died 26th
ber 1998. So much
int to say, but can't
o find the words to
you weren't just a
r Jeff, you were also
st friend you will be
missed by all of us and
rever be in our hearts,
always Alan and
lle XX

STURE Died 26th
ber 1998. Suddenly
ae, age 32. Jeff, we
ever forget you, you
ways be in our hearts.
were so kind to
ody. I will never meet
erson than you. We
s had a laugh with
Thinking of you
s. Love Betty, and
Flack, Joanne and
ret

STURE You've left
e no-one else could
all, a girls best friend,
ou always Andrea and
X
STURE Our lives are
pty without you Jeff.
ill miss you terribly,
ith all our hearts Anita,
Mel and Bexster

Stand Found

ND Black kitten,
bly 3-5 months old,
Christmas day in
ham (The Grange) Tel
3
T Thursday 24th
nber around Pease
olding walking stick,
disabled pensioner,
reward Tel 310823 or
station

Congratulations

Leanne Seaman



31st December 1998
Happy 18th birthday
darling, love you loads
Mam and Dad XX

LEANNE SEAMAN
Happy 18th birthday from
big bro, Love Paul XXX
LEANNE SEAMAN All
my love on your 18th from
Grandad Billy XX

HOLLY WHITTON 1-1-
99, to our special princess
on her 1st birthday love you
Mammy and Daddy XX
HOLLY WHITTON 1-1-
99, To our lovely sister
happy 1st birthday love
Daniel and Adam XX
DEREK HAILES On
your 40th birthday, love and
best wishes always from
Martha, Gavin and David

RACHEL WARD Happy
16th birthday, lots of love
Mam, Dad, Nicola, Helen
and Scott

LOUISE PARKER
Congratulations to a special
daughter on your 18th
birthday for 29th December,
loads of love from Mam and
Les XX

LOUISE PARKER Hip
hip hooray, your 18 today,
29th December, lots of love
and cuddles to a special
sister from Jack XX

LOUISE PARKER
Congratulations to a
wonderful niece on your
18th birthday. Now you can
really let your hair down.
Loads of love from aunty
Sharon and Marc XX
LOUISE PARKER 29-
12-98, happy 18th birthday,
have a great one, love Jayne,
Jeff, Lewis and Ben

Tony Grainger



Happy 30th Birthday
All our love and best
wishes Tina and Steven.
Happy Birthday Tony
Love from Mam, Dad,
Marie and Patrick

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Thanks

CHRISTMAS DAY THANK YOU

To Betty Longstaff and her
committee and helpers for a
wonderful Christmas Day
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involved in The Cubby for
over 20 years with a very
able committee. For the past
10 years Betty and her
committee have organised a
Christmas Day Luncheon
for 28 lonely people in
Newton Aycliffe. Help the
Aged this year financed the
Luncheon with a little help
from others. Every guest
received a welcome drink on
arrival plus a present.
Apples and oranges (a
reminder of Christmas long
ago) was kindly given by
Martin Carter - thank you.
Help the Aged on behalf of
all present on the day say
"thank you very much" for
a superb day which would
normally have been
celebrated on our own but
thanks to all these kind
people we celebrated with
friends. Best wishes to all
for 1999. Peter Beaty,
Chairman Help the Aged in
Durham and Wearside
JOANNE GRAY would
like to thank her Mam and
Dad for the excellent party
and even better number
plates. She would also like
to thank all her friends and
family for the lovely cards
and presents.

Wedding

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

LOST

Please Help!

**Small, black, neutered Tom
Cat, name "Polo". Missing
since Christmas Eve from
Low Green, Woodham. If
sighted please ring 318410**

Health/Beauty

HOLISTIC BEAUTY

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

CALL LORNA M.C.H.T.
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

FITNESS CONSULTANT PERSONAL TRAINER

New Year's resolution to lead
a healthier lifestyle - again?
Need qualified help?
Mobile Trainer

Equipment/Dietary advice
100% attention - at your
pace, succeed this time!
1st Consultation FREE
Training Partner ½ price
Tel Tony 01388 776156

GETTING MARRIED?

Contact us for all your
STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS
Newton Press Tel: 300212

CHEMISTS EMERGENCY ROTA

Saturday 26th December - Boxing Day

12noon-1pm - M&M Chemists Ltd

Sunday 27th December 1998

12noon-1pm - Boots the Chemist

Friday 1st January 1999

12noon-1pm - Cheapside Pharmacy, Shildon

Sunday 3rd January 1999

12noon-1pm - Neville Pharmacy

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

Personal

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

For Sale

SEGA Megadrive boxed, 10
games (boxed), light gun and
3 controllers £40 Tel 310392

Public Notice

FAMILY SERVICE

The next Family Service at
St Clares Church is on
Sunday 10th January at
9.15am, to which a warm
invitation is extended to
everyone, young and old, to
share in this short informal
all-age act of worship. The
theme of this service will be
"Songs of Praise" for the
New Year. Refreshments
will be available in the hall
afterwards to which
everyone is invited.

Photography

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

Property For Sale

3 Bedroom Detached
Modern house, bathroom
shower, gas central heating,
garage, many extras
including carpets, curtains,
three piece suite, dining set,
gas fire, cooker, fridge,
washer, wardrobes, beds,
Sky TV, decoder, phone, in
first class condition in
sought after location. Offers
in the region of £62,950 Tel
315675

Pets

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

VAL BROWN Dog Beautician

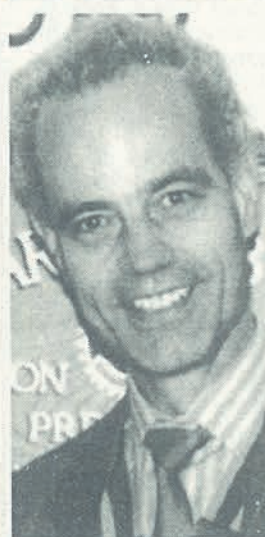
Established since 1980

Tel: 315654

Mobile: 0789 9983366

LURCHER PUPS for sale,
dogs and bitches with
brindle coats, working dogs
or lovable pets. Good with
children, ready approx 11-
1-99, £50 Tel (01325)
300175

Death



MIKE BATES

We regret to record the death
of Mike Bates of Westfields,
School Aycliffe.

He died on Boxing Day aged
53 after losing a brave and
courageous fight against
cancer.

Mike is survived by his wife
Liz, son Richard and
daughter Caroline.

Friends are requested to
meet for a Service of
Thanksgiving and
Committal at Neville Parade
Methodist Church on
Monday 4th January at 3
p.m.

Family flowers only please.
Donations in lieu, if so
desired, may be set in aid of
either the Haematology Unit,
Ward 42, Darlington
Memorial Hospital or the
Liver Research Trust. Tel:
(0171) 3800401.

Birthday Remembrance

REAY, GLADYS Birthday
Remembrance 3rd January.
God took a look around His
garden and found an empty
space. He then looked upon the
earth and saw your tired face.
He put His arm around you and
lifted you to rest, God's garden
must be beautiful for He only
takes the best.

It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you did not go alone. For
part of us went with you when
Jesus called you home.

From Your loving son Geordie.
Agnes, Grandchildren, and
Great Grandchildren.

KING SHARON
ELIZABETH Birthday
Remembrance 29th December.
A beautiful life came to an end,
She died as she lived,
Everyone's friend,
Love Auntie Agnes, Uncle
Geordie and family.

PERSONAL SELF ADHESIVE LABELS

NEWTON PRESS
St. Cuthberts Way
Newton Aycliffe
Co. Durham DL5 6DX
Tel: (01325) 300212

(Sample is approximate size)

BLACK ON WHITE LABELS

500 - £6.00

1000 - £7.50

BLACK on GOLD or SILVER LABELS

500 - £7.00

1000 - £8.50

(Prices include V.A.T.)

Cash with order : Newton Press

St Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6DX

ORDER FORM (please allow 7-10 working days)

Please supply (Qty) White/Gold/Silver Labels

Details as below:

PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Your Telephone number
(We will contact you as soon as your labels are ready)

Payment enclosed £.....

Signed

POST OR HAND IN TO:

NEWTON PRESS

St. Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham

ADVERTISE SALES & WANTS,
CONGRATULATIONS
MAKE YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS,
PUBLIC NOTICES, WANTED
IN MEMORIAM NOTICES,
BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES etc
IN THE
NEWTON NEWS
Your Own Local Community Newspaper

Private Advertisements 8p per word
Commercial Advertisements 14p per word

(Please use BLOCK CAPITALS)
(DO NOT FORGET YOUR TELEPHONE
NUMBER IF REQUIRED)

CLASSIFICATION

Total No. of words x p

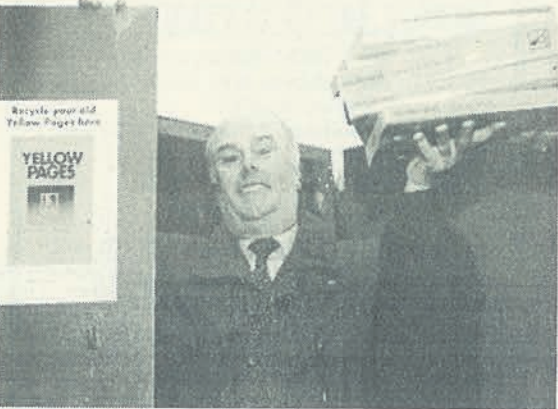
TOTAL = £p

Please hand your advertisement with payment to:

NEWTON PRESS
St Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Ind. Park
or our agents:
STEVENS NEWSAGENTS
Town Centre or
DON WALKERS BUTCHERS
Simpasturegate

Sorry, but we CANNOT accept
telephone orders for classified ads

GET RID OF YOUR OLD YELLOW PAGES BOOKS



Homes and businesses across County Durham can recycle their old Yellow Pages for the first time thanks to a grant awarded to the County Council by BT.

In a high profile campaign, which coincides with the issue of the new Yellow Pages this month, Durham County Waste Management in partnership with Durham County Council hopes this recycling initiative will capture the imagination and encourage people to support the local environment.

The company is providing the services for an important environmental initiative in the North East. The initiative is designed to encourage homes and businesses in the area to recycle their old Yellow Pages in special banks at civic amenity sites across the county.

Giant wheeie bins and banks with the distinctive "Yellow Pages recycle here" stickers will be conveniently located alongside other recycling banks.

The new directories are being sent out in the next few weeks and people living in the area are being asked to recycle their old ones rather than throw them away.

Cllr Ken Manton, Chairman of the County Council's Environment and Technical Services Committee said, "The County Council would like to commend this initiative to everyone in the region. The Council have a long term commitment to recycling, and with the help of the general public and the expertise of Durham County Waste Management this recycling scheme will have direct benefits for our local environment."

Henry Barrie, Chief Executive, Durham County Waste Management said, "This is an excellent scheme and one which we are happy to be associated with. All of our sites across the North East are geared up to accept the Yellow Pages directories. The containers are highly visible and we want to encourage as many people as possible to join in what will be a massive recycling operation across the county."

Jim Gallagher, distribution and Delivery Manager at BT, was pleased to see the grant being used in such an effective way. "BT operates a grant scheme to help local authorities recycle their residents' used telephone directories. This is a scheme which we are very keen to support."

The old directories will be delivered to a company in Northumberland which will recycle them into disposable paper products for hospitals and other treatment and care organisations.

YOUNG ENGINEER FOR BRITAIN 1999 COMPETITION

Have you got the creativity and ingenuity to be the next Young Engineer for Britain? Young people at school, college or undergoing training can demonstrate their engineering skills in the 1999 national competition which is now open for entry.

The biggest event of its kind in Europe, the total value of prizes on offer is £50,000. The Young Engineer for Britain 1999 will receive a personal prize of £2,500 and a trophy, with their school receiving an additional £2,500 to buy engineering teaching equipment.

The winner will follow in the footsteps of a team of 16 year-old students from Edinburgh, who won the 1998 competition with a computer-controlled theatre lighting system. From the simplest of ideas to the technologically advanced - all types of engineering projects are welcomed in the competition. Projects in 1998 included a maritime rescue aid, an alternative fuel for diesel engines and a method of testing veterinary syringes.

Young Engineers for Britain is organised by the Engineering Council in association with ASSET's Young Engineers clubs. Entries are invited from individuals or teams of up to four. The closing date is 31 March 1999.

Judging takes place at a series of regional finals throughout the UK between May and July, with the

winner of each regional event automatically earning a place at the National Final in London in September.

The two principal sponsors of Young Engineers for Britain are Lloyd's Register and GEC. Major national sponsors include: Adwest Automotive, Engineering and Marine Training Authority (EMTA), Ova Arup Partnership, BICC Group, British Aerospace, Glaxo Wellcome, Institute of Materials, National Grid, Rolls-Royce, Shell U.K. Exploration and Production, Tarmac Construction, Thames Water Utilities, TI Group, Federal-Mogul, Unilever and Vickers.

Entry details are available from: Young Engineers for Britain, Engineering Council, 10 Maltravers Street, London WC2R 3ER.

A.S.K. A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the above Group will be held on Wednesday 6th January 1999, in the Silverdale Community House at 6.30pm.

Councillor Mr George Gray and Mr Glynn Hall, Director of Housing and Environmental Health will be addressing the Meeting.

All area residents will be welcome.

LETTER Burglars Ruin Pensioners Christmas

Dear Sir,

This letter is for the slimey creep or creeps who broke into my house last Tuesday evening.

Yes, you know who I mean! Why don't you go out and earn your own money like we've had to do for 50 years.

We put our home together through hard graft, and that means work! Creatures like you rob the poor and vulnerable to get money for drugs and alcohol.

If you could only see the trauma it has caused, and it is not the value of the goods so much, as the thought of your dirty filthy hands on our property, clothing and bedding and that's the worst thing of all!

I'm not a vicious person but if I ever met you worms, I could easily change.

No doubt you had a Merry Xmas but I hope the New Year brings a lot of hassle from the Police, because I'm sure you'll slip up one day, and bite off a little more than you can chew.

This letter was received from a 69 year old resident, one of a number of people who suffered burglaries this Christmas when mindless thieves gave them a shocking experience they find difficult to forget.

POET'S CORNER

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed a poem that my 12 year old son wrote part of his English homework at Woodham Comprehens School. It was read out in assembly and he was present with a book. I certainly feel that it is a lovely poem and others may enjoy reading it as it shows the true meaning Christmas which many tend to forget.

*Christmas is a time of joy,
To remember the birth of a baby boy.
Born to us on Christmas day, In a stable far away.
Some shepherds sat in a field that night looking at the sky
Then hundreds of angels started singing and they wonder why.
The angels said "the son of God is born and God is ve proud".
The shepherds stood and listened until the angels left the
Then they made their way to Bethlehem.
The shepherds knelt in wonder, Before the worlds new lig
While angels sang his praises, On that 1st Christmas nig
Three wise men who studied stars,
Looked at the sky that night,
And noticed a new star shining bright.
They decided it meant the Lords' son had come,
And said they would visit him and his virgin mum.
The wise men travelled from afar,
Baring gifts they followed that star,
Where in a manger bed he lay,
Our saviour, asleep on the hay.
So on this Christmas morning,
When your gifts you are unwrapping,
Spare a thought of the first Christmas Day,
Because, Christmas is a time of joy,
To remember the birth of a baby boy.*

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

Walks Around Newton Aycliffe

Produced by Aycliffe Walkers and Conservationists Walk No: 1
Approx. 4½ miles with two optional extensions of ½ and/or 1½ miles.
Start & Finish at Locomotive Number One public house car park.

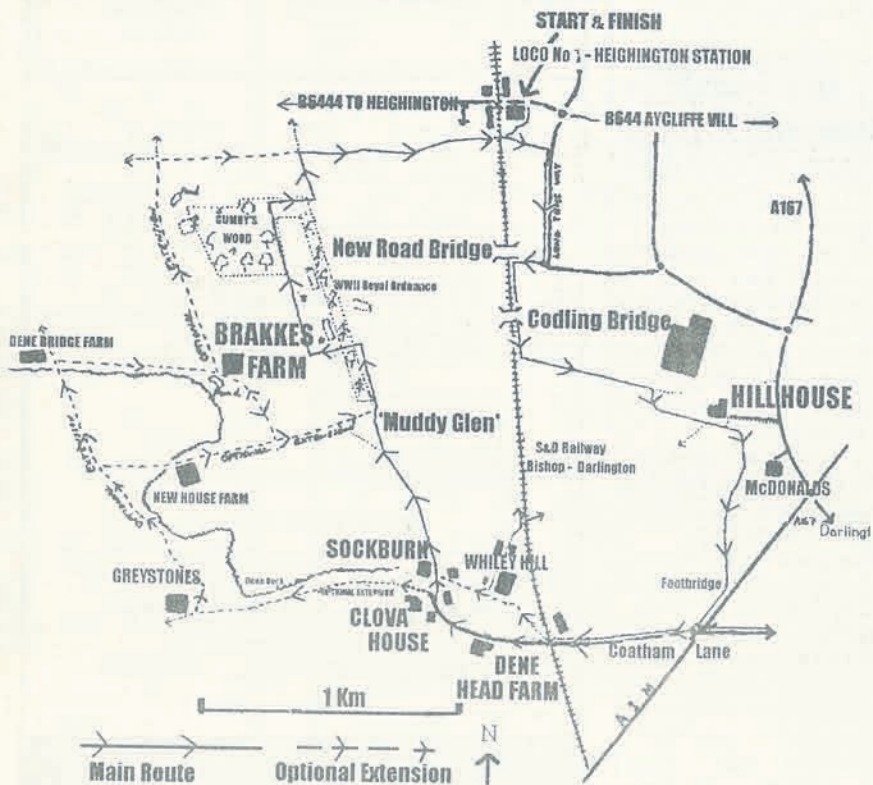
Please ask permission if using car park, although ample parking space available around empty factory.

Walk away from rear of pub to corner of compound fence. Turn left along path to Long Tens Way. Turn right and walk along roadside footpath. At new bridge cross over road, then across verge onto track, turning right alongside bridge. Then turn left along track past Codling Bridge. Continuing along track, turn left at corner, and approx. 600 yards thereafter, watch for waymarked bridlepath on right.

Through gate bear left until pass stile at side of Hill House. Following track on ground turn right towards gap in hedge, with Macdonalds now on your left. Over footbridge, go straight over next field onto Coatham Lane, turn right on Coatham Lane and cross railway level crossing. Straight on (ignore "private road" signs) along lane past Dene Head farm on left to Sockburn. (Here a left turn past Clova House gives access to optional extensions of ½ or 1½ miles - see map.)

On a track in a northerly direction, the main route takes you forward between Sockburn farm buildings on left and a new house on right. Walk through pastures before crossing 'Muddy Glen' stepping stones. Follow along field hedge then walk in edge of tree belt to follow track around / alongside Cumby's Plantation onto tarmac lane. Turn left and walk down lane short distance to stile on your right. Pass through some small fields until reach 'ladder' stile and cross railway line. At Scots Pine trees turn left, returning you to Loco car park - open all day for refreshments.

Please follow the country code. Dogs must be under control. All routes Public Rights of Way. Any problems/complaints regarding this route should be sent to: - Countryside Section, Darlington Borough Council, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT; Tel (01325) 380651 or Rights of Way, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham City, DH1 5UQ Tel: (0191) 386 4411.



GREAT NEWS FOR NEWTON AYCLIFFE and DL5 RESIDENTS

CHRISTMAS CRACKER

14 TO GO

The best deals around

You can have a brand new Fiesta Finesse

WITH

Sunroof
Radio/Cassette
Metallic Paint and
FREE INSURANCE

Plus many more offers available
call in now



ALL FOR THE INCREDIBLE PRICE OF £7595
WE ALSO HAVE THE NEW FORD FOCUS IN STOCK NOW

HOLIWAYS

MAIN DEALER

Horndale Avenue
Aycliffe Ind. Park
Tel: 300003