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FRONT PAGE LETTERS

Positive Approach on Dirt and Litter

Dear Sir,
I believe it is high time that a more positive approach was taken with regard to the dirt and litter which is present on the streets of Newton Aycliffe.
I would ask the question as to whether all those people who have written such letters do anything about putting the matter right themselves.
It is easy to put the burden on to other people and then to claim the high moral ground.
My personal commitment to

making Newton Aycliffe a cleaner place is to take with me on my two daily walks a plastic bag in which I pick up the bottles and tin cans which I find around the town.

If we all did this then the town would present a more pleasant image.

I would also like to commend the Council in the way the town is made attractive by the crocuses and daffodils which are coming into bloom at the present time, and also the way the flower beds are presented each year.

I have lived in many worse places than Newton Aycliffe and am proud to live in this town.

Let each of us, instead of moaning, make a positive contribution to keeping our town clean and tidy by picking up what we find laying about.

Rev'd. Kenneth Kilby

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FUNERAL PRE-PAYMENT PLAN

Greenfield School Expansion Plans - Envy of the County

Dear Sir,
Since the Town Council voted to support the application of the Greenfield Centre for Lottery funding, a few residents on the nearby estate have voiced fears that the development may be intrusive.

I have investigated these fears, and I am happy to report that the Centre's plans have been radically changed to accommodate their worries. The Centre has moved the all-weather pitch further away from the houses. It is now placed behind the proposed Sports Hall. In addition, the Sports Hall has been turned round through 90 degrees so as to hide the pitch completely from the houses.

In addition also, the Centre is going to plan fast-growing conifers to further hide the development.

In addition also, the Centre is to add shades to the lights, so that they only shine downwards - although the lights will be invisible from the houses anyway. We are assured that there will absolutely no light pollution affecting local housing. Finally, so that the Centre might ensure that nobody is inconvenienced in any way, local residents have been offered a place on the Centre Steering Committee, so that they can protect the residents' interests!

This, I think you will agree, is an excellent and very accommodating response by the Centre. Surely, any further complaint will be seen to be unreasonable in the extreme!

Before the Greenfield housing estate was built, many of the people in this area fought long and hard to keep Greenfield School open. Now we have the chance to see the site develop into an educational facility which will be the envy of the County, and which will absolutely secure the future of the school.

Martyn D Locklin

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Caterer Encourages Healthy Eating at Schools



A special visitor appeared in Schools in the Newton Aycliffe area last week. Yummie Bear, the Chartwells mascot, visited Byerley Park Primary School, Horndale Infant and Nursery Schools, Woodham Burn Infant and Junior Schools, Vane Road Primary School, St. Marys RC Primary School, and Sugar Hill Primary and Nursery Schools. Chartwells provide school meals to all County Durham schools. As well as visiting in some Schools he held a 'Healthy Eating Quiz' and launched a 'Best Picture of Yummie' competition.

NEWTONIAN GOES ON SHOPPING SPREE ON HIS RETURN FROM BOSONIA

by Martin Walker

Newtonian Mike Carr returned home from Bosnia last week, but not without the traditional English delay.

Mike, 21, has spent the last six months out in the former Yugoslavia. Some of his jobs included defusing land mines, building and rebuilding bridges.

But the long-awaited return would not go to plan without some sort of hitch. Irony wouldn't you agree? For there is never any delay when shipping them out.

Originally, Mike was expected home on March 12th, but a delay meant that he would not be due until the 13th. His mother Glynis arranged some 'welcome home' streamers and posters in the windows of her home, expecting him at around 7pm. But then further postponement shelved the arrival until 12 midnight. After all the confusion, Mike finally found his way home, and it didn't take him long to

get back into his everyday habits. His first day back in the North-East was spent shopping for clothes, as just about all of his previous wear was burnt in a fire over in Bosnia.

Mike spent a staggering £800 in some of Darlington's designer-wear shops, and it is no wonder the shopkeepers were rubbing their hands together with such gleeful expressions upon their faces. The shopping spree was capped off by a McDonald's - his first for some time - hugely enjoyed, and devoured like there was no tomorrow.

Away from the freezing and unsociable conditions of Bosnia, he is, understandably, in his element.

What can you do to take your mind away from the fact that you're so far away from home, for such a long time. Amusements will come rarely in places like these, but Mike and his mates found what little humour they could muster

from a French padre who visited their site.

Cruel perhaps, to laugh at the local chaplain for his typically spoken French/English accent - but humorous in its own way. "Allo, would you like some coffee, Englishman?" is what the padre would say. Unfortunately, the coffee, Mike says, was disgusting and almost undrinkable if not for the extreme temperatures. Mike told me that the Engineers in his regiment even hid from the padre because of his coffee. Said Mike: "The padre would say

'Allo, I can see you, come out wherever you are'. He would say this in a very funny accent, which made us laugh." "It wasn't very nice of us to laugh at him, but he saw the funny side of it. It was all in good humour."

Mike doesn't have a tremendous amount of leave, and has to go back to Bosnia on the 27th for one month. He then has another leave for three weeks, before returning to Germany. But Mike will have plenty of leave in the summer, which is, undoubtedly, well deserved.

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12noon-1pm - Woodham Pharmacy

Sunday 7th April, 1996 (Easter Sunday)

12noon-1.00pm - Woodham Pharmacy

Monday 8th April, 1996 (Easter Monday)

12noon-1.00pm - M&M Chemists, Shildon

Letter

What's the Council Doing?

Dear Editor,
Just out of pure interest, could someone please find out the intentions of what Sedgfield District Council intend to do about the people who do have disgusting gardens, fences down, windows bashed out and dogs fowling the streets?
I quite agree with the people who wrote the letter about the state of Linden Place, Rowan Place and Elmfield Place. I have never heard of a truer word spoken.
A Curious Lady

Pub Changes Include Midweek Pint For £1

Black Cat Inns Ltd. have just recently purchased and taken over the "Turbinia" Pub at The Parsons Centre, Burnhill Way. With refurbishment work now in hand and with Bass as the new brewer, they now have Carling Black Label, Caffreys, Stones Bitter, Tennants Lager, Worthington Bitter and Carling Premier.

And, for a promotional period, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays its only a £1 a pint.

A big screen is back in the bar for sporting enthusiasts with monitors too. A domino handicap on Sunday lunchtime with £20 added, and entertainment with professional artists on a Wednesday night in the lounge.

Also Pool Competitions on a Sunday and with ongoing promotional activity we can see the Turbinia SAILING along once again.

The Directors of Black Cat Inns Ltd. have had vast experience in the entertainment business - in fact one director managed Bobby Thompson, "The Little Waster himself" - along with many other top class entertainers.

We wish them every success with their new LAUNCH. We think they are looking for a football team to sponsor - so why not drop in and ask them!

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0700-1000 - "Community Chest"

1000-1200 - Come on Down to these "Strawberry Fields"

1000-1300 - Mark Brooks and "Sunday Brunch"

1200-1400 - The A1 FM "Local Charts" with Steve White

1300-1700 - "Requests & More"

1400-1800 - A1 FM "Sports First"

1700-2000 - "A1 Country" with Peter John Berg

1800-2100 - The "House of Dance"

2000-2100 - "Good News/Religion"

2100-0000 - "All the Way from America" with Paul Dexter

2100-0000 - Gary Burgham's "Late Night Disco"

0000-0700

0000-0600 -

"Overnight Expressway"

"Overnight Expressway"



JUST FOR YOU

Radio House, 11 Woodland Road, Darlington,
Co. Durham DL3 7BJ - Telephone (01325) 255555

NO WISH TO WRECK SCHOOL PLANS

Dear Sir,
I feel I must write to clear up the misrepresentations of the residents re the Greenfield School extension. I would like to make it clear to the community of Newton Aycliffe that at no time have the residents tried to wreck the plans of the school. We have simply sought alternative sites for the all weather sports pitch.

The communication from all parties involved in this project to the nearby residents has been very poor from the start, and it was only through the intervention of Councillor Tony Moore that a meeting was held with the school.

Residents at the meeting asked that the presentation of the history of the school be abandoned so that we could discuss our concerns about the siting of the pitch.

The meeting went on for an hour and a half. At this meeting it was admitted, by a member of the school, that at no time had the residents been considered when their proposals were formed. This was blatantly obvious, as the first siting of the pitch was 20 yards from the foot of a residents garden!

The article also states that we are trying to deny the 650 pupils of the school of the benefit of this pitch. This is not true. If the pitch was solely for the use of the pupils we would have no objections at all. What the article fails to point out to your readers is that this facility will be open to the community for 40 hours a week.

This means, if it is used to its maximum potential, the residents will be subjected to noise disturbance from enthusiastic players and their supporters every evening and every weekend all year round. I wonder if this fact was made known to those people who were asked to sign the petition. It is for this reason we asked for the relocation to the Oak Leaf Complex to be considered. One has to ask oneself if our schools are for the education of our children or are they the leisure centres of the future for the community.

I would like to know the exact area from which the 269 people who signed the petition live. No one came to the Greenfield estate which is the closest residential area to the school. If these people are honest, yes they will support this project, but aren't they glad it is not on their doorstep.

What I really object to is being portrayed as the villain of the piece. If the school is miffed because the residents have not welcomed their wonderful plans - so be it.

Resident Malvern Way

SCHOOLBOY FOOTBALLER CHOSEN FOR FLORIDA CUP



Talented footballer David Hanson, aged 13, of Langley Road is a member of the North East Soccer School based at Teesside.

He has been selected for a trip to Florida to play for the U.S.A. Football Trophy. It will be David's second trip as he played last year in the Under 12's team, which won the Orlando Premiere Cup for Great Britain.

He plays for Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club, Bishop Auckland Under 13's and St. John's School Team where he is a pupil.

He has received local sponsorship from Hydro Polymers and Newton Aycliffe Sports Club.

REASSURANCE ON DOCTORS' AFTER HOUR SERVICE

Following the recent BBC Close Up North programme, doctors would like to make the following reassurances to patients.

- Home visits will still be undertaken if patients are not well enough to travel to the Centre.
- Patients who are unable to get to the centre because they have no transport, or are unable to drive to the Centre, will have transport arranged for them by the Centre in one of their two vehicles.
- If a patient believes they have a serious or life threatening condition, they should dial 999 immediately for an ambulance, as the centre is NOT an emergency service.

Dr. Martin John, one of the doctors involved in the Centre, said: "Patients visiting the Centre are seen quickly by a doctor who is fresh and alert. Doctors who are on traditional out of hours duty have to work the following day and are unable to provide the same quality of care if they have been working all night as well."

Letter to the Editor OBJECTION TO FACTORY FENCE

Dear Editor,

The historic former railway line between the Town and the Industrial Estate has been walked and enjoyed by many of us since access was given in the 1960's.

The path and areas alongside are under the authority of Great Aycliffe Town Council (G.A.T.C.). The trees, bushes and plant life are mainly of native varieties and provide an excellent wildlife corridor.

G.A.T.C. Councillors have agreed to the company developing the former U.M.M. site to build a security fence at the top of the embankment next to the path.

The effect of this 10' high fence would be to exclude us from enjoying the walk, as we have, as all growth and wildlife would be excluded from view and at that height a fence would be oppressive, giving a sense of enclosure.

Although G.A.T.C. have agreed, the erection of the fence cannot go ahead without Planning Permission. G.A.T.C. do not decide these matters, the planning authority being Sedgefield District Council.

As a resident of Newton Aycliffe I have written to the Director of Planning, Sedgefield District Council making my objection to the Planning Application.
P. Robinson
(Address supplied)

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SQUASH

In the Upex Junior Squash Leagues at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex, Joe McTague, Lee Skinner and Tom McTague were all prize winners this month. The 30 players who play in the leagues are members of the UPEX Junior Squash Clubs who meet for qualified coaching every Tuesday night.

The clubs cater for children age 7 - 17 years and anyone interested in joining should contact the Oak Leaf Sports Complex on 300600



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C.A.B. BACK

The Citizens Advice Bureau is now back in its newly refurbished office on the ground floor in the Leisure Centre.

Clients are advised to note that the office is now situated at the front of the rent office and is the first door on the right as they enter the centre.

The opening times remain the same and we look forward to seeing clients old and new.

We are also looking for volunteers to work in the Bureau a minimum of six hours per week.

Anyone interested may ring Karen Stewart on 300232 to arrange an informal discussion.

Letter to the Editor GREATER MENACE EXISTS AT GREENFIELD

Dear Editor

As a resident of the Greenfield Estate I am well aware of the recent uproar created by the plans to extend facilities at Greenfield School, and the plans to move people into the area from Horndale House. Fears of nuisance, excessive noise, property devaluation and child safety have all emerged.

But perhaps the Greenfield residents, and their action group, would do better to concentrate their efforts against the

menace which already exists on our doorsteps. I refer to those residents who treat the area as an industrial estate with their commercial vehicle activities, coming and going at all hours of day and night, including weekends, with their slamming doors and noisy engines often left running for lengthy periods.

Daily, both drivers and pedestrians, are forced to negotiate their way past these vans and lorries, even farm machinery, parked outside other peoples' homes, close to road junctions impairing the view of other drivers, and obstructing footpaths. As well as the noise and inconvenience caused, the frequent reversing and parking of such vehicles in these narrow cul-de-sacs will, eventually, result in an accident, possibly involving a child at play (shudder the thought). These people should show some consideration to others and leave their business activities and commercial vehicles elsewhere. If not, then let the Residents, Police or Council take action to get them moved.

A concerned Greenfield resident.

IS OUR COUNCIL BAD AT HOUSEKEEPING?

Dear Sir,

Can you kindly explain why our Poll Tax in Newton Aycliffe is almost 10% higher than that of the Darlington area?

Is it due to the fact that the bodies responsible for our Poll Tax are not so good at housekeeping?

For instance - is it fair or necessary that, after the opening ceremony of our new cemetery, guests (Councillors?) were provided with a meal at the Eden Arms Hotel - not the cheapest of places - or have I got it wrong, do

Councillors and their husbands/wives in fact pay for these functions?

I for one would vote for any Councillor who rejected such 'perks', we cannot afford them. How are Sedgefield District able to justify large increases in bills and still fatten their Councillors out of our pockets.

This practice should be abolished. Anyone attending civil functions, Councillors or otherwise, should pay their way like anyone else.

Wrong to Call Carers 'Wierdos'

Dear Sir,

In reply to the letter concerning White Oaks - I take offence at the 'never ending stream of weird looking people' whom this person assumes are "carers".

Well, my granddaughter happens to be one of these 'weird looking people' as she calls them, but she is a normal looking girl, not a weirdo, as this person calls her.

I am proud of my

granddaughter for choosing to do this sort of work - I could not do it. This person must have nothing better to do but watch the comings and goings of others all day.

What if it was one of her family with learning difficulties! Would she still feel the same way? These people have rights too.

Mrs. E. Paterson
(A very proud Gran)

Letter to the Editor I DON'T NOW RESPECT THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

Dear Editor,

In answer to L. Thompson's letter "Doctors New Scheme Will Cost Lives", this lady and many other would-be sick patients have every right to be apprehensive and uneasy about this latest new bomb shell to hit the vulnerable.

Doctors are very well paid today, but are giving less and less services. It seems you must only be ill to order in GP's office hours - Office Hours Services!

A few people did abuse night call services, but in all aspects of daily existences you get people who spoil it for others, by taking advantage of the system, instead of showing consideration.

If GP's don't want to turn out for night calls - why don't they employ semi retired or unemployed night doctors and nurses. Why isn't one of the Health Centres in Newton Aycliffe being used for a night surgery - it is a disgrace and a hardship for some ill people to travel all the way to Bishop - especially with

no transport of their own! We know that Public Services are getting worse, we have come to expect this now. Health Trusted Hospitals and rationing - Conveyor Belt day surgery services - no nursing call, we all once took for granted. Closure of good hospitals like Winterton, Aycliffe and Shotley Bridge - what a criminal waste.

Due to a medical accident in 1985 I have fought the NHS system and its bureaucracy for eleven years to get the relevant tests and diagnosis for severe Periperal Nerve Damage. I've even written to the Citizen Commission of Human Rights for back-up.

Finally, so worn out by all the buck passing and National Health Service battle fatigue, I've decided to be my own Councillor - nurse and doctor - just to survive.

I respected the medical profession when I was a girl, not any more.

J.L.
Greathead Crescent

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Dear Sir,
Mrs. Boyle's letter (w/e 23 March) fails to mention one important point. The planning application to build a cricket pavilion on the Heighington Cricket Club ground was recommended for approval by the Planning Officer, because there were no planning grounds upon which to refuse permission. The only votes against the proposal came from the small conservative group on the

committee.
Surely, such an amenity for the village should not have been opposed by the Parish Council. After all, in August 1994, during consultation on the draft local plan, Councillor Boynton asked the Borough Council to include the provision of sports facilities for the village, and to protect the cricket ground from being lost to the village.
Frank Robson
Heighington

Beware of Spitter

Dear Sir,
On Wednesday last week I was driving up Burn Lane, a car in front of me and a car behind. Suddenly a young 'man' spat all over my windscreen. It was, for a few second's, blinding until the washers did their job. An accident could have happened very easily.
I gave a very good description of the two boys to the police. I will know them anywhere again. All I need is names to fit the faces. Has this happened to anyone else?

Decorating Scheme Popular

The painting and decorating scheme is still going on throughout the Township. Those that have had decorating done have been very complimentary about the standard of work. If you are of retirement age, or are disabled in anyway, then please get in touch with the scheme. At the same time if you are fit and able and wish to volunteer then ring the number and leave your details. The contact number for both volunteers to help, or those needing our help is - 01325 311089 or 01325 318333.

S.D.C. FESTIVAL LAUNCHED BY LABOUR LEADER



When Labour Leader and Sedgefield M.P., Tony Blair, launched the "Festival of Life" in Sedgefield District, it was just the start of a series of sporting, artistic, cultural and religious events which will continue until mid-July.

Everyone can be catered for - there's an art exhibition, featuring the paintings of local artist, Norman Cornish, at Spennymoor Town Hall from 6th - 13th April. Then on 10th April, Fujitsu will be hosting a digital arts Day for teachers.

This will be followed by an exhibition called "Circus Sculpture", built by children from nine local schools and displayed at Bessemer Park, Spennymoor from 12th - 14th April.

For music lovers, there's the Grimethorpe Colliery Band at Spennymoor Town Hall on 30th March and sports enthusiasts can use all facilities free at Ferryhill Leisure Centre, also on 30th March. Bowls fans might like to come

along to the English Short Mat Bowls Tournament at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on 13th - 14th April. Also on 14th April, St. Bartholomew's Church, Croxdale, will hold its 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

About 80 local people were present at the launching of the "Festival of Life". It's hoped that hundreds more will be involved during the months to come. For further details please contact the Festival Office on 01388 816166.

WALK OF WITNESS

The Great Aycliffe Council of Churches will be holding its annual Walk of Witness on Good Friday (April 5th). This is when Christians of all denominations join together to proclaim their common faith. There will be a short service in the Town Centre, commencing at 11am. The Walk of Witness will

then leave at the end nearest to the Health Centre, taking the following route:- Dalton Way, Westmoreland Way, Macmillan Road, Stephenson Way, Pease Way, Bowes Road - finishing with prayers at the 'green hill'. Please feel free to join the walk at any point on this most important day in the Christian calendar.

Church of England Services for Holy Week and Easter

ST CLARES, Town Centre

Palm Sunday - 31st March

8.00am - Holy Communion

9.30am - Sung Eucharist &

Blessing of Palm crosses

6.00pm - Music and Readings for Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday - 4th April

7.30pm - Sung Eucharist and Vigil

Good Friday - 5th April

1.30pm - The Liturgy of the Day

Easter Sunday - 7th April

5.30am - Service of Light and Eucharist

of the Dawn

8.00am - Holy Eucharist

9.30am - Sung Eucharist

6.00pm - Evensong and Benediction

ST FRANCIS, Horndale and ST ELIZABETHS, Woodham

Palm Sunday - 31st March

9.30am (St Francis) - 10.45am (St Elizabeths)

Sung Eucharist and Blessing of Palms

Maundy Thursday - 4th April

7.30pm (St Francis) - Holy Eucharist

7.30pm (St Elizabeths) - Agape Meal & Vigil

Good Friday - 5th April

2.00pm (St Francis) - Good Friday Liturgy

2.00pm (St Elizabeths) - Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Eve

8.00pm - (St Francis)

Vigil and first Eucharist of Easter

9.00pm (St Elizabeths)

Service of Light and first Eucharist of Easter

Easter Sunday

9.30am (St Francis) - Sung Eucharist

10.45am (St Elizabeths) - Family Eucharist

ST ANDREWS, Aycliffe Village

Palm Sunday - 31st March

10.15am - Sung Eucharist & Blessing of Palms

Maundy Thursday - 4th April

7.30pm - Sung Eucharist

Good Friday - 5th April

10.00am - "At the Foot of the Cross"

Easter Sunday - 7th April

10.15am - Sung Eucharist

6.00pm - Evensong

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6.30pm Easter Pageant

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All Welcome at Youth Centre A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre is to be held on Wednesday 17th April commencing 7pm.

Guest speaker this year is Mrs. S. Barber of the T.S.B. who said "Yes" when the Youth Centre asked for help with their refurbishments.

The Centre will be reporting a very successful year at this A.G.M. and members of the public are urged to attend to hear the details.

The short meeting will be followed by a Judo demonstration in the gym to show off the new floor and Judo mats. A super buffet is always provided by the Centre as a gesture of thanks to all who attend the Annual Meeting.

Please come along - a warm welcome awaits.

EASTER SERVICES

The following Church Services will be held over the Easter Period at:

St. Mary's Roman Catholic & St. Joseph's Roman Catholic	
Maundy Thurs. 8.00pm Mass	7.30pm Mass
Good Friday 3.00pm Service	3.00pm Service
Easter Eve 8.00pm Easter Vigil	8.00pm Easter Vigil
Easter Day 9.30am Mass	10.00am Mass

Neville Parade Methodist

Palm Sunday 10.30am Service & 6.00pm Service
Monday 7.30pm Holy Week Meditation
Maundy Thurs. 7.00pm Passover meal
Good Friday 7.00pm Meditation on 'The Seven Words from the Cross'
Easter Sunday 10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm Service of Thanksgiving

Burnhill Way Methodist

Palm Sunday 10.45am Special Family Worship
Good Friday 3.00pm Good Friday Service
Easter Day 8.00am Communion, followed by breakfast
9.45am Easter Worship
6.00pm Evening Worship

Greenfield Action Group Formed

Residents near Greenfield School have formed an action group to block the nearby comprehensive School's expansion plans. They fear their lives will be disrupted by the additional community activity the School are proposing in their bid for National Lottery money. A petition has been raised and presented to the Town Council, who in receiving it, are a little embarrassed as they are right behind the scheme which will bring £2 million worth of Community facilities to Newton Aycliffe. The Town Council have backed the project with a £40,000 pledge should the £2 million bid be successful. A proposed all-weather outdoor floodlit sports area is causing the most concern to neighbours who feel their peace and privacy may be affected.

The Turbinia

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Letter to the Editor

"NOT IN MY
BACKYARD
ATTITUDE"

Dear Editor,

It is a sad reflection on today's society when one reads in the
Newton News and the Northern Echo of people's intolerance
towards each other and of those who have the self centred 'not
my back yard' attitude. Thankfully it would seem to be a small
minority and one can not attribute it to the younger generation.
In 1946 Lord Reith foresaw Aycliffe as 'a self contained and
balanced community for work and living' and 'the chance of
building a new town for the benefit of coming generations with
greater amenities'.

Our Town has far outgrown the initial plans with regard to
population, but we still need amenities to cater for those of us
who live here now and to attract industry and would-be employees
onto the town.

Plans for the Greenfield Centre have been in place for many years
and so far have allowed adults to update their existing skills and
learn new ones in their spare time, without having to travel to
Bishop Auckland or Darlington. The plans, which have upset
some members of the community, will give adults even more
opportunity to develop themselves and at the same time put
investment into our children's education. I firmly believe that our
children are our future and that well trained and qualified adults
can only be of benefit to our town's future success. The Greenfield
Centre's Steering Committee have listened to the school's
neighbours, taken into consideration their views and adapted their
plans, even though the protesters' arguments held no weight
whatsoever when it comes to planning consideration. It will be
an amenity for the whole town and of benefit to future generations.
Surely this type of development fits in well with Lord Reith's
vision?

Some may think I am particularly naive when I say I maintain I
was elected to represent everyone in my ward, regardless of
whether they are of voting age or even exercise their right to
vote, and to work on the Town Council for the good of the town
as a whole. Fine, you are entitled to your views but I am entitled
to mine. I have consistently over the last 8 1/2 years supported
choice of the individual and spoken out against discrimination.
This being the case I CANNOT support the current discriminatory
tide of public feeling directed at those who live in Horndale
House. Like other Councillors I have been given to understand
that votes may count on my actions, but I believe that the warm
hearted, tolerant, right thinking voters in my ward far outweighs
the bigots. If I am wrong, so be it. I do not intend to lower my
values. The people at Horndale House have the same rights as
anyone else, including the right to choose where they live. The
Care in the Community policy has failed many people, because
they have not had the support they needed. In this case, 24 hour
support has been guaranteed by the County Council, and that
being the case, I was pleased that my amendment in the Town
Council was carried. It gave the residents of Horndale House the
choice of whether they wanted to live in the wider community or
not, which is their right. It gave carers, some of whom have a
heavy burden to carry, the hope that respite care would still be
available to them locally. It gave those who have formed a tight
knit community, i.e. the residents of Horndale House, the
opportunity to retain those ties, many formed over a number of
years. IT DID NOT support the intolerant few who voiced their
worries about the value of their properties, those who were
worried about the fact that the residents of Horndale House were
taking tablets, Chemists please note, your sales are about to drop
dramatically - I think NOT. IT DID NOT support those who, in
ignorance of the residents, felt they should not be allowed near
their children.

Last weeks Newton News had yet another letter from a "Name
and Address supplied" type person who lives in a "much sought
after residential area". One has to wonder if the rest of the residents
in this nice area would disagree with him/her, and that is why
this person has not the courage of his/her convictions. I suppose
I could claim to live in a similar established area, which has lorry
loads of bricks, wood, tiles, double glazing, other building
materials constantly being driven past my front door throughout
the year, along with vans of workmen and equipment, and this
has been going on for the 15 years I have lived here. I too am
guilty of having building alterations and making what I feel are
necessary conversions to accommodate the residents in my house,
so have my immediate neighbours and those across the road from
me. Surprisingly enough everyone seems to make some home
improvements at some time, and most neighbours are tolerant of
the inconvenience. All our neighbours were tolerant when an
Indian family moved in next door to me, not exactly the norm in
Aycliffe, no one thought they were weird because strange people
in unconventional dress came and went, they all made the effort
to get to know them and they very quickly became accepted and
well liked. I for one would quite happily accept residents from
Horndale moving next to me, and I am sure my neighbour would
have loved to have sold her very large semi detached house to
them, rather than have no option but to rent it out, due to the
climate in the housing market. I know I have good neighbours
who, once again, would have put themselves out to get to know
them and make them feel part of the community and would not
be insulting enough to brand their carers as "a never ending stream
of weird looking people".

Who are these people in my ward and in the town as a whole who
have infallible crystal balls? How do they KNOW that their
children, their grandchildren or great grandchildren will NOT
have the misfortune to be born with learning disabilities? I am
just grateful that so far, I can say "There but for the grace of God
go mine".

I don't maintain it will never happen to me - it may, and if so, I
will feel blessed just the same as I have done so far with my
children and my current grandchildren. What is more I will
EXPECT him/her to be brought up in the community and I will
EXPECT today's society to be tolerant and welcome them into
the community as everyone has something to offer, if they are
given the chance to be allowed to do so.

Clr. Mrs. A J Bergg

In Memory

BOB PORTER Died 1st April 1989. We still love and miss you, your wife June and all the family.

ALFRED DICKINSON 4-4-1995. Deep in our hearts your memory is kept, to love and to cherish and never forget. Your loving wife Eleanor, sons David and Alan, daughters Ann, Margaret and Susan, sons and daughters in law and grandchildren.

Birthday Memories

EUNICE DUNBAR 26th March, treasured memories on this special day, love and missed, husband Sammy, sons Ian and Stuart.

JAMES CLELLAND Remembering a very special Husband, Dad and Grandad, missing you every day, love always and forever, Marina, Deborah, Jayne, baby Sarah and the new baby James.

JIM CLELLAND 29-3-96. Remembering you today and always, our dear friend Jim, love Ann, Gary, Michael - Night night love Darren XXXX.

BOB DICKINSON 3-4-26. Time changes may things, but not the memory this day brings, no need for words except to say, you're still loved in every way, from your loving wife Peggy XXX.

BOB DICKINSON Memories of you are always kept, someone too special to ever forget, love always Dad - Brian, Susan, Alan, Linda and Sharon, sadly missed Grandad by Craig, Emma, Stacey and Amy XXX.

ELSIE DICKINSON 27th March. Your birthday is here once again, no cards to send or gifts to give, only sorrow in my heart for you are not here, your truly loved and missed Mother dear, and in my heart you will always be near - lots of love Denise and all your loved ones XXX.

ELSIE DICKINSON There is no words that can describe the way we fell today, we miss you lots and always will on this your birthday, March 27th, love you always Mam, Christine, Jeff & family X.

For Hire

SELF DRIVE Luton van, Transit van and Car hire, good rates. Tel: 01388 815311 or 815850.

SCAFFOLD TOWERS for hire 6'x4', up to 20' high, £10 per day or £50 per week, free delivery Tel 01388 777993

Accommodation

HOMELY LODGINGS available, long and short term, Bed, Breakfast and Evening Meal. DSS welcome 361502.

JUBILEE GUEST House, 2 Bury Road, unemployed welcome Tel 319850.

PERSON required to share 3 bed house, professional people please, £42 per week for own double room inclusive Tel 320615 or 0973 222866

Pets

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

For Sale

GOOD QUALITY Potatoes 55 pounds for £5.50 free delivery in Newton Aycliffe area Tel: 316208.

WEIDER mini gym with full set of weights, good condition, hardly used, £65 Tel 320901 (eves).

WEDDING DRESS Ronald Joyce, ivory satin, size 12, embroidered bodice with elbow length sleeves and sweetheart neckline, plain skirt, dry cleaned £100 Tel 300755.

NEW BEDS 3ft singles £49. Doubles £95, bunk beds with mattresses £199, new 3 piece suites from £460, autowashers £198, gas cookers £209, electric cookers £198, fridges £109. Bargain Buys 321678.

2 SEATER garden bench £25, 2 large patio flower tubs (concrete) £16, bird bath (concrete) £20 Tel 313924 to view.

THORNLEYS Costello cot, white spindle with safety mattress, ABC cot duvet and matching bumper, less than 1 year old, bargain at £75 ONO. Tony baby bouncer with playbar £15. Avent steam sterilizer £15. Baby walker, immaculate condition £18. Designer made Louis Adam style fire surround, jade green marble effect, less than 2 months old, cost £250 bargain at £100 ONO. Designer ladies skirt, Moschino, size 12, multi pattern, excellent condition accept £40. Moschino ladies white shirt with gold buttons size 12, cost £160 accept £50 Tel 318099 after 6pm any evening.

MAHOGANY fittings for bathroom, 5 items in excellent condition £25 Tel 320954.

SINGLE WHITE ceiling light/fan, still wrapped in box £20 Tel 320954.

QUILCAST 14" cylinder electric classic lawn mower, used twice only Tel 312078.

MOTHERCARE Multi position rocking chair, ABC design £15.00. High chair converts to swing £15. Silvercross Wayfarer 2000 pushchair, modern design seat cover, rain cover, swivel wheels, 5 point safety harness £60 Tel 315139.

DARK WOOD cot £50, baby walker (mint green) £25, high/low chair, goes into table and chair £25, black ash bedside cabinet £8, black ash bed of tables £8, pine bench set £30, all very good condition Tel 319391.

VALOR GAS cooker with connector, eye level grill, 4 rings, oven and storage compartment £45 Tel 310006.

TEAK WALL display cabinet, glass doors, display shelf, 2 cupboard bottom £35 Tel 310006.

VIDEO RECORDER, recent service, in working order £100 Tel 320901.

Accommodation Wanted

WANTED to rent, rural house/cottage, approx. £200 per month, anything considered Tel (01748) 812607

Lost & Found

LOST from the Gretna Hotel, Monday 25th March, Border Collie, speckled face, answers to "Mask", reward for information resulting in return Tel 300100

Public Notice

ASHWOOD ARTS
We have moved to the
Blue Bridge Centre
Horndale Avenue

Visit our new trade showroom for all your decoupage needs, frames, mounts, prints, glaze, glue etc. 1000's of prints to choose from, new lines arriving daily. 1 day workshops available on request. Training courses in decoupage for the beginners and advanced take place on Monday, Wednesday and Wednesday evening to book phone 300185. Come in and browse at your leisure and enjoy a cup of freshly brewed coffee. Training rooms for rent reasonable hourly/daily rates, for further information Tel 300185.

OPENING TIMES:
Mon-Thurs 8am-4.30pm
Friday 8am-3.30pm
Sat 9.30am-12.30pm
Wed Eve 7-9pm

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Disco Dance Classes
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Community Centre
Saturdays
Beginners 1.00-1.45pm
Advanced 1.45-2.30pm
£1.50 per lesson

Contact Clare Walton
01325 362098 (after 6pm)

Thank You

REED Vera and the family of the late Frank Reed would like to thank everyone for their wonderful flowers and cards and all the help given to us during this very sad time, also the Rev. Baldwin for all his kindness.

BILL SCOTT would like to thank Sharon and her team of helpers for organising a brilliant surprise 30th birthday party. Also thanks to everyone for all the lovely cards and gifts received, it was a night I will never forget.

TO SIMPASTURE School of Motoring, a big thank you for getting me through my test first time. I couldn't have had a better instructor - thank you again, Julie.

ALLEN Mam and Dad, would like to thank Dianne, Geoff, Lynne, Janice and partners for the wonderful surprise party they planned for us to celebrate our Ruby Wedding, for all the love and hard work they put into it. Lots of love Mam and Dad XXX.

ALLEN Billy and Sheila would like to thank all relatives and dear friends from far and wide for coming to their party and making it such a memorable occasion, also for the beautiful gifts and cards received - lots of love Sheila and Billy

Vehicle Wants and Sales

SCRAP CARS MoT failures, good prices paid Tel. 0836 630036

14' ELDDIS Shamal caravan, 4 berth, double glazing, fridge, cooker, heater, portaloos, smoke alarm, extinguisher, full awning with inner double bedroom, electrics and spare wheel, all excellent condition £1,250.00 (negotiable) Tel 320954.

C REG SIERRA Laser Estate 1.6, full years MoT, £500 contact Mr D Sinclair Tel 307164 (after 4pm)

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Mon 6-7pm Hi/Lo
Wed 8-9pm HiNRG
Woodham Com. Centre
Sun 10-11am Hi/Lo
Hallgarth Hotel
Coatham Mundeville

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DOCUMENTS typed fast and efficiently, letters, CV's etc. contact Helen on 315206 (after 6pm)

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Wedding flowers arranged at reasonable prices
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SEWING Alterations 10 years experience, zips, hems, darts, etc. Collection and delivery service Tel 301979.

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QUALIFIED HAIRDRESSER required part-time, hours and wages negotiable
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Good Luck

STAN FULLER good luck and best wishes for next week on "Stars in their Eyes", we'll be there to cheer you on, lots of love Bev and Gene

Congratulations

LUCY WREN Happy 18th; love Mam, Dad, Wes, Ste, Lee, Ang, Family and friends

LUCY & STEPHEN congratulations on your engagement, love Mam, Dad, Wesley, Lee and Angela, all family and friends

ANDREW & JO Congratulations on the birth of baby Sam, lots of love Craig, Mollie, Lauren and Katey XXX

ANDREW & JO Congratulations on the birth of Sam, love Paula, Steve and Rosie XXX

ANDREW & JO Congratulations on the birth of your baby son Sam, love always Mam and Dad XXX

THANK YOU for a beautiful baby son (Sam) love always Andrew and Curtis XXX

JOANNE & ANDREW congratulations on the birth of your baby son (Sam) 1st grandchild for Dorothy and Allan Wilson, lots of love Mam, Dad, Clare and Allan XXX

MILLER Thank you Bev for our beautiful baby girl, Lauren-Syke 20-3-96, lots of love Steve

THANK YOU Mammy and Steve for our little sister Lauren-Syke, Kayleigh and Vikki

MILLER Thank you Steve for our beautiful little girl Lauren Syke, all my love Bev

WRIGHT Steven and Catherine are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Megan Hannah Keegan Wright, born 17th March 1996, weighing 7lbs 8oz

ALISON WRIGHT Thank you for Bethany, our beautiful baby girl, another soldier in the red and white army - Mally XXX

CLARE WILSON - Have a good time on your birthday, love Firthy

BANNISTER Happy 8th birthday Stephen, 29-3-96, love Mam and Dad

BANNISTER Happy 8th birthday to my big brother, Stephen, love Ryan

HELEN BOYES Happy birthday Mummy, lots of hugs and kisses Ryan XXX

WRIGHT & DIXON Congratulations and all our love for the early arrival of a long waited for first granddaughter, Bethany, born 25-3-96 at 3lb 14oz, your devoted Mum and George XXX

WRIGHT & DIXON congratulations to Alison and Malcolm on the very early but safe arrival of your beautiful baby daughter Bethany, all our love Karen and Nick, Michael & Matthew XXX

WRIGHT & DIXON Alison and mally congratulations to you both on the birth of your beautiful baby daughter, love from Alice, Steve and Mitchell XXX

WRIGHT & DIXON To Alison and Mally, congratulations on the birth of your baby daughter, Bethany, lots of love and best wishes Julie and Daniel

ANNE-MARIE KELL Happy 17th birthday, lots of love Mam

ANNE-MARIE KELL Hip Hooray, Auntie Anne-Marie is 17 today, lots of love Chelsea

ANNE-MARIE KELL Happy 17th birthday lots of love Claire

JANE WOODFINE Congratulations on the birth of your beautiful son, born 19-3-96, love Marie and Jake XX

CLARK Billy and Gwen, congratulations Mam and Dad on your Silver Wedding Anniversary, love and best wishes Marie and Jake XX

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Jools, there's no beer left in Durham now, thanks to you, love from the Slappers

Happy 1/2 Century To the best Mum in the world!



Love & best wishes
Sarah & Tim XX

PEARCE



On March 30th Jean is fifty, even so she's still quite nifty, halfway there to a hundred years, through all the laughter and a few tears.
What's it like to be fifty years young?
To the greatest sister and friend - happy birthday Jean lots of love Teresa & Reg XX

JEAN PEARCE 30-3-96, dearest Noddy, happy birthday, you are still as great as ever, lots and lots of love Vic XX

JEAN PEARCE Welcome to the club, Jean, love June, Brian and family

JEAN PEARCE Happy 50th birthday Jean, love Linda and Eddie XX

JEAN PEARCE Happy birthday "old girl" love Harry and Sue

JEAN PEARCE Happy birthday childminder Jean, love Alexandra, Ben and Harry XXX

KEITH CORBETT Happy 30th birthday, hope Newcastle win just for you, love Brian, Karen, Steven and Rebecca

BONAS

1-4-96, To my special little girl, Rhianna on her 2nd birthday, love you always, Mammy and Joe XXX

BONAS

Happy 2nd birthday Rhianna Louise, lots of love and cuddles from Grandma, Uncle Lee, Auntie Julie and Alan XX

CONGRATULATIONS to Deborah and Rod, a beautiful baby boy, James Robert born 18-3-96, love little Ann, Gary, Michael - Well done Auntie Deb's love, hugs & kisses Darren XXX

Photography

SPECIAL MOMENTS wedding photography for your special day Telephone 01325 319991, 01325 301953 for excellent priced packages

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Wanted

AUCKLAND HOUSE CLEARANCE

Pay cash for antiques and old fashioned furniture, eg: china cabinets, tables, sets of chairs, hall stands, bureaux, bookcases, sideboards, chests of drawers, bedrooms furniture, mirrors, clocks, old watches, costume jewellery, chine, silverware, cutlery, crockery, jugs, bowls, vases, figurines, animals, linens etc. Anything old and interesting. Personal and discreet service
Tel 01388 608042 anytime

BEST CASH prices for furniture, 3 piece suites, china, cabinets, tables, drawers, china, linen, clocks etc., full or part houses cleared Tel 01325 314885

CASH PAID for all household furniture, suites, tables, chairs, robes, cookers, fridges, houses cleared. Tel Kingsway Salerooms 01388 661579

THREE piece suites wanted, good prices paid, old/broken suites removed free of charge, Tel 320615 or 0831 866770

GARDENER Wanted, 4 hours per week, Tel 313399 between 9am and 4pm

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ALOE VERA JUICE for irritable bowel etc, also creams for skin/muscle problems, free local delivery Tel 310758

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House Exchange

FROM 2 bedroom old part of town with garden TO 3/4 bedroom, old part of town with garden Tel 317695

FROM 3 bedroom house Agnew 3, near Woodham Village, L shaped living room, 1 dining room TO large 3/4 bedroom house Elmfield School area (Winlatter, Kirkstone etc) not Dandy Cart area Tel 321487

FROM 3 bed house in Horndale TO 2/3 bed house nearer town centre, contact 311293 or 307708

Letter to the Editor

ABUSE OF "RIGHT TO BUY"

Dear Sir,
Through your paper I would like to enquire how people can sell houses purchased from the Council under the government "right to buy" scheme, then make themselves "homeless" and be allowed another Council house. They then keep the huge profits made and return to paying rent.
I am only enquiring if this is true as the other night in a local club, I overheard a lady stating she was

going to sell her house and had been informed that she would receive a Council bungalow. This statement took me slightly aback, as she seemed to be in perfect health as she danced with her partner. Surely bungalows should be kept for elderly, disabled persons who are not capable of climbing stairs etc.
Perhaps other comments may throw some light on this matter.
A Busman
Hullock Road

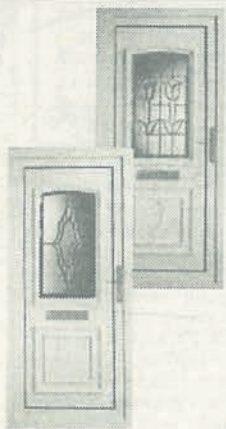
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T.A. CENTRE HOSTS ARMY EXERCISE



A newly re-organised Territorial Army Medical Unit was put onto an active footing in near-Arctic conditions in County Durham this weekend.

Casualties treated ranged from relatively trivial matters like Appendicitis and Diarrhoea and Vomiting to much more serious things like large chest injuries and traumatic limb amputation.

But these were not 'real' injuries but carefully made-up casualties courtesy of the casualty simulation department of our local Medical Unit, 201 (Northern) Field Hospital which recruits widely on Tyne, Wear and Teesside as well as in Southern County Durham.

Some 120 part-time medics were taking part in Exercise Northern Angel and working under conditions which simulated those under which they may have to work for real. On arrival at the garage accommodation at the TA Centre, Newton Aycliffe, a small hospital was quickly established. This consisted of one fully manned and equipped Operating Theatre plus a 25 bed hospital ward, and it soon had a steady, if mixed, bag of casualties to deal with.

Whilst all of the Nursing and Medical staff of this part-time unit are medically qualified in their civilian jobs, the Combat Medical Technicians in it are drawn from a wide range of civilian trades.

As Lieutenant Colonel Ian Goulborne, in 'civvy' life a senior surgeon on North Tyneside, said: "The exercise was useful in that it not only allowed the Combat Medical Technicians more practice at their clinical skills, but it was also useful for us because, on weekends such as this, we see a much greater variety of cases than we would at our normal work."

Busy Easter at Woodham Christian Centre

Woodham Christian Centre are hosting a series of events in the week preceding Easter. On Tuesday April 2nd at 6.30pm there will be a fun filled musical journey for the entire family entitled 'Noah and Sons Incorporated'. Adapted from the well loved Genesis account Noah and Sons tells the story of how Noah's three small boys and their parents co-exist with a rowdy bunch of animals on a floating zoo. Full costumed actors, life size animal puppets and an exciting collection of songs make it a stage musical not to be missed.

Wednesday April 3rd will see the HMS Players dramatized production of 'The Message', performing the story of the Bible in contemporary language. An international touring cast of 50 actors from Edmonton, Canada will vividly re-enact, in period costume, the Life of Christ and the acts of the apostles. This New Testament drama is sure to inspire and excite you! The performance commences at 7.30pm.

On Thursday April 4th, also at 7.30pm, best selling author and preacher Roberts Liardon from USA will bring a powerful presentation of the Gospel. Roberts Liardon is an exciting and lively speaker who has toured more than 80 nations with a dynamic message for this generation. It is advised to arrive early for this event as space is limited. Easter Sunday will begin with a special Easter Service at 10.30am and conclude with an Easter Pageant at 6.30pm featuring the Youth Gospel Choir, drama and special effects in an imaginative presentation of the Easter Story. Admission to all events is free.

Standards Dropped Under the S.D.C.

Dear Sir,

I am sorry 'A Proud Newtonian' was too proud to have his/her name printed at the end of his/her letter in the Newton News of March 23rd. I just want to thank this person for giving me reason to smile on a foggy, dreary, dark morning.

The bit that made me smile was the ref. to Mrs. Bouquet - not because I admire sarcasm, but the picture it conjured up - the lady of TV fame, is quite amusing. I hope Mrs. TC has a sense of humour.

First I'd like to ask 'A Proud', does it follow that because other towns have problems, we have to put up with ours. If it is snobbish to want things nice, then an awful lot of us are snobs. Unfortunately though it seems, not enough.

He/she has lived in Newton Aycliffe twenty seven years. My husband and I have lived here for forty five years. As a former local newspaper correspondent, I had plenty to say about Newton Aycliffe in the past, but I can't recall ever having to complain about the filth and degradation that exists now.

Do you know when the rot set in? It was when Miss Hamilton the Housing Manager retired and we were put in the tender, caring hands of Sedgfield District Council.

Ask anybody who lived through the formative years. Green verges were not used as path ways, crocuses were not trampled down, or daffodil heads whipped off for the sheer joy of destruction. The shrubberies were tended by caring gardeners, likewise the wooded areas. Is it any wonder that in comparing then and now, many feel they have cause for complaint. Progress and changes happen with time, but there have been too many changes, for the sake of change.

When the Council saw what a good little earner Newton Aycliffe could be, the balloon went up and tenants ceased caring. Structurally and socially our little town grew and standards dropped.

I feel if Councils spent more money on the needs of the Town from whence it gets a good slice of its' income, instead of on pocket money for themselves, it could employ it's own experienced gardeners instead of the crazy sub-contractors we see performing throughout the seasons, pruning willy nilly and leaving cut grass strewn across paths and pavements, which is very slippery in wet weather, and adds another hazard to broken glass, dog dirt, spat out globs of phlegm, take away food containers and plastic bags. It could also employ extra men with spiked poles and plastic bags to clean up a lot of this rubbish. Hopefully, to see a clean town, might encourage the messy children and adults to take their rubbish home or use the appropriate bins.

Let us go back to the days when Councillors were Councillors because they cared - and not for the money they got out of it. There would be no need to bleat about Government cut backs because there would be plenty in the kitty to spend for the good of the community as a whole.

Then there is political correctness to plague us. Hog tied teachers, not allowed to administer punishment or use their own judgement when it comes to teaching, and parents afraid to chastise their off-spring because 'do gooders' do not approve, so that they lose respect for themselves and lose the respect of the children who now think they rule the roost.

It's no wonder that the uncaring grows. This I grant you, is prevalent throughout Britain and not something for which we can blame Sedgfield District Council. Unless governments have a change of heart and allow parents, teachers and the Police to rule in their spheres, nothing is going to improve.

Do you know what, I seem to have wiped the smile off my face. Never mind, the fog has lifted, it looks brighter outside. To conclude, we had a mysterious happening about three weeks ago. A little conifer was stolen from our front garden, two days later, lying in the hole left by the removal of said conifer, was another. It could have been the same one, we can't remember what the original looked like.

Needless to say we promptly planted it. - Yer can't help larfing, can yer!

Marjorie Spark
Woodham Village

WAKE UP - GET UP - GET THERE

Wake up with the Bigger, Brighter "Breakfast Show" join Peter Quest 6.00am-10.00am

You're "Home from Home" with John Pierce 10.00am - 1.00pm

Take a trip down the "Golden Freeway" back to back memories 1.00pm-2.00pm

Join Mark Brooks for more fun in the afternoon 2.00pm - 6.00pm

Stay in the "Fast Lane" with more great music 6.00pm - 7.00pm

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NEW APPOINTMENT AT HALL GARTH



Increased business has created a new job at the Hall Garth Golf and Country Club at Coatham Mundeville, near Darlington. Ruth Bloy, from Darlington, has been

appointed to assist and support the Hotel's Conference, Banqueting and Golf Co-ordinator. This is a new post, and Ruth joins from the Blackwell Grange Hotel in Darlington.

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