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FRONT PAGE LETTER

"AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE IS DYING ON ITS FEET"

Dear Sir

I read with great sadness in your columns about the demise of more good quality Town Centre shops. I particularly regret the passing into history of "Kookies Cafe", as I found the staff very friendly and there was always a good atmosphere there.

A high quality shop like "Escom" is also a grave loss to the shopping area which visitors to the town must think is dying on its feet.

It all boils down to ignoble capitalistic charlatans in London who I think are below the lowest form of parasite. These greedy, avaricious cretins are systematically destroying the whole fabric of Aycliffe Town Centre.

They should hang their heads and inflated egos in shame as they are sounding the death of knell of the area. The only thing that Aycliffe has going for it now is free car parking!

The findings of pupils at Stephenson Way Primary School are depressing - not one shopper questioned would stay in the town to go on a shopping spree. This is a pathetic and scandalous situation.

I take issue with your statement that Newton Aycliffe is the second largest town in the County.

Darlington, of course is the largest, but Bishop Auckland has about 32,000 people compared with Aycliffe's 25,000.

A quick look around at the shopping facilities in other nearby towns is a real eye-opener.

Take Ferryhill, about

half the size of Aycliffe, which has an excellent mix of shops for a place of its size and puts Aycliffe to shame.

Even Barnard Castle with a population of little more than 5,000 has a thriving little Town Centre.

It also has that old-fashioned, indefinable charm which Aycliffe lacks in abundance.

Personally, I find the Town Centre a soulless place, probably because it has no fulcrum or focal point.

Compare Aycliffe with Northallerton, admittedly North Yorkshire's County town, but it still has a population less than half of Aycliffe's at just over 10,000.

Town Centre planners should take a leaf out of its book. Northallerton's list of quality shops is seemingly endless: Barkers, Lewis & Cooper, Woolworths, Dressers, Gateway, B & Q, Wm Low and Sons etc.

There would be plenty of room for Aycliffe to expand if it went out to the former Avenue School site and the Youth Centre.

Admittedly, it would mean the demolition of some buildings and compensation settlements, but in 1996 there is nothing to entice

the bargain-hungry shopper to what is fast becoming a shoppers wasteland.

Yours faithfully
Ken Jackson

ED: Aycliffe's population is over 30,000 and still growing. Bishop Auckland Town has approximately 10,000 residents. (Wear Valley District may be 32,000.) The Shopkeepers still have no reply from their Landlords for talks.

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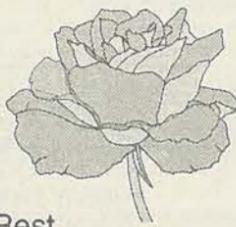
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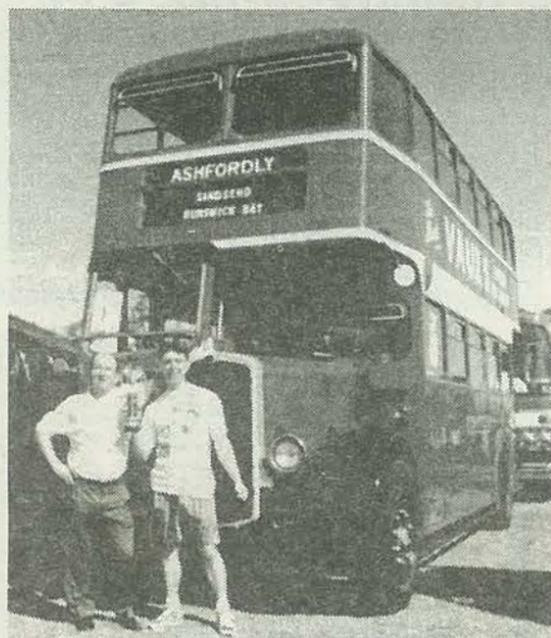
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STAR T.V. PART FOR TOWN'S BUS PRESERVATION SOCIETY VEHICLES



12 MILLION VIEWERS OF TOWN BUS!

Calling all "Heartbeat" fans - the Newton Aycliffe Scouts Supporters Association will be holding a fete on the 20th July 1996 at its Headquarters in Bluebell Way, and are pleased to announce the arrival of one of the heavyweight stars of one of the new series. Local vintage United bus or possible even two, which have been on location last month will be on 'location' at the Scout HQ, so come along to see the buses, meet the local crews who will be seen by 12 million people in the coming series.

Thirty one years ago a small and rather tatty United single-decker bus was sold to a local builder after fifteen years around the highways and the byways of Co. Durham. Fortunately fate took a hand and in spite of the threat of the scrap-yard the bus was bought by the Society for restoration. Over the last four years slow but steady progress on this work has been made and today it's FINISHED!! and we want to shout about it a little bit. Our shouting was heard down in Leeds by the Heartbeat producers who have booked up the bus together with its double-decker stable mate, for filming duties in the new series in the Autumn. So watch out around the town for the United bus to Aidsensfield. The current rally programme progresses well and last week Paul Emmerson, Ernie Hambleton and Ian Wiggitt took first prize with our "Heartbeat" double-decker at "Wheels 96" held at the Vauxhall Showground at Ellesmere Port - a marathon journey at 38mph flat out but worth the effort by its reception from locals and tourists alike.

Mayor to Visit Scout's Summer Fayre

The Annual Summer Fayre of Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association will take place at the Scout Centre, Bluebell Way on Saturday 20th July. Several other local organisations will be appearing also:- The Sugar Hill Signing Choir, Line Dancers, Casualty Union, Police and we even have TV Stars in the form of the Bus Preservation Society's vehicles which appear in the 'Heartbeat' series and were used in filming the new series last month. All the usual stalls and attractions will be there and a family disco will take place in the hall on the evening.



Mayor John Moran

The Mayor and Mayoress of Aycliffe and the Chairman of Sedgfield District Council will be attending the Fayre during the afternoon and we hope to persuade at least one of them to enter the stocks. As charities find it harder and harder to raise funds, please come along, enjoy yourselves and help us to keep the Centre going for the youth of the town.

Good Response to Walks

The Ramblers Association reports a significant response to their notices in 'Newton News' for local walks. A number of our readers have taken up the invitation for non-members to join the Ramblers organised walks. If you want to receive a full programme contact A. Hutchinson on 422164.

NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER FOR AN AWARD

A new partnership between the UK's two leading award schemes for volunteers was launched in England on Friday 31st May 1996 - at the opening of Volunteers week.

The *Whitbread and Make a Difference Volunteering Awards* are a joint venture between the Whitbread Volunteer Action Awards, which recognise individual volunteers, and the Government's Make a Difference Awards, which recognise volunteering groups, to create a definitive award scheme covering all elements of volunteering.

The Whitbread Volunteer Action Awards have been running for 14 years and have attracted hundreds of nominations annually from supporters of Britain's 21 million volunteers. Make a Difference is a major Government initiative launched in 1994 to promote voluntary involvement in the community and ensure that voluntary activity continues to be seen as an essential and enduring feature of modern society. The Prime Minister launched the first Make a Difference Awards in September last year. Run in association with The Volunteer Centre, the National Volunteer Development Agencies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the National Youth Agency, the Awards will offer £25,000 in prize money. This is divided between separate Whitbread and Make a Difference winners in seven English regions, together with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: two special youth awards made to a young individual and group involving young volunteers: a Whitbread Changemakers Award given to a young person or group of people working together as part of a school or college project: and overall UK individual and group winners. Individual winners will receive £1,000, half for the cause for which they were nominated and half to be spent at their discretion. Winning organisations will receive £1,000 to be used for developing volunteering in their organisation. The overall winners chosen from all the categories, will receive a further £1,000 to be used in the same way.

As well as the financial prizes, winning a *Whitbread and Make a Difference Volunteering Award* helps to promote and publicize the work carried out by the individual or group. Whitbread's 1995 Volunteer of the Year, Jakara Islam, who supports the Bangladesh Youth League points out: "Since winning the award, individuals and organisations are much more aware of the nature of the services provided by the organisation and myself. As a result, the organisation has received increased funding and I have found paid employment". Sarah Benioff from Dalston Youth Project, the 1995 UK winner for the Make a Difference Award said: "We were thrilled to receive the award. It proved really helpful in recruiting more volunteers and in raising much needed additional funds for our work." National Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley said: "The Government actively supports volunteering in this country and aims to encourage others to give volunteers the profile and credibility they deserve. If you know a volunteer or an organisation or group involving volunteers who deserves formal recognition for the contribution being made to their communities, please nominate them." Entries for this year's awards must be received by 27th September 1996. Independent panels of judges select the winners who will be invited to a presentation ceremony in London at the end of the year. Nominations forms are available by writing to: The *Whitbread and Make a Difference Volunteering Awards*. FREEPOST LOL 1936, Luton, Beds, LU1 3YR or telephoning (01582) 397759 or (01582) 397292.

New M.D. for Parkersell



Charles Menzies-Wilson has been appointed Managing Director of Parkersell (Lighting & Electrical) Services with its local office in Newton Aycliffe. The company is the UK's leading lighting maintenance organisation for commercial, industrial, retail and government sectors. He joins Parkersell from Modern Security Systems where he held the post of Business Manager. Previous career history includes management positions with Initial Property Maintenance and Cyanamid (UK) as well as a period as an independent management consultant. Charles holds an MBA from Cranfield and is a Member of the Institute of Marketing. On joining Parkersell he commented: "Our aim is to continue the growth of Parkersell, and to achieve this by remaining the most efficient and effective supplier of lighting and electrical maintenance services to industry and commerce."

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The North East Branch of the N.G.B.F. offer an opportunity to visit BEAMISH MUSEUM any one day up to 27th October 1996 for ONLY £4.00 per Ticket. (Usual Prices: Adult £6.99*, Children (£4.99) - *£7.99 through July/August. You can get your tickets from: Mr. Peter Beaty, 5 Ainsty Hunt, The Chase. Tel: 313924. Cheques should be made payable to "N.G.B. Fund (N.E. Branch)".

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NEW ITEC ASSESSOR APPOINTED



Aycliffe based Business and IT training provider, ITEC NORTH EAST announce the appointment of GWEN AYLIFFE as training Supervisor and assessor. Gwen will teach HNC Business Administration and IT students in addition to training N.V.Q levels 2,3 and 4. In the commercial arena, Gwen will take trainees through software programmes with ITEC's commercial training division, VISION TRAINING Ltd. Gwen is an authorised assessor for the Modern Apprenticeship programme and will work with Modern Apprentices at ITEC North East's Team Valley and Newton Aycliffe centres.

Service Station Brings "Drive-Thru Macs" to Aycliffe

Local farmer entrepreneur Fred Forest, advertises in this issue for staff to work in his new Motorway Service Station nearing completion, just outside Aycliffe Village.

Initially 20 jobs are on offer, with more to come when the 80 bed Travel Lodge and the Drive-Through MacDonalDs open. The Shell petrol station will also have a very large forecourt shop selling virtually everything, from groceries, books, flowers, to fast food with a small seating area.

Fred Forest has shown great perception in obtaining this site, though some are not happy with this level of development in the countryside.

But Fred's plans also show some high quality landscape work on the site and includes a picnic site for visitors. This project will certainly bring vitality to the Newton Aycliffe motorway junction, not to mention extra full and part-time jobs for local people. Fred Forest has invested heavily in this locality and he deserves support.

Letter to the Editor PRAISE FOR SCHOOL ON TOWN CENTRE SHOPS SURVEY

Dear Sir,
I was very interested to read your two articles about the falling retailing standards available to our town's residents and must admit to agreeing with the sentiments expressed.

The information collected by the children of Stephenson Way School was not only very informative but also a realistic exercise for them in data gathering from the adult world.

A hearty well done to the enterprise of the children and their teacher! I think everyone in Newton Aycliffe is concerned about the problems we all have to tolerate when we need to buy anything special for ourselves or our homes.

There is one misconception arising from the information presented however, when you reported the deficiencies in the range of shops available to us - "Other shops identified as lacking included: food shops, gift shops, music shops and DIY Stores."

There is in fact a very good DIY shop to the rear of the Town Centre on Greenwell Road - Homeplan DIY. This shop not only competes in terms of price with the 'big boys' like Dickens and B&Q but they also stock an extensive range of goods - and offer a free local delivery service, as well as advice and help with DIY projects.

I have been shopping at Homeplan since it opened in the Town Centre proper in 1987. Bob, the first owner moved the shop to its present site, not only in response to rising rents, to allow him to maintain price competitiveness but also to allow better access for loading and unloading bulky DIY materials - the shop is surrounded by free car parks.

I hope that you are able to rectify this reporting oversight and give credit to one little shop that is still providing a competitive and helpful service to all of our residents.

J. T. Parkin
Barrington Road

SPONSORSHIP FOR RUNNERS

Are you one of the 31,000 runners in this years Great North Run on Sunday 15th September, if so would you consider being sponsored on behalf of the Darlington & District Branch of Alzheimer's Disease Society?

Alzheimer's Disease is a physical disease which causes a progressive decline in the ability to remember, to learn, to think and to reason. The

causes are not fully understood and at the present time there is no known cure, but much research is being carried out.

In Darlington we have a Day Care Centre, Sitting Service and a Carers Support Group.

We will supply you with a T-Shirt and sponsor forms, anyone interested should please ring the Branch Office on 01325 284668 for more information.

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The wage for this post is £173.43p per week.

Application forms are available from the Oak Leaf Sports Complex, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe and the closing date for applications is 28th July 1996.

NEWTON PARK SERVICES

A new motorway service station will shortly be opening at the junction of the A167/A1M.

To offer the highest standards of customer care and service we require full time and part time staff:

- Ref 1 Sales Assistants (day shifts)
- Ref 2 Sales Assistants (nights)
- Ref 3 Outside/Forecourt Cleaners
- Ref 4 Administration Assistant

Relevant experience would be an advantage, however a pleasant personality and a commitment to service are the main requirements.

Minimum age of 21 years for all vacancies

Apply to:

"Newton Park", c/o Newton Press,
St. Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe

Ticket Sellers!

'HELP THE AGED', Durham branch, are looking for volunteers to sell draw tickets to friends in workplaces.

Anyone interested in helping should ring PETER BEATY on 313924.

NEW ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT



TONY BIRD OF REDWORTH IS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE ROTARY CLUB. HE IS SHOWN HERE WITH JOHN DORMER, AFTER HE HANDED OVER THE CHAIN OF OFFICE. TONY IS A MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY BUSINESS CONSULTANT.

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REMNANT SUPERSTORE: ABRAHAM IND EST ST HELENS AUCKLAND
 (01388) 450123 OPEN: Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm, Sat: 9am-4pm, Sun: Closed, Late Night: Thur: 9am-6pm.

ALSO AT CHESTER-LE-ST (0191) 3871382

FINES FOR SLOW PAYERS PROPOSED BY EURO M.P.

The European Parliament this week backed a Labour proposal, strongly supported by local Labour Euro MP Stephen Hughes, for legal penalties for companies that pay their bills late.

The proposal, penned by Labour Euro MP Lyndon Harrison, calls for legally binding rules including a statutory right to interest on payments made late.

Stephen Hughes, Labour Euro MP for Blaydon and Durham said "Late payments cause big cash flow problems for small businesses and have driven many firms to the wall. Late payments are responsible for throwing far too many workers onto the dole. With more and more British firms doing business with companies in other EU countries this is a problem which requires a European solution."

But the plan supported by Stephen Hughes for legally binding European rules on late payments clashes with the European Commission's proposal for a non-binding recommendation to member states. Stephen Hughes wants the European Parliament to

stick to its guns and persuade the European Commission to replace its weaker stance in favour of Labour MEP's tougher plan for an enforceable Directive.

He said "There is an urgent need for rules backed by the force of law. Recommendations will just be ignored." Stephen Hughes added "The money tied up in late payments could generate many new jobs if only the money could be released."

£1800 From Garden Party

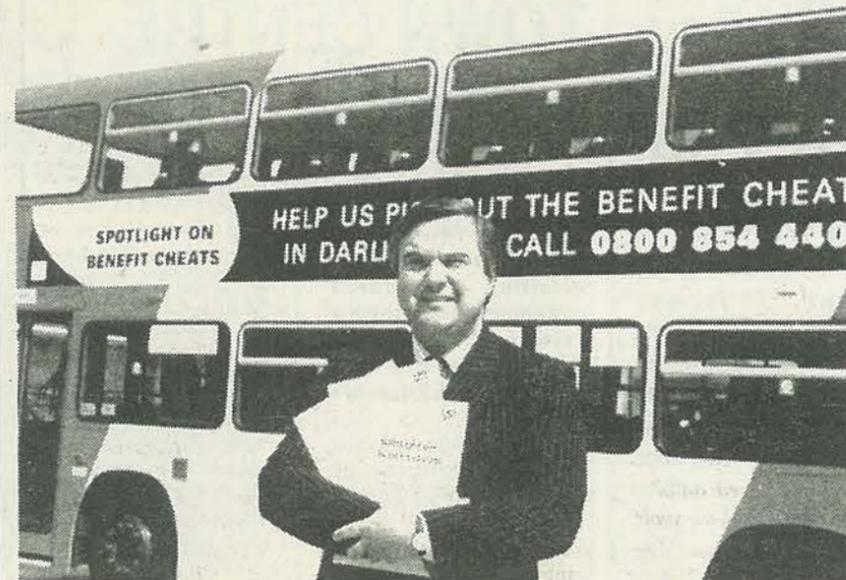
The 'Garden Party' held at St. Clare's last Saturday raised £1800 for the Parish Development Fund. We would like to thank everyone who came along to support this event and helped to make it a success.

Special thanks to the children of 'Sugar Hill Sign Sing Choir' who came along to entertain. Competition winners were: Clown (31) - R. Hargreaves, Sweets in Jar (189) - M. Johnson, Treasure Island - M. Curran.

Prize Draw Winning Numbers: 2604, 1257, 4574, 2214, 3843, 2636, 2886, 3550, 1831, 4551, 4749, 1693, 4716, 0006, 1177, 2690, 3370, 2607, 2074, 1002, 4654, 3176, 3251, 1544, 3598.

Prizes can be collected from the Church Hall on Saturday morning's between 10.00am and 12 noon.

REPORT FRAUDS WHO CHEAT US OUT OF £MILLIONS



OLIVER HEALD MP, Social Security Fraud Minister, launches the 'Operation Spotlight' clamp-down on benefit cheats in the Darlington, Newton Aycliffe and Teesdale Areas on his visit to Darlington last week.

"Spotlight On Benefit Cheats", the anti-benefit fraud campaign will be focusing on Darlington and the Newton Aycliffe and everyone is urged to co-operate in stopping the millions of pounds it costs the ratepayer each year.

Oliver Heald, the Social Security Fraud Minister announced this as the twenty first area to be targeted in a campaign which will extend to other parts of the UK over the next few months.

Some recent cases which have come to light in our area include:

- * Four men renovating a house were found to be working whilst receiving benefits, primarily Income Support. *Benefit savings amounted to around £12,500;*
- * An exercise involving local police and Benefits Agency fraud investigators led to a raid on a new construction site, where people were working while receiving benefits, mainly Income Support. Eleven people were interviewed, resulting in *benefit savings of almost £17,000;*
- * An exercise mounted by traffic police and other agencies involved checking vans, and produced *benefit savings of £28,000.* These primarily involved people claiming Income Support and Unemployment Benefit;
- * A joint operation between Benefits Agency and Contributions Agency investigators revealed a person who was receiving Income Support while running a double glazing business. *Benefit savings amounted to more than £7,000.*

Extending the 'Spotlight' campaign, Mr. Heald said: "Benefit fraud across the country costs the taxpayer some **£3 billion a year.**"

Benefit fraud is a particularly selfish crime. Every pound lost through fraud is a pound that could be going to those in genuine need.

"Intensive publicity alerting local people to the new campaign will begin this week. 'Spotlight' aims to encourage those who have drifted into abusing the benefit system to report any changes in circumstances and put their claims right."

"Overpayments will be pursued as a matter of course but the fact that someone has come forward will be one of the factors taken into account when weighing up whether to take prosecution action, in particular for a minor offence."

"In just four weeks, 'Spotlight' in Haringey and Enfield netted £3.1 million, over half of last year's annual fraud savings total of £5.6 million in that area. Results from other Spotlight areas are similarly striking. Less than three months after the start of action in the first Spotlight areas, we estimate over £22 million in fraudulent benefit payments have been stopped."

"After two weeks of intensive local publicity to warn people to put their affairs in order, a crackdown will begin involving:

- * a "freephone" hotline number - 0800 854 440 - to tell DSS staff in confidence about suspected fraud;
- * local data-matching exercises to identify cases meriting investigation;
- * special drives on types of employers and self-employed likely to be involved in benefit fraud;
- * higher profile for Housing Benefit fraud, particularly where landlords may be involved;
- * extra home visits on new an existing claimants.

"Let me stress that the choice of Darlington area does not mean it has a particularly high level of fraud - indeed, fraud levels are broadly similar around the country, and this campaign will be targeting many other parts of the UK in the coming months. They were selected simply because they are compact areas where the DSS and other Agencies are geared up for this project."

The Benefits Agency detected more than £700m of fraud across the country last year. Fraud investigators are set to achieve savings of over £1 billion in 1995/96. The amount of fraud savings in Darlington in 1995/96 was about £3.6 million.

COULD YOU HOST A FOREIGN STUDENT FOR A YEAR?

Youngsters from 20 different countries have been selected to come to Britain to take part in an International Student Exchange Programme organised by the Educational Foundation for Foreign Study, a world wide non-profit organisation whose aim is to promote international understanding by giving youngsters between 16 and 18 the opportunity to participate in an International Cultural Exchange Programme.

The youngsters are here not only to improve their English but to learn about our culture and way of life. They do this by living with a British family, as part of that family - not a guest or a lodger - and attending a British school.

The programme has been running in England for the past 10 years, Britain has offered to host 200 students, almost double last years figure of 116, and are hoping that, once again, the people of the North East will open their homes and welcome about 30 youngsters and once again show the rest of the country that our hospitality is the best. Every year since the programme began the people of this area have responded more positively than any other area in Britain, and Newton Aycliffe people have been wonderful at rallying to a plea for help. Last year 5 families in Aycliffe hosted youngsters, and 4 have already come forward to host again - one family for the eighth time. However, if a few more people could come forward and offer to help a youngster that would be magnificent, and I'm sure the families would get a lot of enjoyment out of having a new member of their family.

I'm sure that once again the people from this area will come forward to show that not only are we the most hospitable and friendly area of the country but most internationally minded. It is hoped that young people from as far afield as Japan, Scandinavia, South America, Holland, USA, Canada, Hong Kong and Germany will make this community truly international.

Time is running out -

Although they are not due to come to their families until the beginning of September most must have a family willing to host them by the end of this month or they will not be able to come and their dreams will be shattered. To be selected they must complete very detailed applications, submit school grades and references, some are selected for interview and are interviewed in both their own language and English as their English must be of a reasonably good standard as they must take on a full curriculum at school. Some will also have a written test. The lucky ones are then selected. - Just think how disappointed they will be after surviving the trauma of all this only to find at the last minute they can not come because there isn't a family willing to host them.

Could you help? - Host families are volunteers and come from all walks of life, it is not essential to have children of your own - often a

host family's children have grown up and left home and they miss having youngsters around the place. All we require is that a family provides a bed and an extra place at their table and most important a friendly caring atmosphere in which a youngster can feel safe and happy. The students have their own pocket money for personal effects, bus fares, entertainment and clothes. I'm sure that Aycliffe people will want to show true North Eastern hospitality and open up their homes and their hearts to these youngsters once they know about the programme and how the dreams of these youngsters are depending upon them.

Families choose - Local voluntary co-ordinator Gloria Williams would match up family and student interests and the families will be given information about several students and they choose the student they think will fit into their way of life. The youngsters go to local schools or 6th form colleges and this is all organised by your local co-ordinator, who is there all year to help with any questions or give advice.

Last week many tears were shed as this years students departed for their home countries as they had truly become "One of the family", many calling their host parents "MAM and DAD". Some families are already planning a holiday at their new "sons or daughters" and all students want to come back to their second home.

How to help - If you think you could help one of these young girls or boys, please phone local voluntary co-ordinator Gloria Williams on 0191 4109993 who will be very happy to send you more information and answer any questions you may have. *Please help - these youngsters are depending on YOU!*

School Runs First Charity Duck Race

The Greenfield Challenge is going quackers! Hamsterley Forest has kindly agreed to our use of the river there on Wednesday 17th July for a first - the Greenfield Duck Race! 'Ducks' are available from the school at £1 per ticket, prizes for first 3 ducks home will be: £300, £200 and £100.

All proceeds will go to the above appeal to fund a visiting group of Romanian children during Easter 1997.

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Here now until Saturday 20th July (10.00am to 5.00pm)

Local Villages Receive Generous Lottery Grants

Flourishing amateur dramatics groups in the villages of Bradbury and Mordon have gained a new multi-purpose hall, with facilities fit for a professional theatre, thanks to a £63,500 National Lottery Arts Council grant.

Mordon Village Hall has

thrown open its doors to the public for the first official viewing, with 80-year old Harry Young - the man responsible for the first village hall - as the guest of honour. The original hall began life as three army huts, which were cobbled together in 1947 to form a well-used community

facility which - as well as a social centre - doubled as a polling station and a church.

Functions have changed - quiz nights, yoga classes, and the renowned village pantomime are now the order of the day - but the village hall remains equally central to the local community.

Sweet Smell of Success



The Boots Fathers' Day Fine Fragrance Competition was won by guessing the correct fragrances from a number of clues. This years winner was Mrs. A DE RIJK of Newton Aycliffe who won a fragrance of her choice. The prize was presented by Karen Brooke, Pharmacy assistant, who organised the competition.

Letter to the Editor

Older Children Should Play on Fields Provided

Dear Sir,
In reply to an 'Ancient Onlooker' regarding the sign erected on a small green surrounded by private dwellings. - ALL BALL GAMES PROHIBITED". I am sure the person is aware that a petition was submitted to the Council to have these signs removed, from people living directly adjacent to the green. This was done in a democratic way and on this occasion 90% of the residents signed. Nobody wants to stop small children playing but on this occasion you have been misinformed. Boys 7 to 13 years + play with a full size football using 2 wheelie bins at each end of the green for goal posts. They play until 10.00pm some evenings, also Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons with the ball banging into front windows and expensive double glazed doors. Small flower gardens at the front are trampled. Most of the children's parents live around the

corner, away from the constant thud from a football, shouting and banging of bins and lids. They can enjoy more solitude on a Sunday afternoon, not to mention school holidays. Just 100yds to the north is a large playing field ideal for football and 150yds to the south is a playing field with recreation facilities.

Yes a percentage of the people who protested had children themselves but they were taught to respect other peoples property and privacy so they did not play football on this small green. They went 100yds to the recreation fields. By the way, at each end of this green there are carparks. - Have you ever seen the damage a wet, gritty, football can do skidding along the paint work? Yes LET THE CHILDREN PLAY but in the playing fields provided, and under parental supervision if necessary. From a not so Ancient Resident
Name & Address supplied

Letter Officials Did Not Bother To Watch Children

Dear Sir,
'Sugar Hill Sign Sing Concert'
Congratulations to all those who performed a sign language concert to music under the excellent direction of Margaret Bains on Sunday lunch-time, following a service at St. Mary's Church attended by Tony Blair and other dignitaries. Mr. Blair seemed suitably impressed and spent some time addressing the participants. It was, however, very noticeable that the remainder of the heavily adorned officials did not bother to step outside to watch the performance and, I surmise, deem themselves too important to witness the local young talent. What a good job the Country is not going to have to rely on their sociable qualities in future Government!
Yours faithfully
D. Williams (Mrs)
Skirlaw Road

CORNMILL SPONSORS PANTOMIME

Darlington Civic Theatre and the Cornmill Shopping Centre in Darlington are delighted to announce the sponsorship of this year's panto - "Jack and the Beanstalk". The sponsorship announcement coincides with the addition of the White Power Ranger to the cast which already includes The Grumbleweeds, Michael Elphick and Hilary O'Neil. The sponsorship agreement with the Theatre will mark the first time the Cornmill Shopping Centre has sponsored the Arts. Cornmill Centre Manager, Albion Small said: "We are very excited about the sponsorship deal.

Christmas is a very busy time for the Centre and the Theatre, by working closely with the Theatre at this important trading time for both of us, we will be able to maximise the joint benefits for both organisations and their customers". Ruth Eastwood, Head of Theatre and Arts at Darlington Civic Theatre said: "The Theatre is delighted to welcome the Cornmill Shopping Centre on board what should

prove to be a highly successful platform to promote both the Theatre and the Centre to the local community. We look forward to a very Happy Christmas." Tickets are on sale for the panto from the Box Office (01325) 486555

IT IS YOUR NEWSPAPER
'Newton News' is your community newspaper and the editor is always pleased to receive letters which should include the name, address and telephone number of the correspondent. The details will be omitted from the published version if requested. We also encourage individuals and organisations to send news and photographs of events they consider of general interest to our readers. Photographs, which can be in colour, need to be a good clear reproduction and will be available for collection from the Newton Press office after use.

DURHAM IN TOP THIRD ON HEALTH

County Durham Health Authority ranks in the top third of Health Authorities in the 1995/96 national performance tables for vaccination and immunisation rates, cervical smear test rates and the number of GP practices with charters.

Vaccination & Immunisation Rates:-

- 94.5% of babies in the County were immunised this year in the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunisation programme. This was 3.1% above the national average and placed County Durham Health Authority 10th out of a total of 100 Health Authorities in the NHS Performance tables.
- 96.6% of children in the County were given the diphtheria vaccination (1.2% above the national average) positioning county Durham 26th out of 100 Health Authorities assessed.

Cervical Smear Test Rates:-

- 88% of women in the County received a cervical smear test which rated the Health Authority 3% higher than the national average.

GP Practices with Charters:-

- The Health Authority's continual close work with GPs resulted in 78% of surgeries having an easy to read Practice Charter detailing standards of services their patients can expect.

Tony Jameson, chief executive of County Durham Health Authority welcomed the NHS performance table results. He said: "They confirm our long standing commitment to improving the health of the people in the County".

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MAYORESS 'AT HOME'

The Mayoress of Great Aycliffe, Mrs. Mary Moran, will be holding her "At Home" on Thursday 18th July, 1996 between 2.30pm and 4.30pm in the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe. Mrs. Moran extends a warm welcome to residents to join her on this occasion for refreshments and an informal chat with herself and her other guests.

MAYOR AND MAYORESS AT SCHOOL SPORTS DAY



Walworth School, Newton Aycliffe recently held its Annual Sports Day. All the children aged 5-15 years participated. They took part in a series of events and there were commendable performances from the children. A lot of the children's parents and friends came and supported their efforts. At the end of the afternoon the Captains of the teams were presented with Trophies from the Mayor of Great Aycliffe Town Council and the Mayoress. The Mayor said, "I was very pleased to see the amount of effort shown by all of the children and they were rewarded with great success". The photograph shows: The Mayor and Mayoress with the Captains of each team, from left to right - Craig Hanson, Michael Inwood, Lee Stebbing and Ainsley Adams.

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AYCLIFFE ITEC SPONSOR GUIDE AND SCOUT SWEDISH CAMP

A group of ten girls representing the Durham South Guide County will take off for Sweden on the 27th July '96, to attend NOMAD '96, the Swedish Guide and Scout Movements annual Summer Camp.
County Outdoor Activities Adviser, CHRIS LANDERS, has found a novel way to raise the sponsorship for her passage and to pay for the girls badged sweat-shirts.
Chris explains: "When I approached my boss, DAVID BAKER, the Managing Director of Aycliffe based ITEC North East, for leave to attend Nomad '96, he told me that if I hit my targets to sign up companies and young people in the region to the ITEC North East Modern Apprentice Programme, David would make a contribution to my passage and sponsor the girls sweat-shirts".
Chris was due to meet her Modern Apprentice targets at the end of March '96, however interest in the programme was so keen that Chris was back knocking on David's door at the end of January '96 having filled her quota.
ITEC North East Managing Director, David D. Baker comments: "We are happy to sponsor Chris and the remark about hitting her targets was meant in jest. It's worked out well for all concerned, however. Chris gets her sponsorship and companies throughout South Durham benefit from Modern Apprenticeship, in addition to the young people we have selected to be Modern Apprentices. The objective for Nomad '96 is a raised awareness of foreign culture, particularly minority groups. The girls will experience life among the Samii people from northern Sweden during their stay, in the Samii village set up at the camp.
In addition, the girls will take part in canoeing, a trapper trail, Samii crafts, swimming, a night patrol and they will swap cultural references with youngsters from all over Europe.

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In Memory

BROWN Sadly missed, in our thoughts, love and Denise BROWN died 14-7-95. son-in-law. Deep in my memory is kept of one and will never forget. missed Nan PH BROWN 14-7-95. were a friend for many Now you've gone away, member Joe you're in ughts with each passing Sadly missed Ken, ret, Kenneth and Laura PH BROWN 14-7-95. you went away and left me. Now we are feeling me. No smiles, no kisses, ords of advice. Only memories for the rest of es. We loved you then, ve you still, and we s will. Love Michelle acy PH BROWN 14-7-95. been a year since that day, when God decided you away. Even though re with me no longer. each passing day my rows stronger. I never ned life without you. imes I don't know what do. All I have are ories of the love we d together. Memories there weight in gold that ay with me forever. I you are watching from ve. So I am sending you essage of love. I will s love you. Your loving Doreen YEARS have passed but red memories remain of oving comical brother, ou always George from family MAEL CURTIS A heart stopped beating, your eyes to rest, God my heart to prove to me, ly takes the best, love MAEL CURTIS In ry of Michael who died 91, always in our hts, Gran, Grandad, Brian and Dancer MAEL CURTIS 12-7- ever in our hearts, ibered every day, all our ways, Pauline, Chris, and Joel MAEL CURTIS 12th 991. 5 years have passed ou were taken away, the che and pain will never ay. Love Grandma, a and John MAEL CURTIS 12th 991. Darling Michael, ss was Heavens gain, the n our hearts will never e last 5 years have been rinity without you, you e forever our blue eyed oy. Love and miss you s Mummy, Sean, Claire achael RENCE BRUMWELL 15th July 1987. No what we say or do, will life easier without you. with you in the same old would be our dearest today. Our love forever ette, Owen and Carl E HAMMOND 13-7- ana you are sadly missed ever forgotten, we love s you Karen & Michael E HAMMOND 13-7- oodnight and God bless Nana, love you Gareth X E HAMMOND 13-7- lose in our hearts you always stay. Loved and nbered every day, Keith arbara MOND Rose Hannah. 95. Sadly missed and forgotten you will s be remembered with and affection Maurice live ATKINS 13th July Loving memories of a Mam and nanna. Eight gone by without you but emories will last forever. ys in our thoughts. Son , grandsons Paul and ATKINS A thousand won't bring you back, I because I've tried, now million tears, I know se I've cried. How can rite on paper what you iside, the headache and ness when the mam you has died. Although I t see you, I am with you day, for the love you me in life, death cannot way, loved always, your g daughter Karen X. We and miss you so much , Danielle and John

Birthday Remembrance

MICHAEL CURTIS Little boy so sweet, your in our thoughts throughout the week, so very special in every way, from us to you Happy birthday. Love Auntie Dominique and Uncle Kevin MICHAEL CURTIS 14-7-89. Have a lovely 7th birthday with the angels Mikey, all our love, hugs and kisses Pauline, Chris, Kyle and Joel XX HUTCHINSON, Robert Thomas (Bob), 12th July. The hardest thing in life to bear, is to want your Dad and he's not there. My Dad, my friend you were the lot, you stood by me no matter what. You left a place no-one can fill. I miss you Dad and always will. All my love today and tomorrow, Kerry XXX - Find your softest pillow Lord, one of your very best and give it to my Grandad Bob for his head to rest. Love and hugs and kisses from Paige XX HUTCHINSON, BOB 12th July. No birthday cards to send this year, no birthday kisses today, no smiling face, no jokes, no laughs, it's just another day. Eyes cannot see the pain we feel, mere words just cannot say how much you are loved, how much you are missed today and everyday. All our love daughter Sharon and son-in-law Alan XX HUTCHINSON, BOB 12th July, If tears could build a staircase and memories could make a lane, we'd climb our way to heaven Grandad and bring you back home again. Lots of love from your grandchildren Leon and Kaylee XX MICHAEL CURTIS 14th July 1989. Thinking of you Michael on your 7th birthday, love Grandma, Grandad and John MICHAEL CURTIS 14th July 1989. To day your seven, no party to give, just left with thoughts of what should have been. Happy birthday Michael, love Mummy, Sean, Claire and Rachael

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ASHWOOD ARTS Decoupage and Framing Specialists Blue Bridge Centre Horndale Avenue Newton Aycliffe 300185 "Why bother the rest come to the best", quality and price count. Trade and public welcome (discounts in bulk). For all your Decoupage and framing needs visit our showroom, 1000's of prints arriving daily, glue, glaze, scissors, spacerbars etc. Classes in Decoupage for beginners and advanced, take place on Wednesday daytime and Wednesday evening for more information Tel 300185. Framing and mount service available any size same/next day service with over 50 mount colours and 20 frame designs at competitive prices. You don't need to look elsewhere, you name it we frame it. Ring or call in for a quote OPENING TIMES: Mon-Thur 9.30-4.30pm Friday 9.30-3.30pm Sat 9.30am-12.30pm Wed Eve 7-9pm

NEED A NEW LOOK? Host a Leggs Party and you can earn it. Phone Ann 310856 now

COMMUNITY FAIR Wishing Well Club "Guess the Number of Peas" competition, exact number 5100. Winner M Joseph of Malton with 5099 GLADIATORS at Birmingham, Wednesday 14th August, pick up St Clares, Aycliffe Village and Heighington. £15 adults, £12 children inclusive of admission Tel 313924, limited seats COACH TRIP to Edinburgh, Wednesday 11th September 8.10. Pick up St Clares, Blyerley Park, Aycliffe Village and Heighington Tel 313924 to book. SECOND-HAND book stall at St Clares on Saturday 20th July from 10am to 12 noon. Home-made cake stall and refreshments, proceeds for parish development fund SKINCARE and make-up demonstration with De-esse of Switzerland at Scouts Hall on Monday 22nd July, all welcome, free admission

DRAMA CLASSES STARTING Thursday 1st August 7.00pm - 8.00pm Woodham Community Centre Contact (for details) Kathryn Ackley Tel 317748

Accommodation

HOMELY LODGINGS available, long and short term, Bed, Breakfast and Evening Meal. DSS welcome 361502 HOUSE TO LET Newton Aycliffe 3 bedroom house and garage, gas central heating, carpets and curtains, bond and reference required Tel 01388 662050

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LARGE VAN and driver for hire, cheap rates in Aycliffe area Tel 01388 777993 or 0831 866770 anytime

Congratulations

PERCIVAL Mam and Dad on your Ruby Wedding



Lots of love Denise, Bill, Julie and Richard

PERCIVAL Grandma and Grandad, happy 40th anniversary, love and best wishes from Billy, Daniel and Aimee LOUISE well done on the birth of Beth, love Gary and Denise BRASSELL Happy 20th David, love Mam and Dad XX BRASSELL Have a great day dippy, your brothers Steven, Scott and Scott Luke BRASSELL Happy 20th David, all our love, best wishes Grandma and Aunt Maureen XXX CONGRATULATIONS David Brassell and Kim, we wish you the very best for the future, all our love Mam, Dad, Brothers, Grandma's, Grandad, Great Grandad, Aunties and Uncles BRASSELL TEMPLETON Congratulations David and Kim on your engagement, lots of love, luck and happiness for the future, Mam, Dad, Sarah and Iain LASSIE TEMPLE! Happy 37th birthday, have a good night, Saturday, love Jackie XX HILL Congratulations Mary and Bryan on your Silver Wedding, 10th July, from Michaela and Kirsty, Mam, Dad, Billy, Pauline ZARA HINDMARCH Happy 13th birthday, 15th July, lots of love Dad and Mam ZARA HINDMARCH Happy 13th birthday to our big sister, love Paul, Dean, Jade, Demi and Ross Keegan HEWITSON Joe and Margaret congratulations Mam and Dad on your Golden Wedding Anniversary, 27-7-96. May you have many more, happy years Tony, Irene and family LEWIS BOWMER Happy 3rd birthday, lots of love and kisses Grandma and Grandad and Uncle Ben LEWIS BOWMER Happy 3rd birthday, lots of love Mummy and Michael POCOCK Julie and Steve, congratulations on your Wedding 6-7-96, best wishes and love Elaine, Andrew and Eve XXX LAUREN PODMORE Happy 4th birthday, 11-7-96, love Mummy and Daddy ANTHONY FAWCETT Happy 40th birthday, love Christine and Laura XX GRIFFITHS Happy birthday Ian, lots of love Mam, Dad, Diane, Stephen and Nephews GRIFFITHS Happy 30th birthday Ian, all my love Sharon X GRIFFITHS Happy 30th birthday Ian, love Mary and Buzz HAPPY 30th birthday Ian, you old git!, love from Leigh, Tamsin and Jordan CRAGGILL Douglas and Jessie, happy Ruby Wedding Anniversary, Dad and Mum, 14th July, congratulations, love from Robin, Vicki, Ellie, Steve and Chelsie WHEATLEY Amanda Jane. To a very special little girl on her 1st birthday, 15th July, love Mummy and Daddy BECCY OLIVER Congratulations, 21 years on 20th July. Sunshine smiles a laughter, 21 years from a special daughter. Sunshine smiles and happiness, in you my lass I have the best. All the love in the world to you Beccy from Mam, Den and Kelly

Julie Martin We told you there would be sweet revenge Happy 42nd birthday, love Tracy and Shane



Graduation Congratulations

GELL Congratulations Caroline on gaining your BA in Law, love from us all and good luck for the future. Grandma, Aunt Pauline, Uncle Michael, Sarah & Amy JOANNE METCALFE Congratulations on gaining your BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Sciences at Sunderland University and good luck with the new job!! Love from Mam and all the family LEE Karen Marie, congratulations and well done on gaining your BSc (Hons) in European Business and Technology, 2/1 Degree. All the best for the future, we are all very proud of you, love Mam, Dad, Jayne and Adam. LEE Congratulations Karen on gaining your BSc Degree, well done, love you Gran. LEE Congratulations Karen on gaining your 2/1 Degree. Best wishes for the future, love Grandma and Grandad CLARE SPOTTISWOODE Congratulations on attaining class 2:1 Bachelor of Law Hons Degree at Nottingham Law School. Love from Mam, Lisa, Alec and Nanna NEIL MORRIS Congratulations Neil on passing your exams and achieving your BSc. Good luck in your new job, love Mam and Dad STUART JOYCE well done Stuart on gaining your B.ed Honours degree, we're very proud of you. With all our love from Mam, Dad, Tracy, David, Andrew, Katrina, Ben and Jessica JULIE KILPATRICK Many congratulations on gaining a first class honours degree, we knew you could do it! All at Woodham Burn Infants School

Exchange

FROM one bedroom ground floor flat with front and back garden, Bluebell Close TO any house in Central part of town Tel 316341 FROM a two bedroom bungalow near St Mary's church TO a two bedroom bungalow in Ashfield, Oakfield or Beechfield area Tel 321405 FROM 2 bedroom Shafto Way TO 2 bedroom with garage or 3 bedroom please contact 301104

Lost & Found

LOST CAT female Persian cat, cream with dark ears, tail, paws and face. Blue eyes. Lost in Woodham area Telephone: 301151

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AUTO CHIP Specialist Repairs to: Stone Chips, Scratches Colour Coded Bumpers and Mirrors Non Painted Bumpers Dashboard & Upholstery Tel 307177 Mob 0802 474229

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For Sale

GERANIUMS, Fuchsias, Nasturtiums, Lupins, Pansy's and Violas for sale, Travellers Green Nursery Tel 312453 TEAK wall unit 6'x3'x6' comprising drinks cupboard, display cabinet, two cupboards, 3 drawers £85 ONO Tel 310890 MANUAL OLIVETTI typewriter, light weight with carrying case, very good condition £25 ONO Tel 313764 SILVERCROSS pushchair £25, child car seat £10, child car seat £20 Tel 313104 CONCRETE bird bath, 18" high with octagonal base, thick stem tapering to a 10" round basin with fluted underside - a bargain at only £12 Tel 313924 can deliver BRAND NEW 3 piece suites from £360 at Bargain Buys Tel 321678 LOUNGE WALL unit, mahogany, 6' high x 5'2 1/2" wide, as new £80 Tel 307039 CAVENISH diamond electric organ £150 Tel 310631 GARDEN SHED 4'x4' £20 Tel 310697 GOLF CLUBS Slazenger Californian 4, 6, 8, W, SW, 1, 3, 5, Metal Woods and bag with over 30 balls £55 Tel 317793 THREE PIECE suite, traditional red/pink figured, 10 cushions, reversible £100 Tel 310763 CONIFERS 3ft high £4 each Tel 307969 MACLAREN sit/lie pushchair, VGC, £50 Tel 320770 SCANDINOVA fridge freezer, good condition £50 Tel 316711 BLACK ASH wall unit, drinks display cabinet, £60. Black ash hexagon table and chairs £80. Black ash TV/ video cabinet £15. Black ash hi-fi cabinet £10 Tel 312673

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Lost & Found

LOST CAT female Persian cat, cream with dark ears, tail, paws and face. Blue eyes. Lost in Woodham area Telephone: 301151

Disco

NEED A DISCO? RING: 0378 657043

Thanks

MRS ANNE CARPENTER, Annette and Mandy would like to thank everyone for their kind support and sympathy expressed during their recent bereavement FAWCETT (nee Hind) Sarah and David would like to thank all our relatives and friends for making our Wedding Day on 22nd June 1996 so brilliant, and for all the beautiful cards and presents. Special thanks to Linda, Rob, Anne and Barry, our parents, for everything they have done for us. Also thank you to the Revd. Colin Jay for the lovely service. Thanks to the staff at Walworth Castle for an excellent reception. Thanks to our bridesmaids, Nicola, Clare and Karen our best man Andrew "Paddy" Parry and our two ushers David and Paul. A big thank you to Julie and Robin at White Lady Wedding Services for all their help - cheers everyone!

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 314885 CASH PAID for all household furniture, suites, tables, chairs, robes, cookers, fridges, houses cleared. Tel Kingsway Salerooms 01388 661579 ALL 3 PIECE suites, dining tables and chairs wanted, best cash paid, old suites removed free Tel 01388 777993 or 0831 866770 anytime HOUSE CLEARED Junk removed, single items bought Tel 300711 WHITE TABLE and chairs Tel 318563

Health / Beauty

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

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STAR NAILS The latest technology in nail extensions, direct from the USA, have natural looking long nails Free consultation on all treatments Gift vouchers available For further details or appointments Tel 300500 or book through reception ALL NEW CLIENTS FIRST TREATMENT ONLY 1/2 PRICE except on special offers

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BOARDING KENNELS and BATTERY (established 18 years), White House Farm, Bolam, Near Darlington (off A68). Approximately 3 miles from Heighington Tel: 01388 832635 ZEBRA FINCHES £2.00 each, Tel Aycliffe 317547

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JUNE'S HAT HIRE Beautiful hats for all occasions Wedding flowers arranged at reasonable prices Telephone Aycliffe 310967 Showroom D'ton 355128

CRAFTY CAKES for any occasion, cakes made and iced or just iced Tel 316084 REGISTERED childminder (NCMA) has vacancies 0-12 years, full or part-time, affordable rates, enquiries welcome Tel Andrea McCulloch 310552

Sits Wanted

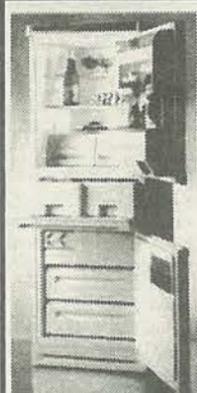
PENSIONER seeks work, clean driving licence Tel 307668

SCHOOL RAISES £2,000 FROM FAYRE & FUN RUN



On 22nd June, Byerley Park Primary School held its annual Summer Fayre with a variety of stalls, tombolas and even a clown to entertain the youngsters. This year's event was preceded by a short "Fun-Run" and pictured above are some of the pupils taking part. Many of the children added to the fun by running in fancy dress and certificates were given to everyone completing the course. Overall, everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and the Fayre and the "Fun-Run" raised over £2,000 towards a variety of improvements inside the school.

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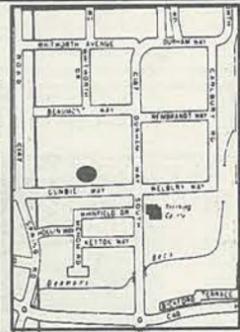
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BREAKTHROUGH IMMINENT ON EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF ALZHEIMERS DISEASE

Research into Alzheimer's disease is on the brink of developing techniques for early diagnosis and treatment which could give people five more years of quality life, says Professor Jim Edwardson of Newcastle General Hospital's Neuro-chemical Pathology Unit. Professor Edwardson said,

"At the moment there are around 10 classes of drugs being developed or in clinical trials which offer real hope for the future".

"And because there is increased understanding of the genetic basis for the disease and more detailed brain scans have just been

developed, we are very optimistic that treatments that could halt the worst effects of this devastating disease will become available in the next decade".

One of the world's leading experts on Alzheimer's disease, Dr. Zavan Khachaturian from the Ronald and Nancy Reagan Institute in the USA, will join Professor Edwardson in the North East during this year's Alzheimer's Awareness Week to discuss the dramatic recent developments aiding research into the disease, such as Dr. Nick Fox's 3D brain scan.

A carer from the region will be present to talk openly about their experiences of looking after a person suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Representatives from local branches will also be attending to give more locally focused information relating to the work of the Society.

Alzheimer's Awareness Week (7th to 13th July) Opening the Mind aims to raise public awareness and understanding of Alzheimer's research, highlight the need for more funds for research, and counter the prejudices, misunderstandings and fears about dementia that still exists.

Holiday Scheme for Disabled Children

'Darlington After School and Holiday' is a voluntary organisation which organises playschemes for children with disabilities. This year we are organising a four week scheme from the 22nd July to 16th August, that will hopefully provide a service for 70 children during the scheme. For the scheme to be a success we need at least 20 volunteers that can give some time, whether it be 1 or 20 days. All volunteers are supported by qualified and experienced playleaders as well as given the opportunity to undergo training; travelling expenses are paid to all volunteers.

Throughout the scheme volunteers assist the children in a variety of activities including play sessions, outings, swimming and soft play. The Scheme is fun and rewarding as well as giving people valuable experience in working with children.

Volunteers need to be aged over 15, have a caring attitude, enjoy working with children and can commit themselves to one or more days during the scheme.

If you would like further information or a form to register as a volunteer please contact Tracy or Carol at Darlington Association on Disability by either phoning 461 496 or calling into the office which is situated next to the Dolphin Centre.

Village Junior Aerobic Class

Aycliffe Village Hall Association are starting a Junior Fun Aerobics Class for 6 to 11 year old boys and girls commencing Thursday 18th July from 5.30-6.30pm - Your tutor for this event will be Donna and the cost is 50p per child.

Coffee Morning

Aycliffe Village Hall Association are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 20th July from 10.00am to 12 noon. Proceeds are to go towards the Village Hall upkeep. Entrance is 50p (to include coffee/tea and biscuit). All are welcome

Letter to the Editor

PLEASE GIVE HELPING HAND TO TOWN'S ELDERLY & INFIRM

Dear Sir
We are now in a position to help a limited number of old folk from within our community with our volunteers, who are willing to give a hand with the painting and decorating of homes. Any Senior Citizens on the town can get in touch with Denise on 311089 or Margaret on 318333, simply leave details, name, address, telephone number and somebody will be in touch to have a look at what needs to be done.

This is a wonderful thing to be part of and it just goes to show that there is a community spirit on this town if you look for it.

I would like to thank and congratulate those who volunteered to help and at the same time ask anybody reading this to consider giving some time to our older generation, who are just physically incapable of climbing up a height to get the wallpaper on the wall.

Many thanks
Martyn D. Locklyn

Concern Again Over Aycliffe Sewage Smell

Councillor Tony Moe has written to Gly Hall, Director Environment Sedgefield District Council drawing attention to the obnoxious smell emanating from the Aycliffe Sewage Works.

Tony's main concern for the children who attend the Nurse almost next door to the sewage works. "I request you pay urgent visit to take samples and trace the source of the odour see if it harmful" writes Tony.

St. Michaels Church, Heighington

SCHOOL ART EXHIBITIONS

June - September 1996
Wednesday, Friday & Saturdays
2.00pm - 4.00pm

This is the one: JULY EXTRAVAGANZA

at Woodham Village Green on Thursday 25th July (6pm) and Friday 26th July (6pm)

Plus Saturday 27th July
GRAND GALA DAY

Featuring:

Carnival Fun Fair - Punch & Judy
Stocks - Clowns - Fairground Organ
Huntsman Pub Karaoke with ITVs Star
in their Eyes: Stan "Barry Gibb" Fuller!

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