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Week Ending 28th JANUARY 1995

FRONT PAGE LETTER

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL WRONG TO ENCOURAGE FOX HUNTING

Dear Sir

It has taken humankind half a million years to claw its way out of the animal kingdom. Less than two hundred years ago, slavery was accepted, cock-fighting was common, and huge crowds attended the "fun" of a public hanging. Cruelty and delight at suffering, still lie barely beneath the surface.

One of the hopeful signs of this century has been a growing awareness that animals, too, have rights.

Many people are vegetarians. Hundreds of thousands quietly avoid products that have been tested on animals. Recently, we have seen protests against cruel trade in live animals. Hopefully, in two hundred years time, our descendants will find these things as remote as we today find bear-baiting.

All of which makes it very disappointing that Heighington Parish Council has chosen this moment to revive the Zetland Hunt meeting on Heighington Green (Newton News, 21st January issue). I am aware that Hunts frequently fail to find a fox, never mind catch one. I am also aware that foxes are a nuisance and, sadly, that the fox population needs

occasional culling. These are not the central issues of the case.

There is nothing wrong with people galloping around the countryside. A meeting of a "Zetland Point to Point Club" would have had my full support.

However, the fact remains that the 'raison d'être' of fox hunting is to chase a living creature until its heart is bursting, to cause it incomprehensible terror over an extended period of time, and finally to rip it to shreds. This is unacceptable. Anybody whose pleasure depends on this process is less than human, however wealthy or important they are.

Animals cannot speak for themselves. I would have wished that Heighington Parish Council could have argued their case for them.

John D. Clare

DISTRICT COUNCIL FILL DOCTORS PRESCRIPTION

Doctors in Sedgefield District will soon be prescribing exercise as well as medicine, in a new pilot project - "Exercise On Prescription".

This six month scheme, run by Sedgefield District Council and supported by the Health Commission, is being tried out at Addan House surgery in Spennymoor. It aims to improve the health and well-being of local residents.

Councillor Vince Robson, Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, Sedgefield District Council, said "This is an exciting new development in the area of health and fitness which will enhance the work already going on throughout the district".

Under the current schemes patients are urged to go to a leisure centre where a trained member of staff will work with them on an exercise programme. This new scheme encourages those prescribed with exercises to involve a partner or close friend. These couples are then formed into a set of about 20 who can then be introduced as a group to a range of indoor and outdoor activities.

"Not everyone enjoys organised leisure

centre activities, but by introducing the groups to different forms of exercise it is anticipated that patients and friends will find a fitness routine that suits their lifestyle, be it walking or weight training" added Councillor Robson.

"We are also working closely with all secondary schools in the area to involve pupils in physical activity sessions and health related issues. This is proving to be a major success and other school year groups are rescheduling timetables to take advantage of this new

opportunity."

For more information please contact Glyn Hall or Tim Hetherington on (01388) 816166

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Unitary Status For Darlington Costly Exercise - For Us!

The Local Government shake-up, which gives Darlington Unitary Authority status, could cost the rest of us dearly. Sedgefield District Council say the £3 million cost of allowing Darlington to go it alone, will also fall on the rest of us, who will continue under the two tier authority of District and County.

District Councillor Dave Elliott told "Newton News" the SDC had complained to the Secretary of State and he believed we should all be aware of this scandalous situation.

"The Review has already cost hundreds of thousands and to extract more, for no benefit, is rubbing salt into the wound" said Dave.

Where are the savings from the Review that the Commission promised? Should there not be some compensation for the officer time, meetings and expensive paper-work the Commission demanded all to no avail as far as most of County Durham is concerned - and this was done not once, but twice!

The Commission and the Minister are guilty of gross incompetence in the Review of County Durham and we should not have to pick up the bill for something which has brought no benefit.

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Prize for Best Rhyme

People who send Valentine Day Messages in Newton News can win a Mystery Prize for composing the best or amusing rhyme. Charges for the message start at only 7p per word and can be left at Newton Press on the Industrial Estate, our Agents Stevens in the Town Centre or Walkers at Simpaturegate. Let your sweetheart know you are thinking of her on Valentines Day and put it in print!

It's Your Newspaper

If you have an item of news of interest to readers contact your Community Newspaper Newton News on 300212

GREENLINK CAMPAIGN INVOLVES SCHOOLS

Groundwork East Durham is to continue to forge partnerships between schools and businesses in the local area, as part of the "National Esso Greenlink Campaign". Esso Greenlink is a lasting link between business and education built around a shared concern for the environment. It encourages co-operation and mutual understanding. Together the partners decide on a number of achievable aims connected with the company's environmental policies. The school develops a teaching plan, incorporating visits and class work. Groundwork East Durham's spokesman - Countryside Community Link Officer Peter Hamill says "The partnership offers schools some really effective and interesting ways to deliver the National Curriculum. The essence of Greenlink is flexibility and it is up to the partners to set their own agenda of aims and activities. They might focus on the company's outdoor environment and site improvements. They could just as easily look at the production process - where the raw materials come from, how waste is disposed of any "green" issue can form the core of the link". This years links are a continuation of successful partnerships formed during 1994. A programme of activities will take place between the following schools and business:

Black & Decker Ltd - King Street Primary School
NEL Ltd - Bowburn Primary School
Perstorp Ferguson Ltd - Heighington Primary School
Redland Aggregates Ltd - Ferryhill Station Primary
Thorn Lighting Ltd - Oxclose Primary School

LEARNING NOT TO BURN!

Youngsters in over 320 primary schools in County Durham are to have the opportunity to Learn Not To Burn. The move, involving Durham County Fire and Rescue Brigade and Durham County Council's Education Department, aims to cut down the number of fire related casualties among children. A new, curriculum linked teaching pack called "Learn Not To Burn" gives valuable information on fire related subjects which can be woven into most topical work or used as a stand alone main theme. Alf Thompson, Durham County Fire and Rescue Brigade's Chief Fire Officer, who

will help launch the pack at Skerne Park Junior School, Darlington, on Friday, January 20, said: "I am particularly grateful to The Northern Echo newspaper and Commercial Union who kindly sponsored the purchase of the packs which I hope will assist teachers to help us reduce fire related casualties among children".

Councillor Mrs Christine Smith, chairman of the County Council's Public Protection Committee said "This new teaching resource will lay foundations for fire safety education for children throughout the County for many years to come".

WHAT'S ON

THE DANDY CART

present a **BLUES NIGHT** on Saturday 28th January featuring "Uncle Gilbert" Cover Charge on door only £1.00

For one month only Samson £1.00 per pint
Lager £1.20 per pint - Carl Ex £1.20 per pint
Cider and Guinness £1.40 per pint

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL Committee Meetings

Tuesday 21st Feb - Recreation Committee - 7.15pm
followed by Environment Committee
Wednesday 22nd Feb - Parks & Allotments 7.15pm

THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

LOCAL CHEMISTS EMERGENCY OPENING TIMES

Sunday 29th January 1995
12noon - 1.00pm - Hancock & Ainsley, Shildon
Sunday 5th February 1995
12 noon - 1.00pm - Boots, Newton Aycliffe

Facts of Love:

● Bill Cook and his fiancée, Helen exchanged 6,000 love letters during their 4½ year separation.
● The British record for the longest marriage is 82 years between James and Sarah Burgess of London.

● A Divorce was granted in the U.S.A to Ida Stern aged 91 and her husband Simon aged 97!
● The longest engagement is said to be that of Octavio Guillen and Adriana Matinez of Mexico. They fianlly married after 67 years, Both were aged 82.

NEWTON NEWS

READER OFFER

Send a cuddly Valentine's bear - wearing your photo

Delight the special person in your life this Valentine's Day by sending them a super soft white teddy to cuddle while they think of you.

Your teddy will be absolutely unique because on his T-Shirt will be a picture of you (or whatever you choose) and those three magic words "I Love You". He'll also have a personal message from you on a tag clipped to his ear. What could be more special?



He stands a full 12" high and will be delivered anywhere in the UK, including direct to your Valentine if you wish, for an amazing £9.99 fully inclusive. But hurry, we must receive your order by **Tuesday 7 February**.

How to order: 1. Choose a photo (prints only - no negatives). The area to be printed can be no larger than 6" by 4" (on larger photos indicate the area to be used by drawing a square but please note that the original photograph will be damaged by being cut to size). 2. Complete the coupon. 3. Enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you would like your photo returned. 4. Include a cheque or postal order for £9.99 (payable to "READER OFFERS") or complete your credit card details. 5. Send your order to arrive by first post on Tuesday 7 February to: Teddy Offer, Metro, Thirsk Industrial Park, York Road, Thirsk YO7 3BX. (Queries: call 01845 525525).

PLEASE NOTE: Photos are sent entirely at your own risk - no responsibility can be taken for loss or damage. Orders received by 7 February will be despatched by first class post by Saturday 11 February. Subject to availability. Promoter: Robell Media Promotions Ltd. Reg. no. 2852153. Reg. office: 27 Eldon Square, Reading RG1 4DP.

To: Teddy Offer, Metro, Thirsk Industrial Park, York Road, Thirsk YO7 3BX.

Please send ___ Valentine's teddy (teddies) at £9.99 each. Total price: _____

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☐ Please debit my Access/Visa/AmEx card

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Your details: (PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS) Delivery details:

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Address _____ Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone _____ Postcode _____

Message (up to 12 words): _____

CHECKLIST: Have you included: photo; cheque/postal order; s.a.e. if you want

photo returned; your address; delivery address; message? ☐

POET'S CORNER

Political Perspective

Flippant quips about life in Major's classless society
Have only earned the Tories widespread notoriety.
Crumbling school buildings, once proud industries discarded
Those who govern our lives are certainly hard-hearted
The Health Service is safe with us, was their cry
But market forces mean that some poor patients die!
I voted for Maggie, now I rue the day that I was naive and easy prey.
Money and materialism was her rallying call
Then like Lemmings her yuppies headed for a fall.
But what about the poor, the weak and the sick,
Surely they fall by the wayside under this yardstick.
Grind those into the ground who can't keep up
Whilst those with the means drink from an over-flowing cup.
Caring and compassion must win through,
Their days are numbered, they're up for review.
Let Blair and his visionaries show us a new way
Right not might must save the day.

KEN JACKSON, Beechfield.

Pooh !

Dear Sir,
It is smelly, can be runny and embarrassing at first, but once you get into the habit, it comes naturally.
Women don't mind doing it, but some men can't and just leave it there!
What am I talking about?
Picking up DOG'S POO!
So come on everybody - pick it up and place it in the bin provided and then you won't feel guilty about leaving it for others to step in or children to become ill or diseased.
Yours sincerely,
Mrs. D.M.

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LAZY PARENTS CAUSE PROBLEM WAITING FOR THEIR CHILDREN

The School Traffic Warden at Sugar Hill School has requested we highlight the problem of lazy parents, parking cars outside school premises, causing danger and congestion when picking up their children.

At school leaving time an estimated 100 cars crowd the roads near Sugar Hill School and when the School Bus arrives it has to park in the middle of the road leaving no room for other vehicles to pass.

The Lollipop Lady has made polite requests for the road immediately outside the school gates, to be kept clear, to no avail. She has even placed cones, but parents

have mounted kerbs to get nearer!

"The Big Club, just down the road, has offered use of their empty car park, but this is apparently too far for parents to walk" said the Lollipop Lady who is anxious for the safety of children and pedestrians in her charge.

She has asked the Police to intervene as there are definite cases of obstruction, but they do not have the manpower to deal with the situation.

The only answer is to place double yellow lines outside all Infant/Junior School premises in the town as the problem applies to all our schools.

TOP TRAVEL GOLD HEART SUPPORT

Top Travel Ltd, the local Advantage Travel Centre in Newton Aycliffe is taking part in a massive promotion starting this month to support the Variety Club of Great Britain.

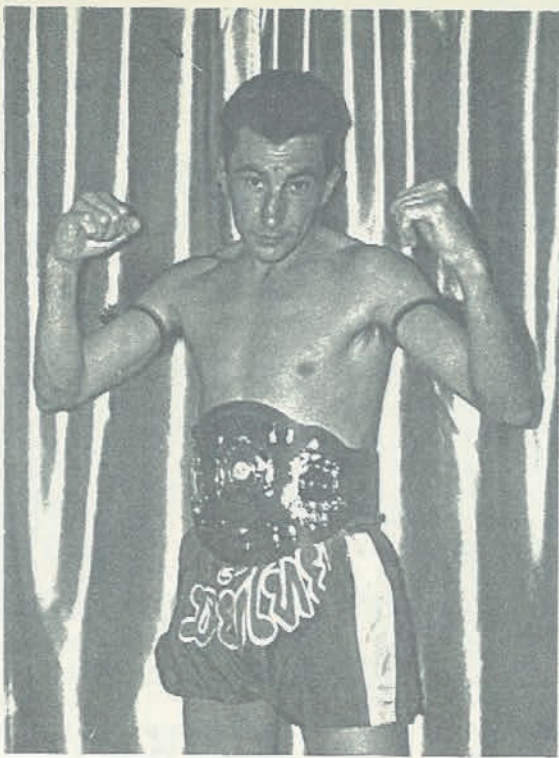
Top Travel Ltd will be selling Variety Club Gold Heart Badges and will also donate money to the charity for every holiday sold.

There will be a 6 hour Sky TV Telethon on the 14th February showing the total amount raised by the Variety Club. Top Travel are offering excellent discounts on Winter and Summer holidays until mid-February.

Mrs. Ruth Ward of Top Travel Ltd said "This is the time of year when a lot of people are booking their holidays. As well as offering discounts and special prices, by supporting the Variety of Club of Great Britain, Advantage Travel centres are giving something back to the community".

For further information contact Top Travel Ltd, 42 Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe Telephone (01325) 320611

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BARRY SCOTT

TOWN THAI BOXER WINS DUTCH EVENT

On 21st January Barry Scott of Kirkstone Place was one of 5 Thai Boxers invited to represent Great Britain in an International Contest held in Holland. Barry was the only one to win his bout, beating the Dutchman Nounman who is ranked 4th in Europe. Congratulation to Barry and best wishes for your next fight in Belgium scheduled for April.

Letter to the Editor MINDLESS LOU SPOIL ENVIRONMENT

Dear Sir
May I send a message, through the "Newton News" to the mindless, stupid louts who delight in causing senseless damage to our environment. My two grandchildren aged 11 and 8, together with their adopted grandfather, found two young trees which had been deliberately uprooted along by the burn. They spent quite some time replanting these trees only to find that after a few days, the trees were once again uprooted and thrown into the burn.

What tiny minds these hoodlums must have if the only way they can get pleasure is by destroying things of beauty.

I don't suppose that these pathetic beings will feel any remorse when they read this, it's more than likely that they are illiterate having spent their time causing vandalism rather than learning something useful. I am sure that they are beyond any decent feelings. Yours faithfully
Concerned Newtonian

Top T.V. Stars at Rotary Event

Rotary District 1030, of which Newton Aycliffe is a member Club, is holding a Sportsman's Evening to which they are inviting top T.V. personality and former International Football star Ian St. John.

Also attending is Paul Frost of Tyne Tees Television.

Both will be giving after Dinner speeches for which they have achieved some fame.

These events with sporting personalities are very entertaining and the two speakers Rotary have obtained, are much sought after.

The event is being held at Redworth Hall Hotel in their sumptuous Surtees Suite on Friday 17th February commencing at 7.30 p.m.

It will be a high quality occasion and Redworth Hall provides the right venue for the event.

Tickets are £25 each. A Party of 10 is £22 each.

If you wish to attend contact John Billany on 311331 (business) or (0388) 772965 (after hours).

Alternatively contact Redworth Hall direct on (0388) 772442.

YOUTH CENTRE WINS AREA POP QUIZ

The Youth Centre entered two teams in the "National Association of Boys Clubs - Clubs for Young People" Area Pop Quiz held at Blaydon Youth Centre on Sunday 22nd January 1995. Lyndsay Heslop and Rachael Hovvels made up one of the teams with Glynis Carr and Vikki Saunders as the other. At Blaydon we found that there were three other teams in the quiz. The competition had been organised centrally by NABC-CYP in association with Abbey Road Studios in London and all areas of the country were taking part at the same time with the same questions.

The Quiz was very professionally produced with some questions pre-recorded on tape whilst others were read out to the teams. There were four separate rounds and the scores were close. The eventual winners of the competitions being Glynis and Vikki from Newton Aycliffe with the Chester-le-Street team as runners up. Glynis and Vikki and the runners up were presented with gift

vouchers by Mr. Alan Watson, Field Officer for the Durham Association for Boys Clubs.

Both winners and runners up will travel to Hunslet Youth Club to represent the area in the Regional Competition on Saturday 11th February and if successful there will be invited to attend the National Finals at Abbey Road Studios in London in March.

Congratulations to Vikki, Glynis, Rachael and Lyndsay for their efforts and to DABC and Blaydon Youth Centre for an excellent afternoon.

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Mahogany lounge display units 4ft wide £189
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With cut glass woodframed doors, lights and cocktail cabinets. Also available in black ash or teak.

NO PETROL PRICE PEGGING IN AYCLIFFE

A few people have complained that petrol prices in Aycliffe are up to 2p a litre more than garages just a few miles away. One reader, who conducted his own survey, told us he had saved £2 by filling his car at Harrowgate Hill. He believes the garage owners at Aycliffe have a cartel to keep prices high. Average price per litre in the

country according to an A.A. survey is 4 Star: 59.13p; Unleaded: 53.20p; Unleaded Super: 57.85; and Diesel 53.43p. 4 Star in Aycliffe is between 58.9 and 60.9p per litre compared with outside garages ranging from 56.9 to 57.9p. We spoke to local garage owner, John Hardy, who denied a cartel exists between garages in the town. "Quite the opposite, we watch each other like hawks, reporting weekly to our respective suppliers on any changes in local prices, and any subsequent loss of our petrol sales. If they show a downward trend prices are altered to compete," said John. "The situation is changing daily in the oil industry. Next week Newton Aycliffe could be cheaper than Darlington - it is just the luck of the draw," he added.



Left to right: Phyllis Coxon, Mandy Drake (Slimming Consultant), Mavis Bryant, Julie Crain (Slimming Consultant), Hannah Anderson, and Elsie Kennedy

SINS PASSED ON TO METHODISTS

Kind hearted slimmers in Newton Aycliffe determined to fight the festive flab, have donated a hoard of sweets, chocolates and biscuits to give to the elderly folk in town. The members all from "Slimming World" have duly passed on their surplus supplies of confectionery or "sins" as are better known as at "Slimming World". The hoard was donated to the elderly members of the Neville Parade Methodist Church Luncheon Club on Tuesday. The sweets and chocolates have been pouring into a "Sins Bin" over the past few weeks since Christmas by members who wanted the New Year to be rid of too many temptations lurking in the cupboard in a bid to shed pounds. Though it should be noted that the Slimming World eating plan does incorporate daily sins which could be anything from chocolate and crisps to ice-cream and alcohol!! And yes, all worked in on the eating plan. Last week one member lost 3lb taking her total weight loss to 3½ stone in only 12 weeks. Julie Crane and Mandy Drake, Slimming World Consultants would like to thank all the Slimming World members who donated sweets and chocolates into the bin, bringing much pleasure to the members of the Neville Parade Luncheon Club, it was very much appreciated. For details of Slimming World classes held at the Parade Church Hall and the Agnew Community Centre, Morrison Close Tel Julie on 01325 282051 or Mandy on 01325 284597.

Don't throw away your unwanted furniture
HELP A NEEDY FAMILY
Sedgefield District Furniture Scheme
Telephone: 311736
24 hr ansaphone

YOUTH CENTRE JUNIOR FOOTBALLERS GUESTS OF SUNDERLAND F.C.

The Junior Football Section of Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre had an afternoon of Football with the Professionals at Roker

Park for the Sunderland Nottingham County match on Saturday 21st January. The excitement started with the coach journey and continued with finding our places in the Clock stand where we had seats with a very good view of the playing area. The tickets were provided courtesy of Sunderland AFC via the Director of Community Services, Durham. We were in place in good time to

have a look around and find out the position of the food outlets ready for the off. Despite the weather and the result an exciting time was had by all.

May I thank Dawn Hartfree, on behalf of all who attended, made all the arrangements for the afternoon. I would also like to thank the adult helpers for giving up their afternoon.
MV Horne
Leader

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- 94 (L) CAVALIER 1.8LSi. Choice of colours, airbag, ABS, central locking, power steering, electric front windows, sunroof, RDS stereo, massive saving on new, including manufacturers warranty and then Ramsey's 12 month comprehensive warranty, not to be missed £8995
- 94 (L) CORSA 1.2 MERIT 3-door. Radio cassette, rear wash/wipe, remainder of manufacturers warranty. Tremendous saving on new, choice of colours, very well equipped £5995
- 92 (K) NISSAN SUNNY 1.4L Saloon 5-speed. In white, radio/cassette only £5495
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- 93 (K) FIESTA 1.1LX 5-door. In silver with grey trim, tints, radio/cassette, sunroof £5995
- 92 (K) ROVER 216SLi in flame red, electric windows, radio cassette, superb throughout £7695
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- 92 (J) SIERRA 1.8LX In diamond white, features central locking, electric windows and sunroof £5995
- 92 J ROVER 214SLi 5 door, finished in steel grey metallic, with matching trim, benefits from electric windows, CDL, wood door trims FSH £6795
- 91 (J) VW GOLF DRIVER 1.8 5-door. In white, radio/cassette, rear sliding sunroof, central locking £5995
- 91 (H) PEUGEOT 405GL. In blue with black trim, electric windows and sunroof, radio/cassette £4495
- 91 (H) HONDA CONCERTO 1.6EX in white power steering, electric sunroof and windows, central locking, full service history £5995
- 90 (H) ASTRA 1.4L 5 door, 5 speed, radio cassette, sunroof, finished in blue £4495
- 90 G RENAULT 5 GTX 1.7 5 door, in white, features include CDL, electric windows £3795
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"ANTI-SEMITISM WAS FUELLED"

Dear Sir
With regard to your recent lead article "Radical Changes Needed in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre" (Newton News w/e 7th January 1995). I fail to see the relevance of reporting that "Freshwater" (the London based owners of the shopping precinct) are a Jewish owned company, especially when it is also reported that they employ local agents with a "hard nosed attitude" to rent negotiations, bent on pushing rents higher at each review.

Comments such as these only help to fuel anti-semitism and racist attitudes generally. It is quite legitimate for a paper with the interests of Newton Aycliffe shopkeepers and shoppers in mind to be critical of policies which affect the future of the town centre, it is not however legitimate to somehow link these failings with the culture/religion or nationality of the owners concerned. It would restore my faith in what I consider a good local newspaper, if this letter could be published. Name and address supplied.

Ed:
Readers will know that Newton News has for many years supported the town's shopkeepers in their plea for

lower rents, predicting the demise of the private trader and the poor mix of shops we now have - due to high rent levels. We were equally critical of the previous Landlords, Aycliffe Development Corp. and Grainger Trust. We identified the present Landlords more because they were from London and 'absent'. Their Agents, who are local and derive better rewards from higher rents, are the ones we said had a 'hard-nosed' attitude. Once again we meant no offence by stating the Landlords were Jews and see no reason to apologise for making the distinction.

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Refreshments will be on sale throughout the morning. Stall holders can gain admission from 8.00am, tables cost £5.00, book early to avoid being disappointed. Telephone 320876 or contact Mr D Cochrane at 57 Welbury Grove, Newton Aycliffe.

There are also vacancies in the Company Section for Boys and Girls aged 10 to 14 years.

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love you forever
from
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Your Name and Tel No.

WINTERTON SITE
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Dear Sir
The Northern and
Yorkshire Regional
Health Authority are
currently objecting to
Sedgefield District
Council's wish to see
the Winterton Hospital
site developed for a
business park and
housing as part of its
Local Plan.
The Health Authority
want to be able to sell
off most of the site just
for housing, as a
"Garden Village". Well,
they would, wouldn't
they? The land values
for a purely housing
site could be double
that for a business park.
It is clear that the
Regional health
Authority are
motivated purely by
money.

employed 2500 people,
numbers are now less
than 400 and declining.
With its eventual
closure, many of these
job opportunities will
be lost forever. Villages
in this part of East
Durham already have
high levels of
unemployment and
would benefit from
new job opportunities
brought by a business
park.
It is vital that the future
of the Winterton site
provides for the job
needs of local people.
All the local authorities
and development
agencies are agreed on
the strategic role of a
business spark on this
site.
If the Regional Health
Authority get their way,
they say that 250
houses would be built.
However, they do not
suggest any restriction
on actual numbers.

This could mean up to
400 houses being
crammed onto the site,
damaging its character.
No doubt this would
give them a handsome
profit, I doubt very
much that this would be
reinvested in the
locality to redress the
job losses.
Yours sincerely
Ken Manton

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SAFE AT U.M.M.

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stating the Car Boot Sale had been cancelled.
We contacted John Noble and he assured us the
rumours were false and he had no idea how they
started.
"Nobles have a lease on the premises and if a buyer
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ZFC56/46 mrp £469.99

£399 - £329 - £305

ZFC56/47 mrp £399.99

£340 - £280 - £260

ZFC60/30 mrp £419.99

£357 - £294 - £273

ZFC47/51FF mrp £449.99

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ZFC56/37FF mrp £469.99

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