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FRONT PAGE LETTER

"BURGLARY HASTENED MY MOTHER'S DEATH"

Dear Sir
 On the 3rd January 1995, what was to be a routine visit to Darlington Hospital with our Mother Sophia Harvey, for her check-up, turned bad as she took ill and was admitted for further checks.

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7A Thames Centre (Opposite The Acorn)

The first week after tests, she was comfortable and during this time her bungalow was unoccupied. My wife and I and an Aunt, who only lives a few doors away, checked the property every day and night. Into the third week our Mother's health worsened and on the evening of the 16th January we checked her home at approximately 8.30pm and all was OK. On the 17th January we called at approximately 10.50am to find the house a shambles! You can well imagine our horror - How could someone do this? The Police were informed and as our Mother was ill, we were not aware of all that may have been stolen. We do know her old gold chains and other gold items were missing, rings, money etc., also goods she cherished, which all the money offered would not compensate for their loss. We had to tell our Mother of the burglary to ascertain what was missing. Bearing in mind that she was very ill and 89

years old, she took it very badly and has since died. What kind of person or persons are they that would rob the old, who struggle enough to survive their remaining years? They would know they were in an OAP's bungalow and must be sick. You will know who you are when you read this or perhaps you have already forgotten about this callous deed, which quickened someone's death, and are already planning your next victim. You will be caught one day and you want to pray it is not me that finds you out! TW Stoker Rowan Place ED: Sophia was a popular figure at the Cubby and Simpature Court and her many friends attended the funeral. The moral of this story is that burglars have no morals and readers who find themselves in a similar situation know they can't leave houses unoccupied.

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DISTRICT RESIDENTS JOIN UP

People in Sedgefield District are being invited to join up and improve their quality of life in the launch of five local advisory groups for the Health Alliance, starting this month.

The Health Alliance, a partnership between the District Council, the Health Commission and Social Services in the Sedgefield area was officially launched by Tony Blair, MP in November 1994. "Launching the Local Advisory Groups is the second major step to providing residents in Sedgefield District with a healthier life", said Jane Hartley, Health Alliance Co-Ordinator. "The groups will act as the voice of the public in identifying what the community needs from the Health Alliance, such as a new drug abuse programme or improving access to services." The Health Alliance also promotes a healthy lifestyle and environment as a way for residents to achieve a better standard of health. Spennymoor, Shildon, Newton Aycliffe, Ferryhill and Chilton and Sedgefield and the Trimdons are the five areas where the advisory groups will be set up. They will act as advisers to agencies, responsible for services relating to health and social care, on issues which affect Sedgefield District residents' quality of life. The majority of Advisory group members will be local people who have lived or worked in the area for a number of years and know it well. There will also be representatives from the District Council and Social Services, known as Local Advisers, and GP surgeries who will support community members in their work. Anyone interested in Local Advisory Group membership should contact Jane Hartley on (01388) 816166. The launch date for the Advisory Group in

Newton Aycliffe is April 4th at 7pm in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. **FACT SHEET:**
 * There are approximately 90,000 residents in Sedgefield District.
 * One in three people smoke.
 * One in three people have very little exercise
 * One in five people have unhealthy diets.
 * Stress levels and hypertension, particularly in the elderly are high.
 * More than half of the deaths in Sedgefield District are due to heart disease.
 * Over the next five to ten years there will be

a marked increase in the number of our elderly residents. Already one on three people of the population in Sedgefield District are carers, looking after the young, the elderly, the chronically sick, the disabled and people who are suffering from mental health problems.

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ROTARY APPEAL FOR WHEEL- CHAIRS

Do you have a wheelchair, no longer required? If so you could donate it for the use of other people who have been disabled. The Town's Rotary Club have received an appeal and ask readers to contact Newton News on 300212, if you have an unwanted wheelchair they could collect.

NEW REPAIR BUSINESS OFF TO GOOD START

Holiways new "Rapid Fit" venture has got off to a very encouraging start reports Manager Phil Payne. The old "Target Express" building on Horndale Avenue, which they took over has been refurbished to provide a slick drive-in repair service for motorists. MOT Vehicle Testing cannot be offered just yet, but Phil is hoping part of the service will be open for business at the end of the month. "Everything should then be in full swing

and we can offer our customers the best service and value in Newton Aycliffe" said Phil. A large number of Newton Aycliffe motorists have taken advantage of the big savings "Rapid Fit" offers including up to 70% discount on exhausts and oil and filter for all models of car at only £9.95. Tyre prices are very low and readers will be impressed, on a visits to Rapid Fit to see the many rows of tyres and exhausts kept in stock.

Letter War Grave Visit

Dear Sir
The Battlefield and War Graves Research Association has availability on two coaches visiting Dunkirk to coincide with the 55th Anniversary of the evacuation from the 25th to the 31st May this year. Further pilgrimages the Association arranges include several visits to the First and Second World War battlefields and War Cemeteries of Ypres, the Somme, Arras, Normandy and Arnhem. Personal visits to particular War Cemeteries can be incorporated on these occasions. All accommodation is in private en-suite facilities with coaching provided throughout. Ferry sailings are via both the cross-Channel route from Dover and North Sea Ferries from Hull. There are various free regional pick-ups via the National Express network connecting with the coach at the ports of departure. For further information regarding any of the above please telephone or write to: The Battlefield and War Graves Research Association, 711b Beverley High Road, Hull, HU6 7JN or Telephone (01482) 806020
Yours faithfully
June Hall

HALL GARTH'S GOLF COURSE READY IN MAY



In readiness for the official opening in May, Hall Garth Golf and Country Club has appointed Richard Creane as its new head greenkeeper. Richard has impeccable credentials and brings a wealth of experience to Hall Garth after learning his trade at Ponteland, Parklands and Burgham Golf Clubs. To underline his standing in the golfing community, Richard is also Chairman of the North East Region of the British and International Greenkeepers Association. "Considering the very wet winter, the greens are standing up well whilst the re-laid greens have made exceptional progress. All will be perfect for the opening on May 15th" said Richard.

Don't throw away your unwanted furniture

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Deposit £45 each, payable to C. Howarth, c/o Newton Press
St. Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Industrial Est., Co. Durham DL5 6DX

Lighting Firm wins Award for Employee Training

Parkersell (Lighting and Electrical) Services, with a local office in Newton Aycliffe, has set out on the path to a nationally-recognised award which acknowledges investment in training and development of personnel.

The company is committed to the Investor in People (IIP) accreditation supported by the Confederation of British Industry, the main political parties and the TUC.

The programme will link the training and development of all 550 employees in 32 depots, four regional offices and at the

Winchester head office to the business needs of the company.

Managing Director Peter Johnson says "We recognise that our staff play a key role in the success of the company. The Investor In People Programme gives us the framework for developing colleagues in line with objectives set out in our business plan".

Parkersell is the UK market leader in planned management and maintenance of lighting in retail and financial outlets, commercial, industrial and Government premises as well as petroleum forecourts.

NEW GARAGE OWNER MAY AFFECT PETROL PRICE

The Bluebell Garage on Greenfield Way, has been taken over by the Wetherby based Petrol Company "Thrust".

An opening is expected early March with numerous promotions and the

possibility of long-awaited competition on prices - a subject which has concerned a lot of our readers recently who complain that Newton Aycliffe garages are always up to 25p per gallon more than elsewhere

THIRD IN THE WORLD!

TOWN CELEBRATES LOCAL BLIND GIRL'S ACHIEVEMENT WHILE REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN AT WORLD EVENT



LISA DEMONSTRATES HOW TO THROW A HEAVIER OPPONENT

Local girl, Lisa Gibson (22) of Newton Aycliffe was selected to represent Great Britain in the blind World Judo Championships last month.

The team of nine competed brilliantly against fighters from all over the world at the Olympic Training Camp in Colorado Springs, USA.

Lisa, an Orange belt and a member of the Newton Aycliffe Judo Club, fought in the 52kg class and won a bronze medal, bringing great pride to her family and all her friends in the Town. Lisa is registered blind and lives with her parents in Burdon Close.

In addition to this the British team won World Championships in the 78kg, 86kg and 56kg classes. An altogether fantastic achievement for the British team and for Lisa the distinction of being 3rd in the world!

In recognition of her success Lisa received Life Membership of the British Judo Association from the Chairman George Kerr.

"Judo is an equal opportunity sport - and it is proved beyond doubt by the achievements of the disabled. Our sport is not a soft option and determination is an absolute requirements. The highest standards can be realised by using ability and that essential fighting spirit, and this was demonstrated by the British Blind Judo Team. Best wishes and congratulations to all members on their success" said George

HIGHLAND GOLF BREAK OFFERED

Newton Press are organising a "Highland Gourmet Golf Break" from Tues. 29th August to Sat. 2nd September 1995.

The offer is for a small party of golfers to stay 4 nights in a lovely Highland Hunting Lodge and play Competition Golf at Royal Dornoch, Tain and Strathpeffer Golf Courses.

The price of £245 each includes a Gourmet Dinner, Bed & Breakfast, Green Fees and prizes. All rooms at this superb

Egon Ronay recommended Lodge are ensuite, and provide T.V. and Tea Tray.

Maximum Handicaps: Gents 20 and Ladies 32. Check the price of green fees at these famous courses then include first class food and accommodation and golfers will see this is good value.

If you are interested ring Newton News on 300212 (business hours) or Christine Howarth on (0388) 775143 after hours.

STILL PLACES LEFT ON EVENING COURSES

There is still time to join courses at the Greenfield Centre Telephone 300378 for details.

There are places available on courses in Vegetarian Cookery and Making the Most of yourself on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm.

On Thursday evenings (7-9pm) there are places on the new Local History course which involves expert guidance and original research into the engrossing and often surprising, settlements and people of our area. Also on Thursday there are places for people already having a little knowledge and skill in Sign Language or for those wishing to revise or brush up on their previous knowledge. Mr Donald Reed, a very highly regarded tutor, will ensure you make significant progress each week leading to a recognised qualification if required.

Teams Required for Annual Charity Swimathon

Swimathon 95 will take place on Sunday 30th April at Spennymoor Leisure Centre from 8.00am to 8.00pm.

They hope to make more money than last year, and with your help will!

They invite any organisation, school, factory etc., to enter one or more teams. Each team of up to six people will swim relay style for 55 minutes. The non-swimmers, it is hoped will sponsor the swimmers, based on the number of lengths they swim in that time. The proceeds this year will go to support McMillan House

Hospice, Bishop Auckland, Victim Support Association, Salvation Army and other local charities.

Please act now, contact Newton News on 300212 who will send you an entry form.

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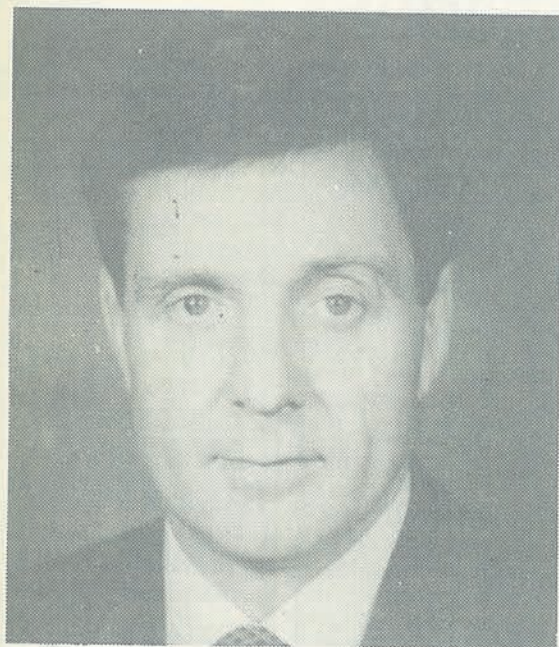
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Julie (01325) 282051 or Mandy 284597

ENTERPRISE WORKSHOPS CELEBRATE 10th ANNIVERSARY

A County Durham Venture which started in the wake of disaster this week celebrates ten years of putting business on the right tracks.

The new Enterprise Workshops were set up in Shildon in 1984 to offset some of the devastating effects of the closure of the town's railway coach building industry.

Funded by a partnership between Sedgefield District Council, British Rail, Central Government and the EEC, the New Enterprise Workshops have gone from strength to strength since they officially opened on February 8th, 1985.

The aim was to encourage new industry into the area, and create employment for redundant railway workers.

Offering purpose built accommodation for new enterprises, technical and administrative support and business counselling, the Workshops have attracted tenants ranging

from computer software designers and light engineers to a firm producing reproduction Victorian toys.

Almost 80% of the companies who started at the workshops have gone on to bigger premises as their businesses grew.

Other businesses from the area have also benefited from the services on offer at the Workshops - in the last year alone, they helped 43 new businesses setting up under the Enterprise Allowance scheme.

"Part of the success is a tribute to the team who set up and now, ten years on, are still here running the Workshops" said Manager Gary Chaplin, who is the only member of staff who was not there at the beginning.

"Some of the original companies are now well-known names and have won small business awards. It's not just ourselves who are celebrating our tenth birthday, but all the business people who

have been helped over the decade."

There are 16 factories, each 500 sq. ft., supported by administration services, and a unique feature is the availability of a range of machinery in four communal workshops.

With the help of County Durham TEC, training can be offered and help given with business planning.

Companies which started in the units include Aclet Electronics, winners of a small business award, MDS Fabrication, manufacturers of metal portable cabins, Halls Upholstery, Ken Warne and Russ Sanderson who manufacturers of reproduction antique toys.

Plans are underway to expand the facilities available to new companies, with additional training and an open access Information technology facility on the premises.

AYCLIFFE CLUB SEEK PROMOTION

On Saturday at South Shields in the North East Harrier League the Aycliffe team continued their quest to gain promotion from the third division.

At present in second position the Aycliffe team was lead by Pete Milburn again in 41st position out of a field of nearly 400 runners,

other Aycliffe finishers over the 6 mile muddy course were Col Gibson in 33m, Derek Smith 122nd, Ian Young 123rd, Mick Brunskill 32m, Dave Askew 33m, Dave Middleton 36m, John Armstrong 41m, Seth Sugden 41m, 15 and Rob Nicholson 41m, 30s.

ENVIRONMENT COURSES FREE

A series of "FREE" one day training courses are to be run in the Sedgefield District between March and June 1995.

Groundwork East Durham in collaboration with the Countryside Commission have organised the courses with the aim of improving local people's interest and understanding of their environment.

The courses will run for between 2 and 5 hours indoor and outdoor where applicable with expert tuition provided. Topics include: Environmental Photography, Map Reading, Orienteering, Woodlands and Pond Management, amongst others. Early booking is advisable as these courses are very popular. Anyone interested should contact Groundwork East Durham's Countryside Community Link Officer Peter Hamill at Groundwork East Durham, Spennymoor Training Centre, Wear Street, Spennymoor or Telephone (01388) 812769

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

1/2 Price February Sale

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We also offer a **FREE HOME SERVICE** where we will measure and advise **FREE OF CHARGE** without any obligation.

We also offer a wide range of ready-made curtains at competitive prices. Fabrica specialise in nets, both Jardiniere and Brisbane in both white & cream. We stock Austrian and Festoon Blinds to give your windows that final elegant finishing touch. The very best in Lace, Macramé Lace in both white and cream. Fabrica can cater for larger premises, such as Hotels, Restaurants, Clubs, Pubs etc., all at competitive prices.

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All Less Than 1/2 Price

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Fully Frilled Quilt Cover Set at Less Than Half Price

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Also matching tie-backs
available in Blue, Green,
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Quality Fitted Sheets

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Letter to the Editor NO RESPECT FOR GRAVES?

Dear Sir,
My Husband died last December and when my Son and I visited his

grave on Sunday 12th February we were shocked by its appalling state.

There had been a large funeral during the week and I can only assume our grave was trampled on by those mourners.

It was heartbreaking to me and my family that no thought had been spared for our recent bereavement, and wondered if there was some protection the Council could offer to prevent this happening again.

Yours sincerely
V. Hudson
Kirkstone Place

PIZZA line

Tel: 312218

FREE DELIVERY

LOCAL CHEMISTS EMERGENCY OPENING TIMES

Sunday 19th February 1995
12 noon - 1.00pm - M&M Chemists, Shildon

Sunday 26th February 1995
12 noon - 1.00pm - Chiltons, Shildon

THE DANDY CART
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Carlsberg Ex £1.30 - Guinness & Cider £1.40

3 Course Sunday Lunch - £2.99
Main Course only £1.75 - Childrens (1 course) £1

VILLAGE SCOUTS VISIT GARAGE



Eight senior scouts of both sexes aged 14+ visited the Croft & Blackburn Mercedes Benz dealership in Stockton this week as a precursor to taking their Mechanic Badge.

Andrew Muckley, Scout Leader of the 80 strong Heighington Group said, "This year's theme is pursuing excellence and that's why we chose Mercedes Benz and Croft & Blackburn as our point of reference."

"Our theme is all about standards. How can young people set their own standards in today's throwaway, disposable society if they cannot understand, or fail to recognise, what excellence is? All of us have a responsibility to be the correct role models for our children, otherwise how will they learn?" He added.

The scouts were shown basic maintenance, fault diagnosis and emergency repair techniques by Graham Bowling, Croft & Blackburn's Workshop Manager, as well as learning about how an engine works and the order in which cylinders fire.

WHESOE IMPROVE SECURITY

Whessoe on the Heighington Lane Business Park are to install electrically operated shutters on all their windows as a security measure.

Three break-ins in

quick succession have forced the company to act urgently, though they have taken a lot of care in the selection of the shutters so as not to spoil the image of the building

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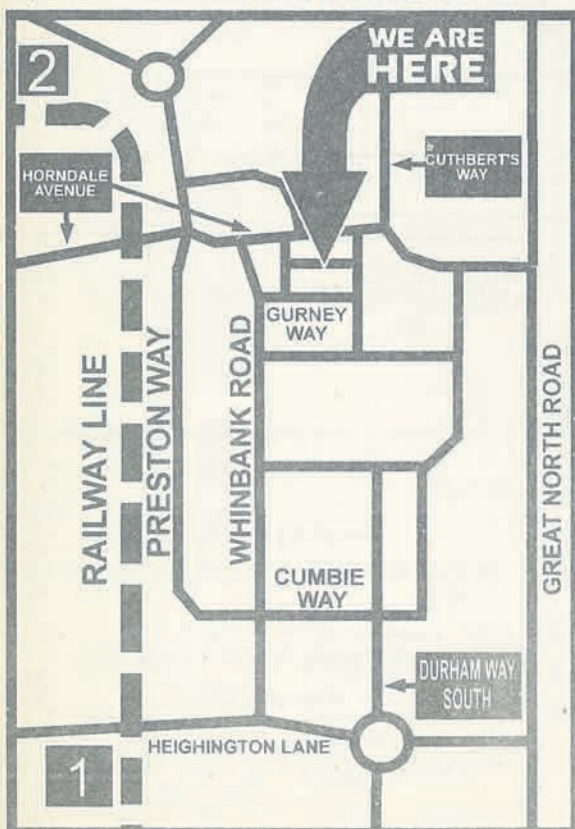
**MASSIVE
SAVINGS**

CLEARANCE

**OUT OF SEASON SALE
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**GRADED
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APPLIANCE
SPECIALISTS**

CODE FOR MAP
1 HEIGHINGTON STATION
2 NEWTON AYCLIFFE STN.



FRIDGE FREEZERS

Prices shown are for three grades of products B1; C2 & D3

	B1	C2	D3
ZFC50/16 mrp £279.99	£238	£196	£182
ZFC66/14 mrp £309.99	£263	£217	£201
ZFC50/31 mrp £299.99	£255	£210	£195
ZFC36/46 mrp £349.99	£297	£245	£227
ZFC61/27 mrp £339.99	£289	£238	£221
ZFC62/23ff mrp £449.99	£382	£315	£292

	B1	C2	D3
ZFC45/30SS mrp £399.99	£340	£280	£260
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	£382	£315	£292
ZFC56/37FF mrp £469.99	£399	£329	£305
ZFC77/31FF mrp £499.99	£425	£350	£325

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TURKISH ENVIRONMENT STUDENT LOOKS AT AWARD WINNING DESIGNS

A Turkish Environment and Housing Student visited the North East recently to look at housing designs and architecture. As part of her visit she called in at Ideal Homes to look at their properties at Avon Park in Newton Aycliffe.

Yasmin Severn (pictured) met ideal Homes Sales Advisor Margaret Trouten whilst she was on holiday in Turkey, when they discussed the housing market, Yasmin asked if she could pay a visit to Ideal Homes when she was in England.

Yasmin looked at the range of three bedroom semi and detached houses and four bedroom detached houses and also looked at the two bedroom semi detached bungalows at the development, as part of her degree course at Northern Cyprus University. The price of the properties start at £53,500.

For the second year Ideal Homes have won the coveted British Housebuilder of Year Award Riband Trophy for builders completing more than 1500 New Homes per year.

The value and importance of this award, supported by the National Housebuilding Council and the New Homes Marketing Board, stems from the fact that it is the only award which is judged by customers who have actually bought a home from the competing builder.

Never before has a company building homes in the 1500+ category won this award for two consecutive years. In doing so, Ideal Homes has achieved the ultimate accolade in

maintaining extremely high standards of service in such vital areas as Accuracy of Sales Literature, Legal and Purchase Advice, Meeting building deadlines, Advice on energy efficiency, condition of home on moving day, Rectifying faults on occupation and importantly Helpfulness of sales staff.

As part of Trafalgar House PLC, Ideal Homes has the financial resource as well as the complete range of specialist skills required to help identify, solve and develop housing opportunities. Ideal Homes cares about the communities in which they build and works with Housing Associations and Local Authorities to provide value for money and quality housing for the future, which takes into account the needs of the environment and local people.

After Ideal Homes collected their award from TV personality, Jill Dando, Ian Trim said "We are one of Britain's most accomplished and award winning providers of quality

housing, developing whole new communities and helping to breath life into existing neighbourhoods. We work closely to the ethos of building "New Homes with Old Fashioned Values". We are building homes which the house buying public clearly want, meeting the exacting requirements of service and quality demanded."

Nearly New Jumble Sale

Top quality household items, furniture and clothing are available at Neville Parade Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 25th February when they hold a "Nearly New and Jumble Sale" in aid of the Church Roof Fund. The ladies of the Church are well known for their baking skills and their delicious cakes will also be on offer.

The sale starts at 10.00am and has an admission price of only 10p. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available throughout the morning. Why not pop in - you will be made very welcome.



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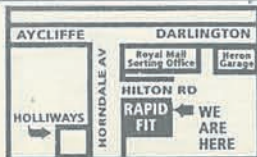
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