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A party of American Police Officers were quite literally "in the pink" when they arrived to a V.I.P. welcome at local luxury hotel, Redworth Hall

Three officers and their wives, from Scottsdale, Arizona were welcomed at Teesside Airport this Thursday at the start of their seven day trip to County Durham.

They were whisked off in two Rolls Royce cars, supplied by Vardys, to Redworth Hall where a pink carpet was rolled out to receive them and pink champagne served by the staff.

The Hotel's General Manager, Pam Henderson, explained that the red carpet was reserved for royalty, so pink was the next best thing. "And we thought the Pink Champagne would add a welcoming touch" said Pam Alasdair McConachie of Sherwoods in Darlington has loaned the party two 4-track

vehicles to use during their stay.

While in our area the cops and their wives, two sergeants and their Deputy Chief, will try traditional pub food at the Bay Horse in Heighington where black pudding, Yorkshire Pud and Newcastle Brown Ale will be on offer.

The Police Chief and a Lieutenant will join the party to study Durham's Police crime-fighting methods and exchange ideas with the County's top officers.

Detective Constable Alan Penman, Newton Aycliffe's Crime Prevention Officer, has been cultivating links with Arizona through the International Police Association for the past 6 years.

A couple of the visitors have been all round Britain, but they always return to Durham as they feel at home here and love the people and the sights, not to mention the black pudding and the brown ale!

The Americans will hand over gifts from their Mayor to the Chairman of the District Council.

They spend this weekend sightseeing and round off festivities by joining the New Year's Eve Party at Redworth Hall.

On January 2nd they meet leaders of Durham County Council and talk to County Durham Constabulary's Senior Officers including the Chief Constable.

They also plan a tour of the Cathedral before leaving for London on Friday taking time to go to the Tower of London and other sights, before flying home to the U.S.A.

YOUNGSTERS ENTERTAIN SENIOR CITIZENS AT XMAS



members of the Youth Centre serve their guests at a Christmas Tea followed by entertainment.

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre members entertained a number of the town's Senior Citizens for Tea and Entertainment just before Christmas.

The refreshments were provided and served by the members including the "Badgers", under the direction of Dawn Hartfree and Amy Boyle who must be congratulated on their excellent buffet. The Junior St. Johns were also in attendance led by Julie Kent.

An excellent hour of Dance was provided by the McAdam School of Dancing from Greenfield. They performed a very wide repertoire of Dance from tap to Disco in spectacular costumes.

There was even a glamorous chorus line complete with feather head decoration. The dancers obviously enjoyed themselves and the experience and the audience were full of praise for the youngsters and the quality of the performance.

It was one contribution to the community that the Youth Centre wished to make in way of a thank you for all the support they had received during 1995.

The Staff, Management Committee and members thank the Dance School for their contribution to this special event and wish them and everyone a Happy and successful New Year.

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Young Engineers Break Barriers



Photo: Young engineers John Gittins, Robin Laycock (tutor), Christopher Scott and Matthew Miller with Barry

The Young Engineers Club at Bishop Auckland College have once again answered a call for help from Pat Smith. Pat is a keyworker for Barry a local cerebral palsy sufferer. In June last year the Club developed a touch pad that allowed Barry to ask for specific needs like a drink or to be taken to the toilet. This time the group of students have developed and built a head switch which allows Barry to buzz for Pat whenever he needs assistance. When Barry moves his head against the switch a buzzer will continue to ring until his keyworker switches it off. Pat has also asked Robin Laycock (course tutor) and the young engineers if they would develop and build a portable frame for the device so Barry can use it when lying in bed or on a bean bag, at present it clips to his wheelchair. Pat said "The gadget is wonderful, Barry has very limited movement and you don't realise how much this means to him, thank you all very much".

Cowie Group gives £60,000 Christmas Present to Help Young People in Durham



Cowie Group plc - the north's largest motor retailing group has donated £60,000 to the County Durham Foundation, launched in July 1995 to support community programmes throughout the county. The donation, which will constitute the Cowie Group Fund will be used specifically to make grants to projects involving young people in County Durham and means that the Foundation now has gifts and pledges worth £1.3 million. The first grants from the Fund will be made early next year.

Gordon Hodgson, chief executive of Cowie Group plc, said "Many of the problems we face in the north east stem from the fact that too many of our young people grow up without being given sufficient preparation and opportunity to develop a rewarding and positive role for themselves in the community". "I am convinced that the expertise of the County Durham Foundation with the use of these additional funds will help Cowie Group to be even more effective in helping the right community groups make the best possible direct impact on this problem."

The Foundation, which is based on the hugely successful American model of philanthropic foundations built on endowments from business, individuals and trusts will visit most projects and assess them before grants are made. "More and more companies and individuals with interests in Durham are turning to the Foundation to help with their charitable aims" added Sir Paul Nicholson, chairman of the Foundation and chairman of the Sunderland based Vaux Group plc. "We are delighted that the Cowie Group has decided to support the Foundation's work in County Durham with such a generous donation".

St. Clare's To Hold Christingle Service

A "Christingle Service" is to be held at St. Clare's Church on Sunday 7th January, 1996 at 4.30pm.

The Christingle is an orange, which represents the world, the red ribbon around it represents the blood of Christ, four cocktail sticks with fruit represents the four seasons of the year, and the lighted candle symbolising Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

This simple service has great appeal to children, young people and their families. A "Christingle" is given to every child and gifts of money are offered for the work of the Children's Society. Everyone is invited to come along to partake in this lovely service.

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Animal or Human Rights!

Dear Sir
It's a sad fact that many people seem to show more concern for the rights and welfare of animals than they do humans!

This can be demonstrated by the amount of public sympathy extended to the distorted campaigns of the animal rights movement who by using emotional propaganda sabotage the right to hope offered to people with serious illnesses by medical research. My own ambition is to see a treatment or cure found for a rare genetic disorder called Friedreich's Ataxia, a progressive disease which attacks the central nervous system condemning the sufferer to life in a wheelchair and loss of physical independence.

The use of animals was essential for the development of the vaccine's and antibiotics which have virtually eradicated polio, tuberculosis, whooping cough and diphtheria, modern surgery to transplant dying hearts and kidneys, to replace crippled hips and knees and insert life-saving pacemakers couldn't have been discovered without animal experimentation.

As much as I love animals I believe people come first and those with serious illnesses such as Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy and Cystic Fibrosis should be more vocal in defending future medical progress. Seriously Ill for Medical Research (SIMR) is a voluntary organisation founded to prove the patients voice in this debate, for further information please write to SIMR, PO Box 504, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 2LU T Bromley

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Congratulations

NEWBERRY, Stephen congratulations on your 21st Stephen, and also on your engagement love Mam, Dad and all the families.

VIOLET CUTLER 31-12-95, Happy 65th birthday Mam, lots of love Mary

NANA CUTLER 31-12-95, Happy 65th birthday, lots of love Emma, Sarah and Laura

DEBBIE JONES and Darren Lee, congratulations on your engagement 25-12-95, love from Mam, Dad and Neville XX

DEBBIE JONES and Darren Lee with much love on your engagement, love from Roslyn, Jimmy, Bob and Jean XX

HOWARTH Chris and Michelle congratulations on your engagement on Boxing Day, Paul Beverley, J.P., Carrie and Matthew

HOWARTH Chris and Michelle congratulations on your engagement, Boxing Day, Dad and Christine

HOWARTH Chris and Michelle, congratulations on your Boxing Day engagement, Stuart and Joanne (and the Bump!)

Public Notice

Showstoppers Tours:
Sat., 3rd February, "Phantom of the Opera" Edinburgh - £39. Sat., 2nd March "Starlight Express", London - £45. Sat., 6th April, "Oliver" London - £49. Sat., 27th April, "Blood Brothers", London - £45. Sat., 18th May, "Les Miserables", London - £49. A £10 deposit secures places Tel 321567 to book.

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Thanks

STEWART & Jackie would like to thank all family and friends for the lovely cards and presents received on the birth of our daughter Chloe

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Newton News

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In Memoriam

EUNICE DUNBAR
Thinking of you on our 40th

Wedding Anniversary, loved and sadly missed, love Sammy and the boys XXX
FRANK TINSLEY To lose a husband you dearly loved is hard beyond belief, your heart comes near to breaking point and no-one knows your grief, I had a wonderful husband, I loved him till the end, I lost two precious things that day, my husband and my best friend. Love you always, Dot

FRANK TINSLEY Remembering you is easy Dad, I do it every day, it's just the pain of losing you that never goes away. Anne Marie and Stacy
FRANK TINSLEY Gone but not forgotten, sadly missed, Mark, Anne and Dean

DOUGLAS PARKER Died December 30th 1988. Treasured memories of a dear husband, father and grandad. Loved and remembered always, by wife Irene and all the family

KEVIN WRIGHT
25-12-94
WHY?
Miss you, Alice

Birthday Remembrance

KING, Sharon Elizabeth, 29th December. No cards to send no presents to give, just our love and memories as long as we live, Agnes, Geordie and family

REAY, GLADYS, January 3rd, Mum, we miss you more than anyone knows, as time goes by the emptiness grows, the tears in our eyes we can wipe away, but the aches in our hearts are here to stay. Love Agnes, Geordie, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

GLADYS REAY, 3rd January. Birthday memories of a dear Mam and wife. I remember the day God took you. I will remember the day I lost you and will till the end of time. Lonely is our home with you. Life is not the same, the world would feel like heaven to have you back again. Of all the tears and heartaches one thing makes me glad. You chose me to be with you for those couple of hours. Happy birthday Mam, wife. Your loving husband George, daughter Betty, son-in-law John, grandchildren

TERRY HARDY 27-12-33. Love and miss you so very much, your loving wife Enid.

TERRY HARDY 27-12-33. Gentle Jesus up above, give our Grandad a great big hug, lots of love and kisses, Ross, Curtis, Robyn, Ricky and Bradley

TERRY HARDY 27-12-33. Words can never say how much we miss you on this your birthday, all our love Peter, Lynne, Alyson, Anita and Karen

TERRY HARDY 27-12-33. Always in our thoughts, Andrew, Micky, Ian and Alicia

Seasonal Greetings

SEASONAL Greetings from Shirley and Godfrey Bennett

A HAPPY and Prosperous New Year to all residents of Heighington and Redworth Parish from Rosemary Boynton, District Councillor

Heighington Parish Council Centenary Celebrations 1895-1995

On Sunday 11th December 1995, a celebration of Heighington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall. Parishioners of Heighington and Redworth were cordially invited to partake of a slice of Centenary Cake and Centenary Wine.

Cllr. Mrs Rosemary Boynton, Chairman, welcomed everyone and explained that this was an open invitation.

The Parish Council was, in fact 100 years of age in January, but this was unknown to Councillors, who only discovered this fact in August and decided there and then to organise a suitable celebration.

Mrs Boynton showed everyone the brass plaque, inscribed: "Heighington Parish Council Centenary 1895-1995", which Mr Foggo has kindly agreed to affix to the Village Pump. Thirty oak half barrels for Heighington and 15 for Redworth have been purchased as a way of marking the Centenary of the Parish Council and some have already been planted ready for Spring flowering.

It has been suggested that parishioners may wish to adopt a barrel.

Vice Chairman Cllr Peter Smyth, spoke of his pride in the village and how Heighington, who won second place in the County Durham Tidy Village Competition, was a village which helped itself. Cllr Smyth praised Mr Arthur Boynton for his daily help in keeping the village tidy and Mrs June Davison who for years has provided disinfectant for cleaning out the bus shelter.

Cllr Smyth presented Mr Lou Bedocs, chairman of the Village Hall Association, with the framed runner's up certificate for the Tidy Village Competition in the hope that it would be hung in the lower hall. Mr Bedocs thanked Cllr Smyth and assured him it would be done.

The Centenary Cake was cut and Mr Andy Muckley, scout leader, took photographs. Wine and cake was served by Mrs Libby Smyth, Mrs Val Bedocs and Mrs Ruth Lee.

More photographs were taken of the Parish Councillors and then the gathering filed out into the winter sunshine to admire the beautiful Christmas Tree which Cllr Joe Sewell had collected for on behalf of the Parish Council for the village.

Cllr Sewell had also installed the tree and hung the lights on it. The Clerk to the Parish Council, Mrs

Ann Le Druillenec, was given the honour of switching on the coloured tree lights.

A report of this event is to be preserved in a time capsule, built into the roof of the Parish Church.



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BEWARE OF GRANTS THAT AREN'T FOR YOU

Local Labour Euro MP Stephen Hughes, issued a warning to small businesses in his constituency to beware of "consultants" offering European grants for a fee.

Stephen Hughes, Euro MP for Durham and Blaydon, is worried that local small businesses are going to be targeted by unscrupulous consultants - already operating in some parts of the UK - who for a fee of around £300 offer to find and apply for a European grant for the business.

Stephen Hughes warned "Small businesses should be very wary of anyone offering Euro grants for a fee. Often the information offered is publicly available - most Councils have a European Officer who will give FREE

information on European grants. Most small businesses are not eligible for European grants - and if they are it would usually be for things like training: not building on extension or expanding the business as some of these consultants claim".

He added "I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has been approached by a Euro grant consultant. But would strongly advise against using their so-called services."

Labour Euro MP's raised the issue recently in the European Parliament - but the European Commission told Labour that it was up to Britain to sort out the problem. Stephen Hughes has already alerted Durham County Council's Consumer Services Department.

Scope now able to help even more

Dear Sir

May I take the opportunity to send Seasons Greetings to all your readers and special thanks to those who have helped Scope (formerly the Spastics Society) with their valuable time or through donations or supporting our shops.

There have been many challenges in the year since we changed our name to Scope, we are now reaching out to more people with cerebral palsy, their families and carers than ever before through our services, in the support, information and advice that we offer, and through our network of local groups.

Thank you for all you have done for Scope over the past year. In 1996 your help will be more important than ever as we continue to work with increasing numbers of disabled people around the country.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Anthony Hewson

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CENTRE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Invited guests, staff and parents had the pleasure of attending the Carol Concert presented by Aycliffe Young People's Centre last week.

Cockerton Brass Band accompanied the carol singing interspersed with readings both serious and amusing.

A very talented musical group comprising a rock band and a singing trio were very entertaining and brought great applause.

It was evident that a lot of work had been put in by the young people in ensuring the success of this event. The stage and hall were beautifully decorated, the girls were gorgeously dressed and everyone enjoyed the occasion.

"Councillors don't take any notice"

Dear Sir

What a town this is - always arguing over something. First we had a lovely car boot sale closed down, a new one was opened and it doesn't suit the shop keepers. I am sure people use the shops if they need. I often have to go to Darlington to get some things.

Now its a carry on about the Aycliffe Golf Club. The trouble is Councillors have to show they are earning their money so they change everything and if they think the people are enjoying themselves they get upset, my husband and I don't go and vote - it's a waste of time - the Councillors don't take any notice of what the public want anyway! I would like to see a nice park round by the boating lake not just a few swings and climbing frames.

Yours, a disillusioned Newtonian

Mrs D Moore

LEGION'S BUBBLE BURSTS

By Lee Forster

British Legion 1 Hole in the Wall 3

A full strength Legion team could not dislodge an impressive ten man "Hole in the Wall" as they crashed to defeat for only the third time in 13 games.

One paper this looked to be an evenly contested match, as both teams have had a good run of late, but "Hole in the Wall" proved too strong, out passing and out playing a poor Legion side.

The Legions best chances came in the early stages of the first half with Mick Molloy bursting through the opposition defence shooting perilously close. However "Hole in the Wall" were impressive on the break spreading the play and coaxing the Legion defenders out of position and creating space for their own strikers. This space finally paid off as "Hole in the Wall" broke the deadlock with a clinical finish leaving goalkeeper Ian Palmer no chance.

Going into half time the Legion were 2 down after squandering a numerous amount of chances. Assistant Manager Colin Fawcett

was left to encourage the team with numerous words of support.

This encouragement paid off as the Legion attacked well and pulled a goal back with constant pressure on the "Hole in the Wall" defence as an inspired Trevor Bygones finished a Legion move off well.

It was not enough as the Legion lost the foothold and the opposition completed their rout with spectacular drive past and on the who impressive Ian Palmer. Hopefully the Christmas Break will enable the Legion players recharge their batteries and come into the New Year full of aggression and fighting spirit

LOCAL CHEMISTS EMERGENCY OPENING TIMES

Sunday 31st December, 1995

12noon-1pm - Woodham Pharmacy, N/Aycliffe

Monday 1st January, 1996

12noon-1pm - Neville Pharmacy, N/Aycliffe

Sunday 7th January 1996

12noon-1pm - Hancock & Ainsley, Shildon

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