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Mike Reah Inter Schools Gala



Sedgefield 75 hosted the Annual Schools Gala at the Leisure Centre on Wednesday 22nd June. The event was supported by Durham Sport and the Borough Council.

The schools competing were St. Joseph's, Aycliffe Village, Heighington, St. Mary's, Byerley Park, Vane Road, Sugar Hill, Woodham Burn and Stephenson Way.

There were over 140 swimmers and for many this was their first gala. To represent your school is very special and this was displayed in the way all the children swam. Each gave of their best to achieve a good team result. The support given by the spectators was unbelievable and contributed to the overall success of the evening.

The winning school was Vane Road with Heighington taking the small schools trophy. A special thank you to N.A.L.C. staff and everyone who helped on the evening and in particular the teachers and school staff without whose support the gala would not take place.

Many of the helpers were Swimming Club members now at College and Secondary School who came along to work with and support the town's young swimmers. Andrea Bean, Anne Kellet and Jane Auster were presented with flowers by the club President Mr. Steve Foster as a token of appreciation.

The ASA and Sport England recognise the importance and value of School\Club links and Sedgefield 75 ASC, working with our partners, are looking to extend this type of gala into other areas of the Borough.

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Want to Perform at the Show?

Greenfield Arts Centre are organising the line up for this year's performance Marquee at Great Aycliffe Show. The dates this year is Bank Holiday Weekend, 27th & 28th August and we are looking for people who are interested in taking part.

Do you like to sing, dance, juggle, play an instrument or have any other performing talents?

If so and you are up for taking part (as a group or as an individual) please contact Greenfield Arts Centre on 01325 379 048.

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DJ Success for Town Graphic Designer

What was once a hobby for Nilesh Ricci Parmar, in-house graphic designer at Saks HQ in Darlington, is now becoming a second career.
The 26-year-old from Newton Aycliffe has just been signed up to play at the Max Power exhibition at the Birmingham NEC in July for the Ministry of Sound, which will also be broadcast on the music label's on-line radio station.
He also played at the Ministry of Sound's Fuel event in Newark over the recent May Bank Holiday weekend and for the Ministry at the huge Majestyk nightclub in Leeds last month. A far cry from his early DJing days practicing in his bedroom ten years ago!
Back then his talent was soon picked up by a DJ agency in Newcastle and he also worked for a record label for 6 months whilst at university there, where he played at and organised events. He was quickly signed up as a resident DJ at Tiger Tiger in Newcastle, at Queens in Bishop Auckland.
Nilesh, who plays Scouse House and Funky and Dark Electro House, has been working at Saks HQ for over 4 years. "It's fantastic that I've been given these great opportunities to play at such high profile events and venues. The buzz I get playing in front of thousands of people, enjoying my music, is amazing."



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ROMAN HELP TSUNAMI VICTIMS

Aycliffe based Roman Limited, the UK's leading shower manufacturer, is raising vital funds for a Children's home in Sri Lanka, which was left devastated by the Asian Tsunami. Roman has decided to adopt the charity in this the firm's 20th birthday year.
The North East coastal town of Mullaitivu was crushed by the huge tidal waves that hit the region back in December, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake.
Roman, will send donated money to help build a brick shelter for the 73 orphaned girls, who are currently sleeping two-to-a-mat in an open-roof hut, with no fresh drinking water.
The funds will be used to develop a new orphanage, complete with kitchen, classroom, and bedrooms (and of course showers), where the children can live and learn under the guidance of the nuns who care for them.
The plight of the children's home was brought to Roman's attention by Darlington couple, Aloy and Juliet Mariathasan, Sri Lankan nationals who settled in the town in the early 1970's.
The couple have already visited the area, and plan to return later in the year, to see how the money already sent over in March 2005 has been used to improve the quality of life for the girls. It was Aloy and Juliet's detailed knowledge of the area that persuaded Roman to take this project on.
Aloy said: "We are thrilled that Roman will help us to rebuild the lives of these girls, many of whom lost everything in the Tsunami. The North East coast of Sri Lanka bore the brunt of this natural disaster leaving communities completely shattered."
Roman's managing director Gerry Osborne said, "Most people have been affected by the Tsunami, in one way or another. We want to raise enough cash for these children, who have already lost their parents, to have a decent standard of life at least and help them to recover from their terrible ordeal. We are sure people will continue with their generosity by donating to the fund."
Over the next year Roman staff will raise money by holding a series of events on a continuous basis such as completing the Three Peaks Challenge, a 5-a-side soccer tournament, "Stars in Their Eyes" style Karaoke, cricket matches and numerous other events.

Letter to the Editor

Local Support Appreciated

Dear Sir,
We would like to thank Councillor Bob Fleming and Councillor Bill Blenkinsop and others, for their support and encouragement as our local councillors on Sedgefield Borough Council at the Development Control Committee on Tuesday 21st June.
They spoke fluently, logically, factually and accepted with forbearance the ill-mannered assaults thrown at them by the chair.
The motion for the proposed development at Burn Lane was carried 11 to 9, but only because promised support from non-Aycliffe councillors was withdrawn at the last minute. We commend these men of high integrity, who, as elected councillors, did put people first.
Tony Blair our MP and PM in his inspiring speech of the 23rd June said " It is time to give ourselves a reality check. To receive the wake-up call. The people are blowing the trumpets round the city walls. Are we listening? Have we the political will to go out and meet them so they regard our leadership as part of the solution not the problem".
How apt is this locally? Perhaps he should spread the word in his own constituency.
Colin & Marilyn Carter

Butterwick Hospice

Anne Harland would like to say many thanks to the people who have filled the 6 moneyboxes. Bill Fox informed me that this time we collected £50.18. Thanks go to Darlington Photo Centre for the £27 in their box.
This all helps to make life a little better for the children at Butterwick Hospice. All too soon their lives are snatched away from them and by your support we can help.
On July 10th I will be once again competing in "The Great North Walk" an 8-mile route. Can I please ask once again for sponsors? Everyone who has helped me in the past, thank you. Will you please help me now?
Anne Harland

Shoes for the Bride



Part-time Medical Secretary Allison Mendelsohn of Newton Aycliffe has recently set up a business specialising in designer wedding shoes.
Her interest came when she was unable to find a pair for her own wedding, and thought it would be a great idea to start producing designer wedding shoes to help brides to be.
She said "I have been to several wedding exhibitions and always find myself looking for shoes, finding that there isn't a great deal of choice".
Allison runs her business from home where she has a two year old son. She has two designer suppliers, able to provide her with the required amounts to keep her business running. She sells shoes by Benjamin Adams and Filippa Scott, British designers who specialise in shoes and have designed for celebrities. Both take special care in making sure their shoes are stylish and comfortable. Benjamin Adams, who designs shoes for London label Paradox, uses duchesse silk or pearlised kid leather uppers, with leather soles and linings. Filippa Scott works for her own label and uses Duchess satin with leather straps with extra insole padding for maximum comfort.
Allison offers home visiting to local areas and can be seen by appointment in her home for fittings and enquiries. Shoes in both designs come in ivory but a dying service is available.
She hopes soon to offer a customising service, matching the fabric of the bridal gown. Prices can range from £99.95 to £220 and a small range of matching handbags can also be made to order. Contact "Exclusively Shoes" on 01325 307388 or 07971 577 572.

Refurbishment of After School Club



Over recent months Woodham Burn Out of School Club has had a complete refurbishment and redecoration. Since opening in January 2003 the club has moved from strength to strength providing childcare for children aged 3 to 12 years (up to their 13th birthday).Opening all year: before and after. During school holidays we are open from 7:45am until 6pm (excluding bank holidays).
The club also provides a mini bus drop off and pick up service for children who attend other schools in Newton Aycliffe.The club has purchased new furniture, storage units, computers, equipment, games and toys of children's choice, plus a complete new flooring area.
Mrs Henderson (Head Teacher) adds: "My dream to provide care for children aged 3 to 12 from 7:45am to 6pm in stimulating, attractive surroundings has been fulfilled. The joint working of the school, pre-school and Out of School Club staff is exemplary. The parents/carers of our pupils are now fully supported. We have been leaders in the field of extended schooling.
The out of school club has worked in partnership with the Pre-school to also redecorate the entrance and nursery area, making it even more welcoming and friendly.The pre-school, school and Out of School Club now provide wrap around care for working parents/carers allowing children to attend any or all of the services, between 7:45am and 6pm depending on individual needs.
If you would like any further information regarding the Out of School Club, contact Kendra Green (Manager) on 01325 300 080, School on 01325 300231 or the Preschool (Pat Johnson) on 07973 520374.

WHAT'S ON AT THE PUBS AND CLUBS

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Residents Meeting

A meeting of the Burnhill Residents Association will be held in Burnhill Methodist Church on Tuesday 5th of July 05 at 7pm. Please come along and let us discuss what we want for our area, for our children and for ourselves. All are very welcome to attend and all are welcome to have their say.
Tea and coffee will be available also a raffle.
M. Robson, Secretary

School Choir and Brass Band from Aycliffe Perform in Durham Cathedral

The Sugarwood Junior Choir, pupils from Sugar Hill and Woodham Burn, led the singing in Durham Cathedral last Saturday afternoon at a glittering Service of Thanksgiving to commemorate the Centenary of Rotary International.
Rotarians and guests from all over the North East packed the Cathedral to witness a very uplifting Service and the dedication of an eternal flame brass lamp placed over the tomb of the Venerable Bede.
Hon Editor of Newton News, Syd Howarth has the honour of being District Governor of Rotary in the North East this year and he specially invited the Sugarwood Choir to lead the singing and Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band to play for this special occasion.
"I was so proud of the part my own town played in this prestigious event. The Band and the School choir were magnificent and myself and everyone involved really appreciate their contribution to the event. The children were a credit to their school, parents and the town. I am sure, like me, the occasion will have a special place in their memories." said Syd.
The brass lamp over Bede's Tomb, gifted by Rotary, is an exceptional design and will feature in all references to the Chapel where the northern Saint now rests. Rotary is privileged to be connected to the Cathedral during their centenary celebrations. It is a symbol of the north, a world heritage site, visited by over 600,000 people every year.
Newton Aycliffe has a strong club and is very active in the community it serves. For further information contact the Secretary, Paul on 300212.
This week Syd Howarth visited Sugar Hill and Woodham Burn Junior Schools to present Certificates to the children of the choir who are named below.

Members of the Choir

SUGAR HILL
Lydia Dunn, Scott Dawson, Georgia Wakefield, Sarah Blenkinsopp, Leanne Smith, Annalise Etherington, Charlotte Draper, Emily Bulman, Demi Gowland, Emma-Jo Blundy, Kate Nevison, Jennifer Ingham, Abby Dobson, Rhianna Bonas, Hannah Burns, Chelsea Burns, Stephanie Shiel, Rachael Tumelty, Nathan Elwick, Louise Ashby, Kelly Keane, Hannah Manion, Jed Leonard.
WOODHAM BURN
Abigail Baxter, Alison Harrison, Amy Hardy, Anna Robinson, Beth Gibson, Bethany Barr, Brogan Clish, Catherine Ross, Chantelle Russ, Cloe Livermore, Darryl McGarrigle, Elena Devenport, Helen Brooke, Jade Pateman, Jessica Bruce, Jessica Greenwood, Linzi Davis, Lizzie Hemmings Duff, Megan Hemmings Duff, Melissa Pender, Naomi Jackson, Natalie Johnston, Nikki Earl, Paige Saunders, Rebeka Marshall, Rianna Armstrong, Ryan Dunn, Simon Howe, Stephanie Armstrong.

Carnegie Medal Comes to Aycliffe

The selection of two prestigious literary awards is currently underway and pupils from Greenfield School Community and Arts College, together with the Librarian, Nicola Hunton, and Teacher of English Judith Waite are shadowing the project. The Carnegie Medal, awarded to the writer of an outstanding book for children and The Kate Greenaway Medal awarded for distinguished illustration in a book for children, are awarded annually, by CILIP (The Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals).

11 pupils from the school are involved in the shadowing of these awards.

The pupils have been selected because they are such enthusiastic readers themselves. They are reading all the short listed titles and will decide which book is their favourite, and why. The awards will be announced on 8th July 2005, so the reading must be completed before the end of June.

The pupils read as many of the titles as possible and meeting in the Library once a week to update reviews and swap books.

If you would like any further information, details of the prizes and the short listed books can be found on the website which is (www.carnegie greenaway.org.uk).

You can also access the Greenfield School page and read what the group thought of the books they have read.

Carelink Recognised Nationally for Quality Service



Jacqueline Algie, a Service Development Officer with Sedgefield Borough Council and Carelink customer Isabel Ogilvie.

Sedgefield Borough Council Carelink Service staff are celebrating after becoming one of only a handful of UK local authorities to achieve a top standard.

They have achieved compliance with the Association of Social Alarm Providers (ASAP) Code of Practice for Social Alarms Services Part 1 (Call Handling Services) and Part 2 (Dispersed Alarm Operations).

Sedgefield Carelink offers a range of 24/7 monitoring, response and home visiting services to around 9,500 people throughout Sedgefield Borough, the Durham Dales and Wear Valley district.

The services provide home support enabling older and vulnerable people maintain their independence in the community. Customers are primarily elderly people, but also include a growing number of people of all ages.

A simple to use pendant alarm system ensures assistance is readily available, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At the touch of a button, customers are connected to a Carelink response centre operator who offers appropriate support. This can include contacting a mobile responder, family member or friend, or if necessary, alerting the emergency services.

Launched ASAP in 1998, the Code of Practice encourages the provision of good quality customer service by officially recognising those service providers who meet its demanding criteria.

To become code compliant, organisations must have detailed procedures covering all aspects of their operations, and demonstrate that service delivery is in accordance with these procedures.

Independent audits carried out by the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board on behalf of ASAP lead to appropriate service providers being awarded 'code compliance', a process which is repeated on an annual basis.

Arthur Bellwood Carelink Services Manager, said, "The audit was a rigorous and demanding exercise and undoubtedly teamwork within all parts of Carelink was the key to our success.

"It was a most worthwhile project, which has benefited not only the staff, but more importantly, our customers whom rely on our service day in and day out."

Anyone who is interested in benefiting from the Carelink service should call (01388) 728806 (24hour number)

Carelink customer Isabel Ogilvie from Ferryhill, fully supports the scheme, and said: "Carelink is always there 24/7 and I would recommend the service to anyone especially those on their own".

10k Race

(N.A.A.C) Would like to thank all residents for their patience on Sunday 19th June (am) while they hosted their Annual 3M 10k Road Race.

For the first time this year since the event commenced in 1998, we have had to employ a traffic management company to close part of the course and cone other parts due to increased risk assessment and health and safety regulations.

We have liaised very closely and taken advice from Durham Constabulary on this matter.

We would like to thank them for their support and policing of the event on the day.

Overall the event has become a lot safer for the competitors.

We will take on board feedback to make further improvements for next year.

NAAC would like to thank their major sponsor 3M Company, also special thanks to Great Aycliffe Town Council and Sedgefield Borough Council for their continued sponsorship and support.

The event does raise money for various charities and encourages members of the community to get active. This year we had a record number of competitors in both the 10k and fun run.

Susan Milburn
Secretary and Race Director

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings of the Town Council and its Committees

Tuesday 5th July 2005
Environment Committee - 7.15pm
Tuesday 5th July 2005
Recreation Committee - 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 30 minutes has been set aside for the public to ask questions of appropriate members of the Council at its Council Meeting. Questions should relate to the work of the Council or affect the Parish in some way and they should be given in writing to the Town Clerk at least five clear days prior to the date upon which they will be asked.

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

Ashwood Arts in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe presents a

Day with Charles Evans

at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre on Saturday, 13th August, 2005
Two sessions 10am-12.45pm and 1.15pm-4pm
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Another Card Shop!

Dear Sir,

Well, well, what a surprise, another shop opens in the Town Centre selling, guess what? Greeting cards.

Our Town Centre already has 16 outlets selling cards. It's a town of card shops, charity and building society offices. When are we going to get a bit more variety of shops? This town is a joke.

Here are the outlets that sell the cards: Tesco, Pound Stretcher, Boyes, Sommerfield, Stevens, Taylors, Christian Aid, Red Cross, Sue Ryder, Post Office, Clintons, Occasions, British Heart, Woolworths, and Scope.

If the next shop to open is different I will be the first to send a "Thankyou" card.

Town Resident

House of Eden Children's Nursery
Rushyford



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The House of Eden Children's Nursery opened April 1999 in Rushyford. It started with 3 staff and 2 children and a social services licence for a total capacity of 45 children. Over the last 6 years the nursery has expanded both the building and the occupancy and now provides childcare for 144 children and employs 33 staff.

The House of Eden has recently opened a second nursery and out of school club based in Aycliffe Village Primary School, Aycliffe Village, providing the same high level of childcare service, knowledge and experience.

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MOBILITY CLUB NEWS

We must not forget the men and women we owe a debt. They fought and died, laughed and cried. Toiled the fields, built ships and planes. Bevan boys provided warm flames. Men and women, rich or poor stood side by side to create a world where freedom presides.

Dear Sir

I am writing to you on behalf of Newton Aycliffe Mobility Club as we have been awarded a grant by the Home Front Recall of £2,735.00p. On Thursday 9th of June our club visited Eden Camp to Commemorate the End of World War II, besides our members we had Veterans from this era from Civilian and the Armed Forces, every person through this award had entry and coach fee paid plus £10.00 each for refreshments and lunch.

All agreed that they had a good time and that many memories were brought back both happy and sad that had been hidden at the back of their minds.

Two of our members related in a different way how they had to be evacuated due to the sensitive positions held with the governmental positions which their husbands held and in the interest of the information they held had priority over others and had armed escorts to ensure they left Singapore and other people were captured and sent to POW camps, they did not want to but were ordered out.

For the younger people like Dave Parker and Nathan Sowerby, it was of great interest and educational and for myself also we feel that we had a taste of realism by the facilities provided, sight, smell and informative information that you cannot get by reading a book alone.

The music hall was enjoyed by many with songs from this era and were singing away to these immortal songs that could be sung and understood by all. The visiting school children from all around were having a good time and they also said that this was a real way of learning and we had to remember this part of history.

We had people who worked in factories and Land Army girls, evacuee's all whom had different views on things but they all agreed that the community spirit is sadly missing today and our values and moral views have gone down.

Some of the members fought in late wars such as Korea, Kenya against the Mau Mau, Malaya Borneo the Gulf War, Northern Ireland, Cyprus and has the opportunity to recollect from these also.

The most important thing though was that as a club we enjoyed ourselves and older and younger people were mixing and socialising and we all enjoyed this experience for many of the older members it was the chance to pass on their unique experiences to us all and the same for the Veterans.

We would like to thank the South West Durham R.E.M.E Association for their kindness and smartly dressed informative volunteers in aiding those people in wheelchairs around on the day.

Ernie Wilson, we wish you a good recovery from your stay in hospital and good wishes from all of us in our club. Do as your family ask and take things easier.

Home Front Recall is a joint lottery grant programme supported by Big Lottery Fun and Heritage Lottery Fund, and delivered by awards for all lottery grants for local groups. Separate funds have been established for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Big Lottery Fund is the joint operating name of the New Opportunities Fund and the National Lottery Charities Abroad (which made grants under the name of the Community Fund)

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ST. ELIZABETHS Church Coffee morning, Saturday 2nd July 10.00am-12 noon. Strawberry and cream scones, home bake stall, raffle. All welcome.

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In Memoriam

ARTHUR WEST 3rd July 2001. You're so easy to remember. Though four years have now gone by, you would be harder to forget. So we never even try. Lovingly remembered by 'Popsy', Geoff, Gillian, David and Helen xx

JEFF CLARKE 4.7.02 Beloved friend to all, forever in our thoughts. Never forgotten. Dave, Tracy, Joan, Harry, Biz, Brenda, Leo, Marlyn, Chris and Jackie xx

JEFF CLARK 4TH July 2002. Treasured memories of a devoted friend. Always in our thoughts. Georgie & Joy-Marie xx

JEFF CLARK died 4th July 2002. A very special brother and uncle. Always in our thoughts, sadly missed, dearly loved and forever remembered. Liz, Roger, Joanna, Martyn, Andrea xxx each life is a miracle that changes the world and leaves it a better place than it was before.

JEFF CLARK died 4th July 2002. There's a face that is always with us, a voice we would love to hear. A smile we will always remember, of one we loved so dear. To us you were so special, what more is there to say. We only wish with all our hearts, that you were here today. Loved always, Paul, Carole, Adam and Matthew xxx

DENICE CONNELL 29th June 1997. As time unfolds another year, memories keep you ever near. Loved and remembered always, Mam-in-law and family xx

ROBERT AITKEN (BOB) 5th July 2000. Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts. Loving wife, Marjorie, and Son Stuart xxx

ROBERT AITKEN (BOB) 5th July 2000. A loving father and grandad always in our thoughts. Love from, Linda, Daniel and Amber xxx

ETHEL WHARTON 4th July 1999. Remembered with love nana, today and always. Andrew, Andrea, Kelly, Gary, Julie, Bradley, Emily and Layla xxx

ROBERT CLELLAND 1.7.83 The years go by, but you are always with us in our hearts. Love you always, Mam, Debbie and Jayne xxx

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Obituary

JOHN BRIDDICK died 22.6.05 aged 72 years. Adored husband and best friend of Sheila. Funeral on Monday 4th July 12.15pm at Neville Parade Methodist Church followed by private Cremation at Darlington Crematorium. In life I loved you dearly, in death I still love you. In my heart you hold a place no one could ever fill. Sheila xxx

JOHN BRIDDICK 24.10.32-22.06.05 God looked around his garden, and he found an empty place. And then he looked down upon Earth and saw your tired face. He put his arms around you, and lifted you to rest. God's garden must be beautiful, he always takes the best. He knew that you were suffering, he knew you were in pain, he knew that you would never get well on Earth again. He saw the road was getting rough, and the hills were hard to climb, so he closed your weary eyelids and whispered "Peace be Thine". It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone. For part of us went with you, the day God called you home. Always in our hearts and prayers. Love, Malcolm, Kelly and family xxx

JOHN ELLIOTT BRIDDICK died 22nd June, aged 72 years. Much loved and admired step dad and grandad of Viv, Paddy and Bethany. A true gentleman who never had a wrong word for anyone. He never took sides, was steadfast and calm in any troubled waters. He suffered much but was brave and courageous without a single complaint to the end. It has been an absolute honour to have you part of our lives. John, you make us humble. You will be sorely missed. Love is a smile, a tear, a touch. Love says so little, but means so much. Love is forever and we give it to you. From your family who thought the world of you. Paddy, Viv and Bethany xxx

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Birthday Remembrance

KIERAN LEE 26th June. You're 3rd birthday, loving you always forgetting you never. Love, Nana, Grandad, Paul, Dean, Jade Demi and Ross Keegan xxx

FREDERICK TAYLOR 2nd July 2004. Memory lane is a beautiful place where thoughts and love are true. Again and again we travel that place just to be with you. Loved and missed by Wife Anne and family, Christine, Stuart, Ian and Grandchildren xxx

Thanks

Kevin & Davinia Beenham



We would like to say "thank you" to everyone who attended our wedding day on 4th June. We would also like to thank you all for the gifts that we received. Thank you.

LEE & JAYNE Prescott would like to thank all their family & friends for all the gifts received to celebrate their marriage on the 16th June. A big Thank you to all who joined us in Paphos, Cyprus for the wedding and to Robert & Lynda Lee for all that they have done.'

TO MY WONDERFUL friends Katty, Claire, Carrie, Caroline, Natalie, Catherine and Sarah. I would just like to thank you all for being so amazing after the death of my beautiful mum. Thanks for coming to the Funeral on Saturday and being the best friends a girl could wish for. Also an extra special thank you to my fiancé's parents, Barbara and Peter. No one can replace my mam and dad but I am honoured to have such fabulous in-laws. I love you both and to my Babe, Chris. You're my rock and I love you. Thanks, Lauren xxx

BARNEY MILVAIN The family of the late Barney Milvain wish to thank everyone for the kindness and sympathy shown during their recent sad bereavement. Also for the cards and donations to support North East Children Cancer Research Fund. Special thanks to Dr Chris Stephenson and nurses and Dr. Jenny Skinner and her team. Thanks also to Rev Anderson for a comforting service and David Brassell and staff of the Co-op Funeral Service.

ADDISON John and Mam, a very big thank you for all your hard work and help with everything. "Very Much Appreciated" Lots of love, Deborah, Gary, Shelby and Rory xx

ALDERSON Vicky & Sean. Thank you for a beautiful Grandson, Ben Michael, born 18.6.2005. He was worth waiting for! Love, Mam, Dad, Gareth and Karl xxx

ALDERSON Vicky and Sean. Congratulations on the birth of your beautiful son Ben Michael. Lots of love, Nana and Grandad xxx

ALDERSON Victoria and Sean. Congratulations on the birth of Ben. Love from, Auntie Dee xxx

Congratulations

HOWARTH To Jack - Have a great birthday "on the Toon". Love from Grandad Syd, Uncles, Aunties and Cousins

KALYA EDEN SHAW "My Little Angel" Get a move on Birthday Bunny, for you just cannot be late! To take your pressies to Kayla, now that she is eight. Have a lovely birthday Angel. Miss you everyday. Love you loads, Auntie Pamela xxx

DAWN ELLIOTT Happy 40th birthday to a great friend. Hope you have a fantastic time. Love and best wishes, Caroline and Wendy xx

NICOLA BUXTON To a special sister and auntie. Happy 21st birthday. Love, Chris, Claire, Christopher, Kiera and Kyle xxx

DANIEL WEST Congratulations on passing your driving test 1st time, "Clever Cloggs!" Hope you have many years of happy motoring. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, and all the family xxx

OUR MAM is 30 today on 4/7/05 We love you so much, you are the greatest Mam and we will love you forever. Gillian, Natalie and Brandon xxx

JACKIE'S 30 today. The love of my life has reached the golden 30 on 4/7/05. I love you more and more each year that goes by. Love you always, Robert xxx

DAWN ELLIOTT 40 today 29th June. Enjoy your 2 weeks of partying. Love from, Mam, Bill, Jacky, Darren, Stephen and Louis xxx

DAWN ELLIOTT 29th June- the Big 40! Have a wonderful time. All our love, Ian, James, Sophie, Ellice and Jack xx

LEIGH-ANN WATKINS Happy 11th birthday to our gorgeous granddaughter on the 7-7-05. Have a great day Sweetheart. Love you. Love from, Nana and Grandad xxx

SUSAN DICKISON 5th July Congratulations on your 40th birthday. Still looking as young as ever. Love, Mam and all the family xxx

JILL HYMAS Happy 15th birthday. Lots of love, Mam, Ray, Scott, Paul and Harry xxx

MICHAELA FORSTER Happy 13th birthday for Saturday 2nd July. Have a great day. Lots of love, Nanna and Uncle Stephen

MICHAELA FORSTER Happy 13th birthday. Love you like jelly tots. Love, Kaylem and Kieron xxx

VICKY & STU Congratulations on your beautiful daughter Maisie. Love your very proud Auntie Claire xxx

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WELL DONE GIRLS





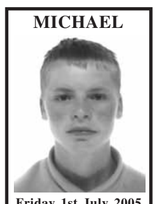
Rhiannon Tankard
Age 5, for winning 1st place at the IDTA competition and to her little sister
Shannon Tankard
Age 4 years for gaining 3rd place in the same competition. Thanks to dance partners Danielle and Maria and to dance teacher Dianne White. Both girls qualify for Blackpool in April.
Well done Angels, Love, Mum and Dad

Jack Howarth 6 TODAY



5th July
Happy birthday to our very special big lad! Hope you have a great party at NUFC. Lots of hugs and kisses from Mam and Dad xxx
Happy birthday big bro, lots of hugs from Joe xxxx
Hope you have a great birthday Jack. Lots of love and kisses from Nan, Grandad, Lee, Shellie, Morgan and two Great Nans xxx

MICHAEL



Friday 1st July 2005
Couldn't resist embarrassing you on your 17th birthday. Also congratulations on passing your exams. Love, Mam and Reece

Matty Dalton

Happy 65th Birthday
Many happy returns on your 65th birthday. All your work colleagues at Electrolux Spare Parts wish you a long and happy retirement in your native Ireland. We will all miss you, have a lovely day xxx

Katie Lodge

Congratulations
on becoming Ladies British Senior Free Skating Champion for 2005. Love and kisses from the Spence/Wade Family

Michaela Forster



Happy 13th Birthday
Love you loads, Mam, Dad and Toni xxx

Nicola Buxton



Happy 21st Birthday
Have a lovely day.
All our love,
Nanna and Grandad

Stephen and Jordan Dawes



Happy 18th Birthday STEPHEN
Lots of love always,
Mam, Dad
and Jordan xxx
Happy 12th Birthday JORDAN
Lots of love always,
Mam, Dad
and Stephen xxx

Shaun Wales



30th June 1987
Happy 18th Birthday
Have a great day son. So proud of you. All my love as always. Mam and Paul xxx
18 TODAY
Happy Birthday. love from Liam xxx

Matthew Clark



Happy 18th Birthday 30th June 2005
Lots of love from Mam, Dad, Adam and Grandad

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GRAND SUMMER FAIR

Aycliffe Village Primary School will be holding its Grand Summer Fair on Sunday July 3rd from Midday until 4pm. There will be many stalls including a teddy tombola, pocket money toys, bouncy castle, coconut shy, Archers ice creams, Super raffle, penalty shoot-out, tug of war, Police remote control car, refreshments and much more! Why not make a family day of it on Sunday and bring all the family. Free entry all day.

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For further information or to arrange a visit contact Kendra Green (Manager) on
01325 300 080 or 07765 453 431



Are You a Lawbreaker?

Everyone is! Any driver parking any car on any road is breaking the law? On Tuesday 21st June, Sedgefield Borough Council's legal adviser said so, at the meeting of the Development Control Committee, which accepted additional housing on the Old Nursery Site, Burn Lane. Anyone could voice objections but only through two representatives speaking five minutes.



View looking in direction of proposed exit to new development at Sanderson Close

Picture an inflated balloon with Sanderson Close as its open neck. Through it and onto Bousfield Crescent, then Burn Lane, 100 or so extra vehicles will erupt.
According to "government guidelines" (note GUIDE not stipulation) Sanderson Close it is fractionally wide enough to take them. This was the only justification given by the planners.
Our Town Council had voted against the plan. The Police were concerned about the traffic flow. Previous prospective developers had withdrawn. The Tree preservation officer wanted orders almost everywhere. But the planners were happy to use greenbelt because the district had "so little brown belt left".
They ignored the Buchanan Report which linked road width to length, traffic flow,cars parking etc., and the Rowntree report stating new build should apply mainly to the south, regeneration to the north. New towns having been planned as a unit should be mainly exempt. This development is not infill. It is extended along one side of a triangle into the nature reserve by the Burn. Our "balloon neck" houses long term, and aged residents and SBC repeatedly asserts how they care for the old and infirm, disadvantaged groups. Not in Newton Aycliffe where the aging population increases. One councillor openly stated the policy "It does not matter what the people think. What matters are the rules."
When our Aycliffe Councillors objected to being led by the nose by planners, instead of hearing the people, he was rudely silenced by the chair.
At the beginning of the meeting the chair announced there would probably be no appeal allowed because of expense. A vote was taken at the end of the meeting after the council's discussion. A councillor asked how the works traffic could get along Sanderson Close when the council bus was too wide and had to park on Bousfield Crescent. (on the road!). No meaningful answer was given. One councillor confessed to having changed his mind that morning to vote for the proposal. Why? The proposal was carried 11 to 9 none of our thoughts, comments or questions having been answered or even acknowledged.
Buy your new house. The Aycliffe housing market is stagnant. Do not be concerned about the methane gas oozing from the old quarry it will be observed for a year. Do not worry about foundations. Woodham School by the Burn needed foundations 20ft. deep on "floating rafts" to avoid landslip. The big house was fully underpinned. They both survive.
Do buy a house here but don't have a heart attack or a fire especially on a Thursday when the refuse collectors negotiate Sanderson Close (See photo above).
The planners transformed this photo, with others, into blurred mono for the councillors. Naturally the glossy coloured trafficless pictures of the developers were more popular. Burn Lane had half a car.
Don't have a conscience. The planners "do not envisage any disruption or change to the quality of life to the present residents. Even though the "wheel cleaning equipment will be available at all times"
Do buy a house – but don't break the law by parking on any road.
Colin & Marilyn Carter
Harry & Pat Drake
(residents spokespersons)

Letters to the Editor

"Jobsworth Award"

Dear Sir,
On Friday 17th June I saw a man transferring rubbish into his car from his detached little car trailer so that he could use the tip at Aycliffe Industrial Park. If he tipped from the trailer he would need a costly permit.
Today I saw the same thing happening in Spring Road near the tip. I stopped and had a chat to the gentleman concerned. He was in his seventies, with a heart and lung problem and had been turned away from the tip because he did not have a permit.
He had to detach his trailer and transfer his garden rubbish into his car so as he could tip without a permit.
I understand the need to work by guidelines but should not the authority use discretion in cases where it is so obvious that those trying to tip with a small car trailer are not professional gardeners, builders, decorators etc.
A friend of mine told me that on Saturday he took all the turf from his garden in his 4 x 4 and tipped it unquestioned. In that vehicle you have more chance finding a professional than you would with member of the public and his small car trailer.
I understand the staff at the tip were very helpful in unloading the gentleman's car, but is there any chance of the authority considering being helpful too?
Mel Hayes

Special Offers at Hotel's Hair Salon

Claire Bishop-Thompson has been appointed manager of Redworth Hall Hotel's hair salon. Having previously worked for Saks in Hexham, Claire has worked as a stylist at the 4-star hotel's unisex salon since 2003 and has been instrumental in increasing the hotel's business. As a result, two additional experienced stylists have been appointed (taking the total to six) and the hair salon will now open 7 days a week (9.00 am to 2.00 pm on Sundays) with immediate effect.
To mark Claire's appointment and to introduce the two new stylists, a 50% discount is being offered on all cut and blow-dry appointments for the month of August. Anyone interested should call 01388 770613 for further details.



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Evening with Peter Beardsley

Dear Toon fans.
We (The Newcastle United Supporters Club, Newton Aycliffe Branch) have a limited amount of tickets remaining for our charity evening with Newcastle United and England legend Peter Beardsley on Monday 11th July at the Iron Horse. Part of the night will be an auction of football memorabilia and also entertainment from top adult comedian, David Greener.
Tickets are priced at £8; this includes your evening's entertainment and also a pie and pea supper. All proceeds are to go to the tiny hearts charity for premature babies. Anybody wishing to purchase a ticket should contact Rodger Howe on 07971491968 or Paul at The Iron Horse on 01325 313641.
For all persons who have already purchased tickets, I look forward to seeing you on what should be another successful fund raising event organised by the NUFC supporters club.
Also please note that details of our AGM on 17th July 2005 will be announced on the night.
Many thanks
Peter Chappell
Chairman

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ART & TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITS AT WOODHAM

Staff from the Art & Design Technology Departments would like to invite readers to view GCSE examination work on Tuesday 5th July, 3.45pm to 6pm.
The exhibition will include work from the following subjects: **Graphics Products, Resistant Materials, Electronics, Art and Design.**
The purpose of the exhibition is to allow people from a wide audience to view the work of examination students. An invitation is extended to everyone from other schools, local industry, local community, parents and perhaps most important of all, students. Hopefully, younger students will learn from the exhibition the standards they will be expected to aim for at 16 years of age.
The school has received many comments from a cross section of visitors praising the high standards of students, many of whom will achieve excellent pass grades in these subjects. For further information on any of the above, please contact Marie Oswald, Community Development Co-ordinator on 01325 375482.

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KWIK CRICKET CHAMPIONS



St.Josephs R.C.Primary School were overall winners at the first ever Kwik Cricket Festival, held at Moore Lane Cricket Club in Newton Aycliffe on Thursday 23rd June 2005. Several schools competed and had a wonderful day out. St.Josephs had three teams who came 1st, 3rd and 9th. We would like to thank Sedgefield Borough Council and the staff at Moore Lane for putting on the event. We hope it will become an annual occasion.

Woodham College Summer Concert

Preparations are well under way for the Annual Summer Concert at Woodham Community Technology College which will take place on Wednesday 6th July at 7.00 p.m. in the Main Hall of the College.
The concert will feature a range of musical styles from the 17th Century through to the present day. Two Year 10 students, Katherine Auster and Claire Smith will be performing Bach's "Double Violin Concerto in D minor". There will also be performances from "Sound Attic", Josh West and Michelle Haack who were all contestants in this year's talentSTAR competition!
The concert will include pieces from junior choir, chamber choir and instrumental group, who will be entertaining the audience with some very well known musical items. There will also be the first public performance from members of the "Woodham Dance Workshop".
It looks to be a truly "student centred" concert, so please come along and join us. Tickets are available from the school office priced at £2.00 each, £1.00 for concessions, to include strawberries and cream.
As there is limited availability, please purchase your tickets before the events to avoid disappointment. To check availability, please contact us or call in to the school office – telephone number 01325 300328. Unfortunately, we cannot reserve tickets to be collected and paid for on the night.
We look forward to seeing you.

PTA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the PTA is to be held on Monday 4th July 2005 at 7.00 p.m. in the Resources Centre of the College.
The purpose of the meeting is to form this year's committee who will subsequently plan the events programme for the coming year. There will be wine and cheese provided as we regard this as an informal social event.
All parents and guardians of students attending Woodham along with the teaching staff are automatically members of the PTA. However, we are also hoping to extend our membership to interested members of the local community. Whilst there is an active committee, we will be saying goodbye to a number of parents in July as their children are leaving the college. We always welcome suggestions for future events and this is your chance to have your say. So, if you would like to join in and have an impact on what we do, please come along and get involved.
PTA events provide an opportunity for staff, parents, students and friends to socialize and enjoy a fun evening, whilst also raising funds! These are always used to provide items for the college which cannot be purchased through normal funding.
Meetings are relaxed and informal, so please come and join us on Monday 4th July; we'd love to see you.

Good Weather For Captain's Day



After raising almost £900 from his Captains Day on Saturday 25th June, Woodham Captain, Brian Harrison had good reason to be pleased. He managed to arrange fine and sunny weather for just under 200 competitors.
Richard Thorne came out on top with a score of 42pts, beating Lee Robertson and James Ivil who both scored 41pts. Alan Johnston was 4th on 40pts with Sean Goad 5th on 39pts. In the Ladies Section it was appropriate that Brian Harrison's regular partner for Mixed Competitions, Olivia Angus won with 39pts, beating Liz Nelson on a countback. Durham County Junior Strokeplay Champion and Junior Captain, Mark Borsberry won the Junior Competition with 37pts. Another of the Captain's regular playing partners, Bill Mott won the Seniors Section with 39pts. Andrew Richardson picked up the longest drive award.
Having qualified at Romanby, of the Mercedes Trophy 2005, Jean Sutton who lives in Woodham, won the Area Round at Matfen Hall on Monday 28th June. She now goes to the Northern Regional Final at the Forest of Arden GC in August. If successful there, it is off to Portugal for the National Final.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

House Transfer Inaccuracies

A number of inaccuracies about the Council's housing transfer proposal were made in the letter sent by Mr Dolan, which need correcting. Here we set the record straight.
Transfer is not privatisation, like with the gas or electricity industry. It would be to a not-for-profit housing organisation called Sedgefield Housing. The organisation would be answerable to tenants, not shareholders receiving dividend payments. Any money that Sedgefield Housing did make would simply be put back into things such as improving homes and services further.
Most of the housing in Sedgefield Borough is not up to the standards tenants want. Tenants have been quite clear that they want a higher standard than the basic Decent Homes Standard- and transfer could deliver the higher standard. Tenants in Sedgefield Borough are no different to tenants in other parts of the country, where homes, which have transferred, are being brought up to a higher standard.
Staff who transfer would have their terms and conditions, such as wages and pensions, protected. They would not lose out as a result of the transfer.
Tenants would not lose their tenancy rights. They would continue to have security of tenure and their key rights would be protected. This means, for example, they would still be able to buy their homes.
Sedgefield Housing would be set up to work for all tenants in the borough and to deliver all the promises made in the offer document. Board members, including the tenant members, would be accountable to all tenants in the Sedgefield Borough.
In short, Sedgefield Housing would be constantly under scrutiny from tenants to ensure it was delivering. It would also be accountable to the Housing Corporation and to the Council.
Any salaries paid to the people working for Sedgefield Housing would be based on what is paid to employees in other similar organisations and their level of responsibility. This is no different to how salaries are set in other types of professions.
If tenants have any questions they can call the Council free phone on 0800 085 3557 or the independent tenants' advisor on 0800 243 082.

Housing Stock Transfer

Dear Sir
The editorial in the Newton News w/e 13.5.05 raised important issues about the proposed transfer of S.B.C's Housing Stock. I believe many readers appreciated that. So it was no surprise that prudent comments prompted well-prepared responses from organised 'Yes' vote campaigners.
Or anyone urging caution would be deluged in a high profile publicly funded promotion of what is claimed will be gained by a transfer.
A Labour Party activist quoting the Deputy Prime Minister's guidance that individual Councillors must not advise tenants was no surprise either.
Or, with Ward Councillors silent, S.B.C renovated a house to a standard said to be paid for if tenants vote yes, took a full page cover on it in the Advertiser 16.6.05 laid on free transport then got the Housing Minister to cut the ribbon on it.
How's that for gold-plated carrot dangling for a yes vote? But who paid for those renovations and high-profile promotions? Was it Whitehall? Tenants? Or council taxpayers?
So have we bid goodbye to free speech? Freedom of information? A representation of the People's Act, which has not one word about party-politics or councillors silently subjected to Whitehall?
We've read reams on goodies for voting yes, and of huge wealth privatisation gets that councils never do. But which transfer from public services to private has lived up to grandiose promises or brought rewards for any but a minority reaping the real benefits?
Surely, the editor had it to rights? It is time to think! Hard!
Don Fraser

One Sided Argument on Housing Transfer?

Council Tenants in Sedgefield are being bombarded with propaganda materials promoting a move to transfer their entire Housing Stock to the Ownership of Sunderland Housing Group.
This use of public money to promote a one-sided campaign is causing anger amongst tenants, 96% of whom have previously voted no to privatisation.
According to a report on the House of Commons recent enquiry into the future funding of Council Housing, chaired by Austin Mitchell M.P the 96% vote to keep Housing in-house narrowly defeated votes in Darlington and Durham, both of who have listened to their Tenants and pledged to retain their Housing Stock.
One tenant, who was taken to Court by Sunderland Housing Group for non-payment of 4 pence rent arrears expressed concern over the cost of the Yes campaign which is estimated to have run into millions.
According to the report the House of Commons Enquiry concluded that "Sedgefield Borough Council has stated since 1997 the Council have received usable Capital Receipts of £17,843,351 of which £3,581,491 has been invested in Council Housing, with an additional £2,769,063 invested in Private Sector Housing".
The Council which can meet the Decent Homes standards with £47 million to spare is telling tenants that their **"Tenants aspirations"** standard can only be met if they agree to their homes being sold to Sunderland Housing Group. If the Council reinvested all its usable Capital Receipts this would be unnecessary.
Mike Hill, UNISON Regional Officer said to-day:
"The Inquiry points to a significant number of abuses in the Stock Transfer process and even separates out Sunderland Housing Group saying that what has happened (since transfer) exemplifies the very worst of problems with transfers R.S.L.'s".
"It is clear that Tenants in Sedgefield are not getting the whole picture and only one-sided arguments".
A copy of the report is available at www.support4councilhousing.org.uk

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GSUS LIVE AT WOODHAM COLLEGE

The GSUS Live Roadshow rolled into Woodham Community Technology College recently with their "Seeing is Believing" experience.
The Roadshow was brought to the College by CREST (Christian Resource and Education Support Team) led by Graeme Murray and assisted by youth leaders from the Woodham Christian Life Centre.
All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 and some Year 10 students participated in the Roadshow. The aim of GSUS Live is to enhance students understanding of some of the key teachings of Jesus. It is a full multi-media event allowing students to consider the issues of Fear, Rejection and Forgiveness, and to look at Christian perspectives and teaching on these subjects.
Ms. Davison, Head of R.E. at Woodham told us: "This provided students with an exciting and up-to-date way to look at some important issues. The students loved it."

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Swedish Girl Marries Local Man

On Saturday 18th June the wedding took place between local man Richard Bates a former Woodham School pupil who lived in School Aycliffe to Louise Bengtsson. The ceremony took place in Huskvana, southern Sweden. On return from their Honeymoon, the couple will live in Birmingham.



Worthwhile Scheme

Dear Sir,
All those involved in the Blue Bridge Project have to be applauded for their time and effort put into a worthwhile scheme. In last week's paper they were all patted firmly on their backs.
I did notice the Town Council cleared overhanging trees, very commendable.
When I was a boy, my father taught me to clean my shoes, he said don't just clean the front, you should also clean the sides and backs.
I say thank you for the blue bridge project it was a brilliant concept of the Rotary Club, which they with partnerships, saw through to completion.
I say to the Town Councillors, thank you too for this frontage of our town. Now that you have done your bit on that project, why not have a walk around your own wards of the town and see how safe and accessible the footpaths are for your public. My wife is just over five feet tall and has to move an overhanging tree out of the way on her way to the town.
On Sunday on my way to the Legion Club I watched a woman ahead of me get a smack in the face from an overhanging bush near Homeplan. I got the same in my face whilst out walking on Saturday on Westmorland Way. People with prams and pushchairs and on mobility scooters have to leave footpaths and go onto the road and put their lives at risk.
Come on Councillors, get out there and put it right for the people you so care about and represent.
Mel Hayes

Neville Community Centre

Day trips (Open to all comers)
16th July Edinburgh £16
6th August York £12
3rd September Blackpool Illuminations £13
To book ring 313924.
Halls to hire
Large hall (100 persons) £10 per hour
Small hall (30 persons) £7 per hour.
To view these splendid facilities ring Peter Beaty on 01325 313924.
Congratulations to Margaret Orr who was presented with an award for her volunteering by C.A.V.O.S (Sharon Vasey) a well-deserved recognition.
Advertising pens stainless steel (biro) normal price £21 our price only £2. Send a S.A envelope and two pounds to Friends of Senior Citizens 5 Ainsty Hunt, The Chase, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7PH or ring 313924 for delivery.
Outside Book Sale Saturday 9th July 9am-12noon.
Wanted please jewellery, teddies, dolls, and gifts for tombola stall. Ring 313924 for collection.

UP FOR THE DROP



Three fitness instructors from Spennymoor and Aycliffe Leisure Centres will attempt a tandem skydive at Peterlee Parachute Centre, Shotton Colliery, in aide of the charity DebRA.
Andy Johnson, John Lynn and Terry Anderson will take the jump on Saturday 23rd July.
DebRA is the only charity in the UK that supports both children and adults suffering from a rare genetic condition called EB (Epidermolysis Bullosa). The term 'EB' is used to describe a family of conditions, which cause blistering and shearing of the skin from even the mildest of friction and are extremely painful.
The trio will take a 230 second free fall from between 10,000 and 12,000 feet, followed by a five-minute parachute descent attached to an instructor.
Andy Johnson said: "A Skydive is something we have all thought about doing previously and when Competition Line started raising money for DebRA through the Leisure Centre fitness suites we wanted to join in. So the two ideas just came together."
If anyone would like to sponsor Andy, John, or Terry telephone: 01388 815 627 or call in at Spennymoor or Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centres' Fitness Suite's.
If anyone wishes to send a donation to DebRA then contact John Everson, the North East Regional Fundraiser, on 07747 474054, or
john.everson@debra.org.uk

Letter to theEditor

Factory Fires - Are We Truly Safe?

Dear Sir,
The recent large factory fire at Northern Packaging Supplies on Monday was a shock to us all, and whilst thankfully nobody appears to have been injured or killed on this occasion, I ask are we truly safe?
I live in Oaklea Mews, Aycliffe Village, which is the nearest area of habitation to this particular incident. We are approximately half a mile from the Northern Packaging building and suffered a constant pall of thick black, acrid smoke over our houses for more than 24 hours. As most people know, black smoke from a factory fire is very likely to contain many dangerous and potentially lethal chemicals.
Whilst I realise that little could be done to divert the smoke away from us (as the wind was blowing in our direction) I think at least some consideration from the authorities would have been appreciated by residents. Most of the residents had the sense to close their windows and doors, but we weren't contacted by the Police or the Fire Service in any way.
Was this smoke dangerous to our health and the health of our children? I understand from newspaper reports and from the television that the factory made or distributed plastic-based packaging materials including items such as bubble wrap. I believe that when burned bubble wrap gives off Hydrochloric acid gas and Hydrogen Fluoride which has SEVERE long and short term complications for health.
Many of the newspaper and TV reports stated that 'the Authorities' had contacted people in the Town (Newton Aycliffe) to tell them to stay in doors and to close their windows. What I would like to know is how were they contacted and why? Newton Aycliffe centre is over a mile and a half from this factory, our houses are under half a mile away. The wind blew the smoke over our estate and the rest of Aycliffe Village throughout the incident and when, on occasion, the wind direction changed, the smoke billowed into our streets and gardens like a thick fog!
I phoned Newton Aycliffe Police on Monday evening to be told that if householders had to take any precautionary measures they would be informed. Why, in that case, weren't we informed if the rest of Newton Aycliffe received a message of some sort?
I would like to ask the Police and the Fire Brigade if they have any comments to make. We all live very close to the Industrial Estate, be it in Aycliffe Village or Newton Aycliffe, and if a larger incident should happen in the future can we be assured that our safety has been properly considered?
Mr Andrew Hutton
Aycliffe Village Resident

Heighington over 50/60

Unfortunately we had a rather wet rainy day for our last club outing last Thursday to Morecambe, but we didn't let the weather stop us from having a walk along the prom and a bit of retail therapy, everyone was quite happy.
Our next outing is on Thursday 21st July when we will be visiting Ryedale Folk Museum and after lunch will travel onto Whitby for the wonderful fish and chips.
To book a seat price £10 each phone Mary on 01388 772278 or Joyce on 01325 318459. The coach leaves the village at 9.30am.
Mrs. J. Sedgwick

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