

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper
Editorial & Advertising contact: Telephone: 01325 300212 - Email: paul@newtonnews.co.uk - Website: www.newtonnews.co.uk

Labour Shadow Schools Minister Visits UTC

Labour's Shadow Schools Minister has heard how high demand for technical education has created cost and catchment issues at UTC South Durham in Newton Aycliffe.

Catherine McKinnell MP heard, during a visit last Friday, that the University Technical College has shrunk its catchment area due to a high demand for Year 10 places. UTC South Durham is also having to spend a quarter of a million pounds on transporting students, who live across the North-East.

McKinnell was impressed by the UTC, praising the 'fabulous' tour she was given by Year 10 students Chloe Vaughan and Lennon Gamble.

Speaking after the visit, McKinnell said: "It's been great to see young people so enthusiastic about their education, happy to come to school every day, and really getting stuck in on building not just their skills for today but their skills for life."

The Newcastle North MP was joined on the tour, which took place during National Apprenticeship Week, by Kim McGuinness, Labour's candidate for North East Mayor, and Alan Strickland, who is Labour's candidate for the Newton Aycliffe & Spennymoor Constituency, as well as the UTC's leaders and supporters.

Chloe and Lennon showed the group around the UTC's state-of-the-art engineering facilities and highlighted how there was an atmosphere of support, respect for students and focus on careers at the UTC, which they had not found in their previous schools.

McKinnell was told how the UTC, based on Long Tens Way, attracts students from a wide area of the North-East due to strong employer links with major local firms such as Hitachi Rail and manufacturer Gestamp Tallent.

This demand for places is behind the school's shrinking catchment area and why it has to spend £250,000 a year on transport, McKinnell was told.

With UTC South Durham's leaders and



representatives from UTC support body the Baker Dearing Educational Trust, McKinnell also discussed the need for more funding to deliver technical subjects at pre-16 and Labour's pledge for a curriculum review if it wins the next General Election. Baker Dearing also raised its proposal for UTC Sleeves, which replicate the technical education that UTCs, like South Durham, deliver within an existing school. The UTC Sleeve demands fewer resources than an entirely new school and can help expand the delivery of technical education to a wider number of students.

UTC South Durham Principal, Tom Dower, commented: "It was fantastic to welcome Catherine McKinnell MP, Kim McGuinness and Alan Strickland to UTC South Durham. Our students were excellent ambassadors for the employer-led education we provide and the visit also provided a perfect opportunity to discuss the pressures that schools are dealing with at the moment. The curriculum we deliver and our strong links with local employers help prepare our young people for their careers and life journeys. Last year, six times more of our students progressed onto apprenticeships than the national average."

Photo, left to right: Tom Dower (UTC Principal), Catherine McKinnell MP, Kim McGuinness, Alan Strickland, David Land (UTC Chair of Governors), Catherine Purvis-Mawson (UTC Deputy Principal).

Youth Candidates Sought for RYLA

Rotary Newton Aycliffe seeks candidates for the Youth Leadership Course (RYLA).

Opportunity for candidates aged between 16 and 21 on 31 July 2024 to take part in a leadership course in Upper Teesdale for one of two weeks commencing 12th and 19th August 2024.

RYLA 2024 will be located on a farm in Baldersdale, alongside the Pennine Way, Hannah's Meadow, and the Blackton and Hury reservoirs. It is a private and secluded 'off-grid' woodland area and offers a stunning location for the camp. From the site we can access a vast array of activities & venues to offer the best possible programme.

The course will take the form of an outward-bound type of experience sleeping under canvas with the emphasis on leadership. The course will be managed by fully qualified professional leaders with many years' experience running this type of event. Other than personal clothing, all costs will be paid by Rotary Newton Aycliffe.

Information for applicants and parents, and application forms, are available from: Jeff Watson email: jeff.watson-rotary@wynlea.co.uk or for an informal chat, Jeff on 07969 428786

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MONDAY 15th APRIL 2024



Staying Safe Online!



The year 5's of St. Francis' Junior School held their class collective worship all about safer internet day. They stood proud and talked to us all about how to use the internet safely and correctly. They explained how technology has changed over the years and how far it has progressed, how we use it in school and what to do if we came across anything we felt uncomfortable with - tell a trusted adult! Well done year 5 for being so brave and talking to the whole school and families about such an important topic!

GB Skate Artistic



Eight athletes from Spectrum Roller Skating Club attended a national training day held at Middlesbrough on Saturday 3rd February. The event, hosted by GB Skate Artistic, gathered athletes, coaches and officials to take part in off skates, on skates and in the classroom activities to support the development of artistic roller skating for those competing at national level in free skating.

The GB coaches led an informative day with 61 athletes from 7 northern based clubs, who spent the day together learning skills and knowledge. The eight athletes from Spectrum RSC enjoyed a busy day with coach Nicola Stevens, photographed with GB Coach and former World Champion, Lee Taylor.

PCC Secures Temporary Base for Aycliffe Police Station

Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen has announced a new temporary home for Neighbourhood and Response policing teams in Newton Aycliffe as work continues to identify a permanent police base in the town. The County Durham and Darlington PCC and force have been working hard to identify a 'cost-effective and operationally sound' alternative after Durham Constabulary's 10-year lease at Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service's Central Avenue Station in Newton Aycliffe came to an end. Agreements have now been reached for both Response and Neighbourhood Policing Teams to move into temporary accommodation in GLOW on Aycliffe Business Park. Works will now commence in preparation for a scheduled move in the week beginning February 19th 2024.

The Commissioner recently polled Newton Aycliffe residents to help identify a solution that would be supported by the town. Nearly half of those who responded to the online survey said they preferred a police station within the confines of Newton Aycliffe to accommodate Response Officers and the Neighbourhood Policing Team, with an additional public contact 'hub' point on Central

Avenue.

Commissioner Allen said: "The scheduled move into GLOW is temporary and will ensure both teams remain in the confines of Aycliffe to be able to respond urgently and effectively when needed by the public. However, those who wish to visit the police station itself, either to report crime or present documents and so on, will still need to do so at Central Avenue as GLOW is not open to the public."

"Residents have made clear their expectations for a fully functioning police station within Aycliffe and my team will continue to work with the force to identify a permanent solution with a hub in the town centre to keep officers in the heart of the communities they serve."

"In the meantime, business will continue as usual, with members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team in Aycliffe Fire Station on Central Avenue where officers have office space, an interview room and a front counter."

"As previously stated, I am absolutely committed to maintaining a strong policing footprint in Newton Aycliffe. I hope this announcement will reassure residents we are not leaving the area and continue to work hard to protect the strong and accessible policing they deserve."

2024 AYCLIVE
Brought to you by **SecuriCorp**

www.ayclive.co.uk
SCAN ME

APPEARING ON THE Husqvarna STAGE
OakLeaf Sports Field, School Aycliffe Lane, DL5 6QZ, 12pm-11.00pm

HEADLINERS
REAL THING

JUKEBOX VANDALS
FOSSIL
THE ANGELETTES
THE TURTLE Z's
THAT'S WHAT I CALL 80s
BEYOND MADNESS
MANCHESTER ANTHEMS

SAT 27TH JULY

TICKET INFORMATION
Booking Fees Apply
EARLY BIRD: Over 18's £14 / 14-17's £9 / 5-13's £1 / Under 5's Free
All under 14's must be accompanied by paying adult - tickets available online only until 31st March 2024
AFTER EARLY BIRD: Over 18's £19 / 14-17's £14 / 5-13's £1 / Under 5's Free
(On the gate: Over 18's £25, 14-17's £20, 5-13's £1, Under 5's Free)

Aycliffe TOWN CENTRE
Living M J&C COACHES aycliffe radio

OPENING FEB 19

JUST THE PERFECT PLACE FOR GREETINGS CARDS AND GIFTS

There's a new shop opening on Beveridge Way in Aycliffe town centre where you will find that perfect gift for family and friends.

At 'Just The Perfect Gift' you'll discover cards for every occasion, scented gifts including handmade sizzlers, cuddly toys including the Jelly Cat range, scarves, jewellery, and more!

Plus personalised gifts ranging from coasters to canvas prints; keyrings to phone cases; mugs to wine bottles.

Just The Perfect Gift
Personalised & Generic Gifts

Aycliffe TOWN CENTRE
Tel: 01325 300 605
www.aycliffetowncentre.co.uk

Save the Date

Coffee, Cake & Stuff

To be held at School Aycliffe Community Centre on Thursday 22nd February from 11.00am to 2.00pm.
It was lovely to see so many of our supporters return again in January, thank you so much. Please join us once more to sample our delicious home-made bakes with a hot drink, whilst enjoying a good natter with your friends. Table service, choose from the menu and everything will be brought to you. Hopefully see you soon.
Elizabeth and Chris

starlight
W-I-N-D-O-W-S-A-N-D
C-O-N-S-E-R-V-A-T-O-R-I-E-S

Established 1980 - Local Company
Supply & Installation of
Windows, Doors, Patio & French Doors,
Lightweight Tiled Roofs
We also complete all types of remedial
works to existing frames - failed units,
window and door locks.

Contact us 01325 321301
to arrange an appointment or email us on
sales@starlightwindows.co.uk

SCRAP VEHICLES WANTED
INSTANT CASH ON COLLECTION



Minimum of £250 paid on most complete vehicles up to £10000

Collection from 7am to 9pm - 7 days a week
PRIVATE NUMBER PLATES REMOVED
ALL GENERAL FARM AND FACTORY SCRAP WANTED,
CARS, COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, VANS, JEEPS,
TRUCKS, ALSO MOTORHOMES AND MOTORBOATS.
RUNNERS, NON RUNNERS, UNTAXED, DVLA
NOTIFIED. SAME DAY COLLECTION.
BEST PRICES PAID. LOST KEYS OR LOG BOOK?
NO PROBLEM!! • FREE COLLECTION

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CALL JIMMY ON
07407 510407

www.jnbvehiclerecyclingltd.co.uk / E: jnbscrapmycar@yahoo.com



Claire's Helping Hands

**HOME CARE &
TRANSPORT SERVICES**

Home Care with a personal touch

25 years experienced and competent advanced carer,
trained in PEG, Tracheostomy and Ventilation
Management, Level 4 Qualified and Fully Insured

Services available:

- Personal Home Care
- Patient Transport - wheelchair adapted vehicle
- Transport for social events and days out
- Dementia Care
- Complex Care
- Palliative Care
- Cleaning Service

TEL: 07883 252345

Facebook: Claire's Helping Hands
claires.helpinghands@outlook.com



Learning a New Way



Have you seen what is going on in the holidays? Don't miss this exciting opportunity for your children.

Learning a New Way CIC would love it if children from Newton Aycliffe and Middridge could join us on a medieval adventure during the February half term holiday! There will be crafts, games, drama, and food too, and, what's more, it is all free!

Children that have attended our sessions before wanted to let you know how much they enjoy coming along. One young person said, "I like doing art and going into the hall to play games with my friends" and another said, "I like coming here because I get to see my friends, play games and football." One of the other children simply said that they "love" the sessions.

Parents also tell us how much they feel their children benefit from coming along, one parent told us their child has grown in confidence since attending the sessions Learning a New Way CIC run. Details of our half term activities and how to book can be found on our Facebook page, just search Learning a New Way CIC. Watch out for lots more coming up over the next few weeks! We really look forward to meeting you and your children!

Any questions? Please email admin@learninganewway.co.uk

Woodham Ski Trip



Students from Woodham Academy have recently returned from the snow-capped peaks of the Aosta Valley. The group skied in the resort of Pila which has stunning panoramic views of the border with Switzerland, including famous landmarks such as Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn.

The group of 60 students acquitted themselves extremely well and showed excellent character and resilience, whilst overcoming the challenges presented by learning a new skill in the mountain environment. Off the slopes, students explored the charming historic town of Aosta, where there are many Roman ruins that date back over 2000 years. They also savored authentic Italian cuisine and applied new language skills when purchasing souvenirs in the town, thereby enriching their cultural experiences.

Mr Morgans, Deputy Headteacher at Woodham, said: "It's wonderful to see the huge strides students make in so many different ways when they're participating in such a trip. An international residential trip creates such diverse learning opportunities beyond the snow sports lessons. Along with activities like The Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme and further residential experiences, these opportunities demonstrate Woodham Academy's continual commitment to offering educational experiences beyond that of the formal curriculum."

PACT Meeting

Just a reminder that our next PACT meeting is on this coming week where you can attend and speak with a member of the team regarding any police related issues you may be experiencing.
Held at The Big Club, Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 6.00pm.

Newton News
Deliverers
Wanted

for all areas of the town.
To put your name on
our 'Reserve List'

Telephone:
01325 300212

TO SUIT OVER 13
YEARS OR ACTIVE
RETIRES

K & L

Executive Travel



8 Seater Minibus
07873 771233
01325 304075

HAVE YOU MADE A WILL?

We can help protect your family's interests.
Protect your PROPERTY for your loved ones.
Lasting Powers of Attorney, Trusts, Storage.
Call NOW on **01325 324515** for appointment

£79.00 inc VAT (per will) and

Free Home Visits
E.M.P. SOLUTIONS WILLWRITERS & ESTATE
PLANNING PRACTITIONERS



Members of the Society of Will Writers
F.Inst.PA (Qualified Paralegal)

SIESTA BLINDS

BLINDS DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY

View online: www.siestablinds.com

Visit our showroom:

Whinfield Drive, Aycliffe Business Park DL5 6AU

Book an appointment: 01325 309003

OPEN:

Monday-Thursday 8.00am-5.00pm

Friday 8.00am-4.00pm, Saturday by appointment



Gordon Fletcher & Sons
Independent Family Funeral Directors

*A caring personal service, from a local family business,
Here to help you through those difficult times.
You know when you need us, we'll be there, day or night.*

OFFICE & PRIVATE CHAPELS OF REST
Personalised Pre Payment Funeral Plans Available

Cobblers Hall Village Centre
Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe

Tel: (01325) 319519



- **UPVC Windows & Doors**
- **Conservatories**
- **Composite Doors**
- **Bi-Folding Doors**

Telephone 01325 468222

Email: info@bespoke-windows.co.uk

Dylan on a Mission



Dylan Hugill is 16 years old, and he is a trailblazer, always looking for the next challenge and on Saturday 10th February, he spent 8 hours suspended in a hammock from the climbing wall in ROF59. Dylan's latest feat was to raise money for the British Exploring Society and the work they do to take young people to parts of the world that they would not otherwise see. Their work also reinforces the importance of the environment and its impact on all our daily lives.

If you wish to support Dylan with a donation, here is the link to his Go Fund Me page: <https://gofund.me/9a125c0e>



For a wide range of unique personalised gifts, please visit our website and enjoy

15% DISCOUNT

on your order with the code **DISCOUNT15**

- Mugs • Coasters • Key Rings •
- Spotify Music Plaques • Photo •
- Canvas • Phone Holders & more •

www.print-gift.co.uk

Aycliffe Youth Football News



The torrential rain, prior to the weekend, caused havoc for fixtures across the whole region, but some did survive.

FC Hartlepool Reds v Aycliffe U10 Wildcats

The girls progressed to the next round of the cup after a tight game in which they kept going to the end. An assured finish from Millie gave the girls an early lead and they were denied going further ahead by some excellent goalkeeping. The girls did well to adapt to new positions and lots of rotation, playing some fantastic football at times. Parents' POTM was Penny who was outstanding, bravely closing down attackers. Coaches' POTM was Millie who took her goal well and worked hard to press from the front. Goal: Millie; Assist: Sophie.

Hartlepool Pools Youth Whites v Aycliffe U8 Eagles

The boys started really brightly in their first game of the new season and were really unfortunate to find themselves three goals down at half time. The boys never gave up despite the terrible weather and were really unlucky to be the losing side. POTM: Toby.

Middlesbrough Girls 4 v Aycliffe U13 Girls 1

With only 13 girls available, the game went more or less as expected. We got off to a very strong start and scored the first goal of the game courtesy of Imogen finishing Hannah's assist. Unfortunately, as the game went on, we couldn't keep pace with the 17-strong Middlesbrough team. POTM: Jasmine. Goal: Imogen; Assist: Hannah.

Riverside Juniors yellows 5 v Aycliffe U12 Eagles 1

Despite the wet weather, Aycliffe started the brighter of the two teams, but two quick goals against us swung the tie towards Riverside. A further goal for Riverside early in the second half left the Eagles with a mountain to climb - finally losing 5-1 to a well-organised home side. Goal: Tarek. POTM: Tyler.

Durham Boro Rangers 4 v Aycliffe U14 Angels 1

Our first defeat in nearly 2 years came at the hands of the league leaders. If you're going to lose then losing with 100% effort and team spirit is essential. That's exactly what these players showed. Awesome effort. Our goal was from Erin - a header after a pinpoint cross from Faith. Star players: Hannah and Eveie.

Guisborough Town v Aycliffe U14 Boys

The lads exited the Challenge Cup, but it was a hard game to assess afterwards, given the quality of the opposition and having several players out with illness. Massive credit to all the lads who played, they never gave up and were still laughing and joking together at full-time. POTMs: Charlie and Toby. Goal: Isaac.

Free Holiday Activities



Green Arts are delighted to offer quality activities in the February half term holidays in both Aycliffe and Shildon.

The fun workshops will be led by professional artist Dawn Belshaw and will run on Monday 19 February from 10:30 – 12:00 (Shildon Civic Hall) and from 10:30 – 12:00 on Tuesday 20 February at Green Arts, Moore Lane, DL5 5AG.

Join Dawn and have fun at these hands-on sessions and make something amazing to take home. The sessions are very popular and are suitable for young people and families. You can reserve your place via our website using our simple online form just visit www.green-arts.co.uk or email: info@green-arts.co.uk The family focused sessions form part of our spring season at Green Arts and we are committed to bringing arts to our community in a welcoming space and continuing to inspire young people and families.

Editorial Contributions

Editorial contributions, stories and tidbits can be sent to the Newton News editor via email:- paul@newtonnews.co.uk Alternatively, you can 'contact us' via our website:- www.newtonnews.co.uk

Local stories and letters to the editor, if approved for publication are reproduced without any charge.

PLEASE NOTE:

Any letter for publication should be accompanied with the author's email address, name, address and contact number. These details can be withheld from publication on request.

André Edmundson

GDC No. 129799

Clinical Dental Technician

New Dentures & Repairs

A fully qualified Clinical Dental Technician
André has over 35 years experience in denture design

VITSA
DENTAL

formerly
R.A. Taylor's

1 Norman Terrace, Chilton, DL11 7 0HF
Telephone: 01388 721284

whitehouse
funeral service



Private Chapels of Rest
and Funeral Plans

Surtees House
Hilton Road
Newton Aycliffe DL5 6EN

The truly independent family
company caring for your needs

T: 01325 318600
(24 hour)



How the Railways Came to Heighington

Join us on Saturday 9th March, at St. Michael's Church, Heighington, 2pm until 4.30pm, for a fascinating event all about the history of the railways in our local area. Meet our amazing speakers, Niall Hammond, Chair of the Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, Richie Starrs, Heritage Action Zone Project Manager and Niccy Halifax, recently appointed Director for the Bicentenary Festival of the S&DR.

We are delighted to announce that Paul Howell MP, in spite of an extremely busy schedule, has agreed to officially open the event. Discover the captivating stories of how the railways first arrived and the impact they had on our community. The industries that sprang up supported by the railways, from the pioneering locomotives to the hardworking railway workers, this event will bring the past to life. Explore a variety of exhibits showcasing vintage photographs, artifacts, and displays. Browse our pop-up shops. Learn about the challenges faced during the construction of the railways and the subsequent growth and development they brought to the region, the Northeast and across the globe.

Hear first-hand the plans for the Bicentenary of the S&DR in 2025. Already under construction is the Witton Park to Stockton 26-mile walking/cycling route and the huge building projects at Shildon and Darlington which are nearing completion. The Friends will reveal their hopes for the future of the former Locomotion public house at Heighington Station, recently upgraded by Historic England, to Grade 2* listed and the oldest purpose-built passenger railway station building in the world.

Listen to engaging talks from local historians and railway enthusiasts who will share their knowledge and anecdotes. Ask questions, share your own stories, immerse yourself in our rich railway heritage. Join The Friends, get involved, become a volunteer. The 200th Anniversary of the S&DR is fast approaching.

Whether you're a history buff, a railway enthusiast, or simply curious about our local heritage, this event is not to be missed. Mark your calendars for a day filled with fascinating insights into the railways that shaped the world.

Tickets £5 incl. refreshments (under 16s free) from Margaret Fenwick on 07970 600631 or pay at the door or online. Eventbrite link here <https://bit.ly/48ePT1l>

Taking Time To Listen

On Sunday's Around Town we were pleased to welcome to the show Women's Guidance Counsellor Karen, along with Matt and Tina from Space to Thrive Health and Fitness, it was good to have them back in the studio with us. During the show we were able to discuss many of the issues facing families with busy hectic lifestyles and the effects this can have on people's health and well-being.

Modern day living brings with it all kinds of pressures and constraints of balancing work and family life and trying to find the time and energy to maintain a happy and healthy lifestyle. Taking care of your own health needs isn't always easy when you have family and commitments to consider, so finding the time to be health conscious can sometimes be difficult, if not impossible. One of the many topics discussed on the show was the need for us all to learn how to be a lot kinder to ourselves, and listen to our body as a way of improving our physical health, and our mental and emotional well-being.

We were able to discuss at length how our bodies constantly provide us with information about our health and wellness, and being able to see our bodies as a whole unit, interconnected mentally and physically, helps make it easier to recognise the signals of feeling fit and healthy, or that something is wrong. It's now an accepted medical fact that our psychology becomes our biology, how and what we think has a direct impact on the physical body. Our thoughts, and even the language we use has a direct effect on our bodies, so by changing the way we think about



ourselves and our health, can have a major positive impact on our lives.

Phill & Andy
ATAR

Newton News 
FOLLOW US ON
SIMPLY SEARCH [newton-news](https://www.newton-news.com)



Want to buy your first home from £144,995?

Discover our new releases at Elder Gardens where we have a stunning collection of 2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes available.



Scan the QR code to find out more.
Elder Gardens, off Middridge Road,
Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 7BF

You can!

with Keepmoat

The Halstead – Plot 167 - **£144,995**



New release
Integrated kitchen appliances (worth £2,750)

The Bamburgh – Plot 168 - **£212,995**



New release
Carpet & vinyl package throughout (worth £3,880)
Integrated kitchen appliances (worth £2,750)

Available plots and prices correct at the time of going to print on 2nd February.

Major A167 Upgrades Get Underway

A major upgrade of Newton Aycliffe’s road network is set to get underway. The Durham County Council works will deliver improvements along the A167 at its Central Avenue and Ricknall Lane junctions, and the A167/A689 Rushyford roundabout. The scheme will provide additional road capacity in the area, unlocking the potential to develop up to 1,400 new homes on the Low Copelaw site to the east of the town. Vegetation and tree removal works are taking place near the Central Avenue junction before final utilities diversions start later this month. Construction work at the Central Avenue junction will then follow, quickly followed by work starting at the Rushyford roundabout and Ricknall Lane junction. The work at the A167’s Central Avenue junction will introduce a new link road providing access to the future housing site, as well as a traffic light-controlled entry and improved pedestrian crossings. New traffic lights will be introduced at the A167’s Ricknall Lane junction, along with improved pedestrian crossing facilities. All approaches to the A167/A689 Rushyford roundabout will be widened to three lanes, and improvements will be made to the roundabout’s layout. There will be new line markings too. Full details of the traffic management measures needed to enable the scheme to be delivered will be communicated throughout the project. Durham County Council has secured £7million from the Government’s Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to deliver the scheme, which is scheduled for completion later this year. The scheme also includes plans to plant nearly 1,000 trees, as well as hundreds of shrubs, and lengths of hedge.

101 Waiting Time Reduced

The average time taken for Durham Constabulary to answer 101 calls has fallen by more than 80 per cent over the last ten months after significant investment in the Force Control Room. Since March last year, the force has recruited an extra 29 call handlers and six switchboard staff to work in the Force Control Room, alongside a new switchboard triage system. Nine further call handlers are currently going through training and will join the Force Control Room later this month. It means that non-emergency calls made to the force are now answered, on average, within 51 seconds. This marks a reduction of 81 per cent compared with March last year, when the average time to answer a 101 call was four-and-a-half minutes. Calls made to 999 have also showed a significant improvement. Chief Inspector Laura Backhouse, from the Force Control Room, said: “Public confidence starts with people being able to contact us quickly when they need us, not just for 999 emergencies but for those non-urgent 101 calls too. We knew we needed to improve the service we provided so, over the last year, we have implemented additional resources and revised a number of processes. “This has resulted in significant improvements in this area - we used to

measure our average call handling times on 101 in minutes, now we measure it in seconds. “We are also in the process of moving towards the Single Online Home website, which will allow members of the public to submit some queries and applications online, freeing up more Control Room staff to deal with 101 and 999 calls. We know we have further to go, and more improvement needs to be made because every call matters, but we’re confident we are heading in the right direction.”

AYCLIFFE AUTOS
FOR ALL YOUR GARAGE NEEDS
Telephone: 01325 789589

OPENING TIMES: 8.30am-5.30pm Monday-Friday
8.30am-1.00pm Saturday

SPECIALISTS IN NEW TYRES
Servicing, MoT's, Exhausts, Batteries, Brakes, Clutches, Suspensions, Welding, Timing Belts and Diagnostics

ALL MECHANICAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

No Job Too Big or Small, Give our Friendly Team a Call
Unit E460F Woodham Road, Aycliffe Business Park
Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6HT
01325 789589 - Email: ayc-auto@hotmail.com

YOUR PRINT



newtonpress
media • marketing • print

OUR REPUTATION

WE DON'T JUST PRINT THE newtonnews

... WE DO ALL THIS TOO!

Bags / Tags

Banners

Books

Brochures

Business Cards

Business Stationery

Calendars

Canvas Prints

Catalogues

Certificates

Desk Pads

Direct Mail

Draw Tickets

Event Invites

Envelopes

Embossing

Embellishing

Exhibition Displays

Flyers

Folders

Folded Leaflets

Greetings Cards

Labels

Letterheads

Magazines

Magnetic Signs / Labels

Mailers

Menus

Multi-Part Forms (NCR)

Notepads

Plastic Cards

Point of Sale

Postcards

Posters

Promotional Gifts

PVC Banners

Ring Binders

Roller Banners

Signage

Stickers / Labels

Vinyl Stickers

Wall Planners

Wedding Stationery

Window Stickers

Workwear

... AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN DREAM UP!

Blue Bridge Centre, St. Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DS

Telephone: 01325 300212 • Fax: 01325 312893

Email: sales@newtonpress.net • www.newtonpress.net

The Pawscars

Ash Sutton has been nominated by members of the dog show world for the category of 'Best Junior Handler' at the prestigious charity event Pawscars. Pawscars is the dog show world's equivalent of the Oscars, with multiple categories and four finalists in each category. The winner is determined by public vote and announced at the black tie event held on the eve of Crufts, which starts on the 7th March. Ash had an incredibly successful 2023 after his huge Crufts win and added a Dobermann and Akita to his show team, gaining multiple Best in Shows and Best Puppy in Shows as well as qualifying for another charity event held after Crufts 'The North East Top Dog' competition. To vote for Ash, please scan the QR code and follow the instructions.



The Lunar New Year



Pupils from St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School have thoroughly enjoyed working with students from Stephenson College, Durham on a project for the Lunar New Year. This culminated in the pupils performing a dance and a song as part of the celebrations in Durham on Saturday 10th February 2024. Across the project, the pupils learnt about the history, traditions and customs of the Lunar New Year. They also learnt how to wish people a prosperous new year. Mrs Evans (Headteacher of St. Joseph's) said, "It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils; they had a great time and learnt a lot. We would like to thank the students from Stephenson College for working with us."

New Accessible Changing Places Toilet Opens at Locomotion



A new accessible Changing Places toilet has opened at Locomotion in Shildon, improving access and inclusion for all visitors, as the museum undergoes a multi-million-pound programme of investment. Visitors to the museum will now be able to access a new Changing Places facility, equipped with a hoist, changing bench and a peninsular toilet, in the museum's Main Hall. Funded by a grant from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities with support from Durham County Council and Muscular Dystrophy UK (MDUK), the museum converted a storeroom to make way for the accessible toilet. The new Changing Places toilet is part of a multi-million-pound programme of investment that will completely transform the museum with a new building and improvements across the site. Currently under construction, New Hall, which will open in the spring, will be a new 2000 sq metre building that will house up to 50 additional rail vehicles, creating the largest museum collection of rail vehicles in Europe. Locomotion, which is part of the Science Museum Group, is committed to being open for all and creating spaces that are open and accessible for everyone. Across the group of museums, there are now Changing Places toilets at four out of the five sites, with future plans to open one at the National Railway Museum in York. Visitors to Locomotion can currently get up close to more than 70 legendary locomotives from across the history of rail and engineering and follow trails around the site to find important landmarks and learn about the world's first railway town. The museum is currently open Wednesday to Sunday from 10.00-16.00, and entry is free.

Be Truthful; Who are you?

We are told boundaries are an important part of our identity and the relationship we have with others. But how about the relationship we have with ourselves; what boundaries do we put in place to ensure we can obtain and maintain a sustainable level of self respect and peace of mind? The relationship we have with ourselves is often the most neglected, as we treat ourselves in a way we would never dream of treating someone we love and care for. It's like we save all the good stuff for others, and begrudgingly allow ourselves to settle for whatever is left. We are a product of generational influences, conditioning and imposed family beliefs and values, so any thought of self discovery may only be possible when we are able to identify and accept the creative nature of life and the formative influences that unknowingly shaped our lives. The dream only appears real while you are in the midst of the dream state experience, when you wake you become aware of the 'awakened reality'. Recognising yourself as a product of your environment, you can, if you wish to do so, begin to question the authenticity of the person you have become, and the person you have come to identify as self. We are not the roles we play; they, like our names, are simply expressions of who we believe ourselves to be, but authenticity and identity are two totally different things, but unless we can begin to question the who, what, why, where and when, we may never discover who and what we really are. The person who, for no fault of their own, lies hidden beneath the veneered persona created and maintained by habit, rituals and routines, in the misguided belief their crafted reality is the only option available, and their comfort zone becomes even more enticing. Authenticity is an unknown quantity and, until we find the courage to step out from behind the limitations and constraints set in place as foundations to form our future development, we will never get the opportunity to meet and get to know our true self, or truthfully answer, when asked who are you? Little Buddha

PROPERTY FOR SALE



Surtees Walk Newton Aycliffe, DL5 5HE

Four bedroom mid terrace property. one bathroom, one downstairs toilet. Utility with access from the front of the house to the large back garden, lounge, dining room, new laminate flooring throughout the downstairs, new kitchen, entrance hallway with large under stairs storage, stairs and landing, open plan front garden area.

Call for details and viewing 07930 557330



Playday Nursery

15 SIMPASTURE GATE
NEWTON AYCLIFFE DL5 5HH

Telephone: 01325 312050

Email: managerplayday@gmail.com

- Care for children aged 0-5 years
- Excellent outdoor play area
- CCTV throughout the building
- Exciting/creative activities
- Full or part time care
- Healthy eating home cooked food
- Fully qualified and vetted staff
- In partnership with parents

OFSTED Inspected - "Good"

OFSTED quote: "Playday Nursery offers an outstanding provision with high quality teaching provided by highly qualified staff."



Tel: 01325 790580 - Email: paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk

Usually, this column covers the week before the one it is printed, in this case up to Sunday 11th February but, as the Prime Minister visited us on Monday 12th February, I have included that this week. It was great to see Newton Aycliffe chosen as the first venue for the public engagement sessions that the Prime Minister is having. Stephen Dixon, a northerner and a journalist who hosts the breakfast show on GB News, hosted the 'GBN People's Forum: The Prime Minister', in front of a live audience. The Forum was advertised, via GB News, as being 'at a venue near Darlington at 8:00pm on Monday 12th February' and applicants needed to complete a form online to be able to attend the event. The event was broadcast live on the GB News Channel and it was fantastic that it took place at the Big Club in Newton Aycliffe. The Prime Minister had great engagement with the forum of representatives from across the UK. It was a lively session with some difficult questions, and I am sure the Prime Minister was pleased with the exit poll from the audience of 100 participants - in that 50 would vote Conservative, 36 undecided and only 14 would vote against him. Prior to Monday's forum, my week, to 11 February, was spent in Japan with the Transport Select Committee. This is the cross-party committee whose role is to scrutinise the Department for Transport and suggest areas of focus. The travelling group was five Conservative, three Labour and one Scottish National Party. The journey out took 25 hours, starting on Saturday and arriving in Tokyo on Sunday.

On the Monday we were briefed by His Majesty's Ambassador, Julia Longbottom and her team before transferring to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building where we met with members of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and also saw some displays from the Olympic and Paralympics. Tuesday's meetings were with Nippon Yuen Kaisha, a major shipping company, where we heard about their approach to reducing carbon and Japanese use of domestic shipping. Then it was off to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport to hear their approach to transport and economic development and their consideration of social outcomes. We then went to the offices of Nissan where the discussion focused on electric vehicles as well as autonomous vehicle development and policy. Then it was back to the British Embassy to meet various stakeholders in Japanese transport.



Wednesday, we went to Tokyo Railway Station, the busiest in the world, to see the control centre and understand the scale of operations. Around 2.7m people use the station every day. We also heard about the Shinkansen (or Bullet Trains). Everyone knows about the speed of these but what is less appreciated is that there are over 300 trains, one leaves the station every five minutes and each one holds around 1300 people. We then travelled on one of them to Osaka where we met with Hankyu Railway Corporation and Carolyn Davidson the Consular General. The discussions were around the integration of transport and infrastructure investment. Thursday, we met with the Osaka Government before getting back on a Shinkansen to return to Tokyo, there we met with Hitachi to hear about their ethos and approach to transport investment, they certainly live up to their tag phrase of 'Inspire the Future'. In my opinion, theirs was the most impressive of all the presentations we received. After this we met with the MPs from the Japanese Transport Committee. Later that evening I was then able to have another meeting with Hitachi, where our Chair of the Select Committee accompanied me. Friday saw us at Haneda Innovation City where we saw various innovations including autonomous buses. With visits completed, it was off to the airport for a 21-hour return trip to Newcastle. A very busy but worthwhile week with many many learnings for the Transport Select Committee. The rest of the week, commencing 12th February, will see another couple of Ministerial visits and lots of constituency work, hopefully I will see many of you and, as always, if I can help call Newton Aycliffe 01325 790580 or email: paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk

N.A.F.C. JUNIORS



Below is a roundup of football from Newton Aycliffe Junior Section.

Under 8's travelled to Middleton Rangers Hurricanes for their first game of the season. With the team entering unfamiliar territory after moving up four divisions, they did not know what to expect, but were excited for the challenge. Aycliffe played some great football, with goals coming from Reuben (2), Reign, Colton and Fletcher, with both goalkeepers, Joey and Luke, keeping clean sheets to make it a good day all around. MOTM was Reign, for great positioning and work rate.

Under 8's Reds in a new division and sporting new coats, put in a performance full of pride, passion and controlled aggression to battle against Marton FC Yellows. Goals from Kian (2) and Oliver. MOTM was Michael, with Kian being awarded opposition MOTM.

Under 9's played Darlington TSC, at home, with Aycliffe looking to improve their performances from previous weeks. There was good football played against one of the best in the league. Aycliffe's goal was a great strike from Harvey, who was assisted by Eddie. MOTM was Oliver for his hard work, playing multiple positions.

Under 10's Blacks were away to Prissick Rovers United in the pouring rain. The game was close to being postponed due to a waterlogged pitch; however, the pitch was deemed to be playable. Aycliffe started the game positively and within six minutes scored after a sublime pass from JJ, for Grayson to finish at the far post. The great attacking football continued with a perfect pass from Alfie S to JJ, who slotted home for Aycliffe's second. Aycliffe continued with this style of play and four mins later Alfie S finished a great pass and move through the middle. After the break, Alfie S scored Aycliffe's fourth with another fantastic pass and move through midfield. Dominating the possession, Aycliffe went on to grab a fifth with another assist from Alfie S, and a composed finish from Jack B into the bottom right corner seconds before the final whistle. A wonderful team performance, including Louie H, in goal for the first half, and Lucas P, for the second half. POTM awarded by the opposition manager, was Alfie S, who never stopped all game, up and down the left wing, with accurate passing and shooting, as well as always coming back to help his teammates when there was pressure close to goal.

Under 12's Juniors entertained Riverside Junior Blues in the second round of the league cup. Playing a team from one division below, Aycliffe knew they would be tested, but dominated the game playing great football. Creating chance after chance, the opposition goalkeeper pulled off fantastic saves, however he could not stop Shay who broke the deadlock with a fantastic strike. The second half was much the same as Aycliffe continued to create chances, after great play by Dec he set Jonah up for Aycliffe's second. Into the last ten minutes Aycliffe managed to score two more, with Dec & Phoebe both getting on the scoresheet. Riverside managed to pull a goal back, but it finished 4-1 to Aycliffe, who march into the next round of the cup. POTM went to Matty for an assured performance in defence.

Under 16's Whites travelled to Billingham and came home with all three points and a great 3-1 win. Sam, Jack and Mason scored the goals. MOTM was awarded to Connor, who was outstanding.



Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk

Telephone: 020 7219 6385

Aycliffe Office: 01325 790580

Wanted

Household Furniture Bought
Tel. 07860 560295

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Wheelchair, etc., any condition. Also Caravan and Trailers.
T. 07401 133459

Opticians

K. McGuinness Opticians
Town Centre
Newton Aycliffe
Tel: 316600

Computers

AYCLIFFE COMPUTERS

Computers Built to your own Specification
PC, Laptop & Mac Repairs
iPad/Tablet Set Up & Sync
Upgrades - Data Recovery
Windows 11 Installation
Broadband Installation
Networking - Anti Virus
Call out within 24 hours, usually same day
No Call Out Charge Within Newton News Circulation area

Contact Rob
01325 310737
07841 867170
aycliffecomputers@gmail.com

WE ARE NOT CONNECTED TO ANY OTHER COMPUTER BUSINESS IN N/AYCLIFFE

Alterations



Pets



Accommodation

Two Bedroom house to rent in the old part of town. References required.
Tel 07546 226608

Hairdressing

Mobile Hairdresser
Cuts
Cut & Finish
Perms

Julie 07801 192417
to book an appointment

LYNN'S MOBILE HAIRDRESSING
Over 25 years experience.
For a friendly, reliable service call Lynn on
07904 219997

Funding Plan

Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen has put forward her plans to protect policing levels across County Durham and Darlington in the forthcoming financial year as the force continues to miss out on crucial extra government funding.

The Commissioner is recommending increasing the policing portion of the money people pay towards council tax by 5.1 per cent which equates to an extra 25p per week (£13 a year) for a Band D property. Many householders will pay less than this (£8.67 per year) due to a higher proportion of Band A properties within the force area.

The increase, which is in line with government assumptions, will generate vital income to enable the Commissioner to maintain police officer numbers at 1,368 until at least April 2025 and PCSO numbers at 146.

It is also necessary for the recruitment of extra control room staff to improve public contact processes and the continuation of IT upgrades, that are essential for ensuring the public receive the urgent help needed when they call for help.

More than half of the 1,935 people who responded to the Commissioner's recent budget survey supported increasing the precept either by £15 or more, acknowledging the difficult job she has in balancing the books in the face of historic underfunding. In announcing her plans, ahead of a Police and Crime Panel meeting, Commissioner Allen drew attention to the ongoing adversity facing Durham and other low tax base forces who she described as being continually 'left out in the cold'.

Despite the limitations of central grant funding and council tax revenue, Commissioner Allen still successfully brought in more than £5.1m of extra funding through Ministry of Justice and Home Office streams last year, helping the force to retain its high performing position. The policing grant allocated to the force has increased by 6.19 per cent to £118.4m for 2024/25. If the panel approves the precept increase, the total revenue funding will increase from £157.4m to £167m – an increase of £9.6m or 6.1 per cent. This compares to an average national increase of 6.7 per cent – which means Durham receives a lower increase than the average, as has been the case since 2010 due to its low taxbase.

The money people paid towards policing in 2023/24 helped the Commissioner to instantly strengthen the frontline by taking on more transferee police officers from other forces. These are trained and experienced officers who can make an immediate impact in their communities but cost more to employ. It also funded an increase in training across the force, an uplift in Special Constables, an extra five police officers, boosted resources in the force control room and supported the launch of Operation Snap – the new public portal introduced by the force allowing people to upload journey cam footage they have obtained to support the prosecution of illegal drivers.

In drafting the 2024-25 budget, the Commissioner has backed Chief Constable Rachel Bacon's determined focus on neighbourhood policing, supporting her plans to recruit more officers and PCSOs. Commissioner Allen added: "In an evolving and challenging world, I am proud of our achievements and Durham's position as a national leader in fighting crime. Residents have made clear their priorities in my recent budget survey and this budget will deliver on those key areas and more as we continue to make our county and borough safer."

Obituary

Carl Szoboszalai

Of Newton Aycliffe. Passed away peacefully at home on 3rd February, aged 58 years. Dearly loved Son, Brother, Brother-in-Law, Uncle and Dad. Will family and friends please meet for a service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Monday 26th February at 10.30am. Carl will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends. Mod clothing would be most appropriate, if so desired, as Carl loved his music, especially The Jam.

Derek Wheadon

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully, after a short time spent in Bethany House Care Home, on 10th February, aged 83 years. Dearly beloved Husband of Elizabeth; a much loved Dad to Denise and Andrea; a dear Father-in-Law to Andrew and Mally and a treasured Grandad to James and Adam. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Family and friends please meet for a service to celebrate his life at Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 27th February at 11.30am. Afterwards all are invited to attend Woodham Golf Club to share their memories of Derek. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Dementia UK.

Colin MacCormack (Mac)

In loving memory of my beloved Husband. Rest in peace bonnie lad, 'til we meet again. My love always. June God Bless.

Colin MacCormack (Mac)

Just a prayer from those who love you. Just a memory ever true. In our hearts you will live forever. Because we thought the world of you. Rob and June

John O'Kane

8/11/43-24/2/19
Sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered every day. No longer in our lives to share, but in our hearts you are always there. Loved and missed by all our family.

Congratulations

Valerie Chape

17th February
Birthday wishes to my Wife, married for nearly 60 years and still the love of my life.
Love, Colin xxx

Happy birthday Mam. Love from Julie, Ann and Jona xxxx

Happy birthday Nan. Lots of love from Zach xxx

Margaret Woodcock (formerly Small)

On 8th February, peacefully in Lindisfarne Care Home, Newton Aycliffe, Margaret, aged 92 years. Beloved Wife of the late Wallace; dearly loved Mam to Marion, David, Irene, Linda, Tony, Julia and Gordon; a dear Mother-in-Law, Gran, Great-Gran and Great-Great-Gran. Funeral on Wednesday 21st February. Would friends kindly meet for service in Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 3.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu would be much appreciated, in aid of The Residents Fund at Lindisfarne Care Home, a basket will be provided as you leave the crematorium chapel.

Irene Margaret Wiggert (nee Issott)

10/10/49-14/2/23
Beloved Wife of Ian and Mother of Adrian and Andrea. Lost, but never to be forgotten on St. Valentine's Day. The Mayfair Quickstep will never be quite the same without her partnership.

Paul Stevens

17-2-2004
Twenty years of missing you! Your smile has gone forever and your hand we cannot touch. We have so many memories of you Paul, we love and miss you still. Mam, Dad, Julie and all the family xxxx

Well Done



We would like to congratulate Andy Hickson of Five Acres for his recent qualification, passing the RHS Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture with a distinction! Andy attends Askham Bryan College in Harrogate and he is the new Head of Horticulture at Five Acres. All at Five Acres are incredibly proud, well done.

Sudoku

	5			4		3	
	2		3	9		5	
3			1		5		8
2		5		3			9
	9					1	
1				7		4	2
7			2		3		5
		3		1			2
	1			5		7	9

Funeral Service Sheets

NEWTON PRESS
300212
sales@newtonpress.net

Home Services

StainKleen

Professional Cleaning Services for Carpets, Upholstery, Rugs and Leather Cleaning - Hard Floor Cleaning
RAPID DRYING - FULLY INSURED

Contact **07817 573604**

Website: www.stainkleen.co.uk

GUTTER CLEANING SERVICE

Gutters, Fascia and Soffits cleaned.
Paul 07399 628345

AYCLIFFE CLEANING SERVICES

- Carpet and Upholstery cleaning
- Leather cleaning and repair
- Pressure washing
- Gutter clean & repair
- End of tenancy cleans
- Domestic and Commercial cleaning
- Janitorial supplies
- Fully insured

07895 697 115
01325 494294

Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

GUTTER CLEANING

Gutter and UPVC Cleaning Service
No Ladders Required
Conservatory Cleaning
Also Gutters Renewed and/or Repaired
07519 376870

Carpets Fitted
and Refitted by
Time Served fitter.
Call Paul on
07985 350188
or **317928**

DO YOU NEED A POP UP BANNER TO PROMOTE YOUR CLUB OR ORGANISATION?

Prices from £65.00
Contact: Newton Press
01325 300212



Health, Wellbeing & Learning for All
Services & activities available for the community delivered from the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe:

- Therapies, treatments & hydrotherapy pool
- Lifestyle & exercise classes - including walking & cycling groups
- Community learning courses
- Family activities - including arts & games
- Health checks & access to health trainers
- Services for disabled people
- Volunteering opportunities
- Room hire & conference facilities
- The Mail Coffee Shop

Get in touch:
01325 321234
enquiries@pcp.uk.net
www.pcp.uk.net

Gardening

WWW.SUPREME-TIMBER.CO.UK



Open to the Trade and Public

Opening hours

Mon-Friday: 8:00 am / 12:00pm - 12:30pm / 17:00pm

Address: Whinfield Drive, Newton Aycliffe
Business Park, DL5 6AU

01325 787 550 - LOCAL DELIVERY AVAILABLE

07544 802052 or 01325 321113
www.awtreecare.co.uk

a.w.treecare
The Tree & Hedge Professionals

Time Served Royal Horticultural Society Arborist

- Felling, Dismantling & Pruning • Hedge Cutting
- **STUMP GRINDING AND REMOVAL**
- Local Authority Approved Contractor
- All Areas Covered - Free Quotations and Advice

Alexander Walker TechArborA., ND Arb., SOC Arb
Fully Insured - Professionally Trained - Aycliffe Based

Gardening & Odd Jobs

My late wife told me, once, she had received a letter from the council stating she had a dangerously overhanging bush. She said, "I didn't know whether to get the shears out, or the scissors!" If you are suffering from the same, or just need tree pruning or general garden tidying or anything, just give me a call and I will come around for a coffee and a chat about what you need doing!

Contact **Richard 07832 136674**
A Very Friendly Service



For a FREE quote
Call Alan on
07908 793 010

GREENKEEPER LANDSCAPES

Phil Thompson
Professional Landscaper
Over 20 years experience
All aspects of horticultural and tree work
Patios, blockpaving specialist
Hedges, Fencing, Decking & Turfing & Grasscutting
Tel: **01325 308432**
Mobile: **07765 374 905**

Alpine Landscapes

Patios, Driveways, Fencing, Decking, Gravel, Turfing, Walls. All work guaranteed. 25 years experience, est 15 years, professional advice.
alpinelandscapes.co.uk
Alan on **07974 710351**



Fences Erected & Repaired

For a Free Quotation contact Sean on
07393 738755
srhfencing@yahoo.com

ROSEWOOD TREE WORK

Felled, Pruned, Hedges Cut, Fencing, Gravel. All aspects of groundwork considered.
20% off for OAPs.
Tel **01325 319972** or **07740 999075**

FOR ALL YOUR PRINTING REQUIREMENTS
Newton Press
Tel: **300212**

Removals

ASK Services
Man + Van, Removal, Delivery and lots more.
Contact Paul
07399 628345

YOU CALL WE DELIVER

Single items or full loads
VAN & MAN HIRE
07923575364 / 07513590534

Locksmith

SHILDON LOCKSMITHS UPVC DOOR DOCTOR

Locks Changed - Lock Repairs
Mechanism Repair/Replacement
Door Adjustment - Door Furniture
Emergency Door Opening
90% OF PARTS IN STOCK
24 Hour Emergency Call Out

01388 741 114

07748 044 808

www.shildonlocksmiths.co.uk

Electrical



Established 2005
✓ Car Chargers
✓ Fuse Box Replacement
✓ Extra Sockets & Lights
✓ Landlord Inspections
✓ Experienced Electrician
✓ Tidy & Reliable
✓ Free Quotes & Advice
✓ OAP Discounts
No Job Too Small
Give Richard a Call
07859 021039
01325 308349

DJW ELECTRICS

No Job Too Small
Fuse Board Upgrades
Rewires | Lighting
Extra Sockets
Fault Finding
Free Quotes
Contact Dave on
Telephone:
07563 088 946
01325 317535



• Fuse Board Upgrades •
• Rewires Full or Part • Lighting •
• Extra Sockets • Fault Finding •
• No Job Too Small • Free quotes •
• OAP Discounts •
Phone Justin on
01325 313282
07817 629535
justin@jr-electrical.co.uk
(Part P Qualified)
Check out our website for monthly deals: www.jr-electrical.co.uk

Joinery

Foster Joinery Services
All Aspects of Joinery Undertaken

From inside the home: Doors, Skirting and Architrave, Staircases and revamping what you already have, Loft entrances and Loft Ladders.
To the outside: Doors, Decking, Fencing.

Plastering
No job too small - Can supply all materials
Just ring 07748 967374 for a FREE quote

C SMILLIE

- Joinery •
- Building •
- Decorating •

Established 1984
Apprenticeship Served

312024 after 6pm

H&H JOINERY & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

All aspects of Joinery Work,
Kitchen Fitting and
General Maintenance
Playhouses & Summerhouses
10% Discount for OAPs
Tel: **01325 497079**
Mobile: **07769 903173**

Plumbing



- Boiler Repairs • Boiler Servicing •
- New Boiler Installations & Heating Systems
- Qualified Gas Engineer •
- **ALL PLUMBING WORKS UNDERTAKEN** •
- Reliable Service • Tidy Work •
- Free Quotations • Boilers from £999 •
- Finance Options Available •

Call Mark on T: **07340 826 219**
or **01325 802 212** (Aycliffe Office)
E: info@absoluteplumbingandheat.co.uk
A friendly local company



www.waterwaysplumbingservices.com
• Bathroom Design/Installation
• All plumbing work undertaken
• Kitchen Installations
• Repairs • Tiling
• No call out charge
• FREE Quotes • Power Flushing
For a fast, friendly, reliable service, call Jason on
01325 301808
07963 358338
waterways@talktalk.net

Guy Gas Services

Combi Boiler Installer
Boiler Installs
Servicing - Repairs
General Plumbing
Gas Fires
For all Gas & Central Heating Enquiries
01325 304349
07962 148116



24 Hour Call-out
Plumbing, Heating and Gas Service Engineers
Free Estimates, Bathrooms & Tiling, All Work Guaranteed
Ring **John Nellis** on
01325 358596
Mobile **07931 591381**

HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING

Plumbing & Heating
Gas Installations
Repairs & Servicing
Landlords Certificates
01325 327290
07790 044455

Remember to tell
the advertiser you
found them in the
Newton News

LOCAL PLUMBER

Small Job Expert
Undertaking your small jobs, the big companies don't want - from dripping taps to broken toilets
NO CALL OUT CHARGE
Call Joe **07535 362 591**

Builder

Jeff Horsley

28 years experience
Full Build of Extensions
Porches, Garages,
Garden Walls, Patios,
Concreting and Re-Pointing
FREE ESTIMATES
Guaranteed Quality Workmanship
Tel: **01325 313939**
or **07970 869967**

HANDYMAN
available for small
house jobs
(retired builder)
Tel: **07717 822021**

For all your print requirements
Newton Press
300212

Decorating

DRAGON DECORATORS

All aspects of interior & exterior decorating, including children's artwork. Over 30 years experience. Member of "Checked & Vetted". No job too small, free estimates.

Contact Colin on
07952 364426

Brushstrokes Decorators

Free no obligation quotes and advice from a time served painter & decorator. Interior & exterior work, no job too small. End of tenancy clean up for landlord's. Gutters and fascias cleaned from £60. Discounts for OAP & NHS staff

Tel: 01325 312953
Mobile: 07587 140912

C. A. Plasterers

all plastering work, artex skimmed, small jobs, free estimates

Tel: 01388 721206

Steve Hutchinson

Painter and Decorator
Over 28 years experience, reasonable rates, no job too small. Call today for a free estimate

01325 483 697
or 07745 037 754

G. CROSSEN

PAINTER & DECORATOR
304447 - 07340 606402
Time Served - C&G - Established 1998

S. Sowerby Decorators

All aspects interior & exterior catered for, large/small

Private Dwellings, Commercial, Shops, Offices, Public House, Landlords and Estates Welcome

Contact Steve
for a free estimate

Telephone: 07896 277593

Email: stevetopdecs@hotmail.co.uk

Roofing

JK Roofing

All Roofing Work Undertaken

From One Tile to a Full Roof - Felt Roofs - Chimney Re-points - Dry Ridge System - Dry Verge - UPVC Fascias and Soffits.

Covering Aycliffe for the past 15+ years.

Free estimates:

07305 163146 or 07511 608311

Specialists in G.R.P. Fibre Glass and Flat Roof Systems

20 year Installers & Manufacturers Warranty
All Fitters Registered
Free No Obligation Quotations

Phone for a FREE quote

07858 365891 - 01388 601505

"NEWTON NEWS"

Deliverers Wanted for all areas of the town

To put your name on our 'Reserve List'

Telephone 01325 300212

or email paul@newtonnews.co.uk

We require your name, address, age, contact number and email address

"Earn some Pocket Money"

SUIT OVER 13 YEARS OR ACTIVE RETIREES

Could You Be a Community Champion?

An initiative which recruits local people to become trusted sources of public health information within their communities has been relaunched.

Durham County Council's public health team is looking for people from across County Durham who are passionate about supporting the health and wellbeing of others to become County Durham Together Community Champions.

The project was originally set up during the pandemic, known then as Covid Community Champions, as a way to share trusted information and provide credible feedback to the team on Covid related issues.

The programme will recruit a network of volunteer champions from across the county to share information, address barriers and improve connections between services and communities.

Maria Skoumpopoulou started volunteering as a community champion, to gain experience of working in the public sector, after she moved to the UK from Greece.

Maria said: "This role helped me to work as part of a team and I feel more confident by taking part in their activities. I truly believe that if someone has an interest in community matters and wants to gain experience and interact positively, or online with other community groups, then the friendly and supportive community champions team should definitely be their choice."

The champions will provide support around issues such as tobacco, alcohol, physical activity, poverty, mental health and health protection. They will be supported with regular updates, resources and free training. Volunteers don't need to have any prior experience in health. They just need to be over 18, live in County Durham and be willing to share public health information with their friends, family and people they know in the community.

For more information on how to become a community champion, visit www.durham.gov.uk/cdtcommunitychampions

RUNNING CLUB NEWS



Although this last week has been a little quieter for races, members from Aycliffe Running Club have still been busy. The week started off with the South Shields Monthly Mile on Wednesday 7th February where two members took part. Representing the club were David Stothard (7:05) and Ian Stothard (9:40) who both improved their times from the previous month.

On Sunday 12th February, two members took part in the Run Newcastle Valentines 10k race at the Town Moor in Newcastle. Shaun Dodds (49:29) and Trish Kay (55:36) represented the club. Shaun finished fifth in the Men's Over 50 category with Trish first in the Women's Over 60 category, brilliant performances from both.

On the same day, four members took part in the Stuart Pailor Memorial Race, or more commonly known as the Old Monks, a 5.5 mile race at Hart Village in Hartlepool. This saw runners have to deal with some pretty awful conditions with the trails flooded in some parts and a lot of mud. Representing the club were David Stothard (1:04:40), Laura Grainger (1:07:06), Sandrine Hewitt (1:11:00) and Ian Stothard (1:21:18). They all deserve our appreciation for running in those conditions.

On Saturday, 32 members started their weekend with a parkrun, taking in the Sedgefield, Darlington South Park, Hackworth, Hartlepool, Herrington Country, Ashington Community Woodland events.

At Sedgefield, John Surtees (17:57) finished second. Also taking part were Richard Campbell (21:55), Steve Williams (27:10), Susan Rees (27:34), Viv Williams (32:06) and, completing her 75th run at Sedgefield, Judith Porter (32:10), Kevin Greenall (34:05) and Linda McNamee (45:37). At Darlington South Park, Angela Sutheran (24:48) and Sarah Gill (26:46) both took part, with Sarah completing this course for the first time.

At Hackworth, Daniel Tatham (24:12), Bernadette Cooper (24:58), Salv McDonnell (27:38), Laura Grainger (28:25), Sue Podmore (29:45), Cath McDonnell (30:43), Tracey Pickering (37:45) and Hannah Richardson (42:30) all completed the event.

At Hartlepool, Richard Trowles (18:14) finished fourth, with Carley Cooper (26:55), Jean-Pierre Hupin (27:58), Kathleen Tonge (30:31), Em Flynn (30:43) and Richard Tonge (30:44) also completing the event. This was also Richard Tonges' 200th ever parkrun, an amazing achievement.

At Herrington Country Park, which saw a lot of standing water on the course, David Stothard (27:16) and Ian Stothard (36:12) both completed the course. At Ashington Woodland, Paul Dalton (21:27) and Jayne Rudd (31:30) both completed the course for the first time. If you are feeling inspired, and are interested in joining the club, you can turn up for one of our sessions. More information is available on our website www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk - or our Facebook page. If you would like to chat with someone, then you can email ayclifferunningclub@gmail.com - If interested in the Junior Section you can email arc.juniorsection@gmail.com - make this year the year you or your children get into running and join us to keep it going for many years to come.

Aerial Installations

J & O AERIALS

Facebook: J-O Aerials
j-and-o-installations@live.co.uk

- ✓ Digital aerial installation and upgrades CCTV
- ✓ T.V. Wall-Mounting
- ✓ Additional rooms wired
- ✓ Freesat/Sky and repairs
- ✓ 3- 5 year guarantee

youview freesat Freesview sky HD BT

Quality Service, Quality Materials, Affordable Prices

AYCLIFFE BASED- PREMIER DIGITAL AERIALS

Contact Luke: 07528 357642 or 01325 954194

15% OFF with this advert

AERIALS FITTED

All aspects of aerial work undertaken

Quick Service
Fair Prices
Guaranteed

call or text

Richard Naylor
07779557148

Want to know all the latest local news, visit our website
www.newtonnews.co.uk

email:
paul@newtonnews.co.uk

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Newton News

Exciting Plans at SWOT! We have a plan for you!

HACKETT & BAINES LTD
Est. 1898

BIG SIZE MENSWEAR
2XL to 8XL
huge range of designs now in stock

Electric Adjustable Bed Ranges

FROM £599

Free Delivery

47-49 Main Street, Shildon DL4 1AF 01388 772671
Email: hackettandbaines@btconnect.com

'What You Had In Your Day'

- More than 25% of the 1950s population lived in poverty, this was down to 12% in the 1960s and down to 9.9% in the 1970s/1980s.
- Over 500,000 recorded crimes in the 1950s, with over 1 million in 1960s, 2 million in the 1970s and 3.5 million in the 1980s. This trend continued until the early 2000s where it has seen a steady decline since. Bear in mind, however, that as new things have happened it has increased the opportunity to commit a crime and the reason to report one.
- Smoking and drinking have always been bad for you, it's just companies are not able to lobby the government to the same extent anymore.
- You had plenty of germs and viruses, or did you forget why the MMR jab was created?
- Oh yeah, how great, where Dad was in charge and would slap his wife if she stepped out of place!
- The children were not heard because they would be physically punished if they were, oh yes . . . the good old days when people enjoyed, or turned a blind eye, to physically abusing children.

There is nothing about 'the good old days' that makes me wish I was born earlier, very little money, poor pay for hard jobs, poor housing, poor healthcare, poor education. I could go on and on. The only people who wish for the good old days are the people who are unwilling to move along with the times and progress and move forward with the rest of society. We are meant to learn from the past, we

are meant to use our discoveries to make life better for everyone, to make life easier for everyone. What is the point of living if it's a mixture of stress and unhappiness? Name and address supplied.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

Tel: Paul

01325 300212

or paul@newtonnews.co.uk



Firstly, I want to thank everyone, past and present, for helping me keep this rescue open and functioning well, Paul and the staff of Newton Press, Donella, Wally, Mandy and Wendy of Grannies Choice, not only for their support, but also providing me with some wonderful items which are necessary to keep my hedgehogs, clean and comfortable whilst here with me. June and Valerie for making lovely items to sell, June has also made some beautiful blankets which our hoggies love and they wash very well. Angela, Elaine, Ed and staff of Grange Vets for their support and also Hazel, Nancy, Joyce, Lori, Avon Court, Lorraine Elliott, Nev and Jo (Community Spirit), Roy, Brenda's finder, Jackie and John Connell, Linda, Itsy and Bitsys finder, Margaret Willis, Keith Lovejoy, Lucy's finder, Shirley, Tesco Community Champion and, not forgetting, Georgina and Ian for their recent very generous donation. Thank you.

It has become more and more apparent that the people who run this town and country fail to see how significant climate change impacts everyone. Some of us are arrogant enough to have the belief that this planet is ours and ours alone, we are all here to play our part, we have to share/co exist with nature.

Our wildlife is suffering considerably due to our lazy attitudes, weed killers, strimmers, pesticides and also sports equipment and ponds, and I see the suffering they endure when they come out in the day, they are not ok, and if I admit them, and I am lucky enough to save them and re-release them, it's a job well done, these poor souls don't deserve some of the things we, the people, are responsible for. Our hedgehogs are mammals, they are endangered and on the red list for extinction and protected under the law, if you have a hedgehog visit your garden you should feel honoured because they will kill all your unwanted garden pests, if they are lucky, you may even reward them with some kitten kibble which is very good for them, their teeth and growth, accompanied with some water.

I am extremely lucky to have the support of the people mentioned above, too many to mention to be honest, but you know who you are - you have kept me open and feeding these beauties with nice food and comfy beds.

Admittedly, I have been desperately short of money, I don't normally keep as many hedgehogs here, I refuse to turn a hedgehog away; baby, juvenile or adult, and being tired is better than them being left to die a horrible death outside!

I have asked for help, I have also asked GAMP for help, but was advised to set up as a CIC or a registered charity, I am of the belief that to become a registered charity I need to have an income of £5k etc, I am not prepared to do that, my best place is keeping them alive in rescue not knee deep in paperwork.

Also, if I had this kind of money I wouldn't be asking for help. All the people named above are a credit to me and this community and our hedgehogs, it's sad that the people we put in power don't see the bigger picture and help me to help them like poorly Rosie (pictured). Thank you all.

Maxine BHPS Rehabber
pricklyhaven@yahoo.com

Facebook page: Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society Telephone 01584 890801.



SECURE YOUR GARAGE



FREE
Intruder alarm
worth £85*

FREE
5yr Warranty

FREE
Installation

BUY A NEW ELECTRIC GARAGE DOOR AND RECEIVE A FREE INTRUDER ALARM

- Unlock 25% more space
- 100,000+ doors installed
- Expertly fitted by a local Garolla engineer
- Manufactured in the UK
- UK's No.1 recommended
- Prices start from £995



GAROLLA
ELECTRIC GARAGE DOORS

CALL TO ARRANGE A FREE SURVEY

0191 462 0113

*Offer only available on selected products until 31st March 2024

Grooms
by Sarah



DOG GROOMING SERVICES IN NEWTON AYCLIFFE

Find me on Facebook
or contact Sarah on 07544 418517

ELECTRICIAN
www.armstrong-electrics.co.uk

DO YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO GET SOMEONE TO COME AND DO A SMALL JOB?

- ♦ Fault Finding / Repairs
- ♦ Extra Lights and Sockets
- ♦ New Fuse Boards / Alarms
- ♦ Rewires
- ♦ Landlord Inspections
- ♦ Qualified Electrician
- ♦ Reliable Service
- ♦ Tidy Work
- ♦ Free Quote
- ♦ Satisfaction Guaranteed

I WILL ASSURE YOU OF A QUICK RESPONSE AND A REASONABLY PRICED SERVICE

Call Gary on 01325 589011