

# 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

## Community Social at Middridge



A big thanks to Amy from Groundworks for inviting us to the Community Social at Middridge Village Hall. It was great to chat with so many of our local residents. This social event runs every Thursday up until 25th April, when it will revert to the first Thursday of the month. So, if you get chance, do pop along for a brew and some snacks, anytime from 11.00am-1.00pm. This great project helps to reduce social isolation and brings communities together - thanks for having us! PCSO Steven Kipling.

## Sugar Hill Litter Picking

Thanks to Councillor Neville Jones and Sugar Hill Primary School the surrounding area is becoming a litter free zone! Last year, Neville sourced some litter picking equipment from Durham County Council through his KAT group (Keep Aycliffe Tidy). Since then, the children have been on a mission to collect as much rubbish as possible within the school grounds. The Year 3 children worked with Steve Cooper from Great Aycliffe Town Council and the equipment came in very useful to help tidy up the local area around the school.



## Improve Your Health at PCP

The Pioneering Care Centre (PCC) is host to lots of classes beneficial to your health and wellbeing. At the PCC we have a two fantastic free cycling groups, our intermediate group is every Monday 10am-1.30pm, and our beginners group every Wednesday 10am-11.30am. March forward to your fitness goals with our Walking Group, every Thursday 10.30am-11.30am. Enjoy a steady walk around the local area whilst meeting new people and making new friends. One walker said: "It's just great to get out the house for an hour or so, with great people who are all here to improve their health, its brilliant. The benefits I've had from getting steps in have been fantastic, I encourage you to join us and we look forward to meeting new people." Cycling and walking groups are both free. To find out more about these classes, you can download a 'What's on Guide' by heading to: [www.pcp.uk.net/activities](http://www.pcp.uk.net/activities) or you can pick one up from the PCC, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4SF.

## World Book Day at St. Francis' School



On Thursday 7th March, St Francis' celebrated 'World Book Day' in school. The staff dressed up as different characters from well-known book characters. We had Little Red Riding Hood, Dorothy, Mary Poppins, Pocahontas, Gaston the Ladybird and Where's Wendy all joining us for a day of story writing. Each class have written their own story where many different characters meet, they had to use the characters the teachers came as to write about, we had such great ideas! The children even illustrated their work and performed them in our end of the day assembly. Each child also received a book to take home to give them more opportunity to enjoy reading! The children also enjoyed a themed lunch, which was very yummy!





## The County at Home?

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**Good "Fry-Day" - 29th March**  
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Join us for a delightful feast featuring Easter specials alongside our Sunday Menu. Indulge in a selection of dishes crafted with love and care, perfect for enjoying with family and friends on this special day.

**Food served:**  
Monday - Saturday 12pm - 2pm  
5.30pm - 6pm  
Sundays 12pm-6pm  
Call us on: 01325 312273 to book a table

## POLICE UPDATE

The Neighbourhood & Response teams working out of Newton Aycliffe have been busy responding to a variety of incidents across the area over the past week, including Concerns for Safety, Missing Persons, Shoplifting, Domestic Incidents and Harassment.

Response officers responded to a report of an ongoing domestic incident. Officer arrived on scene and apprehended the suspect, who was arrested for criminal damage and court related offences. He was taken to custody where he was charged, remanded, and put before the courts the next day. On Saturday 2nd March officers from response and the Neighbourhood Team arrested several males for going equipped. They have been bailed whilst enquires are ongoing. A number of companies on Aycliffe Business Park were also visited as part of ongoing reassurance patrols.

On Sunday officers arrested a male who was wanted for outstanding bail offences. On Wednesday, PCSO's from the Neighbourhood Team attended a multi-agency walkabout around the Western Area in Newton Aycliffe. Working with partner agencies is an important part of our day-to-day working.

E-Bike patrols have been conducted around Newton Aycliffe, covering areas such as Tesco and the town centre, Greenfield Way, Williamfield Way and Stephenson Way.

On Thursday, a male was interviewed for a number of shoplifting offences, where he admitted the offences.

A number of Herbert Protocols have been completed over the last couple of weeks. These forms assist emergency services in locating a vulnerable person if they were to go missing. If you know somebody living with Dementia/Alzheimer's, who you feel could benefit from this, please get in touch with the team or send us a private message. Patrols have been increased around the Tesco area, after an increase in calls relating to Anti-Social Behaviour. A number of youths have been identified from CCTV footage.

PCSO's have attended numerous addresses to give out target hardening equipment to vulnerable residents.

**Coming Up:** Our next PACT meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th March, starting at 6pm in The Big Club, Sheraton Road where you can attend and speak with a member of the Neighbourhood Team.

Steven Kipling  
(Police, PCSO, Newton Aycliffe NPT).



### Focus on ASB - Living a Nightmare

Within and between the streets of our towns and villages, a silent, and sometimes deadly, epidemic persists, with victims of anti-social behaviour (ASB) enduring unacceptable repeated incidents of harassment, alarm and distress often described by victims as living a nightmare.

The fear of repercussions often stifles reporting, which in turn perpetuates an environment where significant underreporting disguises the true extent of ASB in our communities and resources are not deployed to where and when the incidents are occurring only where the incidents are reported and recorded.

If not addressed, ASB can disrupt daily routines and cause annoyance and frustration. Victims may alter their behaviour to avoid certain areas or situations. Sometimes this avoidance option is not an option if the ASB is linked to a neighbourhood dispute, which leaves many victims feeling trapped and isolated and a prisoner in their own home.

The fear of going out, the anxiety of encountering the perpetrators and the frustration of feeling powerless can take a toll on mental health and overall quality of life.

Repeat incidents of ASB can quickly escalate from perceived low-level behaviour to more serious crimes and tragic consequences if not addressed and taken seriously.

The tragic case of Fiona Pilkington serves as a haunting reminder that such situations are not merely hypothetical but ticking time bombs waiting to explode. The link between ASB and mental health crises cannot be underestimated, yet government funding for victims does not include support for victims of ASB.

Sadly, reference to victims of ASB is absent from the Victims Bill and this is something I have raised with all our local MP's, ministers and shadow ministers urging them to call on the government to address this glaring omission. As a Police and Crime Commissioner I am responsible for commissioning a range of victim services. So, I have been determined to ensure all victims of ASB get the same valuable support as victims of crime. I have brought victims services in house and appointed an ASB victims Champion who ensures victims voices are heard and we learn from their experiences and address unresolved cases of ASB.

In County Durham and Darlington all victims of ASB can now access victim support services through our highly acclaimed Community Peer Mentor Service. Something I believe all ASB victims living in England and Wales should have access to.

To dismantle the silent suffering of ASB victims and end their living nightmare, all agencies must acknowledge the plight of victims and allocate necessary resources for mental health and support services. We have to make it easier for victims to report ASB and give them the confidence that we will take complaints seriously. Only then can we hope to prevent the tragedy of Fiona Pilkington from repeating, and truly make our communities safe and secure for everyone.



### FOCUS ON ASB - LIVING A NIGHTMARE



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# PACT Meeting

The next PACT meeting (Police & Communities Together) will take place at The Big Club, Sheraton Road at 6.00pm on Wednesday 20th March 2024. Please come along to speak with an officer from the Neighbourhood team if you have any police related queries or concerns.  
PCSO Steven Kipling.

# World Book Day at St. Joseph's



On Thursday 7th March 2024, St. Joseph's took part in World Book Day. The theme of the day was the book, 'The Secret Sky Garden'. The children came to school dressed in costumes linked to gardens. There was a fantastic array of creative designs; the school was full of colour! Children took part in a parade to show the rest of the school their creative designs. Across the day, the children took part in activities linked to the book. These ranged from designing and making flower bookmarks in EYFS, to creative writing across the school. Children also designed their own front cover for their own version of 'The Secret Sky Garden'. All the work that the children produced will be displayed in our school library. Children all received a book token at the end of the day to go and spend on a brand new book.

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# Police Officer Boost Welcomed

Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen has welcomed new funding to recruit an extra 11 police officers over the next twelve months - but warns the uplift does not go far enough.

Chris Philp, Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire, wrote to the County Durham and Darlington PCC and Chief Constable Rachel Bacon to confirm the force's success in the 2024-25 Additional Recruitment Scheme. The Force has been asked to recruit an extra eleven police officers above the number it needs to maintain its current headcount in 2024-25, bringing the total number of officers to 1379. With the additional recruitment allocation, Durham Constabulary will receive a total of £48k per officer to cover salaries, training, and other associated recruitment costs. The funding is dependent on the Force achieving its full maintenance headcount and the extra eleven officers. Commissioner Allen welcomed the extra officers but said the force was still 128 short of 2010 levels and renewed her calls for an overhaul of the current funding formula to level the playing field and increase support for areas with high demand and greater pockets of deprivation. "Any influx in police officers is good news for our communities. These additional 11 officers will make a vital difference to the neighbourhoods they are asked to serve, supporting existing officers to tackle high-impact crimes and meet demand pressures.

"However, Durham is still trailing behind when it comes to police strength through no fault of our own. Unlike many forces which have seen their headcount grow beyond 100 officers, we have more than 100 less than 2010 and it is already starting to show.

"There is a limit to what can be realistically achieved when the odds are firmly stacked against us. Cutting crime and keeping people safe costs money. And we don't have enough. And, while I am pleased at this small step in the right direction, I will make the point again that it is time for the Government to urgently rethink its current policy to remunerate police forces more fairly and restore our numbers to what they were before."

The Commissioner reiterated that Durham still has the joint lowest budget per recorded crime out of similar sized forces. The rate is also below the national average.

This is despite the region falling into the highest band of permanent exclusions from schools in England, leaving more young people exposed to criminal exploitation and harm. Additionally, the north east also has the highest rates of drug and alcohol related deaths, which increases demand on policing.

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# Tracey Joins the Whitehouse Team

**Whitehouse Funeral Service** are thrilled to welcome **Funeral Director, Tracey Rimmer, to the Whitehouse Funeral Team.** Tracey brings with her a wealth of experience and is renowned for the dedicated care and compassion she offers to families during their time of need.

Tracey said: "My dad passed away 38 years ago and, from visiting him in the Chapel of Rest, I just knew looking after families was what I wanted to do. I waited until my children were grown up and decided I wanted a career in the funeral industry. "I was very lucky to be given a job thirteen years ago as a part time funeral service arranger, then I became a full-time administrator, but it was never quite what I wanted. I had a desire to be more involved with families so, seven years ago, I trained (in house) as a funeral director and have loved every minute of it. "I am driven to come to work every day knowing I can make a difference to a family's lasting memory of their loved ones and I feel I can offer families empathy, professionalism and friendship, whilst not only caring for their loved one, but themselves as well. I feel very proud to work for Whitehouse, as they have an outstanding reputation. Now I am a part of this team I couldn't be happier." Outside of her professional life, Tracey enjoys keeping fit by going to the gym, swimming, running and cycling - competing in triathlons. Her greatest achievement was travelling to Austria and Frankfurt to compete in Ironman which consists of a 2.4 mile open water swim, 112 mile bike ride then onto a 26.2 mile run all in under 17 hours. Tracey will be working from both the Darlington and Aycliffe offices and many families are already benefiting from Tracey's compassion and support. John Whitehouse, commented: "We consider ourselves very fortunate to have Tracey join our team and are proud to welcome her to Whitehouse Funeral Service."



# Letter Writer

A Newton Aycliffe resident is offering a new service, writing CVs and cover letters for job seekers. Kevin Stewart of Wakenshaw Drive, who has lived in Aycliffe for 37 years, has spent the last ten years working as a full-time freelance writer and editor, producing sports and entertainment articles for various major online and print publications worldwide. He now wants to add some variety to his daily writing duties.

Mr. Stewart previously worked as a consultant and executive headhunter in the recruitment industry. He says the knowledge he's gained in both career chapters is ideal for his new side venture. He said, "I would sieve through dozens of CVs and cover letters every day when I worked in recruitment, so I know how good ones should look and what recruiters look for in them. Combining that know-how with my work as a professional writer means I'm well-positioned to write them for others." He continued, "Most people who are established in their careers already know how to prepare quality CVs and cover letters. Therefore, I'd like to focus on helping school-leavers, students, and those seeking employment for the first time through the job application process. A good CV and a well-written cover letter can be decisive factors when employers consider individuals for any given role. I'm looking forward to giving enthusiastic candidates the best chance possible at winning the positions they apply for."

The service cost will depend on the specific details of individual cases, with Mr. Stewart offering CV tune-ups and CVs and cover letters written from scratch. He does, however, suggest the prices will be reasonable. Anyone wishing to use the service can find more details on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cvs.and.cover.letters](http://www.facebook.com/cvs.and.cover.letters) or email: [TheCVHelper@Outlook.com](mailto:TheCVHelper@Outlook.com)

# Duke Cup Tournament



**Sedgefield Water Polo Club would like to congratulate two of our U14 members, Indie and Thomas, who were invite to participate in the Duke of Cambridge Cup Tournament held at the Alan Higgs Centre, Coventry on 27th January.**

The one day event allowed sixty athletes from across the five England talent centres to come together and play in mixed teams against the English Schools Swimming Association (ESSA). Players were allocated to teams named after planes from the Second World War: Vulcans, Typhoons, Spitfires and Hurricanes in honour of the Duke of Cambridge, HRH The Prince of Wales, who served in the RAF. Following the tournament, each player was presented with a medal for their efforts. Overall winners were the Typhoons. The games gave the players the opportunity to gain high level match experience in order to prepare them for a future within the sport.

In addition to club training at Sedgefield Water Polo Club, both Indie and Thomas train fortnightly at the England Talent Centre in Maltby, South Yorkshire and both aspire to one day represent their country.

In addition to Junior and Senior sessions, Sedgefield Water Polo Club now offers a beginner session at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on a Saturday afternoon for those wishing to try this fun and exciting sport. We are always looking for new members and offer free trials.

All sessions need to be booked in advance on our Club App, so please check our website for further information and joining instructions, email: [sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com) or contact 07579 030598.





Present

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## N.A.F.C. REPORT

### Newton Aycliffe 2 v Stocksbridge Park Steels 1 Saturday 9th March

Newton Aycliffe followed on from their epic victory over league leaders Stockton Town with a 2-1 win over Stocksbridge Park Steels. In comparison to Tuesday's gripping match, this game was a quieter affair. Stocksbridge had the game's first two chances from Jack Tinker and Ross Goodwin, but both went high over the bar.



Fortunately, Aycliffe would score with their first big chance, after twenty minutes. Toby Pascoe crossed to Liam Jarvie who was deep in the Stocksbridge box and poked the ball past Ben Townsend with ease.

The first half scoreline would remain 1-0, mainly due to Townsend doing well to deny both Jarvie and Ethan Wood's strikes. The second half would prove a bit more interesting. Most of the early attacking was from Stocksbridge starting with Luke Rawson narrowly missing a header. A few minutes later James Winter would have to make a quick save after a swift low shot from Kurtis Turner.

The game would remain rather quiet again until the hour mark, a ball from a corner would be whipped into the Aycliffe box and Winter did well to deny Jack Watson from close range, parrying the ball away to Marc Costello who launched the ball out of the box. Liam Adamson and Jarvie launched a quick counter-attack, but Jarvie's shot went high and wide.

The Stocksbridge pressure continued, and this time Costello could only clear as far as Luke Hogg who calmly sent the ball past Winter to make it 1-1. Stocksbridge seemed more than happy to play for a draw, while Aycliffe spent the remainder of the game searching for the winning goal. Jarvie's curling shot was easily saved by Townsend. Jake Petitjean would also challenge Townsend but the Stocksbridge keeper once again stood firm.

Adamson and Kyle Davis have exhibited brilliant link up play throughout the season, and the winning goal was no exception. Davis weighted the perfect pass to Adamson who feinted passed Tinker, and fired an absolute rocket of a curling shot that hit the top corner on the way into the net. Davis would almost get a goal of his own immediately after, but this time Townsend found the ball with ease. Aycliffe would see the game out, and earn yet another victory at home to now make it a nine game unbeaten run.

The two sides have just seven days before they renew their rivalry as the reverse fixture is at Stocksbridge on Saturday 16th March. Aycliffe then return to Moore Lane on Saturday 23rd March for the visit of Winterton Rangers.

*Photo by Yvonne Wood of central defender Dale Elgie in action against Stocksbridge. Match report by Ryan Livingston.*

## Lehi is One to Watch

New single release: 'Shut The Door', out now. 24 year old, Newton Aycliffe resident, Lehi (pronounced Lee-Hi) released his second indie pop single, 'Shut The Door' on 26th January and, after his first two single releases, he is showing why he is quickly being highlighted as one to watch in the new music scene.

This new single had an exclusive first play on Radio X with John Kennedy, who made it his X-Posure Hot One on the 13th January. John praised this single saying, "Lehi has a big crossover sound that would fit daytime radio across the board."

It has also been played on BBC Introducing and so far on 30 radio stations around the world including the UK, USA, and Australia. Lehi has been featured in twelve music publications this year, leading up to this release, including: Louder Than War, NARC Magazine, NE Volume and Upcoming Bands, to name a few. Reviews include:

"It's just brilliant indie pop."

"The song is upbeat and features an infectious rhythm throughout, ensuring the soundscape is fantastic and is backed up with catchy guitar hooks and sizzling synths. The chorus is huge and guaranteed to have you singing along and, in just two singles, this is quickly becoming a trademark of the northeast native."

"Lehi is one of those artists who, when you listen to his music, you know he is going places. With a strong, tuneful voice and excellent backing, 'Shut The Door' is special and deserves your attention."

Help this local artiste by listening to his music, following him on Spotify, X (was Twitter), Instagram and Facebook, he is: @thisislehi. Please tell your family, friends, children and grandchildren.

Lehi is currently writing and recording more music with an EP planned for later in the year and then hopefully gigs to announce. If you haven't heard his songs yet, I encourage you to listen and support this Newton Aycliffe artist, you won't be disappointed. Name and Address Supplied.

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# Folk Night

The Candlelite Club’s next event will take place at Moore Lane Sports Club on Wednesday 20th March from 8.00pm to 10.30pm. The main guests are ‘Silver Surfers Band’ and ‘Ian Swinburn’. To book a place, please ring Joan on 01740 621347.

# Model Railway Exhibition

Saturday 23rd March heralds the 14th Model Railway Exhibition to be held at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre. With over twenty layouts from all over the country on display, plus various traders and preservation societies attending, it will prove to be an exciting and enjoyable day for the young and young at heart. Refreshments are available all day and car parking is free. Full disability access is available to all areas of the exhibition with assistance available if required. This exhibition has proved itself to be one of the best in the north east, as told by those who have attended in previous years (their words, not ours). So, why not come along and see for yourself? Doors open at 10.00am. All monies raised will be split between Great North Air Ambulance, Parkinsons UK and Rotary Charities.

## Aycliffe Senior Football News

**Newton Aycliffe Youth Seniors 6 v Newfield Hilda Park 0**  
Home game against Newfield, a side Aycliffe played preseason but not in the league. Newfield had picked up some decent results recently and Aycliffe knew it would be a good test. The forward three were asked to press the visitors back four, as they play out from the back. Aycliffe did this and nicked the ball, seeing chances falling to Steven Dawson and Jack Mortimer which they didn’t convert. Corners were going to provide more opportunities to score and the first decent corner saw Cameron Martin tap home for the opening goal. The next corner Kieran Maughan headed home, but the Ref disallowed the goal. Then Jack is set away and gets behind the defender and he makes no attempt to play the ball and trips Jack, potential straight red but ref produces a yellow. The lads were getting frustrated and needed a second goal. The high press worked when Steven won the ball back, finding Andrew Burrows who found Jack, Jack’s shot came off the keeper and defender to score our second. This was quickly followed by Jack grabbing his second from a great free kick. After the break, Jack was brought down and dusted himself down to bag his hat trick. This was followed by a shot from Niall Douglas that the keeper spilled and Corbyn Mitchell followed in to bag the fifth. When a free kick was also spilled, Niall Douglas followed in to add our sixth. Then came the biggest cheer of the afternoon as the evergreen Dougie Grant came on to make his debut for the team, Dougie has been training with the team to keep fit and always said he would love a run out and he got his wish. Not the greatest performance, but three points in the hunt for the title. Elsewhere, Aycliffe’s two closest rivals both lost. MOM: Cameron Nicholson.

# Litter Solution

Dear Sir,  
I read with interest the letter from David Knight regarding the council’s lack of action on litter. Whilst I agree more could be done, ie emptying bins more frequently, surely the problem should be dealt with at its root cause? If we all took pride in our surroundings then there wouldn’t be litter to pick in the first place, whether this be by the council or the numerous, wonderful groups established to pick up after those who seem to think it’s someone else’s responsibility. I, for one, do not want to see the council having to spend more money on this when there are numerous other priorities on an already tight budget - perhaps more enforcement on the law and imposing the £150 fine on litter dropping is a better way forward, and not criticism of a council which does try to make our town appealing (flower beds are a good example). Name and address supplied.

# International Women’s Day

On Friday 8th March 2024, St. Joseph’s celebrated International Women’s Day. We had special guests (some of our children’s family members) in school who told us about their jobs. They told us about how they entered the profession and the qualifications they needed. All our visitors provided us with their own personal stories. As part of the talk, they brought in items they needed for their daily work and memories, such as photographs. At the end of each talk, children were provided with the opportunity to ask questions. This helped develop their knowledge and understanding. One Year five pupil stated “It was fascinating to hear how to become a nurse. It is definitely a career I think I may look at in the future. I really enjoyed the talk.” We heard from some truly inspirational women on International Women’s Day and they provided children with a great insight into different career opportunities in the future.

# Litter is Everyone’s Problem

Dear Sir,  
When I read David Knight’s letter recently, I was glad to see I am not the only one who hates to see litter in this town. I agree that our council could do more - indeed, we often see overflowing bins, especially along St. Cuthberts Way. I believe, however, we need to think a little more about the root cause of the problem. I remember back in school the ‘Keep Britain Tidy’ campaign. People were often reminded of the importance of proper litter disposal. It seems now barely a word is mentioned on the subject. Perhaps we need to take a step back and try to teach people from a young age why they should not drop litter. At the same time, I think it would help if everyone took a little more pride in their surroundings. It amazes me how often I see litter by people’s garden gates, sitting there for days. People must walk in and out of their home, oblivious to it. My Grandparents used to tell me stories of people regularly washing down their front steps and really taking pride in their surroundings. Why is this no longer the case? In my view, litter is not just the council’s problem, it’s everyone’s problem. If everyone did a little, the problem would mostly evaporate. Everyone can help. Whether it’s educating others, picking litter up, reporting it, or simply calling out others who drop it. We need to get to a place where people are made to feel embarrassed or ashamed if they are seen dropping litter. Despite the criticism Aycliffe receives, I feel very lucky to live here. Many towns do not benefit from the space or greenery that Aycliffe offers. It would be wonderful if we could all do our bit to make it a little nicer. Name and address supplied.

## 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



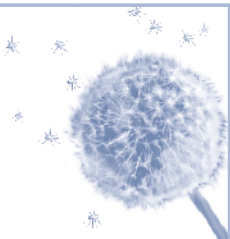
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(24 hour)



## JUST THE PERFECT PLACE FOR GREETINGS CARDS AND GIFTS

There’s a new shop now open 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.



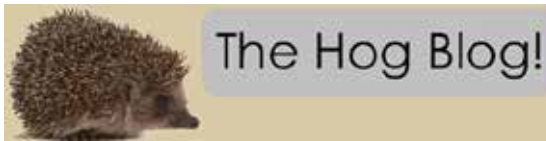


# Woodham NEET at 99%



Every year, the government release school's NEET figure, which stands for Not in Education, Employment or Training. Woodham are delighted to announce that their figure is 99%, meaning that only 1% of their year 11 students didn't secure a place of their choice. It's a brilliant outcome for the school, and reflects the hard work completed by the students and dedicated year 11 team. A significant amount of planning and organisation goes into this process and is then made possible by students achieving strong results at GCSE. Mr Bell, Headteacher at Woodham Academy, said "One of the real pleasures about working with our young people is watching them leave

at the end of year 11, not only as well rounded members of our community, but also going off to do what they have a true interest in. Places at colleges, 6th form centres, apprenticeships, employment etc. are becoming increasingly competitive, therefore giving our students the best chance to achieve their goals is very important to us. Well done to all concerned."



It's fast approaching the time of year when us rehabbers are considering releasing our hedgehogs that have been overwintered. I would like to ask everyone to be mindful and check their gardens before using power tools, get sports netting off the ground and also water features made safe. These mammals are everyone's friend and we have a duty of care to ensure they can pass through our gardens, eat the bugs we consider pests and move on.

I will be releasing very soon, finders will be contacted and any help and advice will be offered, I have worked very hard keeping so many safe, well and healthy and it has been very difficult, but very rewarding. I would like to introduce you all to my resident hedgehog Molly.

She was discovered in a park at Ferryhill last November, the poor soul was circling really badly. Her finder tried so hard to get her to a rescue without delay but, unfortunately, all were full to bursting, I was also full so Molly was passed to the vets that cared for his dogs which turned out to be Grange Vets, my vets. The poor man, called Nick, rang the following day, (Wednesday) and was advised that Molly was going to be euthanised, he was heartbroken, this information was incorrect because I rang the vet and she had turned a corner, thankfully. I stepped in and admitted Molly on Thursday 2nd November last year, she had a nasty tummy infection and also she is blind in one eye, hence the circling. Because she is about six years old it would be extremely cruel to euthanise her or release her because she has given us many hoglets in her lifetime, we owe her a debt of gratitude, she will be here for quite a while, hopefully, she is a delight to have in rescue and she has the run of the house if she wishes.

She has her own new cage and when the weather improves she can have a walk around the garden if she wants, with supervision of course. She is very small and thin, she needs constant monitoring and care, it's what she deserves. As you can see she is a mucky eater.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society telephone number is 01584 890801. My Facebook page is Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel or email me: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com

## Situations VACANT

### Shafto Way Service Centre

Are looking for a

#### Vehicle Technician

who is capable of performing General Repair Work and Servicing in a warm and easy going workplace.

For more information contact David Bell,  
**Telephone: 07837 642756**



#### Sterling Safety Services

St Cuthbert's Way, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DX

### Customer Service Administrator - 25K

Sterling Safety Services is looking for an experienced administrator to support the directors with day to day running of the company. Based at our site in Newton Aycliffe; you will work with a friendly team, four days per week - Tuesday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm.

The position would entail general administration, hot desk between three desks when those people aren't in the office, answering telephones and emails, printing delivery notes and ordering stock. Along with serving customers at the trade counter.

- Experience of SAGE accounting is desirable.
- A knowledge of industrial PPE would be helpful.
- 20 days holiday per year plus statutory holidays and Christmas break.
- Workplace pension available.
- The ideal person would have to be able to start on 1st May 24

Interested parties should send their CV's together with a covering letter to: [sales@sterling-safety.co.uk](mailto:sales@sterling-safety.co.uk)

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## Newton News

### Easter Deadline

Thursday 28th March - Easter Edition  
Deadline: 12noon Tuesday 26th March  
Friday 5th April - Back to Normal  
Deadline: 12noon Wednesday 3rd April

Please be aware of the opening times below and deadline times above to ensure your advert is placed on time and in the correct edition

Advertisements can be placed at our offices  
Blue Bridge Centre, St Cuthberts Way  
\*\* or email to [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk) \*\*

### Office Opening Times

Open until Thursday 28th March at 5.00pm  
Reopening on Tuesday 2nd April at 9.00am



## Woodham Golf Club

Burnhill Way  
Newton Aycliffe DL5 4PN  
Tel: 01325319977  
Email: [woodhamproshop](mailto:woodhamproshop)

### Golf Membership

13 MONTHS FOR THE PRICE OF 12  
1st March 2024 until 31st March 2025

- \*Adult 7 day (+26 years) - £660.00
- \*Adult 5 day (+26 years) - £598
- \*Over 70's 7 Day—£598.00
- \*Over 70's 5 Day—£554.00
- \*Joint—£1250.00
- \*22—25 years—£486.00
- \*20—21 years—£318.00
- 18—19 years—£205.00
- 15—17 years—£80.00
- Under 15—£40.00

\*Direct debit applies to the following categories:

Deposit on joining followed by  
4 monthly payments, May to August.  
Call for further details 01325 319977.

\*£40.00 Direct Debit administration fee applies  
All fees include club levy/affiliation fees.

### Winter Green Fees

1st March until 31st March 2024  
£15.00 each day Monday to Sunday

### Summer Green Fees

1st April until 31st October  
Weekday £25.00  
Weekend and Bank Holidays £30.00





## Parliament Talk

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

I want to start this week by sending my best wishes to Councillor Jimmy Atkinson who is poorly, get well soon Jimmy. Monday 4 March started with a morning train to London followed by a meeting with Matt Vickers, Member of Parliament for Stockton South, to discuss the adjournment debate, Matt had succeeded in getting to raise concerns about the proposed solar farm running from Bishopton to Brafferton. Adjournment debates take place at the end of each day and are usually just one Member raising a point for a Minister to answer, but Matt and I had worked together on this as it affects both of our constituencies, so we were both able to speak. I am a fan of solar farms, but concerns have been raised at the scale of those planned in this area and the consultation process. The debate took place at the end of Monday's business. Earlier in the day I had hosted a session on Demand Responsive Transport which is one of the potential opportunities to fix some of the gaps in bus services we have.

Tuesday started at 8.30am at a British Airways' showcase event where a number of the Transport Select Committee were guests to see their plans for the future. Then it was into Westminster for a meeting with the Local Government Minister to raise Durham's concerns again. Later it was an online session with Darlington Council Leadership and then I chaired a meeting of my Left Behind Neighbourhoods' All Party Parliamentary Group. Here we heard how culture had supported the recovery of some communities. I then performed my duties as a Parliamentary Private Secretary at a Westminster Hall debate on wine duty before joining the Bus Minister, Guy Oppermann MP, to particularly discuss the X21 service that used to connect Sedgefield, Fishburn and Trimdon to Newton Aycliffe. We discussed this with Arriva and have follow up meetings scheduled to see how we can recover this connection.

Wednesday was Budget Day and is one of those occasions when the Chamber is full. This means that if you want a particular seat you need to be in the queue for when the doors open. I was therefore there at 7.30am ready for 8.00am to secure the seat traditionally taken by Treasury Parliamentary Private Secretaries, directly behind the Chancellor. As a Treasury Parliamentary Private Secretary this meant I joined the Ministerial team in No 11 before appearing with the Chancellor and team in Downing Street for the traditional pictures. I then headed to the Chamber for the usual Prime Minister's Questions and then the Budget speech. The speech is responded to by the Leader of the Opposition and then other

Members of Parliament start the four days of debate. This means that myself and the other Treasury Parliamentary Private Secretary, Jerome Mayhew, spend a lot of time in the Chamber supporting the Ministers. On Wednesday evening I went to a dinner where the Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, Leader of the House, was the main speaker. On Thursday, I went into the Chamber for Business Questions where I raised a question with Penny Mordaunt as to progress on the infected blood enquiry. Later I took some visitors around the Palace of Westminster before then spending some time performing my duties as Parliamentary Private Secretary re the budget speech. Took the train home on Friday morning before time in the constituency that started at Sugar Hill School talking to the Year 5's, then to Trimdon Station (Deaf Hill) for a constituency surgery where once again the issue was primarily buses! After this I went to Ferryhill and called to see constituents in the Dean & Chapter before briefly calling at the Scout Centre in Newton Aycliffe. I was pleased to see the Rail Minister commit further funds to support the business case for the Leamside Line which is significant for long term transport plans in the North and we also saw another £73m announced to support buses in County Durham so I will be doing all I can to ensure our part of County Durham gets at least its fair share.

Saturday saw me at Fishburn to speak at the celebration of an extension to the Community Centre, Lynne and the team have been extraordinary in their efforts. Then it was over to St Michael's Church in Heighington to attend the meeting led by the Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway team on Heighington Station and the plans to revitalise it. We heard about its extraordinary place in history as the oldest railway station and platform in the world. They have a campaign running on their website, <https://www.sdr1825.org.uk/> where you can either donate funds or just register your support. Even just registering your support helps them have good numbers for other funding applications.

As usual, over the week, I had discussions with the Rail Minister, Huw Merriman MP, and the Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt Hon Mark Harper MP, as regards rolling stock issues and Hitachi as well as Ferryhill Station and the Leamside Line and I took the opportunity to mention Heighington Station to him as well. I will be calling in on Monday at the Aycliffe Hitachi site to catch up with Union officials as well as Management.

As always, if you want to catch up with me, either email: paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk or call Newton Aycliffe 01325 790580.

## N.A.F.C. JUNIORS

**Under 7's** travelled to Thornaby, it was a scrappy first half and Aycliffe made changes at the break. The changes worked, with Aycliffe scoring four goals, with Harry grabbing a hat trick and Alfie scoring the other.

**Under 8 Juniors** played Guisborough Town Reds, with Aycliffe playing lovely passing and moving the football. Goals coming from Felix C and Lincoln. MOTM was Zach for hard work and determination throughout the match.

**Under 8's Whites** played Chilton Juniors, it was an end-to-end game but, unfortunately, Aycliffe could not get the goal they deserved. Louie was awarded parent and opposition coaches POTM.

**Under 9's** played Saltburn Athletic away. Aycliffe played fantastically with Oliver scoring two and Eddie getting Aycliffe's other goal. A big achievement for the defence also, who kept their first clean sheet of the season. MOTM was Eddie for his constant energy around the pitch.

**Under 10's Reds** played against Hartlepool FC who are four divisions above Aycliffe, in a tough game for Aycliffe, it was Jack who scored the goal. MOTM was Koa.

**Under 10's Blacks** travelled to Prissick Rovers, Aycliffe started slowly and had Liam B to thank who saved an early penalty. Aycliffe improved soon after and ended up with a superb result, with goals scored by Lucas P (2), JJ (2) and Jack B. POTM, picked by the opposition, was Liam B who made amazing saves.

**Under 11's Blacks** could not find a way to get a result on a tough trip to league leaders South Park Rangers. It was a much improved performance though, with Aycliffe's goal coming from Max. MOTM was Fletcher who played centre midfield today and was outstanding.

**Under 11's Whites** had a narrow 2-1 loss at home to Shincliffe Junior Whites. Aycliffe led through Ethan and controlled the first half, unfortunately they could not score the second and Shincliffe scored two late goals. MOTM was Arran.

**Under 12's Whites** had a friendly against Ponteland Under 13's Girls. Aycliffe raced into a three-goal lead, before Ponteland pulled two back before the break. Ponteland equalised before MOTM James grabbed the winner.

**Under 12's Blacks** drew 1-1 with Waldrige, both teams started brightly with Waldrige scoring the opener. Aycliffe equalised before half time through an assist from Connor to set up Benjamin. MOTM was a shared between Oliver and Connor.

**Under 13's** entertained Billingham in what was a real tough test, Aycliffe's great form continued with a 4-3 win. Archie, Oscar J and Zach (2) scored the goals. MOTM was awarded to Oscar M.

**Under 14's** travelled to Grangetown and destroyed the opposition with a 7-2 victory. Aycliffe's attacking football was a joy to watch with Huey pulling the strings in midfield. The hero of the day was Blake who scored an amazing five goals, with other goals added from Alfie and Dan. MOTM was shared between Huey and Blake.

**Under 15's Blacks** hosted Peterlee, after a scrappy start, Peterlee scored before new signing Leon levelled it to 1-1. In the second half, Aycliffe played great passing football and Jayden scored a second for Aycliffe, before Fynley rounded up the scoring with a header to give Aycliffe the 3-1 win. MOTM was Dylan. Special mention to Jason for his goal line clearance.

**Under 15's Whites** faced rivals Eaglescliffe Elementis Blues, Aycliffe were unable to find any sort of rhythm or control and were 2-0 down at half time. It was in an improved second half performance with Aycliffe showing glimpse, but could not find a goal, eventually going down 3-0. MOTM was Jake C.

**Under 16's Whites** drew 2-2 against Middleton Rangers. Aycliffe raced into a 2-0 lead with goals from Brad and Tyler and had further chances to extend the lead but could not take them. Middleton were excellent in the second half to share the points. MOTM was Jake.

**Under 16's Reds** were beaten on their travels at top of the table Eaglescliffe. In a game where Aycliffe performed well, the hosts come away 4-0 winners. MOTM was Harry T.



# Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk

Telephone: 020 7219 6385

Aycliffe Office: 01325 790580



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# BT Group Recruiting

BT Group has announced plans to recruit nearly 200 apprentices and graduates in the North East for its September 2024 intake, with roles available in Newcastle, North Tyneside, **Darlington** and Gosforth. The company will recruit talent into the company across a number of areas, including those designed to support the UK's fast-growing digital sectors.

A total of 190 positions will be recruited including:

- 97 based at North Tyneside
- **75 based at Darlington**
- 12 based at Gosforth
- 6 based in Newcastle

The new roles will be based at a number BT Group's sites including its recently refurbished bases in North Tyneside, Gosforth and Darlington. The state-of-the-art refurbishments form part of BT Group's Better Workplace Programme - the largest workplace improvement programme and consolidation scheme of its type ever undertaken in the UK.

BT Group is one of the UK's largest private sector apprenticeship employers and has recruited more than 3000 apprentices and graduates over the past five years. The company offers apprenticeships ranging from level two, the equivalent to GCSE standard through to level seven, a master's degree. In 2023, BT Group was ranked second in the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers in the UK and as part of its Manifesto for responsible, inclusive and sustainable growth the company has pledged to build a more diverse talent pool.

For more information on how to apply for an apprenticeship or graduate job at BT Group, please visit: <https://www.bt.com/earlycareers>

Property  
For Sale

**House For Sale**  
Hamsterley Road  
Newton Aycliffe  
Contact:  
07867 977417

Congratulations

**Pat & Jennifer  
Degan**



**21st March 2024  
Happy 60th  
Wedding  
Anniversary**

Have a wonderful  
day from Daughters  
Jane, Joanne, Irene,  
Jennifer and all your  
family.  
We all love you both  
very much xx

**Dave & Janet  
Roberts**



**16th March 2024  
Happy Golden  
Wedding Anniversary**  
to my sweetheart  
Janet.  
Love always, Dave  
xxx

**Happy Anniversary  
Mum & Dad**

All our love, Belinda &  
Bruce, Eve & David,  
Hazel & Anth, Evan  
& Gina and all the  
grandchildren and  
great-grandchildren.  
xxx

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Birthday  
Remembrance

**Wendy Hill**

**Happy 60th  
Birthday**

to the best Nannan in  
the world.  
Love from Joshua,  
James, Noah,  
Sophie, Casey, Luke  
and Mazikeen.

**Wendy Hill**

**Happy 60th  
Birthday**

From Andrew, Katie,  
Richard, Clare,  
Craig and all the  
Grandchildren.  
We love you loads.

**Frank Swinburne**

**18th March**

Happy Heavenly  
Birthday wishes.  
Died 24th March  
2013.  
Loved and missed by  
all your family.

In Memoriam

**Vic Spensley**



In loving memory of  
my beloved Husband  
Vic who passed away  
17th March 2022.  
Close to my heart  
you will always  
stay, loved and  
remembered every  
day.  
Loving Wife Sylvia

**Frances Woodhead**

Mum, never more  
than a thought  
away. Loved and  
remembered every  
day.  
Lots of love,  
Gary xxxx

**Frances Woodhead**

While you, dear Mum  
rest and sleep, your  
loving memory we'll  
always keep.  
Lots of love,  
Mandy & John xxx

**Adele Allen**

**7/9/1957-21/3/2022**



Beloved Wife,  
Sister, Mother and  
Grandmother.  
Forever and always  
in our hearts.  
XxXxX

**Ann Lillian Morris**  
(nee Cooper)



On 13th March 2023,  
a Monday night at  
10.50 the angels  
came for you as you  
needed rest.

I'll always remember  
that moment as you  
were listening to  
one of your favourite  
Abba songs from  
Mamma Mia, when  
you closed your eyes  
for the last time.  
We've been to many  
faraway places  
together, but the  
journey you took on  
13th March 2023  
you took alone, so  
please wait for me  
my darling Annie.  
Remembering you  
with sadness, but  
also happy memories  
are your Daughters  
Deborah, Gillian  
and Julie; your  
Sons Mark, Stephen  
and Andrew; your  
three Grandchildren  
and one Great  
Grandson; also  
your stepdaughters  
Debbie and Kathleen  
and your loving  
Husband Dave.

**15th March**

One year has passed  
since you gained  
your wings and not  
a day goes by that  
we don't think of you  
Mum.  
You are always in our  
thoughts and hearts.  
We love and miss  
you today and every  
day.  
David, Elizabeth,  
Adrian and Edward  
xxxxx

Obituary

**Paula Cruddace**  
(nee Kennedy)

Paula, aged 61  
years, passed away  
on 3rd March 2024,  
of Heighington.  
A loving Wife of  
Andrew; much loved  
Mam of Sam; Mother-  
in-Law of Rebecca; a  
special Granny P of  
Vivienne and a loving  
Daughter of Winifred.  
A Requiem Mass  
will take place in  
St. Mary's R.C.  
Church, Burn Lane,  
Newton Aycliffe on  
Monday 18th March  
at 11am followed by  
Cremation at Wear  
Valley Crematorium.  
All are welcome.  
Family flowers only  
please, donations in  
lieu, if so desired, for  
Macmillan Nurses.  
At Paula's request,  
could everyone wear  
a splash of colour if  
possible please.

**John Bennington**

Of Heighington,  
passed away  
peacefully on  
Sunday 3rd March,  
aged 86 at Auguste  
Communities Care  
Home.  
Much loved Dad  
to Sarah; a loving  
Grandad to Harry  
and Isla and Father-  
in-Law to David.  
Please can family  
and friends meet for a  
service at Darlington  
Crematorium,  
3.00pm on Thursday  
21st March.  
Family flowers only.  
Donations in lieu, to  
Low Barns Nature  
Reserve.

**Lillian Georgina  
Robinson**  
(Lil)

Passed away  
peacefully on 4th  
March, 2024, Lil,  
aged 79 years.  
A dearly loved Mum  
and beloved Nan,  
also a dear devoted  
friend to Keith and to  
the many who knew  
her.  
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**Audrey Patterson**

**Died 13-3-2023**

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# Hashtag Hair & Unique Abilities



On last week's Around Town we had local entrepreneurs Amber and Jason, the driving force behind the new enterprise Hashtag Hair Limited. It's always a pleasure to have young people in the studio who have a vision and a desire to make their mark in the business world, and new businesses opening up in the town are always a good and positive sign.

"We are so excited to start this new journey together, we have both worked incredibly hard to get to this point where our dream has become a reality. We still have some final preparations to do in the salon so we will keep everyone updated with the progress, and thank you to everyone who's supported and believed in us on the journey."

Our other guests on the show were Mandy and Charlotte from Unique Abilities, a local support group which is organised and run by people who have disabilities themselves or have children with disabilities or special educational needs. The group runs a sensory session at the Neville Community Centre on the third Saturday of the month, in addition to support groups, workshops, days out and other various activities. They have a 'closed' page on social media which provides support, advice and guidance and allows people to ask for advice and guidance in a safe and non judgemental space. They also signpost people in order for them to receive the correct support for things like medical help and diagnoses, and support and guidance with filling forms in such as DLA, EHCPs etc.

They are a non-profit organisation, who currently don't receive any funding, so they raise funds themselves with support from family and friends. The aim of their group is to ensure nobody feels isolated or alone, and have someone to reach out to, and parents and children get the chance to socialise with other people in a safe and non judgemental environment. Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.



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## RUNNING CLUB NEWS



The races have started to come thick and fast for members of Aycliffe Running Club as we move into Spring. Not that it has felt it, weather wise!

The week started off with the first race of the Darlington 5k trail series on Wednesday 6 March, which was the Baydale Beck headtorch race. This saw runners take on a challenging course through trails, using a headtorch to light the way forward. There was an excellent turnout for the club with an amazing 23 members taking part. Representing the club were Richard Holland (23:17), Sam Keenan (24:00), James Cooper (25:02), Jimmy Agnew (26:19), Ste Dunn (26:41), Lucy Postle (26:48), Daniel Tatham (27:11), Richard Trowles (27:14), Trevor Agnew (28:42), David Stothard (28:43), Joe Dickinson (28:45), Sarah Gill (28:50), Keith Hatton (30:25), Sammie Metcalfe (31:06), Sue Podmore (33:39), Kelly Dickinson (33:52), Jean Pierre Hupin (33:56), Carley Cooper (34:00), Em Flynn (37:17), Peter Varley (37:27), Rob Nicholson (37:40), Nicola Ingman (39:18) and Ian Stothard (41:27).

On Saturday 9 March, six members travelled for the 40th anniversary of the Dentdale Run starting in the village of Dent in Cumbria. There was the opportunity to take part in either the 7.9 mile race of 14.2 mile race. In the 7.9 mile race, Martyn Knox (1:03:02), Salv McDonnell (1:08:09) and Trish Kay (1:13:34) represented the club with Martyn third in the Men's Over 35 category. In the 14.2 mile race, Richard Campbell finished in an excellent time of 1:32:14. Cath McDonnell (2:18:04) was third in the Female Over 55 race. Bernadette Cooper (2:22:08), survived an early issue after falling heavily after tripping on a tree root, cutting her knee. Despite suffering with pain, she continued to complete the full race, an amazing effort.

The following day, six members travelled for the Running GP Croft Motor Circuit on the race track at Croft Circuit. Weather conditions for the race were awful, with rain and wind. That did not stop our members from taking part, showing excellent grit and determination. The runners had the opportunity of running anything from a 5k race up to a marathon. In the 10k race, Jean Pierre Hupin (1:00:11) was third in the male over 65 category. Kirsty Cameron (1:06:02) and Kathleen Tonge (1:08:19) also represented the club. In the half marathon, Carley Cooper (2:12:28 who would have been placed in the top 3 of her age category), Richard Tonge (2:27:53 and first in the male over 65 category) and Em Flynn (2:29:44 and third in the female over 45 category) representing the club. This was also the first time that Em had managed to get below that elusive 2 hours 30 mark for a half marathon in over two years, showing the amazing progress she has made over the last year.

On Saturday 2nd March, 33 members started their weekend with a parkrun, taking in the Silksworth, Sedgfield, Darlington South Park, Hackworth, Oakwell Hall and Wynyard Woodland events.

At Silksworth, Steve Williams (26:46), Evelina Dogley (28:35) and Viv Williams (31:44) completed the course for the first time. At Sedgfield, Andrew Twedde (24:06) completed his 50th parkrun on this course setting a new personal best in the process.

At Hackworth, Bernadette Cooper (25:09) finished as first female. At Oakwell Hall, a number of members continued with their parkrun tourism travelling to Oakwell Hall in Batley, South Yorkshire. Carley Cooper (33:06), Jean-Pierre Hupin (33:12), Sandrine Hewitt (33:51) and Em Flynn (37:50) all completing the course for the first time.

At Wynyard Woodland, Jimmy Agnew (22:24) and Trevor Agnew (22:39) both completed the course for the first time, with Paul Dalton finishing in an excellent time of 21:16, as he continues his recovery from injury.

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](http://www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk) - or our Facebook page. If you would like to chat with someone, then you can email [ayclifferunningclub@gmail.com](mailto:ayclifferunningclub@gmail.com) - If interested in the Junior Section you can email [arc.juniorsection@gmail.com](mailto: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.



# Three Years of Tidy Team

Great Aycliffe Tidy Team have been operating for three years now. We have made a difference around the town. Some areas we clear and stay clear, other areas we go back to several times a year. We do litter pick but the biggest problem is fly tipping, some we remove for the Town Council to pickup, other tips are reported to Durham County Council. One interesting item we have found was a wheelbarrow half full of set concrete. Other items we find are plastic Christmas trees, dumped in woodland, plastic will not Biodegrade. Recently we found lots of empty alcohol bottles, freshly dumped into woodland, some of the price labels were well over £20, most of them were later recycled. I know other groups litter pick in the town, in fact some of the Tidy Team have helped them. Besides litter picking, the Tidy Team have planted trees, cut back branches alongside the Great Aycliffe Way, and other little jobs to help the public. I would like to thank the staff of Great Aycliffe Town Council, for removing the rubbish we collect.

Ian Gray

## Aycliffe Youth Football News



More games played this week, but still several teams had no games as the weather postponed games yet again.

### Aycliffe U8 Wildcats v Crook Ravens

Two games against the same opponents over the weekend. Very good performance by all the girls on Saturday, Willow, Layla, Alice, Hannah and Ella, with goals from Matilda, Emelia and Sophie. Player of the Match: Matilda. The Sunday game, the girls took an early 2-0 lead in very difficult weather conditions. However, Crook fought back and overturned the result in the second half. Goals from Matilda x2 and Sophie. Player of the Match: Emelia.

### Aycliffe U10 Eagles v Whinney Banks

Eagles got off to a flying start as George D sprinted onto a through ball from Sam to find the bottom corner before our opponents caught Eagles twice on the break. Floyd levelled the scoring with a powerful strike. Adam was fantastic in defence and created chance after chance, but just couldn't find the equaliser. Very proud of how the lads played some excellent football in challenging conditions.

### Aycliffe U15 Eagles 1 v Sunderland City (Cup Semi Final) 2

Playing against a team unbeaten in the league it was always going to be tough. The Eagles started slowly, and Sunderland went two goals ahead early on. The lads were struggling to create chances as the Sunderland defence were solid. The second half saw a much better performance,

Aycliffe were passing the ball much better and began to dominate the game. The lads got a goal back through Adam, but couldn't find an equaliser.

### Aycliffe U10 Wildcats v Darlington RA

Another tight match for the girls who showed intelligence and versatility to adapt to a new formation and changes during the game. Aycliffe restricted Darlo to very few chances in open play, and only conceded through two corners that the girls couldn't manage to clear. Aycliffe posed more attacking threat after a half time change, the girls got their reward with a goal from a well-worked corner. POTM's Penny and Erin.

### Wylam Rockets 1 v Aycliffe U14 Girls 2

The girls travelled to Wylam for the second time this season, agreeing to reverse the fixture on an old school grassroots pitch. Aycliffe took the lead five minutes in with a strike into the bottom right corner from Amy Miller's left boot. An equaliser before half time, 1-1. Aycliffe took the lead again shortly after half time, after a cross from Ava Manders with Scarlett finishing well. The girls held on, 2-1 FT. POTM: Amy Dowson.

### Gateshead Redheugh 4 v Aycliffe U12 Wildcats 1

In a game where the girls were asked to start quick, they did for the first attack, then within twelve minutes found themselves 3-0 down. Aycliffe settled down after that and got to half time the same score. Second half had much better shape and started to create chances and Imogen pulled a goal back. The girls kept pushing for more but, just before the end, the home team scored again to win the game.

### Chester-le-Street United v Aycliffe U11 Girls

A difficult game on a very cold day. The first half, the girls could have had a hat full of goals but reached half time with a single goal from Amelia. Nothing changed in the second half, but Aycliffe stretched their lead with a strong run and finish from Phoebe. However, with ten minutes to go the home team scored. It could

have been a nervy finish, but Frankie crossed for Lily to convert and see the game out for a deserved win.

### Shotton Colts 8 v Aycliffe U13 Girls 1

Aycliffe travelled to play the only unbeaten team in their league. The girls scored first, but it was the home team that lead at half time 2-1. When the game got tough the girls never gave up and were unlucky not to have scored a few more goals. Players Player: Imogen; Coaches Player: Eva.

### Kader Athletic v Aycliffe U9 Eagles

A game of two halves, the boys were well on top in the first half and could have expected to be two or three goals up, but for the brilliant work of Kaders goalkeeper. At half time, it was 1-1 and the boys were looking ahead to build on their first half efforts. Unfortunately, the wind changed the game and it became difficult to get up the pitch giving Kader the initiative.

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