

# Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper

Editorial &amp; Advertising contact: Telephone: 01325 300212 - Email: paul@newtonnews.co.uk - Website: www.newtonnews.co.uk

## Community Champion

Dear Residents,  
I am Shirley, the Community Champion for Tesco, Newton Aycliffe. I have worked for Tesco's for nineteen years and have been in the Community Champion role for approximately ten years. In this time the role of Community Champion has grown from once donating gift cards as raffle prizes for local community events to now donating baby basic essentials to hospitals and household items and much more to charities and groups alike. We also donate fruit on a weekly basis to our local community and bread buns to help with local events that take place.

I regularly go around our local area, visiting care homes and the fantastic charities and groups, to catch up and look at all the fantastic work and projects they are doing, we try to help in any way possible. So, if you think we can help with your event or you just need some guidance around what we can help and support with, please get in touch.

You can contact me Thursday to Saturday on 07834 993203, via Facebook on my Community Champion page: 'Supporting Newton Aycliffe - Shirley, Community Champion' or via email to:

**UK2916@Tesco.com**

Thank you for your continuous support.



## 25 Years of Nursery Care



House of Eden Children's Nursery, based in the Pioneering Care Centre (PCC), Cobblers Hall and the Sure Start Centre in Stephenson Way, celebrated 25 years of childcare provision in Newton Aycliffe on Friday 19th April 2024. The staff celebrated the event by attending the pantomime 'Cinderella', at the Hippodrome Theatre, Darlington.

Cobblers Hall Nursery Manager, Louise Boustead, and Stephenson Way Manager, Kimberley Dobson, were delighted to see the entire staff enjoying a well earned night out.

Director, John Newbould, said, "it's been an eventful 25 years and it's entirely down to the dedication of our staff that has made it possible. We are looking forward to the next 25. Some of our staff have been with the nursery from the beginning and we also have parents bringing their own children to the nursery who attended themselves as babies." Opening in Rushyford in 1999 the nursery outgrew its original building and moved to Cobblers Hall in 2011. The PCC building provides a wonderful nursery facility with modern open plan rooms, two excellent garden areas and an outdoor courtyard. In 2010, House of Eden also opened a nursery in Stephenson Way providing childcare within walking distance of the town centre in a purpose built nursery with excellent facilities.

Both nurseries are offering government sponsored free child care places, for more details contact Louise Boustead, Nursery Manager, Cobblers Hall - Tel: 01325 329931 or Kimberley Dobson, Nursery Manager, Stephenson Way - Tel: 01325 315623.

Places are limited, so early applications are essential.

## Have Your Say on Masterplan for Key Newton Aycliffe Site

People are being invited to have their say on a draft masterplan setting out the future development of a key site in Newton Aycliffe. The Copelaw site is identified as a strategic housing site in Durham County Council's County Durham Plan and has been earmarked for around 1,430 new homes.

The council has just started work to upgrade the nearby A167 to support the development of the site, using £7.1million secured from the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund. And it is now seeking people's views on a draft masterplan for the delivery of housing, a new primary school, and other facilities and services on the site.

Cllr James Rowlandson, the council's Cabinet member for resources, investment and assets, said: "Copelaw is identified as a strategic housing site in our County Durham Plan and we are approaching its development in a carefully planned way. Upgrades to the nearby highways network have begun and we are working with the Church Commissioners as landowners to draw up a masterplan that will help guide future planning applications across the site."

"The draft masterplan proposes a layout for much-needed new housing, including affordable housing, housing for older people, and extra care provision, as well as a new primary school and local centre, which could have shops, cafes and hairdressers."

The consultation runs until 4.30pm on Monday 13th May, and all comments will be considered before the masterplan is finalised, prior to submitting an outline planning application this summer.

People can find out more about the masterplan and comment on it at a drop-in event being held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre from 2.00pm to 6.00pm on Wednesday 8th May. Alternatively, they can register to join an online consultation session taking place at 5.30pm on Thursday 9th May or complete a consultation survey on the council website.

To view the masterplan online and complete the survey, or to register to join the online consultation session, visit:

**[www.durham.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.durham.gov.uk/consultation)**

# Aycliffe Pupils Raise Hundreds on Charity Walk

Staff and pupils at Aycliffe School marked the end of Autism Acceptance Month with a school wide 'Walk for Acceptance' event on Friday 26th April. Walkers participating, from the specialist school run by the North East Autism Society (NEAS), covered the two-mile route along Locomotion Way, between Shildon and Newton Aycliffe railway stations.

Pupils were sponsored for taking part, with the school so far collecting a total of £270 to support NEAS' services. They also got involved with crafting activities, making their own t-shirts on the theme of 'Let Me Be Me', which they wore on the walk. Although NEAS' annual fundraising Walk for Acceptance in Herrington Park had to be postponed due to poor weather and park conditions, the sun came out for Aycliffe's pupils, who enjoyed blue skies and clear weather for their walk. Principal at Aycliffe School, Kirsty Carr, said: "Aycliffe School again celebrated Autism Acceptance Month with a two-mile walk from Shildon to Newton Aycliffe. All of the school walked in the sunshine in our homemade T-shirts to celebrate our individuality and strengths." Pupils of all ages took part, with the walk covering a distance twice the length of the Society's Herrington Park route, and Kirsty added, "it was particularly impressive to see our 4-year-olds complete the whole walk."

Children and young people at the school also took place in other activities to promote autism acceptance along the Society's theme of 'Let Me Be Me', being provided with resources to create poems, short stories or scrapbooks about themselves.

Autism Acceptance Month lasted throughout April and encourages society to make changes to be more understanding and accepting of autistic people.



# UTC Ofsted Rated 'Good'

Following a full inspection in March, UTC South Durham has retained its 'Good' Ofsted rating.

UTC South Durham on Aycliffe Business Park was inspected over two days on 5th & 6th March, with a report of the inspector's findings published on 25th April.

The school was said to have a 'professional and productive atmosphere' where students and staff interact on 'first name terms'. The report recognised UTC's successful track record of students securing positive destinations by stating 'the number of pupils moving onto high-level apprenticeships is notable'.

Safeguarding arrangements were deemed effective, bullying is 'not an issue at the UTC' and staff are 'proud to work at the UTC'. The schools next inspection is expected to take place within the next four years.



# A Win for Emily



On Tuesday, 30th April, Emily Denham, from Aycliffe Boxing Club, travelled to Liverpool straight after school to box Elgin Bigley, Emily was far too strong for her opponent and the referee stopped the contest in the third round in favour of the Aycliffe boxer.

Emily is the current schools champion from 2023 after she boxed in the national final in Guildford in Surrey last May against a girl from Manchester.

Her next contest is in Newcastle Sports Centre, where she will defend her title against Ruby-Jo Dos Santos from Islington, London. Everyone at the club would like to wish Emily the best of luck in this year's National Final. Well done Emily. Les Gibson and Coaching Staff.



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## Aycliffe Senior Football News

### Newton Aycliffe Youth Seniors 1 v Consett Reserves 1

(4-2 Penalties) - Semi Final of the Aged Persons Cup, one of the major Wearside League, Cups. A very tight first half with both teams showing very little in front of goal. Both midfields were battling for every ball, but Aycliffe were looking better towards the end of the half, 0-0.

Second half, Aycliffe made one change and they looked better going forward, but a little light at the back, for a good twenty minutes the lads were defending and the pressure from Consett final paid off as they won a penalty, which was converted past. However, Aycliffe were now starting to put pressure on at the other end. Jack Mortimer forced a great save from their keeper and Kieran Maughan had the ball in the net, but ruled out for a foul. Aycliffe needed to make changes, so they brought on Mason Steed, along with Sam Thompson and Cameron Nicholson, to go three at the back and four up top.

This worked as the game went into the final five minutes, the ball dropped to Mason, twenty yards out, his shot found the top corner to take the game into the dreaded penalty



shoot-out. However, the lads were confident as they had won the other two they had been in this season. Consett with their first penalty and score. Niall Douglas scores Aycliffe first. Consett put their second over the bar. Mason Steed then sends the keeper the wrong way, 1-2. Consett score their penalty, 2-2. Jordan Wintersgill scores with Aycliffe, third penalty, 2-3. Consett's fourth and is saved brilliantly with a low dive to the left from Adam. It was then over to Jack Mortimer for a chance to send Aycliffe to the final, and he calmly sends the keeper the wrong way, 4-2. MOM Jude Bowes. Aycliffe need to tie up the league and then look forward to two cup finals in May.



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# Congratulations St. Joseph's Win Gold

Congratulations to Jordon Harston, a member of Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club who won the Durham County IBA Young Player Championship. Jordon Harston had three out of three wins against the Round Robin top players to secure the very first Master Champion Title. Jordon is pictured centre and presenting are Curtis Bihari, Championship Patron and Ferryhill Mayor, Dave Newman, representing the county. Jordon also secured the title of Men's Singles Champion of Champions this year which is another great achievement for Jordon - many congratulations from all your friends at GAIBC.



St. Joseph's Primary School has been presented with a gold award by the Woodland Trust for getting involved in green activities. The Green Tree Schools initiative offers the opportunity to bring the great outdoors, wildlife and green issues into the classroom. The pupils at St. Joseph's have planted new trees in their school grounds, visited Hamsterley Forest, written poems about the importance of forests and created pieces of artwork to show the beauty of forests. Mrs Evans, Headteacher, said, "It is so important that children get the time to appreciate wild spaces and learn about the importance of them. Our pupils love being out in nature; they learn so much about the world around them by being immersed in it." "We are thrilled to have won gold and we are excited about now working towards achieving platinum. We want to do all we can to help wildlife and plants as they are important," said one of pupils. The Woodland Trust's vision is to see a UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife. The charity is dedicated to creating new woodland with help from communities and schools, and protecting and restoring ancient woodland for future generations to cherish.

## Science Afternoon

St. Francis' were very lucky to welcome Mrs Jenkins from Woodham who joined our Year 5's for an afternoon of Science fun. The children worked together to create parachutes as part of an experiment. They learnt all about air resistance and how it can impact how something moves through the air. The children made four parachutes in total, of different sizes, they then tested them to see if the size of the parachute changed the air resistance and how quickly or slowly the parachute falls from the height - the results were very interesting. Thank you very much Mrs Jenkins, we had an amazing time.



## ACORN Residents Association

Our monthly meeting will be held on Thursday 9th May at the Phoenix Club at 6.00pm. Everyone is welcome to come along - tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Details of upcoming events and trips will be available. Please come along, to book seats and give us any ideas you may have for future events.

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

By PCSO Steven Kipling



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, here's a brief update of what has been going on;

On Monday, PCSO's Todd & Kipling seized an off-road bike next to Woodham Academy, which had been causing an annoyance to local residents.

Two males were arrested following an affray which occurred on Monday evening.

Two prolific shoplifters were arrested this week, charged with numerous offences and appeared at Magistrates Court. Please see a full update for this in a previous social media post.

A number of Herbert Protocols have been completed this week by PCSO's, which are completed for people living with dementia and help assist emergency services should they be reported missing.

Extra Op Trailblazer patrols have been conducted this week, targeting areas where we tend to get the most calls relating to Anti-Social Behaviour.

On Thursday, a male was arrested on suspicion of assault following an incident in Lilburne Crescent and transported to custody.

On Friday, a male was arrested and charged with seven shoplifting offences and appeared at court the following day.

On Saturday, a male was arrested for failing a roadside breath test and taken to custody.

This week, the Neighbourhood Team were at Stephenson Way Primary School, engaging with students in years 5 & 6, who received talks on Internet Safety, Bullying, Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime & Consequences.

Thanks for the support, have a great week.

PCSO Steven Kipling.

## Get Groovy in Darlo

A weekend of live soul, funk and disco is coming to Darlington town centre this May for the town's first ever Groovefest! Enjoy a weekend of live bands, singers, DJs and themed entertainment at locations across the town centre, with many performances free to attend!

Groovefest runs from Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th May, kicking off with a themed music quiz at the indoor market. The council has worked with PubWatch and all the participating venues and musicians to put the packed, fun filled, programme together.

James Buxton, general manager of the Tapas Bar, said: "Groovefest is a great coming together of Darlington venues and the council to put on a strong lineup of entertainment in multiple venues. We can't wait to see the entire town relaxing and listening all weekend long!"

For more information, visit: [enjoydarlington.co.uk/groovefest](http://enjoydarlington.co.uk/groovefest) or download the Darlo Trails app for a map of participating venues.

There will also be a limited number of printed guides available throughout the weekend.

Please note: All information is correct at the time of production and dates, times and locations may be subject to change. The website and our Facebook page will be kept up to date with the latest information.

## Stormy Weekend for Scarlet



It was a turbulent weekend for Scarlet Whitaker Dunn and her fellow competitors at Teesside Autodrome for Round 2 of the 2024 Teesside Sprint Series due to some unseasonably bad weather.

Despite the bitterly cold and windy weather on Saturday, Scarlet managed to qualify in a creditable 12th place out of the 26 kart field (which is no mean feat in the fiercely competitive Honda Cadet 200cc class) giving her a decent platform to work from for Sundays race heats and final.

Sunday morning brought horrendous rain and a delayed start to the race programme due to a flooded circuit. A valiant effort by track staff with their pumps and a road sweeper saw the track declared drivable but racing was to prove very tricky with many racers spinning off the circuit due to the lack of grip available.

Race 1 saw Scarlet make a good start from the grid, but things turned for the worse towards the end of the race as Scarlet took her turn to spin her kart at the exit of the 'D' chicane and was collected by another driver, causing the steering arm to be badly bent, the kart was virtually undrivable and for Scarlet to finish, a disappointing 23rd place.

Race 2 saw Scarlet get off the line well, gaining a few places before turn one. She managed to continue her good pace and finished in 17th place.

In Race 3, Scarlet started well again and some skillful moves saw her finish in 12th place.

The final race of the day went very smoothly, but it was apparent that Scarlet's kart was suffering with a lack of pace against the much higher budgeted racers. Scarlet still managed to bring it home in 17th place. The engine will be refreshed before Round 3 of the Teesside Sprint Series in June where Scarlet is hoping to make further progress and to add to her championship points tally.

"Despite the bone-chilling cold and lashing rain I thoroughly enjoyed the race and learnt many different things driving in the wet," said Scarlet. "Scarlet drove very well all weekend and again learned so much. Despite the very wet conditions and a much lower budget to her competitors, Scarlet still gave it her all," said Mam.

**2024 Remaining Race Dates – Teesside:**  
June 22nd-23rd, July 26th-28th, August 24th-25th, September 21st-22nd and October 25th-27th.

We would like to thank Amaron Racing, PHM (Peninsula Historic Motorsport), Grandad Ron and Rob Storey for their generous assistance and financial support making this possible. To support Scarlet in her journey please email: [mail@amandawhitaker.com](mailto:mail@amandawhitaker.com)

## An Evening of Entertainment

A charity event is being held on Friday 10th May 2024 at the Big Club, Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5NU. Doors will be open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start.

You can buy your tickets from many places, including online, in advance for £4.00 or at the door (if any left) for £5.00.

We wish to thank Newton Press and Newton News for their help. Also, a thank you to the acts that we are sure will make it a night to remember. There will be a few nice surprises during the evening, including dancing, music, laughter and other various acts. Food will be on sale. A game of bingo (bring a pen) and a raffle. The evening will be rounded off with Powerplay Entertainment.

Another thank you must go to those, listed below, who are helping us to sell tickets. Tickets are on sale now from many venues: The Big Club, Sheraton Road. Jorjas Attic, Town Centre St. Clare's Church, from Miriam or Noel Fresh Sandwich Shop, Neville Parade Sun Inn/Sew Inn, Simpaturegate Digital Vapers, Thames Centre AllSorts Charity Shop, next to St Clare's Church on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 1.00pm or online: [theticketsellers.co.uk/buy-tickets/an-evening-of-entertainment/10057930](http://theticketsellers.co.uk/buy-tickets/an-evening-of-entertainment/10057930)

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### The County Council of Durham (A167 and Central Avenue, Newton Aycliffe) (Temporary Road Closure and 30 mph Speed Restriction) Order 2023

The Council on 22/9/2023 made the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit/restrict all vehicular traffic from proceeding on the following length(s) of road in the following manner:

**Temporary Road Closure** - Central Avenue between its junctions with A167 and the junction to St Oswalds Court **Temporary 30 mph Speed Restriction** - No Person shall cause or permit any vehicular traffic from travelling at a speed in excess of 30mph on the following length of road: a 450 metre length of A167 from 225 metres north of the centreline with Central Avenue to 225 metres south of the centreline with Central Avenue to enable junction modification works to be undertaken. An alternative route will be available to vehicular traffic from the eastern side of the closure from A167 south to the junction with St Cuthberts Way, then westerly and northerly to the junction with Horndale Avenue a) Then northerly on St Cuthberts Way to the roundabout junction with Central Avenue b) HGV route turning west onto Horndale Avenue to the Peases Way/Greenfield Avenue roundabout, and taking Greenfield Way road north easterly and turning north easterly on Burnhill Way and south easterly on Burn Lane to the junction with Central Avenue to the western side of the closure, and vice versa. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence on 7/5/2024 and are anticipated to be completed in 29 weeks. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed on site accordingly.

Dated: 3/5/2024



Helen Bradley  
Head of Legal & Democratic Services  
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**OFSTED quote:** "Playday Nursery offers an outstanding provision with high quality teaching provided by highly qualified staff."

# Reflexology Service

The Reflex Clinic, based within the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe, now provides Reflexology Lymph Drainage (RLD) that removes excess fluid from the body. This treatment is renowned for improving circulation and flushing out waste products from the body. RLD can help manage symptoms caused by cancer treatment, as well as help to provide relief for many medical conditions and symptoms, including arthritis, chronic fatigue and migraines.

Alongside RLD, The Reflex Clinic is beginning to provide auricular acupuncture, which is carried out on the ears, and has been proven to be highly effective in managing symptoms of cancer treatment, as well as easing menopausal symptoms, such as hot flushes. Angela Allison, owner of The Reflex Clinic, said: "Around one in five people suffer from excess fluid in the body after receiving treatment for breast cancer. We are excited to provide this new treatment, providing relief to these people, as well as those suffering with other medical symptoms. Reflexology can support you relax and rejuvenate, but also support people impacted by various conditions with tailored treatments. If anyone has any questions about how reflexology can benefit them, please get in touch."

To find out more about The Reflex Clinic, and to book an appointment, visit:

[www.thereflexclinic.co.uk](http://www.thereflexclinic.co.uk)

or contact Angela on 07799 317664.

For more information on the Pioneering Care Centre, and what the centre provides, please visit [www.pcp.uk.net/pioneering-care-centre](http://www.pcp.uk.net/pioneering-care-centre) You can find the Pioneering Care Centre on Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF.

# Congratulations

Dear Sir,

As we come to the end of the Great Aycliffe Town Council Mayoral year, I would like to congratulate and thank our Town Mayor, Cllr Carl Robinson, and his lovely Wife, Mayoress Carol, for a job well done.

During their term they have visited residents to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, attended meetings, including the public one at the Scout Centre, promoted our wonderful town far and wide as a civic duty and, of course, supported local charities.

Carl and Carol have carried out their respective roles with dignity and have enhanced the reputation of our town around the region. Well done my friends for a most successful year.

Best wishes,  
Cllr Ken Robson.

# Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report



Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, began their delayed new season with a comprehensive victory by eight wickets at home to fancied Barnard Castle 2nd XI in the NYSD second division. The cricket ground was under water only a couple of weeks ago, so volunteer groundsman Ian Palmer deserves massive credit for all his time and effort into getting the ground and wicket into such a good condition that over 450 runs were scored in an excellent opening game of the season. On a bitterly cold day, Aycliffe's new captain, James Layfield-Carroll, won the toss and chose to bowl first and the visitors then piled up the runs scoring what seemed to be an impregnable 231 for 6 after 50 overs. Aycliffe's bowlers toiled hard in very harsh conditions with Luke Telford (3 for 58), Tom Dearden (1 for 21) and James Layfield-Carroll (1 for 32) sharing the wickets. In reply, Aycliffe's openers Tom Dearden (46 off 81 balls) and Luke Telford (15 off 20 balls) got their side off to a solid start. Sam Telford then joined batsman Adam Gittins at the crease with the score at 90 for 2 and the pair batted superbly to see their side home to victory with a club record unbroken 3rd wicket partnership of 142 with 5.1 overs to spare. Adam Gittins (sponsored by BHP Law) finished on 78 not out off 112 balls and he hit 11 boundaries and a six and Sam Telford finished on 74 not out off 56 balls and his innings included eight boundaries and a six. Unfortunately, no play was possible in the 2nd team's opening game of the season, away at Marske 2nd XI in the NYSD 4th division, as the ground was unfit due to the recent bad weather.

Aycliffe's all conquering Ladies senior team were also left disappointed as their inaugural match in the Hambleton League (East), at home to Thirsk, was postponed after heavy and persistent rain left the ground unplayable. *Photo: First team batsman, Adam Gittins, in action.*

# May The Fitness Be With You

A range of new classes and courses are coming to the Pioneering Care Centre (PCC) this May.

Brand new to the PCC is North East Dance for women. Free classes bringing together fitness and fun for women of all ages and fitness levels, no need to book, just turn up! Classes will be running every Thursday, 4.00pm - 5.00pm for a ten week period.

If you fancy hopping on a bike, we have our Intermediate Cycling Group every Monday morning 10.00am - 1.30pm, and our Novice Cycling Group every Wednesday morning 10.00am - 11.30am. All equipment is provided for you, please be at the PCC for 9.45am.

Also on Wednesday's, for only £4 per session, enjoy a fun fitness class with experienced trainer Luke, where you can go at your own pace, whilst increasing fitness. All abilities welcome! To book, please contact 01325 321234.

If that all sounds a bit too intense for you, fear not, as you can enjoy a relaxed walk with our Walking Group, they stroll every Thursday, 10.30am - 11.30am.

To find what other classes and activities we have going on, 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. If you wish to have a chat about anything on at the PCC, don't hesitate to call our centre on 01325 321234.

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# League Champions



Over the weekend of 9th-10th March, Sedgefield Water Polo's men's team travelled to Eton College, Windsor, to play in their final weekend of the British Water Polo League in Championship 2. The team knew that a win on the Saturday would clinch not only promotion as Champions to next seasons Division 2, but would also secure a third consecutive promotion. However, with games to play over the weekend against Worthing and Southampton, there was still a chance they could miss out on the top three spots to gain promotion, meaning there was everything to play for.

Saturday's game against Worthing was expected to be a tightly contested game due to the history between both clubs whereby games played in the last two seasons ended in a draw. The team was up for the challenge. As expected, it started off with both teams defending really well and not giving each other many opportunities to score. It took almost a full quarter of the game for Sedgefield to break the deadlock and score the first goal of the match. With two more goals within a minute from the Sedgefield team, the score going into the end of the first quarter was 3-1 to Sedgefield. The second quarter saw Worthing fight back and, by half time, they led on the scoreboard by 5-6. The third quarter saw Sedgefield start to take control of the game but, with less than two minutes to go, they had a player red carded. This meant they had to play the next four minutes of the match with one player down. With a mighty performance by the team, they conceded one goal and that gave them the belief to then go on and win. The game ended 12-10 to Sedgefield; meaning the team became Champions of Championship 2, and they still had one game to play the following day.

On the Sunday, Sedgefield played Southampton and the team was determined to maintain their 100% win record. This was again another tight game with lots of goals by both teams but neither being able to pull away from their opponent. The score was 13-14 to Southampton going into the final quarter and the atmosphere was very tense on the balcony. Sedgefield stepped up another level - determined not to lose the game - and ended the game 20-17 winners. They finished the season not only as champions but as 'The Invincible's'.

The men's team - ranging in age from 15-29 years old is currently self-funded by the players and their parents - is looking for sponsorship for the 2024-2025 season from local businesses. If this is something you may be interested in, please get in touch.

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. 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.

# Write Your Own Chapter...

Age UK County Durham would like to invite residents to attend a focus group on Monday 13th May from 2.00pm until 3.30pm. They will be at Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre, Burn Lane and would like to understand how they can best support you as you move into your 50's and beyond. Open to all residents approaching or over 50 years of age. Interested? Turn up on the day or pre-book on 0191 386 3856.

# Little SENDsations and Tyler's Trip



Our guests on Sunday's show were the team from LittleSENDSations. Hayley and Sam were joined by two of the group's trustees, Candice and Jewel. Sam and Hayley were our guests a few months ago, so it was a great opportunity to catch up with them to discuss how the group has grown in size and the various activities in place. Details of their May half term events are available on their website:

[www.littlesensandsations.org](http://www.littlesensandsations.org)

or you can find further details on their Facebook page at Little SENDsations. With exciting plans for the future, and lots of upcoming ventures in the pipeline, anyone wishing to sponsor or support the group can get in touch via their facebook page, or their website.

We had an additional guest to the show when Steph Royal popped in to give us an update on the totals raised when her son Tyler completed his basketball dribbleathon, on the 18th April at Woodham Academy, as part of his fundraising for his trip to Malaysia in 2025. Tyler raised over £500 on the night as he edges ever closer to his target and funding completion date of February 2025. Anyone wishing to help Tyler achieve his dream can do so through Tyler's Malaysia fundraising Facebook page.

Phill & Andy,  
Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.

# Charity Auction

Dear Sir,  
**Please take a few moments to read about our upcoming event and participate by donating to our charity auction.**  
On Saturday 18th May 2024 we will be hosting our first annual live auction at the Navy Club in Newton Aycliffe. We anticipate approximately 100 guests and the funds we raise will be divided between Junction 7, a registered charity that helps and supports people and families in crisis, and Aycliffe Care Home Residents Comfort Fund, which provides luxuries for our residents such as day trips and entertainment.

We have an exciting evening planned, as well as the live auction there will be a disco, bingo, raffle and food served, but, to make this event a success, we need your help! Please consider supporting our event by donating a prize, gift certificate, merchandise or services. In recognition for your kindness, you will receive some excellent community exposure and advertising. Your company name, address, phone number and donation will be listed in the auction brochure, that will be given out with every ticket, as well as giving you a mention in our promotional materials, including online networking posts and fliers.

We are happy to pick up your donation or it can be dropped off/posted to Aycliffe Care Home, Burnhope Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7ER.

In order for your item to be included in the auction brochure, we must receive it by Monday 13th May 2024.

We appreciate your consideration and thank you in advance for supporting Aycliffe Care Home and our chosen charity.

Carol Jones  
Deputy Manager  
Aycliffe Care Home.

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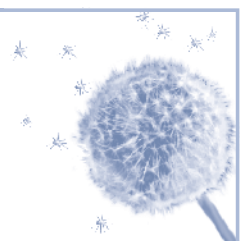


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# Keir Starmer Visits Hitachi



Labour Leader Keir Starmer MP visited Hitachi Rail in Aycliffe Business Park, where he was joined by Shadow Transport Secretary Louise Haigh MP and mayoral candidate Kim McGuinness. The visit was hosted by local Labour candidate and Aycliffe resident Alan Strickland. During the visit, Keir Starmer met union representatives, had a presentation from Hitachi's senior management team and held an informal question and answer session with shopfloor workers. Labour candidate for the Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor constituency said: "It was great to welcome Keir to Aycliffe and have his strong commitment to do all he can to support Hitachi. I'll continue to work with Labour's top team to push the government to take the long overdue action required to keep this excellent facility thriving. Our town can't afford to lose 700 high quality jobs."

## RUNNING CLUB NEWS

It has been a busy week for Aycliffe Running Club with the races coming thick and fast both locally, regionally and overseas this week. The races started on Wednesday 24th April with the Quayside 5k. This was a super flat, out and back, course along the Quayside at Gateshead and Newcastle. Sarah Gill (24:48) was the sole representative for the club.

On Thursday 25th April, two members took part in Cockfield Chase, which is a fell race starting in Cockfield. Alan Wilks (24:38) was first in the Male Over 70 category, Kelly Dickson (26:51) was also representing the club.

At the same time an amazing 45 members took part in the first of the Muddy Roads summer series of races in the Middridge 5k. This tough route saw members take on the stairs to heaven as well as a long stretch uphill that seemed to go on forever. John Surtees (18:29) finished second with Tracey Surtees (21:43) second lady. There were 4 members finishing in the top 10 which was amazing. Also representing the club were Richard Campbell (20:02 and first in the Male Over 40 category), Kevin Russell (20:44), Sam Keenan (20:52), Martin Turnbull (21:24), Martyn Knox (21:30), Steven Dawson (21:35 and second Male Over 50), Richard Trowles (21:36), Max Todd (21:43 and first Male Junior), Richard Holland (21:49), Rob Young (21:52), Karl Hume (21:58 and third Male Over 50), Matt Heron (22:11), James Cooper (22:47), Gareth Hamblin (22:48), Lucy Postle (23:25), Andrew Tweddle (23:49), Daniel Tatham (25:13), Trevor Needham (25:27 and third Male Over 60), Bernadette Cooper (26:22), Lucy Heron (26:24), Sarah Gill (26:31 and second Female Over 40), Laura Hudson (27:02), David Stothard (27:24), John Burnside (27:45), Salv McDonnell (28:56), Keith Hatton (29:39), Cath McDonnell (31:26), Sue Podmore (31:35), Mel Varley (32:08), Rob Nicholson (32:22), Kathleen Tonge (32:41), Kevin Greenall (33:03 and second Male Over 70), Lou Mann (33:04), Richard Tonge (33:18), Kirsty Cameron (33:24), Viv Williams (34:09), Alan Kellet (34:35), Beverley Philippo (34:58), Sam Harding (35:22), Nici Ingman (36:25), Jim Wilson (38:31), Sue Clark (40:41) and Ian Stothard (42:30).

On Sunday 28th April, members were again spoilt for choice, with four members travelling to sunnier climes in Madrid to compete in the Zurich Rock 'n' Roll Madrid series of races. In the half marathon, Jean-Pierre Hupin (2:22:57) completed the event despite continuing to suffer from an extended cold. In the 10k race, Carley Cooper (1:02:50), Sandrine Hewitt (1:04:13) and Em Flynn (1:07:11) all completed the event, getting some much needed sun, although one member would have preferred for it to be a bit cooler than it was.

At the same time, one member travelled to Hull for the East Yorkshire Half Marathon. Despite some testing conditions, with wind and rain, Matt Muir produced an excellent performance setting a new personal best of 1:24:34 and also finishing in the top ten in the process, an excellent achievement.

There were 17 members who travelled to Hartlepool for the Hartlepool Marina 5 which is a 5 mile out and back route. Again, there were some testing conditions with rain as well as the runners having to run the last 2 1/2 miles back into the wind. Representing the club were Richard Campbell (30:47), Richard Trowles (32:48), Floyd Jones (32:50 and first in the Over 60 category), Steven Dawson (34:29 in a 5 mile PB and also third in the Men's Over 50 category), Andrew Tweddle (37:04), Trevor Needham (37:26 and second in the Men's Over 65 category), Bernadette Cooper (40:24 and second in the female over 35 category), David Stothard (43:41), Trish Kay (45:01), Steve Williams (45:13), Sue Podmore (46:39), Richard Tonge (49:37), Rob Nicholson (49:45), Kirsty Cameron (50:02), Kathleen Tonge (51:12), Eve Doe (54:27) and Ian Stothard (55:14).

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.

# Once in a Lifetime



Woodham Academy student, Tyler Veitch, has completed a series of challenges as part of a fundraising process for a once in a lifetime trip to Malaysia.

The school is preparing to embark on a World Challenge experience to work and live with the local community, volunteer on a wildlife conservation project and complete a series of outdoor challenges.

Tyler completed a marathon swim over 26 days, swimming 1688 lengths. He also completed 192 laps of Woodham's sports hall, equating to a half marathon, whilst dribbling a basketball.

Tyler embodies Woodham's core values 'Never Giving Up, Aiming High' to overcome these challenges and fundraise towards his goal. Tyler has had an overwhelming amount of support from the community, his friends and family and we are extremely proud of his determination and commitment throughout.

## Coffee Morning

The Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group will hold its next coffee morning on Friday 10th May 2024 between 10.00am-12 noon in the shop and hub in Newton Aycliffe town centre, opposite Savers.

We welcome everyone from the surrounding area to come along and enjoy a cuppa and home-made cakes and to find out how Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group supports anybody within Newton Aycliffe, and surrounding towns/villages, who have been affected by cancer.

You can keep in touch with our future events and fundraising opportunities by visiting our Facebook Page or from our website: [www.greataycliffecancersupportgroup.co.uk](http://www.greataycliffecancersupportgroup.co.uk) Contact details can be found on the website, or alternatively call 07442 991859.

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## Parliament Talk

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

Monday 22nd April started on the train south when I joined a call with Darlington Borough Council leadership (Political and Officers) and Peter Gibson, MP for Darlington. This is our monthly call when we catch up on various issues and can progress and chase as required. From my perspective, the main conversations were around the Bishopton – Brafferton solar farm proposal; smells from Aycliffe quarry and traffic controls outside Hurworth School. Once in London, the primary legislation for the day was the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill. We went through the final stages of getting approval from both Houses which included what is referred to as 'Ping Pong' - this is where the Bill goes back and forward between the two Houses before it is finally approved. Despite continuous attempts by opposition parties to frustrate this process, the Bill cleared the Houses and has since had Royal Assent, meaning it is now about operational practicalities.

Tuesday started with an online call I facilitated between Durham County Council and the Minister for Local Government, Simon Hoare. This was to enable Durham County Council to share with the Minister the frustrations they have with Local Government funding settlements and offer potential improvement suggestions. Later, I had the pleasure of hosting Mayor Carl Robinson and his Mayoress Carol when they visited Parliament. It is always a privilege to host visitors to Westminster and is something I thoroughly enjoy. Then it was the Transport Select Committee, where unusually we had a public and private session. Normally it's private on Tuesday and public Wednesday, but this week we were doing two public sessions. This first one was a follow up on the Air Traffic Control disruption session we had previously held. We followed this on Wednesday with the first of several sessions on the Integrated Rail Plan. This looks at how the Railways are to be managed in the future. After the Tuesday session I went to the Grand Committee Room in Westminster Hall to speak in a debate on 'The Future of Rail Manufacturing'. This debate was dominated by the concerns around the future of the rolling stock companies, including Hitachi. The frustration with these debates is they can be quite time constrained, but you don't know how much until you get there. I had prepared a nine-minute speech supporting the Hitachi team but, just as I stood to speak, I was told I only had five minutes! It is particularly difficult refining what you are going to say whilst you are actually talking, but I think I got most of my key points included. Wednesday, as I said earlier, was the second Transport Select Committee meeting before going into Prime Minister's Questions (or rather Deputy Prime Minister's Questions as the PM was away). The main legislation of the day was the Renters Reform Bill, but I also had a series of important

meetings.

The first was a particularly interesting drop in on Alzheimer's research, and I have encouraged them to visit our constituency to share. Then I had a meeting with the Minister for Pensions where I encouraged him to make progress on the WASPI issue, I also got clarity from him that, however the categorisation of claimants plays out, any claimants will get what they are allotted regardless of whether they have individually claimed. The final session was around the Infected Blood Inquiry. If you have any questions on any of these issues, please get in touch. We finished the day with a round table on Communities and I again stressed the critical issues of support for our local communities before I then dashed to Kings Cross for the train north. Thursday, I went to Middleton St George to meet one of the local Councillors who had some concerns around housing developments, then it was back to my office before heading to Tesco for a pop-up surgery.

Friday started with a visit to discuss Hardwick Park, where I met a local volunteer, to discuss some concerns about work to enhance the equipment. After time back in the office, it was back to Sedgefield for a meeting I had facilitated between parents of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and the NHS and Council teams they were frustrated with. We had frank discussions and I hope this helped the parents. We will have more meetings in the future. After this it was a call with the Transport team at Durham County Council who have introduced a Link2Work scheme for people in the Trimdons and Sedgefield area to get to Newton Aycliffe for work. However, it does not in any way provide the more comprehensive options we need to connect these communities since the X21 was removed by Arriva. I therefore was encouraging further options and I hope to hear more soon. After this it was another pop-up surgery, this time at Sainsbury's in Sedgefield. I finished the week on Sunday by joining Sedgefield Village Veterans at a presentation to the family of Lance Sergeant Edwin Banks of the Kings Scroll. This was a moving ceremony relating to one of Sedgefield's men lost during World War 1. When relatives were informed of their loss, they received a medal which became known as the King's Penny and also the King's Scroll. Over time these had become separated for Edwin Banks, but an organisation called the James Garnett Foundation has formed and their mission is to reconnect these important pieces of history. This was their first success; they had acquired the Scroll at an auction in Alnwick and their research led them to Sedgefield.

If you want to raise any concerns with me and haven't been able to get to a pop-up surgery, you can get in touch by calling Aycliffe 790580 or sending an email to [paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk)

## N.A.F.C. REPORT

Newton Aycliffe 2 v Pontefract Collieries 2  
Saturday 27th April

Newton Aycliffe's first season in the Northern Premier League East ended in a stalemate as they played out an entertaining 2-2 draw with Pontefract Collieries to finish the season in seventh place.

The first goal came after some end to end attacking by both sides. Connor Smythe broke free down the wing and looped the ball over James Winter to make it 1-0 for Pontefract after 22 minutes.

The visitors' next chance came via a corner, resulting in a nasty injury for James Winter who was substituted with centre half Dale Elgie taking over the gloves. The referee showed Pontefract's Danny Burns a red card for the challenge.

The first half would finish 1-0 to Pontefract, with the away side keeping Aycliffe chances to a minimum despite the man advantage of the home side.

Aycliffe would have the second halves first big chance, however, when Liam Jarvie's curling free kick only narrowly went wide. Aycliffe kept on with that pressure, and they gained a corner, Jake Petitjean's head found the ball, but just couldn't get enough power on it, however, Ethan Ord pounced on the opportunity and rocketed the ball into the net at close range to make it 1-1 in the 54th minute.

Aycliffe now seemed to be making the man advantage count, Liam Adamson broke away from the Pontefract back line and then passed to Cole Kiernan, but Kiernan narrowly sent it high. Kiernan wouldn't have to worry long about his missed chance, Liam Adamson once again gifted him the perfect ball and Kiernan wasted no time in firing the low shot home to make it 2-1 for Aycliffe in the 65th minute.

Pontefract began looking for an equaliser after this and Elgie put in an admirable performance between the sticks. Ethan Wood had the next chance for Aycliffe, but his long range shot from out the box just went a bit too high. Pontefract weren't to be beaten though and Bailey Adamson was tee'd up at very close range, his looping shot almost looked like it had gone out, until it came back down and flew past Elgie to make it 2-2 in the 85th minute.

The game would remain at 2-2, capping off a very impressive first season at Step Four for Brian Atkinson's men.

*Photo by Yvonne Wood, Player of the Year and Leading Goalscorer, Liam Adamson, in action against Pontefract. Match Report by Ryan Livingston.*



## Ladies Golf Coaching

Ladies, why not get into golf this year at Woodham Golf Club? There are ten places available in each group, dedicated to ladies only, on a five week course with all equipment supplied.

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Thursday 23rd May - Thursday 20th June, 6-7pm, £40 for five weeks.  
Sunday 23rd June - Sunday 21st July, 2-3pm, £40 for five weeks.  
Tuesday 9th July - Tuesday 6th August, 6-7pm, £40 for five weeks.  
Coaching by PGA Golf Instructor. To book, contact the golf shop on 01325 319977.



# Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

[paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk)

Telephone: 020 7219 6385

Aycliffe Office: 01325 790580

# Blocked Drains

Reading the story about grass verges 'Sow Your Seeds' - this is a great idea by dedicated people. However, all their good work will be in vain due to the work the council have undertaken on the bushed areas around our town. Bushes torn out, leaving an awful mess. There has been no attempt to remove the rubbish from these areas, not even getting them tidied up by the gardening team. With all the heavy rain we are having currently, the soil is being washed into the gutters and then down the drains. Surely this will, in time, block the drains, causing further problems for the water board or whoever looks after drains. Have the powers that be any plans to sort these areas out?  
**Alan Glendinning**  
**Scott Place.**

# N.A.F.C. JUNIORS



**Under 8's Whites** faced Shotton Colts in a fantastic end to end game of football. The goals were scored by Thomas and Jacob. Parents MOTM and opposition MOTM were both awarded to Jacob.

**Under 8's Reds** faced Billingham Town in their last adventure of the season. Aycliffe players gave their all and MOTM went to Leo for an amazing strong display and opposition MOTM went to Alfie.

**Under 9's** travelled to Leven in their last game of the season. In a tense game of football, it was Oliver who scored first followed by a goal from Goalkeeper Harvey, who scored from the half way line and deservedly got MOTM.

**Under 10's Reds** played against Billingham and put in a good performance. There were goals from Andrew and Jace.

**Under 11's Whites** played South Shields Clarets and, after a slow start, Aycliffe regrouped and scored a goal through Kai. MOTM was William.

**Under 12's Blacks** played Wear United, in a pulsating end of season game the points were shared in a 3-3 draw. The goals were scored by Jack, Connor and Benjamin. MOTM was Jack.

**Under 13's** travelled to Sedgfield in the final league game of the season, running out 10-0 winners. Goals from Oscar J (4), Alex (3), Archie, Grayson and Zach. MOTM was Ryan. The season finished with an impressive 20 wins out of 22, scoring 132 goals and conceding only 29, culminating in promotion for the second season running.

**Under 14's** travelled to Hartlepool Reds and couldn't find a way to victory, losing 1-0. MOTM was Harry.

**Under 14's** had an impressive 8-2 win at home to Riverside Juniors, Thornaby. The goals were scored by Blake (2), Harley (2), Mo, Harry, Luke T and an OG. MOTM was Luke T.

**Under 15's Blacks** played Gateshead and came away with a tremendous 4-1 win. Goals from Joey, Clayton, Keaton and Leon. MOTM was Leon.

**Under 15's Whites** lost 3-2 at home to Brompton, despite playing great football and creating numerous chances. MOTM was recent signing Adam who scored both the goals.

**Under 16's Whites** drew 2-2 with Spraire lads, with Kenzie and Mason scoring the goals. Aycliffe dominated the game, but could not find the winning goal. MOTM was Tyler and Jake.

## Acknowledgement

Donation In Memory Of  
**Paula Marie Cruddace**  
 (nee Kennedy)

We wish to thank you all for attending Paula's funeral, your thoughtfulness and generosity was very much appreciated by her entire family. Thank you all for the generous contributions we received (£1270.17) in honour of Paula's life. This donation has been sent to the Macmillan Cancer Fund, they are overwhelmed by this massive gesture (this will help all those living with or affected by cancer). The love, support and kindness we have received from family and friends has brought us all great strength and comfort. Thank you all for the memories and stories you shared with us at the funeral. It meant a lot to us. She would have been so proud to see all the family and friends who came to celebrate her life. Paula will live on in our lives and remain in our hearts forever. A loving Wife, Mother, Grandma, Daughter, Sister and Aunt - until we meet again, we loved having you and miss you so very much, sleep tight Little P.

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## Obituary

**Norma Atkinson**

Passed away on 1st May 2023. Always remembered, never forgotten. We love and miss you very much. Lots of love from David, Joanne, Lois and Nicola. A treasured Grandma to Zara, Sophie, Connor, Brogan, Kacey, Alfie and Amelia, Rest in peace.

**Agnes Hills**

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## Obituary

**Eleanor Manning**  
 (nee Mason)



(Late of Sunderland), passed away peacefully in Defoe Court Nursing Home, Newton Aycliffe on 17th April 2024, aged 80 years. Dearly loved Wife of the late Ken; loved and loving Mam of Anne, Gillian and Andrew; Nana of Ryan and Callum; Grandma of Keira and Bayley; Sister of Sandra and Christopher; loved Mother-in-Law, Sister-in-Law, Aunt and Cousin - also a cherished and loyal friend. Well known by many for working in Occasions card shop, Stephens newsagents and Flymo. A celebration of Eleanor's life is to be held at Shildon Salvation Army on Tuesday 7th May at 3.15pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to Salvation Army and Defoe Court Nursing Home.

**Audrey Field**

Passed away at home on 23rd April, aged 89 years. Loving Mam of Susan, Kevin and the late Colin; Grandma to Lee, Scott, Adam and Stuart; Great Grandma to Lexi, Sophie, Cody, Lucia and Callie. Funeral leaving Doxford Close at 9.45am on Friday 17th May followed by burial at Stevenson Way Cemetery at 10.00am

**Eileen Brown**

Passed away suddenly on 21st April, aged 79. Wife to Peter; loving Mam to Gary and Shawn; Nana to Rebekah and Sarah. Funeral at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Thursday 9th May at 10.45am.

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**Heighington FC U7's v Seaham**

Heighington U7's welcomed Seaham for a friendly. It was a great advert for U7's football, with both Heighington and Seaham showcasing their talent and potential for the future.

The Heighington boys did very well in wet and cold weather conditions, they gave it everything until the end, we are very proud of each player. Credit to both teams for their positive attitude and well-played game!

**Heighington FC U11 v Whitburn Panthers**

A really good team effort saw the lads create a host of good chances against spirited opposition. Levi scored two in an all-action MOTM performance and Noah was on the mark with a quality strike as well.

**Heighington FC U14 3 - Washington FC U14 0**

Heighington cruised to a comfortable 3-0 victory against a Washington team that had previously knocked them out of the cup. A Ted Brain opener was followed by two outstanding goals from in-form striker Dan Connolly to ensure Heighington gained all three points.

**Park & Ride Extension for Durham City**

Durham County Council started work at its Sniperley Park and Ride facility on 15th April, with the extension made possible by a successful application to the government's Transforming Cities Fund.

The project will see capacity at the site, on the outskirts of Durham City, increase to almost 600 spaces. The Sniperley Park and Ride site is located between the A691 and A167 and currently has 326 spaces.

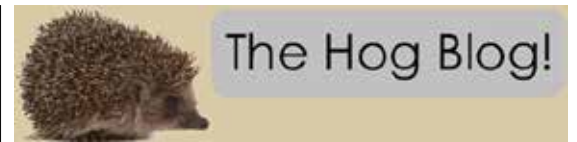
Planning permission is in place for the expansion which, on completion, will see an additional 262 spaces created. This will include increased provision of standard, disabled, electric charging and motorhome bays. Vegetation clearance and sewer works have already been carried out and the site is ready for construction to begin.

The work is expected to last approximately six months, with a park and ride service continuing to be available throughout.

As the construction work will be off road, it is expected to have minimal impact on journeys through the area.

Sniperley and Belmont Park & Ride sites will be in operation on Sundays. Buses will serve the sites between 7.00am and 7.00pm, seven days a week. This will include bank holidays, except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

For more details of Sniperley and the council's other park and ride sites, visit <https://www.durham.gov.uk/parkandride>



One of the purposes of this weekly article is to try and get the message across about the difficult lives these precious hedgehogs have. I need everyone to firstly check before using garden tools, strimmers are lethal, rotor blades on your lawnmowers too, garden netting causes constriction injuries, hedgehogs can't escape this netting and they suffer injuries trying to escape, predators then move in and cause unthinkable injuries to them, finally, irresponsible dog owners, if you have a dog that you know can harm a hedgehog, put it on a lead when he or she needs to go to the toilet, even in its own garden!

It's Hedgehog baby season now, it's in full swing in fact, but nothing could prepare me for the shock I experienced last Saturday evening. A month ago I admitted a female from Grange Vets, Rickardo kindly checked it over first. I started cleaning, weighing, feeding and medicating. I started with Buttercups house and, to my astonishment, she was having hoglets, there was no way of knowing that she was even pregnant, in fact I was waiting for the weather to improve to let her go.

To this day I don't know how many she has had, she will kill her hoglets if I interfere, her cage is here in the warm and totally free from any kind of interference except for fresh food and water twice a day. She remains undisturbed, hiding under a lovely blanket, however, the last few hours she moved two of her babies that had passed away, so I could remove them from her cage.

These babies are very tiny, for the sake of these beautiful little babies, please check your gardens, they are nesting in places that you would never believe possible. Of course, I am heartbroken, she was quite poorly on admission, but I know that she will continue to nurse her remaining baby, or babies, for as long as it takes, of course she will have to remain in rescue for maybe four to six weeks where she and her babies will grow. Whilst I have other hogs here in cages, next to her, my standards remain the same for all of them. They all eat Royal Canin food and puppy mousse and kibble. If anyone would like to make a donation towards their care, however small, please get in touch.

Can I also make a point of getting this message across Out In The Day, Not OK? Please ring the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, they have my number. These beautiful mammals need urgent attention. Please do not send me an email, when you see a hedgehog out in the day, they have problems that only Rehabilitators can identify, I use tools and the powers of observation to know what action to take and when.

Thanks go to Julia, June and Valerie, Karen for her donation for a poorly boy with a bad front leg, he is currently on bed rest, on painkillers too. Can I advise you all that any hedgehog that goes to Sore Paws come here. Hilary, I have your hog too, she is fine. Sandra at Darlington Rescue is closed, please get them to me first. I have everything here to diagnose, treat and save these little ones, if I get them in time, I have admitted seven and lost two. Not a figure I can live with, but I can't save them all as much as I want to.

Buttercups babies, they died at less than 48 hours old. Please be careful when in your garden, it's not much to ask is it? The British Hedgehog Preservation Society Telephone number is 01584 890801. Facebook page: Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel. Email: [pricklyhaven@yahoo.com](mailto:pricklyhaven@yahoo.com) - not for Emergency Hedgehog Admissions.

# Aycliffe Youth Football News

## Aycliffe U14 Angels 2 v Hetton Juniors 2 (4-3 penalties)

The girls travelled to Sunderland for their Durham County Cup Final. An incredible day of football from two very good sides. The first half saw Hetton on top and they nearly scored on the stroke of half time but it went in, 0-0. Then, in the 50th minute, Hetton took the lead and, to make matters worse, they doubled their lead with ten minutes remaining. However, a goal from Romilly and a final minute leveller from a Charli free kick and it was into penalties. The girls kept cool, and dispatched their penalties, to win the Cup. Unbelievable performance from this group of girls.

## South Tyneside 0 v Aycliffe U15 Eagles 5

Full of confidence from recent results the lads played some excellent football as a team. Passing and pressing was a pleasure to watch and every player gave 100%. A well-deserved win to take the 3 points. Goals Albie x 2, Kian, Adam and Noah. MOM Kian and Albie.



## Aycliffe U14 Girls 4 v Consett Pumas 3

A physical match against improving opposition. Another assist from Pippa for Ava M to finish brilliantly. A powerful free kick from Amy Miller put us ahead. A third before half time when a Holly free kick played in Ebony to slot home. Final goal was a second from Ava M to score at the near post, a goal all of her own making. POTM Ana Manders.

## Aycliffe U11 Eagles v South Shields

Both teams had a similar approach to the game, which led to a very good game of football, some fantastic passing and playing, what we consider to be, our style of football helped us to be dangerous around the opposition box. We finally got the breakthrough midway through the first half, but despite all of our good play and chances created we couldn't add the second, but did keep a clean sheet.

## Aycliffe U11 Girls v Deerness

Another great win for the girls, keeping them undefeated in the league. The team started strong with Phoebe and Amelia getting early goals, then ten minutes later Amelia got a second. The defence held their position at the back with Grace showing a lot of strength, but Deerness managed to get one back. Lily responded quickly to this, reacting to a loose ball in the box to finish, HT 4-1. A lot of changes in the second half to allow the girls to play in different positions, Phoebe and Poppy managed to get goals from outside the box and Emily C managing to curl a ball round the keeper. Last up was Amelia to complete her hat trick. FT 8-1. MOTM goes to Emily C.

## Wrekenton Nou Camp 1 v Aycliffe U12 Wildcats 3

Aycliffe went 1-0 up when Mia turned their defence and drove a great shot into the top corner. Mia scored again when Olivia did a quick throw to Mia, she placed her shot across the keeper into the far corner. Wrekenton scored to pull back to 2-1 and just before half time another Olivia quick throw saw Phoebe race onto it and hit a beauty into the top corner. They had a late penalty saved by Sofia.

## Aycliffe U8 Wildcats v Hetton Juniors

Hetton were quick to win the ball back and

scored three early goals. Aycliffe didn't give up and played much better in the second half.

## Normanby United v Aycliffe U10 Wildcats

The girls were 1-0 down within the first minute and a good second goal from Normanby left Aycliffe with a lot to do. But, the girls kept their belief and got rewarded with a quick goal back to make it 2-1. Soph made it 2-2 just before half time. The girls got the winner they deserved in the second half, Erin assisting Soph to get her hat trick. Great performance from the girls to end the season on a high!

## Aycliffe U9 Eagles v Prissick Rovers

Final game of the season on a wet morning, but that didn't stop the boys putting in what was probably their best performance to date. Prissick scored two early goals, but the Eagles grew into the game and pulled one back. The second half was pretty much one way traffic and Aycliffe scored an equaliser. The boys deserved the win, but can be happy with the performance and the result.

## Kader 4 v Aycliffe U17 Girls 1

Kader's opening salvo was a big shot that bounced off both posts and then saved by Aycliffe's keeper from the floor. A second effort proved successful to go one up. However, a determined Mia Glasper forced an error by their keeper to level the score at 1-1. Suddenly they weren't as vocal. However, Kader picked it up to go in 3-1 at half time. A determined effort in the second half meant Kader only added one more.

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