

# Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper

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## Slimming World Members Donate Clothes To Charity



Super slimmers in Newton Aycliffe & Sedgfield have raised £1,500 so far for Cancer Research UK by donating the clothes they slimmed out of to the charity's shops.

The Big Slimming World Clothes Throw with Cancer Research UK is an annual event which takes place in Slimming World groups across the UK and sees members donating clothes, shoes and accessories that no longer fit.

The Sam's Slimming World groups, who meet weekly at Woodham Community Centre & Sedgfield Methodist Church, collected 50 bags, worth around £1,500, for Cancer Research UK.

Slimming World Consultant Sam, who runs the Sedgfield & Newton Aycliffe groups at Woodham Community Centre, says she's proud of how her members came together to support the charity, as well as celebrate how far they've come on their own weight loss journeys. She says: "Every week I'm

inspired by my members and their dedication and determination to achieve their weight loss goals. They're just as enthusiastic when it comes to getting involved in events such as The Big Slimming World Clothes Throw too. I was bowled over by how many bags they filled with clothes that they've slimmed out of to raise money for such an important charity. What I really love is that they're so confident they will never need these clothes again because they've made changes they can keep up for life!"

As well as raising funds for Cancer Research UK, the aim of the event is also to raise awareness of how maintaining a healthy weight reduces the risk of developing some types of cancer. Overweight and obesity is the second biggest preventable cause of cancer in the UK and more than one in 20 cancer cases are caused by excess weight. Sam says: "Being overweight doesn't necessarily mean that a person will develop cancer, but we know that losing weight and maintaining a healthy weight can help prevent a number of health conditions, including some types of cancer. The work that Cancer Research UK does, to help those affected by cancer, is vital. I'm so proud of my members for their passion towards this fundraising event as I know that their contributions will help the charity continue its life-saving research."

Over the years, Slimming World has raised more than £20 million for Cancer Research UK through a variety of campaigns including The Big Slimming World Clothes Throw and supporting the charity's Race for Life event series.

Last year, Slimming World members, consultants and head office staff raised £1,491,191.49 for Cancer Research UK through The Big Slimming World Clothes Throw and are aiming to make this year even bigger and better.

Sam's Slimming World group is held at Woodham Community Centre in Newton Aycliffe every Monday and Wednesday and at Sedgfield Methodist Church every Tuesday.

For more information, or to join Sam's group, either pop along or call her on 07970 451284 or visit:

[www.slimmingworld.co.uk](http://www.slimmingworld.co.uk)  
or call 0344 897 8000.

## Community Recognition Award for Brian Rendell



Great Aycliffe Town Council launched their new Community Recognition Award Scheme in 2022. The Council developed the scheme to provide a means of recognising and acknowledging the dedication, commitment and outstanding contribution that nominated individuals make to improve and promote the Parish of Great Aycliffe. Their most recent recipient was local resident Brian Rendell, who was nominated for the hard work he does volunteering to improve the environment in Great Aycliffe. Brian regularly litter-picks around the town as well as volunteering with the Great Aycliffe Tidy Team, he has demonstrated outstanding citizenship within the parish and was invited to the Council offices to be officially presented with a Community Recognition Medal and Certificate. Cllr Arun M. Chandran said, "Brian spends a lot of his time walking around the town, and has done so for over 10 years, covering the Nature Park, Old Railway Line, West Park, Great Aycliffe Way, Woodham Burn, on his own, collecting litter big and small. This is all on top of other nature works he does around the town, and indeed the County, as a Durham Wildlife Trust Volunteer. He even recycles the glass bottles, cans and foil crisp packets. This is a token of our appreciation to Brian and recognition for his making this little corner of the universe a little bit better. Well done Brian."

In front of a busy council chamber, with friends and family supporting him, Brian was presented with the medal and certificate by Councillor Ian Gray along with the Mayor, Councillor Carl Robinson.

Cllr Gray said, "Brian has been involved as a Volunteer Litter Picker for a good number of years. He became part of the Great Aycliffe Tidy Team three years ago. The Team work with the Town Council, who provide sacks and equipment and remove the rubbish found. Brian recycles a lot of the items collected. He helps to plant trees and other tasks to improve the areas around the town, such as the Great Aycliffe Way. Brian is a true gentleman and a pleasure to work with."

Mr. Rendell said, "Thank you to the Council for this award and all the staff for recovering and disposing of the litter we collect. I hope my actions inspire others to take part and litter pick their own areas, which I feel has already happened."

If you would like to nominate someone from the Great Aycliffe Parish for a Community Recognition Award, please get in touch by email [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk) or visit Great Aycliffe Town Council's website for more details.

# Let's Talk Menopause

The next face to face peer support group is on Monday 13th May, 12.30pm at the Youth Centre, Newton Aycliffe. Come along for a cuppa to chat about peri menopause, menopause or post menopause. Very informal, small group, open to everyone, not just ladies. For more info, contact Jules Howe, Wellbeing for Life Team on 07809 342192 or email: [jules.howe@nhs.net](mailto:jules.howe@nhs.net)

# Acorn 13th Year Programme

Popular Aycliffe Community Association will be once again travelling miles in search of adventure and sightseeing this year as we take Great Aycliffe residents to locations around the North East. The fun began recently



with a visit to the ever-popular Goth event in Whitby and although the weather was less than perfect the lashing rain added to the atmosphere making the famous Abbey a sight to behold. Some marvellous costumes were on display as locals and visitors paraded the streets in their fine plumage. A perfect day to enjoy fish and chips, peruse the shops and maybe just mingle. Of course, this was the beginning of our programme of summer fun, ACORN are following swiftly on with an adventure to Hexham on the 11th of May where residents can visit the abbey, the old Gaol or simply check out local shops and tearooms. Historic York is next on our itinerary, on 15th June, for those interested in all things train, Viking or looking around the famous shambles market. I am always amazed by the majestic Minster which stands like a centrepiece reaching up towards the sky and the medieval streets surrounding it.

Next up is a trip to Bamburgh and Seahouses on 27th July. Bamburgh castle never fails to impress with its massive battlements framed in the skyline or a visit to the Grace Darling Museum, a testament to brave men and women willing to risk their lives to save others. Seahouses is always a popular destination for fish and chips, dallying through this lovely seaside town or exploring the quaint harbour. As we sail through the year on, 10th August we will be travelling to Scarborough for a day out at the seaside, amusements, fish and chips, pirate ship and park. Beach for the kiddies and shops to explore for adults, a great day out for the family.

We shall once again be attending the Grassington 1940s event is on 21st September, a must see for those enamoured by the great British indomitable spirit. Last year the event featured a spitfire in the marketplace, singers of wartime songs and dancing in the streets, get in the mood and sing along make new friends or remember old ones a truly super day out.

Of course, ACORN not only do trips, we are once again bringing a petting zoo to our very own town centre on 13th July, with sheep, goats, small animals, reptiles and, hopefully, donkeys, to enthral the kiddies, mams and dads too.

Locally, for many years, ACORN have been installing half tubs with flowers to brighten up our lovely town and work has begun by our volunteers to refurbish and paint these ready for a wonderful summer.

If you are interested in the work ACORN does in the community, feel free to join us at our monthly meetings on the second Thursday of every month in the upstairs lounge of the Phoenix Club, 6pm. We are always pleased to see new faces. Feel free to get in touch. Ken Robson [kenrobson71@gmail.com](mailto:kenrobson71@gmail.com) or 01325 321471

# N.A.F.C. JUNIORS

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

**Under 11's Whites** - Played against Brandon Blues, scoring an amazing five goals through Oscar, Bradley, Luca and Kai (2). MOTM was Lucas.

**Under 12's Blacks** - Aycliffe won 3-0 with a wonderful performance. There were two goals from Jack and one from Harry. MOTM was Jack for his goals and James was picked by his teammates for an outstanding performance.

**Under 14's** - Played Tibs, who are the division champions, away, needing a point to secure second. Tibs showed their class going 3-0 up within 20 minutes, Aycliffe battled back eventually losing 3-2 with the goals scored by Harley and Blake. MOTM was awarded to Harley.

**Under 15's Whites** - Travelled to face Hurworth in the challenge cup semi-final, losing 1-0 against higher division opposition. Aycliffe showed great battle and determination. MOTM was awarded to the full team.

**Under 15's Blacks** - Travelled to play FC Hartlepool, frustratingly losing 2-1. Aycliffe worked extremely hard and scored a great goal through Keaton. MOTM was goalkeeper Finley.

**Under 15's Whites** - Entertained Guisborough in an end-to-end game of football. Aycliffe eventually went down 4-3, with the goals from Ethan, Jayden and Tom. MOTM was Jake who worked tirelessly and ran the whole game.

**Under 15's Whites** - Finished their 23/24 season at home to Leven, it was a slow game eventually ending 0-0. Aycliffe were the better team but just could not convert.



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## newtonnews

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# Mission to Help Endangered Animals

Last year when St. Francis' Junior School learnt about and celebrated Earth day we decided to raise money to support some endangered animals. We did this by collecting money and completing a coin trail on the yard. We have not only donated money to six different endangered animal charities, but we adopted six animals that we can track on the journey in their habitat. We also received a beautiful bracelet with our animals on, to remind us of our new adopted family members. We now have six new St. Francis' school family members!



Our gorilla Macibiri is a lively female from the close-knit Titus family. She possesses a remarkable talent for forming heart-warming connections with gorillas of all ages, bringing joy to her family. Prudhoe, a female polar bear from the Western Hudson Bay Subpopulation in Canada, one of the southernmost groups of polar bears in the world. John, a male butter-nose dolphin that was tagged by FIU Marine Conversation Ecology Lab in collaboration with the Sarcasoto Dolphin Research Program. Esmerelda the sloth! Spanish for emerald, Esmerelda is named for the waters of Costa Rica's Caribbean Sun. She lives near a popular surf spot at Cocles Beach, in a small area with many Sloths who climb to the ground once weekly for a bathroom break, which is exactly where conservationists found her. Dobby is an adult female loggerhead sea turtle released with a satellite transmitter from the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, Florida. Naisula the elephant, who is a member of the Samburu Ladies. The family group was identified in 1997 by Save the Elephants, but wasn't sighted for several years from 2008-2012. They later reappeared in the park, and the STE researchers almost didn't recognise them, as the calves have

now become young females with beautiful tusks. The children and staff are very excited to see what these amazing animals get up to and learn more about their habitat, why they are endangered and how we can help more animals like them.

# Resilience Building Service Supports Over 1400

The County Durham Resilience service has supported 1,413 people across the county since its initial launch in April 2021. Working closely with people who may feel lonely, socially isolated or those experiencing mental health difficulties, County Durham Resilience service helps people build their resilience, increases their confidence, and connects them to other community services. Lorraine has accessed the County Durham Resilience service and has found the support has helped with her confidence. She said: "Since I met my resilience worker, she has given me back so much of my confidence. I was put in touch with the service earlier last year, and my resilience has grown so much, to the point where I now no longer need my talking therapy as the service has given me so much belief and help with everything, even to use my walker. Each session, I look forward to meeting with the team as I enjoy the sessions and can feel myself becoming more confident with every meeting. It has been the best thing for me, I cannot recommend the service enough for people who may be lacking in confidence, feel isolated or struggle with their mental wellbeing. They have put me on the road of better thinking, which is what I needed, and the whole team is so lovely and it is a marvellous service and asset for County Durham." The service will continue to evolve in the future, based on the needs of the community and help as many people as possible, by listening, supporting and connecting people across the

county. One-to-one, telephone, virtual and group-based support is available over approximately twelve sessions.

The County Durham Resilience service is a community mental health service for adults (18 years +) with the aim to build resilience within communities in County Durham. The service is managed by Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.

If you need emotional wellbeing support and want help to boost your resilience, you can contact the County Durham Resilience service on email: [resilience@pcp.uk.net](mailto:resilience@pcp.uk.net) or visit their webpage: [www.pcp.uk.net/county-durham-resilience](http://www.pcp.uk.net/county-durham-resilience)

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## Aycliffe Senior Football News



**Final three games, in a week, for the senior men and one point needed to secure the league title.**

**Monday** away at Shildon BR, the squad was split to try and give everyone game time over the three games. A very poor start as Aycliffe went two down inside five minutes. However, the lads showed great character with goals from Mason Steed x2 and Jack Mortimer, with all the subs used Aycliffe looked like grabbing the winner, but two goals disallowed and missed golden chances the lead wasn't extended. Then, with 30 seconds to go, Shildon found an equaliser to finish the game 3-3.

**Thursday** saw Aycliffe host league runners up Richmond Mavericks with 14 players unavailable, and the rest of the squad playing again, the lads failed to settle. However, they took the lead when Richard Murray headed home. Then Richmond drew level, but again Aycliffe

went in front through Sam Thompson and then two ahead when Ryan Peart scored. Richmond didn't give up added their 2nd and then their 3rd to again mean Aycliffe ended with a 3-3 draw.

After the game, Aycliffe were presented with the league winner trophy.

**Saturday** saw the lads wrap up their league campaign, with only 12 players available, away to Gateshead Leam Rangers, who needed a win to gain promotion. First half Aycliffe were very good, with Jude Bowes heading home and Jack Mortimer putting the lads two up, then, just before HT, Gateshead grabbed a goal. Second half Aycliffe missed seven clear chances to increase their lead and they paid for it when Gateshead scored from a free kick meaning the Seniors ended the week with three draws. However, on to Friday 10th May for the first of the two cup finals.

## Aycliffe Youth Football News



### Northallerton 1 v 8 Under 13 Eagles

The boys travelled away to Northallerton knowing that only a win would bring home the league title. The boys were nervous, but soon found their groove and were 4-1 up at HT. Boys dominated the second half and ran out 8-1 winners and, with that, they became league champions. Unbeaten in the league winning 20 and drawing two. Absolutely amazing achievement from these amazing young men.

### Under 14 Boys 1 v 0 Darlington 21st Allstars

A team that put everything in to Tuesday, was rife with injury & illness. A nervous performance, but a gutsy one too. The defining moment, late in the first half, Will crossing from the right-wing to the centre-edge of the box. Posi volleying it first time, just below the crossbar, to leave the keeper no chance & those watching gob-smacked - goal of the season! With a lead to defend, the lads duly obliged to dig deep and see out the game. Promotion achieved and well and truly deserved!

### Under 12 Wildcats 4 v 3 Bishop Auckland Girls

Today we were at home to Bishop Girls. It was a great start as the girls pressed and pushed and scored early through Phoebe. We had a few more chances before half time, but no more goals. In the second half, we managed to score again through Phoebe before a ball, hit into our box, went in off Lucy for 2-1. Mia scored two great goals to put us 4-1 ahead before Bishop pulled two back late on. FT 4-3.

### Under 11 Eagles v Deerness Valley Hurricanes

Unfortunately, a depleted squad meant we had only eight available players. We asked the lads to do their best to cover the extra space and all took turns in doing a stint in defence and to be brave enough to keep playing the way we want to, and they were absolutely outstanding. We would've been proud of them no matter what, but, with a last second winner, they truly got what they deserved.

### Under 14 Angels 4 v 1 Darlington FC (Mid week)

A special performance from the Angels against a strong Darlington team. Darlington took an early lead, but the team responded superbly. Equalising in 10 minutes and taking a 2-1 lead into halftime. The second half performance was just as good to run out 4-1 winners. Three goals from Romilly and one for Evie. Assists from Eveie, Hannah, Faith and Julia. Star players: Faith & Erin (GK).

### Under 14 Angels 5 v 2 Beamish Lionesses

A good win against a physical Beamish side. At 2-2 we powered into the last 15 minutes to score three and take all three points. Two goals from Romilly, two from Evie (both penalties) and one from Amy. Star players Charli & Evie.

### Sunderland City 1 v 8 Under 15 Eagles

A fantastic all-round performance from front to back against a team also challenging for the title. Goals aside, the lads executed the game plan with precision and were so disciplined making the match a joy to watch. Really proud of all our players today. Goals from Adam x 4, Harry, Ellis, JJ and Albie. MOM Adam.

### Foundation of Light 2 v 5 Under 14 Girls

After a difficult game on Wednesday, the team were keen to bounce back. We did, however, do it the hard way. A penalty and an own goal saw us go two down. We then hit a ten minute purple patch in the second half which saw us score five goals, Amy Dowson x2, Ava Manders and Ebony Brown x2. POTM Ebony Brown.

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# Spectrum Skating Success



A team of eight athletes from Spectrum Roller Skating Club, based in Shildon, travelled to Breydon Arena in Great Yarmouth for a weekend of artistic roller skating 22nd-24th March 2024 and came back with fantastic personal achievements and two medals!

Friday evening, members of the team gathered to attend training in Breydon Arena in preparation for the weekend of competition. The National Event, hosted by GB Skate Artistic attracted 150 competitors from 17 clubs who specialise in figure & free disciplines of artistic roller skating.

Competing in National Roller Cup for the first time in Level 1 Figures (13 & under):

Millie Seaton-Lawes 8th, Iga Wilczynska 9th, Myla Chapman 17th and Pearl White-Hunt 19th

Level 2 Figures: Ella Hutchinson 10th

Level 3 Figures: Nicola Stevens 12th

Level 4 Figures: Lucy Owen 2nd

Competing in National Roller Cup for the first time in Level 1a Free (11 & 12 years):

Iga Wilczynska 11th with a New PB Rollart score of 6.61 gaining level 1 Free Skating Achievement Award. Myla Chapman 14th with a New PB Rollart score of 2.24, Millie Seaton-Lawes 15th with a New PB Rollart score of 2.16

Level 1a Free (13 & 14 years):

Pearl White-Hunt 18th with a New PB Rollart score of 1.76

Level 1b Free (14 & under):

Ella Hutchinson 6th with a New PB Rollart score of 12.83 gaining level 2 Free Skating Achievement Award

Level 1b Free (15 & over):

Nicola Stevens 4th with a New PB Rollart score of 13.32 gaining level 2 Free Skating Achievement Award

Level 1c Free (15 & over):

Diana Laza 6th with a New PB Rollart Score of 14.24 gaining level 2 Free skating Achievement Award

Level 1C Free (14 & under):

Lucy Owen 3rd with a New PB Rollart Score of 16.46 gaining level 3 Free Skating Achievement Award.

Lots to celebrate for Spectrum Roller Skating Club, who are soon to have their 10 year anniversary, fantastic skating with the whole team gaining personal bests and lots of amazing memories made. The club even managed to squeeze in a visit to Great Yarmouth beach, amusements and a meal together.

"We have an amazing team of athletes. Roller skating is a fantastic sport for young people to gain skills from. These skaters show so much resilience, dedication and determination and I am so proud of their achievements," Head Coach and founder of Spectrum Roller Skating Club, Tracy Stevens.

Whilst visiting Great Yarmouth we even



popped in to visit Senior Ladies British Champion, Emily Woods, for some additional advice and expertise in advance of the forthcoming roller skating dance competition in The Netherlands.

"Thank you to everyone who supports our club. We are currently fundraising to help three athletes attend The Crystal Tulip Competition in The Netherlands in May 2024. We have a JustGiving Page active and we are hoping to find 500 people who could donate £2.00 to help us reach our target of £1000. We are looking for sponsors to help us create an international fund for future events. If anyone can help, please get in touch." You can follow Spectrum Roller Skating Club on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for updates on the clubs progress or contact Tracy Stevens 07891 461958.

# Link2work On Demand Bus Services

Link2work is a bus service created to improve access to workplaces for some County Durham communities.

Funded by the region's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), it provides flexible, on demand bus services offering links that are otherwise unavailable to passengers on local buses. Unlike other bus services, these journeys are booked in advance with journeys designed around shift patterns.

### How to book

To book your journey, call 0191 469 6000. The booking line is open 24 hours a day and seven days a week. You can book up to 14 days in advance and up to 5.00pm, the day before you travel. All you need to do is choose the days you need to travel and where you need to be picked up within the local areas, and your journey will be arranged for you from there. When you book, you will be given a holding booking time based on the estimated journey between your departure and arrival.

### Fares

On an initial basis, customers will be able to travel free of charge.

### Timetables

Link2work is available Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

**West Auckland/Bishop Auckland/Shildon area (including Auckland Park, Bishop Auckland, Eldon, High Etherley, Low Etherley, South Church, St Helen Auckland, Tindale Crescent, Toft Hill, Toronto, West Auckland and Witton Park)**

**TO Newton Aycliffe Business Park**  
From 6.30am to 7.10am arriving at 7.20am.

Newton Aycliffe Business Park

TO West Auckland/Bishop Auckland/Shildon area from 4.40pm up to 5.30pm.

**Trimdon/Sedgefield area (including Deaf Hill, Fishburn, Trimdon, Trimdon Station and Sedgefield)**

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# Woodham Academy Site Visit and Ward Update

Dear friends, neighbours and residents, I would like to share with you that myself and Cllr. McAnaney, visited Woodham Academy, after being kindly invited by Deputy Head Teacher, Danny Morgans and expertly tour guided by Site Manager Paul Purvis. I was very impressed with the eco-friendly buildings with grass on the roof and solar panels, as well as only gas being used in the science labs and swimming pool. Great views from the top and the lorries coming through St Mary's and Shafto Ward have avoided school runs and kept low speeds through housing.

It was also great to hear that Galliford-Try, the construction company and their subcontractors, did a generous fund-raiser and delivered 800 Easter eggs to needy children in our town! Wonderful work.

On a more serious note, both myself, the Head and Deputy Head teachers are still concerned about coach access to the new site due to cars parking on pavements (even when there are parking bays free most of the day near the shop) and Durham County Council's reluctance to address the issue. A one way system has been rejected in the past (as well as speed bumps) due to so many side roads off Washington Crescent. A more practical solution would be parking restrictions at school run times, to keep the route clear.

We can understand parents wanting to drop infant and primary children off at school gates, but students aged 11-16 are surely capable of walking from St Oswalds Park, the car park behind Whitehead Walk, Tesco, The Youth and Community Centre, Moore Lane car parks, the one behind Kemble Green and the one behind Ross Walk flats. A small minority of residents also prefer to park cars on the pavement, to save walking 20 yards, causing obstructions and delays (as well as restricting wheelchair and pushchair access) but most use the shop and resident parking bays. I also suggested a mirror for traffic safety on the sharp, blind bend (just after Neile Road side road) on Washington Crescent.

After further pressure from myself, Cllr. Nev Jones and local residents, an apology was received from Michelle McIntosh (Team Leader of Traffic Assets at Durham County Council) for not replying to residents emails and phone calls. Unfortunately, the response was almost identical to the one in October 2023 and still refused to give dates of the mini survey, i.e. was it during covid when schools were closed and people were working from home?

No data about numbers of cars per hour, pedestrians crossing Central Avenue per day and definitely no public survey or consultation, about whether school pupils, elderly, disabled, preschool parents and special needs residents found difficulty crossing the road. The excuse of duplication of assets is also a false one because there are no safety measures like patrol crossings or 20mph flashing lights outside of school term time. How can assets be duplicated when there is no safety process in place, evenings and weekends?

I thought it was cruel and unnecessary to say that the Patrol person would lose their role if a crossing was installed. It would actually make it safer for that operative. Both head teachers agreed on this.

Whatever survey did take place is historical and did not take into account the 1500 phase one new housing and 3000 new cars that will come from this every time the new residents come to shop at Tesco or ALDI or bring students



to Woodham, Vane Road and St Mary's RC Primaries. I would like to see direct comparison traffic figures for the new Gestamp traffic lights crossing (daily pedestrian numbers) and to see how low the number is for the Aycliffe Fire Station crossing, which has very low usage, since the big stores in town closed down and multi-storey car parks closed.

Residents in the new housing are not going to walk half a mile down to the planned crossing from the Gretna to Moore Lane. It will only benefit those going for a meal or drink.

Sedgefield High Street zebra crossing and Shildon High Street traffic lights are in places with much less traffic and pedestrians, so the DCC explanation of govt. formulas for crossing location and priority and need for public safety, does not add up and no logical reason is given. I would like to see, if necessary (under the Freedom of Information Act) data for these two, comparable, nearby local towns, data in direct comparison to Central Avenue (including forecasted data for the 1500+ new Copelaw houses).

Well done to all those who voted in the NE Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner elections. It may seem irrelevant to some, but these two people will have a lot of power in decision making and budgets and can help rebuild our under-funded public services and reverse over 10 years of reduction in police officers and extortionate costs of care homes for the elderly.

In March, myself, the Corporate Policy officer and Works and Environment manager attended a Durham Youth Council event and encouraged 11-19 year olds to join the Youth Council and have a voice in decision making on youth facilities and services in our town. Please visit County Durham Youth Council Facebook page and look out for an informative display in the town Leisure Centre in the summer holidays.

I am pleased to say that off road vehicles and illegal motorbikes have reduced recently and that dog owners are keeping their dogs on the lead in public places, with a new county by-law being monitored by neighbourhood wardens. See PSPO £100 fine.

Enjoy quality family time over the May Bank Holidays and thank you to all my ward residents for keeping our neighbourhood clean, safe and tidy.

Kind Regards, Cllr Tony Armstrong.

## Newton Aycliffe Women's Institute

Over the last few months we have been very busy. We have had some interesting speakers, including Chris Lloyd talking about the Darlington connection with the suffragettes and an ornithologist talked about bird ringing. At our A.G.M last month I was re-elected as President at Newton Aycliffe WI. I hope we can have another successful year.

At our meeting on Tuesday 14th May we have a speaker coming from 'Daft as a Brush' cancer care. It is always moving to hear about the work they do.

Recently we had an excursion to Ushaw college to see the wedding dress exhibition. It was interesting to see how they have changed over the years and what a beautiful building. Well worth a visit. We have also been entertained by a Ukelele band and had supper, hosted by a neighbouring WI, another fun evening. We have recently been to the Darlington Hippodrome theatre to see 'Kinky Boots'. A great time was had by all. We have a trip to Kirkleatham Hall coming up and others in the pipeline.

In the community we will be on hand to supply refreshments at the upcoming petting zoo. Come along and sample our pies and cakes with a cuppa. We hope to see you there. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at St Clare's church hall at 7pm. Any ladies will be made welcome. If you have any questions or queries, please call me on 07981 992686.

President Christine Robinson.

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# Summer Season of Shows at Darlington Hippodrome

The new summer season of shows at Darlington Hippodrome includes **Ghost The Musical, An Inspector Calls, The Mousetrap, Blood Brothers and Sister Act**. The curtain has gone up on Darlington Hippodrome's new summer season of shows which is packed with a host of showstopping performances for audiences to enjoy through the summer months and beyond.

The new season includes the best of the West End, traditional family favourites, thought-provoking dance and thrilling drama as part of its extensive list. Here is just a snap-shot of the shows on offer.

If you are a fan of drama you will be spoilt for choice. A unique twist on the classic comedy, **The Importance of Being... Earnest? (17th-19th May)** could see YOU as the star of the show. With one of the leading actors 'missing' will you be the one to save the day and end up on stage as one of the characters?

**The School for Scandal (28th May - 1st June)** is a hilarious comedy of mischief featuring the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air and RSC star Joseph Marcell. Deliciously naughty and outrageously silly, you are guaranteed a lightning-paced evening of romance, revenge and rollicking fun.

Joe Orton's final, most ambitious comedy **What The Butler Saw (18th-22nd June)** is a masterclass in fearless comic writing. No institution, political view or tradition is safe. Expect chilling reveals and shocking twists with **The Haunting of Blaine Manor (27th-29th June)**, an homage to the golden age of Hollywood and the Hammer House of Horror era. The play is a twisted history of madness, witchcraft, tragedy and death.

From one manor house to another as we welcome **The Mousetrap (23rd-27th July)** on it's 70th anniversary tour. Famous for being the world's longest-running play, this thrilling production is the genre-defining murder mystery from the best-selling novelist of all time – Agatha Christie.

Having thrilled more than five million theatre-goers worldwide, **An Inspector Calls (1st-5th October)** has been hailed as the theatrical event of its generation. A dinner party at a prosperous family home is shattered by investigations into the death of a young woman. This is a must-see play for a whole new generation.

Do you know your lead piping from your dagger? **Cluedo 2 (8th-12th October)** will have you guessing who did what to whom and where. Re-live the classic board game live on stage with Coronation Street star and Strictly Come Dancing champion Ellie Leach as Miss Scarlett.

Musical theatre buffs have so much to look forward to at Darlington Hippodrome. From the one-night only production **Defying Gravity (1st September)** starring not one but three West End stars, you will be entertained by songs from Wicked, Les Miserables, Mamma Mia, Waitress and many more.

Wendi Peters stars as Mother Superior in the divine musical comedy **Sister Act (9th-14th September)**. Featuring songs inspired by Motown, soul and disco, this heavenly musical is joyous and uplifting in equal measures. The international smash hit musical **Ghost** is on its way to Darlington (**24th-28th September**). Based on the movie starring Patrick Swayzee, Demi Moore and Whoopi Goldberg, Ghost will transport you a new level of emotion as Sam tries to communicate with Molly through a phony psychic.

DarlingtonOS are never shy of presenting new material. **Made In Dagenham (23rd October - 2nd November)** is based on the true story

of how a group of sewing machinists at the Ford Dagenham plant changed the world in 1968 with their strike for equal pay. Powerful, emotional, funny and ultimately uplifting, this story still resonates today.

**Blood Brothers (12th-16th November)** is a musical that needs no introduction. One of the most powerful pieces of theatre, it never fails to shock and inspire.

Family shows are in abundance this season.

**Bluey (13th-16th June)** takes to the stage with all his friends in a brand-new stage production. **Awful Auntie (11th-14th July)** is the classic David Walliams book transferred to the stage in brilliant, colourful and zany fashion. **Fireman Sam (21st July)** is going on a great camping adventure but will it all end happily? Of course it will! Pip-pip, onk-onk. It has to be **In The Night Garden (21st-22nd August)**. Spend an hour with magical puppets, enchanting music and a visit from the amazing flying Pinky Ponk. Based on the best-selling book, **The Lion Inside (30th August - 1st September)** is a joyous stage adaptation featuring amazing puppetry, music and songs – a perfect introduction to theatre for little ones. **Peppa Pig (21st-22nd September)** is off on another fun day out. A trip to the zoo full of songs, dance and muddy puddles.

There is a mix of one night only tribute acts coming to Darlington over the summer including Taylormania, Walk Right Back, Rumours of Fleetwood Mac, Radio GaGa, The Glenn Miller Big Band Spectacular and The Sounds of the 60s with radio legend Tony Blackburn.

Did someone mention Christmas? Even though we are heading towards the summer months the annual family pantomime is always on our minds. This year we present **Sleeping Beauty** starring Lee Mead and Sue Pollard. Returning back after a fabulous reception last year will be all-round entertainer Josh Benson and Jamie Jones.

The summer 2024 season at Darlington Hippodrome is being sponsored by Babul's Darlington.

For more information on the new season and beyond at Darlington Hippodrome, or to book, visit [www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk](http://www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk) or call the Box Office on 01325 405405.

## RUNNING CLUB NEWS

It has been another busy week for Aycliffe Running Club with the races coming thick and fast. The races started with a busy day on Wednesday 2nd May which included the Neptune Relay held at Hardwick Park in Sedgfield which involved four members each running 1.7mile.

The club entered a total of seven teams with the team of Tracey Surtees (10:16), Floyd Jones

(10:44), Gareth Hamblin (10:29) and Steven Dawson (11:28) Total Time 42:57, finishing first in the mixed relays. One team was entered in the men's senior race being Richard Campbell (9:53), John Surtees (9:09), Richard Trowles (9:48) and Adam Harker (10:38) Total (39:28). Two teams took part in the senior women's event being Bernadette Cooper (12:33), Cath McDonnell (13:58), Lou Mann (15:10) and Kirsty Cameron (15:08) Total (56:49) and Em Flynn (16:24), Yvonne Blewitt (15:35), Eve Doe (17:37) and Susan Clark (19:05) Total 1:08:41.

Two teams entered the men's over 50 race being Dave Stothard (12:21), Alan Wilks (13:23), Salv McDonnell (12:28) and Steve Williams (14:36) total (52:48) and Jean-Pierre Hupin (15:29), Rob Nicholson (15:08), John Burnside (13:13) and Jim Wilson (17:47) Total 1:01:37. One final team took part being Kathleen Tonge (14:58), Richard Tonge (15:22), Viv Williams (16:16) and Lauren Hamblin (11:49) Total 58:25.

At the same time, 18 members travelled to Darlington for the third race in the Darlington 5k trail series and the Cummins 5k. John Firby (17:59) finished first with Sam Keenan (18:50) third. Others taking part included Richard Holland (20:05), Jimmy Agnew (20:46), Ste Dunn (20:58), Lucy Postle (21:31 and second female), Trevor Agnew (23:11), Laura Hudson (23:24), Joe Dickinson (24:09), Andrew Tweddle (24:10), Sammie Metcalfe (25:21), Keith Hatton (26:35), Kelly Dickinson (29:03), Melanie Varley (29:18), Sam Harding (29:41), Sue Podmore (29:42), Nici Ingman (32:30) and Ian Stothard (35:25).

At the same time, two members took part in the monthly South Shields Mile with Angela Sutherland (7:00) and Judith Porter (9:02 and setting a new club record for the female over 70 category) representing the club. On Sunday 6th May, five members travelled to Melmerby to take part in the Melmerby 10k. Despite the humid conditions, Rob Young (41:22), Bernadette Cooper (50:56), Salv McDonnell (53:55), Cath McDonnell (55:03) and Judith Porter (59:11 and first in the female over 70 category whilst also setting another club record) all represented the club.

At the same time, two members took part in the Newcastle-Gateshead Half Marathon with Kevin Tatham (1:53:26) and Kirsty Cameron (2:30:26) both representing the club. Three members took part in the Newcastle-Gateshead 10k with Dave Stothard (53:50), Steve Williams (1:01:58) and Ian Stothard (1:13:21) all completing the event.

On Sunday 28th April, the Junior Section was well represented in the CDAN Spring festival taking place at Shildon Athletics Stadium. In the Under 9's Floretta Donoghue finished as first female and third overall with athletes taking part in four different events. Alfred Ramsay and Archie Taylor also represented the Under 9's. In the Under 11's Farrah Swainston, Jensen Paterson, Joe Dickinson, Elijah McLuckie and Elijah Turnbull all represented the club. Two juniors represented the club in the Under 13's being Trinity Donoghue and Luke Thompson.

In the Under 15's events, the club was well represented with Charlotte Clay, Maisie Kilpatrick (joint third in the girls' events), Abbie Robinson, Persephone-May Risbey, Bridget Mosher, Hannah Birschuk (joint third), Lexi Renton, Kadie Searle and Lewis Wood all taking part. In the Under 17's event, Henry Mosher finished first with Elizabeth Rose Clay first girl and Isabella Risbey, second girl. Also fourth in the boy's events was Iwo Socha. The weather conditions were awful on the day which is testament to the Junior Section and despite those conditions, with a strong turnout and some excellent performance, the team performance secured 2,804 points and second place overall, an amazing performance.

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.



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The week of 29th April started with me travelling to Westminster on the morning train. Whilst on the train, I joined a call with Durham County Council about HUG (Home Improvement Grants) that was particularly about Ferryhill. Once in Westminster, the first Business was seeing the Post Office (Horizon) Offences Bill through its remaining stages - which was really positive. The day finished with meetings with staff and also a catch up with the Secretary of State for Defence.

Tuesday started with the APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) for the Menopause. I took an interest in this group after meetings in 2022 with ladies from Sedgefield and the problems they were having getting support. The meeting is all about supporting and education for women about the symptoms of the Menopause and where and how support can be accessed. It was an education to me of how many women don't recognise some challenges they may have, either physical or mental, that have their roots in the Menopause and I am working with them to look at how we can broaden this education, not only for women, but also for men who might want to support the women in their lives. I also recently visited a Menopause support session at Chilton, led by the PCP, and I will be joining one at Aycliffe in the near future. If you would like to know more, please do get in touch with me. Tuesday afternoon I had a couple of visitors who travelled down from Newton Aycliffe for an event at No 10 Downing Street celebrating 'Community Childcare Champions'. My invitees were Jackie from Forest Park School and Kerry who links with Mums in small businesses to network support. There are so many more people in the constituency I could have invited to this, but I only have two slots. I was able to take the time to show them around the Palace of Westminster whilst they were down.

I finished the day with an Armed forces briefing from the Navy. Wednesday, as usual, started with Transport Select Committee where we were taking evidence on strategic transport planning and I was particularly interested in the evaluation processes that historically have been biased towards the South East.

From there it was to Prime Minister's Questions before sessions on support for Agriculture and Wine Taxation. There was then a meeting of the Northern Research Group discussing our priorities for the North in any future election manifestos and finally a round table event with other MP's and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Laura Trott. This was talking about some of the real progress the Economy is making as it

recovers, but also our priorities going forward. After all of this it was the late train north ready for the elections on Thursday. Clearly, across the country, I found these disappointing, but I was pleased to see Ben Houchen re-elected in the Tees Valley as Mayor. Whilst I would obviously have preferred different results in the North East Mayor and The Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Commissioner elections, I congratulate Joy and Kim on their elections and look forward to working with them for the good of our communities.

Friday was an incredibly busy day which started with the visit by Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education, to Dean Bank Primary School in Ferryhill. This was the first school I attended as a child before moving to Aycliffe and going to Sugar Hill. I was delighted with the time she took at the school, being there for close to two hours, she was able to have good discussions with not just the Teachers and Governors, but also many pupils and she opened their new library. I then drove up to Wheatley Hill to meet a constituent and spent time talking with the manager of Greenhills Centre where we are planning a surgery in the next few months.

I then finished off with a call to Cash Access UK. They are the organisation behind the banking hub in Aycliffe and they are looking at one for Ferryhill. I have also asked for one in the Trimdon to Sedgefield corridor. After Bank Holiday, in Westminster, we will have Treasury Oral Questions and the Finance Bill and I am sure lots of party politics following the elections. I have to say that, whilst I love my job as a Constituency MP, my least favourite bit is the politics that goes on when elections loom large. As always, if you want to catch up with me on Politics or anything else, it's **paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk** or call Newton Aycliffe 01325 790580.

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## CLIFFECON - OakLeaf Sports Complex 18th May

Our studio guest on Sunday was Jeff Cummings, who was bringing us up-to-date on the forthcoming CLIFFECON event taking place at the OakLeaf Sports Complex on Saturday 18th May.

CLIFFECON is a comic con style event, so it's a must for all COSPLAYERS, with category prizes. It's a fun day for all the family, with trade stalls, animal road-show and family entertainment with photo opportunities throughout the day. Further event information is available on the CLIFFECON Facebook page and tickets can be obtained from: cutefoxevents. Phill & Andy Around Town Aycliffe Radio.



## Ann Cleeves, OBE, Wows at Hospice Charity Lunch



Best-selling British author Ann Cleeves, OBE, was the special guest speaker at local charity St Cuthbert's Hospice's Ladies Lunch on Friday 26th April. The event, held at Ramside Hall Hotel, welcomed over 300 guests to raise money for the local Hospice.

The event has now raised over £16,800 for the charity. Jade McArdle, Community & Events Manager, said: "The Ladies Lunch is always a great day out. We were delighted to welcome Ann Cleeves, OBE, as our guest speaker to this year's event. It was a chance for everyone to get dressed up, enjoy some fizz and fundraising. Every penny raised will help us to continue caring for all who need us in County Durham. A big thank you to Ann, host Jamie Tinkler, all of our staff and volunteers who helped on the day, our raffle prize donors and Ramside Hall Hotel. The event was kindly sponsored by Reef Salons." Pictured: Ann Cleeves, OBE, with staff from St Cuthbert's Hospice. L-R: Mandy Vout, Kay Carrick, Ann Cleeves OBE and Jade McArdle.



# Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk

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10th May 2024

**Congratulations**

**Joe Howarth**



12th May 2024  
**Happy 21st**

**Happy 21st birthday Joe**, you're such a special son and we hope you have an amazing time celebrating. All our love, Mam and Dad xx

**Happy 21st birthday** Bro, lots of love, Jack and Yas xx

**Happy 21st to Joe**. Hope you have a lovely day, lots of love, Nan, Grandad, Lee & family xxx

**Happy birthday** Grandson, enjoy your day, love Grandma x

**Happy 21st Birthday** Have a great weekend Joe. From Paul, Beverley and family.

**Happy 21st Birthday Joe**. We wish an amazing day for an amazing nephew. Love from Joanne, Stuart, Adam, Ellen, Alex and Charlotte.

**Marjorie Milling**



14th May  
**Wishing you a happy 80th birthday**

Lots of love from Julie, Anthony, Claire, Amy and Vinny xxxx

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**Obituary**

**Joan Bowes Stubbs (née Tarn)**

Passed away peacefully in Lindisfarne Care Home, two months before her 90th birthday, on 30th April 2024, surrounded by her loving family. Beloved Wife of the late Bryan, wonderful loving Mam to Sue, Lesley, Neil and the late Robin, Grandma to Chris, Nick and Andrew, Great Grandma to Florence and George, Mother-in-Law



to Richard, Graham, Tina and the late Yvonne, Aunt, Cousin to the late Ann, truly loved by the extended family members and her many friends. Everyone is welcome to the committal at Durham Crematorium on Wednesday 22nd May at 1.00pm and then followed by a Remembrance Service at St Michaels Church, Heighington for 2.00pm. Everyone is welcome to meet after the service for food and refreshments at The Bay Horse Pub, Heighington. Family flowers only please, donations may be given for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Please feel free to wear colour.

**In Memoriam**

**Michael Burn**



In loving memory of a dear Husband, sadly missed by your loving Wife, Susan. Always in my thoughts.



**Happy 21st birthday Joe**, love you loads, Rosa xx

**Happy birthday** to the best Daddy in the world, lots of love, hugs and kisses, Izayer xx

**Richard Morton**

In loving memory of Richard Morton who sadly passed away peacefully on 18th April, aged 92 years. Dearly beloved Husband to his late Wife Agnes. A much loved Dad to Christine, Carol, Stephen, John, Peter and Gail. A loving Grandad and Great Grandad. A dear Father in Law, Brother and Uncle. The family would like to say a big thank you to all the medical teams who cared for our Dad during the past couple of months, especially the Macmillan nurses. Funeral to be held on Tuesday 14th May. Would family and friends please meet at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe, for a Service starting at 9.45am, followed by a cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon, to be held from 10.30am. Afterwards we are heading to the Phoenix Club (Legion) for a drink and a bite to eat.

**Obituary**

**Michael Allen (Mick)**

Passed away 2nd May 2024, after a short illness. Loving Husband of Kath, devoted Dad to John and Craig. A much loved Grandad, Great Grandad, Son, Brother, Uncle and friend to many. Funeral details to follow.

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# England Water Polo Talent Games Family Fun Day Is Back!!

Sedgefield Water Polo Club would like to congratulate eight of our athletes who were selected to attend the England Water Polo Talent Games held at the Alan Higgs Centre, Coventry over the weekend of 27th and 28th April. Harry, Dylan, Kara and Indie represented the North East U14's, Aston represented the North West U16's and Kyle, Thomas and



Gregor represented the North East U16's. This is an excellent opportunity for a small club to have a good representation at national level.

This event allowed our athletes to compete against those from other talent centres in a round robin format tournament - gaining valuable high level competitive game play with some of the best athletes in the country - whilst also undertaking workshops on nutrition and balancing school work with sporting commitments. Parents were also led through a safeguarding workshop.

We'd also like to advise that we can now offer player sponsorships for just £30 per player for this season, in return for regular advertising and promotion on our social media pages. If this is something that your business may be interested in, please don't hesitate to get in touch. All monies raised will be used to allow our fantastic members the opportunity to develop their skills and provide them with the equipment they need in order to succeed in the sport.

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.

With a long break, due to Covid, Aycliffe Dance Academy is ready to open its doors once again with the return of their previously popular Family Fun Day!

**The fun day is taking place on Saturday 11th May from 1pm to 5pm at The Bethany Centre, Newton Aycliffe. The event is FREE ENTRY and is open to the public. Everyone is welcome!**

There will be: A Bouncy Castle, Face Painting, Balloon Modelling, Hook A Duck, Tombola, Hair Styling, Nail Art, Hotdogs, Cakes, Refreshments, Games and much, much more!! So come along for a family fun day out!!

All funds raised from the fun day will be used to purchase costumes, accessories, props, head mics and special effects for the Academy's upcoming summer show 'It's Time To Dance'. Tickets for the show, which is taking place at the Forum Theatre in Billingham on the 13th and 14th July, go on sale from the 17th May. Come along to support 160 local dancers in what is set to be their best and biggest show yet!

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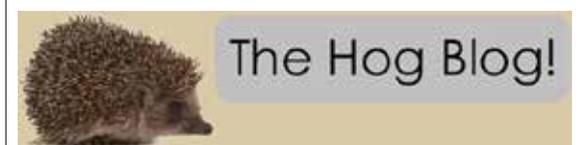
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## Joy Allen Re-Elected

Joy Allen has been re-elected as Durham Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for County Durham & Darlington. Speaking after the declaration Joy Allen said: "Local people have placed their trust in me and I will repay that trust by redoubling my efforts to prevent crime and ASB, tackle the alcohol and drug issues that underpin so much crime and so many accidents. I am determined to continue the work to make our roads safer for all road users. I assure everyone, whether they voted for me or not, that I am determined our residents and businesses will receive a quality police service and that victims of crime receive first class support service, tailored to their needs."

More information about Joy Allen and her plans for policing and community safety can be found on her personal website at <https://www.joy4durhampcc.com/about/> The Commissioner's new term of Office commences on 9th May 2024 and she will serve a four-year term until May 2028.



It's been really busy recently, I have released most of my overwintered hedgehogs, they have all gone to lovely support fed gardens where they will be doing what they do best, exploring and mating. I want to thank Lesley and Steve who were kind enough to release some for me, I know they will be well cared for and if they get into any difficulties I will be here for them. As will any hog if they need help. Thanks also go to Valerie and June for their invaluable support, sending best wishes to Fred too. Also, can I thank Deborah for helping Harriet, she is doing well, but has some spines missing, she loves her food too. Also Pat, for bringing me Arthur, I have shortened his name to Arti, he has a parasite burden but responding to meds, he really likes it here. All hoggies that I have admitted are doing well and responding to meds, thankfully. It's baby season too. I would like to ask everyone to check their gardens before using power tools. Hoglets in a nest can be anywhere in your garden, they are the size of a 2p piece, sometimes a nesting mother can have up to six hoglets to feed and care for. I have to mention that if you find a hedgehog out in the day, it's not ok, it's in serious trouble and needs help from a rescue on the day you find him or her. Should you find one and think it looks ok, and you keep it because it's cute, this is illegal, they are endangered and protected under the wildlife act and by the time I get the poor thing into rescue I can't save him or her. Such a waste of a precious little life. I have a well stocked medicine cupboard, I have spent a lot of money on sharps, antibiotics and also wormer's. This is all specialist equipment needed to run this rescue, it's no good admitting a hog without meds etc, I have recently spent more than a couple of hundred pounds on meds etc. I regularly purchase things like puppy pads and kitchen roll from Grannies Choice, Donella supplies me with puppy pads that fit the cages I have and they save me time and keep hoggies clean and hygienic. I use vet beds for all hoggies, big and small, after all they like their comforts too especially when they are unwell. Please ring The British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801 if you need help with a hedgehog. My Facebook Page is Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel. Email for non emergencies is [pricklyhaven@yahoo.com](mailto:pricklyhaven@yahoo.com)

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# Major Upgrade of A167

Major work to upgrade junctions on one of Newton Aycliffe's busiest roads are now underway. The Durham County Council scheme will deliver improvements at the A167/A689 Rushyford roundabout as well as the A167's Central Avenue and Ricknall Lane junctions. Work at Rushyford roundabout started on Monday 22nd April, with work set to start on the Central Avenue and Ricknall Lane junctions in May. The scheme will provide additional road capacity in the area, unlocking the potential to develop up to 1,400 new homes on the Low Copelaw site to the east of the town. Cllr Elizabeth Scott, the council's Cabinet member for economy and partnerships, said: "Low Copelaw is identified as a strategic housing site in the County Durham Plan and these upgrades to the nearby highways network will provide access to the site itself, while ensuring that highways capacity keeps pace with housing growth in the area. We've secured £7million from the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) for the scheme, and the timescales attached to the funding mean

we have to deliver the three sets of improvements together in parallel rather than in separate phases. Though these upgrades will ensure we can keep traffic moving in the long-term, there will inevitably be some disruption in the short-term. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience and thank people for their patience while we deliver this important project." All approaches to the A167/A689 Rushyford roundabout will be widened to three lanes, and improvements will be made to the roundabout's layout. There will be new line markings too. The work at the A167's Central Avenue junction will introduce a new link road providing access to the future housing site, as well as a traffic light-controlled entry and improved pedestrian crossings. New traffic lights will be introduced at the A167's Ricknall Lane junction, along with improved pedestrian crossing facilities. The scheme, which is scheduled for completion late this year, also includes plans to plant nearly 1,000 trees, as well as hundreds of shrubs and lengths of hedge.

# Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report

Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, had their game, away at Hartlepool 2nd XI, postponed after heavy overnight rain made the ground unplayable. The club's second team, playing their first game of the season, could only earn a winning draw, despite dominating their home game against Northallerton 2nd XI in the NYSD 4th division. New captain Dan Weldon won the toss and chose to bat first, despite the bowler friendly cloudy conditions. However, his side still piled up the runs scoring an impressive 227 for 7 in their allotted 40 overs thanks in part to a brilliant 2nd team club record 6th wicket partnership of 93 between James Layfield-Carroll and 15 year old Will Dearden (sponsored by Community Spirit). Layfield-Carroll, who was a late call up, smashed the bowling to all parts of the ground finishing his career best innings with 66 runs from just 38 balls and included seven huge sixes and a couple of fours. Dearden also reached his senior career best score of 61 off 85 balls with eight boundaries and a six. Earlier in the game, Aycliffe were wobbling at 24 for 3 when Dan Weldon came to the crease and he helped steady the innings, hitting 35 off 38 balls, including three boundaries and two massive sixes. In reply, Dan Weldon (2 for 25), Patrick Howe (2 for 31), Will Dearden (1 for 10) and James Layfield-Carroll (1 for 25) all bowled well for the home side, but Northallerton never really attempted to go for the win and decided early in their innings to dig in for the draw and they duly finished their 40 overs on 119 for 6. The 2nd XI played their second league game of the bank holiday weekend and were beaten by six wickets, away at top of the table Rockcliffe Park 2nd XI. After being asked to bat first, Aycliffe struggled to get any momentum into their innings and were thankful to Matty Greaves (sponsored by Athena Sports Academy and Britannia Fire), who top scored with 39 off 62 balls, Leon Patel (29 off 69 balls) and Terence Smit (14 off 29 balls) for helping the visitors to reach 125 for 9 in their 40 overs. In reply, Rockcliffe also found scoring runs difficult and despite some good bowling from Leo Stout (2 for 24), the homeside eventually crawled over the winning line for the loss of four wickets with just eight balls of the game remaining.

The club's U15's team got their season off to a great start with a thumping 70 run victory at home to Seaton Carew in the NYACC League. After being asked to bat first, Aycliffe scored a challenging 128 for 7 from their 20 overs thanks to good innings from Freddie Lawler (31 not out from 43 balls), Will Dearden (28 off 33 balls) and Liam Scott (11 off 16 balls). In reply, the visitors were dismissed for just 58 off 17 overs with Will Dearden the pick of the bowlers taking 4 wickets for 5 runs. Jack Collingwood, Liam Scott and Tom also bowled well, each taking two wickets. The U13's lost their first game of the season by 27 runs away at a very strong Darlington in the NYACC, but there were some encouraging individual performances from our youngsters. Jack Collingwood and Addison Jones each took a wicket when Darlington batted and then Trent Telford top scored with an unbeaten 30 and Freddie Lawler chipped in with 17 runs and Jonah Harrop with 16 not out when Aycliffe replied. The U11's performed really well, but were still beaten by 22 runs away at Rockcliffe Park in the NYACC League. Carys Myers top scored for Aycliffe with 9 not out off 12 balls and, when



the homeside batted, Harvey Palmer, Gracie Hayman, Carys Myers and Lydia Myers all chipped in with a wicket apiece. Newton Aycliffe Ladies team finally began their season at home to Hutton Rudby, but, unfortunately, heavy rained forced the game to be abandoned after just 4 overs. Photo: Our victorious U15's team, with team manager Leon Patel, after their convincing home win against Seaton Carew.

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