

# Newton News

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

## A Year of Extraordinary Achievement for Newton Aycliffe Football Club

Twelve months ago NAFC finished as champions of the Northern League Division One and clinched promotion into the Northern Premier League - East. Following a tough start to the season, the team quickly adapted to life in the higher league and steadily climbed the table. Victories against all the top teams showed that NAFC were completely settled in their new environment. The team spent several weeks in the playoff positions. At the end of the season, the team were only five points outside the playoff places, finishing in an extremely credible seventh place. This resulted in the club achieving their HIGHEST POSITION in the English Football Pyramid since the clubs inception in 1965. Immense credit goes to team manager Brian Atkinson and his back room staff. The players, who all excelled each and every game. Several managers from visiting teams remarked that our team played the best football in the league. Special mention to three players; Marc Costello (Supporters Player of the Year + Players Player of the Year), Liam Adamson (Player of the Year + Top Goal Scorer) & Jack Clarkson (Young Player of the Year). And, above all, chairman Allan Oliver for his unwavering leadership. Success wouldn't have been possible without the endeavours of the club officials and the many match-day volunteers. A massive thank you for the vital support from the fans and club sponsors. The club would like to reach out to all the residents of Newton Aycliffe and businesses across the town, to ask for even more support next season, we can't achieve the continuous success without you. During the weeks leading up to next season, watch out for regular updates on improvements to the ground, new merchandise in the club shop, activities to enhance the match-day experience, 2024/25 season tickets and much more. Catch the latest news on our Website and Social Media.  
- [www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk](http://www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk)  
- NAYcliffeFC (X Twitter)  
- <https://www.Facebook.com/newtonaycliffefc>  
SEE YOU ALL NEXT SEASON.



## St. Mary's Special Assembly Visitor



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School in Newton Aycliffe was honoured to welcome Sue Snowdon, H.M. Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, to a special assembly held on Friday 10th May. Jorja-Anne, St. Mary's pupil and parliament representative, kicked off the assembly by introducing Mrs Snowdon, highlighting her distinguished role as the H.M. Lord-Lieutenant. During her address, Mrs Snowdon captivated the pupils with insights into the history of her role, including her appointment by the late Queen Elizabeth II and how she was the first woman to hold this prestigious position. She elaborated on her duties, which include representing the King, collaborating with the armed forces, and facilitating royal visits and ceremonies. The children asked some very interesting questions! The highlight of the assembly was when Mrs Snowdon unveiled the school's new portrait of King Charles, symbolising a significant moment in St. Mary's history. The assembly also featured the presentation of virtue certificates to deserving students, with Mrs Snowdon personally giving the awards. Teachers commended students for exemplifying virtues such as compassion, respect and resilience, underscoring the school's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals. This event resonates deeply with the British values embedded in the St. Mary's curriculum. In a heart-warming conclusion, the pupils sang their school song, 'Called by God,' reinforcing the sense of unity and community spirit that defines St. Mary's Catholic Primary School. Mrs Emily Millward, Headteacher, said "It was an absolute honour to host Mrs Snowdon. The head students and school council were exceptional in representing the school. As headteacher, I was extremely proud of all of the children. The children's behaviour was outstanding and I was extremely proud of the school community."





## Have a Say on Local Issues

Residents in Great Aycliffe & Middridge can find out how local issues are being tackled when the local area action partnership holds their next board meeting (and Annual General Meeting).

**The Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership Area Action Partnership (AAP) board will be meeting on Tuesday 21st May 2024, between 6pm and 8pm, at Woodham Community Centre and members of the public are invited to come along and observe proceedings.**

Anyone who would like to attend the meeting should register in advance by emailing [gampaap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:gampaap@durham.gov.uk).

Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership is one of 14 Area Action Partnerships set up by Durham County Council in 2009.



The School Aycliffe Community Association - AGM is on Monday 20th May 2024 at the Community Centre at 7.30 pm. All School Aycliffe residents are welcome - cheese and wine provided. We welcome your ideas, events, classes and suggestions to increase the usage of our fabulous community hall.

## St. Francis' Junior School Achieve Gold!

We are delighted to announce that we, St. Francis' Junior School, have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2023/2024 academic year.

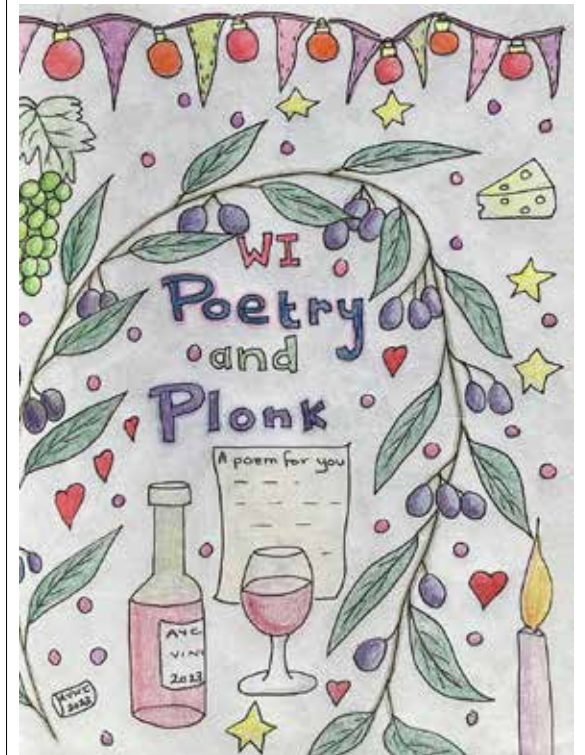
The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2021, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development competition across their school and into the community and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

With a total of 116 young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport,

including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. We look forward to applying once again in 2025!

## Aycliffe Village WI Next Meeting



Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd May in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. We are having a Poetry and Plonk evening and members are invited to bring along a poem they particularly like. A little tippie and some nibbles will be provided. Please feel free to come and join us at the meeting or, if you're interested in joining our WI, come and find out what we do. For all details, contact our President Anne Brown via email: [aycliffevillageWI@durhamwi.co.uk](mailto:aycliffevillageWI@durhamwi.co.uk)

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Tickets available from:  
Newton Press  
Moore Lane Sports Club  
Just The Perfect Gift (town centre)

## Retirement After 35 Years at School

Mrs Allen would like to thank everyone who attended her celebration mass at St Joseph's Primary School last week. Mrs Allen said, "After 50 years working in education and 35 years at the school I have started my retirement. It was lovely to see all the staff, children and parents, both past and present. I especially enjoyed the children's rendition of the Irish Blessing that they have been practicing, and listening to the children who read verses about the ascension. Thank you also to Father Cornforth for leading the mass.

"Thank you for all of the flowers, gifts and donations to the North East Air Ambulance service, which was my chosen charity. The Air Ambulance service is close to my heart as they have attended to two of the children I have taught over the years. God Bless you all."





## Aycliffe Youth Football News

### Aycliffe U15 Eagles 4 v 1 Birtley

A great overall team performance today, from everyone on the pitch. Some brilliant close range passing, to keep possession of the ball and tire the opposition, led to four very good goals. Difficult conditions in the heat, but the boys didn't let that have an impact. Goals from Hamza x2, Joel and Albie. MOM Hamza.

### Aycliffe U12 Wildcats 0 v 2 Hebburn Blues

This was a tough game against a side in a similar position in the league. It started off really tight with both sides defending well from front to back. Hebburn took the lead with a drive from the edge of the box. In the second half, Aycliffe had 24 shots, one hit the bar, and their keeper saved well. Almost on full-time a save from Sofia was parried to their striker to tap home.

### Aycliffe U11 Girls 4 v 1 Greatham

Greatham managed to get the first goal, but Aycliffe pushed hard to get one back. Amelia managed to intercept a short goal kick, taking it around the keeper and making it 1-1. Phoebe was moved to Midfield, continually running through the Greatham defence and scored a well-deserved hat trick. MOTM goes to Frankie, she tracked back all game, ran the ball down the wing and had some good shots.

### Aycliffe U11 Eagles v Durham FC

With the weather easing and the pitches now dried out, the Eagles managed six games on the bounce, and over the last couple of weeks the boys have had the chance to continue carrying their good performances from one week to the next. This week was no different, the boys are showing a very good understanding of how we are trying to play and they are using it to great effect, recording their third win in a row and extending their current unbeaten run to six games, with only one draw stopping it being six wins. Goals from Will and Teni, but fantastic football played by every single player, making them a joy to watch.

### Aycliffe U9 Wildcats

Our newest girls team continue to work hard at training, in preparation for their first friendly match. The squad still has a couple of spaces for any Year 4 girls who may have been playing for their school recently

and want to move into regular football club games. Contact Berni on 07939 045242.

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## Wine Tasting Evening

School Aycliffe Community Centre are having a Wine Tasting Evening, hosted by Pampas Wines on Friday 14th June at 7.30pm. The tasting will include a selection of red, white, rosé and sparkling wines - accompanied by complementary nibbles. Tickets are £15 per person - orders, to purchase bottles of wine, can be placed with Pampas Wines on the night. Please contact Zanna Bewick on 07929 916725 for tickets and more details.

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local news, visit our website  
[www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk)

## ACORN Hexham Adventure

On Saturday 11th May we boarded a coach for a trip to the lovely Northumbrian town of Hexham. The sun was shining as the coach left the Phoenix Club carrying us up the scenic route along the



A68 towards Hexham. Whether by accident or design, our driver John took a diversion into the Northumbrian countryside to the delight of passengers as we meandered through villages, hamlets and farms, spotting lambs frolicking in the fields.

Soon, we arrived in Hexham to be greeted by the former civic head of Northumberland and Cllr representing Hexham central, Trevor Cessford, a regular visitor to Newton Aycliffe who eagerly took on the role of unofficial tour guide.

Trevor is, like me, very proud of his town and quickly pointed out places of interest such as the beautiful abbey, the ancient gaol, the farmers market and, of course, a favourite of ours, the local Wetherspoons, which is located in the old forum cinema, which is not only a cheap breakfast, but also a fantastic example of 30's architecture.

Keen to know more about this lovely place, we asked Trevor to give us a tour of his town and were surprised to see new pavements, roads, and improved shop fronts. It struck me, as we wandered, that this little town, with a population of just 12,000, has two banks, a couple of building societies and a police station, whilst Aycliffe languishes in decline. Leaving the town centre behind we came across a lovely sports centre complete with running track and long jump pit.

At this point we couldn't help noticing that Hexham has several popular retailers such as Marks and Spencer, B&M, Home Bargains and many more. Being warm and weary we stopped at McDonalds for an ice cream and pondered what we had already seen of a thriving place with a low population. We then took the path alongside the river which has wonderful views of well-kept parks, canoeists on the river and families picnicking whilst soaking up the May sunshine.

Time for refreshments and we called into a local hostelry to quench our thirst before heading back into town where we found a house of correction which hails from an earlier time in the towns history when misdemeanour's were treated very differently to today. Inmates would be locked up for drunkenness, begging, prostitution and even people with mental health problems, quite shocking by today's standards. We came across Hexham school which has a lovely façade and is very old, before pausing to watch bowling on the town green. Arriving back at the bus stop we met up with our fellow travellers who also had tales to tell of their day out in Hexham.

Many thanks to my friend Cllr Trevor Cessford for the grand tour and a great day out.

## Live Music at the Candlelite Club

Another great night of live music takes place on 29th May at The Candlelite Club, Moore Lane, Newton Aycliffe, starting at 8pm. The main guests are Marion Bradfield and Salty Dog with support by Derek and Ann. There will be a real mix of music, with something for everybody. Places can be booked by ringing Joan Edmundson on 01740 621347.

### HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

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# Sunflower Memories Display Returns this June



St Cuthbert's Hospice's annual Sunflower Memories display is a beautiful way to celebrate and cherish happy memories of loved ones who are no longer with us.

In return for a donation, a beautiful imitation sunflower is planted in the Hospice gardens, along with a plaque with a loved one's name. The gardens at the Hospice boast five acres of land, lovingly cared for by a hugely dedicated team of volunteers, a lovely place to visit in the summer.

The charity, situated in County Durham, is dedicated to providing free care and support to individuals living with life-limiting illness, people approaching the end of life and people that are bereaved. Each sunflower dedicated helps to raise vital funds towards the £2.5m needed every year to deliver its services.

Staff Nurses Lyndsey Harrison and Steph Hall commented: "The Sunflower Memories display always serves as a beautiful way of remembering loved ones for those who have experienced loss. It is a way of bringing staff and relatives together, to remember, reflect on, and celebrate the lives of our patients. The sunflower itself often bears a spiritual meaning to people seeing them and, for us at work, seeing the beauty and bright colours always brings light and comfort to us. Sunflowers, as they grow, turn their faces to the sun which can represent a symbol of hope and also bring joy which is so important in times of need. The display brings light to the memories of those they represent which brings comfort to those who remember them." All who choose to donate and remember someone special will be able to visit the Hospice from 1st to 30th June to see the display. Many who take part in the charity's display each year say that seeing the wave of sunflowers standing proudly in the sunshine is a comforting and welcoming sight when coming to the Hospice. The display is kindly sponsored by local funeral director Stuart Wright. To dedicate a sunflower visit their website [www.stcuthbertshospice.com](http://www.stcuthbertshospice.com) or call 0191 386 1170.

## RUNNING CLUB NEWS

It has been another busy week for Aycliffe Running Club with a weekend of races. This saw 11 members travel to Sunderland for the Sunderland City Runs. In the half marathon race, Bernadette Cooper (1:49:49), Laura Hudson (1:53:14), Sammie Metcalfe (1:56:19), Carley Cooper (2:14:17), Sue Podmore (2:17:57) and Jean-Pierre Hupin (2:22:22) all represented the club. A special mention for Sue Podmore who also used the race to raise funds for charity whilst supporting someone special who was undergoing treatment for Prostrate Cancer. Sue has managed to smash her target, raising over £650 for this excellent cause. In the 10k race, Trish Kay (53:29), David Stothard (56:07), Sam Harding (1:02:43), Em Flynn (1:08:26) and Ian Stothard (1:13:00) all represented the club.

On the same day, 16 members travelled for the Raby Castle series. In the 10k there was an amazing performance by John Surtees, winning the overall race in a time of 37:04. Also taking part were Martyn Knox (44:07 and third in the Men's Over 35 category), Tracey Surtees (44:49 and first in the Female Over 35 category), Anthony Dickinson (44:51), Richard Holland (46:54 and third in the Men's Over 45 category), Daniel Tatham (48:24), Andrew Tweddle (50:50 and third in the Men's Over 55 category), Kevin Tatham (52:04 and third in the Men's Over 60 category), Cath McDonnell (56:13), Kelly Dickinson (1:01:59), Kirsty Cameron (1:06:27), Richard Tonge (1:06:35), Rob Nicholson (1:08:26), Eve Doe (1:09:02 and second in the Female Over 60 category) and Kathleen Tonge (1:15:19). In the 5k race, Susan Clark (39:25) finished second in the Female Over 65 category.

On Sunday 12th May, one of our Juniors competed in the NECAA North East Championships with Elizabeth Clay (12:83) coming an excellent fourth in the Under 17 100 metres in Middlesbrough. On Saturday 27th April, 29 members started their weekend with a parkrun. At Darlington South Park, Lou Mann (30:05), Nici Ingman (31:24) and Yvonne Wood (36:05), completed the course for the first time as part of the clubs parkrun tourism. At Hartlepool, John Surtees (17:04) finished first with Tracey Surtees (20:24) third female in a new course PB. Sarah Gill (25:55) completed the course at Lytham Hall for the first time. Over at Lochore Meadows, Keith Hatton (28:33) completed the course for the first time.

On Saturday 4th May, 33 members



started their weekend with a parkrun. At Poole, Sarah Gill (24:45) completed the course for the first time. At Hartlepool, Richard Trowles (17:25), Richard Holland (19:58), Angela Sutherland (22:17), Sue Podmore (26:56) and Rob Nicholson all set a new course PB. At Southwark, Laura Grainger (27:17) completed the course for the first time. Keith Hatton (27:40) completed the event at Clumber Park for the first time. At Keswick, Steve Williams (29:29) and Viv Williams (30:59) completed the course for the first time with Lou Mann (50:07) also completing the event at Marshall Drive for the first time as tail walker.

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 [juniorsection@gmail.com](mailto: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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# Helpful & Obliging Service

Recently I celebrated my 80th birthday. I enquired at Newton Press for an estimate for the following items to be printed, e.g. RSVP and accommodation cards, place cards, table plan, serviettes, etc. I was amazed how helpful, obliging and the excellent service they all give. The humility they showed, nothing was a problem though. It was unbelievable, they were out to please, all the way, from Stuart, to the young ones, like Alex.

If you are intending to have a celebration of any kind or a wedding, and need a printer, Newton Press should be your first stop for your printing requirements. You will be surprised at their service, etc.

Once again, thank you so much, enjoy treats! A grateful customer.

# Funding Reminder Still Time To Apply!

The Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership (GAMP) Board has a budget of £110k available, and applications are invited for projects from community & voluntary or not-for-profit organisations and groups. Grants of between £5,000 - £15,000 are available for project applications which support our key 'Community Recovery' priority. Important: anyone applying for a project over £10,000 MUST have a minimum of £5,000 capital expenditure included in the project.

Prospective projects must take place in the GAMP area. Our focus this year will be on an overarching 'Community Recovery' priority theme, and projects should aim to address at least one of the following key issues:

- Employability initiatives
- Advice and Guidance
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Organisational sustainability
- Food provision and support
- Social Isolation
- Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Tackling antisocial behaviour
- Support to small businesses (through a third party, not-for-profit organisation to complement existing DCC and external opportunities)
- Emerging Community Issues
- Targeting older people's social isolation
- Providing positive and sound outcomes in relation to the Welfare Reform Agenda and the impact of Welfare Reform on individuals or communities

Groups are permitted to apply for more than one grant, so long as one funding allocation is not reliant on another.

Applications can be submitted for either capital or revenue funding (or both), and projects which include a specific element of capital spend are encouraged. If you need advice on the specific definitions for capital/revenue, please get in touch. Project proposals must also include a minimum of 5% match funding (either cash or in-kind, or both).

All eligible applications will be assessed and ranked by a panel of GAMP Board members, to determine which projects will be awarded funding. Prospective projects should have a planned start date no earlier than November 2024 to allow time for the appraisal process. Please contact us for an application pack, or if you'd like further information, email: [gampaap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:gampaap@durham.gov.uk) or telephone 07834 147211.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 31st May 2024.



It has been a really busy week in rescue, admitting and releasing back to the wild. Over the last few days I have admitted two here, the first one is a little 455 gram female, she has been called Missy, out in the day alone, she is from Bishop Auckland.

Secondly a more disturbing tale, there was a hedgehog in distress not too far from this rescue, when I managed to collect and bring her home, to medication, food and a comfy bed, it was 10pm Saturday night, had I not managed to bring her in that night the outcome would have been grim. When I came down to clean cages at six the following morning, the poor souls body had swollen up into balloon syndrome. This syndrome is quite rare, it's common in hedgehogs that have suffered some physical trauma. I took her to see Angela of Grange Vets who had a look at her and her chest is badly bruised, this poor soul has been physically attacked by someone. This behaviour cannot be tolerated, it's an offence to harm wildlife, I hope Big Brother was a witness because she was made dreadfully ill and I have had to put my best work into her, plus a couple of sleepless nights, but it has been worthwhile of course. Grace is a very ill hog, but turning a corner now, catching up on her rest.

I am in the process of fundraising, this is also very difficult especially when I need not only food, but meds, antibiotics, syringes and needles etc, so, our lovely Shirley, Tesco Community Champion, has invited me to the store to raise funds and awareness, I am also there to answer any questions you may have, please come and see me on the 1st June after 10am.

Finally, it appears that we have won a petition, all new developments have to make boundaries hedgehog friendly, so our hedgehogs can roam freely from garden to garden exploring and searching for food, it's also part of the levelling up programme, we have to share our world, we all have a right to be here.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society number is 01584 890801, for a hog in distress etc. Facebook Page: Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel, email: [pricklyhaven@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pricklyhaven@yahoo.co.uk)

## Editorial Contributions

Editorial contributions, stories and titbits can be sent to the Newton News editor via email:- [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk)  
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### PLEASE NOTE:

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

## NEW Car Boot Sale in Aycliffe

We would like to announce to the people of Aycliffe that a **Car Boot Sale** will take place at the **Scout Hut** (behind the Navy Club) **Newton Aycliffe** on the following Saturday's:  
**25th May, 15th June, 6th July and 27th July.**  
Indoor table £10, outdoor table £6.  
We have 20 indoor spaces available (booking is required) priority will be given to local sellers. There will also be around 20 outside pitches available.  
Sellers from 8.00am.  
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# It's More Than Just Knitting Squares

**PCP's knitting group helping to combat loneliness.**

49% of adults (25.99 million people) in the UK reported feeling lonely, reported by Campaign to End Loneliness.

Health and wellbeing charity, the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) has a selection of groups and events that support people to connect with peers to combat the impacts of loneliness and mental health.

One of its groups is the Love to Knit group, which started in October 2023. Led by volunteer Sharon Rowley, and open to individuals of all ages and skill levels, the group provides a welcoming space for members to come together, share their passion for knitting, and create meaningful connections with like-minded peers.

Beyond the creative benefits of knitting, the group has created a sense of belonging and support, which are crucial elements in maintaining good mental health. The support doesn't stop there, with crocheted squares being made into dressing gowns and provided to those in need.

Sharon, group founder, has shared her thoughts on the group and said: "It's more than just knitting squares, it's about supporting each other and providing a safe space for people to come to."

"We started with one member, and we now have over 30. It is a lovely, warm and friendly environment, both the group and the Pioneering Care Centre (PCC).

"Personally, the biggest thing for me was when I look back at where I was, in a big black hole after my husband passed away, this group has given me a lot of strength, pride and confidence.

"I feel like I'm back to being me again, this group has given me a lot



of new friendships, and the support I have received from Ann Bell, Community Projects Officer, and Annette Allen, Customer and Information Assistant, has been unwavering.

"The support gave me the confidence to go ahead with not just the group, but my life as well. I can't tell you how supportive the PCP has been for me personally and I know all the other people in the group feel exactly the same way."

The free 'Love to Knit' crochets every Thursday, 1.30pm until 3.30pm at the PCC, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF, with free refreshments also available.

## Neville AGM

The Neville Community Centre AGM will be held at the Neville Community Centre on the 4th June at 7pm. All are welcome.

## Welcome Weekend

Up in the heavens jewel colours appeared, A wonderful spectacle that surprised and cheered.

From the top of our country right down to its tip. The Northern Lights thrilled and our skies beautifully lit.

Those who stayed up got their cameras out,

"Look at the colours!" Folk were heard to shout.

Aurora Borealis is it's proper name and if you missed it at the weekend, Well, that's such a shame! Purple, pink and green strobed across the skies, To the delight of many who could hardly believe their eyes.

And the next day summer seemed to arrive, Gracing us with sunshine, such a welcome surprise. Paddling pools were filled and barbecues lit, As families gathered in the sun's warmth to sit. Children played on newly mown grass, Such a welcome way the weekend to pass.

After a long winter with so much rain, We could all enjoy the outdoors once again.

MMK, May 2024

## NHS Trust Assisted by Local Yarn Bomber

A few weeks ago, at the regular Business Park Networking Event, a chance remark from Pat Chambers of the NHS Foundation Trust to Rotary Newton Aycliffe members resulted in partnership working, that has exceeded all expectations. Pat informed us, "The Trust are in need of knitted items and, in particular, hand muffs crafted with toggles, buttons and other decorations which are of exceptional use to dementia patients and those in medical care. The extra decor on the muffs keeps their hands busy and occupied when they are, perhaps, receiving treatment which, without a distraction, might otherwise cause distress."

Up stepped long time Newton Aycliffe resident Mary Bell with a bag full of handmade goods. She is an avid crafter with a particular talent for crochet work and this is where Rotary was able to help. With a donation of wool from its charitable funds, Mary has continued her work and, today, along with Rotary Vice-President, Ruth Dawson, another batch of crocheted goods was handed to Pat who was delighted with the results, stating that such assistance to patients is immeasurable. A great result with more to come.

Photo left to right: Mary Bell, Pat Chambers and Ruth Dawson.



## An Evening of Great Success



Last Friday evening, at the Big Club, was indeed a success. Hosted by Noel Bennett, the founder of Friends of St Clare's, he introduced Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band who played a variety of music and we were entertained by the Macadam School of Dance, Lana Bennett and PowerPlay Entertainment.

Learn more about us by visiting: [friendsofstclares.uk](http://friendsofstclares.uk).

Thanks to all who helped to make it a success, including those who attended, sold tickets, performed, gave prizes and many other things.

Photographs by Len Jewett.

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Neville's Parade Community Centre, DL5 5DH

Healthy eating isn't about calorie counting, elimination diets or expensive ingredients... It's real ingredients and wiser food choices. Join like-minded people to socialise and share the experience.

Join the wellbeing team for some healthy nutrition, advice and exercise.

These sessions will be run fortnightly by Wellbeing for Life covering healthy eating and gentle exercise suitable for all abilities. The exercise session will consist of gentle exercises which aim to increase your mobility and improve your general fitness levels.

For more information contact Kevin Howe on the details below

Neville's Parade Community Centre, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5DH

Kevin Howe - 07809 342 196

kevin.howe1@nhs.net

For further information on the Wellbeing for Life service Telephone: 0300 8734387 www.wellbeingforlife.net



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## HEIGHINGTON STATION GOODS YARD BIG CLEAN-UP

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Off street parking opposite or why not hop on the train.

Questions ring 07970 600631



### CUP FINALS

#### Richmond Mavericks 1 v 5 Aycliffe Youth Seniors

The lads travelled to Richmond for the final of the league cup, playing at the oppositions home ground, but this was never a concern for this excellent group of players. From the start, Richmond played long balls to hit their forwards, who were all 6ft plus in height, but the Aycliffe defence were coping well. However, Richmond took the lead when an in-swinging corner was headed home at the near post. This didn't change the way Aycliffe were playing, as they passed their way around the midfield and defence of Richmond as Jack Mortimer and Ryan Peart both went close. Then from a corner, the ball dropped to Reed Molloy who took a touch and fired home for the equaliser, and it was all square at the break. Aycliffe opened up the 2nd half and were stretching Richmond, who were putting in a great effort, but it was only a matter of time before the goals came along. Jack Mortimer received the ball wide on the right, cut inside and from the edge of the box, curled a shot into the top left hand corner. There was only going to be one winner from this point, as Ryan Peart drove into the box and placed a low drive into the bottom corner, giving the keeper no chance. Then a heavy collision in midfield left Jon Hardy unconscious, but, after a lengthy stoppage, was able to walk off the pitch and headed straight to A&E, where he was given the ok to head home with concussion, but no serious damage. This lengthy stoppage didn't disrupt the lads and they soon added their 4th from a great passing team goal which was neatly finished by Mason Steed. On the odd occasion that Richmond did push forward, they found it difficult to get past the solid Aycliffe defence and Adam Scott in goal. The final goal capped a strong performance from Steve Dawson as he fired in the lad's 5th and final goal. This gives Aycliffe the league and cup double and they then could look towards their next final v Hetton Town.

#### Newton Aycliffe Youth Women FC 0 v 2 Darlington Spraire Ladies

First senior cup final for the ladies as they travelled to Bishop Auckland. On a warm sunny Sunday, over 150 spectators, many from Aycliffe, turned out to support the teams. Aycliffe set up, to frustrate the opposition and counter attack and it proved to be the right tactic and worked well. First half was even with both teams coming close. In the final minutes of the first half, Beth wins the ball in the box and was barged off the ball, receiving a bust lip for her efforts, everyone expected a penalty to be awarded, but the referee waived away the appeals. Half time and a single change, but the instruction was to be more attack minded and putting more pressure on the Darlo defence. Aycliffe started well, coming close on a number of occasions, at the back the defence were comfortable and were in control. Then the first blow came, a corner whipped in fell to a Spraire player, their shot was deflected past Courtney in goal, 0-1. Aycliffe continued the pressure and were having the better chances, as they pushed forward for the equaliser. Then a defensive clearance fell to a Spraire player unmarked and an unstoppable shot put the tie out of reach. The ladies kept at it but time wasn't on our side, final score 0-2. Well done to Darlington Spraire, but Aycliffe have had a cup final and back-to-back promotions, the future is looking really promising for this team. POTM, voted by the spectators, went to Sophie, a rock at the back, as were all the defenders, and she was the catalyst to a lot of our counter attacks.

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# Spring Meeting at Croft



### Croft Circuit welcomes Darlington and District Motor Club for their Spring Race Meeting this weekend (18th/19th May).

The two-day event will see seven classes consisting of a wide range of cars battle it out across the North Yorkshire track, including Caterhams, BMWs and Lotus' amongst other marques.

The popular Northern Saloon and Sports Car Championship (NSSCC) will take centre stage with races on both days as rounds three and four take place over the weekend following their first trip out of the season to Snetterton in April. Further details with all the information you need can be found at [www.croftcircuit.co.uk](http://www.croftcircuit.co.uk)

Adult advance prices for the meeting are £18 for Saturday, £33 for Sunday and £50 for a weekend ticket. Prices for 13 to 15-year-olds are priced at £6, £9 and £12 respectively and all accompanied children aged 12 and under go free.

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## Parliament Talk

Tel: 01325 790580 - Email: [paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk)

Last week I travelled to London on the Bank Holiday Monday ready for Treasury Orals on Tuesday. This is the regular session where the Treasury team take questions in the Chamber in the same format as the Prime Minister does during Prime Minister's Questions on a Wednesday lunchtime. The difference though is that there are 45 minutes of specific questions followed by 15 minutes of Topicals, these are any Treasury related questions but not pre stated on the order paper. I then met with the Treasury Ministers to discuss the Finance Bill which was entering committee stage in the House on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, I spent the morning in the Transport Select Committee as usual and then into Prime Minister's Questions before we then had an Urgent Question and two Statements before the House then converted to its Committee format and the Finance Bill was debated. The House converts to Committee when the Committee Stage of a Bill is debated on the floor of the House instead of it going to a committee room. Mr Speaker then sits in a lower chair and the Mace is removed from its place. Once this was concluded the Bill then moves to further committee stages later in the month. This is the formal process of enacting changes from the Budget. After the votes in the Chamber, I then went to meet the Secretary of State for Transport for a meeting I had arranged between him and other local Conservative MPs who wanted to be briefed on what he was doing to support the challenges Hitachi are facing. They essentially got the same face to face brief that the Unions had had when they visited.

Thursday was an important day as the Back Bench Business Committee had scheduled a debate on Miners and Mining Communities that I wanted to speak in. This debate was originally scheduled a few weeks ago but had to be rescheduled due to a compression of time due to Urgent Questions/Statements that were heavily subscribed. This time there were no Urgent Questions or Statements so there was plenty of time available and many members contributed from both sides of the House, but heavily North East biased. After this finished, I dashed for the 16.00 from Kings Cross to arrive in Darlington at 18.22 and headed directly to Hardwick Hall for the Aycliffe Business Park Make Your Mark Awards. These started at 18.30, but thankfully the main business was from 19.30 onwards, so I was just okay for time. This was a fabulous evening celebrating the amazing businesses we have on the Business Park, we have so many of all sizes and sectors and it was fantastic to see them applauded and in particular to the Businessperson of the year, Andy Reed of Senstronics and the Lifetime

Achievement Award to Ronnie Nicholson of Gestamp.

On Friday there was a community surgery at Chilton before meetings with Virgin O2 nexfibre about Aycliffe Broadband and then a catch up with Durham County Council and Transport for the North. Saturday was an amazing day that started at the Glow Centre where I joined the Eric Knows Charity and Hiyed CIC at a Space Day which is a STEM Day for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) children and their families. But, this was no ordinary Space Day! They had arranged for some of the young people to actually talk to astronauts on the International Space Station, which was an amazing thing to experience.

Whilst there I met some other groups one of which was 1st Ferryhill Scout Group, which was the one I was a member of when very young. Later in the day I went to Middleton St George Scouts to join the Lord Lieutenant and the Deputy Mayor of Darlington as they opened their new Scout Hall which had been funded by the Government's Youth Investment Fund.

Monday 13th May saw me at Hitachi for a catch up with the Unions before I headed to London as it will be Transport Orals on Thursday and I wanted to be sure I was up to date with events at the factory. Then it was the afternoon train to Westminster.

As always, if you want to get in touch, I can be contacted by phone on Aycliffe 790580, or by email on [paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk)



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## Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report



Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, lost by 86 runs at home to Richmond 2nd XI in the NYSD 2nd division. The visitors won the toss and chose to bat first and were dismissed for 144 after 33.3 overs thanks to some excellent bowling by debutant Ben Howard, who took 4 for 38 from his ten overs, Luke Telford (3 for 15) and James Layfield-Carroll (2 for 26). In reply, Aycliffe were skittled for just 58 after 21.1 overs with only Luke Telford (sponsored by JR Smith Electrical Services) reaching double figures with 19 runs from 23 balls. The club's second team were well beaten by seven wickets away at promotion candidates Yarm 1st XI in the NYSD 4th division. After being asked to bat first, on a very soft wicket, Aycliffe struggled throughout their innings and were eventually bowled out for 78 after 30.2 overs with only Dan Bowmer (18 runs) and Ramzan Hussain (18 runs) reaching double figures with the bat. In reply, Yarm hurried to victory after only 13.3 overs with Leo Stout (2 for 39) and Ramzan Hussain (1 for 10) sharing the three wickets that fell.

The ladies senior team lost their first game in the The Hambleton League when they were beaten by 47 runs at home to Northallerton. However, credit must go to Louise Jackson (sponsored by Canny Comps) who top scored in the Aycliffe innings and was then the most successful bowler, taking 3 for 9 from her three overs, when the visitors replied.

The result of the weekend was the club's U17's beating Barnard Castle away by 15 runs in the first round of the NYSD Junior Cup. Electing to bat first, Aycliffe scored a competitive 132 for 7 from their 20 overs thanks to a sensational career best score of 53 not out off just 25 balls by Ramzan Hussain (sponsored by Athena Sports Academy). His whirlwind innings included three boundaries and six sixes. Tom Dearden (35 runs off 31 balls) and Leo Stout (16 off 32 balls) also batted well for Aycliffe. In reply, the home side were restricted to 117 for 5 from their 20 overs and Hussain rounded off a fine individual performance by finishing with 2 for 19 with the ball.

The U15's were well beaten by 93 runs, at home to a very strong Darlington in the NYACC League. Darlington made 135 for 8 in their 20 overs with Aycliffe's Freddie Lawler (3 for 15) and Jack Collingwood (2 for 36) the pick of the bowlers. In reply, Aycliffe were dismissed for 42 after 13.5 overs.

The U11's put in a good performance away at Sedgefield, but still came away with a 27 run defeat in the NYACC League. Captain Harvey Palmer top scored with 10 not out and Gracie Hayman also impressed, with an unbeaten nine runs in the Aycliffe innings. When the home-side replied, Lydia Myers bowled superbly taking 2 for 10 and Harvey Palmer chipped in with 1 for 10.

*Photo of the victorious U17's team after their win, away at Barnard Castle.*



# Paul Howell

*Member of Parliament for Sedgefield*

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

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Sudoku

	4	2	1		6		3	
1			4	7				
8		5					1	
4		9						2
			7	2	9			
3						7		5
	3					9		6
				6	8			3
	8		3		1	4	2	

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Birthday Remembrance

**Peter Woodhead**

20th May  
Wishing you were here today, even for just a while. So I could say happy birthday Dad, and see your loving smile.  
All my love, Gary xxxxx

**Peter Woodhead**

20th May  
Happy heavenly birthday Dad. The only gifts today will be, the sweet memories you left behind. Your home is in our hearts.  
All our love, Mandy & John xxxx

In Memoriam

**Ann Pooley**

26.6.45 - 19.5.22  
Remembering a beautiful Wife and Soul-mate, Mam and Gran on the anniversary of your passing. Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.  
Love, Ron, Deb, Rob, Mark and Shannon xxx

Congratulations

**Joshua Alexander Joice**

23rd May  
**Happy 18th Birthday**  
Lots of love, Granny D & Grandad D xxx

**Joshua Joice**



23rd May  
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Love always, Mum and Shaun xxx

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Obituary

**William John Macmillan**

Sadly passed away, aged 87 years, on 5th May at home. Loving Husband of the late Janet. Loving Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Will be sadly missed. Funeral to be held at Coundon Crematorium on 6th June at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please.

**Jenny Ferguson**

Born 20th July 1935  
Passed away on 3rd May 2024.  
Cremation to take place at Darlington Crematorium on Wednesday 29th May at 1pm.

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# Raising Awareness in the Community



Disabilities come in many forms, some more obvious than others, but the one thing they all have in common is the challenges they can pose to the disabled person themselves, and to their carers, families and loved ones. The three guests on Sunday's show share a passion for raising people's awareness to those challenges, and the need for support of the disabled in our community. In the first hour of the show we had Sarah Wingfield, a disabilities awareness advocate who is passionate about raising people's awareness to the challenges people with disabilities face on a daily basis. Sarah is seeking people with mental health conditions and disabilities to participate in an awareness book to help with raising awareness about the struggles individuals go through via their different conditions. Contributors to Sarah's book are guaranteed anonymity, should they wish to contribute in confidence. Sarah's website is [www.magnoliaphotography.co.uk](http://www.magnoliaphotography.co.uk) and the ebook will be published and available on Amazon free of charge. A lady of many talents, Sarah is also an artist and designer and further details on her work can be found on Kawaii Doll Decora the official website! In the second half of the show we welcomed Tony and Jaci Beddard into the studio. Tony and Jaci are trustees for All Disabilities Matter, and, amongst the many topics covered, we discussed how All Disabilities Matter has grown and continues to expand with currently 1700 members in the group. The social activities provided by the support staff and volunteers include events such as monthly discos, SEND youth club and crafts, and walk in coffee afternoons, benefiting all disabilities and supporting carers, whilst providing essential volunteer support direct to those with disabilities that need it most in our community. Local businesses like The Big Club, Phoenix Club, including T&M Kitchen and Café HQ, all provide incredible support, with donations and providing their services at no charge to All Disabilities Matter, this enables us to continue to support those with incredibly complex needs in our community. Being elected as the Newton Aycliffe 'Mayors Selected Charity', and the key support from our local councillors, including our local radio community champions, really does make a huge difference, and helps us to continue to provide this vital group and support, for which all of our members are incredibly grateful.



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# Discover Durham This May

**Walk this May** - From the rolling hills of the Durham Dales, to the beautiful beaches on the Heritage Coast, there's walks for everyone to enjoy in Durham this spring. Picture yourself strolling along the River Wear, admiring the picturesque views of Durham Cathedral towering above the city skyline. Wander along sandy shores and breathe in the crisp sea air on the Durham Heritage Coast. Or, perhaps, venture into the Durham Dales, where emerald-green meadows and cascading waterfalls create a peaceful backdrop for hiking and wildlife spotting. Whether you're an avid hiker seeking rugged

trails or looking for a family-friendly shorter stroll, Durham has walks for all ages and abilities to enjoy this National Walking Month. **New Hall Opening** - Join the celebrations at Locomotion for the opening of New Hall. Get a close up view of an additional 47 vehicles, making Locomotion home to the largest undercover collection of historic railway vehicles in Europe! Enjoy music, pop-up science and more **from 25-27 May.** **MAY HALF TERM** **May Forest Club - Hardwick Park, Sedgfield** - Family Fun - Woodland play-based session. **28 May, 10:00-12:00.** **Megaslam Wrestling: 2024 Live Tour, Barnard Castle** - Children/Family events. If you are looking for spectacular family entertainment with the WOW factor, look no further than Megaslam! **28 May, 19:30.** **Peace Doves - Durham Cathedral** - Children/Family events. This summer, Durham Cathedral will welcome Peter Walker's installation - Peace Doves. **1 Apr to 20 July.** **Play with Prints - Ushaw Historic House, Chapels & Gardens, Durham** - Family Fun. Inspired by the art in our newest gallery, come and try your hand at making your own pieces of printmaking. **28 to 29 May, 10:30.** **North Pennines NatureFest: Outdoor Toddlers - Bowlees Visitor Centre, Newbiggin** - Children/Family events. Outdoor Toddlers are morning events for children under the age of five along with their parents/carers. **30 May, 10:00-12:00.** **Perfect Perfume at The Oriental Museum, Durham City** - Children/Family events. Explore our beautiful Ancient Egyptian perfume jars, make up items and jewellery. **1 June, 13:00-15:00.** **North Pennines NatureFest: Making Bug Hotels, Newbiggin** - Children/Family events. Come and help us in this family friendly session to rebuild our bug hotel at Bowlees Visitor Centre, 'Buggingham Palace' is in need of some renovation. **29 May, 14:30-16:00.** **North Pennines NatureFest: Outdoor Toddlers - Harehope Quarry, Bishop Auckland** - Children/Family events. Outdoor Toddlers are morning events for children under the age of five along with their parents/carers. **28 May, 10:00-12:00.**

**Opening Celebration: Upper Walled Garden and Faith Garden, Bishop Auckland** - Family Fun. Join us in a day of celebration! **25 May, 11:00-15:00.** **Young Creatives Art Club - The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle** - This is a chance for young artists to explore, observe, experiment and express ideas in a creative and innovative way. **1 June, 10:30-14:30.** **Makers in May - Ushaw Historic House, Chapels & Gardens, Durham** - Family Fun. Celebrate the May Half Term break here at Ushaw. **25 May to 2 June.** **Easington Colliery Band - The Living Museum of the North, Beamish** - Family Fun. Tap your foot along to the sound of Easington Colliery Band. **27 May, 14:00-16:00.** **Mythical Beasts at The Oriental Museum, Durham City** - Children/Family events. Can you spot any mythical beasts or lion dogs in our galleries? **31 May, 13:00-15:00.** **Hair Braids & Milkshakes, Lanchester** - Children/Family events. Join us for some more hair-raising fun with another helping of our Hair Braids & Milkshakes event. **29 May, 10:00-16:00.** **Family Story Tour: Curious Conversations, Barnard Castle** - Children/Family events. Let's get curious in our exciting Curiosity and Conversation Spaces. **27 & 31 May.** **Roman Army Day - Binchester Roman Fort, Bishop Auckland - Bank Holiday Weekend** - The Roman Army returns to Binchester Roman Fort to do battle against the enemy! **27 May, 10:00-16:30.** Plus much, much more.

# Newton Aycliffe-based Cogent Skills Named One of the UK's Best Employers

Cogent Skills has been recognised as one of the best places to work in the UK. The Sunday Times Best Places to Work 2024 celebrates employers who score highly in a number of areas, including happiness, pride and wellbeing among their employees. The scheme analysed 50,000 organisations globally and only recognises those with the highest ratings – and Cogent Skills has been named as one of the best medium-sized employers in the country. Employing 80 people at offices in Newton Aycliffe and Warrington, Cogent Skills is a charity that supports companies across the science-based industries (including nuclear, life sciences, chemicals, paper and coatings). Cogent reinvests financial surplus from subsidiary companies which deliver a range of skills services including apprenticeship training and employment, specialist safety training for high hazard sites and assessment services through SIAS. The company supports industries to collaborate to identify and address shared skills challenges, set standards and inspire young people to consider careers in science. It has been recognised as it scores highly across the full range of metrics: for example, 94 per cent of employees surveyed said they felt pride at being a Cogent Skills employee, 91 per cent said they had confidence in the organisation's management, and 95 per cent believe Cogent cares for their wellbeing. Cogent Skills' Chief Executive Officer, Justine Fosh, said: "We're thrilled to be named one of the best places to work in the UK. "As a purpose driven organisation, we are focussed on supporting and investing in the skills for our sector. This starts with our people and this tremendous achievement is testament to the positive culture we've built in recent years and how hard we all work to ensure our people are supported and valued. "Cogent Skills is proud to take its place among other prestigious companies on the Sunday Times Best Places to Work list 2024. We take real pride in our workforce and believe that if we take care of our people, then the business and the work we do can only flourish as a result."

# Farm-tastic Tractor Exhibition Returns to Darlington Town Centre

Head into Darlington town centre for a farm-tastic time this half term. Following a successful event last year, Tractor and Digger Day, sponsored by Lloyd Ltd, returns to Darlington Market Square on Tuesday 28th May. New Holland tractors, construction machinery and smaller agricultural equipment will be arriving in the town from 11am and will be available to explore until around 3pm. This family friendly event will give your little ones the chance to get up close to some seriously big machinery and climb in the drivers seat to learn how they are operated. Ride-on pedal tractors will also be available to let them put their new-found skills to the test, as well as small play equipment and colouring-in activities. Staff from Darlington Borough Council Children's Service will also be on-hand to offer advice and guidance to anyone interested in becoming a foster carer. David Greedy, dealer principal at Lloyd Ltd Bishop Auckland, said: "Agriculture is a really interesting and exciting industry which delivers high quality food and produce for consumers and can play a significant role in safeguarding the natural environment. Events like this give people the chance to find out more about the machinery and technology which supports UK farmers and helps to engage our local communities with the vital work they do." Cllr Chris McEwan, cabinet member for economy, Darlington Borough Council, said: "I'd like to say a massive thank you to Lloyd Ltd. for their support in making this event happen. The Borough of Darlington covers an area of almost 200 km² including rural communities across 26 civil parishes. Agriculture is an important part of our local economy and events like this help to raise awareness of this vital industry and the business and career opportunities associated with it. They also encourage footfall in the town centre which supports local retail and hospitality businesses, while helping to strengthen and unify our local community."

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# Forest Park Visit Downing Street First Win of the Season

Kerry Metcalfe and Jackie Reynolds were nominated by local MP Paul Howell as Children's Champions and attended a reception at 10 Downing Street.

They met with David Johnson OBE, the Minister for Children, to celebrate their work with children.

Kerry started child-friendly networking events in March 2023 and runs online and in-person networking events for Mums in Business (around the world) to grow their business around their kids. Her Facebook group has almost 4,000 members worldwide. Kerry said, "Downing Street was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me and will always be my professional highlight. Having this opportunity has proved to me how important it is to continue growing this community and providing as much support as possible."

Jackie is the Head Teacher at the new



Forest Park School facility, based on

Aycliffe Business Park. A 30-place secondary special school, opening this September, for young people with a primary need of ASD. Jackie has worked with her team to provide an award-winning environment where they aim to develop a highly effective, personalised learning community, where everyone is treated with dignity, respect and is of equal worth. "I am so thankful to Paul for his support and all the work he does to help the local community, we had a fantastic time at Downing Street and are so grateful for the experience."

**The Forest Park School are holding an Open Day on Saturday the 15th of June, from 10am until 2pm**, where you can have a tour of the school, meet the staff and discuss what they offer, to book your places for the open day, please visit the website and book through the 'contact us today' form. [www.forestparkschool.co.uk/contact-us](http://www.forestparkschool.co.uk/contact-us)

Sedgefield Water Polo Club held our first home U14 league match of the season on Saturday 13th April against Rotherham Metro.

The game got off to an exciting start thanks to goals from Thomas and Indie, but then Rotherham fought back to end the quarter 2-1.

Another goal from Thomas was followed

by two from Harry to give an impressive 5-1 lead by half time. Following on from a team talk at half time, the team were determined to maintain their lead for the rest of the game. Strengthened by the fantastic support from the crowd on the balcony, goals were scored by Indie and Harry in the first two minutes of the third quarter, making the score an amazing 7-1. Rotherham then found their strength to fight back, scoring one goal in the third quarter and another three in the final quarter, with Sedgefield struggling to get any further goals past the Rotherham goalkeeper. The final score was 7-5 to Sedgefield; an excellent win and a great start to the season for the young team, who played their final match under the guidance of head coach Adam Woods who is leaving the club to pursue new ventures. 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.



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