

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper, published on the first and third Friday of each month.
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Young Women into Film Careers



On Friday 7th March, for International Women's Day, the young women in our GCSE Film Studies class visited the Northern School for Art for a unique day of workshops and careers event, in partnership with The Young Women's Film Academy (YWFA). This special event was designed to inspire and empower females in secondary schools who are interested in careers within the film, TV and digital media industries. Our students took part in hands-on film making and creative workshops led by industry professionals, a talk and tour of the fantastic industry standard facilities at the Northern School of Art, and an exclusive Industry Q&A Panel with successful women in the screen industries. The whole day was an incredible opportunity for our students to gain valuable industry insights, build creative skills and connect with professionals who are making an impact in the field.

Aycliffe Street Food Market Returns



The Aycliffe Street Food Market is making a return, bringing global flavours, local craft beers, and free, family-friendly entertainment to Aycliffe Town Centre every month. Based on visitor feedback, and to better align with the Town Centre's programme of events, the market will now take place every first Friday of the month. Kicking off on Friday 4th April, these vibrant outdoor events are set to be a monthly highlight, April to October, driving footfall into the town and boosting community spirit.

Due to the success of the markets last year, visitors can once again expect an exciting mix of street food vendors serving flavours from around the world, live performances, and free community activities, all designed to support local businesses and create a welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors alike.

Michael Webstell, Producer at Bacchanalia, said "As we launch this year's markets, we remain committed to supporting local food producers, businesses and artists. Our mission is to help drive footfall to town centres and foster a sense of pride in the communities we work with. Alongside an incredible variety of street food, we're excited to bring a free entertainment programme for families each month. We hope the community continues to support us in making Newton Aycliffe an outdoor market destination."

Bacchanalia extends a huge thanks to Aycliffe Town Centre for their ongoing support in making this market possible. We are delighted to be part of their events programme, which includes powerful campaigns such as the Knife Angel coming to the town for the whole month of June.

St. Francis' Eco Warriors



Schools up and down the country are already taking action to reduce their carbon impact. St Francis C of E Junior School has become part of a community of ambitious, forward-thinking schools all aiming for a better, fairer, zero carbon future. Recently signing a pledge to join a network of 4,000+ schools to go zero

carbon by 2030. This pledge will help them contribute to significant national emission reductions, empower the next generation to respond to the climate crisis and highlight aspects to their school community about how they could reduce emissions themselves.



Next Edition:
 Friday 4th
 April

KidzFlicks

'Paddington in Peru' will be the April movie at KidzFlicks. Come along on Saturday 5th April with family and friends and watch the story of this funny little bear.

When Paddington discovers his beloved aunt has gone missing from the Home for Retired Bears, he and the Brown family head to the jungles of Peru to find her. Determined to solve the mystery, they soon stumble across a legendary treasure as they make their way through the rainforests of the Amazon.

Doors open at 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start and admission is only £1. We have a good selection of sweets and treats to keep everyone happy, including ice creams, during the interval and a lucky prize give-away at the end - what's not to like?

St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe - all are welcome (under 5's need an adult with them), ran by the youth / children's team.

Vote Wisely

Dear Sir,
Once again we will go to the polls for the County and Town Council, whilst I am not telling the readers how to vote, I would like to say, use your vote wisely and vote for a candidate who both represents your views and is a local resident. The last County election showed that we had councillors from Sedgfield.

Please also be aware that the County Divisions have changed to Aycliffe North and Aycliffe South.

The old Aycliffe West has gone and is now part of the South Division.

Residents need to be voting for people who are accessible and hold surgeries, so that people can bring issues or concerns to them. Look for candidates who can make the town better.

Name and address supplied.

Long & Dedicated Service



Cllr Eddy Adam was being modest last week when he announced he was not standing for re-election.

I have known Eddy since about 1975. In 1976, he and I put forward some motions regarding Sedgfield District Council and some of its corrupt practices, we lost the first vote by one, but won the second and from that moment on, Eddy and I launched a wave of reform in the Labour Party which swept all before it. The pages of history turn on small hinges. In the 1983 Town Council Elections, Eddy and I, and his wife Julie, were all elected at the age of 24/25 in West Ward 1, when we took control. Moderate and progressive. We both had full heads of hair too, time can be so cruel. Eddy has served over 26 years on Great Aycliffe Town Council, as well as 12 years on Durham County Council. We had our ups and downs, as is the nature of politics, over the years, but, where we disagreed, we always agreed to disagree without being disagreeable. The public interest was always first and foremost.

Eddy was always there at the forefront with me, rock solid, integrity, ability and dedicated solely to the public interest, not self or party. I well understand Eddy's reasons for not standing again, however, personally, I will miss his knowledge, experience and wisdom from the Council Chamber as will the Council. Despite Eddy being Labour and I Independent, we very worked closely for the betterment of our community. I wish him and Julie well for the future and personally, as well as, no doubt the whole Council, thank him for his tireless service to the people of Newton Aycliffe.

Another long standing Councillor Ian Gray (Labour), is also stepping down, Ian will continue to lead the Great Aycliffe Tidy Team, as well as his many other works on the environment, but again, I would thank him for his public service and dedication.

Cllr Arun Chandran.

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01325 300212
or paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Sugar Hill RotaKids in the Community



Recently, during bird nesting box week, members of Rotary Newton Aycliffe and Sugar Hill RotaKids met with staff of Great Aycliffe Town Council with a nest box project in mind. The pupils set off to walk, from school, the short distance to a small wooded area near Neville Parade. Along the route, Steve Cooper, from Great Aycliffe Town Council, organised a litter pick and the result was five bags of rubbish cleared from our streets by the RotaKids. When we arrived at the woodland site, Steve gave a short talk on the importance of taking care of our wildlife, then great fun was had choosing trees for the nest boxes. Many thanks to James from Great Aycliffe Town Council for his assistance in safely hanging the boxes and to Steve for leading the project on our behalf. Special thanks also to Deputy Head, Kathy Legge, for her guidance. A great time was had by all and we are so proud of our RotaKids.

Four Years for Tidy Team

Great Aycliffe Tidy Team have been litter picking, around town, since the 10th of March 2021. During the Calendar Year of 2024, we performed 48 tasks, twice we were stopped by heavy rain. We mainly litter pick on the Town Council walkways and around the Parks and Play Areas. The Team have also planted trees and have done some cutting back of bushes on the walkways. Some of the Team have worked with other Groups, including Schools. We find some interesting articles around Town, parts of cars and motorbikes, which the Town Council can weigh in for scrap. Another item, that we find in the hedgerows, is undelivered plastic Charity bags. I would like to thank the members of the Tidy Team, some, like myself, have been in from the start. Also thank you to the Town Council for supplying the sacks and litter grabs. Another thank you to the Town Council workforce for removing the rubbish. Ian Gray.

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Aycliffe Juniors Soar to New Heights

Aycliffe Juniors have been extremely busy over these past months. After finishing off a very successful couch to 5K training schedule, where family members were all welcome to take part. It was finally time to say goodbye to them and resume normal training for the upcoming season. A huge well done to everyone who took part. The U11's took part in the annual County Durham Indoor Sportshall Competition, contesting for their place in the County finals representing Durham. Several of the juniors gained their place and joined the older U13 and U15's joining the squad for County Durham. Elijah McLuckie completed a major milestone with his 100th park run, many members of the junior club joined him at Sedgfield Junior Park Run on his journey, to cheer him on. Well done Elijah!



On Sunday 2nd March, the juniors, who qualified to represent County Durham, all took part in the regional Sportshall final, against tough competition from both North and West Yorkshire. Battling to secure an excellent second place. Well done everyone, great to see you joining forces with other local clubs to become one County Durham team! Sunday 2nd March was also the North East Indoor Championships where Elizabeth Clay was the only junior from Aycliffe to compete. Taking on the 60m against some strong athletes. Pulling a PB in her heats and gaining confidence, pulled another PB in the semi-finals to secure her spot in the Final and pulling another PB in the final to take Bronze Medal and podium place. Superb performance Elizabeth. Looking very competitive for the start of the outdoor T&F season.

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Sedgefield Water Polo Club Promoted to Div 1



Sedgefield Water Polo Club, based in Newton Aycliffe, has made history by earning promotion to Division 1 of the British Water Polo League (BWPL). This remarkable achievement marks their fourth consecutive promotion since the men's team was formed in 2021. The club, which represents a small community, now stands among the elite teams in British water polo, with the opportunity to compete for European qualification in the upcoming season.

A Remarkable Journey to the Top
 Sedgefield's journey began in Division 5 just four seasons ago, and their rapid rise through the leagues has been nothing short of extraordinary. From early struggles in their debut season to securing crucial signings, such as Ben Stephenson and John Pratt, the club has continuously strengthened its squad. Each season, they have faced and overcome tougher competition, culminating in their latest success in Championship 1, where a five-game winning streak secured their spot in the top division.

Local Talent Driving Success
 One of the most notable aspects of Sedgefield's success is its commitment to homegrown talent. Of the 23 players who have represented the club, 21 hail from within 15 miles of their Newton Aycliffe base, with all beginning their water polo journeys at Sedgefield. Unlike many other clubs, that rely on players from across the country, Sedgefield's team is built on local pride and camaraderie, a key factor in their impressive performances.

Overcoming Challenges
 Despite their success, Sedgefield faces unique challenges. The club trains in a shallow-deep pool, whereas competitive matches are played in fully deep pools, making their rise to the top even more impressive. Additionally, the men's national league team trains just once a week, with the club remaining heavily focused on junior development. However, their strong team spirit and unwavering determination have propelled them to remarkable heights.

Looking Ahead
 As they prepare for their debut season in Division 1, Sedgefield will face some of the biggest names in British water polo, including Manchester and Cheltenham. The success of the Sedgefield national league team is something that should provide huge pride for everyone in Newton Aycliffe, Sedgefield and the surrounding area. The success of the club is a testament to what can be achieved when likeminded people put their mind to something and stick together when things get tough. A town the size of Newton Aycliffe with a team in the top division of a British sports league is something that should be celebrated and Sedgefield will hope to continue to punch above their weight in the coming years.

Shanty Singers



Our thanks to Chris, Michael, Helen and Joan, from the Auckland Shanty Singers, for helping to create an interesting and enjoyable show on Sunday 9th March.

Lively conversations with some rousing rail shanties and work songs thrown in for good measure, with a mini video clip, posted on the show's Facebook page, proving to be very popular.

Phill & Andy
 Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.

The County Council of Durham
 (Public Rights of Way, Footpath Number 8 and Bridleway Number 10, Great Aycliffe Parish, Forrest Park, Aycliffe)
 (Temporary Public Rights of Way Closure)
 Order 2025

The County Council of Durham and pursuant to Section 101 of The Local Government Act 1972 Darlington Borough Council proposes to make an Order under Section 14(1) of The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, to prohibit all traffic from proceeding on the following lengths of footpath and bridleway. **Footpath closure Footpath Number 8, Great Aycliffe Parish:** An 820 metre length that extends generally south westward from the road A167. **Bridleway closure Bridleway Number 10, Great Aycliffe Parish:** A 1.04 kilometre length that extends southwards from the east-west section of Footpath Number 11, south of the Industrial Estate to Bridleway 4, Coatham Mundeville Parish at the county boundary to enable new site development works to be undertaken. Alternative routes will be signed on site during the works, once available. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence on Monday 14/4/2025 and are required for the duration of the works. On occasions, alternative dates for the closure may be necessary and these will be signed on site accordingly.

DATED: 21/3/2025

Durham County Council

Helen Bradley
 Director of Legal & Democratic Services
 County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL

The County Council of Durham
 (Greenfield and Meadowfield Ways, Newton Aycliffe)
 (Temporary Road Closure)
 Order 2025

The Council proposes to make an Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, to prohibit all vehicular traffic from proceeding on the following lengths of road. **Greenfield Way**, a 470 metre length that extends south westerly from the south western access to the garage/car valeting establishment. **Meadowfield Way**, a 50 metre length extending south from Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe to enable carriageway resurfacing works to be undertaken. An alternative route will be available to vehicular traffic from the north eastern side of the closure, from Middridge Road/Greenfield Way south easterly on Burn Lane, south westerly on Burnhill Way to the junction with Meadowfield Way, or continuing south westerly then northerly and north westerly onto Greenfield Way, to the south western side of the closure and vice versa. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence on Saturday 12/4/2025 and are anticipated to be completed in 16 days (daily between 7am-7pm). On occasions, alternative dates for the closure may be necessary and these will be signed on site accordingly.

DATED: 21/3/2025

Durham County Council

Helen Bradley
 Director of Legal & Democratic Services
 County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL

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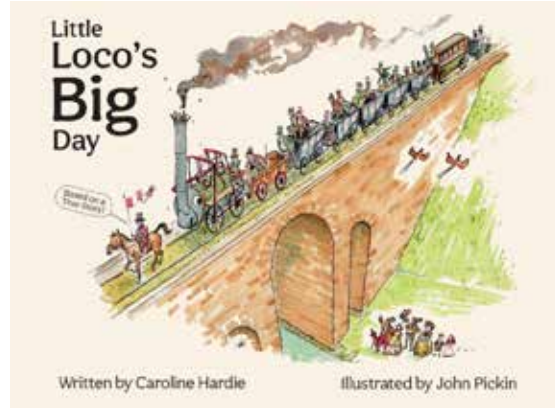
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Little Loco Goes to School

As part of the many exciting events taking place this year to celebrate 200 years since the start of the modern railway with the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, County Councillors in Durham have joined forces with the Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway to give primary school children a treat.

Each child in schools located along the old railway line will be given a free copy of Little Loco's BIG Day written by local archaeologist Caroline Hardie and illustrated by fellow archaeologist John Pickin. This beautifully illustrated tale from the rails is about the opening of the pioneering Stockton & Darlington Railway on the 27th September 1825 and features Little Loco and her friends Herald the Horse, Wonky Waggon, George the Genius and Talented Timothy.

A special dedication at the beginning will encourage the next generation to be the bold, enterprising innovators of the future and help change the world for the better. Each participating school will also receive a visit from the author who will not only read from the book, but run a series of Little Loco activities that help tell the inspiring story of S&DR. Quotes from Councillors:



Councillor Jim Atkinson (Aycliffe East): 'We are delighted and proud to share the story of the start of the modern railway in our region with our younger generation. This tale is about innovation, it is about pioneering engineering, it is about overcoming obstacles and about taking risks for the benefit of your community. The story of the Stockton & Darlington Railway is an inspiration to all of us and hopefully by providing this book and the activities in the schools, we can help create a generation of County Durham children who are our future pioneers and innovators.'

Aycliffe Fell Walkers

Aycliffe Fell Walking Club enjoyed a beautiful clear day last Saturday 8th March, as 42 walkers visited sections of the coastal path from Alnmouth to Seahouses. The views across to the Farne Islands from these beaches, harbours and Dunstanburgh Castle, were amazing and the path was easy to navigate as the route follows the St Oswald's Way throughout. Indeed, one group of six walkers opted to start from Beadnell and continue north and slightly inland after Seahouses to visit Bamburgh, admire the Castle and the delightful calm of the views across Budle Bay. They were not disappointed as they stayed on the coastpath all the way down to Seahouses. Many enjoyed the superb fish and chips (they always taste better at the seaside!) as well as the hospitality of Seahouse's local ale houses. AFWC is a friendly club who like to help the local communities wherever we visit.





The next walk is in the Lakes with walks from Thirlmere to Keswick. The five main routes chosen range from 7-14 miles in length and offer lowland routes, as well as modest and more challenging climbs. Please look at the website aycliffefellwalkingclub.com for further details or if you are interested in joining us. Annual membership of £10 runs from January to December with each walk outing costing £15 to cover the cost of the coach. We look forward to your interest.


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The Hog Blog!

I can't express how grateful I am to everyone who has supported this rescue, firstly Trevor for dropping off a very generous donation, to Donella, Wally, Wendy and Mandy of Grannies Choice, Julia and everyone who has participated with my scratch card, Angie, Gemma, Jackie and John, the list is endless.



We have had a lot of positive interest in the house, so I would like to take the opportunity to thank Russell, Claire and Ellie for being amazing, I strongly recommend them. When we move I will benefit greatly by not having to circumnavigate stairs, also a proper environment for the hedgehogs, I really love these beautiful mammals and I aim to provide them with the very best in comfort and care, it will also make my life easier too.

All the hedgehogs in rescue are ok, doing well too, however, releasing is not going to happen anytime soon so, with daily cleaning and monitoring, I can determine which ones are getting stressed due to captivity, it's been a question of acting if need be.

I would also like to thank Angela, Ed, Riccardo, Giorgio and Elaine of Grange Vets. They furnish me with some really life saving meds. However, there is one hoggie here that is extremely stubborn and won't unball to take his meds, he was brought in by Kim from School Aycliffe, he is definitely a first, he has come to me to get better and is ok now, it's a real battle, which I win. Here he is at nearly 1000 grams. He is beautiful, isn't he?

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society are still taking calls on 01584 890801. My Facebook page is Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel or email: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com

School Aycliffe Community Association

Date for your diary:

Coffee, Cake & Stuff will be held on Thursday 3rd April (slightly out of sync because of Easter), from 11.00am to 2.00pm.

Please come and join us at our popular monthly Coffee, Cake & Stuff where we will be selling our gorgeous homemade sweet and savoury bakes and you will also have the opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours. Please contact Elizabeth on 07813 523050 or Christine on 07981 992686 for more details. We look forward to seeing you there. Chris and Elizabeth.

Aycliffe Senior Football News

Newton Aycliffe Youth Seniors 5 v Shildon Railway 1

Aycliffe handed a debut to summer signing Nile Rutter after his recovery from injury and also had a bench low on numbers but, possibly, with the most quality they have had also season. Aycliffe started brightly creating a couple of half chances, before a ball through to Rutter saw him round the keeper and slot home. Some great link up play between the two forwards and Niall Douglas slotted.

This was quickly followed by Rutter's second following some pin ball in the Shildon box. At the other end, the Aycliffe defence was limiting Shildon to speculative shots and long-range efforts. With ten minutes to go 'til half time, Rutter was played in, again he steadied himself and, just as it looked like a hat trick on debut, he saw his shot fly back off the bar. HT 3-0.

Into the second half, Jordan Wintersgill and Niall Douglas linked up, to send Richard Murray through, but he was brought down, penalty. Rutter stepped up and put it away for a debut hat trick. The lads created a few more half chances before Shildon dragged a goal back. Then, Charlie Welsh went on a run beating four Shildon players before his shot was saved. However, five minutes later, he was set away again and this time he tucked home Aycliffe's fifth of the game. Brilliant performance from all the lads and it's been coming, they need to take this into the remaining games and they will have a strong finish to the season.

MOM: Nile Rutter, but it could have gone to many of the lads with Duane Davidson, Mason Steed and Charlie Welsh all having their best games of the season.

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Sunday, 20th April 2025

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Bad Parking

Dear Sir,
I speak for all the residents who live near The Courts as we are absolutely sick of ignorant people with no respect for residents and their ability to park and blocking us in.
Don't get me wrong, a few are okay, we have tried for over twenty years to get residential parking, councillors telling us they would help, but then they send people round to inspect the issue on a Sunday!
All the grass is ruined and, if we can't get parked on our own drive, we have to park there to.
There are other areas in the town where it's been granted for residential parking, when they have to pay to park, it's appalling.
When members of your family are ill and coming home from hospital and can't get access into their own home, having to walk around non residential cars, it is not good enough - there is enough parking in the town, please just take a second - you wouldn't like it would you?
Name and address supplied.

Fibromyalgia?

Struggling with Fibromyalgia and feeling alone in the journey?
Pop along to the brand new Fibro Peer support group on Friday 4th April from 10am to 11.30am at Gilpin Court Community Lounge, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 5EN.
Hosted by Wellbeing for Life, this will be a safe, supportive space where you can connect, share and find real understanding from others attending. Refreshments will be available.
No need to book, just pop along. For further details contact Jules Howe on 07809 342192.

Mother's Day Remembrance

As you may be aware, Mothering Sunday is just round the corner, on Sunday 30th March. Meynell & Mason Funeral Directors would like to invite you along on Monday 24th March at 10.00am to our branch on Stephenson Way, Newton Aycliffe, to remember your loved ones and place their names on our 'Memory Tree' in their honour.
We will also be serving refreshments and all are welcome.

Aycliffe Beekeepers' Association Training News (5th and 6th April, 2025)

Association Trainers Chris, Roger and Tony are delivering a training course on **'The Basics of Beekeeping'** aimed at complete beginners.

This introduction to beekeeping will take place over the weekend of **5th and 6th April** at **Neville Parade Community Centre** and costs £60.00.

Practical skills will be developed at our St. Oswald's Apiary at the next available opportunity.

If you would like more information about this training, please contact our training officer Tony on: training.aycliffebka@gmail.com or by phone/text: 07905 190701

Working for the Benefit of All



It has been my great privilege to have been elected to represent Aycliffe since 2017 until last year. First as a County Councillor and then as your Member of Parliament. I would love to continue this and I am therefore standing as your Conservative candidate in the newly formed ward of Aycliffe South.

I hope you have seen my commitment to the town in both these roles, particularly as your MP where I tried hard to be available and accessible to everyone. I had my office open on the town within a couple of months of being elected and once we were past Covid I ran open surgeries at various venues across the town.

Probably the best part of being MP was the opportunity to meet and support so many great people in our community and we have so many doing amazing things like Community Spirit and Junction 7, or bringing people together like Rotary and the WI, not forgetting the many sports groups that do so much to help both young and old mix and feel better about themselves.

I am now doing my best to support organisations on the town like Lifeline Community Action; 5 Acres and the Scout Centre where I am fully engaged and, if elected, would continue to reach to these and others.

Aycliffe South is a large ward with different communities, both those in the town and those in Aycliffe Village and School Aycliffe, as MP I was able to engage with them all. An important part of the Aycliffe South ward though is the industrial estate and its many businesses. Having had a career in local manufacturing companies I understand their needs and as MP I got to understand the importance of politicians working together to support them. With a North East Mayor based on Tyneside we need our voice to be heard.

I am proud that, when as your Councillor, I worked cross party for Aycliffe and, as your MP, I regularly worked with MP's from different parties to support the north east. Whilst Party politics happen at elections, I believe the rest of the time we need to work with everyone for the benefit of all and, as it is possible that Durham will have a Joint Administration again after 1st May we need elected Members who will cooperate with each other. I will be out and about campaigning over the next few weeks and if you would like to contact me please email: paul.howell.aycliffesouth@gmail.com Paul Howell, Former MP for Sedgfield.

Successful Season Start for Scarlet

Scarlet Whitaker Dunn had a successful start of season test day on Saturday at Teesside Autodrome on her MS Junior, twin engine Pro-Kart, with the new Carbon Arc Training and Consultancy livery. This kart is quite a contrast from what she raced last year in that it has more power due to the twin Honda GX200 engines and more grip from its wider wheels and tyres.



For the last two years, Scarlet has been racing in the highly competitive Honda Cadet 200cc class, but has relished the opportunity to step up to a bigger and faster kart. Scarlet managed many laps (over 80 laps) throughout the test day putting in some very quick lap times.

"I love driving the Pro-Kart, especially the better brakes and more power, which I find is very responsive and easier to drive, I thoroughly enjoyed the test day and look forward to getting back out again soon," said Scarlet. "I was really impressed with how Scarlet got to grips with her Pro-Kart, especially considering it's over 4 months since she was last on track," said Mam, "It was clear to see Scarlet loved driving this kart."

We would like to thank Amaron Racing, PHM (Peninsula Historic Motorsport), Carbon Arc Training and Consultancy, Grandad Ron and Rob Storey for their generous assistance and financial support, making this possible.

To support Scarlet in her journey email: mail@amandawhitaker.com



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MP's Update

E: alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk

I was pleased to receive such strong support from local residents for my recent column on the steps being taken to defend our country. Our community includes many proud veterans and serving armed forces personnel. I'm proud to support those who serve our country in uniform. The big increase in defence spending will make our country and our allies safer and provide an important boost to businesses across our country. I've been advocating for the cutting-edge, small defence companies we have in Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor. I'm pleased that a new contract system will be set up by the new Labour Government, making it easier for small businesses to work with the Ministry of Defence. I'm hopeful this will mean more work for local businesses and lead to more well-paid jobs and training opportunities right in our community.

Improving access to secure and rewarding work, is a top priority for me. I was pleased this week to vote for new laws which will mean that employees can't be fired without good reason and will have better rights to proper sick pay and paternity leave. People working on unpredictable zero-hour contracts will also be entitled to guaranteed hours with a proper work contract. These new rights will give better work security to local people - allowing families to plan for the future without worrying about missing out on pay through illness or unexpected cuts to their hours.

I was proud to speak in the House of Commons about the upcoming 200-year anniversary of the Darlington and Stockton Railway. This will celebrate the first ever commercial passenger train journey which ran between Shildon and Stockton. I've been working with local businesses and campaigners to help plan the celebrations for this fantastic global anniversary. I also talked about my campaign to restore Heighington Station in Aycliffe - a stop on the original line, thought to be the oldest train station in the world! It's currently not in the state it should be and I'm pushing for funding to restore the station to its former glory in time for the anniversary celebrations later in the year. As you may know, I've been campaigning to ensure that the Commonwealth War Graves of three local veterans, at Quarrington Hill Graveyard, are properly cared for. It's so important that we stand up for those who have served our country and make sure that the resting places of brave fallen soldiers are treated with dignity and respect. I visited the graves with the UK Director of the Commonwealth War Graves Association, as well as local community leaders, to push for action after years of failure. I also had the pleasure recently of visiting Spennymoor Fire Station to learn more about the work they are doing in our community. It was good to see the additional measures they take to protect our area. I was particularly impressed by the Fire Service's use of AI to better assess and analyse risks in our area. In my constituency, I held an advice surgery for local residents to discuss various issues and explore how I can assist them. Since becoming an MP, my office has handled over 2,500 cases. If you would like to schedule an appointment at a surgery to discuss an issue affecting you, please contact me at alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk

Artistic Touch

Sunday 16th March show was definitely both creative and artistic, in more ways than one. Our guests were local published author, Bev Walton and local artist and graphic designer, Dan Walls.

Bev talked to us about the ideas and hard work that goes into creating and publishing your story as a book. Some of Dan's work is on display in the studio and he will be sharing with us where he gets his inspiration from for his commissioned work and wall art.

Around Town on Aycliffe Radio with Phill and Andy every Sunday from 10am to 12.00 noon. Phill & Andy, Around Town.



BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow at Woodham

Woodham Academy recently hosted the 2025 BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow; an event designed to inspire and guide students in their career aspirations. The roadshow, part of a nationwide tour, aims to provide secondary school students with valuable insights into various career paths and the skills needed to succeed in the modern workforce.

The event featured interactive sessions led by experienced BBC presenters, who were joined by local professionals from diverse industries including Forestry England, the BBC and Svtizer Marine. These professionals shared their career journeys, discussed relevant qualifications, and offered advice on work experience and essential soft skills. The sessions were highly engaging, with students actively participating in Q&A segments, asking questions about the panellists' careers and seeking guidance on their own future paths. Woodham Academy's commitment to providing outstanding careers education was evident throughout the event. The school's Careers Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance (CEIAG) programme, which follows the Gatsby Benchmarks, ensures that all students are well-prepared for their future.



The BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow has become a flagship event, supporting secondary school students across the UK in their career endeavours. This year's tour, running from September 2024 to January 2025, aims to visit over 125,000 students, making a significant impact on the next generation of professionals.

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April 26th/27th
 750 Motor Club Car Race Meeting
May 10th
 Croft Classic to Modern Motor Show
May 31st/June 1st
 No Limits Motorcycle Club Race Meeting
June 14th/15th
 BARC TCR Car Race Meeting
June 28th/29th
 BARC Caterham Racing Weekend
July 12th/13th
 British Racing & Sports Car Club Race Meet
August 2nd/3rd
 Kwik Fit Touring Car Championship Meeting
August 23rd/24th
 Motor Club Battle of Britain Race Meeting
September 6th/7th
 British Racing & Sports Car Club Car Race Meeting MG Fest North
September 20th/21st
 750 Motor Club Car Race Meeting
October 18th/19th
 MSVR Car Race Meeting
December 7th
 Jack Frost Stages Rally.

Birthday Remembrance

Dorothy Clark
 19th March
 Happy birthday.
 Always love you.
 Barrie
Passed away on 23rd July 2023

Grant Edgar
 27th March
Happy Birthday Son
 Since the day you got your wings Son, I have never been the same.
 Love you Grant, until we meet again.
 Love, Mam, Paul and all the family xxx

Amanda Susan Renwick



Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. You are forever in our hearts.
 Love and miss you, Mam, Dad, Cara and all your family.

In Memoriam

Frank Swinburne
 Happy Heavenly birthday wishes for 18th March.
 Died 24th March 2013. Loved and missed by all your family xxx

Mother's Day Remembrance

Jenny Tarvit
Happy Mother's Day to my very special Mam
 I would give the world to hug you again.
 Love and miss you every day.
 With love from your Kaff, Martin and family xxxx

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?


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

Tel: Paul 01325 300212
 or paul@newtonnews.co.uk

In Memoriam

Barbara Reeder (nee Jackson)
 On 28th February, peacefully in hospital following a long illness, Barbara, aged 84 years.
 Dearly loved Wife of Allan; cherished Mam to Mark and David; beloved Mother-in-Law to Doreen and a dear Sister to Trevor and Sister-in-Law to Pamela.
 Will be deeply missed by Diane, Ellen, Connor, Ivy and all family and friends.
 Funeral service to take place on Monday 24th March at 12.30pm in Wear Valley Crematorium, all invited.
 Family flowers only please, donations, in lieu, to the Alzheimer's Society. Donation box at crematorium.

In Loving Memory of
Adele Allen
 7/9/1957-21/3/2022



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

Acknowledgement

Marjorie



Many thanks to friends and neighbours for their support on the passing of Marjorie. Anne & Mel Harland and family.

Obituary

Anthony Ernest Hall (Tony)
 Peacefully in Aycliffe Care Home on 8th March 2025, aged 90 years.
 A loving Husband to Glenda; much loved Father of Gail, Shirley, Deborah, Donna and Anthony; beloved Grandad of Simon, Laura, Jason, Bianca, Adam, Marc, Wayne, Carla, Harry, Evie and the late Lea; a much loved Great Grandad, Uncle and a good friend to many.
 Funeral on Tuesday 1st April 2025. Would friends please meet at 2pm for a service at Darlington Crematorium.
 Family flowers only please. Donations, if so desired, to Aycliffe Care Home.

Roger McNeal
 February 13th
 Peacefully in hospital with his loving family at his side, Roger, of Newton Aycliffe, aged 84 years.
 Devoted Husband to Joan; a loving and much loved Dad to Andrew, Sarah, Angela and Teresa; a beloved Grandad and Great Grandad.
 Would family and friends please meet for service at The Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Wednesday 2nd April at 2.30pm.
 Family flowers only please. Donations in memory of Roger may be left at the Crematorium for The British Heart Foundation.
 Following the service, all are welcome to join the family for refreshments at The Phoenix Club, Newton Aycliffe.

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Eric Hargreaves
 We would like to make people aware that a service to celebrate the life of Eric Hargreaves will take place on Friday 4th April at 10.15am in St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe.
 All are warmly welcome to attend, come as you are, no need for dark clothes at Ric's request.
 A shared time to reminisce will take place directly after the service and, once again, all are welcome to attend, in the Church Hall with food and drinks.

Les Biggins
 Passed away on 2nd March 2025, Les, aged 83 years.
 Dearly loved Husband of Kath; much loved Dad of Paul and Sharon; a dear Father-in-Law to John and Charlotte and a treasured Grandad to Luke.
 Funeral service took place on Wednesday 19th March at 12.30pm in Wear Valley Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request.

John Hodgson
 Of Newton Aycliffe. Passed away peacefully on 26th February, aged 88 years.
 Dearly beloved Husband to Jean; a much loved Dad of Gail and Wayne; a dear Father-in-Law and Grandad.
 John's funeral was held on Friday 21st March 2025.
 The family would like to express their sincere thanks to friends and family for messages and cards of condolence received. To Rose Lodge Care Home for the care they gave to John and to Co-op Funeralcare, Newton Aycliffe for the dignity and care given to John and the family during the arrangements.

PUZZLE CORNER

Sudoku

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6		4			2			
			9		7	6		
9						2	4	

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Canalathon Ultra Marathon Runner

Dear Sir,
 My name is Michael Thompson and I will be running the 100k (62 mile) Canalathon Ultra Marathon for the men's mental health charity Manhealth. This is held on Sunday 30th March from Sowerby Bridge to Manchester and back along the Rochdale Canal.
 My first Ultra Marathon was back in April 2016 and I have been doing them every other year (apart from 2020, due to Covid). Whilst I have just moved into Newton Aycliffe, last summer, my ultra training always went along the railway path from Shildon and usually into Shildon. This year I have run past my previous home near Raby Castle in Teesdale.
 I have been through a few mental struggles myself, looking after my father during Covid, when he stopped in bed and his legs weakened, I also looked after my brother who has learning difficulties and maintained an acre of land, then moving out when he died and more beside, before eventually moving to Newton Aycliffe.
 Completing these events for men's mental health charities, and therefore learning about suicide, has definitely helped. Suicide is the

biggest single killer of men under 50 and over 75% of suicides are men.
 Manhealth supports men through their mental and physical health, ultimately preventing suicide. While other charities do great work, Manhealth has many groups in the area and the Newton Aycliffe group is held on a Tuesday evening from 6-8pm in the Youth & Community Centre on Burn Lane, DL5 4HT.
 If you would like to sponsor me the link is:
manhealth.enthuse.com/pf/michael-thompson
 Photo: After Glasgow to Edinburgh Ultra 2016.



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Heighington Matters

Broadband
 Many residents have received a letter from OpenReach, offering an opportunity to upgrade their broadband speeds by visiting their website and signing up for the deal. Over 65% of residents have already contacted OpenReach and completed the simple forms. However, I have received emails and been stopped in the street with questions about its authenticity and concerns about the website's functionality. Having been closely involved with a similar scheme in the western villages of my Ward, I can assure you that it is worth signing up, as the new system will use fibre directly to your home.
 To register, simply visit the OpenReach website, 'Connect My Community'. Enter your postcode, and a message will confirm if your area is eligible for the upgrade. If your house is included, enter your address and submit the form. You will then be registered. Once OpenReach reaches their target, a second message will be sent to you, asking you to pledge your acceptance of the improved speed. This will generate a £4500 contribution towards the overall cost of the upgrade. There is usually a short planning period for OpenReach to organise the installation and notify householders of the work schedule.
 This is a great scheme, offering significantly improved broadband speeds at no cost to residents. It will also provide a confident answer when prospective buyers inquire about broadband speeds in your area
Walworth Road Housing Estate
 Despite numerous inquiries to Darlington Borough Council (DBC) regarding the start and completion times for the outstanding work on Walworth Road and the estate entrance, there is still no definite date from Bellways. I apologise for the umpteenth time. I will continue to ask the question, and I'm sure DBC will keep pursuing the matter. It is difficult for me to understand the delay and why DBC cannot insist on a start date.

Brafferton – Ashcourts Land Fill Site
 Recently, I organised a meeting with Ashcourt, the Environment Agency (EA), and the residents of Brafferton. During the meeting, Ashcourt presented a report, and the EA provided information on the emissions from the site over a period of time. It was noted that there have been few obnoxious emissions since before December. This was confirmed by one of our residents, who has kept a daily record for the last few months. Since much of the odour from the site is generated during the drilling process, Ashcourt has committed to notifying us when the next round of drilling is scheduled to start, so that local residents can be informed in advance.
Coffee Morning
 Join us for a 'Charming Charity Bric-a-Brac Sale' at St. Michael's Church. Step into the enchanting and historic St. Michael's Church on Saturday 5th April from 10.00am to 12 noon, for an unforgettable bric-a-brac event! Discover an array of delightful treasures and goodies, all at very sensible prices.
 Why You Shouldn't Miss It:
 • Charming Finds: Unearth hidden gems and unique items that you won't find anywhere else.
 • Tasty Treats: Savour delicious refreshments, perfect for relaxing and enjoying quality time with friends.
 • Special Surprise: Arrive early to get your hands on an exclusive chocolate egg wrapped in a cozy hedgehog coat - a truly special treat. Come and support a wonderful cause while enjoying a lovely day out. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing the joy of giving back with our community.
 Councillor Gerald Lee,
 Heighington & Coniscliffe Ward.

Mothers & Others

Join us for an informal, friendly, relaxed time of worship on Sunday 30th March at 10.00am as we celebrate and give thanks for Mothers everywhere. For those who have cared for us, past and present, for mother figures and role models. We begin by sharing a cuppa and croissant, cafe style, in the Fellowship Hall of St. Clare's Church, then Rev. John and the Parish Youth will lead our celebration. Come along and start the day together as Parish Youth young people present traditional daffodil posies at this time of Family Eucharist.

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N.A.F.C. REPORT

Newton Aycliffe continue their playoff chasing charge with two consecutive victories, firstly against Garforth Town at The Ashcourt Stadium and then Bradford (Park Avenue), away. They now find themselves 4th in the table. On Saturday 22nd March they host 7th placed Stocksbridge Park Steels, themselves with playoff hopes. Kick off at Moore Lane is 3pm.

8th March
Newton Aycliffe 2 v Garforth Town 0
 Newton Aycliffe have now gone over a month unbeaten at home when they comfortably beaten Garforth Town 2-0. Newton Aycliffe were simply the better side in every department, although the first half was low on chances for both sides. The second half saw Aycliffe wear down the Yorkshire visitors and an own goal was the first goal of the afternoon. Liam Jarvie seemed to be looking for Liam Adamson when he passed the ball to the opposite side of the keeper, but before Adamson could claim it, Garforth's Harry Viggars slipped it into his own net in the 57th minute. The second goal for Aycliffe came just minutes later when Ethan Wood found Adamson, and Adamson feinted past both Jamie Barkway and Harry Viggars with class to expertly finish and round off a great home performance which also gave Aycliffe their first clean sheet since 1st February against Bridlington.

15th March
Bradford (Park Avenue) 0 v Newton Aycliffe 1
 This was a defensive contest with few concrete chances where Aycliffe's defensive discipline truly shined. The first half had the games only goal when Jake Petitjean successfully converted a penalty in the 12th minute after Liam Jarvie was brought down in the Bradford box. The second half was very defensive as Bradford were consistently stifled by the well martialled Aycliffe defense and hard working midfield. Results elsewhere saw Aycliffe finish the day in fourth and do the double over fellow playoff chasers Bradford (Park Avenue) whilst also recording cleansheets in two successive games.
Match reports by Ryan Livingston. Photos by Yvonne Wood: Jake Petitjean scoring from the penalty spot at Bradford (Park Avenue).



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Yard Clean Up

Organised by the Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway, a goods yard clean up will take place on Saturday 12th April from 10.15am until 12.15pm. Please come along to give a hand. Bring heavy duty gloves and gardening tools and wear strong shoes/boots. Off street parking is available, opposite the Heighington Station site, or, why not jump on a train?
 Any questions, please ring 07970 600631.



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