

# 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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## Government Agrees £300m Deal for Hitachi



Local Member of Parliament Alan Strickland has welcomed the Transport Secretary and North East Mayor Kim McGuinness back to Hitachi to launch a major new investment in the plant. Secretary of State Heidi Alexander MP, Arriva and Angel trains announced a £300m contract to build 45 new carriages for the Grand Central route from Sunderland to London Kings Cross. This follows the visit by Prime Minister Keir Starmer to the factory in Aycliffe Business Park, in December, to announce a £500m deal, which secured the factory's future after years of uncertainty. These deals are part of the government pledge to take action to boost Hitachi's order book and address production gaps. The latest contract involves the development of nine new trains that use battery technology instead of diesel back-up engines. This innovative green technology paves the way for further growth opportunities at the Newton Aycliffe facility. Local MP, Alan Strickland, who has been campaigning for the factory's future for three years, said: "I'm proud that Hitachi's world-class manufacturing plant in Aycliffe has now received £800m of new orders since the general election. This decisive action by the Labour government is securing highly skilled local jobs and bringing much needed investment to our area. I'm proud to have worked hard with government ministers, rail industry leaders, Hitachi management and trade union representatives to campaign for these groundbreaking deals." Jim Brewin, Hitachi UK Chief Director, said "We have been blessed with the support we've had from North East Mayor Kim McGuinness to local MP Alan Strickland and the Prime Minister. What we've really been taken back by is just how much the workforce here has been acknowledged." *Photo: L-R Jim Brewin, Kim McGuinness, Alan Strickland MP, Heidi Alexander MP.*

## Peggy Celebrates 103 Years

Born in Scarva, County Down, Northern Ireland, Margaret married Husband Norman on 1st May 1946 and had two children, Brian and Eileen, who were both born in Ireland. Norman passed away in 1975, aged 55 years after working as a plasterer for Aycliffe Development Corporation and later employed by UMM.



Peggy was manager of Crookston & Royals Lighting manufacturer on Aycliffe Business Park, then manager of Home Lighting - DLT. After moving to Newton Aycliffe in 1955, Peggy and Norman lived in the same house. Peggy is a qualified butcher and won a place at an agricultural college, but, due to her father's ill health, took on the role of running the family butcher shop in Ireland. Peggy's secret to a long life is to work hard, love your family and friends and have determination for what you desire. Margaret is currently a resident of St. Clare's Court care home who will be throwing a party for her on Saturday 19th April, her 103rd birthday.

## Messy Easter

Come and join us as we get ready to celebrate Easter morning at Messy Church for April. We are holding Messy Easter Saturday Garden Vigil on Saturday 19th April from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. Enjoy and explore as we make Easter garden biscuits, make an earthquake in a jar, create new life butterflies, make an angel of comfort and help decorate the church. A great afternoon and then we share an Easter Tea together too with an egg hunt. All free - with donations received with thanks, if you are able. St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe, registration is from 3.30pm so we can get started on time. Contact Helen McCormick - 07716 801262 if needed.

## Sharing Together



Dorothy Whitehouse and the Sharing Together Craft Ladies have donated £250 to their chosen charity of the month which is the Five Acres Community Garden Charity, supporting young adults with additional needs. This generous contribution will help the charity's mission and support their invaluable work in providing a safe and nurturing space to grow, learn and thrive.

The Five Acres Community Garden was founded by Gavin and Debbie Icton, who spent many years driving coaches for individuals with extra needs. Their deep understanding of the challenges faced by young adults transitioning from school or college led them to be inspired when Gavin was gifted some land. Realising there was a lack of support for young adults in need of extra guidance after formal education, they decided to create a space that would offer both personal growth and development so, with that the Five Acres Community Garden was born.

The Five Acres Community Garden now serves as a unique and supportive environment where young adults can build confidence, develop life skills, and engage in meaningful activities that promote independence. The garden is a place where these young people can flourish, finding purpose and learning essential skills that will serve them throughout their lives. It was a pleasure to meet Sue and some of the wonderful young people today. It was clear to see how happy they are and the positive impact Five Acres has had on them. We also enjoyed hearing about the latest addition to the Five Acres Community - the four adorable



# Shildon Community Bus Service Waiting List Now Open

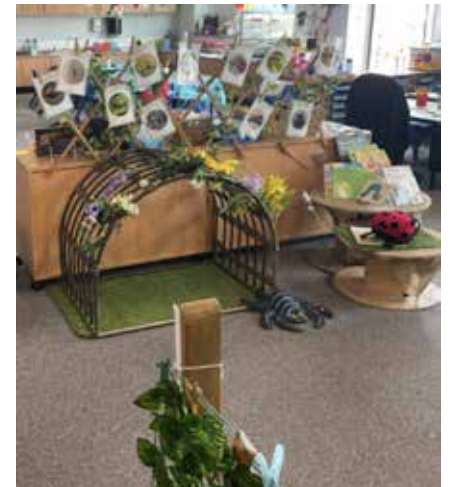
Shildon Community Bus has committed to purchasing a brand-new mini bus with the help of Durham County Council. Our older bus, which has a boot, is nearing the end of its useful life and we cannot service our client base with just one mini bus. We promote social inclusion by providing transport for social, leisure and educational outings. We support social groups based within a 10 mile radius of Shildon. Our weekly shopping trips, picking up in Newton Aycliffe and Shildon, are very popular. Examples of our affiliated groups include a walking group and sports supporters. All of these need to access a bus with a sizeable boot to enable gear and shopping to be transported safely. Our second bus cannot be used for these groups as the tail lift leaves no storage space. We have almost reached the final amount that we need. We now ask for the support of the public for the final push towards our goal of £100,000.

Nigel Price has kindly agreed to walk a total of 140 miles, in six stages, over eight days, with a view to publicising our appeal. Nigel's walk began on 10th April at Styford Hall and finished at Wall, Hexham. There are five other stages: Souter Lighthouse and the Leas to Tommy's Sculpture at Seaham, a full circuit around Derwent Reservoir, Thirsk to Darlington, Horwich to Manchester Ancoats then Ancoats to Huddersfield and back again. The final stage will be from Darlington to finish at the Shildon bus office on the 27th May. If you would like to donate, in recognition of Nigel's generous commitment, we have set up a GoFundMe Page to receive your donations. Follow the link at [gofund.me/7faa9ba1](https://gofund.me/7faa9ba1) If that's not for you, we can provide sponsorship forms. Please contact our office on 01388 773666 and we will send you one or you can collect. Updates about Nigel's progress will be posted on our Facebook page Shildon.

Vane Road Primary School nursery from September 2025, will be offering nursery provision for 3-4 year olds. All 3-4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free early learning and some children may be entitled to 30 hours, from the term after the child turns three.

- 15 hours entitlement, we will be offering morning sessions from 9.00am - 12.00 noon and afternoon sessions from 12.00 noon - 3.00pm or two and a half days per week.
- 30 hours entitlement, sessions will run from 9.00am - 3.00pm. These children will bring a packed lunch which will be eaten in school.

Please collect an application form from the Vane Road Primary School main office to complete and return back to school, to put your child's name on the waiting list.



Email: [alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk)

While Parliament is in recess, I've been busy working hard for our community and our country. In the last few weeks we've seen major decisions by the government to back British industry and support home-grown manufacturing. I was delighted that the Labour government agreed a major £300m deal for Hitachi Rail in Newton Aycliffe. I welcomed Secretary of State for Transport, Heidi Alexander MP, back to Aycliffe to announce the deal between Hitachi, Angel Trains and Arriva for the development of nine new battery-powered trains. This will see 45 new carriages manufactured at the plant, carrying cutting-edge green technology. I'm very proud that this innovative new product was developed at the facility in Aycliffe Business Park. It opens up a whole new market in train production, which I hope will pave the way for further growth and opportunities in our town.

This deal follows the £500m agreement announced by the Prime Minister in December, which secured its future amid the damaging uncertainty left by the previous government. Safeguarding this world-class factory has always been my top priority. My first action as a Labour candidate in late 2022 was to take then Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves to the plant and I've worked hard on this issue ever since. This new order brings reassurance to the skilled workforce but is also good for the thousands of jobs in small businesses the local supply chain.

On Saturday 12th April, I went back to Parliament to vote for emergency legislation to save British Steel. I'm proud that Parliament backed decisive action by the Labour government to keep the blast furnaces open, so that primary steel will continue to be made

in our country. This urgent action was needed after the plant's owners refused a very generous offer of support from ministers and threatened its future by stopping raw materials coming in. The British Steel facility in Scunthorpe manufactures 90% of the steel used in our railways, is central to our defence supply chain and makes steel used by industry, including on Aycliffe Business Park. The Labour government will never let the security of our country or critical infrastructure be threatened by global firms. Nor will we let 2,700 skilled manufacturing jobs go to the wall in that way. I strongly support the tough action taken by government ministers and was pleased to be in the House of Commons to back the emergency measures.

The decisive action taken at Hitachi and British Steel is an important change from the dither and delay under the last government that caused these problems in the first place.

I'm also really pleased that we're seeing concrete improvements locally. NHS waiting lists have fallen for the sixth month in a row, Durham Constabulary is putting more police officers on our streets thanks to additional government funding and I was pleased to see the State Pension increase by £470 this month as a result of this government's commitment to the triple lock. Thousands of pensioners across the constituency will see their incomes boosted by this. The State Pension is set to go up by around £1900 over the course of this Parliament.

I'll keep working hard to make sure our area sees the benefits of the investments being made in our country. Happy Easter - I'd like to wish all Newtonians all the best for the Easter weekend.



Great Aycliffe  
Town Council



# VE DAY 80

## Lighting of the Beacon

Join us on Thursday 8th May 2025  
9:20 pm on Oak Leaf Sports Complex Field

*A Shared Moment of Celebration*

# PICNIC IN THE PARK

ON SATURDAY 10TH MAY 2025 - 2PM-5PM  
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# Knife Angel Winner



Last month children had a visit from the local police regarding the Knife Angel that will be coming to town on 31st May. The Knife Angel, created by artist Alfie Bradley and the British Ironworks Centre, is made from over 100,000 seized blades. The sculpture was created to highlight the negative effects of violent behaviour of all types including knife crime, domestic assault, sexual abuse and county lines. Knife crime is particularly poignant for Newton Aycliffe after one of the town's teenagers, Jack Woodley, lost his life to knife crime in 2021. Since then, Jack's mum, Zoe McGill, has been working with Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team - Sergeant Andy Boyd, to add her story to workshops, delivered by Sgt. Boyd, to thousands of schoolchildren in the town. Based on this information, St Francis' Years 5 and 6's were tasked with a competition of creating posters relevant to knife crime and the angel itself. They researched the Angel, where it came from, why it was important and linked it to knife crime and how it could affect and make people feel. Entries were submitted and Sienna-Mae Smith was awarded first prize for St Francis Junior School. Well done to Sienna-Mae.

# Under 25's Competition



As we have recently recruited younger members, we were pleased to organise the first under 25's knockout competition at the Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club. We had five young members taking part in a round robin event on Saturday 5th April 2025. The event gave our young members (Olivia, John, Sophie, Joshua and Matthew) the chance to put their skills to the test and gain experience in a competition environment. The competition was held at the OakLeaf Sports Complex, Newton Aycliffe. Well done to Sophie Wood who was the overall winner on the day. Each of the members were presented with a gift of £20 each donated by Martclem Engineering Limited. Barry Attwood, Durham County Vice President, came along and presented Sophie with the winner's trophy for 2025. The club would like to thank Competition Secretary, Sue Harston, for organising the event which ran very smoothly and thanks to club members who came along on the day to assist with marking and scoring etc, Jordon Harston, Nick Holland, Adam Birtles and Jane Hewitson. A big thank you to Marty Clemmet for the prize money and thanks to Barry Attwood (Durham County Vice President) for making the presentations.

# Annual General Meeting

**School Aycliffe Community Association  
Community Hall, Eastfields  
Monday 19th May, 7.30 to 8.30pm**

All residents are welcome, we would love to have your input on how to increase footfall and activities at our lovely hall - all reasonable suggestions will be considered. Do you or know anyone who would want to use our hall on a regular basis? Craft sessions? Saturday breakfast club (monthly session), board games or jigsaw puzzle group - don't forget we have a large hall and a side room which can be hired separately, but we need reliable residents to help with supporting, and to run, events. You can either become a committee member or a 'friend of the hall' helping on an as and when available basis. Looking forward to seeing you there. SACA Committee Members.

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# May Events

at School Aycliffe Community Association  
**Coffee, Cake & Stuff**  
 Thursday 1st and Thursday 29th May.  
 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 the opportunity to catch up friends and neighbours!  
 Contact Elizabeth on 07813 523050 or Christine on 07981 992686 for details.  
 Looking forward to seeing you there!  
 Chris, Elizabeth and our team of lovely volunteers.

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# N.A.F.C. REPORT



Newton Aycliffe's playoff push continues. They sit fourth with just three games remaining of the season. Their last home game sees the visit of second place Dunston on Easter Monday (21st) at 1pm. Before that, Brian Atkinson's side make the long trip down to second bottom Sherwood Colliery on Saturday before ending the season at fellow strugglers Ossett on 26th April. Cleethorpes Town have already been crowned champions. The teams in 2nd to 5th place will playoff for the remaining promotion place.

**5th April - Newton Aycliffe 0 v North Ferriby 0**  
 Not since April 2022 had Aycliffe recorded a goalless draw, which was at home to Whickham. This was a game characterised by few concrete chances for both sides in a cagey encounter which probably saw Ferriby prefer leaving with one point opposed to none as they chased the playoffs.

**12th April - Newton Aycliffe 4 v Heaton Stannington 0**  
 Heaton Stannington's main task is to avoid falling into the final relegation spot, and their afternoon probably couldn't have started any worse when Leighton Hopper was judged to have elbowed Jake Petitjean and promptly sent off in just twelve minutes. In the 17th minute, Ethan Wood's corner was whipped in with velocity and found Petitjean, Heaton's Lewis Brass touched the ball, but his grip wasn't sufficient to hold the ball making it 1-0. The second goal also had Brass at fault, when his poor clearance was booted straight into Jack Clarkson, while Brass initially denied Clarkson, the ball found its way to Liam Adamson who wasted no time in making it 2-0. Half time saw the referee dismiss Brass for dissent. The second half saw Dean Thexton make it 3-0 when he emphatically fired home at close range, and the points were sealed when Petitjean got his brace via a penalty in the 90th minute, his 21st goal of the league season.  
*Match report by Ryan Livingston. Photo by Yvonne Wood: Alex Nelson & Ryan Lincoln Barrow in action against Heaton Stannington.*

# Summer Roll Ups 2025

Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowling Club have pre-booked rinks so that members, and potential new members, can come along and have a friendly game of bowls without having to book their own rink and knowing that someone will be there to have a game with.

**Session 1:**  
 Mondays 12.30pm.  
 Starting 28th April until 1st September 2025.

**Session 2:**  
 Wednesdays 6.30pm.  
 Starting 30th April until 27th August 2025.

Each session will be organised into teams on the day and will depend on numbers whether it is singles, pairs, triples, fours or a mixture of teams. Both sessions are open to male and female players.  
 Dress code: Casual, no need for white tops or grey/black trousers, unless preferred. Please note: Usual OakLeaf Rink Fees will apply during this period.

# Reform County Candidates

**Newton Aycliffe North**  
**Tim McGuinness**

I am a proud Northerner who was previously a Chartered Mechanical Engineer, who now works in IT. I can no longer stand by and watch the decline of the Northeast, our communities, and our country. I believe in traditional British values and that I can make a difference. I humbly ask for your vote.



**Clive Taylor-Sholl**

My aim is to help return Local Democracy back to the people, and improve our facilities, community and services by voting for the things that matter, whilst ensuring funding is audited and Council Tax is maintained properly. I live in Newton Aycliffe and am aware of its problems and issues.



**Newton Aycliffe South**  
**Andrew Eales**

I have lived in Newton Aycliffe for over 35 Years and have seen many changes, some good, some not so good and some bad and am aware of its problems and issues. I no longer recognise the Britain that I grew up in. It is in decline, betrayed by Political Parties of all descriptions.



I never expected to be in Politics, but want change, now. This Country needs Reform UK. If you value your family, community and country, join us and help rebuild Britain. Make Britain great again and work for everyone.

**Nicole Brown**

I am an enthusiastic, passionate and determined professional working within Health and Social care with a strong background in housing and mental health. I am driven to represent vulnerable cohorts and support my local community to empower people tackling broken systems and fighting poverty.



**John Grant**

I am your local Reform UK Candidate for Aycliffe South. Having lived in the Ward all my life, I have a good idea of what is going on in our community. These Elections must be about choosing the right people who are dedicated to the local people.



**whitehouse**  
 funeral service


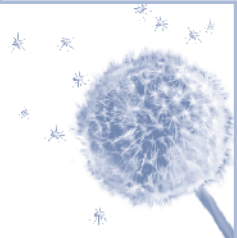


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# Newton Aycliffe is a Great Town

Dear Sir,  
 Like most towns, Newton Aycliffe has its challenges - but overall, the positives far outweigh the negatives. One of the strengths of our community is the way your County Councillors have worked together over the last four years to support residents and community groups across all wards.  
 Currently, our town is represented by seven County Councillors (soon to be five after 1st May), and I've seen, firsthand, the value of collaboration among them. Regardless of political differences, we've pulled together with a shared goal: to make Newton Aycliffe a better place to live.

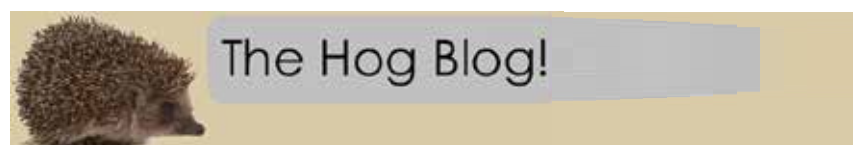
The impact of this teamwork is reflected in the wide range of local groups and initiatives that have received support and funding - information, which is publicly available on the Durham County Council website. Just a few of the beneficiaries include:

- Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe
- St. Clare's War Memorial
- Middridge Parish Council
- Great Aycliffe Town Council
- Woodham Village Community Association
- Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
- 1st Aycliffe Baden Powell Scout Group
- Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club
- Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club
- Horndale County Infant and Nursery School
- ACORN Community Association
- Pioneering Care Partnership
- Neville Community Centre
- Greenfield Academy
- Durham Constabulary

These successes highlight what can be achieved through cooperation, a shared vision and, a sensible approach.

As we approach the 1st May elections, I hope that, once the campaigning is over and the dust has settled, this spirit of unity and collaboration will continue - because that's what will truly benefit the town.

Cllr Tony Stubbs,  
 Aycliffe North and Middridge.



The weather has been awful recently, but I watch the night time weather because I have some hedgehogs that need releasing. A good majority were babies when they came in, Dylan and Bonnie were my smallest at 70 and 80 grams, so they didn't have their mum to show them how to forage and explore. All of them are doing ok and I will release very soon, so I would like to ask everyone to take care when using power tools, hedgehogs ball up when frightened, they don't run.



Can I also ask everyone to check their gardens before they let their dogs out, all our prickly friends want to do is look for food, not get attacked by your dog, in fact, hedgehog spines can injure your dogs mouth and they will need a vet.

I am extremely tired and still have 13 cages which are occupied, my day starts at 5.40am with their first clean and again 12 hours later for weights and medicine to be administered, but it's worth it to see them do well. It's hard for them in rescue, but outside they would not survive, that much is certain.

Thanks go to everyone who has donated, I have had to buy meds which have cost £137. Angela and her staff at Grange Vets are amazing and, despite me having a bill outstanding, they help me save these beauties. Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter.

Here is Teddy, he has charisma by the bucket load, a lovely boy. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society can be reached on 01584 890801. My Facebook Page is: Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel, Email pricklyhaven@yahoo.com - not for Hedgehog Emergencies.

# Ladies Get into Golf Classes



Woodham Golf Club are offering the following lessons: Ten places available for each group with our PGA golf professional. Ladies only, five week course, equipment supplied.  
 Thursday 8th May until Thursday 5th June from 6.00pm-7.00pm, cost £40 for a five week course.  
 Sunday 8th June until Sunday 6th July from 11.30am-12.30pm, cost £40 for five week course.  
 Thursday 3rd July until Thursday 31st July from 6.00pm-7.00pm, cost £40 for a five week course. To book contact the Woodham Golf Club Shop on 01325 319977.

# Independent Tony

No pictures of me group picking up litter, or out and about clearing up The Burn, doing this or that. I prefer to keep low key and just do what I do.

You would, however, if you look for me, see me quietly tucked away in the corner at The Phoenix Club monthly disco as Chairman of the All Disabilities Matter charity, setting it up, transporting all the gear and storing it. Monthly free movie nights at various venues for the most vulnerable, designing / building and putting together the free Santa's Grotto in the town centre, last December, with an amazing team of volunteers, all volunteering, just like myself. You also won't know, that myself and my wife, Jaci, championed and created (with DCC), the very first disabled recreation ride put into Newton Aycliffe, over 15 years ago. Digitising the NHS Hospital Passport for anyone to use and posting it online for all to access, for the infirm, disabled or hard of sight. You won't see me out there doing 'love hearts' standing over stuff either. I am standing as an Independent candidate for County Council to try and 'do more'. No politics, no promises, no broken promises, I'll just do what I do in the best way I can. To do more though, I'll need you to vote for me - voted in (or not), I'll still keep doing what I do. Tony Beddard, Independent.

- ✓ YOUR VOICE AGAINST UNFAIR BENEFIT CUTS TARGETING THE MOST VULNERABLE
- ✓ CHALLENGE FAILURES OF COUNTY COUNCIL INVESTMENT FOR IMPROVING OUR TOWN CENTRE
- ✓ BEING YOUR VOICE FOR KEEPING OUR ESSENTIAL POLICE STATION IN TOWN
- ✓ BEING INDEPENDENT OF PARTY POLITICS & DOING SIMPLY WHATS BEST FOR OUR TOWN

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**TONY BEDDARD**  
Woodham, Newton Aycliffe.

**YOUR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE**

**THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2025**

## Ken Robson for South Ward

Popular local Independent Councillor Ken Robson will be standing for Durham County Council, South Ward on 1st May. Ken has lived and worked in Newton Aycliffe since 1964 and has been instrumental in some great endeavours over that time from forming Woodham Burn Neighbourhood Watch, building Aycliffe Central Residents Association to finally registering ACORN Community Association Newton Aycliffe as a fully registered charity.

ACORN has been active, over the years, with many campaigns including fighting to save our police station which was demolished under Labour Police & Crime commissioner Ron Hoggs tenure and then had the land sold off depriving residents of a police station. We were promised a police station, but ended up with a small office attached to our fire station. As a Councillor, Ken has continued to fight for a police station in Newton Aycliffe and an increase in police numbers.

ACORN fought Durham County Council to have elderly people's bins collected from their houses when DCC insisted the elderly and infirm must drag their bins to the end of their roads. ACORN was instrumental in saving the popular fireworks display. Ken and ACORN participated in opposing the hazardous waste plant on the business park, fearing for the healthy future of our children.

Over several years, Ken and the ACORN team have worked tirelessly to implement summer fun days for our children, Halloween parties for local people, petting zoos in both the leisure centre and recently in the town centre, open to all, as well as Christmas Panto trips. Where others followed the party line, Ken has argued the case for the retention of our local council tax reduction scheme, which has recently added to our town council rates, and has pledged to always have the local residents in mind with every decision he makes. Ken has possibly been the most active Mayor

## Walk to Spain

Dear Sir,  
My name is Tom Judge and I am the co-founder of [firstcontactukmentalhealth.co.uk](http://firstcontactukmentalhealth.co.uk) and [#onemanandhisfridge.com](http://#onemanandhisfridge.com) - You will find more details on this event on the website. Two years ago we did something similar with a walk to Spain, 1200 miles, as a taster for this walk. We will be walking 1400 miles from the North East of England to Alcantara through Portugal.

We are a team of five, medic, driver, cook and two walkers, both with a 25kg fridge on their backs, which is symbolic, as we are carrying your burdens and pain.

We will be camping all the way and are looking for sponsorship or donations of items which will help us achieve our goal. One of our greatest needs is power at night as one of the team suffers with chronic sleep apnoea and requires a mask, we will also need to charge cameras and Go Pros as we will be live streaming the whole event.

We are offering sponsorship deals of £175 which will be placed on the main fridge with mentions 2/5 times a day, or £75 which will be on second fridge 1/2 mentions per day. You can also donate on our website - we are based in Newton Aycliffe and Teesside.

Tom Judge.  
[www.firstcontactukmentalhealth.co.uk](http://www.firstcontactukmentalhealth.co.uk)  
Tel: 07512 251275



of Great Aycliffe, bringing visitors from other areas, as far away as Northumberland, to see the fantastic facilities which we have here in Great Aycliffe and showing dignitaries our fantastic historic Church in Aycliffe Village, the worlds first passenger railway station, Locomotion, on our super busy business park, facilities such as ROF 59, Planet Leisure, Ruff and Tumble and our very own OakLeaf Sports Complex and Golf Club.

With its beautiful well-kept parks, Aycliffe has much to be proud of and, as a Councillor custodian, Ken says "I will protect the green areas that we all love and continue to fight for the return of our Police Station."

**A vote for Ken is a vote for Aycliffe and a voice at Durham County Council.**

## Defib Dave

Dear Sir,  
I have lived in Woodham, Cobblers Hall and Greenfield for the last 39 years and know the area and its people well, and have a long successful track record of commitment to, and pride in, our community and its people.



As a community activist, volunteering with Woodham Community Centre and other groups in the area, I was the first Newton Aycliffe winner of Durham County Council's Chairmans award for outstanding community service. Also, Computers for the Terrified is still going strong after 18 years. I have also been involved in providing a chain of 24 hour emergency Defibrillators and training courses in CPR (I'm just 12 short of training 1000 people). Encouraging others to become involved has managed to earn me the local nickname of 'Defib Dave'. The commitment by so many people and groups to this illustrates what a great community we have and what we can achieve working together.

I have always encouraged working together in partnership with others, and, as part of our Great Aycliffe Area Action Partnership have helped it make a great difference.

As a Councillor, sensible sustainable solutions, not soundbites, are what is needed.

We need to work together to develop solutions to fix local issues like ASB and litter, and improve the services across the area.

I have a long community track record before becoming a DCC Councillor. If elected again, I will continue to work with others to make sure our local communities receive a fair share of funding, administered locally and efficiently. Councillor David Sutton-Lloyd  
Aycliffe North and Middridge.

## My Journey and Community Involvement

I wanted to share a little about my journey and involvement in the Newton Aycliffe community. We moved from Brandon to Newton Aycliffe to start work at B.X.L. Chemicals, after travelling for a year.

We moved to Newton Aycliffe in 1965, on Easter Saturday, it was snowing that day! With my wife Maud and our two children at the time, Julie and George, we began a new chapter.

I became interested in local politics and started going along to meetings as a member of the public. Eventually, I was co-opted onto Newton Aycliffe Town Council in January 1990 and have been elected every year since. This is now my 35th year as a town councillor.

I was made Mayor in 1992/93, raising £5,000 for Motor Neurone Disease. Later, I raised another £3,000 for the Heart Foundation as Town Mayor, for the second time.

I was elected to Sedgefield Borough Council on 4th May 1995 and served until 2009, when it was disbanded and all went to Durham County Council. My scheme then took up its land, now known as the Tesco way space. Now it stands on in Newton Aycliffe.

Once again, as Mayor of the Sedgefield Borough, I managed to raise £20,000 for Breast Cancer and Prostate Cancer (£10,000 each). After devoting 14 years to Sedgefield Borough Council, I was granted the title of Honorary Alderman on the 16th March 2009.

I was elected to Durham County Council on 5th May 2005 and served until 2008. During this time I acted as Vice Chair of Highways and, during my time, I was able to install 32 drop kerbs to assist disabled residents and an additional 14 bays of off street parking, which was sorely needed at the time.

I was re-elected to Newton Aycliffe Town Council on 2nd May 2013 and also 6th May 2021 and have served a combined total of 35 years as a local councillor. In the past I have served in the St. Johns Ambulance Corps for 50 years and received the honour of Serving Brother from the Queen.

As a local Town and County Councillor I have always felt it was my duty to not just serve, but deliver what the town and people require, this means taking the time to listen to the people I represent and pushing tirelessly to achieve these goals. You can count on my experience and understanding of local government and my commitment to the people I represent is unwavering and as strong as ever.

I want to posthumously thank Syd Howarth for printing the banner under which I stood for election twelve years ago, as this has reduced the amount of paper and waste that usually goes hand in hand with elections.

Alderman George C Gray.



# BENGAL LOUNGE

[www.bengal-lounge.co.uk](http://www.bengal-lounge.co.uk)

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**SATURDAY LUNCH**  
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Kids Lunch Menu £7.95

# Great North Air Ambulance

- The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) is a charitably funded air ambulance service which provides life-saving care throughout the North East, North Yorkshire, Cumbria and the Isle of Man. This covers from the Scottish borders, down to South Cumbria, and across to North Yorkshire.
- They operate two helicopters 365 days a year and also operate a night-time service in the North East and Cumbria on rapid response vehicles.
- The aircraft cover an area of more than 8,000 square miles and on board are specialist doctors and paramedics who effectively bring the hospital to the patient.
- The level of skill and expertise of the on-board team mean they respond to the most critically ill and injured people, giving them the best chance of survival.
- GNAAS is a progressive organisation which has pioneered pre-hospital care in the region.
- The latest techniques, equipment and drugs are constantly being evaluated to ensure the charity can provide the best care possible for their patients.
- On average, the charity respond to six call-outs per day (including their night-time response) to people in the community in their darkest hour.
- They do not receive Government funding and must therefore raise £9.3m a year through public donations to remain operational. This means the cost per day for the charity is £25,200.

For more information visit:  
<https://www.greatnorthairambulance.co.uk>  
 or follow @gnairambulance on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok.

# Mediumship

On Saturday 26th April, Darlington Spiritualist Church are having a very important guest speaker, renowned International Medium & Tutor, Mr Paul Jacobs CSNU from Merseyside, who has been a Tutor at The Arthur Findlay College, Stansted, for over 30 years, will be giving a demonstration of Mediumship. Please do come along and see him at 7.00pm, information from Irene on 07986 442397.

# Aycliffe Village WI Update

In March, members attended the International Women's Day at Beamish Museum, some attended the WI Annual Council meeting later in the month and listened to memories of Mary Quant and fashion. Our monthly Book Club meeting was extended to make bunting for King Charles' visit to Durham Cathedral. At the last members meeting we had an auction of new and pre-loved items to raise funds and have a clear out!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd April at 7pm in Aycliffe Village Hall. There will be a talk and advice on money, wills and Lasting Power of Attorney, from a local financial advisor. Refreshments are provided during the evening. Please feel free to join us at the meeting or, if you are interested in joining our WI, come along and find out what we do.

For all details of meetings and visits, contact our President Anne Brown via email [aycliffevillageWI@durhamwi.co.uk](mailto:aycliffevillageWI@durhamwi.co.uk)

# Lib Dem Candidates



**Strong local voices step forward for Aycliffe South in County Council Election.** Three local residents, Kyle Robinson, John Woodward and Tunde Akinsanya have been selected to stand as candidates in the upcoming Durham County Council elections for Aycliffe South.

Each candidate brings a unique background and a shared commitment to improving life for local people, with a strong focus on listening to residents, tackling local issues, and bringing fresh energy to the council.

Kyle Robinson, a dedicated community volunteer, said: "I'm proud to be standing for Aycliffe South. We need councillors who are visible, approachable, and ready to take action on the things that matter, cleaner streets, better services, and a council that works for residents, not the other way around."

John Woodward, a lifelong resident of Newton Aycliffe, added: "People in Aycliffe South deserve value for their council tax, and they deserve a say in local decisions. I've lived here all my life and I know how much potential our area has, we just need a council that listens and delivers."

Tunde Akinsanya, a committed community advocate, commented: "I love this town, and I want to be part of shaping its future. I'm especially passionate about supporting young people, keeping our neighbourhoods safe, and ensuring that every resident has a voice at County Hall."

The team is encouraging residents to get in touch and share their views, as they continue their campaign to bring practical, people-focused leadership to Aycliffe South.

The County Council election takes place on Thursday 1st May, Kyle, John and Tunde hope to earn your support to represent the area with

**The County Council of Durham**  
 (A167 Aycliffe Village)  
 (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. A 7 kilometre length of the A167 extending north from St Andrews Way Roundabout, south of Aycliffe Village to the junction with Durham Road north of Aycliffe Village, the junction of the A167 with Lime Lane and a 20 metre length of West Road, from its junction with the A167 to enable carriageway resurfacing works to be undertaken. An alternative route will be available to vehicular traffic from the southern side of the closure, from A167 north westerly and northerly on B6444 St Andrews Way, to the junction with Heighington Lane leading to the western part of Aycliffe Village, or continuing north on Durham Way South / Durham Way / Durham Way North and east on St Cuthberts Way, to A167 to the northern side of the closure and vice versa. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence on Tuesday 6/5/2025 and are anticipated to be completed in 9 working nights, between 7pm-6am per night (no works over the weekend). On occasions, alternative dates for the closure may be necessary and these will be signed on site accordingly.

DATED: 18/4/2025

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

**Clairvoyant Evenings**  
 with Sean Roper at 7.30pm

**Cobblers Hall Pub - Monday 28th April**  
**OakLeaf Complex - Wednesday 30th April**  
**West Auckland WMC - Friday 9th May**  
**Moore Lane Sports Club - Thursday 15th May**

Tickets are £10 available from bar or pay on the door on the night for £12 (Complex is pay on the door only £10)

Private readings are available from 6.30pm, **Contact Sean or Rachael on 07598 377051**

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 Bookings for Saturday/Sunday are by request only  
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## Newton Aycliffe Juniors

**Under 8's Blues** travelled to Saltburn with Jude providing both assists for Nate. POTM were Lennox and Nate. Next up was Redcar Town Lions, Aycliffe scored through Alex (3), Carter, Jude and POTM was Nate and Jude. Aycliffe then entertained Heighington Boys with goals from Alex, Nate, and an OG. POTM was Jude and PPOTM was Oliver. Next was Cleveland Juniors Tigers, with goals from Nate and Jude, who both took POTM. Next up was Middleton Rangers Hurricanes, with goals from Jude (2) and Nate who was POTM with Leland.

**Under 9's Reds** entertained Cleveland Juniors with goals from Thomas (2) and Fox. POTM was Orig and Leo. Next was Boro Rangers Girls, with PPOTM Korben grabbing Aycliffe's goal. POTM was Jacob. Aycliffe then hosted Riverside Juniors Reds, with goals coming from Ollie and Thomas. POTM was Bear and Fox. Riverside Junior Reds were next, with Aycliffe putting in a robust performance with Parker scoring and getting POTM with Gazza.

**Under 9's Juniors** travelled to Marton, Aycliffe played with grit and determination, MOTM was Reign. Next up was Billingham Juniors, with goals from Zeke, Kians, Fletcher, Connor and Reign, MOTM was Linc. Aycliffe then hosted Redcar Athletic Navy, scoring through Kian (4), Fletcher, Flynn and Zeke. MOTM was Kian. Aycliffe welcomed Hartlepool Blues, progressing to the next round of the cup with goals from Kian, Zeke and Linc (2). MOTM the team. They then welcomed Whinney Banks with goals from MOTM Connor and Flynn.

**Under 10's** hosted Hartlepool St Francis, Noah A, who scored two, before goalkeeper Harvey P scored and also Isaac D. Noah A and Isaac D were POTM. Aycliffe then travelled to Prissick Rovers Milan, Noah A scored Aycliffe's goal. MOTM was Isaac D and Alfie F. Next was Darlington Young Bulls. Oscar G, OG (2) and Noah A (2) scored, and Oscar G and Isaac D were POTM. Finally, Aycliffe hosted Auckland Moor Greys, Isaac D scored two goals with Noah A adding another. MOTM was captain Will P.

**Under 11's Blacks** entertained Skelton United, captain Alfie S helped himself to a hat-trick with JJ adding another. POTM was Jack S. Next was FC Hartlepool United, MOTM Alfie S scored two with Grayson scoring the other. Aycliffe then travelled to Redcar Athletics Blue. Goals from JJ, Grayson and an OG. POTM was Grayson. The last league game, away against TIBS Yellows, Jack B (3), JJ (2), Grayson and Jacob scored. POTM was Grayson.

**Under 11's Reds** played Normanby in windy conditions, it was Charlie and Oliver T who scored Aycliffe's goals, on the last game of the season.

**Under 12's Blacks** hosted Eaglescliffe Elementis Yellows, Arran scored for Aycliffe, whilst MOTM was Will W. Next up was Thirsk, grabbing a great 3-2 win, with goals from Kai (2) and Ethan. Away again to South Park Rangers with goals from Ryley and Kai. MOTM was Harry. They then travelled to Tibs Yellows eventually losing 0-2. MOTM was Arran S.

**Under 12's Whites** entertained Glegwell FC Kestrels, MOTM was Chase. Next up was Washington Juniors Swifts Orange, Aycliffe could not find the back of the net, eventually losing 0-3. MOTM was Harry P. Finally, the team couldn't find a way through Durham United Tigers, with William B getting MOTM.



**Under 13 Juniors** exited the cup to North Ormesby, with a depleted squad, Aycliffe's goal was from Jonah. Next up was Darlington RA, where Aycliffe couldn't find a way to win. MOTM was Will. Bishop Auckland was next, and it turned out to be a day to forget. Phoebe and Jonah scored the goals. The team then suffered defeat to title-chasing Kader, MOTM was Lucas.

**Under 13's Blacks** were edged out 2-1 against AJX, Aycliffe led through MOTM Kaylm. PPTOM was Charlie. They then faced Washington, running out 4-1 winners with goals from Connor (2), Benjamin and Olly M. POTM was Olly M and Kaylm. Next up was Waldrige Lions, for their last game of the season, winning 6-1 with goals from Connor (3), Rhys and Benjamin. PMOTM was shared between Jake and Rhys.

**Under 14's** entertained Cargo Fleet, Aycliffe rallied to win 7-1, with goals from MOTM Oscar J (2), Layton W (2), Jack, Zach and Seth. Next up was Marton Blues, with MOTM Lucas R grabbing four goals. Zach (2), Grayson and Oscar J scoring the others. A 5-3 away win at Shildon followed, goals from Layton W (2), Lucas R, Rhys and MOTM Oscar J. Next was a routine 8-1-win v Cargo Fleet, goals from Lucas R (3), Layton W (3), Oscar J and Rhys, MOTM was Layton W. Promotion was achieved at Guisborough, with a 5-1 win. Goals were scored by Lucas R (3), Layton W and an OG, MOTM was Grayson.

**Under 16's Whites** exited the cup against Borough Rangers Green, before a 2-1 win against Leven with goals from Noah and Clayton. MOTM was goalkeeper Ollie. An evening kick-off against Darlington Young Bulls provided a 5-0 win, with goals from Noah, Taylor, Ethan, Ashton and Jake. MOTM was Taylor. They then entertained Brompton, running out 4-1 winners with goals from Adam, Ashton (2) and Jayden. MOTM was Ashton. Traveling Eaglescliffe came away with a great 4-0 win. Goals from MOTM Adam who scored a great hat-trick and Ethan. Finally, it was Seaton Carew, and a 4-1 win with Ashton scoring a hat-trick and MOTM Noah scoring the other.

**Under 16's Blacks** entertained Felling Magpies, coming away with a convincing 7-1 win. Goals from Jayden (3), Jacob, Leon, Clayton and Dylan. MOTM was Danny. They then entertained Hetton, winning 2-1 thanks to goals from Jayden and Keaton. MOTM was Mushy. Finally, they hosted Prudhoe, winning 4-3, with goals from MOTM Jayden (3) and Zak.

**Under 23's** held on to top spot in the league after a 2-2 draw away to Bearpark. Burrows and Lawson scored Aycliffe's goals with MOTM awarded to Curtis. Next up was a 2-1 win against Sarcriston, Sean and Damo scored the goals with Curly picking up MOTM.

## Election Update

The County and Town Council elections are on Thursday 1st May. There are two wards on Durham County Council, Aycliffe North and Middridge (11 candidates for 2 seats), and Aycliffe South (14 candidates for 3 seats).

**Both County Wards are very highly contested:**

**Aycliffe North & Middridge 11 candidates for 2 seats**

Lindsey Aston (Lib Dem), Tony Beddard (Independent\*), Dorothy Bowman (Independent\*), Luke Ellis (Labour), Timothy McGuinness (Reform UK), Michael Murphy (Labour), Jonathan Park (The Green Party), Michael Stead (Lib Dem), Tony Stubbs (Conservative), David Sutton-Lloyd (Conservative), Clive Taylor-Scholl (Reform UK).

**Aycliffe South 14 candidates for 3 seats**

Tunde Akinsanya (Lib Dem), Tony Armstrong (Independent\*), Martin Ashcroft (Independent\*), Jim Atkinson (Labour), Nicole Brown (Reform UK), John Clark (Labour), Neale Cooley (The Green Party), John Grant (Reform UK), George Gray (Independent), Paul Howell (Conservative), Olutoyin Ogunyemi (Labour), Kyle Robinson (Lib Dem), Ken Robson (Independent\*), John Woodward (Lib Dem).

On Great Aycliffe Town Council - 30 members, 7 of the 8 Wards are all elected uncontested, only one ward, Shafto/St. Mary's is contested.

**Great Aycliffe Town Council Wards:**

**Aycliffe Central 3 members, unopposed**

Jacci Beddard (Independent), Luke Ellis (Labour), Richie Hutchinson (Independent).

**Aycliffe Village 1 member, unopposed**

Carl Robinson (Independent).

**Byerley Park, Horndale & Cobblers Hall**

**6 members, 5 unopposed, 1 vacancy**

Dorothy Bowman (Independent), Jordan Gill (Lib Dem), Jackie McFadden (Independent), Anne Woodward (Lib Dem), John Woodward (Lib Dem).

**Neville Ward 2 members, unopposed**

Tony Beddard (Independent), Phill Hawkins (Independent).

**Shafto/St. Mary's 4 members, contested**

Tunde Akinsanya (Lib Dem), Tony Armstrong (Independent\*), John Clark (Labour), Brian Haigh (Independent\*), Kyle Robinson (Lib Dem).

**Simpasture 2 members, unopposed**

Andy Hill (Independent), Brian Sowerby (Independent).

**West Ward 6 members, 5 unopposed, 1 vacancy**

Martin Ashcroft (Independent), Arun M Chandran (Independent), George Gray (Independent), Ken Robson (Independent), Tracey Williams (Independent).

**Woodham Ward 6 members, 5 unopposed, 1 vacancy**

Lindsey Aston (Lib Dem), Neil Collinson (Independent), Lisa Connors (Independent), Sandra Kirby (Lib Dem), John Moore (Independent), Michael Stead (Lib Dem).

So, Great Aycliffe Town Council falls to Independent control with the following having been duly elected:

**17 Independents, 1 Labour, 6 Liberal Democrats.**

Four seats still to be decided in the Shafto/St. Mary's Ward and two vacancies to be filled after 1st May, either by by-elections or co-option (if co-option becomes necessary, then those co-opted, by law, cannot receive a councillors allowance).

\*The Independents group of councillors regularly work as a team, and have provided stability and progress for the last four years. No cuts to services and facilities, no financial black holes. We do not operate a group whip, unlike other political groups, we trust and respect each others opinions, knowledge and experience. Each member is allowed to speak and vote freely in the council chamber putting you, the community, first and foremost. I urge you, for the County Council Wards and Shafto/St. Mary's Ward for Town Council, to vote Independent, you know it makes sense. Cllr Arun M Chandran.

### Eatwise group

Thursday 1 May 10:30am to 11:30am

Nevilles 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 us for **12 weekly sessions** starting on 1 May 2025 where we will support you to adopt healthy eating habits and to make wiser food choices.

For more information contact Jules Howe on the details below or visit our website.

Nevilles Community Centre, Nevilles Parade, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 5DH

Jules Howe, 07809 342 192

www.wellbeingforlife.net

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**Newton Aycliffe Foodbank**

Newton Aycliffe Foodbank is based at St. Clare's Church in the Church Hall and is open on Wednesday and Friday afternoons between 1.30 and 3.30pm.  
 We are able to help people with emergency food via a referral voucher system. Vouchers can be obtained from a number of places including your local GP, schools, social worker/team and Citizens Advice. Please checkout <https://durham.foodbank.org.uk> in the first instance.  
 The kettle is always on, with snacks available, so whether you'd like to enquire about accessing our services or would just like a hot drink and chat, we are here.  
**Thank you to everyone who has ever donated to us, it makes a huge difference.**  
 If you would like to make a donation, tinned meat, UHT milk, packet mashed potatoes, as well as any tinned food, is most welcome. We collect from the Tesco basket twice a week and we are always grateful for carrier bags. These are best dropped off at the foodbank please.  
 Follow us on our Facebook page 'Aycliffe Foodbank and Drop In' for the most up to date information, but we will be giving regular updates through Newton News going forward. Once again, thank you to the fabulous community here in Newton Aycliffe for the amazing support we receive from you.

**For Sale**

**Bush Freezer**, model M47150FFB, £90.  
**4L Air Fryer**, model BXAF17087GB, £30.  
**Brown Leather** two seater sofa, £30.  
 All in decent condition. Tel: 01325 311407.

**Birthday Remembrance**

**Marion Green** (nee Hay)  
 26th April 1943  
 Your first Birthday away from us.  
 Love and miss you x


**Licensing**

**Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence**

Jonathan Bean trading as O.G. Waste Management Ltd of Unit 3, Grimescar Farm, Northallerton Road, Scruton, North Yorkshire, DL7 9LG is applying to change an existing licence as follows:  
 To keep an extra 7 goods vehicles and 10 trailers at the operating centre at Newton Aycliffe Truck Stop, 1 Spring Road, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 6AS.  
 Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centres who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-making-representations-objections-and-complaints-goods-vehicle-operator-licensing](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-making-representations-objections-and-complaints-goods-vehicle-operator-licensing)  
 18th April 2025

**In Memoriam**


**David Atkinson**



12.04.53 - 26.12.24

Happy heavenly birthday to our beloved Dad and Grandad.  
 The first birthday without you here, we wish we could hear one more silly joke or give you one more hug. You were the best Dad and Grandad and you are missed everyday.  
 Hope you are celebrating up there and we are all making you proud.  
 Love you forever,  
 Joanne, Zara, Brogan, Kacey, Alfie & Amelia xxx

**Chrissie Paterson**



29/10/76 - 13/4/20

It's been five years since you left us, it was spring when the flowers bloomed and the grass started growing. I miss you my darling, so very much.  
 I went to the place where I was with you, it was happy times, only today it was an empty place without you. Everywhere I go, in every place I go, it brings back memories I spent with you. I miss your smile, your voice, the happy times I spent with you.  
 I wish I could have you back just for one day and have the time I spent with you to fill my heart with joy again, like you used to, but everywhere I go is empty, without you to fill my heart with joy.  
 We miss you my beautiful angel, there is not a day goes by that I don't think about you. Rest in peace my darling girl.  
 Love from your Son Jordan, Mam, Dad and all the Family.

In loving memory of our Son **Stephen P. Ibinson** 16th April 2009



Gone are the days we used to share, but in our hearts you are always there.  
 The gates of memories will never close, we miss you more than anyone knows.  
 We love and miss you so much every day, 'til we meet again, always and forever.  
 We love you Son, now reunited with Dad.  
 Mam, family here and in Northern Ireland.

**Gerry Westgarth**

26th April 2022  
 Deep in our hearts you will always stay, loved and missed every day.  
 Loving Wife Anne, Daughters Karen and Lesley xxx

**Obituary**

**Albert Hodgson Woodham**

Peacefully in hospital, on 1st April. Albert, aged 92 years.  
 Dearly loved Husband of the late Elsie; a much loved Dad of Anne, Kathryn, Vivienne and the late Chris; also a very dear Grandad, Great-Grandad and Uncle.  
 Funeral on Tuesday 22nd April at Wear Valley Crematorium at 11.30am.  
 Family flowers only please. Donations, in lieu, may be given in aid of Macmillan Nurses.  
 Please wear bright colours to help celebrate Alberts' Life.

**Acknowledgement**

**Ann Gilmore**

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully on 26th March, aged 88 years.  
 A much-loved Wife of the late Allan; a dearly loved Mam, Grandma and Great Grandma.  
 On Thursday 10th April we said our final goodbyes and, as a family we would like to say thank you to everyone who has shown us love, kindness and prayers at this time.  
 We'd like to express a special thank you to Bethany House Nursing Home, who cared for and supported Ann in the final years of her life. Also, thanks to Woodham Golf Club and the Co-Op Funeral Services for supporting us, as a family, for Ann's final journey.

**Joan Nicholson**

16th April 2007  
 Mam, you left us beautiful memories. Your love is still our guide. Although we cannot see you, you are always at our side.  
 From all of your family.  
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**Thank You**

I would like to thank the many people of Aycliffe South that I have chatted to as I have been delivering letters and/or returning surveys over the last few weeks. Aycliffe South has an electorate of 11,404, so I apologise if I have not spoken with you specifically yet, but I can assure



you that, if elected, then in the same way as when I was your MP, I will be accessible and listen to you all. It is an imperative for your County Councillors to be able to represent all parts of their Division, but also to contribute to the running of the Council as a whole. I believe that my time as your MP has given me both the awareness of what is needed within Aycliffe South and the experience to see what the Council need to do. Whether you live in Aycliffe South on the Town or are in Aycliffe Village or School Aycliffe you have my commitment to listen to you. I understand that what is most important to us all is the place we live and, because of where we each live we have different priorities and it is important your Councillors act on your behalf. If elected, I also commit to work with all Aycliffe elected Councillors collaboratively in the interests of our community. I will work with the Police for more attention on Anti Social Behaviour and to deliver a Town Centre presence; I will challenge the County Leadership to deliver a better Town Centre and improve public transport and I will be an advocate for our fantastic industrial estate and the many jobs it provides. I hope you will give me the opportunity to work on your behalf as a Durham County Councillor for the Aycliffe South Division and vote Paul Howell as your Conservative Candidate on 1st May or when you send in your postal vote. Paul Howell Conservative Candidate for Aycliffe South.

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**Three Seats for County**



My name is Tony Armstrong. I have been a Town Councillor on St. Mary's / Shafto Ward, near Woodham Academy, for four years. I had careers in teaching, social work and customer care. My wife taught infants at Vane Road School for twenty years. Both my daughters went to Woodham Academy. I have attended 83% of meetings at Great Aycliffe Town Council and fought to improve road safety, protest against the incinerator at Hitachi and get low cost, high speed internet into our town. I promised in 2021 to reduce speeding traffic on the A167 dual carriageway and to reduce litter in St. Mary's / Shafto Ward. The road was narrowed, the junction made safer, traffic lights fitted and speed reduced to 50mph. Two council and three volunteer bins have also been fitted on my ward, by me.

**Hitachi**

Dear Sir,  
 I'm thrilled to hear about the new agreement reached for the Hitachi Factory. I was concerned we might lose the factory, along with 700 highly-skilled jobs. It's reassuring to see the government stepping in to secure two deals totalling over £800 million. Finally, workers can feel a sense of job security after years of indecision from the previous administration. Credit to our MP, who has worked tirelessly on this issue over the past couple of years. It's encouraging to see positive developments in the industrial estate since the new government took office, including the Ministry of Defences acquisition of the former Fujitsu factory and now the Hitachi deal. Our town needs more quality, well-paying jobs and these announcements are a step in the right direction for further growth and opportunities. Luke Ellis Candidate for Aycliffe North and Middridge.

My other achievements include getting VIRGIN O2 into our town - Only myself and Eddy Adam out of thirty town and seven County councillors, attended the meeting to get high speed internet into our town. I have done the 'hands-on' work on my ward for four years, dealing with bins, potholes, speeding traffic, off road motorbikes and quads.  
**For the 2025 Election:**  
 I have six major concerns for our town and county.  
 1) Elderly Care Homes charging £1000+ per week;  
 2) Town Centre Community Hub;  
 3) Copelaw 3000 cars, no school, shops or doctors;  
 4) Lack of communication between County Councillors and Town Councillors;  
 5) Councillors aged 85-89 fitness to stand;  
 6) Rise of Far Right Political Parties.

I wrote to our new Labour MP Alan Strickland five weeks ago to suggest that closed down pub hotels could quickly and cheaply be converted into Care Homes and run by the government and local authorities at 50% the cost of private Care homes. I asked the seven County councillors for £5k each from their £20k a year budgets (totalling £560k over four years) towards a pedestrian crossing on Central Avenue. Traffic assets at Durham refused to forecast new traffic levels with 1400 new houses at Copelaw  
 The Independents are by far the largest group on the Town Council, with seventeen out of thirty seats, so can win three County seats. I have only ever seen one Conservative come to Great Aycliffe Town Council since 2021. County Council candidates, with zero Town Council experience, going for County seats greatly concerns me, when many have never stood before.



# Aycliffe Youth Football News

## Aycliffe U10 Eagles v Prissick

Final home game of the season, the lads were looking for a successful end to an exceptional season for the team. The boys started the game showing some nerves and struggling to find their flow, but ended the first half strongly and built up their play during the second period. It wasn't their best performance overall, but the boys pulled together to grind out a result and in the end were worthy winners. This really did cap a fabulous season.

## Deerness Valley 5 v Aycliffe U12 Eagles 6

Will and Teni did a fantastic job taking a half each in goal and, the outfield, the lads put last weeks rare 0-0 behind them with an Oliver hat trick, Patrick's first goal for the club, a screamer from Regan and finally a late winner rifled in for Patrick's second. Jacob, Finley and Ollie were calm and brave at the back, Noah, Alfie and Brad won the midfield battle.

## Aycliffe U14 Girls 2 v Whickham Fellside 3

Aycliffe got off to a slow start and conceded three goals in the first thirty minutes. Aycliffe had a far stronger second half, scoring twice, hitting the crossbar and had a shot cleared off the line near the end. The girls did very well to get themselves back into the game. But, unfortunately, just ran out of time. POTM: Peyton.

## Aycliffe U9 Eagles v Nunthorpe

The boys played their final game of the season against a good team and conceded two early goals. Then they managed to get back into the game with a well worked goal between Ben and Josh. However, they conceded further goals in the second half before Ben scored towards the end of the game.

## Aycliffe U11 Falcons v Prissick Rovers

It just wasn't their day. Two goals, in the first half, for Prissick from two shots. Aycliffe had their chances and on another day the outcome would have been much different. POM Opposition - Evan Bowman, never stopped and caused all sorts of problems on the wing. Scored a cracking goal and could have had three more. Coaches - Hunter, hit the crossbar with a long range free kick and created lots of chances.

## Hetton Juniors 1 v Aycliffe U15 Angels 3

After two tough losses in a row, it was important to bounce back. Aycliffe did exactly that with a great performance against tough opposition. They scored early (Faith assisted by Emily), but Hetton equalised before half time. Then Aycliffe found themselves playing with ten players for a portion of the game due to injury, but played a superb second half scoring through Faith and Erin (assists from Isobel and Faith).

## Aycliffe U13 Eagles 0 v Eaglescliffe

## Elementis 4

A busy first twenty saw both teams with chances, Eaglescliffe showing more composure in front of goal, scoring two and heading into half time 2-0. The Eagles, with renewed effort, battled hard against a very organised Eaglescliffe team - creating two or three chances early in the half - but another two goals exploring the space to put the game to bed MOTM - Tyler Smith.

## Pools Youth 2 v Aycliffe U12 Girls 5

A great team performance from the girls, recovering from an early goal. However, Amelia pounced on a loose ball to poke home the equaliser. A hat trick followed from Phoebe and the girls were in control of the game, HT 4-1. A closer second half, but it was still Aycliffe with all the pressure, with minutes to go, a corner was put away by Elsie. Still time for a final goal from the home team, but Aycliffe deserved the points.

## Darlington Locos 1 v Aycliffe U18 Girls 15

An outstanding performance from Aycliffe saw them dominate from the first whistle, going in 9-0 up at HT. Some more spectacular goals followed and the girls strolled to a resounding win. Eight for Ebz, five for Demi and one each for Anna, Simo and Soph.

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