

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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Syd Howarth Remembered



In January 2019 Cllr Jed Hillary put forward, to Great Aycliffe Town Council, a proposal to honour Syd Howarth MBE for his contribution to community development in our lovely town by naming a street after him. This was approved unanimously by all councillors. Syd had been a leading figure and a guiding light across the Aycliffe community and beyond, always happy to help with projects, advice and leadership.

A member of Rotary for many years, many of the projects he conceived both here and abroad hold testimony to his wisdom and common-sense approach to life. Always open to listening to residents whilst out and about at local events, he could be seen with his camera recording special events for inclusion in his weekly newspaper, Newton News. Syd headed many campaigns through his Chairmanship of Great Aycliffe Residents Association (GARA), including bringing back our police station from the Business Park to its rightful place in our town centre.

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge a permanent reminder of this great man, and a personal friend, in the form of a new town development 'Syd Howarth Place'. This accolade would, I am sure, be a fitting tribute to a man who loved his town and will serve as a memory to all his friends and colleagues. Syd's family deserve to be very proud of his legacy.

Cllr Ken Robson, Mayor Great Aycliffe. North Star, the builders, have informed Newton News that the 23 homes will be a mixture of private and social housing, including 2, 3 and 4 bedroom properties.

Knife Angel Visits Newton Aycliffe

A hum of excitement in Newton Aycliffe as the now famous Knife Angel arrived in our town centre drawing crowds from across the town and beyond. Mayor Ken and Mayoress Elaine were invited to witness the opening ceremony at 12 noon and, although arriving early, they struggled to find a parking spot, such was the interest in the event.

Walking through the crowd we met many friends both old and new. The stage was set, and speeches were made, before the entertainment began as spectacular dancing and superb singing filled the air as we meandered through the throngs to visit charities and exhibitions who had set up stalls in the town centre.

Not only did I see the Blood Bikes, who carry emergency supplies from hospital to hospital, but these guys allowed me to mount a bike and, as a fellow biker, it gave me immense pleasure.

Next up was a visit to the displays in the old Peacocks shop where we met up with an old friend, Mark Preston, who demonstrated the good works his charity, Missed a Beat, are performing with defibrillators and blood kits. So much to see and experience, we were welcomed by St Johns Ambulance and invited to have a picture with the team, which of course was a pleasure as was being introduced to the police cadets who are our future police team, all lovely young men and ladies, ready to serve and fascinating to engage with.

It is always a pleasure to represent Great Aycliffe Town Council at these events and I look forward with anticipation to the next event.

Cllr Ken Robson, Mayor.



Consultation Opens into Incinerator Application

An Environment Agency meeting, regarding the incinerator permit application, will take place at Heighington Village Hall on Monday 16th June, 7pm - All are encouraged to attend.

The Environment Agency has launched a public consultation into an environmental permit application from Fornax (North East) Ltd to operate an energy from waste plant in County Durham. The company wants to operate a high temperature thermal treatment facility near Newton Aycliffe.

Under the permit, Fornax has applied for, the site would be able to accept hazardous waste and clinical waste for incineration.

The Environment Agency is now seeking views from the local community and interested groups on the application.

The consultation is now live on the Environment Agency's Citizen Space site: <https://shorturl.at/tPW56>

It will run until Friday 27th June 2025.

The Citizen Space site includes information on what the Environment Agency can and can't take into account when considering the application under the Environmental Permitting Regulations.

Gary Wallace, Area Environment Manager for the Environment Agency in the North East, said: "Our regulatory controls are in place to protect people and the environment and we will carry out a detailed and rigorous assessment of Fornax's permit application. We may only refuse a permit application if it does not meet the legal requirements under environmental legislation, including if it will have an unacceptable impact on the environment or harm human health. We understand there is local interest in the proposed site, and we welcome comments from the public and interested groups on environmental factors that people feel are important."

The Environment Agency would only issue the permit if it's satisfied the operator could comply with the permit conditions and has appropriate systems in place to operate the incinerator with a high level of protection of the environment and human health.

People can respond to the consultation directly on the website or alternatively by email: pscpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk Readers can make their opinions known to the Environment Agency regarding the plans at Heighington Lane by using the Facebook group link below: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/495317788261224>



ACORN Residents Association

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th June at 6pm in the Phoenix Club. Everyone is welcome to come along. Our speaker for the evening has not yet been confirmed, but we are hoping for one of the newly elected Councillors to attend. Free tea, coffee and biscuits will be available along with friendly chatter. We look forward to seeing you there.

Waste Incinerator

Dear Sir,

Residents in Newton Aycliffe are once again rallying against a controversial plan to construct a hazardous waste incinerator at Merchant Park. The proposal, submitted by Fornax North East Limited, has reignited public opposition as the Environment Agency begins assessing the company's application for an environmental permit to operate the facility.

This marks the latest development in a long-running saga that began in December 2021, when Durham County Council rejected Fornax's initial proposal due to significant concerns about land use and health risks. However, in December 2022, the planning inspectorate overturned that decision following a public inquiry, allowing the company to proceed with its plans. Now, a fresh wave of community concern is sweeping through the area. Campaigners and residents argue that the incinerator poses serious risks to the health and wellbeing of those living nearby. Their worries include potential air quality degradation, increased health hazards for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly, and the cumulative impact of another industrial facility in a region already dealing with environmental pressures.

The incinerator's close proximity to homes, schools and local businesses further amplifies fears. Many feel the project prioritises industrial expansion over public safety and environmental stewardship. Community leaders are urging residents to raise their voices during the current public consultation, which runs until late June. They stress that now is the time to speak up for the sake of future generations, highlighting the importance of grassroots action in shaping local planning decisions.

Beyond the specific health concerns, this issue has become a symbol of a wider struggle - the right of communities to protect their environment and influence developments that affect their daily lives. The incinerator, opponents argue, could set a precedent for further industrial encroachment on residential and natural areas if not stopped. Groups such as the Heighington Lane Incinerator Plant Information Group are working hard to inform and unite the community. They believe that, through collective action and public pressure, it's still possible to prevent the incinerator from becoming a reality.

In a time when environmental consciousness is more critical than ever, this battle in Newton Aycliffe serves as a reminder that local voices matter and that standing together can make a difference.

By Sophie Bellwood.

A Celebration of Music, Community and Culture

The highly anticipated Ayclife Festival is set to return to the OakLeaf Sports Field on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th July 2025, promising a weekend of live music, family fun and community spirit.

Ayclife Festival has established itself as a highlight of the local calendar, with a mission to bring people together through the power of live entertainment while supporting local cultural initiatives. As a registered Community Interest Company (CIC) and a not-for-profit event, every ticket sold directly funds arts and cultural projects across Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding area.

A Must-Attend Musical Experience

The main event takes place on Saturday 26th July, offering an incredible eleven hours of non-stop live music. The line-up spans six decades, celebrating everything from the soulful classics of the 1960s and iconic Britpop of the 1990s to today's biggest chart hits. With eight live acts on the bill including headliner, Nik Kershaw, the festival delivers unbeatable value at just £20 per adult ticket (with concessions available) - breaking down to only £2.50 per act! For full line-up details, visit: www.ayclife.co.uk

More Than Just Music

Ayclife is a festival designed for everyone, including families and young festivalgoers. Activities throughout the day include: Silent Discos, Live Karaoke, Traditional Fairground Rides, Circus Skill Workshops, Face Painters, Hair Braiders and more.

Festivalgoers will also enjoy an outstanding culinary experience, thanks to a partnership with Bacchanalia - one of County Durham's most celebrated street food collectives - who will be bringing a range of exciting flavours and gourmet street food options to the festival grounds.

Tickets and Further Information

Tickets are available now via the official website: www.ayclife.co.uk

Follow Ayclife on Facebook: facebook.com/AyclifeFestival

Ayclife Festival 2025 is shaping up to be a stand out event in the region's summer calendar - a day filled with music, laughter, and meaningful community impact. Don't miss the chance to be part of it.

Ayclife Pushes Forward Despite National Festival Cancellations

As many music festivals around the UK are being cancelled this year, due to rising costs and logistical challenges, our small, but spirited, event is refusing to back down. Ayclife, Newton Aycliffe's local music festival, is moving full steam ahead with plans for its upcoming edition.

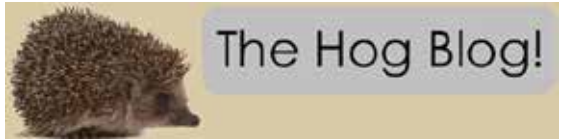
Now, more than ever, the organisers behind Ayclife believe in the importance of bringing people together through live music, local talent, and community celebration. What began as a modest gathering has grown year by year, thanks to the dedication of volunteers and the enthusiastic support of festivalgoers. In 2025, Ayclife is aiming higher - and they're calling on the community to help make it happen.

"We've seen so many fantastic festivals disappear this year, and it's disheartening," says Stuart, one of the founding members of Ayclife. "But, rather than step back, we've decided to push forward. Our community deserves something to look forward to, and we believe Ayclife can become a lasting highlight on the local calendar."

The festival will feature live music from regional acts, family-friendly entertainment,

food vendors, and community stalls, all with an emphasis on local involvement. The organisers stress that the success and future of Ayclife rely on strong support from residents, families, local businesses and volunteers.

"We're inviting everyone - whether you are from Newton Aycliffe or just nearby - to get involved. Come along, bring your family and friends, and be a part of something special."



Well, I have been really busy recently, the current rescue situation is that I have overwintered 26 male and female hedgehogs and I have had one that didn't make it, which was very sad indeed, but I try to do the best I can and know what each individual hog needs, however, I did witness some of them become ill with the stress of captivity, these issues were identified and addressed appropriately and released. I currently have six here in rescue and they will all be fine.

Again a total debt of gratitude to Ms Angela Pickering and staff of Grange Vets for trusting me and furnishing me with what I need to help these beautiful creatures. My thanks to Pat and Fred for bringing me beautiful Clover, one of this years babies, a mere 327g when she came in, also Margaret for bringing me Bryony, she is quite old and she couldn't find anything to eat. Also doing well is Frankie, from Ferryhill, with a very bad leg injury, bed rest pain relief and antibiotics etc, he will be fine, hopefully. As usual, Russell, Claire and Ellie of Northgates have done us proud, our house has been sold, this rescue will be relocating, but not too far from here, I will keep you all posted. Some serious fundraising needs to be done to make the new rescue more efficient for me because of my health limitations and hog friendly too.

Can I take this opportunity to thank Sarah and Keith for contacting me and saving a gorgeous female who has been called Molly Rose, she has had to have around 50 ticks removed, which has made her feel quite unwell, but fortunately she will be fine now because she has started to eat her kibble. Thanks go to every person who regularly donates to my rescue, Lynda, Jackie and John for starters and Margaret's donation for Bryony.

Here is Bryony, she is still a little bit thin, but as you can see she loves her Royal Canin puppy mousse and kibble.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society can be reached on 01584 890801. My Facebook page is: Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel. Email: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com - (Please don't use my email for hedgehog emergencies).

Thank you everyone for reading.

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Expanding Services

Local foot care provider, JW Footcare, has become known in Newton Aycliffe for their warm, professional approach to treating foot problems. With a strong reputation for putting people first, JW Footcare is now stepping into a new chapter - offering custom orthotic insoles to better serve their clients' long-term foot health needs.



Founded with a passion for caring for people, JW Footcare has had the privilege of treating clients with everything from corns and calluses to toenail issues and fungal nail. Their friendly practitioner prides themselves on making every patient feel comfortable, no matter how small or serious the issue may be. Now, the business is expanding its services by introducing bespoke orthotic insoles. Orthotic insoles are specially designed shoe inserts that help support and align the foot correctly. Unlike over-the-counter or online versions, custom orthotics are made specifically for the individual's feet, based on their unique structure and walking pattern. These insoles can help with a wide range of problems, including plantar fasciitis, flat feet, heel pain, and even knee, hip, and back issues caused by poor foot alignment.

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- Aid rehabilitation from fractures and accommodate deformities or asymmetries in bone structures.
- Correct the shape and/or function of the body, to provide easier movement capability, reduce pain, and slow the rate of joint degradation.
- Help sports people.

"We've always loved helping people feel better, and now we're excited to offer something that can make a real difference in the way our patients move and live every day," said the founder of JW Footcare. Custom orthotics are a natural next step for us - they fit perfectly with our mission of improving overall foot health." Orthotics Appointments are available as a home visit or at their Newton Aycliffe clinic. Check out www.jwfootcare.co.uk or call 07540 848272 for more information.

GCSE Exam Season

As GCSE exam season approaches, hundreds of students at Woodham Academy have shown their dedication and commitment to work hard by attending a range of weekend revision sessions in preparation for their GCSE exams. Students have been attending target revision sessions in English literature focusing on their key texts of Macbeth and 'An Inspector Calls' as well as preparing for unseen poetry. Students have had the expert guidance of teachers, who are experts in their fields, with detailed knowledge of the exams, having worked as exam markers for a culminative total of over 50 years.



Headteacher, Andrew Bell, praised students' efforts, stating, "We are incredibly proud of our Y11 students. Their willingness to give up their weekends to prepare for their GCSEs shows maturity, resilience and a real desire to succeed. It's a testament to their character and the strong support from our staff and families." Teachers have tailored the sessions to address key aspects of the literature specification. Students have commented on how helpful the sessions have been, "It's been great to be able to go over key areas of the exam with our teachers. I feel really well prepared!" With GCSE exams well underway, the school are confident that the hard work and resilience shown by students will pay off. Woodham Academy look forward to celebrating the students' success with them in the summer.

Foodbank

Newton Aycliffe Foodbank is based at St. Clare's Church in the Church Hall (entrance beside the bus stop at Church Close), open Wednesday and Friday afternoons between 1.30-3.30pm.

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>

The kettle is always on, with snacks available, so whether you'd like to enquire about our services or would just like a hot drink and chat, we are here. We can also sign-post to further support and have organisations join us including Community Money Advice, Cornforth Partnership, Wellbeing for Life, Manhealth and Sisters of Support. We work closely with our good friends at Lifeline Community Action. Donations come via the donation box in Tesco plus personal donations and collections from local businesses. Thank you to everyone who has 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. If you are Spring cleaning, we are always grateful for carrier bags you no longer need. These are best dropped off at the foodbank please. You can 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. Once again, thank you to the fabulous community here in Newton Aycliffe for the amazing support we receive from you.

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Living the Dream Folk Night

Luke Molyneux, of Newton Aycliffe, signed a new three year contract with Doncaster Rovers at the beginning of the 24/25 season.

And what a season it has been! At the end of last season Doncaster ended up in the play-offs and lost on penalties. The Manager was determined that that wouldn't happen again. At the beginning of this season the team hit the ground running and by the end of the season Doncaster were top of League 2. This gave them automatic promotion to League 1 for the 25/26 season. In addition to that, they also became League 2 Champions on the last game of the season, on 3rd May, beating Notts County 2-1.

On a personal note, the 24/25 season has been the best season of Luke's career so far. On 1st April, Luke made his 150th appearance for the club and scored his 50th goal that day. In total, Luke has scored 18 goals and 13 assists over the season in league and cup games. Luke also got his first professional hat trick on 18th April when Doncaster defeated Tranmere Rovers 3-0. On 27th April Luke attended the EFL Awards Ceremony in London and received an award for being in the Team of the Season for League 2.

On 4th May, Doncaster Rovers held their own End of Season Awards. Luke swept the board at this event, picking up five awards on the night including Golden Boot, Goal of the Season, Player of the Season, Players Player of the Season and Supporters Player of the Season.

Luke said that being selected as Rovers' best player by his team mates at the end of an incredibly successful campaign meant the world to him. He said the praise from his peers meant that the Player's Player prize is the trophy he will cherish the most.

Luke has a great rapport with the Doncaster fans and on 9th May he was voted PFA Fans' Player for the Month of April. What a season this has been for Luke and his family who are very proud of all that Luke has achieved at Doncaster Rovers.

Anne Molyneux, a proud Grandma.



The Candlelite Club at Moore Lane Sports Club are holding a Folk Night on Wednesday 18th June from 8.00pm 'til 10 30pm. The headline for this event are 'Stony', a brilliant duo from Scarborough who play 60s music and some self penned tracks, support is by 'Trish McClean'. If you contact myself, Joan, on 01740 621347 to reserve your seats.
Joan Edmundson

Lasting Legacy for Special Care Baby Unit



A touching donation of £2,000 has been made to the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) at Darlington Memorial Hospital, thanks to the generosity of a grandmother who included the unit in her will after her twin granddaughters were born prematurely and cared for by the teams at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust dedicated teams.

The late Elisabeth McOwen made the heartfelt gesture in gratitude for the lifesaving support her family received during a difficult time. Her twin granddaughters, Rosie and Molly, now 24 years-old, spent their earliest days in SCBU under the care of the unit's specialist team. "This donation is a lovely way to honour a grandmother's love and appreciation," said Richard Jones, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundations Trust Charity Manager.

"Her gift will help us continue providing vital care for our tiniest patients and support for their families during some of the most challenging moments of their lives."

The funds will contribute to enhancements in the unit, including specialist equipment and comfort items for families staying close to their babies.

The SCBU team and CDDFT Charity have expressed their heartfelt thanks to the family for choosing to support the unit in such a meaningful way.

Gail McAllister, SCBU Sister, and Michelle Nesbitt, Neonatal Practice Educator, cared for Rosie, Molly and their family following their early arrival and were honoured to meet with them again and reminisce. Gail commented: "Legacy gifts, like this, have a lasting impact and will support the work we are doing to provide a comfortable and welcoming environment for families to stay, during their baby's admission. Parents being able to stay with their baby is vital to their progress and long term emotional and physical development. This generous gift will help ensure that future generations of babies and their families have an environment that supports this high-quality and compassionate care." Alison Clarke, Rosie and Molly's mother, said: "I was honoured to fulfil this last wish on behalf of my mother."

To find out more about leaving a gift in your will or supporting County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Charity, please visit www.cddftcharity.co.uk or contact Richard Jones on 07787 3555 593 or Email: richard.jones98@nhs.net

PCP Strikes Gold with Two Awards



It was a night of celebration and community spirit as Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), a vibrant health and wellbeing charity, walked away with not one, but two prestigious awards at the Make Your Mark Awards hosted by Aycliffe Business Park.

PCP was crowned Service Business of the Year, recognising the organisation's continued commitment to delivering support throughout the region. The excitement didn't stop there. Carol Gaskarth, PCP's inspirational Chief Executive, was also awarded Business Person of the Year for her passionate leadership and dedication to improving lives across the region.

"Every award and accolade PCP receives is a reflection of the heart and soul of our team," said Carol. "Our mission of 'Health, Wellbeing and Learning for All' is only possible because of the incredible people I have the privilege to work alongside every day. Their dedication, compassion, and drive to support communities continues to inspire me - and I'm so proud to see that work recognised."

Dame Dela Smith, PCP Trustee, said: "Carol celebrated her 20-year work anniversary during 2023-24 - she is outstanding. Her commitment to the PCP has been unquestionable. She gives above and beyond, with a reputation amongst the sector as the very best. Some of her achievements include achieving Gold status from Investors in People, investment of £1.1 million for a new hydrotherapy pool, extending PCP's Options service provision and therefore choices, securing £12,703,637 for project delivery for future years and much more."

To learn more about PCP and its mission of Health, Wellbeing and Learning for All and support Together 21, visit: www.pcp.uk.net

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Coffee Morning

The Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group will hold its next coffee morning on Friday 13th June 2025 between 10.00am-12noon in the shop and hub in Newton Aycliffe town centre, opposite Savers.

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

This much needed local charity now has two shops open during the week in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre opposite Savers and in Darlington, opposite the entrance to the Cornmill Centre. Within the Aycliffe shop is an information hub for members of the community who have received a cancer diagnosis, are living with cancer or are receiving treatment for cancer.

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

Grace Completes Her Gold Award

My name is Grace and I am 10 years old. I used to be a Brownie but am now a Guide. I really enjoyed Brownies and made loads of new friends. I also earned many badges and awards. I'd really like to talk to you about how fun, interesting and valuable being a Brownie is.

I joined Brownies when I was 7 and my top three favourite activities were; the screw and string art, because we got to use very grown-up tools; Fire, Fire, because we learned how to Stop, Drop and Roll; and making fajitas, because of the designing and the eating!

My favourite trip was going to the cinema. My unit went twice: once to see Wish and then Moana 2. It was especially good as we got to sit in the very front row!

I like Brownies because when you think you've got no energy left, after a busy week at school, you find you've still got enough to do all the fun activities at Brownies. You get to be yourself too. At school you might feel pressure to be a certain way, but at Brownies you can just be yourself.

While at Brownies I was able to earn something very special too. Without knowing it, when I joined, I began working towards my Gold Award which is the highest achievement in Brownies. To get your Gold Award you need to make your Promise and earn all six theme awards. These include a skills builder badge, an interest badge and 180 minutes of unit time. You also need to plan an activity for the unit and visit Guides. This may sound like a lot of hard work, and it is, but it's also heaps of fun. It feels very good when you see the unit enjoying an activity that you created. For my Gold Award, I designed a 'Welcome to Brownies' banner for the unit to decorate. I also baked cupcakes and made a beaded bookmark for each Brownie and Leader to keep as a gift and a thank you.

I have spoken with many of my fellow Brownies about what they like best and they gave me lots of different answers, but some of the most popular were: "I like it when I see my friends because I get to play with people who don't go to my school. We have lots of fun," which Emily said. "I like to play with my friends and there are people to help you," from Nancie. "It's a bit like a mini school, but not like a normal school. You're learning something new in a fun kind of way," Laila added.

This is what Barn Owl, the leader at Brownies, has to say: "I absolutely love that Brownies offers girls opportunities to take on challenges, both big and small, ranging from making new friends to running activities and trying new foods to planning towns! We learn a lot, together, but have so much fun and silliness along the way too."

Recently, my friend Elise and I have moved up to Guides, after jumping over the toadstool at Brownies. Guides is a bit like Brownies, but for older girls. Here is what Elise had to say: "I think it's good to go to Guides because we get to learn new things." I've enjoyed moving to Guides because I feel more responsible as a Guide and have wonderful friends over the different sections of Girlguiding too.

Being a Brownie or Guide is something very fun and valuable; it's a very nice feeling to be part of such a special group. Now you've heard a little more about what we do, you might like to join your local Brownie unit, it's brilliant!

We have local Girlguiding units for Rainbows (5-7), Brownies (7-10) and Guides (10-14). For more information about volunteering and joining, go to www.girlguiding.org.uk

Photo: Beamish Flag Day in 2024, Grace is front right.



Incinerator Opposition

Dear Sir,
As a Town Councillor for Great Aycliffe, I feel compelled to express my strong opposition to the proposed Fornax Environmental Solutions waste incinerator on the Aycliffe Business Park and I believe I speak for many local residents when I say this development is wholly unwelcome.

While we all understand the importance of effective waste management, an industrial-scale incinerator on the doorstep of Newton Aycliffe raises serious concerns. Chief among these are the potential health implications for residents, especially given the release of toxic particulates and emissions associated with such facilities. Equally alarming are the environmental impacts, including air pollution, disruption to local biodiversity, and the broader message it sends about the direction of our town's development.

Newton Aycliffe is a community proud of its green spaces, growing families and aspirations for clean industry. Hosting an incinerator not only undermines our town's environmental credentials, but also threatens to devalue nearby residential areas and dampen investment in more sustainable industries. I question whether the long-term impacts have been properly assessed and I encourage residents to join me in making their voices heard. We must ensure that Newton Aycliffe's future is not one defined by smoke stacks, but by the health and wellbeing of our families and future generations.

Thank you,
Cllr Luke Ellis
Central Ward, Great Aycliffe Town Council.

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The County Council of Durham
(Mellanby Crescent, Welbury Grove, Ross Walk, Kenny Walk, Swan Walk, Bell Walk and Maling Green, Newton Aycliffe)
(Temporary Road and Footpath Closure)
Order 2025

The Council on 23/5/2025 made the above Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, to prohibit all vehicular and pedestrian traffic from proceeding on the following lengths of road and footpath. **Closure (closed to vehicular traffic) Mellanby Crescent:** a 13 metre length to the side of number 53 Mellanby Crescent and a 24 metre length to the side of number 56 and front of numbers 52 to 54 Mellanby Crescent and front of number 29 Kemble Green East. **Welbury Grove:** a 30 metre length to the front of numbers 6 to 10 and 9 to 13 and a 24 metre length to the front of numbers 20 to 22 and 25 to 27 Welbury Grove. **Footpath Closure (closed to pedestrian traffic) Mellanby Crescent:** a 25 metre length to the side of number 33 Welbury Grove. **Ross Walk:** a 28 metre length to the side of number 7 Ross Walk. **Kenny Walk:** a 75 metre length leading from the front of number 7 to the side of number 1 Kenny Walk. **Swan Walk:** a 25 metre length to the side of number 3 Gunn Lane leading to the rear of number 8 Swan Walk. **Bell Walk:** a 55 metre length to the front of number 2 to 12 Bell Walk. **Maling Green:** a 22 metre length to the side of number 15 Maling Green to enable fibre telecom works to be undertaken. Throughout the period of closure, a diversion will be available to vehicular and pedestrian traffic on surrounding roads and footpaths as signposted on site. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence at 8am on 29/5/2025 and anticipated to be completed 6 months. On occasions, alternative dates for the closure may be necessary and these will be signed on site accordingly.

DATED: 6/6/2025

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

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It's great to be back with you in print following recent political restrictions which ended after the local elections were held in County Durham on 1st May.

Since I last wrote my column, I have published my new Police, Crime and Justice Plan, which I will be telling you more about in future editions (visit the below QR code to see my plan).

My new plan outlines in detail how I will work with the Chief Constable and partners to address the policing, crime, and anti-social behaviour priorities you identified during extensive consultation and engagement events we held across County Durham and Darlington.

Road safety and anti-social behaviour were two of the top priorities identified. Vehicle nuisance, tackling off road bikes and electric scooters was the number one anti-social behaviour priority (67%), Drink/Drug Driving (80%) and Dangerous Driving (62%) were the top road policing priorities.

Coincidentally, I have also been appointed as the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC's) joint lead for Roads Policing. This means I will get the opportunity to make strong representations on behalf of the other 42 PCC's and residents directly to government ministers, civil servants, and work with charities like Brake and Road Peace and most importantly supporting bereaved families campaigning for changes to legislation to save lives.

One such campaign I am giving my full backing to is one being led by families from Forget-me-not Families Uniting (FFU) group who are campaigning for urgent measures, including Graduated Driving Licenses (GDL), for newly qualified drivers to slash the high number of young driver deaths in the UK. If successful GDL would gradually introduce young drivers to full driving privileges, with targeted measures to reduce the risk to themselves and others on the roads.

GDL is already in place in some countries and typically involves restricting newly qualified drivers, under 21, from driving at night and carrying passengers of a similar age for six months to reduce their exposure to high-risk situations before they are ready - a measure proven to reduce fatalities by up to 40%.

Why I am backing the calls for GDL:

- Young Drivers aged 17-24 are involved in 20% of fatal or serious crashes, but make up only 7% of licence holders.
- The risk is highest in the first few months of driving, especially when carrying passengers.
- In 2023, 4,959 people were killed or seriously injured in crashes involving at least one young driver.

- Adolescents are more prone to taking risks and being distracted by peers due to ongoing brain development, making them particularly vulnerable as new drivers.
- Countries like Canada and Australia have seen a 20-40% reduction in crashes involving young drivers thanks to GDL, proving its effectiveness in saving lives.

The number of young and inexperienced drivers killed on our roads is unacceptable and something I refuse to take lying down. We must continue to use every tool in the book to protect further potential victims and their families and indeed all road users by eliminating unnecessary risk.

As your Police and Crime Commissioner I am determined to play a key role in shaping a safer, more responsible, driving culture for future generations by working with national decision makers to bring reform and change.

Reader's Photos



West Park Lake by Lynn Shaw



N.A.F.C. REPORT

Newton Aycliffe FC End of Season Awards



Jake Petitjean scooped three awards as the club celebrated our highest ever league placing at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club on Friday 23rd May. Jake was voted Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year as well as picking up the top goalscorer prize. The midfielder was also the top scorer in the NPL East Division. He is moving up a division and will be playing at Stockton Town in 2025/2026.

Defender, Alex Nelson, was voted Supporters' Player of the Year. The achievements of the Under 17 team were also celebrated with Jacob Wells and Isaac Chambers taking the honours. That team now becomes our Under 18 team in 2025/2026, also known as N.A.F.C. 'B' Team.

Chairman, Allan Oliver, also recognised the contribution of the many volunteers who make matchday happen, thanking all those involved in such a successful season.

Full list of awards:

- NAFC Player of the Year: Jake Petitjean
- NAFC Top Goalscorer: Jake Petitjean
- NAFC Supporters' Player of the Year: Alex Nelson
- NAFC Players' Player of the Year: Jake Petitjean
- Under 17 Player of the Year: Isaac Chambers
- Under 17 Manager's Player of the Year: Jacob Wells
- Under 17 Players' Player of the Year: Isaac Chambers
- Volunteer of the Year: Yvonne Wood

Photo: Jake Petitjean receives his Player of the Year award from Club Treasurer Alan Nelson.

Knife Angel is coming to Newton Aycliffe in June 25!

We'd love to see your photos of the Angel throughout June, the best will be displayed in the Newton News and all in the Hub in Aycliffe town centre for visitors to see.

Please send all photos to:

Paul Howarth

Newton News

paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Air Cadets



After a couple of weeks off, to recharge the batteries, we were back on Sunday 18th May with a live show. On our first show back we had the pleasure of interviewing John Atkinson in the studio along with cadets from Newton Aycliffe 1407 Air Cadets. Phill & Andy
Around Town, Sunday mornings, 10.00am to 12.00 noon on Aycliffe Radio.

Fibromyalgia?

Struggling with Fibromyalgia and feeling alone in the journey? A brand new peer support group is now up and running - fortnightly meetings. This is a safe supportive space where you can connect, share and find real understanding from others attending. Refreshments will be available.
Upcoming dates:
Tuesday 17th June 12-2pm
Tuesday 1st July 12-2pm
Meetings are held at the Bus Preservation Society, Langton Business Park, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6BL (behind Aycliffe Physio) - if you can afford a donation, that would be great. No need to book - just pop along, anyone can attend with you (partner, friend, carer).

Editorial Contributions

Editorial contributions, stories and titbits can be sent to the Newton News editor via email:- paul@newtonnews.co.uk
Alternatively, you can 'contact us' via our website:- www.newtonnews.co.uk
Local stories and letters to the editor, if approved for publication are reproduced without any charge.

PLEASE NOTE:

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

“Thrilled to Represent Great Aycliffe”

Newly elected Mayor Cllr Ken Robson and Mayoress Elaine Robson are expecting a busy year promoting our fantastic town. 2025/2026 promises to be an iconic time for our parish with celebrations occurring around the Stockton and Darlington Railway 200th anniversary. Our part in the story of course involves Heighington Station which, as history tells us, became the world's first passenger station. This year also sees a visit from the iconic Knife Angel to the town. A first-rate piece of art which is a powerful reminder of how knives, in the wrong hands, can ruin lives. Good weather is coming, which means our popular Great Aycliffe Town Council OAP trips, for older residents, will start soon. Great Aycliffe parks are an example of pride and are tended by our wonderful park staff and are producing some wonderful floral displays for our pleasure. Our parks will also be hosting fun days over the summer to keep our children and parents busy over the school holidays. For my part, as Mayor, I expect to be busy visiting schools, charitable organisations and promoting Great Aycliffe to visiting civic dignitaries from across the region. Should you wish to engage the Mayor to attend a function or gathering, please contact Mrs Sharna Stretch at Great Aycliffe on 01325 300700. The role of Mayor promotes supporting good causes and we would be very grateful of any donations of raffle prizes to be used in fundraising. Mayor has chosen Wishing Well Club based at Woodham Golf Club, and Options, based at PCP, to be this years charities to support. Kind Regards and hope to see you about, Cllr Ken and Mayoress Elaine.



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If you've been to Aycliffe town centre this week, you will have seen the very striking statue near the leisure centre. It was a real privilege to join hundreds of Aycliffe residents, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen, local police teams and knife crime campaigners for the unveiling of the 'Knife Angel'.

This striking monument, 27 feet tall, is made from over 100,000 knives that have been seized by, or surrendered to, police forces all over the country. It aims to serve as a poignant reminder of the profound impact that knife crime can have on people's lives. And it exists to send a powerful message to young people – it's never worth carrying a blade. Carrying a knife doesn't make you safer, it in fact puts you at much greater risk.

The initiative to bring the Knife Angel to Aycliffe was a remarkable collaboration between local families affected by knife crime, the Aycliffe policing team and our Police and Crime Commissioner. The campaign to bring the statue to our town was initiated by Zoey McGill, who tragically lost her son to knife crime. She has received support from local police sergeant Andy Boyd, who played a crucial role in securing a visit by this national monument to Aycliffe, our town, while Joy Allen has advocated for it on a national level as our policing representative and provided funding.

The event was not solely about showcasing the sculpture, but also aimed at raising awareness and sparking conversation within the community. The turnout was very high, reflecting the powerful message about the importance of collaboration in preventing violence. It was a pleasure to connect with the many brilliant local organisations dedicated to enhancing our community who had stalls and were running activities.

I am incredibly proud of the collaborative spirit displayed by everyone involved and grateful to the families and local leaders who worked hard to bring this initiative to Aycliffe.

Fortunately, County Durham does not currently face a significant knife crime problem and ranks considerably lower than the national average. However, it is essential to take proactive steps to prevent knife crime from occurring in the first place and stop the numbers rising. That's because one knife related fatality is one too many. We must do all we can to pro-actively tackle these issues.

I'm pleased that the arrival of the Knife Angel will coincide with a month of educational activities aimed at young people on the dangers of carrying blades. Knife amnesty boxes will be placed throughout the town to encourage the safe disposal of unwanted knives and the surrender of dangerous blades.

This local initiative aligns with the broader national policy of the government. As part of the government's Safer Streets mission, the aim is to halve all knife crime by the end of this parliamentary term. To achieve this goal, a new law has been introduced, granting police enhanced powers to seize knives, harsher sentences for carrying a knife and creating new rules to restrict online knife sales.

As part of these efforts, Newton Aycliffe will also see its local policing team doubled by the end of this year, as part of the government's initiative to place 13,000 additional police officers on our streets. Together, these measures, alongside strong local campaigns like the one launched in Newton Aycliffe on Saturday, will help tackle knife crime and reduce the number of lives it harms.

Hannah Hundred Photography Outing



On Friday 30th May, residents and staff at Lindisfarne Care Home came together to celebrate a very special occasion - the 100th birthday of one of our much-loved residents, Hannah Cain.

The day was filled with joy, laughter and heartfelt moments. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the children of Stephenson Way Primary School for their beautiful handmade cards, which brought smiles all around. A special thank you also goes to the Mayor, Ken Robson, for joining us and helping to make the celebration even more memorable.

It was a wonderful day of community spirit and shared happiness - a truly fitting tribute to a remarkable milestone.

Mayor Ken begins his year with visit to Lindisfarne Care Home

New Mayor Ken Robson accompanied by Mayoress Elaine turned up to Nancy's 100th birthday with a surprise gift of a floral bouquet and a birthday card from the Great Aycliffe Town Council signed by the current Mayor, to the delight of Nancy and her family and friends.

We couldn't wish for a better start to the Mayoral year, any birthday is special, but we had to agree that 100 is a very special number. Nancy's memories must be full of recalled events such as our beloved Queen Elizabeth's coronation, the invention of television and the first moon landing. Upon arrival we were greeted by Laura, a member of staff with an infectious smile, who made us a cup of tea before ushering us into the spacious lounge where we met Hannah who prefers to go by the name of Nancy. We wish Nancy very best wishes and good health for her future.

Cllr Ken Robson and Elaine Robson.



On Thursday 8th May, Woodham Academy's newly established Photography cohort, along with their Photography teacher, Richard Gore, headed on a field trip to Newcastle upon Tyne for the day.

They spent the day collecting a portfolio of photographs inspired by their surroundings. Initial photographs were taken, on route to Newcastle, of the Angel of the North. Once in Newcastle the students took numerous photos of the Baltic Art Gallery, The Glass House and the Bridges over the Tyne. The group completed a loop around the city taking more photos of Grey Street, Windows Arcade, The Cathedral, Central Station and the High Level Bridge.

The students had a great time and have taken a good collection of photographs which they will spend time editing over the next few weeks.

New Group

Come and join Dorothy Bowman and friends at her new club 'New Pathways Together' Social Group, held every Friday from 1.30pm until 5.00pm at The Turbinia Pub, Syd Chaplin Drive, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7PA (number 5 and 7 Arriva bus, Darlington, Durham, Bishop Auckland).

Open to all the over 40 plus ladies and gentlemen in Newton Aycliffe who would like to meet similar minded people in a very pleasant atmosphere, play Pool, Snooker, Darts and many other indoor activities, go on coach trips to places of interest, listen to music from 70's to present day and much more.

First meeting: Friday 13th June from 1.00pm.

Croft Circuit 2025 Race Calendar

14th/15th June: BARC TCR Car Race Meeting
28th/29th June: BARC Caterham Racing Weekend
12th/13th July: British Racing & Sports Car Club Car Race Meet
2nd/3rd August: Kwik Fit British Touring Car Championship Meet
23rd/24th August: Darlington & District Motor Club Battle of Britain Race Meeting
6th/7th September: British Racing & Sports Car Club Car Race Meeting MG Festival North
20th/21st September: 750 Motor Club Car Race Meeting
18th/19th October: MSVR Car Race Meeting
7th December: Jack Frost Stages Rally.

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In Memoriam

Robert (Bob) Wilkinson



29/7/1930-4/6/2024
A year has gone by since that sad day you grew your wings and flew away. The angels came and bid you 'follow', a bitter pill for me to swallow. You fought on till the very end, my Dad, my hero, my best friend. My solace in those times of stress, support when life got in a mess. Your trials in life, more than a few, but through them all, you battled through. Your old body tired, you couldn't fight on, a day of pure heartache the day you were gone. A Dad in a million, a gem to behold, a heart of sincerity, the purest of gold. I honour your memory and love you forever, our bond can't be broken, not ever, NO NEVER. I just want to say, until we meet again, I love you forever, my Dad, my best friend. Thinking of you today as I do every day Dad. Love you Pa, Irene xx
Love you our PoP, Steven, Graham & John & partners. Millie, Bradley & Isabel xxx

Maureen Fraser

2nd June 2022
Mam, it's been three years since you left us, we think of you and your beautiful smile every single day. Loved so much and never forgotten. Caroline, Linda, Gary and all the family xxx

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Glen Thorman Todd

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On 13th May 2025, aged 82 years.
A celebration of Glen's life to take place at Darlington Crematorium on Friday 6th June at 11am.
Family flowers only.

Geoff Gill

Passed away peacefully on 28th May 2025, aged 85. Much loved Husband to Rita; beloved Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad, Brother and best friend. Please meet at Coundon Crematorium on Friday 13th June at 10.30am to say our goodbyes to Geoff, all welcome and then back to The Big Club.

In Memoriam

Maureen Fraser

2nd June 2022
Treasured memories of my dear Wife. Though her smile is gone forever and her hand I cannot touch, I still have so many memories, of the one I loved so much. Her memory is my keepsake, with which I'll never part, God has her in his keeping, I have her in my heart. Sadly missed, but never forgotten. All my love, Malcolm xxx

Bryan Parsonage

On our wedding anniversary, of Mr & Mrs Jane and Bryan Parsonage, on 28th May. Forever cherished, eternally missed, love you my love. Kids and Grandkids miss you my love xxx

Obituary Notices

Allan Drake
27/12/60-15/5/25



Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully in hospital on 29th April 2025. Beloved Husband of the late Audrey; a much loved Dad to Stephen, Peter and Andrew; also a dearly loved Father-in-Law, Grandfather and Brother of the late Lorna. Please would family and friends meet for a service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Wednesday 18th June at 11.30am. Family flowers only please.

Peter Hardy
27/12/60-15/5/25



Peter was a much loved Husband, Son, Father, Brother, Uncle, Grandad and had friends around the world. He will be missed by many and was taken far too soon from us. Peter, you will always hold a special place in our hearts and you will never be forgotten. We, as a family, would like to thank everyone for the kind messages, flowers and cards that we received, we are overwhelmed by the amount of love shown to us all. Sleep tight Peter xxx

Paul Gallagher

28/1/71 - 17/3/25
Formerly of Newton Aycliffe, sadly passed away in Bristol. A dearly loved Son of the late Mary and Peter Gallagher, Brother of Vincent and Clare, Brother-in-Law of Paraic and Gloria and Uncle to Victoria, Amanda and Flynn. Friends of Paul are warmly welcome to join us for a celebration of life on Saturday 7th June, 1pm at Moore Lane Sports Club.

Mary Audrey Toman



Passed away on Wednesday 14th May 2025, aged 90 years. Dearly beloved Wife of James; cherished Mam to Sylvia, Pamela, James, Leslie and Steven, not forgetting Carole and Julie; a cherished Nanna and Great Nanna who will be sadly missed by all. The funeral service took place on Friday 6th June, 10.30am at Wear Valley Crematorium.

Theo Cocker
(Theodora, nee Partington)

On 16th May 2025, aged 94 years at Mount Vale Care Home in Northallerton. Loved and loving Wife of the late Arthur; Mother of Andrew, Stephen, Jonathan, Michael and Elise; Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Funeral service to be held at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon, County Durham DL14 8NR at 12.30pm on Tuesday 10th June.

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	1			9		2		
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People visiting the platform will have the option to create an account that will make it easier for them to get involved, keep a record of their feedback and follow the progress of projects that interest them.

The new platform will also make it easier for the council by offering more flexible ways of presenting information and proposals, better reporting tools and opportunities to collect ideas from members of the public. It will also offer more ways to engage with residents including quick polls, surveys, online discussions and votes.

The council has worked alongside its partners at County Durham Together to create the platform and best engage with communities.

The council will continue to provide printed materials, such as surveys, at its libraries and customer access points, as well as carrying out face-to-face work in communities. The platform will support this work to ensure that everyone can join in. People can access the platform and create their account by visiting:

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Vane Road 'Annie'



Vane Road Primary School showcased their first production, 'Annie', and what an incredible performance it was! The children have worked so hard, since September, giving up their Friday nights and lunchtimes to rehearse. The show was a huge success and everyone watching was amazed by their talent. Special thank you to Greenfield Academy for helping with costumes and props.

Well done to the cast of 'Annie', you smashed it, Mrs McMahon, Mr Richards (Producers) and all the staff at Vane Road Primary are super proud of you.

Scarlet Fights Back



Newton Aycliffe based Junior Pro-kart racer Scarlet Whitaker Dunn made further progress in rounds 3 & 4 of the Teesside Sprint Series, held at Teesside Autodrome on the weekend of 24th - 25th May. This was only her second race weekend in her Junior Pro-kart having moved up from the ultra competitive Honda Cadet 200 class. Scarlet started her weekend on the back foot, as she was unable to attend the Friday test day as she was in school, however she adapted well and was soon on the pace. She made good progress in the three race heats on the Saturday (Round 3), each time improving on the computer generated starting positions that she had been given.

This meant that she would be starting 13th on the grid for the final. Scarlet drove well, managing to finish in a creditable 10th place overall. Sunday (Round 4) was a broadly similar affair with the exception of being the final, where Scarlet started 8th but soon climbed to 5th place. Unfortunately a bold overtaking manoeuvre didn't work out for Scarlet dropping her to 18th place. The heavens opened a couple of laps from the end while the racers were on 'slick' dry weather tyres which Scarlet used to her advantage managing to claw her way back up to 12th place. Scarlet said: "The weekend was incredibly fun with lots of learning opportunities along the way such as driving in the wet (which I had never done on my new kart) and getting used to the feel of the rolling starts which fluctuate with the random grid positions in opportunity." Scarlet's mother, Amanda, said, "Following this weekend, I'm confident Scarlet has good pace and race craft. We look forward to some great results at the next round (Round 5) on 21st & 22nd of June." 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.

If you are in a position to help Scarlet on her motor racing journey then please email mail@amandawhitaker.com as every little helps our family made up of three generations of racers.

Cricket Club May Fixtures and News

Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, have put in some good performances during the past three weeks, which has helped them climb up the NYSD 3rd division table and they also made good progress in the league cup. On Saturday 17th May, the first team defeated Blackhall 1st XI by 46 runs at home in the league after an excellent all round team performance. The following week, on 24th May, the firsts won by 46 runs away at Normanby

Hall 2nds thanks to a fourth career century by captain Chris Palmer (sponsored by Vanilla Design and Print). Palmer equalled his highest career score, finishing unbeaten on 111 off 100 balls to help take his team up to second place in the table.

On Saturday 31st May, they hosted divisional leaders Stokesley 2nd XI, but unfortunately were beaten by five wickets despite an excellent innings of 78 off 91 balls by opener Tez Smit, which saw the team slip down to fourth place in the table.

The first team have progressed to the final of the league cup after three cracking victories. In the first round, Aycliffe had a comfortable win by 53 runs away at Northallerton 2nds. The firsts then had a memorable win by six wickets away at Wolviston 2nds in the quarter final thanks to a breath taking innings by Ramzan Hussain. The talented 19 year old smashed the bowling to all parts of the ground scoring an unbeaten 87 off just 40 balls, including eight boundaries and six maximums as Aycliffe chased down 179 to win after 19 overs. Aycliffe then beat Blackhall 1sts at home in the semi-final in a real nail biter by just one wicket with only two balls to spare. Needing 151 for a place in the final, 18 year old opening batsman, Tom Dearden, followed up his three wickets and two great catches in the first innings, by top scoring with a brilliant 50 off 36 balls, including eight boundaries and a six, in the dramatic run chase. Aycliffe will now host the final where they will play Whitby at Moore Lane on Friday 13th June at 6pm.

On Saturday 17th May, the club's second team put in an encouraging performance, but were still defeated by four wickets away at Bedale second team in the NYSD 4th division, despite some superb bowling by captain Dan Weldon (sponsored by Midland Structural Services), who finished with 5 for 55 from his eight over spell. The seconds then suffered three consecutive heavy defeats against Northallerton, Maltby and Marske respectively. The club's senior women's team had remained unbeaten in the Hambleton League after Richmond conceded on Sunday 18th May and the following week on 25th May, Aycliffe inflicted a huge 153 run home defeat on Hutton Rudby. Thirteen year old Addison Jones (sponsored by Amanda and Michael Collett) took the honours with the ball, finishing with the superb figures of 4 for 7 from her 3 overs. When Aycliffe replied, opener Tina Masterman (sponsored by Lance Robson Dental Surgery) shone with the bat with a whirlwind unbeaten 39 off just 16 balls. However, on Sunday 1st June, their unbeaten start came to an end when they were beaten by 37 runs at home to Great Ayton, despite good innings by both Tina Masterman (22 off 15 balls) and 13 year old Neve Britton who finished unbeaten on 14 off 14 balls.

750 Not Out

Club Captain Chris Palmer made his 750th senior appearance for Newton Aycliffe Cricket

Club on Saturday 31st May in a home game against Stokesley. Chris made his debut, as a 15 year old in 2000 and quickly established himself in the side, becoming a regular in the first team set up, as well as keeping wicket for the league select side at both junior and senior level.

Nine years ago he broke the Club's appearance record when he made his 517th appearance, surpassing Club legend Lee Weldon's previous record and he also holds the Club's all time run record with over 11,500 runs, adding to that total the week before his 750th appearance, when he scored 111 not out while leading the first team to victory over Normanby Hall. To commemorate his 750th appearance Chris was presented with an engraved clock by Club Chairman Ian Palmer. When asked what his future aims were, Chris stated that he hoped to reach 1,000 appearances before he finally calls it a day.



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