Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper, published on the first and third Friday of each month. Editorial & Advertising contact: Telephone: 01325 300212 - Email: paul@newtonnews.co.uk - Website: www.newtonnews.co.uk

Locally Produced Angels





The Knife Angel Volunteers Hub was created to make visitors experience to Knife Angel more enjoyable and interactive. During June, the Hub (based in the old Peacocks in Beveridge Way) was to open each weekend whilst the Angel was in situ and staffed by volunteers from the business, charity and community sectors. It was open from 9am-5pm and housed school artwork completed by seven of our Junior Schools leading up to Knife Angel's arrival, sculptures created by South West Durham Training and Optimum Skills, a photography competition and activity packs to keep younger visitors engaged. There were no shortage of volunteers who gave up their precious time to support this amazing project. They came from Kate Ward (DCC), Husqvarna, Murtek, Lifeline Community Action, Newton Aycliffe Rotary, Sisters of Support, Aycliffe Radio, Missedabeat, Junction 7 and the Crime Commissioners Office. Volunteers were given a briefing package around Knife Angel and the Jack Woodley story, and asked to have meaningful engagement with visitors to Knife Angel and direct them towards the Hub to see

our display.

We saw large numbers to the Hub each weekend, and many stories were told by visitors of being personally affected by Knife crime and violence. One person had travelled from Bournemouth to see the monument as she had missed it when it visited the South coast, and she was visibly moved by its impact. We also had a 94-year-old veteran, who was in the DLI, he commented on how it was the most moved he had been since visiting battlefield graves - his family were moved to tears.

Sgt. Boyd said "We wanted to make visitors experience more enjoyable, interactive and thought provoking. Our Hub supported all the other educational activity taking place Monday to Friday in the Leisure Centre to school pupils from all over County Durham and the North East. We wanted to maximise our engagement around what Knife Angel symbolises, and I'm truly honoured that businesses, charities and community groups from Newton Aycliffe gave up their time to support this amazing project - You are amazing Newton Aycliffe."

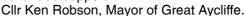
Great Aycliffe Mayor Commends Community





airisbury's Local

It gives me great pleasure to report that multiple local businesses are supporting the Mayor's chosen charities with donations of goods and vouchers, which are to be used in raffles and tombola to raise funds for Options and Wishing Well Club. Not to be outdone, residents too have made donations to the Mayor's fund. I pledge to promote our wonderful town across the region and beyond. Business and community groups are invited to book myself and the Mayoress to attend any event in furtherance to help promote your proceedings. To book the Mayor for your events please contact the Mayor's Secretary, Mrs Sharna Stretch on 01325 300700. Thank you for your continued support.



















Newton News

15th Anniversary Show | Croft Meets



160 dancers from Aycliffe Dance Academy are preparing to take to the stage next weekend with their 15th Anniversary Show 'You Can't Stop The Beat!' Children as young as two and a half, right up to adults, will be performing a variety of dance styles to popular music from Disney, Wicked, Les Mis, The Spice Girls, Take That and Ariana Grande. They will also be performing their iconic Knife Angel Awareness piece which was created for the Knife Angel's Opening & Closing Ceremonies last month, plus many more surprises. It's set to be their best show to date. If you know someone who is a part of ADA or you are looking for yourself or your child to join a professional dance school, or you just want some great family entertainment, get yourself along. The show is taking place at the Forum Theatre in Billingham on Saturday 12th July at 6.00pm and Sunday 13th July at 1.00pm and 5.00pm. Tickets are £15 (Adult) and £10 (Child) and can be bought from the Forum Theatre website: www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk, by calling 01642 552663 or from the Box Office in person, just before the show.

If you'd like to find out further information about this event or what ADA has to offer, please head over to their Facebook page. Emma, the Dance Principal would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the local businesses who've helped A.D.A. with their fundraising for this year's show, allowing all of their dancers to shine on stage! Your help and support has been greatly appreciated.



British Racing & Sports Car Club Car Race 2nd/3rd August Kwik Fit British Touring Car Championship

23rd/24th August Darlington & District Motor Club Battle of Britain Race Meeting

6th/7th September

British Racing & Sports Car Club Car Race Meeting MG Fest North

20th/21st September

750 Motor Club Car Race Meeting

18th/19th October

MSVR Car Race Meeting

7th December

Jack Frost Stages Rally.

Scarlet Ducks out of Final



Newton Aycliffe based Junior Pro-kart racer Scarlet Whitaker Dunn made further progress in round 5 of the Teesside Sprint Series held at Teesside Autodrome on Sunday 22nd May. Scarlet had a tremendous start to her weekend, finishing well in her three race heats and, in doing so, smashed her personal best lap time by six tenths of a second. This meant she would start from eighth on the grid for the

On the first lap of the final, a group of karts collided causing a fellow competitor and his twin engine kart (165kg) to ride over another kart and to be then launched around a metre in the air hitting Scarlet and her kart narrowly avoiding a serious blow to her head.

Scarlet unfortunately took damage to her kart and hand and, despite her valour, she had to pit the kart and retire.

. Scarlet's mother, Amanda, said "Scarlet showed fantastic pace this weekend not only beating her personal best lap time by a good margin, but frequently putting in the 4th fastest lap time in the heats.

"I was looking forward to a good final following the successful heats prior and was disappointed that I couldn't finish the race, but I am hopeful and looking forward to future races," said Scarlet.

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.

9-Year-Old Turns **Grief Into Hope**



After losing her daddy at just three years old, Newton Aycliffe resident, Daisy Mathison, has done something extraordinary. Now nine, she's produced a children's book to help other young children cope with grief - inspired by her own journey of love, loss, and healing.
The book, 'Daisy & Hugsy - The Missing Star',

tells the story of a magical bear named Hugsy Brightheart who learns to navigate life after his best friend - a wise old star - disappears from the sky. It's a gentle, emotional tale designed to support children dealing with the loss of someone they love.

The week marked the sixth anniversary of Daisy's father's passing, Daley Mathison, the book launched as a gift of remembrance and comfort for families everywhere. Daley passed away whilst competing at the Isle of Man TT, where he was a seeded and experienced rider. "Daisy wanted to create something for children who might feel the same sadness she's felt," says Natalie Mathison, Daisy's mum and co-creator. "This book is Daisy's way of letting other kids know they're not alone - that even when someone we love becomes a star, their love still shines in everything we do.'

The story began as a drawing Daisy made of a cuddly bear with a glowing heart. With her mum's support, it grew into a full storybook now available in print on Amazon.

'Daisy & Hugsy - The Missing Star' is more than a children's book - it's a legacy of love, created by a little girl with a big heart and a mission to make grief less lonely. www.hugsybrightheart.com

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Mayor Chooses Options PMNW Visit



Great Aycliffe Town Council Mayor, Ken Robson, has chosen Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP)'s Options service as one of his charities of the year to support.

Options is a co-produced service for adults with learning and physical disabilities and all funds raised by the Mayor and local communities will go towards supporting member's needs and development. Options members are hoping to use funds within the Pioneering Care Centre's Community Garden, which is located just outside of their newly renovated and expanded room. This outdoor space plays an essential role in helping members explore environmental responsibility

Linda West, Options Services Coordinator, said: "Each year, the newly appointed Mayor chooses two charities to fund-raise for during their term of office. We are honoured to have been chosen as one of his charities, alongside Wishing Well.

through immersive nature-based activities.

"When Ken Robson was Mayor in 2022, he came along to the Pioneering Care Centre to watch our Options members bury their time capsule, so he has seen first-hand how we support our members to build on their independence and confidence. With this additional funding, we will be able to provide more resources and activities to our members, to enhance their learning and skills even further." To find out more about PCP's Options service, please visit: www.pcp.uk.net/options - Find more information about PCP and its projects and services at: www.pcp.uk.net

Global Company Expands into Aycliffe

Ambitious growth plans, that will see a global firm make significant investment in the North East of England, have taken a step forward. Olympus Global, a UK and European-wide distributor of high-quality engineered components, has submitted plans to develop a new £2m warehouse distribution facility in Newton Aycliffe to directly serve the region's industrial and automotive industries as well as wider supply chains.

The plans, which are being designed, delivered and project managed by leading architectural and engineering firm, Building Design Northern (BDN), will see prime brownfield land at Aycliffe Business Park be fully transformed into a fit-for-purpose 15,000 sq ft warehouse development with modern office space.

The site will not only facilitate major existing customers including Unipres, Thorn Lighting and Gestamp Tallent, but also help to attract new UK clients in the north and Scotland. It is anticipated that more than £7m worth of parts and engineering components will be shipped from the facility in the first year of operations.

The development is expected to be completed in Autumn 2025 and, once open, will create up to fifteen new jobs, making a significant contribution to the local economy.

Olympus Global supplies engineering fasteners, precision-turned and machined components, castings, aluminium extrusions and forgings to major organisations within the industrial and automotive sectors. The North East facility will become the company's fifth site, currently having its main head office and distribution centre in the Midlands industrial heartland. It also has facilities in Spain and Hungary, allowing it to distribute engineered components around the world.

PMNW Visit to Woodham



On Tuesday the 3rd of June, the 'Prison Me No Way' team paid their annual visit to Woodham Academy. Year 9 students spent the day experiencing a variety of sessions, learning about the effects of knife crime, domestic abuse and trespassing on train lines. Students met a former prisoner, who delivered a session about choices and consequences. Prison officers were on hand to discuss prison life, showing them the confined space of a mock up prison cell.

Over the course of the day, Woodham students gained some valuable knowledge and experience, hopefully helping to guide them along the right path. Upon leaving, the 'Prison Me No Way' team complimented the students on their engagement in the sessions and their behaviour throughout the day. They look forward to returning next year.

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The Big Club John's Mini Market (Neville Parade) Sainsburys (Woodham) Specsavers (Town Centre)

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Students Lend a Hand in Revitalising PCP

A vital community hub in Newton Aycliffe is undergoing a vibrant transformation thanks to a new partnership between health and wellbeing charity, Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) and Bishop Auckland College.

Bishop Auckland College students are gaining valuable hands-on experience through placements to help decorate and enhance the healthy living hub, the Pioneering Care Centre - all while contributing to a space that promotes better health and wellbeing across the region. The initiative comes at an important time for the centre, which recently saw a £1 million investment to upgrade its hydrotherapy pool and extend on its offer in supporting adults with learning and physical disabilities. This investment, raised entirely through fundraising and charity reserves, marks a significant milestone in the centre's ongoing development.

Carol Gaskarth, Chief Executive of PCP, said: "Behind the scenes there are lots of exciting plans to continue developing the Pioneering Care Centre and ensure it remains a community-focused space that

"Many areas of the centre need a refresh, much like our previous hydrotherapy facilities. Having the Bishop Auckland College students support us means we can continue to update and enhance the centre both internally and externally, providing a truly 'pioneering' space for 'Health, Wellbeing and Learning for All."

"The students have been amazing, so polite, courteous and respectful, a real pleasure to have with us and a credit to the college. They should be very proud of the support they are providing us and the difference this will make to others.

So far, the students have been hard at work painting and decorating various areas of the building, creating a brighter, more welcoming environment for visitors and service users.

Shaun Hope, CEO and Principal at Bishop Auckland College Group, said: "We love the work PCP do in our region and it very much aligns with our mission of creating positive change through education and learning

"Already we have achieved so much from student placements, sharing of resources and training for our staff communities and we are just getting started. The future looks even more exciting with our partnership growing further with events, like the Health and Wellbeing roadshow, and many projects that utilise the expertise in our

The partnership highlights the mutual benefits of collaboration between education and community organisations - providing students with practical experience in a real-world setting, while supporting vital local services that have a lasting impact.

For more information about the Pioneering Care Centre and its work in the community, visit www.pcp.uk.net. Find the Pioneering Care Centre on Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF.



Angel Photo Competition



The photography competition, sponsored by Anything Aycliffe, held during the month of June, has been judged and the winners are: 1st: Aycliffe Dance Academy (above); Runner ups: Jenna Coates and Chris Flory.



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Coffee Morning Vibrant Event

The Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group will hold its next coffee morning on Friday 11th July 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 Avcliffe 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

Services provided by the charity include the following:

- Providing information on issues affecting cancer patients.
- Patient transport.
- Influencing cancer services in the future.
- Regular social activities, with others affected by cancer.
- Assistance with benefits claims.
- Day trips, social events, meals out.
- Confidential and emotional support in a safe and friendly environment.
- Use of our holiday caravans.

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.



An event celebrating the rich diversity of cultures from around the world, promises to bring an explosion of colour, rhythm and flavour to Darlington town centre. Taking place on Sunday 13th July, the free, family friendly event, hosted by Darlington **Borough Council, will showcase the** different cultures of communities living, working and learning in the town through music, dance, food and community spirit. The event will feature live performances from dance groups including Spanish Influences, Teesside Irish Dancing and Navrang Arts, who will be performing **Bollywood inspired routines. Reid Street** Primary School will also take to the stage to showcase traditional songs and interactive African drumming workshops will be available in the Dolphin Centre throughout the day.

Visitors can also embark on a culinary journey thanks to local businesses including Olumo Foods and Iyawa Afro-Caribbean Foods & Kitchen, who will be offering delicious food and drink samples in the market place.

A range of information and exhibition stalls will also be available including one featuring poems written by local children which have recently been printed in the 'Mother Tongue Other Tongue Digital Anthology 2025'.

Celebrations begin at 11am in the market place. More information is available at: www.enjoydarlington.com

Samaritans

Our Darlington branch of Samaritans are looking for new volunteers for our Autumn training, starting in October. We are looking for caring, dedicated volunteers, who have time to listen.

Learn new skills, meet new people and get a real satisfaction helping others. No experience necessary, just a desire to learn, and a commitment to the training. Please see our website for more details at **Darlington and District Samaritans We look** forward to meeting you.

> The County Council of Durham (Canterbury Road [Car Park], Newton Hall) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2025

The Council on 27/6/2025 made the above Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, to prohibit all traffic from proceeding on the following length of road. The Car Park including its access road to the rear of Numbers 38 to 48 Canterbury Road, Newton Hall to enable car park refurbishment works to be undertaken. An alternative route will not be available to vehicular works to be internated. An anternative route will not be available to venticular traffic during the closure period. Pedestrian traffic will be able to use footways and footpaths of Rothbury Road and Canterbury Road The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence on Monday 7/7/2025 and are anticipated to be completed in 6 weeks. On occasions, alternative dates for the closure may be necessary and these will be signed on site accordingly.



Helen Bradle Director of Legal & Democratic Service County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UI

Around Town Guests

Around Town, Sunday 22nd June

Our guests on today's show were the fabulous Pauline and Corrinn Chambers from Lifeline Community Action. Thanks to Pauline and Corrinn we were able to gain a better understanding of when and how LCA came into existence, and the developing role it played in the community.

Fast forward to the present time, new responsibilities, new levels of service provision and the brand new LCA Community Hub, soon to be opened, in the totally refurbished and remodelled 'preloved' Woolworths shop in the town centre.



Pauline and Corrinn have promised to return in a few months' time, once the Hub is up and running and open to the public. Phill & Andy,

Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.

Chamber Choir Celebrate 20 Years of Singing

The Andreas Ensemble was founded in 2005 by the then Organist of St. Andrew's, South Church, Brian Varley, to enjoy performing the great cathedral music of the UK and Europe, featuring composers like Byrd, Tallis, Palestrina and others, alongside madrigals and folk song arrangements. This is a friendly and enthusiastic chamber choir, which sets itself high standards of choral singing, drawing singers with a real love of church music from all over Co. Durham and from churches of all denominations. Methodist.





Roman Catholic, Anglican and others, but including individuals not currently associated with any particular religious organisation. If you might be interested in joining the Andreas Ensemble - the choir is always on the lookout for new members - and you:

- a) Have some ability to read music or be prepared to make an intensive effort to learn.
- b) Have a reasonable choral voice and be able, with training, to sing in tune and in time.

We are looking now to expand our numbers with new singers in all voice registers. If you would like to join The Andreas Ensemble, or would like to find out more, please contact Brian Varley, BA(Oxon) ARCO, on (01388) 606075, mobile 07415 092040 or

email: brianvarley@orpheusmail.co.uk

We'll be delighted to hear from you.

We rehearse each Tuesday evening 7.30-9.15pm in St. Mary's Church, near the swimming baths, just pop along if you would like to meet the group - you'll get a cup of coffee at the very least! Or get in touch by email/phone.

The Andreas Ensemble website gives full information, together with some live recordings.



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SWDT Students Forge Powerful Anti-Knife Crime Message

Seventeen proud teenagers from South West Durham Training (SWDT) have channelled their metal fabrication and welding skills into a powerful new artwork, creating their very own version of the iconic Knife Angel. This poignant statue, crafted by the Level 2 students, will serve as a lasting focal point in Newton Aycliffe town centre as part of the wider 'Pointless Project' campaign to reduce knife crime.

The initiative gained significant momentum with the arrival of the full-scale 27ft National Knife Angel in Newton Aycliffe on 31st May. As the impressive sculpture, made from over 100,000 surrendered knives, departed on Saturday 28th June, the SWDT students were eager to contribute a permanent symbol of awareness against the devastating impact of knife crime.

Newton Aycliffe Police, notably Sergeant Andy Boyd, have been instrumental in supporting this community-based project, extending thanks to the Aycliffe Business Park community for their valuable contributions.

Gary Bower, fabrication and welding lecturer at SWDT, who supported the students alongside fellow lecturer Harry Wright, said: "This sends such a powerful community message, and SWDT and our students are proud that we can leave a lasting memory of the Knife Angel's visit to the town. We have designed a take on the Knife Angel itself, we used and took inspiration from Angel of the North and the actual Knife Angel and redesigned, reimagined it. We are delighted to have been able to facilitate this." SWDT - part of Bishop Auckland College Group - was approached by Durham Constabulary to be involved in the Pointless Project, offering students the unique opportunity to design, draw and manufacture their own version of the Knife Angel. Their 3D metal sculpture features a body reminiscent of the Angel of the North, symbolising the region's heart, with angel wings intricately designed to incorporate knife shapes cut out of the metal. This innovative piece will remain a permanent fixture in the Newton Aycliffe Community Hub, centrally located in the

Joe Lowery, Charley Turnbull, Tom Lally, Jake Wilson and Joseph Kirkup, all Level 2 metal fabrication and welding students, led the project with the support of many classmates. Seventeen-year-old Joseph, who lives near Barnard Castle, said: "It is about raising awareness and trying to reduce knife crime, while it has been a good thing to be part of creating awareness of knife crime. We didn't think it would turn out as good as it has. We normally work by ourselves on projects, but everyone chipped in with this, and that was good because it made it even more enjoyable, working with friends."

The students also found inspiration from the artist of the WW1 statue 'Tommy' in Seaham, Ray Lonsdale, whose work they visited. The project was bolstered by the generous support of local businesses.

Aycliffe Fabrications supplied a sheet of steel, Finley Structures assisted with the finishing look, saving considerable time by shot-blasting the entire statue as a single piece. RJS Laser also supported the project by laser-cutting a plaque with the statue's powerful message: 'Manufacturing Safer









Communities'.

Charley Turnbull, 17, from Spennymoor, said: "It shows other people our age that something needs to be done about knife crime and what can be achieved by working together. It has been an eye opener. As young people, you don't always listen as much to some messages, but you often listen more when it is people your own age. This was fantastic. We visited the artist Ray Lonsdale ... a few of us then designed the statue, the wings on CAD. We are absolutely delighted with the end result."

The student-made Knife Angel sat at the main Knife Angel Hub in Newton Aycliffe. Once the national statue departs, the student-crafted piece will be permanently moved to the Newton Aycliffe Community Hub, ensuring its message resonates for years to come.

Gary added: "The students have taken a lot from this. As soon as the actual concept was spoken about, our students jumped in with both feet, they ran with it. The students are proud because they have done an amazing job. This also demonstrates that there is no place for Knife Crime in the community. These teenagers are sending messages out to others their age and they have been a pleasure to work with, setting incredible examples."

Photos: The students' powerful artwork; Students Jake Wilson, Joe Lowery, Joseph Kirkup, Charley Turnbull and Tom Lally at SWDT; SWDT students meet Ray Lonsdale; A student works on the artwork.

WATER POLO UPDATE

Sedgefield Water Polo Club's U16 team travelled to Morley, Leeds on Thursday 26th June for their away league fixture. For many, this was their first competitive match of the year now that pressures of GCSE exams were a distant memory.

The game began with a fantastic goal from Charlie after just over a minute from the opening whistle, which was followed just fifteen seconds later with a goal from Finley. Morley then scored one goal before Sedgefield scored another six goals - including a hat trick from Thomas - by the



end of the first quarter. Another seven goals followed by half time and the team were upbeat in their team talk, making a conscious effort to ensure that all players present got their names on the match sheet.

Quarter 3 started with a 4-15 lead and Sedgefield scoring again within a minute of the starting whistle. Goals were rapid and accurate, with everyone being able to put the skills and techniques, learnt at club

everyone being able to put the skills and techniques, learnt at club training, into practice. Morley scored four goals in this quarter, but it wasn't enough to demotivate Sedgefield, who then started the final quarter of the game with an impressive 8-22 win and a determination to score even more.

A phenomenal ten goals were scored in the final quarter, including one from goalkeeper Bram. This meant that every single player in the Sedgefield team had scored. Thomas scored a total of 10 goals, followed by 6 from Finley, 5 from Charlie, 4 from Fynn and Harry and then one each from Arwen and Leo. An excellent final score of an 8-32 win and a team ethic which was second to none.

The Club would like to thank coaches Paul and Pete, along with team manager Imelda. Without volunteers, our club would not be able to offer children the opportunity to play competitively with other teams from the region. We'd also like to advise that we can now offer player sponsorships for just £30 per player for this season, in return for regular advertising and promotion on our social media pages. If this is something that your business may be interested in, please don't hesitate to get in touch. All monies raised will be used to allow our fantastic members the opportunity to develop their skills and provide them with the equipment they need in order to succeed in the sport.

In addition to Junior and Senior sessions, Sedgefield Water Polo Club now offers a beginner session at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on a Saturday afternoon for those wishing to try this fun and exciting sport. All sessions need to be booked in advance on our Club App, so please check our website for further information and joining instructions, email: sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com or contact 07579 030598.



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Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report

Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, earned a hard fought draw away at Yarm firsts on Saturday 21st June and the following week on 28th June, they had a very comfortable eight wicket victory at home to Thornaby 2nds, which helped consolidate third place in the NYSD 3rd division table at the half way stage of the season.

At Yarm, Aycliffe chose to field and our bowlers were put to the sword by some very aggressive home side batting, eventually finishing on a huge 278 for 6 from their allotted 40 overs, despite some good bowling by 16 year old Will Dearden, who finished with 3 for 65. In reply, Aycliffe lost wickets at regular intervals, but were thankful for a battling



unbeaten 29 off 83 balls by Ramzan Hussain, to help achieve a draw for the visitors, when their innings closed on 95 for 7 at stumps. On Saturday 28th June, Thornaby chose to bat first and were skittled for 109 after 25.3 overs thanks to some excellent leg spin bowling by Tom Dearden (sponsored by Kevin Burton), who finished with a season's best 5 for 25 and two wickets each by both Will Dearden and Matty Greaves. In reply, opener Tez Smit got Aycliffe off to a flyer with 28 off 32 balls. Captain Chris Palmer (sponsored by Vanila Design & Print) top scored with 43 not out off 55 balls and Tom Dearden supported well with 14 not out off 49 balls, safely saw their home side home for the loss of just two wickets and with a huge 31 overs in hand. On Saturday 28th June, Aycliffe's 2nd team made the short journey to play Bishop Auckland 2nd team at Kingsway in the NYSD 4th division and came away from an entertaining game with a thoroughly deserved draw. The hosts chose to bat first and scored what they believed was a winnable 225 for 5 declared, despite some excellent bowling from Aycliffe captain Dan Weldon, who finished his seven over spell with three wickets for 33 runs and Shashank Garg, who finished with 2 for 47 from his lengthy ten over spell.

In reply, all rounder Shashank Garg then went to work with the bat, top scoring with 55 from 82 balls and his classy innings included eight boundaries. Credit must also go to both Tony Travis (15 not out off 44 balls) and 13 year old Addison Jones (5 not out off 11 balls) for surviving the last 26 balls in a tense finale to take their team to 164 for 8 at stumps and help Aycliffe earn a morale boosting draw. On Sunday 22nd June, Aycliffe's Women's team put in an excellent all round display to jointly maintain top spot in the Hambleton League with a 62 run victory at home to Thornton Watlass Women. Mother and daughter, Anneliese and Carys Myers took the honours with the ball as both bagged a couple of wickets each when the visitors batted. When Aycliffe replied, all rounder Anneliese Myers was again in the action when she jointly top scored with an unbeaten 17 off 14 balls. Opener Tina Masterman hit 17 not out off 13 balls and Louise Jackson also batted well with an unbeaten 12 off 11 balls to help the hosts to another impressive win.

On Sunday 29th June, the Women's team hosted joint leaders Bedale Women in the Hambleton League and were defeated in a close game by 21 runs. Tina Masterman took a couple of wickets when the visitors batted and Amanda Norman (sponsored by Rite People) top scored with 9 not out when Aycliffe replied. With just one game left to play, Aycliffe still have an outside chance of winning the league, but will be heavily reliant on other results going their way.

Photo: Second team batsman, Shashank Garg, who scored a half century v Bishop Auckland.

Six Legends at Hopetown Gala

Hopetown Darlington will be front and centre of the S&DR200 festival this Autumn as the award-winning visitor attraction, the home of the modern railway, plays host to a thunderous reunion of six iconic steam legends.

Standing proudly side by side, each locomotive is a roaring monument to Britain's engineering might.

From the nimble 78018 BR Standard Class 2 to the rugged 62005 LNER K1 and the freight-hauling 63395 LNER Q6, the line-up is a masterclass in steam power. The elegant 65894 LNER J27 and stalwart 63395 LNER Q6 bring the charm of the North Eastern Railway, while the mighty 60163 Tornado and the legendary 60007 Sir Nigel Gresley steal the spotlight with their speed and majesty. This is more than a line-up, it's a living, breathing pageant of steam where history hisses, whistles wail, and the spirit of the rails roars once more.

Experience a close-up view of the elegant 65894 LNER J27 and mighty 63395 LNER Q6 within the Hopetown Darlington site, where you can also view Sir Nigel Gresley, Tornado and the 62005 LNER K1 in light steam from a purpose-built viewing area looking across the railway line.

There will also be separate footplate tours where you can step aboard the Sir Nigel Gresley, Tornado and the LNER K1, as well as benefitting from workshop tours of Darlington Locomotive Works (home to The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust) and The 1861 Shed (home to Darlington Railway Preservation Society and the North East Locomotive Preservation Group). Experience a truly unforgettable heritage day out.

The iconic gathering takes place daily between Saturday 20th September to Sunday 5th October 2025 only at Hopetown Darlington.

Tickets for the Titans of Steam Gala, including the light steam events and footplate tours, are available now at *hopetowndarlington.co.uk/* titans and should be booked in advance to avoid disappointment.

Further details on the locations of the locomotives, additional locomotives joining the line up and any associated activities and events, will be revealed on Hopetown Darlington's website and social media pages in the coming weeks.

The exhibition will be complemented by the highly anticipated 'anniversary journey' taking place on Saturday 27th September at Hopetown Darlington.

There are lots of other events and chances to get involved in the S&DR200 festival - visit: www.sdr200.co.uk, www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk and www.enjoydarlington.co.uk to find out more and keep an eye on Hopetown Darlington's, Darlington Borough Council's and S&DR200's social media pages.



Sing Joyfully

Come and enjoy having a good sing together, of glorious traditional hymns, in lovely surroundings with interludes of choral music sung by The Andreas Ensemble.

Held at St. Michael's Church, Heighington on Sunday 13th July at 2.30pm. Admission is free and refreshments are available.

Donations accepted towards the upkeep of the church yard.

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

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I want to update you on two major issues I've been involved in recently - objecting to the proposed hazardous waste incinerator in Aycliffe Business Park and supporting the powerful community response to the Knife Angel's visit to Newton Aycliffe.

Let me begin with the incinerator. I've formally objected to the Environment Agency's consultation on providing a permit for the hazardous and clinical waste incinerator just off Heighington Lane. This follows the objection I made to the original planning application in 2022, before I became our Member of Parliament. I've long strongly believed that the land around the world-class Hitachi plant, which I've worked hard for years to save, should be protected for more high-tech manufacturing jobs.

While planning permission was given, Fornax Ltd requires an environmental permit to begin operations and this is what the Environment Agency are currently consulting on. Thank you to those that emailed and attended my advice surgeries to discuss these issues. Residents are rightly concerned and I share those concerns. My objection is available in full on my 'Alan Strickland for Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor' Facebook page.

In my objection, I've raised the concerns raised by residents and businesses. This includes issues about the reliability of the environmental assessment and questions about whether there's been an underestimation of the risk of toxic emissions such as dioxins, heavy metals and fine particulates, which are linked to cancer, respiratory illness, and developmental issues in children.

I'm also concerned about how close the site is to homes, schools, nurseries, care homes and public parks. 100-foot chimney stack dispersing emissions, over a 12-mile radius, puts thousands of people needs to be examined very carefully by the Environment Agency. I'm pleased that the agency have triggered their 'high public interest' applications approach. That reflects the concerns re-raised by Members of Parliament, councils and residents. As a result of this, the formal consultation has been extended to Friday 18th July. If you haven't yet submitted your views, you can feed into the consultation by emailing: PSCpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk Another really important issue in our town has been the vital work surrounding the visit of the Knife Angel. I was honoured to speak at the Closing ceremony in the town centre, along with the Deputy Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary. We had fantastic performances from Aycliffe Dance Academy, Shine, Infinity Dance, Macadam Dance and Sing It on the stage, watched by a great turnout of local residents. The striking 27-foot sculpture, made from over 100,000 confiscated blunted knives, was brought to the town after a campaign by Zoey McGill, who tragically lost her son to knife crime, and Sergeant Andy Boyd from Aycliffe police. It has stood as a stark and moving reminder of the consequences of knife crime. But, more importantly, it brought our community together. Parents, young people, schools, police and community groups played a key role in developing an educational programme around preventing knife crime. I'm proud that 2000 young people have taken part in these educational sessions in the month the Knife Angel has been with us.

In my speech, I stated that tackling knife crime can't be done by one group alone. It takes all of us - listening, educating, intervening early, and supporting young people with safe spaces and positive futures. The Knife Angel may have left, but the message remains: we must stand together to stop violence before it starts and build a positive future for young people in Newton Aycliffe.

GOT NEWS I FOR US?

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

Tel: Paul 01325 300212

or paul@newtonnews.co.uk

HAVE YOU ! ACORN **Community Association**

Our regular meeting will be held on Thursday 10th July at the Phoenix Club at 6pm. We have not had any confirmation as yet if our speakers are going to attend. A person from the Police and Reform have been invited. Everyone is invited to come along. Free tea/ coffee and biscuits will be available. There will not be a meeting in August due to so many people being on holiday. If this is you, Enjoy! And, we will see you again in September.

National Digital Award for Pioneering Work

A new digital tool, funded by PCC Joy Allen to speed up the way disclosures about a person's violent past are processed, has won a national technology award.

The system was developed by leading intelligence automation and artificial intelligence service provider Robiquity on behalf of the County Durham and Darlington PCC and force, to streamline the way requests made under Clare's Law are managed.

Clare's Law, also known as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), gives members of the public the right to ask the police if their current or ex-partner may pose

The new solution uses Microsoft Power Platform to automatically manage each stage of the disclosure process at the click of a button and provides notifications of approaching deadlines to alert officers when the information is due. Under Home Office guidance, police forces have 28 days to disclose information under the scheme. The force has now scooped the Tech for Good category at the Digital Revolution Awards held at the Grosvenor Hotel in

The PCC has prioritised domestic abuse under the Safer People theme of her Police, Crime and Justice Plan, vowing to ensure the police support Clare's Law and respond promptly to requests for disclosures of previous domestic violence offending. She has also pledged to ensure effective use of all available protection and prevention orders to safeguard victims of domestic abuse Clare's Law is named after Clare Wood, who



was murdered by her abusive ex-boyfriend in 2009, and rolled out across England and Wales in 2014.

Commissioner Allen provided funding to Robiquity to develop a new centralised solution allowing the force to store all data under Clare's Law in one place. The system also allows officers to record notes on each application which assists with the tracking of disclosures and provides a clear trail for auditing. Previously, time was lost because data was stored in multiple platforms. This resulted in duplication and increased the risk of human error due to information needing to be updated and calculated manually.

Breast Service Review

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) has begun a full review of its breast services as part of its ongoing commitment to safe, high-quality patient care.

Following feedback from national clinical audit programmes and external reviewers, the Trust has recognised that some aspects of its breast service require investigation. In response, CDDFT is undertaking a thorough and detailed review of patient care to ensure services meet the highest standards and to identify where any improvements may be needed.

Kathryn Burn, Executive Director of Nursing, CDDFT said: "We are committed to openness and transparency with our patients and local communities. This review is an important step in making sure we continually learn and improve, especially when care may not have met the standards we aim to deliver. Our priority is to ensure that our patients feel safe, supported and heard."

As part of the review, the team will begin carefully working through past cases to understand how care was delivered and where there may be opportunities to improve. If concerns are identified about individual care, patients will be contacted directly and supported through further discussion.

The Trust recognises this may be a worrying time for some patients and families, and a dedicated information line has been set up for anyone who has questions or would like to

share their experience of care.

Kathryn added: "We know that hearing about a service review can feel worrying - especially if you or someone you know has received care through our breast service.

"Patient safety is always our top priority. That's why we're taking a closer look at some areas of care, to make sure we're consistently delivering the best for our patients. The review is being done carefully, in stages, and is led by clinical experts. If we do find anything concerning about someone's care, we'll contact them directly and offer full support. If you haven't heard from us, it means there are no concerns about your care at this time. "If you would like to share any concerns or feedback on your experience then you can do this through the dedicated email and information and support telephone line we have in place. Details are available on the Trust's website.

"We're committed to being open, sensitive, and compassionate as we carry out this important work and we'll keep sharing updates as the work continues."

The Trust is working closely with system partners including the NHS England, the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the Northern Cancer Alliance to ensure the review is thorough and patient-centred.

Patient enquiries or feedback: Email: cddft.breastservices@nhs.net Helpline: 0191 333 2126

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Around Town Community Award



The Around Town radio show Community Awards are presented to individuals, groups and organisations whose selfless work and commitment have the ability to help transform our community and change peoples lives. With the help of Pauline and Corrinn Chambers, from Lifeline Community Action, we were able to surprise the latest worthy recipient of the Community Award, recently retired Police Sergeant Andy Boyd. Andy has served our community for many years, and worked tirelessly to help the new Lifeline Community Hub transform from a dream to a soon to be opened reality, and most recently a driving force behind the initiative to bring the Knife Angel to Newton

Aycliffe. Photo: Andy Boyd, recipient of the Around Town Community Award. Phill & Andy,

Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.

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In Memoriam

Enid Ann Burn



1st July

Years come and years may go, every day I look at an empty chair. I close my eyes and try to picture you sitting there.

left behind You precious will with thousands of memories for us to borrow.

You are sadly missed by your Husband Donald, Family and Friends.

Forever in our hearts. Miss you lots. xxxxx

Barbara & Les **Sutton**

3rd July 2015 Reunited with Les on this day. In all our hearts you will both always stay. Loved remembered and every day. Never forgotten, All the family xxx

Birthday

Remembrance

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on this special day.

Always in

in our hearts.

and Liam xxx

heavenly

Belated

Gran.

Love,

Obituary

Elaine Hauxwell

Passed away on 8th June 2025, Elaine, aged 71 years. Much loved Mam of Melanie and Laura; cherished Nana of Brittany, Baillie and Ellis and a special Great-Nana of Willow.

Funeral service to take place in Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 8th July at 3.30pm.

All are welcome to celebrate Elaine's life.

Irene Elizabeth Petch

27th June

At Defoe Court Care Home, aged years.

Known to everyone as Rene, Wife of the late Arnold; Mother Sharon Suzanne.

Dearly loved and missed every day.

Would friends meet Wear Valley Crematorium 10.30am on Friday 11th July.

Congratulations

Hannah Siddle

Congratulations Doctor Hannah Siddle on earning a PHD after years of hard work and dedication. Love, Dad.

Hannah Siddle

Congratulations on achieving your PHD, Dr Hannah Siddle. We are so proud of you. Love, Emma, Mike, Sam and Millie xxx

Summer Fair

our

Deb

There will be a Summer Fair on Saturday 9th August from 1.00pm at Avon Court, off Burnhill Way DL5 7LR.

Stalls in the garden and throughout the building. Refreshments available or you can bring a picnic and enjoy our gardens. Still time to book a stall:

To book a stall please call 0370 1924553 or Email: hazel.davis@housing21.org.uk

Gordon Stacey

28/01/35 - 20/06/25

Gordon passed away at home, where he longed to be.

much loved Husband, Father and Grandad. He will be sadly missed by all that knew him. Will friends and family please meet at Wear Valley Crematorium on Monday 14th July at 11.30am.

Refreshments afterwards at The Royal Telegraph. Family flowers only.

Norma Dixon

Peacefully on 14th June, of Simpasture Court, formerly of Consett, Norma (nee Hope), aged 94 vears.

A dearly loved Mam, Nanna, Great-Nanna (Nanna Sloth), Aunt, **Great-Aunt** and Sister-in-Law.

Funeral on Wednesday 9th July. Would friends kindly meet for service in The Church Of Christ Jesus οf Latter Day Saints, Newton Aycliffe at 1.30pm, followed by committal and cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium 2.30pm.

Flowers have been arranged. Donations, in lieu, would be much appreciated in aid of Help for Heroes.

In beloved memory of Doris Kathlyn Hudson



27th January 1947 - 12th June 2025 Beloved Mum, Mam and Grandma. held Funeral was Darlington Crematorium on 10th June at 10.00am.

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Woodham Academy Visit Knife Angel

On Thursday 12th June, Woodham Academy's year 10 photography class visited the Knife Angel sculpture, that was in Newton Aycliffe town centre, for the month

The 27 foot, travelling sculpture, also referred to as the National Monument Against Violence & Aggression, is a contemporary sculpture formed of 100,000 knives obtained through anonymous, knife bank amnesties across the north of England, and was created by artist Alfie Bradley and the British Ironworks Centre.

The sculpture was created in order to highlight knife crime in the United Kingdom and educate

young people on the harmful effect violent behaviour can have on their communities

The students took many photographs of the sculpture, trying to capture its immense scale and the details of the welded, rusted and conscripted knives that make up the Angel's body. The trip to see, and photograph, the Knife Angel was an artistic and photographic one, but also a reflective one for the students.

HAVE YOU

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Last week I received a message from a heartbroken mother. A mother from our region, who approached me after reading my speakers biography that mentioned my national addictions and substance misuse role. She asked me if she could share her and her son's story, whose lives had both irrevocably changed as a result of him taking drugs. Gillian told me of her devastation of seeing her

son Luke's life transformed, from full of life and promise to living with irreversible brain damage and bladder failure after using ketamine, which has not only changed his life, but hers to. "He can't even go to the toilet by himself anymore," she wrote. "He does not remember conversations from five minutes ago. I am now his full-time carer. If sharing our story stops just one more family from going through this hell, it will be worth it.

Her words were filled with pain, but also purpose. This is not an isolated incident. Ketamine use is rising fast. Across Britain, ketamine is stealing futures - and most people have no idea how dangerous it really is, and it is putting young lives at risk.

A Drug on the Rise Once seen as a niche party drug, ketamine is now more widely used than ever. Nearly 300,000 people used ketamine last year - the highest number ever recorded. Among young people aged 16-24, use has exploded by 231% since 2013. More teenagers now seek help for ketamine than cocaine, and over fifty people died from ketamine-related causes in 2023 alone.

The Hidden Harms Ketamine is a powerful anaesthetic with hallucinogenic effects. But its long-term damage is often misunderstood: It can burn holes in your bladder lining. Users can end up wearing nappies, in constant pain, sometimes needing their bladder removed entirely. Sadly, this mother's son will never control his bladder again. This weekend one of the national newspapers featured the harrowing stories of bereaved mothers from across the UK who had lost their children or now care for them because of ketamine use. They shared details how the drug, often sold for just £2, had ravaged their children's bodies and minds. These brave women echoed the same sentiment, 'if our stories can save one life, it'll be worth it'. These mothers did not have to share their family's devastating story. They could have suffered in silence. Instead, they chose to speak out because they know other families are walking toward the same cliff edge.

What Can You Do? If you are a parent, carer, or teacher, talk to the young people in your life. Know the signs: sudden mood swings, slurred speech, frequent urination, secrecy, or detachment. If you are a young person, please understand ketamine is not a risk-free high. It can take everything - your health, your independence, your future, and your life.

Where to Get Help

Talk to your GP.

We Are With You: www.wearewithyou.org.uk

County Durham Drug and Alcohol Service: cddars.adult@waythrough.org.uk Talk to Frank – 0300 123 6600

www.talktofrank.com

Durham Police: Call 101 or durham.police.uk Gillian, Luke's mothers words, motivated me to write this week's column: she told me "I watch my son struggle every day with the simplest tasks. This drug did not just steal his future – it stole mine too. But if our pain can save just one other family, then maybe some good can come from this nightmare.

These mothers' collective courage gives us a chance to act and an opportunity to prevent other children from the harm caused by Ketamine. Every conversation we have, every warning we share, every young person we reach

could save a life.



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New Arrivals as Newton Aycliffe Football Club Prepare for 2025-26

Newton Aycliffe's Pre-Season games get under way this Saturday (5th July) as Stockton Town visit the Ashcourt Group Stadium. It's an early workout for the squad which began training last week ahead of the official season start on 9th August.

There have been a number of departures from the end of last season including three players joining clubs at a higher level, one returning to his home area of South Yorkshire and another retiring.

Brian Atkinson has, therefore, had to undertake a significant rebuilding exercise for the new season. One exciting aspect is the return of two Aycliffe lads, Brennan Fitzpatrick and Charlie Dawson who both made senior debuts for Aycliffe before moving to Northern League clubs to gain experience. Also joining is Joey Hope from West Auckland and midfielder Jack Camarda from Blyth Spartans. Pre-Season friendlies begin on Saturday with Step 3 side Stockton Town as the visitors. Aycliffe then travel to Northallerton Town on Tuesday 8th July as we compete for the "Frank Swinburne Memorial Trophy", played in honour of our popular committee member.

There will be another away trip on Saturday 12th July when Aycliffe visit Whitley Bay. On Wednesday 16th July Chester le Street Park View (formerly Chester le Street Town) will visit Moore Lane.

On Tuesday 22nd July we welcome Darlington FC to Moore Lane. Further details of fixtures can be found on our new website:

www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk where you can also find info on Season Tickets which are now

Entries Open for Darlington 5k

Entries are now open for a new 5k race taking place in Darlington on Sunday 3rd August. The race forms part of the popular Darlington 10k event, which also features a junior 3k race and family fun run.

the shorter course to support more people to get involved with the annual running event, particularly those who lead more sedentary lives, individuals at the start of a fitness journey and people recovering from illness or injury. The race is open to anyone aged 15 and over - entries

on Sunday 3rd August, by following the booking link available from: www.enjoydarlington.co.uk/ event-info/darlington-10k - Information on how to sign up for other races, including the 10k, junior 3k and family fun run, can also be found here, as well as answers to frequently asked questions.





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