

# 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

## Have You 'Got The Worm' for Ayclive 2026?



Ayclive Music Festival is fast becoming one of the biggest and brightest highlights in the Newton Aycliffe calendar. What started as a local celebration of live music and community spirit has quickly grown into a much-anticipated annual event that draws in festivalgoers from near and far.

The Ayclive CIC team are already hard at work behind the scenes, preparing to make Ayclive 2026 our biggest and best festival yet.

We're thrilled to announce that next year's festival will take place on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th July 2026 at the OakLeaf Sports Complex – and trust us, you're going to want to be there. If you attended this year's festival, you'll already know just how special it was. From incredible live performances and fantastic food and drink, to the unbeatable atmosphere created by the throng of happy festivalgoers, it was a weekend to remember. The feedback has been overwhelming, and we are determined to keep building on this success. That means even bigger names, even more entertainment, and an unforgettable experience for the whole family.

But, before we reveal too much about what's in store for 2026, we're giving our loyal supporters and early, early birds a chance to secure their place at the best possible price. To get the ball rolling, we have launched our exclusive 'Got The Worm' offer – a limited batch of early tickets for both Friday and Saturday at prices you simply won't believe. These tickets won't last long. Once they're gone, they're gone – and with the buzz already building for Ayclive 2026, we expect them to sell quickly. If you know you'll be there (and why wouldn't you?), this is your chance to lock in a weekend of incredible live music, entertainment and community spirit for a fraction of the usual cost.

Don't miss out – visit [www.ayclive.co.uk](http://www.ayclive.co.uk) now to grab your 'Got The Worm' tickets before they sell out.

Join us as we make history once again and continue to grow Newton Aycliffe's very own music festival. Ayclive 2026 promises to be the most exciting year yet – and we can't wait to see you there!



## Shining a Light on Local Unsung Heroes

Every day across County Durham, ordinary people do extraordinary things. They are the neighbours who quietly check in on someone vulnerable, the volunteers who give up their evenings to keep young people safe, the carers who put others' needs before their own, and the community groups who bring us together.

These unsung heroes rarely seek recognition, but they deserve it. That's why this year I have agreed to sponsor the County Durham Together Awards in partnership with The Northern Echo, to celebrate those whose courage, compassion and commitment make our communities safer, stronger and more resilient.

These awards are a chance to say "thank you" to people who often work in the background without any recognition and reward, but whose impact is felt across our county. Each of the categories reflects the qualities and values that make County Durham such a special place to live.

### Celebrating Every Contribution

Take the Young Person Award. I see the dedication and potential of young people every day through our Durham Police Cadets and Apprentices. Who not only gain skills for their future, but also play an active role in community events, raising awareness of safety and supporting causes close to their hearts. They are proof that young people can be powerful agents of change.

The Community and Voluntary Group Award highlights the strength of collective action. As PCC, I work closely with voluntary groups across the county, from Bloom groups who bring colour and pride back to our towns and villages, to specialist organisations supporting victims of crime and antisocial behaviour. Their work often goes unseen, but has a profound impact on wellbeing, confidence and resilience.

The Carer of the Year Award reflects the sacrifices made by those who dedicate their lives to looking after others. During my visits to local services, I have met countless carers who embody compassion and selflessness, qualities that strengthen the very fabric of our communities.

The Public Service Award provides an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding dedication of those in public service. I am privileged to work alongside partners from the public sector who consistently go the extra mile to serve the public.

Other categories, from Health and Wellbeing to Environment, showcase the breadth of ways people contribute to the common good.

Whether it's a volunteer leading a mental health support group, a resident championing recycling and greener living, or a charity raising funds to protect our most vulnerable, there is truly something for everyone.

### Why Recognition Matters

Too often, these acts of service, kindness and courage go unrecognised. Yet they are the very things that keep communities safe and cohesive.

By sponsoring these awards, my aim is not only to celebrate those already making a difference, but also to inspire others. Recognition has a ripple effect: it encourages more people to step forward, take action, and play their part in building safer, stronger and more resilient neighbourhoods.

Partnership is at the heart of this. Just as I work with local councils, charities, schools and residents to tackle issues from antisocial behaviour to substance misuse, these awards are delivered in partnership with The Northern Echo. Together, we can ensure the stories of these remarkable people are told widely and remembered.

### How to Nominate

If someone in your community has inspired you, supported you, or made a difference to your life, now is your chance to give back. Nominations are open now across ten categories, and winners will be announced later this year at a special awards ceremony. Let's not allow their contributions to go unnoticed. Nominate someone today at County Durham Together Awards 2025, and join us in celebrating the people who make County Durham safer, stronger and more resilient.





# A NIGHT OF FRIGHTS AND FAMILY FUN

ROF59 is set to transform into a haunted haven of thrills and chills this October as the much-anticipated Halloween Spooktakular returns on Friday 31st October from 5.00pm to 8.30pm.

The annual family event has become a highlight of Newton Aycliffe's seasonal calendar, drawing visitors from across the region. This year promises to be bigger, bolder and scarier than ever before, with a wide range of activities and entertainment to delight children and adults alike.

Guests can look forward to the legendary Scare Walk, where ghouls and ghosts wait around every corner, as well as a spine-tingling Halloween disco to keep the party atmosphere alive. For those seeking more physical thrills, the centre's trampolines and high runway will be open throughout the evening. The truly fearless can even test their nerves on the towering 19-metre Drop Zone - if they dare.

Adding to the fun, every child will receive a sweet Halloween treat thanks to local business Shake 'n' Cake, and there will be prizes awarded for the most creative and spooktakular fancy dress costumes. A fully stocked bar and refreshments will also be available, ensuring that parents and guardians can enjoy the evening just as much as the children.

This year's Spooktakular is being held in support of Five Acres Community Garden, a much-valued local initiative that provides space for growing, learning and wellbeing within the community. By attending, families will not only enjoy a magical evening of Halloween fun, but also help raise vital funds for an organisation that benefits so many in Newton Aycliffe and beyond.

Event organiser, Aycliffe Radio, said: "We are thrilled to be bringing back the Halloween Spooktakular for another year. It's an event that families look forward to and we love seeing the community come together to celebrate in such a fun way. With the scare walk, disco, trampolines and, of course, the Drop Zone, there really is something for everyone - and it's all in aid of a fantastic local cause."

Tickets are on sale now and are priced at £15 for under 16s and £10 for over 16s (plus a 50p booking fee). All attendees require a ticket to enter, and under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.ayclifferradio.co.uk/tickets](http://www.ayclifferradio.co.uk/tickets) - early booking is strongly advised as demand is expected to be high.



**FAMILY HALLOWEEN SPOOKTAKULAR**

**ROF 59 ACTIVITY CENTRE**

**aycliffe radio**

**FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2025**

**ROF59 ACTIVITY CENTRE, 5-8.30PM**

**Scare Walk and Surprises . . .**

**Halloween Theme Disco**

**Trampoline and High Runway**

Halloween Treats for all children *(supplied by Shake 'n' Cake)*

Prizes for best Fancy Dress • Bar and Refreshments

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*(Additional cost for Drop Zone entry)*

**Tombola / Raffle in aid of Five Acres Community Garden**

**Tickets: Under 16s - £15**  
**16 & Over - £10**  
*(+50p booking fee per ticket)*  
*(All who attend require a ticket, under 16s MUST be accompanied)*

**Available online only from:**  
[ayclifferradio.co.uk/tickets](http://ayclifferradio.co.uk/tickets)

## Fibromyalgia Support Group

This is a safe, supportive space, where you can connect, share and find real understanding from others attending. Refreshments will be available.

### The next meeting dates:

Tuesday 9th September 2025

Tuesday 23rd September 2025

Tuesday 7th October 2025

Tuesday 21st October 2025

All take place from 12 noon to 2.00pm.

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).

## Get On Board with Bus Travel

Residents are being encouraged to take advantage of discount bus fares in County Durham as part of a nationwide campaign to promote bus travel.

This September, Durham County Council is backing Catch the Bus Month, a campaign that celebrates the contribution buses make to the economy, as well as reducing congestion and air pollution.

In County Durham, residents and visitors can benefit from a range of discount fares, subsidised by the North East Combined Authority (NECA), of which the council is a partner.

These include the £5 Durham Day Rover ticket, which allows people to hop on and off bus services, run by any operator in the county on the same day. Young people aged 21 and under can take advantage of Get Round for £1 single fares, as well as £3 day tickets, which allow unlimited travel across the region. All single fares for all bus users are capped at £2.50.

Many attractions in the region also offer discounts to visitors who travel by public transport as part of the Car Free Days Out scheme.

Durham County Council launched Catch the Bus Month by bringing together representatives from two of the county's bus operators, Arriva and Weardale Travel, in Bishop Auckland Market Place. Bishop Auckland will soon be home to a new bus station, which is due to open early next year as part of the wider regeneration of the town. The council's travel team will also be out and about across the county raising awareness of Catch the Bus Month, including running pop up stands at Locomotion in Shildon on Wednesday 10th September; Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Gardens on Wednesday 17th September; and at an information event organised by Karbon Homes at Bullion Hall in Chester-le-Street on Monday 22nd September. They will also be attending a meeting of Shildon Children and Young People Access Network to promote Get Round for £1.

For more information about bus travel, ticket options, discounts and Car Free Days Out in County Durham, visit: [www.durham.gov.uk/CountyDurhamByBus](http://www.durham.gov.uk/CountyDurhamByBus) Catch the Bus Month is organised by Bus Users UK, a charity that champions the rights of bus and coach users. To find out more, visit: [www.bususers.org/catchthebusmonth](http://www.bususers.org/catchthebusmonth)

## ManHealth Special

Around Town - Sunday 24th August



Sunday's show was a ManHealth special when Ciaran McMenamin and Paul Wilson, from ManHealth, joined us in the studio to bring us up-to-date with what events and support groups are taking place in our region, and to discuss the alarming rise of mental health issues in young men, and the growing concerns of the number of suicides, and the need for charities such as ManHealth to provide much needed support, guidance and training, and to raise awareness for a vital, and worthwhile, cause that saves lives.

Around Town, Sunday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon on Aycliffe Radio.

Phill & Andy

Around Town Aycliffe Radio.

## Newton Aycliffe Navy Club

### Back to the 80's Disco Night Extravaganza

Saturday 13th September

Tickets £3.00 - available at the Bar

### Sunday Night Entertainment

**£2.00 entry**

Sunday 7th - 'Micky Walters'

Sunday 14th - 'Angie'

Sunday 21st - 'Michelle B'

Sunday 28th - 'Ellie Romano'

**Tuesday Afternoon 1.00pm - 5.00pm**  
 Afternoon Drinks - All Welcome

**Thursday Evening**  
 Quiz Night - 9.00pm

**Friday Night**  
 Bingo and Domino Handicap - 8.00pm

**Saturday Night**  
 Karaoke - 8.00pm - 11.00pm

**Sunday Afternoon**  
 Domino Handicap

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## HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

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# 60th Wedding Celebrations



Bruce and Ann Ross celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 23rd August. Both were born in Redcar, North Yorkshire, and met at a church dance in their home town - Bruce doesn't dance, but walked Ann home. When the couple met, Ann worked for the Halifax as a clerk and Bruce was starting his career in the police force. Ann retired from the Halifax bank in Redcar after being employed there most of her working life, Bruce retired from Cleveland police as a sergeant. The couple moved to Newton Aycliffe in 2003 and enjoy their individual hobbies; Ann loves her keep fit class, knitting and walking their pup, Bertie. Bruce was a keen sportsman, involved in cricket and rugby, even representing the police force in rugby. He is also a budgie fancier and judge for many years. Bruce and Ann have three children; Christine, Stuart and Keith as well as five grandchildren; Callum, Connor, Melissa, James and Ella. The whole family got together from around the country to celebrate the milestone anniversary with a meal and cake. Ann says "I think time just flies by and then you reach the number, there's nothing special, each marriage is different as are the people in it." Cllr Ken Robson, Mayor of Great Aycliffe, and his consort, visited the couple at their home on their anniversary to present a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the town council. Ken said "It is absolutely wonderful to be able to help celebrate the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Bruce and Ann Ross as Mayor and Mayoress on behalf of Great Aycliffe Town Council. A fantastic couple and we wish them all the best for their future."

# NA Women's Institute

## Great North Run News

Newton Aycliffe WI are supporting Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group charity this year as one of our committee members, Viv Williams, will be running the Great North Run on Sunday 7th September, on behalf of Newton Aycliffe WI, if you would like to sponsor Viv, you can directly sponsor her on JustGiving page:

[www.justgiving.com/page/vivien-williams-8](http://www.justgiving.com/page/vivien-williams-8)

any donation, no matter the amount, would be appreciated.

Our long summer days have been giving our members plenty of opportunity to explore and now we are ready to plan for our Autumn opportunities, be it indoors or outdoors.

There are several proposed trips coming up, including the amazing History Wardrobe, Halfway to Hollywood on 26th September, with a pre-show fish & chips supper at Colemans, South Shields.

On the 15th October, an afternoon tea treat at Poplars Garden Centre. This tea will be subsidised for our members.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm in St. Clare's church hall, Central Avenue. We have speakers on varied topics, craft evenings, friendship evenings and parties. We have access to all manner of informative and varying workshops at WI House, all at reasonable prices to suit your budget.

There is no need to be lonely as a WI member, come and join our friendly and welcoming Newton Aycliffe WI club. All women are welcome, if you have any questions or queries please contact our President, Christine Robinson, on 07981 992686.

# ACORN Community Association

Due to factors beyond our control the Thursday 11th September meeting at the Phoenix Club has been cancelled, but we will return in October.  
Ken Robson.

# Patriotic Car

Dear Sir,  
Whilst driving through Shildon early on Sunday morning, 24th August, I noticed that a couple of the smaller roundabouts had been patriotically adorned with St George's flags in red and white paint. It wasn't until I arrived at work that a colleague pointed out I too had apparently been 'decorated', with splashes of red paint running down the side of my car. A closer look revealed the tyres, wheel arches and bodywork had all received their share of the national colours. I wonder, therefore, if those responsible for the roundabout artwork might be so good as to let me have the paint reference number - so I can finish the job and match the rest of my car to its new patriotic livery. Name and address supplied.

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## ‘Misinformation’

Dear Sir,  
In the last edition of the Newton News, Ian Jones of Fornax stated that: “*The plant would generate enough energy to power the equivalent of 700 homes.*” This statement is rather disingenuous as it implies that home owners in the area of the incinerator could be the beneficiaries of the off-take heat. This is far from the truth. Following the planning appeal, Fornax signed a s106 agreement to construct a network to distribute heat to occupiers within 2km of the incinerator. In their application to discharge planning Condition 13, Fornax say they would reduce the pipe work to 1km, largely on the grounds of cost, and their preference is for distribution within Merchant Park, ie nowhere near homes!! Therefore the chances of homes acquiring the off-take is a false construct. If Fornax stuck to the agreement, homes may well have had the benefit of the off-take heat.

I quote, from a written statement made by Fornax in their application: “In practical terms the maximum distance considered for a pipe run is - 1km from the source of the off-take.” However, I note that Mr Jones refers in the article to “organisations within a mile of the site” who may want to take up the heat. Either he is not familiar with Fornax’s formal application or he is not being entirely honest about their intentions. One mile is not equal to one kilometre, nor is it equal to the 2km as per the unilateral undertaking agreement/S106, which is relevant to Condition 13. The application to discharge Condition 13 is yet to be decided by DCC.

Despite Mr Jones’s words, Fornax do not appear concerned about building a trusting two way relationship, as stated in the mentioned article, their concerns are profit. Mr Jones’s various accounts, using various media, are interesting, as in your previous article (dated) and on the radio, Aycliffe Radio 3/8/25, he mentions Health and Safety. On Aycliffe Radio he states that he will be inviting councillors to view the incinerator, but at that time, due to health and safety reasons, he was unable to send out the invitations, however, he was able to entertain within the facility the BBC television recording crew and reporter, and the ITV television recording crew. It appears that Mr Ian Jones is not interested in working with the community, being a good neighbour or Health & Safety, all they are interested in is controlling the narrative and portraying themselves in a positive light.

To conclude, profit and controlling the narrative are the objectives. If they are giving misleading and false constructs now, can you imagine the misinformation, should a permit is given?  
Hilda Longley.

### WALKERS

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## Aycliffe Village History Society

The next Aycliffe Village History Society meeting will be on Wednesday 10th September in Aycliffe Village Hall at 7.30pm. The speaker for the evening will be Anya Kirkby from Durham Mustard with her talk on ‘The Origins of Mustard Powder’. Refreshments will be provided. Non members and visitors are very welcome to join us.

## Fornax ‘Trustworthy’?

Dear Sir,  
In the last edition of Newton News and on Aycliffe Radio (3/8/25), Ian Jones of Fornax gave interesting accounts of the Newton Aycliffe incinerator in an effort to win people round to his claim that the incinerator will be safe and Fornax will be a “good neighbour”. By way of balance, I would ask people to bear the following in mind. Since the planning application stage, Fornax has been inconsistent about what they intend to burn. As part of the public consultation (incidentally, brought about only after pressure from residents) on 14/6/21 and 15/6/21 Fornax attended two meetings online with local councillors, MP Paul Howell and local residents. These meetings were recorded and transcripts are included in the DCC planning portal Ref DM/21/01500.

In answer to the question about what they intended to burn, Mark Roberts of Fornax said- “... the waste codes that we’re actually applying for through the EA permit will mainly be what’s called the 18s which is for waste from ... healthcare and or related research, so basically it’s there really for us to support the NHS, support hospitals, support health centres and local industry ..... I can pretty much guarantee for everybody listening tonight, so it’s mainly going to be looking after the clinical waste which is prefix 18. We don’t treat any municipal waste.”

This was confirmed in Fornax’s other publicity – letters to local businesses said “The facility would provide a valuable, local and cost-effective service to the NHS and other similar facilities such as GP surgeries and dentists in County Durham and the surrounding area.” No mention of Hazardous Waste (HW). Their website gave examples of only health-care sources of waste. The incinerator was promoted as a clinical waste incinerator, and emphasis placed on helping the NHS. However, when presented by the Residents Group with data indicating that volumes of clinical waste in the northeast could not have sustained this incinerator, Fornax submitted a report to the planning inquiry stating “Healthcare/Clinical waste is not only a small proportion of the waste available for the plant, but also unlikely to form a large proportion of the tonnage to be targeted for incineration.” So now we have the incinerator presented as a largely HW incinerator.

Mr Jones now states, without any explanation of the discrepancies, that 70% of the waste will be clinical. So, either Mr Jones the CEO is mistaken, or they will be taking clinical waste from much further afield than the northeast. Readers will recall that Fornax’s prime justification for siting the incinerator in Aycliffe was that it is central to the clinical waste catchment area of Teesside, Durham, Northumberland and North Yorkshire. Despite frequent questions from the public, Fornax has never denied outright that waste would be coming from Scotland. In fact, Fornax has applied for their environmental permit to cover a whole host of wastes in addition to clinical, eg agriculture, textiles, chemicals, oils, power stations, packaging, oily rags (specifically excluded, by the way, by Mark Roberts 14/6/21), and many more. Everything but the kitchen sink, in other words .... and maybe that too! On the radio programme, Mr Jones said that he already knows what waste is coming in – and so he should. So why not be open about it? And why be coy about waste from Scotland?

Mr Jones says Fornax wishes to be a good neighbour and build a trusting relationship. Good neighbours are open, honest and transparent in their dealings with others. It seems to me that, throughout the whole process, Fornax has been less than open and transparent about many crucial aspects of this project. They have a long way to go before they can be described as trustworthy.

Yours faithfully,  
Eileen Brewis.

## Forgotten Army

Dear Sir,  
I write to honour people, like my dad, who fought with the British 14 Army often called the ‘Forgotten Army’. Honouring the final victory, remembering the forgotten sacrifice they made in the following places: Burma, Singapore, Imphal, Kohima, and the jungles of the Pacific, in the heat and hardship of the Far East, British and Commonwealth soldiers faced the longest and harshest campaigns of WWII.

They fought in silence, often overlooked, yet their courage and endurance brought the final victory and lasting peace to the world. Eighty years later, on 15th August 2025, the United Kingdom honoured the 80th anniversary of VJ Day remembering the ultimate victory and the sacrifices of those who fought in the shadows of history. I remembered them, including the ones who did not return.

On the morning of the 6th and 9th August the United States detonated two atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki marking the end of World War II.

On the 15th August 1945 the Japanese surrendered, and world peace prevailed, now, 80 years on, we were to celebrate, probably the last time we have a chance to do this for our veteran’s.

The disappointment I have with this, is the fact that we have no recognition in the Town, where was our Mayor or other Councillors, Town or County, or the MP? The only Church service was at St. Mary’s RC Church. I have attended a church service on 15th August every year for most of my life.

I was six years old when my dad returned.  
Vince Crosby.

## Chill Swim



Donna and Peter Jarps are Friends of Rotary Newton Aycliffe and, in the past, they have always contributed to our Christmas food bank collections. Therefore, when we discovered that Peter is a long-distance swimmer and had already swum Coniston Lake, 5.25 miles end to end, and Ullswater, 7.5 miles end to end, we wanted to know more. We suggested that he should nominate a charity and RNA would support him.

The challenge, Peter told us, is known as the ‘Chill Swim’. He has one more lake to complete the trio and on 6th September he tackles Windermere, 11 miles. He has nominated Blood Cancer UK as his charity and below is the link to donate. Let’s all get behind Peter and support him in this amazing achievement.  
<http://bit.ly/3Jd10BF>



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# GCSE RESULTS DAY at Greenfield Academy

**Greenfield Academy is delighted to celebrate our GCSE results, reflecting continued improvements in outcomes for our children. This year, the school is especially proud of the advances in English and Maths attainment, testament to the dedication shown by children and staff.**

Greenfield Academy's new school build, progressing alongside these achievements, makes the coming academic year an incredibly exciting time for the community of Newton Aycliffe.

Head of School, Amy Aspland, commented: "I am incredibly proud of our children's resilience, their dedication, and the strength they have shown throughout their learning journey".

These achievements mark the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Greenfield children. They are a testament to their hard work and embody school values in demonstrating pride and ambition for their futures.

GCSE results day is a moment to celebrate all accomplishments and embrace the remarkable progress made. In particular, Logan Marshall achieved 5 GCSEs at Grade 9 and 3 at Grade 7.

Tunmise Olusola-Taiwo who only began her Year 11 study with Greenfield in February achieved 8 GCSEs with 2 at Grade 7. She and her Mum were absolutely delighted and proud. Mrs Olusola-Taiwu expressed her thanks to the school and said that their support in guiding her daughter's success was superb.

Congratulations to all Greenfield Academy children on their hard-earned achievements and good luck for the next stage of their education!

We would like to warmly invite you to our Year 5 and 6 Open Evening.

## OPEN EVENING

**Monday 22nd September  
6-8pm**

**Head of School welcome  
at 6pm and 7pm**

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School Video





## Buzzing With Kindness



Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is thrilled to highlight a generous act of kindness from long-standing supporters, Busy Bees, who have kindly donated a comfy sofa to its Options service - for adults with learning and physical disabilities.

This thoughtful addition is already making a difference, creating a warm, welcoming space, where members can relax, connect and feel at home.

Carol Gaskarth, Chief Executive of PCP, said: "We're deeply grateful to Busy Bees for their continued generosity. Contributions like these go far beyond meeting practical needs; they help us create spaces that are safe, inclusive and nurturing for everyone who relies on our services. We are also incredibly thankful for the many local champions, like Busy Bees, whose ongoing support through donations and volunteering makes a lasting difference in our community."

This isn't the first time Busy Bees have stepped up to support Options members. In 2020, they donated £200, which helped purchase a large fridge freezer to support cooking sessions. In 2024 they gave £400, which funded a new smart TV for activities and entertainment."

Linda West, Options Services Coordinator, added: "We are so grateful to the Busy Bees, this sofa has made such a difference to us, not just a place for socialising, but also for peace in a busy day. Thank you for your support over the years, you have made a difference."

A heartfelt thank you to the Busy Bees team for helping make the Options room feel even more like home.

To support PCP and its Options service, visit [www.pcp.uk.net](http://www.pcp.uk.net)

## Thousands Object

Dear Sir,

In a recent article and radio interview, Ian Jones of Fornax described the proposed Newton Aycliffe incinerator as a safe facility and claimed Fornax would be a "good neighbour." Many of us residents fear this does not reflect reality.

Many of us argue Newton Aycliffe Business Park, where the hazardous waste incinerator would be sited, is not "mostly industrial" as claimed. It sits near nurseries, a college, cafes, children's activity centres, a family swimming centre, homes and small local businesses. Durham County Council refused planning permission, and residents made clear this location is wholly inappropriate for a hazardous waste incinerator. Thousands of objections were submitted to the Environment Agency, which can be viewed online. Local residents and businesses came together to campaign against the proposed hazardous waste incinerator. A peer review of risk assessments, within the permit application, was commissioned, which raised potential concerns we believe require serious consideration from the Environment Agency. Equally troubling are the many pages of waste types included in the Fornax application. Many in the community fear emissions pose serious long-term risks to the community's health and the environment. A Facebook group was created: STOP Heighington Lane Incinerator and has over 3,000 members. We strongly hope the Environment Agency refuse the permit.

A hazardous waste incinerator, we feel, does not belong in the heart of a community. If one must be built, it should be far from homes, schools, and businesses. Newton Aycliffe deserves clean air.

Name and address supplied.

## Service of Reflection

People affected by suicide are invited to an event in Durham City this weekend.

Working with partners, Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council, through their joint County Durham and Darlington Coroners Service, have organised a service of reflection which is open to anyone who has been affected by suicide in some way.

The service takes place at Durham Cathedral on Sunday 7th September from 6pm to 7pm, with this date chosen as it is close to World Suicide Prevention Day on 10th September.

Preventing suicide and supporting those affected by it are priorities for both councils and their Health and Wellbeing Boards. These boards see the councils work with the NHS and Healthwatch groups, which represent health and social care service users, to improve the health and wellbeing of people locally.

A number of organisations that provide mental health support have also helped organise the service and representatives will be at the event to offer assistance to anyone who needs it.

Cllr Darren Grimes, Durham County Council's Deputy Leader, whose portfolio includes the Coroners Service, said: "Many people struggle with their mental health, and it is really important that everyone knows there is support out there for them if they are struggling. Sadly though, some people do die by suicide and our Coroners Service naturally comes into contact with bereaved friends and family as a result.

"Members of the team fully appreciate how hard it is for those bereaved by suicide and wanted to help. They came up with the idea of a service and felt it would be appropriate to arrange it around World Suicide Prevention Day.

"We'd like anyone who has been affected by suicide in any way to feel welcome at this event. We hope it will give people the chance to reflect in a quiet environment and remember loved ones. Support will be available to anyone who needs it at any point during the service. We hope everyone who attends will find it helpful in some way."

The service will be presided over by The Vice Dean of Durham Cathedral, The Reverend Canon Michael Hampel. Organisations that have helped organise the event, and will be present to provide support to people, are: Samaritans, PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide, If U Care Share, Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide, The Compassionate Friends and The Coroners' Courts Support Service. The service is also supported by Durham University.

World Suicide Prevention Day is marked annually on 10th September. Find out more at [www.iasp.info/wspd](http://www.iasp.info/wspd)

## Free Family Fun Day

On Heighington Village Green

Saturday 6th September, 12 noon - 4.00pm

Join us for an unforgettable day of magic, laughter and joy in the beautiful village of Heighington! Pack your picnic blanket and get ready for: Fantastic Dog Show, Face Painters, Silent Disco, Carnival Fun Fairs Fairground attractions, Ice Cream and Bouncy Castles. It's the biggest celebration to end the summer - a perfect day out for the whole family and your last chance to enjoy the holidays in style! Free entry and fun for everyone, all in support of local causes. Let's come together, make memories, and have a fantastic day out.

## Sight Checks

Dear Sir,

As a 70+ driver, I agree with Joy Allen (PCC) and the Government, as regards sight checks. Like most older people, I have a sight test every two years and do agree that older drivers (70+), should have a compulsory sight check. Also having some type of health and physical check would help, to see if drivers are physically fit as well as the DVLA knowing all their health matters and if it would impede their ability to drive.

But, who would pay the extra costs? Yes, sight checks are free for over 70's, but a medical, or even getting a declaration form signed by your GP, could come with a cost.

There is one sticking point to all this, why victimise the over 70's, I'm quite sure there are a number of under 70's, who have sight and physical problems, even at 17 and all the way up to 69, who don't declare them to the DVLA. Why not have all drivers have these checks? For under 70's every five years, but once again, who is going to cover the cost? Alan Hindmarch.



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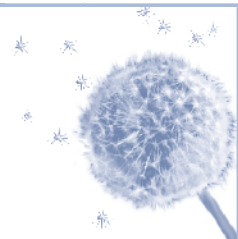
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# Heighington Surgery Closure

Dear Sir,  
Many of you will already be aware of the recent and unexpected closure of Heighington West Green Surgery. In response to this sudden development, considerable effort has gone into reorganising and strengthening the services available at Bewick Crescent. The updated provisions are as follows:

## Heighington Doctors Surgery – Temporary Closure Update

Following professional advice from a structural engineer, Heighington Surgery will remain fully closed until approximately 1st December 2025.

### Prescription Collection

- Prescriptions will be available for collection at the Hopelands Meeting Room on:
- Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays
- Between 3:30pm and 5:30pm
- The first day for prescription collection at a Prescription Drop Box will be available during the same hours for patients to submit requests. Please note: this service is only available when a staff member is present. Patients can still drop prescriptions off anytime in the current box situated on the wall of the surgery until such time scaffolding will be in place.

### Appointments and Clinical Services

- GP appointments will continue via telephone and will be managed from Bewick Crescent Surgery, Newton Aycliffe.
- Nursing services, including blood tests and other clinical procedures, will also take place at Bewick Crescent.

### Covid/Flu Vaccinations

- Vaccinations for patients aged 75 and over are scheduled for the weeks commencing:-
- 6th October
- 13th October
- 20th October

These appointments are pre-bookable and patients should contact the surgery to book an appointment.

### Access to Hopelands Meeting Room

- Entry is available via Millbank Road or Hopelands, opposite the main school entrance.
- Please note: there are steps at the Millbank Road entrance. Patients with mobility difficulties may prefer using the Hopelands entrance.

### Parking Guidance

- Parking at Hopelands Court is reserved for residents.
- If possible, we kindly ask patients to walk to collect or drop off prescriptions.
- If driving is necessary, please park in the village centre and walk through the Courtyard to access the Meeting Room.

We understand that the closure of West Green Surgery may cause inconvenience. However, this decision was made based on expert structural advice. The Practice is using this opportunity to carry out internal improvements, which will enhance future medical services in Heighington.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Councillor Gerald Lee & Ruth Lee  
(Bewick Crescent Patient Panel).

# Royal Mail Deliveries

Dear Sir,

As a resident of Byerley Park Estate, could I put an open question to the local managers of the Royal Mail Service please for an answer to our appalling delivery service recently. I don't expect a reply from them!

I recently bought tickets online for an upcoming sports event and was assured by the organiser that my tickets had been despatched on the Thursday evening for the event in 10 days time. The tickets hadn't arrived by the following Wednesday, so I began to panic. Purely by coincidence, I noticed an unmarked white van on the Estate that day occupied by two Royal Mail employees delivering parcels (why do you need two people in a van to deliver parcels?) I politely asked them if there would be any letter deliveries that day as we hadn't had mail for several days and their response was 'no' as they had been told by their managers to prioritise parcel deliveries over letter deliveries. If I needed my post urgently I could go down to the Sorting Office to collect my own mail. I did so and luckily the only person there was able to locate my mail after checking my ID, to which I was very grateful. Not only were my tickets in the batch of mail, but also our credit card bill and FOUR NHS hospital appointment letters, one of which was bringing forward an appointment to within the next few days.

Such service, or indeed non-service, is clearly unacceptable in these modern times. I appreciate there may be staff shortages and that Royal Mail are trying to compete with other couriers for parcels, but surely alternating between a parcel delivery one day and a letter delivery the next day would be an acceptable compromise. Going without mail for a week when it costs £1.70 to post a first class letter is beyond a joke.

Concerned resident,  
Byerley Park.

# Aycliffe Foodbank and Drop In Update

Dear Sir,

Did you know that our sessions at St Clare's Church Hall every Wednesday and Friday afternoon's, 1.30-3.30 pm are more than 'just' a foodbank?

We are joined each week by a number of local support groups you can chat to over a cuppa such as Man Health, Sisters of Support, Cornforth Partnership and Community Money Advice among others. You may even be able to get a NHS mini health check!

The week leading up to the August bank holiday weekend, was our busiest in the month for both vouchers fulfilled (families supported) and also for donations received from our fantastic community here in Newton Aycliffe.

As we are ending the school holidays, it's clear families having been struggling.

A whopping total of 155.9kg was donated directly to us during that week, plus the leftover pastries and cakes from Greggs, cleaning packs from Lifeline and essentials from Tesco.

Shout outs, as always, go to our regular supporters, Tesco, Greggs, Lifeline Community Action, Osborne Gas Servcs, Aycliffe Evangelical Church, as well as a couple of personal donations (who very kindly donated the first pickings from their allotment!).

If you want to support us, the following items would be very much appreciated: small bags of sugar, long life milk, pot noodles, dry dog food, individually wrapped biscuits, tinned meat.

Anything, however small, goes a long way to helping the community who need some extra support. They, and us, are very grateful - thank you.

Aycliffe Foodbank and Drop In.

# Rhythm & Tunes Festival Returns

Get ready to feel the vibes at this year's Rhythm & Tunes event.

The music festival is brought to you by the council, in conjunction with Darlington Rock n Blues Club and Gasto Promotions. The festival takes place from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th September in the town centre.

### The great line-up includes:

Friday: The Forum Music Centre, 7.30-11pm, Tickets £10. James O'Hara Band, Michael Littlefield and Ross Taylor

Contact: The Forum Box Office for tickets on 01325 363135

Saturday: Main stage, 1pm-6pm, Free

The Southmartins, Duran Duran Experience, Simply Kate Bush and Dogshark at the Quakerhouse Pub from 9pm

Sunday: 12noon - 9pm. Rock & Blues fans will love the Sunday line-up.

Music starts at noon and continues in numerous town centre venues until late, including: Greig Taylor Band, Dirty Ruby, The Blue Kings, The Boneshakers, The Maine Line, The Dead Seat, The Paul Rodgers Story, The Graham Henderson Experience, Martin Burch Band, DC Blues, Leeds City Stompers, Bad Bob Bates, DVD, The Rain Kings, Kung Fu Blues Band, The Dust Raisers, A Band Called Horse, Dave Crabtree Band and The Bone Idols.

The Market Square stage will feature headline bands Rebecca Downes, Chris Bevington Organisation and The Animals. The DL1 Stage will host The Blues Kings, Dirty Ruby and Greig Taylor Band. Whether soaking up the atmosphere or dancing like nobody's watching, this festival is set to appeal to a broad range of musical tastes. Make sure not to miss this fantastic celebration of Rhythm & Tunes.

For event information, visit: [www.enjoydarlington.co.uk](http://www.enjoydarlington.co.uk)

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

While Parliament has been in recess over August, I've been a busy spending time with local residents' groups, businesses and community organisations. Recess is always a valuable opportunity to spend more time here in the constituency, listening to the concerns of local residents and seeing the excellent work being carried out in our community. Over the summer I had the privilege of visiting a number of employers and institutions that play a vital role in the local manufacturing sector. At 3M I heard from staff about the cutting-edge work being carried out at their Newton Aycliffe site. On a more personal note, my Auntie Jean worked at the factory for over 40 years, so it was lovely to meet her former colleagues. I'm proud of 3M's strong record on apprenticeships, supporting the next generation, which is a key priority for me as your local MP.

I also visited Northumbria University where I heard about the work they are leading to create more routes for young people from our area into higher education and degree-level apprenticeships. We discussed how to expand opportunities so that young people can gain the skills and confidence they need to thrive, whether they choose to go on to university, vocational training or straight into work. It was also great to visit Tesco in Aycliffe where I met the store manager and head office staff to hear about the ways they are supporting our local communities, through employment, community grants and food bank donations. I was really impressed by the work they're doing. Back in Westminster this week, the Labour government's focus has been a big boost in support for working families. Free childcare for kids under 2 has been doubled this week from 15 to 30 hours. This will be a massive help to local Mams and Dads, saving on average £7,500 and helping parents balance work and family life. The government has also extended school holiday clubs so children can continue to enjoy activities outside of term time and we're reducing the cost of school uniforms by capping the number of branded items. All of these measures will help families, improve child development and deliver on Labour's commitment to put more money in your pocket.

Newton Aycliffe was also given additional funding for policing by the government's Summer Hotspot scheme. This gave Durham Constabulary more resources to put boots on the ground to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. It's been encouraging to see how this funding is already making an impact and to hear from officers about their work in keeping our town safe. Newton Aycliffe was one of four towns across our constituency to benefit from this extra funding, along with Ferryhill, Spennymoor and Chilton.

Finally, I held regular advice surgeries in Trimdon Station, Aycliffe and West Cornforth. It's always great to sit down with local residents to discuss issues and concerns. As Parliament returns, my priority remains the same: to stand up for our Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor constituency and ensure our community continues to have the support, investment and opportunities it deserves. I will keep working hard, both locally and in Westminster, to deliver on the issues that matter most to us as residents.

## Around Town

### Around Town - Sunday 17th August

Our thanks to our guests on Sunday 17th August, Paige Hutchinson came into the studio to talk to us about her World Challenge Trip to Sri Lanka in 2027, where she will get the opportunity to work with elephants in one of their many sanctuaries, and engage in a wide range of cultural experiences. Paige brought her mam, Zoe, along for support, but 14 year old Paige proved to be a natural, and totally enjoyed her time in the studio.

The second half of the show was given over to fellow Aycliffe Radio presenter, Colin McNeillie, who brought us up-to-date on his extensive videoed walks made in order to both entertain and raise people's awareness to the beauty of our local countryside and most recently the thousands of miles he has walked in aid of Alzheimer's and Dementia awareness in the UK and around the world. Phill & Andy, Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.



## Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report

Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, put in an excellent performance to win by five wickets away at league leaders Stokesley 2nd XI on Saturday 16th August in the NYSD 3rd division. Choosing to bowl first proved a good decision as Aycliffe restricted the home side to 188 for 8 from their allotted 40 overs. Ben Howard took the honours with the ball, finishing with a seasonal best 5 for 30 from his superb ten over spell. In reply, a brilliant 3rd wicket partnership of 145 between Chris Palmer (sponsored by Vanilla Design & Print), who scored 82 off 108 balls, extending his club record aggregate runs total past the 12,000 mark in the process and Jai Sander (42 off 69 balls), was the back bone of the innings as Aycliffe reached their victory target after 36.3 overs.

The first team continued their recent good form with a nail biting two wicket victory at home to Guisborough 2nd XI. The visitors were asked to bat first and were bowled out for 118 after 37.1 overs thanks to some good bowling by Matty Greaves (sponsored by Britannia Fire), who took 3 for 22, Will Dearden (2 for 18), Ben Howard (2 for 20) and Leo Mercy (2 for 29). In reply, Aycliffe lost wickets at regular intervals, but good innings by 16 year old Will Dearden, who top scored with 25 off 55 balls, Jai Sander (22 off 33 balls) and Leon Patel (20 off 35 balls) kept their side in the game. A late unbeaten 14 off 11 balls by a cool headed Ramzan Hussain, was enough to give Aycliffe a tense win after 33.2 overs. The first team now sit in fourth place in the 3rd division of the NYSD with only three games left to play this season.

The first team travelled to play relegation threatened Blackhall 1st XI on Saturday 30th August and were comprehensively beaten by eight wickets. Asked to bat first, Aycliffe scored a respectable 194 for 9 from 40 overs. Opening batsman Tez Smit again top scored for Aycliffe, this time reaching 53 off 73 balls and his seventh half century of the season included eight boundaries and he was supported well by Chris Palmer (41 off 48 balls) and Tom Dearden (28 off 32 balls). In reply, the homeside eased to victory with more than 7 overs and 8 wickets in hand. The first team now sit in fourth place in the 3rd division of the NYSD with only two games left to play this season.

On Saturday 16th August, Aycliffe's 2nd team put in a good performance to earn a battling draw at home to Marske 2nds in the NYSD 4th division. The visitors chose to bat first and piled up an imposing 233 for 5 from their 40 overs despite some good bowling by 15 year old Tom Norman (3 for 49) and 14 year old Addison Jones (1 for 38). In reply, openers Matt French (52 off 105 balls) and 14 year old Trent Telford (49 off 83 balls) put on 106 for the first wicket. When they were both dismissed, Adam Shaw continued the good work scoring an entertaining unbeaten 21 off 11 balls, as Aycliffe reached a respectable 169 for 7 at stumps to claim a well deserved draw.

The following weekend, Aycliffe's 2nd team lost, away at Wolviston by eight wickets, but the game will be remembered for some excellent individual performances by a couple of promising Aycliffe youngsters. Opening batsman Trent Telford, unluckily out for 49 the previous game, made amends when the 14 year old carried his bat for an excellent career best unbeaten 52 off 110 balls, including four boundaries. 14 year Freddie Lawler also hit a career best score when he finished with a superb unbeaten 72 off 78 balls and his innings included nine boundaries and a six as Aycliffe totalled a respectable 163 for 3 from their allotted 40 overs. In reply, the homeside eased to their victory target after 32 overs, with 13 year old Miles Telford marking his senior debut for Aycliffe by taking one of the only two



Wolviston wickets to fall, capping a memorable day for the two young Telford brothers. On the bank holiday Monday, Aycliffe 2nds travelled to Northallerton 2nd XI and were defeated by 87 runs in game played in very hot conditions. Captain Dan Weldon (sponsored by Midland Structural Services) led from the front putting in an excellent all round performance with both bat and ball. During the homesides innings, Weldon bowled superbly in the scorching heat to finish with 3 for 25 from his eight over spell as Northallerton declared on 200 for 9 after 38.5 overs. Then, when Aycliffe replied, he scored 25 off 19 balls and included six boundaries. Special mention must also go to Leon Patel, who finished with his career best figures of 4 for 45 from 8.5 overs, and to Adam Shaw, who top scored in the Aycliffe reply and was desperately unlucky not to get a deserved first half century when he was left stranded on 49 not out off 42 balls and his career best innings included eight boundaries and a six. 15 year old Will Moffatt also batted well, chipping in with 12 off 17 balls, as Aycliffe were bowled out for 113 after 25.5 overs.

Aycliffe's 2nd team lost by seven wickets at home to Bedale 2nds on Saturday 30th August, but the game will be remembered because, for the first time in the club's history, a mother and son, Amanda Norman and her 15 year old son Tom, both played together in the same senior team. Tom Norman (sponsored by Rite People) marked the unique occasion by producing some excellent bowling to finish with senior career best figures of 3 for 27 from his five over spell. Special mention must go to 13 year old Jack Collingwood, who made his senior debut in the 2nd team game and also to captain Dan Weldon, who played his 250th senior game for the club in the same match. Photo: Cricket Club Secretary, Lee Weldon, congratulating his son Daniel after he completed his 250th senior game for Aycliffe.

## Xmas Fair

Avon Court are holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday 22nd November at 1.00pm. Stalls can be booked in advance; this is an indoor event, so limited space, call: 0370 1924 553 to book your slot or email: [hazel.davis@housing21.org.uk](mailto:hazel.davis@housing21.org.uk) Stalls are £5.00 each.



## Congratulations

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**Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone of 60 years together!**



Your journey as a couple has been nothing short of inspiring. Through every season of life, your love, commitment and unwavering support for one another have been a beautiful example for everyone around you.

Thank you for showing us what true partnership looks like, filled with patience, laughter, resilience and endless love.

With all our love

Amanda, Nick, Karen, Andrew and Oliver xxx

## In Memoriam

**Stephen Ibinson**



14th September 1923  
My heart still aches with sadness and secret tears still flow. What it meant to love you no one can ever know.

From your loving Wife, Sandra

Always in our hearts and minds, with love from all the family

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# Flying Scotsman Joins the Titans

The world's most famous steam locomotive, Flying Scotsman, has officially joined the Titans of Steam lineup at Hopetown Darlington this month, marking a historic moment for railway heritage and steam enthusiasts around the globe.



Built in 1923 and renowned for being the first locomotive to officially reach 100mph, Flying Scotsman stands as a towering symbol of British engineering and innovation. Now, over a century later, the legendary locomotive takes centre stage alongside other steam giants as part of the Titans of Steam exhibition - a celebration of powerful, iconic, and awe-inspiring engines showcasing Britain's engineering might. Titans of Steam showcases the legends of the railways, uniting both famous and lesser known, but historically relevant, locomotives from around the country into one prestigious platform. Flying Scotsman joins other celebrated locomotives - such as The A1 Peppercorn Class Tornado, the last steam locomotive built in Darlington - that honour the age of steam.

Fans can look forward to exclusive experiences featuring Flying Scotsman, including footplate tours, light steam displays and photo and viewing opportunities, journeys that bring its storied legacy to life. Flying Scotsman will be part of the Titans of Steam Exhibition on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st September only. Another iconic locomotive of the age of steam, The A4 Pacific Sir Nigel Gresley, will replace Flying Scotsman from Tuesday 23rd September. Tickets for the Titans of Steam Gala, including the light steam events and footplate tours, are available now at [hopetowndarlington.co.uk/titans](http://hopetowndarlington.co.uk/titans) and should be booked in advance to avoid disappointment. The exhibition will be complemented by the highly anticipated 'anniversary journey 1825-2025' 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](http://www.sdr200.co.uk), [www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk](http://www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk) and [www.enjoydarlington.co.uk](http://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.

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 line up may be subject to change.

*Photo: Flying Scotsman at the National Railway Museum, York @ National Railway Museum (1)*

## Middridge Through the Ages



On a hot and sunny August Bank Holiday weekend, Middridge Village Hall was brought to life with an influx of visitors. The Hall was buzzing with chatter, laughter and lots of memories from 11am to 4pm on both days. The exhibition consisted of films, photographs, maps and fairy stories, ensuring everyone who visited thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Some people even came back for the second day! A recently published book about the History of Middridge entitled 'Life on the Edge' proved to be incredibly popular and anyone interested in obtaining a copy should contact: [middridgehall@gmail.com](mailto:middridgehall@gmail.com) Thanks to all who helped.

## Opticians

**K. McGuinness Opticians**  
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Newton Aycliffe  
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## Obituary

**Doreen Hall**



Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully in Bethany House Nursing Home on 16th August, aged 90 years.

Dear beloved Wife to George; a much loved Mam of Carol; a dear Mother-in-Law; a proud Grandma and Great Grandma.

## In Memoriam

**Arnold Rowland**

28/12/50-25/8/23

In loving memory of Arnie, my beloved Husband and Soulmate.

Life may never be the same without you, but I am grateful for the time we had together. The memories we created will forever be cherished and treasured.

All my love, Sandra  
xxxx

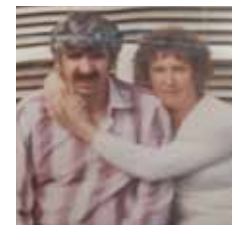
**Rosalind Mary Woodward**  
(nee Murphy)

My Beautiful Mum  
11th September 2019

Your beautiful spirit glows like the sun, a reminder of the love and warmth you gave. I am so blessed to have had that journey with you as my Mum, our treasured memories forever safe in my heart, and your Rose forever blooms'. Dawn

## Congratulations

**George & Sylvia Smith**



**Happy Diamond Wedding Anniversary**

Lots of love from all the family xxxx

## Birthday Remembrance

**David Atkins**

Sept 12th  
1977 - 2017

To a loving Son, so badly missed. Love you David, from Dad xxxx

Thinking of you Brother, from Paul, Brianne, Brogan, Jade and Olivia. Love you always xxx

**Hartley**



**Diamond Wedding Anniversary**

4th September 1965  
Happy anniversary Keith. Thank you for sixty wonderful years. I wish we could have all those years all over again. Love you, Elizabeth x

**Lee Smith**



7th September  
Another birthday without you Lee and it doesn't get any easier. Have a happy heavenly birthday and party with the angels. Love forever, Mam & Dad.

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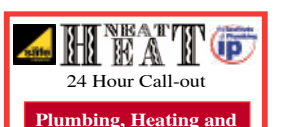
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# UTC South Durham A & T Level Results

UTC South Durham is celebrating another year of academic success, with students excelling across A Level, T Level and BTEC qualifications. This year saw a 100% pass rate in our Engineering T Level, with 30% at Distinction, reinforcing our reputation for high-quality technical education and strong career pathways. An impressive 36% of all grades achieved were at A\*, A, Distinction\* or Distinction.

Just some of our success stories are:  
**Ethan Patterson** - Achieved Distinction\*, A\*, A at A Level and will be joining Durham County Council on a Degree Level Apprenticeship in Civil Management.

**Kay Hollick-Oldfield** - Achieved Distinction, A, B, C and will be studying Mathematics at the University of York.

**Jenson Burrows** - Achieved Distinction in Engineering T Level and has secured a Degree Level Apprenticeship with Kromek, a cutting-edge technology company. Principal, Tom Dower, said "I am delighted with our students' successful results this year; a true reflection on their hard work and career-focus. While the results themselves are impressive, it is the balance of academic, technical and workplace experiences which ensures that students from the UTC are ready for their next steps in education or work." UTC South Durham prepares young people for the world of work equipping them with the technical skills, academic knowledge and professional behaviours needed to thrive. This year's results once again demonstrate how the UTC model creates unique opportunities for young people in the region.



## All Aboard Ghost Train



Excitement is building for celebrations in Darlington as the S&DR200 festival counts down to the 200th anniversary of the world's first passenger rail journey. The inaugural journey of Locomotion No. 1 on the Stockton and Darlington Railway (S&DR) represented a major turning point in history and preparations are well underway to celebrate the historic first journey which took place on 27th September 1825.

On Saturday 20th September, prepare to be amazed as 'Ghost Train: The Departures' arrives in Darlington town centre with free, interactive performances and a spectacular evening parade to Hopetown. Commissioned by S&DR200, created and produced by Avanti Display Ltd and Walk the Plank, 'Ghost Train: The Departures' will begin with a theatrical re-imagining of Locomotion No. 1, with moving cogs and wheels, installed on a large plinth in the Market Square. Throughout the afternoon six large-scale structures, each mounted on customized cars, will bring to life, through performance, music, sound and feats of engineering, some of the most significant inventions of the last 200 years.

Once the parade arrives at Hopetown, there will be a host of free, Night at the Museum activities for all the family. Hopetown will stay open late, with another chance to see the amazing artistic carriages up close. Visitors will also be able to enjoy the Titans of Steam exhibition which runs from Saturday 20th September until Sunday 5th October. The exhibition sees six amazing steam engines standing side by side the 78018 BR Standard Class 2, the 62005 LNER K1, the freight-hauling 63395 LNER Q6, the 65894 LNER J27, the 63395 LNER Q6, the 60163 Tornado and the 60007 Sir Nigel Gresley.

On Sunday 28th September, 'Ghost Train: The Arrival' will move to Stockton-on-Tees on with an epic outdoor performance at the Riverside.

The anniversary celebrations continue in Darlington on Saturday 27th September, when there will be the chance to watch a re-enactment of the first journey on the S&DR as a newly restored replica of Locomotion No. 1 travels along part of the route of the original journey in 1825. The journey across Skerne Bridge will be transmitted live to a big screen in Darlington Market Square, where there will be a host of free entertainment and activities.

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# Town's Rugby Club Start New Season

## Newton Aycliffe 14 v Hartlepool BBOB 17

After several weeks of fitness, team building and game plan coaching, the time came for Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club to start the 2025/26 campaign with their first preseason friendly against Hartlepool BBOB at Moore Lane.

Aycliffe only had a squad of 18 players, with several still away on holiday, however, they managed to borrow a prop forward from BBOB who arrived with no fewer than 25 players to enable competitive scrums to be held. David Gibson, coach, and the newly elected captain, led the team.

It was agreed to play the match in traditional preseason style consisting of four quarters of 20 minute periods.

After a close start, BBOB began to get on top and scored two tries before the first quarter was over. Flanker Rob Harriman was his usual livewire self in the back row, while Lock forward Wessel Weyers, in his first start for the club, also showed his potential.

At the beginning of the second half, Aycliffe began to play to their potential, Prop forward Dave Carney came close to scoring, the ball was recycled, and the guest prop scored a try. Centre Josh Dewhurst added the conversion. Five minutes later, Dewhurst cut through the BBOB defence in his mesmerising aggressive style to add a second try, which he again converted,

to give Aycliffe a 4-point lead. BBOB were soon to score their third try though and after the conversion were now 3 points up. The last quarter of the game became rather scrappy and neither side came close to scoring and so it was the visitors who came away with a narrow 14 - 17 win. After the match there was an air of sanguineness amongst the Aycliffe squad.

It's never too late to come and join Aycliffe rugby club. The squad will continue to welcome new players who want to be part of the club. A club which continues to reinvent itself and aim to play competitive rugby with a view to reach the top 4 in division 3 of Durham & Northumberland League.

Anybody wishing to train to play, no matter what experience, can introduce themselves on training evenings Tuesday and Thursday from 6:45pm at Moore Lane. New to the game and old boys will be made most welcome. The social scene is fantastic at the host club house, Newton Aycliffe Sports Club. Which probably has the best beer garden in South West Durham. Catch up about Aycliffe rugby on FB @Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club.



## Croft Circuit

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