

# 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

## Woodham Sports Academy

Woodham Academy has kicked off its extra-curricular initiative, the Sports Academy, with an outstanding launch week that welcomed over 200 students taking part in a wide range of sporting activities.

The Sports Academy is designed to provide students with additional opportunities to train, compete and develop their skills across a variety of sports. The launch had enthusiastic participation in Fitness, Dance, Netball, Swimming, Basketball, Rugby and Football; a testament to the energy and interest from students across all year groups. Each sport offers a tailored training programme, led by dedicated staff and coaches, with sessions focused on developing both technical ability and tactical understanding. From choreographed routines in Dance, to strategic gameplay in Netball and Rugby, students are building confidence, resilience and teamwork. Swimming sessions are helping students to improve technique and stamina, while Basketball and Football provide fast-paced environments for learning and competition.

Beyond the physical benefits, the Sports Academy is also fostering a strong sense of community. Many students are forging new friendships, stepping out of their comfort zones and taking pride in representing Woodham Academy. With the first fixtures and performances on the horizon, there's a real buzz of excitement as teams begin to form and students work hard to wear the Academy colours with pride.

Head of Department, Hannah Duffy, said "We're thrilled with the response to the launch of the Sports Academy. It's a fantastic opportunity for our students to not only stay active and healthy, but also to build teamwork, discipline and school spirit. The passion and commitment shown by our students and staff has been inspiring."

The programme will run throughout the academic year, offering regular training sessions, fixtures and enrichment opportunities in each sport. Woodham Academy has long been committed to promoting sport and physical wellbeing and the Sports Academy is an additional step on that journey.

PE staff and specialist coaches have



praised the students for their dedication and enthusiasm at the launch sessions. With such a strong start, the school looks forward to developing the programme further and nurturing the next generation of sporting talent.

## Girls Water Polo

Sedgefield Water Polo Club are pleased to announce that they are trialling some female only sessions. Three dates are arranged for Sunday afternoon sessions in Woodhouse Close Leisure Complex which are totally free! The only criteria is that anyone attending can swim 25 metres; there is no need to have any prior expectation.

Water Polo is a fun and social way to exercise and have fun at the same time. Our first session was held in early November and one of our new participants, Tracy, commented "It was a fun session, we did a bit of passing, shooting and finished with a mini game. It makes you realise how fit and skilful the players are. Already looking forward to the next one."

Places are limited and need to be booked in advance. Please call or text 07579 030598 or email: [sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com)

## Get Christmas Started

Join all the festivities at the Aycliffe Town Centre Christmas Lights Switch On!

Aycliffe Town Centre on Beveridge Way has a full line-up of festive fun for all the family in the run-up to Christmas, starting with the Christmas Lights Switch On on Friday 28th November, 4pm-7.30pm.

Set against the backdrop of the popular street food market and festive bar, Santa Claus will arrive at his Grotto with some surprise friends at 5.00pm. Children accompanied by an adult can visit Santa in his Grotto FREE and receive a Christmas gift. The fun continues with street entertainers, the Roaming Naughty Christmas Tree, and the Christmas Elf. You'll also find a face painter, children's photographer, and a special 'selfie board' for festive photos.

Enjoy music from the Aycliffe & Brancepeth Brass Band, carols and songs by Shine Choir, St Francis School Choir, and the McAdam School of Performing Arts, hosted by Aycliffe Radio.

Don't miss this fun-filled evening, which culminates in the Christmas Lights Switch On at 6pm by the Great Aycliffe Mayor, Councillor Ken Robson.

### Pop-Up Indoor Cinema

Festive entertainment continues in December with our indoor pop-up cinema showing children's Christmas favourites.

#### Saturday 6th December:

9.30am - The Polar Express

11.30am - How the Grinch Stole Christmas

#### Saturday 20th December:

10.00am - Elf

12.00pm - Home Alone

2.00pm - National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

Seating is available and admission is FREE.

### Ice Skating Rink

If you love skating - or want to give it a go - don't miss the synthetic ice skating rink on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December, 10.00am - 4.00pm on Beveridge Way. Sessions are £3.00 for twenty minutes, and skates are provided for both children and adults.

So, grab your diary and save the dates for a magical Aycliffe Town Centre Christmas:

Fri 28th Nov (4 - 7.30pm): Christmas Lights Switch On

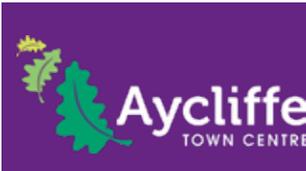
Sat 6th Dec (9.30 & 11.30am): Pop-Up Cinema

Sat 13th & Sun 14 Dec (10am - 4pm): Ice Skating Rink

Sat 20th Dec (10am, 12pm & 2pm): Pop-Up Cinema

**From everyone at Aycliffe Town Centre, we wish you a wonderful and joyful Christmas.**

*(Timings approximate, subject to change - see page 7 for more).*



# Foodbank Update

With Christmas just around the corner, this time of year can be really stressful, financially as well as emotionally. Please don't struggle alone - we pride ourselves on providing a welcome, warm, safe place for you to come for a chat, hot drink and snack, food and fuel support and the many support groups who visit us to help you with those worries. We've had donations of advent calendars, all ready to hand out before December. We are open every Wednesday and Friday between 1.30pm and 3.30pm in St. Clare's Church Hall and the only day that we will be closed over the Christmas and New Year period is Boxing Day, 26th December. If you are a member of our wonderful community who would like to donate a little something to help individuals and families this Christmas, please either drop in to see us in the church hall when we are open, or leave in the donation bin in Tesco, ideally by Friday 12th December. If you are in Tesco between Thursday 27th to Saturday 29th November you may even see some of us there as part of the County Durham and Sunderland Tesco Winter collection. Please be sure to say hello.

# 'A Night in Bethlehem'

## A Free Community Event

Step back in time and experience the magic of the nativity at 'A Night in Bethlehem', a free community event celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. This family-friendly evening will feature a vibrant market place, delicious food and a variety of engaging activity stalls all set in the historic streets of Bethlehem. Join us on Saturday 13th December from 5.00pm at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Shafto Way DL5 5QL for an unforgettable evening of festive fun. Visitors of all ages are invited to explore the market, enjoy traditional treats and participate in interactive activities that bring the story of Bethlehem to life. 'A Night in Bethlehem' is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. It's a free event designed for families, friends and neighbours to enjoy an evening of food, fun and festivity. No tickets are required and everyone is welcome. Come and experience the sights, sounds and spirit of Bethlehem as we celebrate this joyful season together.

# Aycliffe Fell Walking Club

Aycliffe Fell Walking Club attracted 46 walkers to this beautiful area of Yorkshire which offers so much to see. Many chose to visit the Aysgarth Falls in all their glory before heading off to various routes to Leyburn via Penhill and Middleham, while others elected for walks along the River Ure or crossing over to the north side to visit Redmire, Preston-under-Scar and Lady Algha's Cave. It was a lovely fine day and the autumn colours pleased the eyes in every direction. Many of those who visited Middleham and its surrounding areas were struck by the area's dedication to racehorses with huge stables in the town and racecourses, bridle paths and training fences all around. Leyburn itself proved to be a popular end point to the walk and there were plenty of shops, cafes and public houses to relax in. The next walk is on 13th December and features walks in the Esk Valley finishing with a Christmas meal in Whitby. There is also an AFWC Annual General Meeting on 26th November where the walk calendar for 2026 will be announced. Founded in 1977, AFWC is looking forward to its 50th Anniversary in 2027. Please look at the website: [aycliffefellwalkingclub.com](http://aycliffefellwalkingclub.com) for further details or if you are interested in joining us. Annual membership of £10 runs from January to December with each walk outing costing £15 to cover the cost of the coach. We look forward to your interest.

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# Junior Golfers Shine Through



Relentless wind and rain couldn't stop our junior golfers from delivering an unforgettable display of resilience, skill and determination during this year's 18-hole competition at OakLeaf Golf Club. In the Over-10s category, Oli Beal claimed victory with remarkable composure and maturity. His consistent performance and impressive shot-making earned him a well-deserved title. Meanwhile, Edwin Brown not only secured the Under-10s title but also triumphed as the overall competition winner. His ability to rise above the challenging conditions and produce moments of brilliance set him apart in a closely contested field. Congratulations to both champions, and to every participant, for their outstanding effort, dedication, and sportsmanship. The future of junior golf at Oakleaf has never looked brighter.

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**Aycliffe Remembers: Honouring Our Armed Forces**



Residents of Great Aycliffe gathered in impressive numbers to honour our Armed Forces during the Remembrance Day events held on Sunday, 9th November. The commemorations reflected the town's deep respect and gratitude for those who have served and sacrificed.

**Remembrance Sunday Parade**

Led by the Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band, the parade featured representatives from 124 (TEE) Company, 102 Close Support Battalion REME, veterans, 1407 Newton Aycliffe Squadron Air Cadets, Newton Aycliffe Army Cadets, Durham Constabulary, Baden-Powell Scouts' Association, Girl Guides and Beavers.

The parade assembled outside St. Clare's Church, where Rev. John Musson led a short service. At 11 o'clock, the church bells rang, followed by a solemn two-minute silence.

**Wreath Laying Ceremony**

Poppy wreaths were laid in honour of the fallen, beginning with Dame Dela Smith DBE DL, representing the Lord Lieutenant's Office. She was followed by Reviewing Officer Major Andrew Down, MP Alan Strickland, Mayor Councillor Ken Robson, County Councillors, Armed Forces members, local clubs, churches, schools, and members of the public. Following the service at St. Clare's Church, the parade reassembled for the March Past and Salute, overseen by Major Down.

**Aycliffe Village Commemoration**

Later in the day, a Remembrance service was held at St. Andrew's Church in Aycliffe Village. LLM James Walsh conducted the service, which concluded with the congregation singing the national anthem after wreaths were laid at the memorial.

**Message from the Mayor**

Mayor, Councillor Ken Robson, shared his thoughts: "It was a great honour to represent Great Aycliffe as Mayor, not only on Remembrance Sunday, but also Armistice Day, thank you to all who attended, Rev John Musson and especially to all our veterans, current and former, we will remember your service."

**Armistice Day Observance**

On Tuesday, 11th November at 11am, Rev. John Musson led prayers in Aycliffe town centre to mark Armistice Day. Despite rainy weather, residents gathered under the shelter, near the town clock, to observe a two-minute silence.



**Paul Skerritt Big Band**

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of jazz and big band music as The Paul Skerritt Big Band takes the stage at The Westovian Theatre in South Shields. The performance will take place on Saturday 22nd November at 7.30pm.

Tickets are priced at £18.00 (plus booking fee) and are available to all music lovers. This is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the energy and talent of one of the region's premier big bands in an intimate theatre setting. All are welcome and seats are expected to sell fast. Secure your tickets now via: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/westovians](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/westovians)

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# Changing Lives with a Jacket

This is the true story of two men with very different life experiences which have shaped who they are, but change is afoot. Let's call them Richard and Billy, who, because of Rotary Newton Aycliffe and Junction 7, an amazing charity by the way, working together this winter on a Warm Coats Appeal, lives were changed simply by the donation of a jacket.



Rotarian Richard was a keen fisherman and his Barbour jacket was loved and worn in the pursuance of his hobby. However, it was time to let it go and as there was much life left in the coat, Richard donated it to the appeal and off it went to Junction 7. Step forward Billy, a lost soul with everything to live for, if only he could find a way forward. He was an addict, no job, no money and, without a place to call home, he walked through the door of Junction 7 looking for help. He accessed their free meals service, found people to talk with, who did not judge, but the will to move on was yet to surface. And then, on a recent visit to Junction 7, Billy spotted the donated coats available to just take from the hanger. What happened next was fate, or whatever your beliefs lead you towards. He honed in on the Barbour jacket, tried it on, it was a perfect fit. Billy walked the floor and suddenly, his face beamed as he realised that his father had a jacket just like it, but would be shocked and ashamed of Billy's choice of lifestyle. He was letting his father down and, in that moment, he resolved to change his life.

After a few honest conversations with Junction 7, Billy was referred to Waythrough, who specialise in all sorts of issues, drug addiction, alcohol abuse, homelessness. Billy is now in rehab miles away and it's no walk in the park. It's cold turkey, a short sharp shock, but he is doing well and is getting the support he needs. A happy ending to the story of Richard's jacket which was life changing for Billy, and the reason we do what we do at Rotary Newton Aycliffe and Junction 7.

## S.A.C.A.

### School Aycliffe Community Association

Located at the bottom of Eastfields, School Aycliffe (please follow the white/brown information signs)

#### November Events

**Community Choir** a fortnightly event 7pm to 8.30pm, £3 per session including refreshments, please contact Julie on 07742 015609 for further information. Our next session is Monday 24th November.

**Coffee, Cake & Stuff** Thursday 27th November, 11am to 2pm - our last one for 2025. Please come and join us at our ever-popular monthly Coffee, Cake & Stuff for 2025 where we will be selling our gorgeous homemade sweet and savoury bakes, you'll also have the opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours. Please contact Elizabeth on 07813 523050 or Christine on 07981 992686 for details.

Looking forward to seeing you there and thank you ALL for your support during the year and making this event such a success!

#### December Events

**Community Choir** Monday 8th December 7pm to 8.30pm, £3 per session including refreshments, please contact Julie on 07742 015609 for further information.

**Christmas Quiz** Friday 12th December (almost sold out) 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. Maximum of six team members at £10 per person which includes pie or vegetarian quiche served with mushy peas, nibbles will also be available, please advise of any special dietary requirements including if you prefer a vegetarian option when purchasing tickets.

Please note that there is no bar so please bring your own drinks. Quiz is run by our very own Mr. Stephen Quigley, Resident Quiz Master. Please contact Zanna on 07929 916725 for tickets or if you require any further information for this event, or to view our refurbished hall which is ideal for parties, family events or classes, regular or one-off events. For details on our events please look at our Facebook page, and the various notice boards (including The Chestnuts) and of course The Newton News.

## NAFC REPORT



*Newton Aycliffe have recorded two victories and one draw in their past three matches, with last Saturday's away game against North Ferriby falling foul to a waterlogged pitch.*

#### October 31st

#### Ashington AFC 0 v Newton Aycliffe 3

All three goals came in the second half on this Halloween fixture. The first half saw Ashington's Josh Gilchrist put a penalty wide within a few minutes of the game starting. Jack Clarkson got Aycliffe's first goal in the second half and Scott Fenwick soon made it 2-0. Harry Powell was sent off for Ashington and Tom Henson sealed three points for Aycliffe scoring the third and final goal.

#### November 4th

#### Consett AFC 0 v Newton Aycliffe 1

A close game played in wet and cold conditions. There were familiar faces on both teams and former Consett player Scott Fenwick scored the sole goal of the game after getting on a cross in a crowded box. Consett had the majority of possession in the second half, but couldn't break Aycliffe down. Late in the game, Consett went down to ten as former Aycliffe player Marc Costello was given marching orders after receiving a second yellow.

#### November 8th

#### Newton Aycliffe 2 v Lincoln United 2

All four goals occurred in just 14 minutes in a match which pitted 18th against 17th. Jack Robertson first found the net for Aycliffe in just the third minute, but Lincoln's Max Baker restored parity just two minutes later. Robertson got his brace in the eighth minute, but a somewhat contentious penalty decision to Lincoln allowed Elliot Dye to make it 2-2. This was the final score and the second half became a slower tempo where Lincoln played as conservative as they could while Aycliffe failed to break them down.

The club have a coach travel to Matlock Town on 29th November that can be booked by emailing [Secretary@newtonaycliffe.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@newtonaycliffe.co.uk), seats cost £25 and payment must be paid in advance to secure booking. It is Aycliffe's first ever encounter against Matlock and their home ground, Causeway Lane, is considered one of Britain's most scenic with dramatic views of the Derbyshire countryside. Photo by Yvonne Wood of Jonny White on a charge down the wing v Lincoln Utd.

# Christmas Craft Fair

Please come and join us for a fun, festive day out at our Christmas Craft Fair, held at the Hammers & Pincers in our warm marquee. Discover unique handmade gifts, tasty seasonal treats and fun games for all ages. Enjoy scrumptious food served all day and soak up the Christmas spirit - a wonderful event not to be missed.

**Hammer and Pincers,  
Preston Lane, Preston-le-Skerne,  
Newton Aycliffe DL5 6JH  
Sunday 30th November 2025, 11am-4pm.**

Town and Country Planning  
(General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015  
Notice pursuant to Schedule 3 of the confirmation  
of an Article 4 Direction without immediate effect

#### PLANNING CONTROLS OVER HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Notice is hereby given that the County Council of Durham ("the Council") has confirmed a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 ("the Direction"). The Direction applies to the administrative area of the County Council of Durham excluding the areas of Framwellgate Moor, Pity Me, Newton Hall, Mount Oswald, Carville, Belmont and Durham City which are already covered by Article 4 Directions ("the Direction Area").

The Direction relates to development comprising a change of use from a use falling within Class C3 (dwellinghouses) of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) to a use falling within Class C4 (houses in multiple occupation) of that Order and removes permitted development rights for this type of development comprised in Class L(b) of Part 3 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 from the date when the Direction comes into force. Planning permission will therefore be required for a material change of use from Class C3 (dwellinghouses) to Class C4 (houses in multiple occupation) in respect of properties situated within the Direction Area once the Direction is in force.

A copy of the Direction, including a map defining the Direction Area, can be viewed at every library within the Direction Area during normal opening hours or on the Council's website at [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk).

The Direction will come into force on 17th August 2026.

Dated 21st November 2025

MICHAEL KELLEHER  
Head of Planning and Housing  
Durham County Council  
Corten House  
Ayckley Heads  
Durham  
DH1 5TS



## FUTURE ISSUES OF NEWTON NEWS

Friday 5th December

Christmas Edition: Friday 19th December

Deadline: Wednesday 17th December, 11am

New Year Publication Dates

Friday 9th January 2026

Friday 23rd January 2026

Friday 6th February 2026

Friday 20th February 2026

(Deadline: Wednesdays at 11.00am)

Advertisements are accepted at our reception or via email to [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk)

## Office Opening Times

Closing 2.00pm on Monday 22nd December.

Minimal staff will be in attendance until re-opening Monday 5th January 2026 at 9am

The Management & Staff at Newton Press and Newton News would like to wish all Newtonians a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year



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# St. Michael's Bell Ringers Christmas Services

Anthea Enzor, Tower (Bell) Captain has been ringing bells for 50 years. During a recent catch up at the Wednesday evening practice, Anthea gave an update on how training to ring has taken a step forward. A teaching centre has been established at Holy Trinity Church, Darlington. Why there? It was explained that the bells are quite easy to ring, therefore all beginners are referred to Holy Trinity to start their training. Sessions take place Monday evening, Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, but must be booked with Anthea. Email address below.



Anthea described how bell ringing keeps you fit and active, body and brain, and is also a social group with support on many levels. One example would be sharing skills, which means travelling to other churches in the area, or even further afield, to assist at special events or simply for a different experience.

The Heighington group are in St. Michael's Church bell tower ringing Monday mornings, Wednesday evenings 7pm – 8pm with more advanced ringers 8pm - 9pm and, of course, Sunday morning services. Drop Anthea an email about how to get involved with learning the art of bellringing or pick up where you left off years ago. You won't regret it. [heighingtonbells@gmail.com](mailto:heighingtonbells@gmail.com)

## Science Comes Alive at St. Joseph's



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School was buzzing with anticipation on Tuesday 11th November as The Royal Institution brought their renowned science show to the school. From the moment the presenters stepped into the packed hall, the atmosphere was electric. Children's faces lit up with excitement, ready for an unforgettable journey into the world of science.

The day began with a spectacular show for the children, filled with jaw-dropping experiments, thrilling explosions, and plenty of hands-on participation. It was an opportunity for them to see science in action and understand its impact on our everyday lives.

The theme of the event 'Fuel the Future' explored the chemistry, physics and history behind our planet's natural resources. Children learned about the effects of CO<sub>2</sub> on the environment and discovered the cutting-edge technologies that help society move toward sustainability. Through a series of mind-blowing demonstrations, the presenter explained how electricity is generated, transferred, and stored, making complex ideas accessible and exciting.

In the afternoon, parents joined their children for a second show, creating a shared experience that sparked curiosity across generations. The Royal Institution's mission was clear: to inspire young minds and encourage families to think about what it means to be sustainable and why it matters for the future.

Headteacher, Kirsty Evans, commented, "Events like this are invaluable. They not only enrich our science curriculum, but also ignite a lifelong passion for learning and discovery."

## Christmas Services at St. Michael's Church

**7th December**, 4pm - Christingle Service. A joyful family-friendly start to the Christmas season.

**14th December**, 6pm - 9 Lessons and Carols, including traditional carols sung by an enhanced choir, and lessons read by representatives of the community. Afterwards all are warmly invited to stay for mulled wine and mince pies.

**21st December**, 6pm - Christmas Evening at St Michael's. A festive community event featuring live music and singing. Seasonal refreshments served from 5.15pm.

**22nd December**, 7pm - Blue Christmas Service. A gentle, reflective service for those who find Christmas a difficult time.

**Christmas Eve**, 3pm - Carols Round the Tree. Don your Christmas jumpers and join in the fun for this much-loved family favourite!

**Christmas Eve**, 8.30pm - Christmas Eve Mass. A traditional candlelit service, led by

Revd David Payne, Methodist Minister. Note the earlier start time (not midnight).

**Christmas Day**, 9.30am - Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion. Join us in celebration with worship, carols and a true spirit of Christmas. The service will end in candlelight, as we form a circle around the nave, each holding a candle of hope.

## Christmas Services at St. Andrew's Church, Bolam

**20th December**, 7pm - Community Carol Service. Celebrate the season with your favourite carols and festive cheer. Seasonal refreshments served afterwards.

**Christmas Day**, 9.30am - Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion. Christmas morning celebration with joyful worship and traditional carols.

*May the light of Christ  
fill your heart with peace,  
your home with joy,  
and your life with hope  
this Christmas season.*

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# Kings Award for Voluntary Service Real-World Industry Opportunities

Railway 200 Volunteer Effort Recognised with Kings Award for Voluntary Service for The Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway. The Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, a charity set up in 2013 to safeguard and promote the Stockton & Darlington Railway as the world changing birthplace of the modern railway has been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service for 2025. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.

Contributing tens of thousands of volunteer hours over more than a decade, the charity has facilitated communities to take care of their railway heritage including helping restore the historic inclines west of Shildon so that they are no longer at risk and rejuvenating the former Fighting Cocks coal yard site, transforming it from an overgrown patch of land into a welcoming picnic area for the community.

The charity recently hit the headlines by raising the money to purchase Heighington Station, the World's oldest railway station. They are now raising money and working to restore the station and reopen it as a Georgian Railway Tavern where visitors can experience what it would be like to be an 1820s rail traveller, creating jobs and training opportunities.

The charity has proactively worked alongside the local authorities to help safeguard internationally important heritage sites from

unsympathetic development and promote positive regeneration of the surrounding areas. They have also promoted the creation of a long-distance heritage trail that connects the sites along the route of the S&DR, writing and releasing in-depth guidebooks to help visitors understand the sites.

Members have worked to write new books shedding new light on the Railway and bringing it to new audiences. Books published by the charity include an easy-to-read guides on why the S&DR is so important, a photographic book recording the S&DR in 2025, as well as more specialist works on the Yarm branch line and depot. The story of the opening day has also been brought to the next generation through the creation of a children's book, Little Loco's Big Day Out, that tells the story in a fun and engaging way through the eyes of Locomotion No. 1. The charity has worked with numerous schools along the line, providing educational materials and delivering activity sessions based on the Little Loco book and working with children to create public artworks in Stockton. The Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway is one of 231 local charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year. Their work, along with others from across the UK, reminds us of all the ways fantastic volunteers are contributing to their local communities and working to make life better for those around them.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to support their communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate Her Late Majesty The Queen's Golden Jubilee and was continued following the accession of His Majesty The King. 2025 marks the third year of The King's Award for Voluntary Service. Recipients are announced annually on 14th November, The King's Birthday.

Representatives of the Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway will receive the award crystal and certificate from Dame Sue Snowdon, Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, in the coming months.

The group's chair of trustees, Niall Hammond, said: "The Friends of the S&DR are thrilled and excited to have our work recognised by the award. The Stockton & Darlington Railway is where the modern railway began in 1825 and changed the world. The work of our volunteers, communities and partners to preserve and value this legacy can only be enhanced by this amazing award."



UTC South Durham has welcomed its new cohort of Year 12 T Level Engineering students, marking the start of an exciting two-year journey that blends technical learning with practical industry experience. The new students have already begun exploring the world of engineering through a series of engaging activities. A recent visit to Tees Cottage Pumping Station gave them the chance to see the history of engineering in action and discover how innovation has evolved over time.

To help them prepare for their upcoming placements, students also took part in a placement preparation session led by Sasha Warr BA (Hons) MCIPD, Founder and Director of Out Source HR. Sasha shared expert advice on what employers look for - covering interview skills, professional conduct and how to make a strong first impression. Looking ahead, the Year 12's can expect to gain the same valuable experience as current Year 13 student Harvey, who is completing his T Level placement at 3M. Harvey has been rotating across production, engineering and quality departments, gaining hands-on experience in how a global company operates and how teams collaborate to deliver innovation every day. UTC South Durham continues to seek partnerships with local and national businesses to provide industry placements for its T Level students. These partnerships are key to helping young people develop the practical skills and professional mindset they'll need for successful careers in engineering and technology. Businesses interested in supporting the next generation of engineers can get in touch at: [office@utcsouthdurham.org](mailto:office@utcsouthdurham.org)

**Rotary Great Aycliffe**  
**Post Your Letter to Santa**  
 Your child can post their letter to Santa on Friday 28th November. The postbox will be with Santa's Sleigh at the Town Centre Switch On Event from 4pm until 8.30pm. Or hand them to Santa in person! Don't forget to include your Child's name and address so that Santa can send a reply!  
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# WE HAVE CHRISTMAS

AT AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE

Wrapped

WE HAVE A FULL PROGRAMME OF FESTIVE EVENTS FOR ALL THE FAMILY DURING THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

## Christmas Lights Switch On

GET YOUR CHRISTMAS STARTED AT OUR LIGHTS SWITCH ON

when... **FRIDAY 28th** **NOVEMBER** | **4PM TO 7.30PM**

- FESTIVE STREET FOOD MARKET
  - SANTA IN HIS GROTTTO WITH SURPRISE GUESTS
  - MUSIC
  - STREET ENTERTAINERS
  - SONGS
  - FACE PAINTER
  - PHOTOS
- LIGHTS SWITCH ON **6PM**

## Christmas Classic Films

...for the kids

**SATURDAY 6th** **DECEMBER** | **SATURDAY 20th** **DECEMBER**

TWO DAYS OF FAMILY FRIENDLY FILMS IN OUR INDOOR POP-UP CINEMA  
ADMISSION IS FREE

KEEP AN EYE OUT ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE FOR FILMS & TIMES

what to watch!

## Christmas Skating Rink

COME AND HAVE A FUN TIME SKATING ON OUR SYNTHETIC ICE RINK

**SATURDAY 13th** **DECEMBER** | **SUNDAY 14th** **DECEMBER** | **10AM TO 4PM**

£3.00 for 20 mins

fun

THE AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS ARE JOINTLY FUNDED BY AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE AND DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL



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

It was an honour to lay a parliamentary wreath at the War Memorial in Newton Aycliffe on Remembrance Sunday. The ceremony was a powerful reminder of the deep respect and gratitude our town holds for all those who gave their lives to defend the freedoms we enjoy today. It's crucial that future generations understand the importance of remembrance, so it was really heartening to see such a big turnout, including lots of families and young people. I want to say particular thanks to the Reverends John and Helen Musson for leading the services, our local reserve forces from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers who led the parade and all of the young people from local organisations who did the town proud by marching in the parade and offering readings at St. Clare's. As we come together each year, we not only remember the fallen, but we also pay tribute to the courage and sacrifice of our current and former service personnel, some of whom live with life-changing injuries or disabilities as a result of their service to our nation. The work of supporting veterans is an ongoing one. There are over 20,000 veterans living in County Durham and many in Newton Aycliffe, often with proud service records in recent conflicts like Iraq, Afghanistan and UN missions in conflict zones around the world. The government is working to increase support for our former service personnel. Firstly, there will be an expansion of veteran support through the government's Veterans Strategy. This will include veteran support centres in the constituency to support the 4,500 veterans in our area. These centres will work with existing organisations to help with on-going health issues, a wraparound homelessness service and £27m for employment, training and career support to ensure new veterans can transition smoothly into civilian life. There will also be a major upgrade to military housing, with over 40,000 homes across the country due to be refurbished or rebuilt. This is a crucial and long-needed step to ensure our servicemen and women, and their families, have the good quality housing they deserve. I was absolutely delighted to see the Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest honour that can be awarded to volunteer groups in the UK.

The friends' group have shown remarkable dedication in preserving our proud rail heritage. Their tireless efforts have ensured that the story of the Stockton and Darlington Railway was brilliantly celebrated this year to make the 200th anniversary. It has been a privilege to work closely with them, particularly on the campaign to save the historic Heighington Station, which succeeded earlier this year thanks to the support of Hitachi Rail in Newton Aycliffe.

This national recognition by HM The King is a testament to the commitment of all the volunteers who have worked so hard. Huge congratulations to them on this prestigious accolade.

I was proud to raise the importance of the historic line in Parliament, by leading a special debate and calling for the Stockton and Darlington Railway to be recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Such a designation would not only honour the global significance of this historic line, but also help secure its preservation for generations to come.

## Thank You

Dear Sir,  
I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who came to celebrate my 90th birthday; it was a truly wonderful occasion. Your presence made the evening truly special and I am deeply grateful for the beautiful cards, thoughtful gifts and all the kind wishes. I feel incredibly blessed to have such wonderful family and friends in my life. A very special thank you to Jen Cherene for entertaining us and adding so much joy to the occasion, your talent and warmth helped make the evening unforgettable. Thank you all for giving me a celebration I will treasure forever. With heartfelt appreciation,  
Alderman George Gray.



## Methodist 70th Anniversary

Sunday 14th December 2025

**Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church would like to give an open invitation to celebrate the anniversary of 70 years of Methodists at Neville Parade when the first church on the current site was opened on 10th December 1955. We are planning a 'Songs of Praise' at 2.30pm followed by refreshments.**

**The current 'lounge' at Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church, also previously known as the small hall, was the first of three Methodist 'churches' built on the Neville Parade site after moving from Simpasture, followed by the building of the large hall and then the newer church part (with the curved wall).**

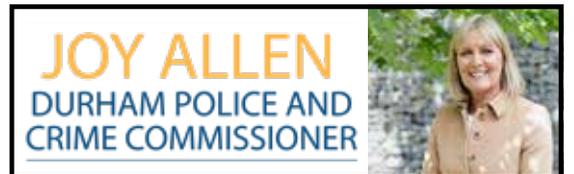
**For reference, the Neville Parade shops, former Oak Tree pub and Bury Road flats had already been built and some houses in the surrounding streets starting to be built. During the refreshments after the 'Songs of Praise' service we hope to share photos showing memories of events in the church/ small hall/lounge and hope you can come along and join in.**

**Current trustees of the church would like to give an open invitation to everyone, but ask, for catering purposes if you could let us know by either emailing:**

**[newaycmethodistchurch@outlook.org](mailto:newaycmethodistchurch@outlook.org) telephone 01325 319098, or see any of the stewards on Sundays (services at 11am and everyone is welcome).**

## Thank You

Dear Sir,  
Whilst in Tesco on Friday 7th November with our Grandson, he developed the start of a severe Parkinsons attack and he was unable to stand on his own. Three ladies came to my help and were absolutely wonderful with him and a great relief for me. Unfortunately I did not get their names, but I would like to let them know how very grateful I am for their help. Also to thank the Tesco staff who provided a wheelchair and assisted in getting him back into the car to get him home. Many thanks again to all of you. Name and address supplied.



The Government's announcement that Police & Crime Commissioners are to be abolished has caused confusion and real concern. People naturally want to know: What does this mean for our area? Who will stand up for us? Who will hold the police to account? For Co. Durham & Darlington, the risks are more serious than almost anywhere else in the country. Our policing area sits across two different combined authorities and is fully covered by neither. When PCCs disappear, there is no obvious elected person ready to take on the job of scrutinising the Chief Constable, protecting victims' services or championing local policing priorities. This matters because PCCs were created to give communities a strong, visible, directly elected voice in policing. Before PCCs, decisions were taken behind closed doors by distant committees most residents had never heard of. Victims had little influence. The public had none. And, unlike any of those old models, the PCC role comes with a powerful, county-wide democratic mandate. In May 2021, 67,652 people across Co. Durham and Darlington voted for me, the largest personal vote of any elected politician in our entire area. To replace a county-wide mandate of nearly 70,000 votes with someone chosen by a tiny minority of a certain area of Co. Durham or Darlington is not reform, it is a democratic downgrade. And, contrary to the narrative in Westminster, the public do understand what PCCs do. Our latest survey shows:

- 63% know PCCs fund crime prevention and harm-reduction services.
- 60% know PCCs set the policing budget and council tax precept.
- 64% know the PCC's core job is to hold the Chief Constable to account.

Local people know who represents them, and they know who to contact when things go wrong. What makes this decision even harder to justify is the way it has been made: with no consultation at all. Not with PCCs not with Police colleagues, not with victims' groups, not with councils, not with local communities. Instead, it has been designed inside the Westminster bubble, by civil servants and advisers hundreds of miles away who do not understand our geography, our rural communities or our needs. Meanwhile, the national police funding model continues to disadvantage forces like ours. Instead of fixing that, the Home Office is driving policing towards greater centralisation, bigger and more remote structures, and even the possibility of future force mergers. It feels less like reform and more like a Whitehall dictate, 'back to the future' policymaking that ignores years of evidence and even Parliament's own recommendations that PCCs should be given more powers, including over criminal justice services, not abolished. But the biggest danger is this: because our area is split across two combined authorities, every other force in the North East will have a clearer replacement model than us. Unless this is addressed, County Durham and Darlington could be left with weaker accountability, diluted victims' services and no direct democratic voice at all.

Let me reassure you: for the next few years, I remain your PCC. I will continue fighting for visible policing, safer roads, strong victims' services and a fair funding deal for our force. I will not allow our communities to lose the local voice they deserve. You deserve accountability rooted in Co. Durham, not decisions handed down from London. And I will keep speaking up loudly and clearly for you.

# Newton Aycliffe Juniors

**Week ending 9th November 2025**

**Under 7's** played against Wolviston, putting in a fabulous performance. Leo scored two goals and there was also an own goal.

**Under 8's Juniors** travelled to face Bedale Juniors, in what was an entertaining game. Goals from Ethan (2), Jacob M and OG. MOTM was Noah.

**Under 9's Juniors** were on the road against Stockton Town Blues, after a goalless first half, Cooper helped himself to a hat-trick with Harry adding the other goal.

**Under 9's Blues** travelled to Cargo Fleet, putting in a good performance. Leland scored a hat-trick, with the whole team sharing the POTM award.

**Under 10's Reds** entertained Kader Athletic, coming away with a wonderful result. Fox scored an amazing four goals, with Michael adding the other. POTM was awarded to Parker, Jacob and Fox.

**Under 10's Juniors** travelled to Norton Stockton Ancient Ambers, with MOTM Linc scoring the goal for Aycliffe.

**Under 11's** had a good result against Prissick Rovers Milan with goals coming from Noah A (3), Alan F and Alfie T. MOTM was Jacob C.

**Under 11's Whites** faced Redcar, Dexter had a debut to remember scoring four goals, with Jackie, Fred, Leo and Ozzy adding the others. MOTM was Dexter, Franco and Leo.

**Under 12's Reds** played against Billingham Hornets, running out 4-0 winners. In an impressive performance, MOTM Bryan scored a great hat-trick, with Koa adding the other goal.

**Under 12's Blues** faced Escomb Warriors, coming away with a great 9-0 victory. Charlie managed to score five goals, with Laitia, Yash and MOTM Koa (2) who scored the goals.

**Under 12's Blacks** played at home to Kader Athletic, it was a tough day for Aycliffe with Jack B scoring the goal. POTM was JJ.

**Under 13's Blacks** hosted Tibs Blues, in a tight game. MOTM was Arran for great ball distribution.

**Under 14's Whites** ran out 2-1 winners in the local derby against Shildon. James and Oliver with the goals for Aycliffe. MOTM was shared between Theo and Harry.

**Under 14's Blacks** entertained Crook, drawing 1-1, with Kai scoring the goal. MOTM was Sammy and Oliver.

**Under 14's Juniors** made the long trip to face Guisborough Town Blacks, coming away with a fantastic 6-2 win. Goals from Jonah (2), Lucas (2), Dan and Ashton. MOTM was Lucas with OMOTM going to Max.

**Under 15's** hosted top of the table Marske, narrowly losing 2-1 with Oscar J scoring Aycliffe's goal. MOTM was Trent.

**Week ending 16th November 2025**

**Under 7's** faced 21st All Stars Yellows scoring four great goals through Leo (3) and Eli.

**Under 9's Blues** hosted Kader Athletic, in a very enjoyable game. Leland (2) and Miles scored Aycliffe's goals. PPOTM was Miles and POTM was Leland.

**Under 10's Juniors** welcomed Darlington FC Feethams, coming away with a great result. Goals from Lincoln and Koan. MOTM was Zeke.

**Under 10's Reds** faced Riverside Juniors Reds, with a depleted squad, Fox scored the two goals for Aycliffe. POTM was Leo and Orig.

**Under 11's** faced Riverside Juniors Athletic, with Noah A & MOTM Alan F both helping themselves to hat-tricks in a wonderful team performance.

**Under 12's Reds** ran out comfortable 8-1 winners against Eaglescliffe. MOTM Alife scored two goals and got three assists, with Yash (2), Laitia and Bryan (3) adding the others.

**Under 12's Blacks** travelled to high flying Darlington RA Rockets, it was a tough day for Aycliffe, who managed to still take plenty of positives from the game. Liam B scored Aycliffe's goal with POTM awarded to Dexter.

**Under 13's Blacks** travelled to face Linthorpe Blues, going down 4-2, with Kai scoring both goals. MOTM was Lleyton for a solid performance.

**Under 14's Juniors** welcomed Northallerton Town Reds in what turned out to be the classic game of two halves. Aycliffe raced to a 4-0 half-time lead with goals from Lucas, Jake, Dom and Marley. Northallerton rallied in the second half scoring two goals, to give Aycliffe the 4-2 win. MOTM was Dan.

**Under 23's** faced a tricky away fixture at Witon Gilbert, however they ran out 1-6 winners, with a hat-trick from Noah, plus goals from Andrew, Damian and Curtis. The result returns Aycliffe to the top of the league.

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**In Memoriam**

**Kath Hall**  
(nee Ward)

20/11/2001

Mam, it's now 24 years since your passing, what can be said that hasn't already been said in previous years?

You still are and always will be the most gorgeous, loving and beautiful Mother we could have ever wished for. You showered us with your caring love that only a Mother can give and we cherished this love each and every day that you were in our lives.

The grieving process of losing a Mother is long and painful, on the other hand the celebration of your life and what you achieved can also be happy and joyful.

So we will raise a glass of nice Brandy for you and remember all the wonderful moments we had together as a family, 'til we meet again Mam.

All our love from Julie, Edward, David, all your family and loved ones xxxx

**Joyce McCartin**

25th November 2004

You may not be here, but you'll always be remembered for the wonderful person you were. You were loved and will never be forgotten. Love, Val, Kimberley, Bethany, Jessica, Matthew, Amelia and Isabelle xx

**Joyce Raine**

19th November 2024

Can't believe it's a year since you passed away. You were the rock of our family and we miss you every day. You and Joanne are together again. Always in our thoughts. Love always from all the family.

**Lynne Wright**



21st February 1952 to 25th November 2021

"Sweet Dreams"

**Acknowledgement**

**Peter Molyneux**

The family of the late Peter Molyneux would like to thank everyone who attended Peter's Requiem Mass on 13th November. Donations to the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group to date amount to £375. Peter's family are overwhelmed by your support and generosity at this difficult time.

**NEWTON NEWS**

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**Obituary**

**Olive Sproates**  
(nee Watson)



1931 - 2025

Of Newton Aycliffe. Passed away peacefully at home on Sunday 9th November after 94 years of love, laughter & happiness.

Much loved wife of 69 years to Tom, Mam, Grandma & Great-Grandma. Our hearts are broken and we will all miss her dearly.

Family and friends are invited to meet at Wear Valley Crematorium on Wednesday 3rd December at 12:30pm followed by a funeral tea at Woodham Golf Club. At Olives request, family flowers only and her preference is that no dark colours need to be worn. Donations will be gratefully received for the North East Air Ambulance. There will be a donation box at the Golf Club or alternatively by using the link below. <https://www.justgiving.com/page/olivesproates>

**Ellen Small**  
(Nelly)

Peacefully passed away on 2nd November 2025, Nelly aged 92 years. A loving Mam, Mother-in-Law, Nanna, Great-Nanna and friend.

Funeral Service to take place in Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Wednesday 26th November at 11.30am.

All are welcome, please meet at the Crematorium. No flowers please, by request, donations in lieu, if so desired, for The Alzheimer's Society.

**Paul O'Reilly**  
(Hindmarch)



1985 - 2025

Paul passed peacefully on 4th November, aged 40 years. A much loved Dad, Son, Brother, Uncle and friend to many. To celebrate Paul's life please meet for service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Friday 28th November at 2.30pm.

Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if desired, to the British Heart Foundation. Please wear colours.

**Acknowledgement**

**Les Cairns**

The family of the late Les Cairns were overwhelmed by the cards, flowers, messages of condolence and generous donations to Dementia UK received.

Special thanks to all at Whitehouse Funeral Services, Jodie the Celebrant, Wendy and Tracey for reception at Woodham Golf Club. Heartfelt thanks from Ellen and family

**John Pickles**

On 4th November 2025 John passed away peacefully at St Teresa's Hospice aged 80.

Dearly loved Husband of Joyce and loving Brother of Julie and Brother-in-law of Gary. Friends and family please meet for a service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Monday 1st December at 2.30pm.

**Grant Edgar**

16th November 1985

It's been 40 years since you left us, but the memories of laughter and love you gave are still fresh as yesterday. You are forever in my heart and always remembered. Love you, Mam, Paul and Andy xxxx

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# Folk Nights Change of Venue

The Candlelite Club is moving venues from 26th November to The Navy Club, Bluebell Way. Our first 'Open Mic' night will be on Wednesday 26th November followed by Wednesday 3rd December where our main guests will be 'Pipe Dream', 'John Dickens' and 'Silver Surfers'.  
Joan Edmunson.

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# Thanks Rugby Club Claim First Win



I would like to give a massive thank you to my family and friends who supported me on my Great North Run in September. I know this is a little late, but donations have still been coming in and, on that note, together we raised £3685 for the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) charity which, we all know, does fantastic work, not only helping families who have someone suffering with this horrendous disease, but also trying to find a cure for it. Thank you very much. Trev Tinkler.

## Xmas Fair

On Saturday 29th November from 10.00am to 2.00pm the Pioneering Care Partnership will host their Christmas Fair at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe. Celebrate the season with a fun-filled day, enjoy stalls selling a variety of gifts and goodies, children's crafts and a magical visit to Santa Claus in his grotto. Enjoy face painting and warm up with delicious refreshments from the Community Café and a hot roast sandwich served with roast potatoes by TLC Gourmet.

## Storage

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**South Shields 15 v Newton Aycliffe 18**  
Aycliffe travelled to South Shields for their latest game in the Counties 3 Durham and Northumberland League. The game began with both teams attacking with gusto. A defensive lapse from Aycliffe saw Shields score a try after 3 minutes, but they fought back and after a series of attacks, Dave Carney (sponsored by Caitlin's Beauty Bar) scored his third try of the season to tie the scores. The game was hard fought after this with the Aycliffe centre pairing of Sam McIvor and Owain Jones breaking the gain line a number of times; but being unable to add to the score. With the last kick of the half, Shields added a penalty to go into the break 8-5 ahead. The second half was, again, a close affair, but Shields again slipped through a gap in the defence after 45 minutes to add a converted try. Ten minutes later, after some good work by the forwards, Aycliffe scored a second try from Neil Morgan (sponsored by Lottie Parkin), to reduce the gap to 5 points. The Aycliffe scrum has been excellent all season and with a quarter of an hour to go, Number 8, Matty Stephenson (awaiting sponsorship), was able to score a pushover try to level the scores. Both sides were now trying to find the edge, with less than 10 minutes left Shields were awarded a penalty which they opted to kick; it flew narrowly wide. Further attacking from Aycliffe saw them, in turn, awarded a penalty in front of the posts with 2 minutes left. Stephenson calmly bisected the posts to give Aycliffe the lead for the first time in the match. All Aycliffe had to do now was to keep the ball in Shields half and wind the clock down, but some ill discipline saw them concede two penalties which allowed the home side to



break into their half. Only desperate Aycliffe defending kept them out, but it was enough and the first win of the season was secured. Aycliffe's player of the match was captain David Gibson (sponsored by Bob Malvern, Durham County President).

# Silent Santa Appeal

## A Gentle Reminder of Joy

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has already supported this year's Silent Santa Appeal. Gifts are arriving, slowly, but steadily, and each one will delight a local child this Christmas. If you're considering contributing, we'd be grateful to hear from you sooner rather than later. Early notice helps us avoid working late into the final days of the Appeal, and ensures every gift reaches its destination in time. As Christmas draws near, we're reminded of the simple purpose behind Silent Santa: to bring joy to the little ones. We know this year has been difficult. Rising living costs are stretching even the tightest household budgets so families in our community are facing a Christmas morning without a single gift beneath the tree. That's why I'm writing again, gently, to ask those who haven't yet donated to consider supporting the Silent Santa Appeal. This isn't about grand gestures. It's about quiet kindness. It's about making sure as many local children as possible receive a gift that brightens their day. A modest present, thoughtfully chosen, can rekindle the magic of Christmas for a child and, remind a struggling parent that they are not alone. Whether it's a toy, a donation, or simply spreading the word, your support will make a real difference. You may never meet the child, hear their thank you, or see their face light up. But know this: you will have made someone's Christmas morning truly special. Thank you for being part of this quiet, powerful act of kindness. Gerald & Ruth. 01325 314622 or 07876 216182 1, Greenhill Road, Heighington DL5 6RN

# Under New Ownership

Washington Crescent local convenience store has officially reopened under new ownership, bringing back a vital shopping destination for the community after its closure as Morrisons Daily in September. Now operating proudly under the Go Local brand, the store reopened this week and is once again ready to serve the needs of local residents. The relaunch was driven by strong community support, with local customers and staff encouraging the new owner to bring the store back to life and restore an essential service to the neighbourhood. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to reopen and serve this fantastic community," said Mandeep, new owner of the Washington Crescent store. "From day one, both staff and residents showed incredible support, and it was clear how important this shop is to local families, workers and passers-by. We're committed to offering great value, fantastic service and a friendly, familiar shopping experience." The reopening ensures that staff have returned to their roles and that customers once again have convenient access to groceries, everyday essentials, fresh foods, newspapers, snacks and household items, all close to home. Residents are invited to visit the new Go Local Washington Crescent store, support their local business and share feedback to help shape ongoing improvements.

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**Aycliffe Youth Football News**



With the heavy rain closing all the OakLeaf pitches, it was only away games and central venue games that went ahead.

**Sunderland Farringdon 1 v U13 Girls 9 (Cup)**  
The cup run continues. The girls were asked to press hard, straight from kick off, which resulted in Aycliffe dominating the possession and passing around the opposition. Amelia scored twice in the first half, but Sunderland managed to get one back. HT 2-1. Second half, Phoebe with two goals from power strikes on the edge of the box. Lily got one with a well-timed shot. Aycliffe held the possession well, with Frankie in midfield providing passes out wide and creating chances for the strikers. A further three goals from Amelia and Elsie getting a goal to round off a good day for the girls. POTM went to Amelia.

**U7 Wildcats v Hartlepool Divas**  
Amelie opened the scoring with her first league goal in the first five minutes, followed by her second a few minutes later. The Wildcats scored another two before half time to make it 4-0 with goals from Erin and Myla. In the second half, Hartlepool added an extra player to even the match up, but this wasn't enough to stop Olive Foster making it 5-0 before full time.

**U8 Wildcats v Gateshead Leam Rangers**  
A great game from the girls against a team they previously drew against. They put pressure on, up front, from the start and were solid at the back with the keeper Jess making a couple of brilliant saves. A hattrick from Boe saw us take the win to make it four games unbeaten. The passing, teamwork and awareness on the pitch is improving every week. POTM Lydia.

**U10 Pumas v Gateshead Leam Rangers**  
The girls conceded early to a strong Gateshead side, but grew into the game. The game ended in defeat, but the girls did score and it's clear to see how much they have developed since their first ever game as a team against Gateshead at the start of this season.

**U10 Wildcats v Crook Town**  
The girls were up against a team they have battled with, in previous seasons, so they expected another competitive match. Aycliffe started brightly and should have taken the lead, however, Crook defended admirably and held out until deep in the second half when a corner was played to the edge of the box and Emelia finished excellently to the top corner. Good pressing by Freya high up the pitch added the second goal late on.

**Redcar Town Lions v U11 Falcons**  
A good start saw Bradley score in the fifth minute, before a counter attack from Redcar

made it 1-1. Very strong game from everyone in the second half. Two goals from Ollie and one from Archie A, gave Falcons the win. A game of two halves, with the Falcons hungry for the win in the second half after a bit of a shuffling around.

**Gateshead Cleveland Hall 3 - U17's 0 (Cup)**  
The game started evenly matched with both teams struggling to create any clear cut chances, but with the half time whistle about to go the home team scored from a well taken free kick. Pushing for an equaliser, Gateshead scored on the break and, in the final minutes, with Aycliffe pushing forward, they conceded a third. MOM went to Will.

**Wildcats Girls Development and Little Eagles Boys Development**  
After another three teams started their footballing journey, we now have spaces available for year 1 boys and girls at our development academies.  
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