

# 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

## Watercolour Workshop at Green Arts

We are delighted to start off the season with an inspiring programme for all of the family.

Our activities in 2026 cater for all ages, with a variety of workshops and courses to start the year off with something new and creative.

We are thrilled to welcome back our artists and tutors to give expert guidance in a welcoming space at the Eco Centre in Moore Lane. Our writing workshops (The Write Place) will return on a Wednesday morning and we are thrilled to introduce published author Fran Harvey who will lead sessions and give advice along the way. The workshop started on 4th February

and beginners are welcome, there will be the chance for free writing time alongside like-minded people with lots of tea and biscuits to keep you going.

If you think pictures speak louder than words, we also welcome back popular artist Jayne Blacklock; our Acrylics workshop will take inspiration from spring in woodland and will take place on Friday 20th February from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. This event forms part of the new 2026 programme at Green Arts, bringing together those who are keen to explore the beauty and technique whilst painting with a vibrant acrylic palette.

For our younger artists, 'Creative Explorers' is running on Thursdays from 4.00pm to 5.30pm; the course is totally free and is designed for aged 7 plus and families are welcome. Led by professional artist Dawn Belshaw, the sessions are fun and creative, helping develop creativity in a supportive environment and help young people learn more about the world around us.

Our Cree men have also returned and are busy working alongside Richard Agar to create beautiful items for the community. Our fabulous men meet each Monday morning for this supportive group, with plenty of time to chat and socialise in a friendly environment.

Additionally, our 'Little Green Gallery' now boasts a range of artwork which you can browse in person or online. 2026 will see a new programme of small individual and group exhibitions, if you are interested in being involved just email the team [info@green-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@green-arts.co.uk) To find out about our full programme just visit [www.green-arts.co.uk](http://www.green-arts.co.uk) where you can find out more and subscribe to our newsletter or email the team at [info@green-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@green-arts.co.uk) - Why not try something new and be part of a welcoming creative community hub?



## UTC Launches Industry Projects

UTC South Durham has kicked off an exciting new cycle of its Industry Projects programme, with Year 10 students beginning work alongside a range of respected local employers.

This year's participating organisations include Tekmar, Meldrum Construction, Locomotion, Dellner Glass, Great Aycliffe Council and Aycliffe Fabrication. Over the next twelve weeks, students will work in teams to tackle real-world business and engineering challenges set by these industry partners. The programme - core to UTC South Durham's mission to connect education with the world of work - offers students a hands-on opportunity to develop practical skills, problem-solving ability and professional confidence. By engaging with genuine industry briefs, students gain invaluable experience that strengthens both their technical knowledge and their CVs as they prepare for future careers or apprenticeships.

Industry partners will work closely with each student team, offering guidance, feedback



and insight into how professional solutions are developed in their sectors.

UTC South Durham wishes all Year 10 teams an inspiring and successful project cycle and extends its thanks to all partner organisations for their continued support in shaping the next generation of engineers, problem solvers and innovators.

## A Unique Challenge . . .

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club has announced an ambitious new community initiative aimed at introducing more local men to the sport of rugby while improving fitness, mental health and social connection.

The Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club Challenge is open to men aged 18 and over, with no previous rugby experience required. All body types and fitness levels are welcome. The project is designed for those not currently involved in sport, those looking to improve fitness without gym costs, or anyone interested in learning rugby in a supportive, structured environment.

Participants will be coached separately from the club's existing squad and introduced to the fundamentals of the game, including fitness, ball handling, tackling techniques and game understanding. The ultimate goal is to create a brand-new team from scratch, capable of playing a full 80-minute match against the club's 1st XV by mid-August. In future seasons, the team could go on to compete in the Candy League under the name Aycliffe Vikings, including fixtures against local rivals Sedgefield Saxons.

The club highlights the wider benefits of the initiative, including improved physical fitness, mental wellbeing and the opportunity to become part of a close-knit rugby community. The entire project will be visually documented from start to finish, with the potential for inclusion in a local documentary.

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club is also inviting volunteer rugby and fitness coaches to take part in the initiative. While voluntary, the role offers valuable experience for those pursuing a future in sports coaching.

The challenge begins on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club, Moore Lane, DL5 5AG. For registration and further information Email: [stuiemadgiraffe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stuiemadgiraffe@yahoo.co.uk) or call: 07812 372675 (Stuart).



# NECIT Approved Examination Centre

SWDT's collaboration with NECIT gives this training centre access to our UKAS-accredited ISO/IEC 17024 scheme for welder examinations, enabling them to use our standardised procedures, calibrated equipment and documentation while maintaining full control over the training delivery process.

NECIT is proud to support South West Durham Training in their mission to meet the ongoing needs of the region's individuals and the business community, maximising potential to secure jobs and create wealth for the North East. With the services made available by joining NECIT's Approved Examination Centre scheme, SWDT can develop their reputation as a further and higher education provider with exceptional standards and excellent teaching and training opportunities.

Peter Lyons, CEO & Technical Director, NECIT Services Ltd, said: "South West Durham Training is such a well known and respected educational establishment within the engineering community across the North East that to be able to assist their operations and help provide world-class welding expertise is an exceptionally proud moment for NECIT Services. With access to our UKAS-accredited scheme, SWDT further elevates the standard of their training within the North East, for the industry's next generation."

Gary Bower, Fabrication and Welding Lecturer, South West Durham Training Limited, said: "Becoming an accredited centre with NECIT allows for greater opportunities for our students and apprentices to progress into becoming coded welders within the area they specialise. It will also open up a lot of opportunities for the companies in the North East to have their existing workforce upskilled with leading training resources and examination procedures. I'm confident that the relationship between SWDT and NECIT will benefit the local welding community and the companies we work closely with."



Police Mergers – Will a London Centric Power Grab be the death knell for Local Policing! Durham Constabulary was established 187 years ago in 1839, when it became one of England's first county police forces. Its boundaries once included Hartlepool, Sunderland, Gateshead and South Shields.

These boundaries changed in the 1970s, when parts of the county became part of Northumbria and Cleveland. But those changes followed legislation, scrutiny and public debate in recognition that policing is about place, identity and trust.

To date there has been no consultation whatsoever on these proposals, apart from lots of column inches given the opinions of London based Metropolitan Police Commissioner and the Chair of National Police Chief Council, no published research, no impact assessment and no sense that the public has been asked what they think of creating large, centrally controlled, forces.

This matters because policing does not belong to politicians, civil servants or police chiefs. It belongs to the public. People experience policing not through strategies or structures, but through whether an officer turns up when they call, whether local problems are understood and whether someone is accountable when things go wrong.

Local policing works because it is local. Officers know their patch. Leaders understand the difference between a policing a city, a market town and a rural village. Communities know who is responsible and how to raise concerns. That connection is important and, once weakened, it is extremely hard to rebuild.

Supporters of force mergers argue that crime does not respect borders. That is true, and it always has been. But police forces already work together across borders every day. Serious and organised crime is tackled jointly. Intelligence is shared. Collaboration exists without dismantling local policing or erasing local identity.

We should also challenge the assumption that bigger automatically means better or saves money. Some of the largest police forces in the country, Greater Manchester, the West Midlands, Nottinghamshire and the Metropolitan Police have all, at some point, been placed into special measures because they were failing. Size did not protect them. In some cases, it made problems harder to spot, harder to manage and harder to fix. Large organisations can become distant, complex and difficult to control. Here in the North East, these options are already being talked about. Should Durham remain as it is, reflecting its mix of urban, town and rural communities? Should Durham merge with Northumbria, while Darlington aligns with Cleveland to reflect North East and Tees Valley footprints? Or should local oversight be replaced by a regional board represented by mayoral areas?

Each option would have far-reaching consequences for how policing feels on the ground. Yet, ordinary people have not been asked what they think about any of these options. British policing is built on a simple, but powerful, idea set out nearly two hundred years ago by Sir Robert Peel: the police are the public and the public are the police. That principle only works when policing is shaped with public consent. Yes, policing must evolve. Chiefs will argue for radical change to meet modern challenges. But radical change imposed from above, without evidence and without public involvement, breaks the very bond that policing depends on. Change must be done with communities, not to them. This decision is too big, too important and too far-reaching to be cobbled together behind closed doors. The public deserve a say in the future of their local policing and I will do my upmost to ensure they do!

# Jazz Time

Jazz Time on Aycliffe Radio, broadcast on Sunday 8th from 6.30pm to 8.00pm, will feature jazz historian, broadcaster and musician Alyn Shipton. In the programme, Alyn introduces his forthcoming album The Oxford Concert and shares insights into its background and inspiration. The show also celebrates the rich legacy of New Orleans music, with a special focus on the life and music of the great clarinettist and band leader George Lewis.

If you miss the Sunday broadcast, the programme will be repeated on Tuesday evening at 8.00pm.



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# Civic Dinner

## The Mayor of Great Aycliffe announces Charity Civic Dinner at Redworth Hall Hotel.

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Ken Robson, is delighted to announce the forthcoming Charity Civic Dinner, which will take place on Friday 20th February 2026 at the prestigious Redworth Hall Hotel, Surtees Road, Redworth, County Durham, DL5 6NL. Guests are warmly invited to attend this special black-tie event in support of the Mayor's chosen local charities, 'Wishing Well' and 'Options', both of which will benefit from fundraising activities held throughout the evening.

The event will be hosted in the Prince Bishops Suite, with guests requested to arrive from 6.30pm. A private bar area will be available, near the entrance, for pre-dinner refreshments. The evening will feature live entertainment from popular vocalist 'Micky Rich' along with music provided by 'Fully Loaded Disco', ensuring an enjoyable and memorable night for all attendees.

Tickets are priced at £40.00 per person, which includes a three-course dinner and complimentary wine on the table. The dress code for the evening is black tie/evening attire. An invitation reservation form is available for those wishing to attend and guests are encouraged to respond promptly due to limited availability.

For further information or to reserve places, please contact the town council office on 01325 300700 or [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

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# Double Community Recognition Awards

Before the main full Council Meeting on Wednesday 28th January, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Neil Collinson, presented awards to two worthy nominees. Paul Howarth was nominated by his daughter, Carrie Howarth and Don Walker for his outstanding dedication to the Newton Aycliffe community and Carol Gaskarth was nominated by Heather Brewster for her dedication to improving the health, wellbeing and learning opportunities for Great Aycliffe residents and beyond.

Carrie said, "Paul is an outstanding and dedicated member of the Newton Aycliffe community whose impact reaches far beyond what most people realise. Through his roles with the Newton News, Aycliffe and Aycliffe Radio, Paul works tirelessly to support local residents, groups, charities and events, almost all of it voluntarily and quietly behind the scenes.

"Paul organises and helps deliver key affordable community events such as the 'Spooktacular Halloween at ROF59', Town Centre activities and the Aycliffe Festival. Alongside this, Paul consistently uses the Newton News to promote and support other local groups and their activities, giving them a platform to reach the wider community."

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Neil Collinson, said, "Paul has followed in the footsteps of his fondly remembered father, Syd, in promoting and supporting the community via his work with the Newton News, as well as Aycliffe Radio and Aycliffe and has played a key role in improving services, events and facilities in Great Aycliffe. I am sure Syd would be very proud of you."

Nominating Carol Gaskarth, Heather Brewster said, "As Chief Executive of the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), Carol exemplifies outstanding leadership, resilience and community impact. She is charismatic, inspiring and deeply committed to making a difference. Her ability to blend social impact with business acumen ensures sustainability and growth while keeping people at the heart of PCP's mission. Under Carol's leadership, the number of individuals and businesses receiving support has significantly increased. Staff and volunteer numbers have grown, £1.5m investment has been secured for the Hydrotherapy Pool and facilities, and over £900,000 in funding to the County Durham voluntary sector has been distributed."

Presenting the award, the Deputy Mayor said, "Carol has made a huge contribution to the community of Great Aycliffe, both in her role as Chief Executive of the PCP and in a voluntary capacity, in helping to improve the health, welfare and wellbeing of residents, and this award is very richly deserved."

Paul and Carol both made reference to being surrounded by fantastic teams of volunteers. These are people who freely give their time, energy, enthusiasm and commitment to make sure everything runs smoothly and continues to serve our community in a positive way. Great Aycliffe Town Council launched their Community Recognition Award Scheme to recognise and acknowledge the dedication, commitment and outstanding contribution that nominated individuals make to improve and promote the Parish of Great Aycliffe.

If you would like to nominate someone from the Great Aycliffe Parish for a Community Recognition Award, please get in touch by email: [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk) or visit [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)



# Folk Night

The next Candlelite Club event will take place on Wednesday 18th February at the Navy Club, Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe with 'Edwina Hayes' as our headline artist. A wonderful singer supported by 'Buttonhole Jam'.

The evening starts at 8.00pm until 10.30pm. Please contact Joan on 01740 621347 to book your seat. Thanks  
Joan Edmundson.

### 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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01325 300212**  
or [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk)



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# Middridge History Society

Wednesday 11th February, 7.30pm at Middridge Village Hall.

'New Light on Early Medieval Lindisfarne'.

Speaker is Dr David Petts from Durham University Archaeology Dept. Holy Island/Lindisfarne is the site of one of the most early medieval monasteries in Britain. It was the home of St. Cuthbert and the site of the production of The Lindisfarne Gospels.

The talk explores the results of recent work on the Island which is starting to unpick the archaeology of the monastery.

Admission £3.00 which includes refreshment and everyone is welcome.

# S.A.C.A.

School Aycliffe Community Association  
Community Hall, located at the bottom of  
Eastfields, School Aycliffe (please follow the  
white/brown information signs).

## February Events

**Community Choir** held every fortnight. Our next session is on Monday 9th February, 7.00pm until 8.30pm, £3 including light refreshments. Please contact Julie McGarth for further information on 07742 015609.

## Up and coming Events

Please make a note in your diary!  
**Ladies Night** held every 1st Wednesday in the month. Our next session will be on Wednesday 4th March, 7.00pm to 9.00pm. We will be making Easter Crafts. Please contact Christine for further info on 07981 992686. £3 including light refreshments.

**Bingo Night** Friday 13th March, 7.00pm to 10.00pm (cash only). This is a ticketed event, £5 per person, goody bag included. Bring your own food and drink, we are trying to secure a mobile food truck (any recommendations would be gratefully received).

Don't worry if you don't have a dabber, as these will be on sale with additional bingo cards for those that are feeling lucky. There will be a raffle or tombola on the night, so bring some cash, further information to follow.

Please visit our new Facebook page 'School Aycliffe Community Centre'. We are at the heart of our community and a warm welcoming space for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect, learn and grow. Thank you for supporting our events and hope to see you soon.

The Committee Members,  
School Aycliffe Community Association.

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# Newton Aycliffe Juniors

## Week Ending 25th January 2026

**Under 10's** welcomed Leven Royals in the first round of the cup. Leven started the strongest, pressing and moving the ball around the pitch. Aycliffe could not get the result they wanted, but did score a goal through Kian. MOTM was Kaeson for a strong defensive display.

**Under 11's** faced Darlington United Reds, putting in an outstanding performance against a team four divisions higher. Aycliffe worked hard throughout, with goals from Noah A and Oliver T. Jacob C won MOTM for showing maturity in defence when tasked with man marking a talented player.

**Under 11's Whites** faced a strong Ferryhill side, who had won every game this season.

Despite creating numerous chances, Aycliffe could not get the goal they desired. OMOTM was Rowan for relentless pressure. CMOTM was Archer, who was dangerous on the right wing, creating chances.

**Under 12's Blacks** travelled to play Billingham Juniors who are a couple of divisions higher than Aycliffe in the cup. It was not to be Aycliffe's day, with Billingham's quality shining through. JJ scored a good goal for Aycliffe on the break.

## Week Ending 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

**Under 7's** played against 21st All Stars Yellows in a good game of football between two evenly matched teams. Aycliffe gave a great account of themselves, playing nice football, with goals from Lennon and Leo.

**Under 9 Juniors** hosted Eaglescliffe Elementis at home in the first round of the cup. Aycliffe worked hard, coming from behind on three occasions, before bowing out on penalties. Alfie, Henry and Joey scored the goals.

**Under 10's Juniors** travelled to Leven Athletic, looking forward to a fast-paced game. Aycliffe started the game at a blistering pace with some great chances. Connor eventually scored Aycliffe's goal which was enough to win him MOTM.

**Under 12's Blacks** travelled to face Marton FC Blues, trying a couple of different formations to combat the opposition. There was plenty of hard work and chances, with Liam converting for Aycliffe's goal.

**Under 13's Whites** travelled to face Gateshead Fell Oranges, racing into a 3-1 lead at the break. In the second half Gateshead pulled the game back to get the victory, before Aycliffe added a consolation goal. MOTM was Charlie H.



# Site Visit

Dear Sir,

After my last email, I have followed it up by contacting Fornax. I was kindly contacted by Fornax for an independent site visit to establish what safety measures have been put in place in order to run the site safely once in operation.

Based on my background, having worked in various COMAH environments, I asked how the risks are controlled and I was advised that a preliminary HAZOP study has been carried out. This HAZOP study has to be fully reviewed before starting up the plant. Based on the back of this, a LOPA study has to be conducted which, in turn, will trigger a SIL study 1 to 4, which, in turn, will trigger a SIF study. This means the level of controls the business needs to put in place in order to run the site.

The business has got a CEMS in place. This means Continuous Emission Monitoring System. The business has been pro-active by installing a system to monitor the current environment before it goes into operation, so a basic footprint is established before the plant goes live.

Whilst visiting the plant, I was informed about the level of protection the business has put in place. I was really impressed with the level of fire suppression put in place in the storage facility. Never ever seen this level of protection in my life before. Bearing in mind having worked on various COMAH sites.

I have also been advised as regards their drainage facilities. All of it is captured below ground level since the fire brigade will not attend site until it is safe.

This is all I can say to local residents, who are 'worried' about the local alarm at 10.45 every Thursday and considering you have another COMAH site. Not only that, local residents have to realise that local spray firms cause more hazard to life.

Fret Nieborg, School Aycliffe.



## Information Drop-in

Something new is launching in Newton Aycliffe  
Come along to find out more about this exciting  
new community project

**Monday 9 February**

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# Nostalgic Fun at Hopetown, Darlington

Following the rousing success of VE Day 80 last May at Hopetown Darlington, the visitor attraction has jubilantly released details on an upcoming 1940s themed Vintage Weekend. It is a three-day celebration of heritage, history and high spirits returning this late May Bank Holiday weekend from Saturday 23rd to Monday 25th May 2026.

This free-to-attend event invites families, history buffs and vintage lovers alike to step back in time across the weekend and to expect nostalgia by the bucketful, with period sights, sounds and surprises at every turn. Whether you're a seasoned vintage enthusiast or simply partial to a bit of wartime cheer, this is one occasion you most certainly won't want to miss.

Over the course of the weekend, Hopetown Darlington will transform into a vibrant celebration of vintage culture, capturing the spirit of yesteryear with a programme packed full of engaging events and attractions. On the Monday, visitors are encouraged to come dressed in their favourite 1940s attire. Councillor Libby McCollom, Darlington Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Local Services, said: "VEDay80 was a huge success and an early achievement for Hopetown Darlington, and we're delighted to now bring a new Vintage Weekend to

the wonderful attraction. This weekend long event wonderfully showcases both our rich heritage and community spirit that Hopetown strives to showcase. From classic machines to vintage fashion, tea parties to live music and dancing, there's something for everyone to enjoy."

## What to Expect During Vintage Weekend: Saturday 23 May - Classic and Vintage Vehicle Rally

Enjoy an impressive display of vintage and classic cars, motorcycles and more, as enthusiasts bring their gleaming machines to this historic site. It's a perfect opportunity for photos, chats with owners and admiration of automotive history.

## Sunday 24 May - Vintage Wares & Wonders Day

A charming market atmosphere awaits with an array of vintage-inspired stalls. Visitors can explore curiosities, collectibles and handcrafted goods that evoke the style and spirit of days gone by. Perfect for a leisurely Sunday stroll and a spot of shopping.

## Monday 25 May - 1940s Day

Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the 1940s with themed entertainment and activities. Highlights include talks and fashion showcases that bring the wartime era vividly to life across the



Hopetown site. There will be live music and dancing, a community tea party, games and activities and one or two more surprises. It's a day worthy of a Home Front celebration where they will celebrate community, togetherness, cheer, and everyone just having a jolly good time.

While general entry across the weekend is free, some specialist experiences and photo opportunities will carry a small additional charge. So make a weekend of it, whether attending for one day or all three. Tickets are available to book now and are available at: [www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk/vintageweekend](http://www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk/vintageweekend)

## Coffee & Chat

Everyone is welcome to Aycliffe Village Hall for our 'Coffee 'n' Chat' on Wednesday 11th February between 2.00pm and 3.00pm. We look forward to seeing you for a drink, some biscuits and friendship.

## ACORN Residents Association

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th February at 6.00pm. We meet at the Phoenix Club (upstairs). Everyone is welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits are always available.

## PACT Meeting

This is your reminder of an upcoming PACT meeting:

Thursday 26th February, 5.30pm - 6.30pm at The Big Club, Sheraton Road.

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# 'Taking Time to Talk'

A young man overcame significant mental health challenges by addressing his mental and physical wellbeing simultaneously with the support of Wellbeing for Life (WBFL).

Kieren Kemp had been through a difficult time in his life, leading him to a point of severe depression and suicidal thoughts. After a 12-week wellbeing programme and building a relationship with his practitioner where he could share the challenges he was experiencing, Kieren had secured a new job, and his friends and family noticed a remarkable change in him.

Speaking of his experience, and his encouragement to others, Kieren said: "It can sometimes be surprising where you find support, for me it has been from a community organisation, who champion the wellbeing of everyone. I've got the motivation to look after myself now and want to share my story so that anyone who might be in a similar place to where I was will see, you're not alone. Reach out and there will be someone who can help."

An excitement for the future and its possibilities has been sparked in Kieren. He said: "I'm looking forward to being myself, enjoying my new self-confidence and being able to socialise more."

In County Durham, the prevalence of mental health conditions has increased by 5.8% since 2023/24. This rise is higher than the North East region, and England as a whole. It is ever more important to break down barriers; to listen, share, and encourage others to talk.

At the point of referral to WBFL, from the County Durham Resilience service, Kieren was struggling with low self-esteem and was underweight. It was at this moment that he began his journey to recovery.

Kevin Howe, Wellbeing Practitioner at WBFL, reached out to Kieren; he arranged their first meeting at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe. Kevin's own experiences with similar challenges allowed him to connect with Kieren on a personal level, providing invaluable support and creating a safe, open space to talk.

Wellbeing for Life is a free service available to anyone over 16 years old who lives, works, or is registered with a GP in County Durham. For more information about the mental wellbeing support the team offers, contact 0800 876 6887, email [cdda-tr.CBS@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.CBS@nhs.net), or visit: [www.yourwellbeingservices.uk/mental-wellbeing](http://www.yourwellbeingservices.uk/mental-wellbeing)



# Winnie the Pooh Day Brings Stories to Life

Children at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School enjoyed a magical day of storytelling and celebration as the school marked Winnie the Pooh Day with creative activities, workshops and a special teddy bears' picnic on Friday 16th January.

Pupils arrived dressed as their favourite characters from A. A. Milne's much loved stories, transforming the school into the Hundred Acre Wood. The colourful costumes helped to create a sense of excitement and set the tone for a day focused on enjoying classic children's literature.



## Blue Badge Abuse

A woman has been fined after being caught using the Blue Badge of an elderly man she used to care for.

Durham County Council took legal action against Carys Coates, of Hill View, Esh Winning, after a civil enforcement officer checked the Blue Badge of a car parked on double yellow lines in Stanley.

While checking the badge, a woman returned to the vehicle and had a conversation with the officer, who advised that she had not set the clock on the Blue Badge.

The matter was reported to the council's corporate fraud team as the badge on display belonged to a man, but he was not present when the woman returned to the car.

Peterlee Magistrates Court heard that the badge belonged to an elderly man living in Ponteland, while checks on the car's registration showed the vehicle belonged to Coates.

Coates was invited to an interview under caution, in which she told the council she had the badge as she used to be the carer of the man and admitted to using it while he was not present.

The 22-year-old pleaded guilty to misuse of a Blue Badge. She was ordered to pay a £119 fine, £250 costs, and a £48 victim surcharge. Tracy Henderson, Durham County Council's chief internal auditor and corporate fraud manager, said: "Blue Badge misuse undermines a vital scheme designed to help those with genuine mobility needs."

"In this case, the driver admitted to using the badge to avoid a parking ticket, knowing full well it should not have been used without the owner of the badge being present. The driver now faces a financial penalty much larger than what the parking would have cost."

"This successful prosecution demonstrates our zero-tolerance approach towards those who misuse the Blue Badge scheme and our commitment to ensuring fair access for those who genuinely need it."

The school was delighted to welcome Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children's Books, who worked with each class during the day. Through interactive sessions, children explored key themes from the Winnie the Pooh stories, including woodland nature, adventure and friendship, encouraging imagination, discussion and creativity.

Mr Hunt, Deputy Headteacher at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School said: "It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic throughout the day. Events like this help bring stories to life and encourage a genuine love of reading across the whole school."

The day ended with a joyful teddy bears' picnic, where children brought in their own favourite teddy bears to join in the celebrations. Older pupils shared Winnie the Pooh stories with younger children, creating a warm and supportive atmosphere and strengthening links across different year groups.

Ms Young, EYFS lead, commented: "The way the older children supported the younger pupils by reading to them was really special. It reflected the themes of friendship and kindness that are so central to the Winnie the Pooh stories."

## Panto Success for Gala

Audiences flocked to have some fe-fi-fo-FUN at a Durham City theatre this winter with more than 22,000 people attending the venue's latest family production. Jack and the Beanstalk at Gala Durham wowed audiences across 66 shows, drawing widespread praise from critics and audiences alike.

The Durham County Council venue also ran accessible shows to ensure as many people as possible could experience the joy of pantomime. This included relaxed performances, British Sign Language interpreted and captioned performances, as well as an audio described performance and touch tour for audiences with sight loss.

And there is more fun to come, with tickets now on sale for Gala Durham's 2026 pantomime, a tower-iffic twist on the classic tale of Rapunzel.

Rapunzel will run at Gala Durham from Thursday 19th November to Thursday 31st December with accessible performances including a British Sign Language performance on Saturday 5th December at 2pm; an audio described performance on Saturday 5th December at 6.30pm; a captioned performance on Saturday 12th December at 6.30pm; and relaxed performances on Friday 4th December at 1.30pm and Tuesday 15th December at 6.30pm.

To book, visit [www.galadurham.co.uk/rapunzel](http://www.galadurham.co.uk/rapunzel) or by calling the Gala Durham Box Office on 03000 266 600.

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# Cash Cow Motorists

Dear Sir,  
I recently suffered a cardiac arrest, necessitating a triple heart bypass and hospitalisation/convalescence for several weeks.

When I eventually returned home in November 2025 I desperately needed provisions & visited Aldi & Tesco on the evening of Monday 1st December 2025, when it was quiet, parking in the Costa Coffee car park (42 minutes stay). My condition after surgery dictated that I shouldn't lift anything heavy, as such I returned to the same car park on the evening of Friday 4th Dec 2025 to complete my shopping (18 minutes stay).

I subsequently received two parking fines totalling £200.00 from 'Civil Enforcement' - because I had entered 'Costa Coffee' car park after 8.00pm where apparently, no parking is now permitted between 8.00pm & 6.30am. My calculations are that this equates to a parking rate of £3.33 per minute which is even more expensive than exorbitant airport charges.

I contacted 'Civil Enforcement' to appeal against their fines explaining my personal circumstances and also pointing out that although the 'terms & conditions' had changed the signage looked exactly the same as it had before, I also emphasised that both my visits had been during dark and inclement weather which meant that 'terms and conditions' were virtually impossible to read, my appeal was rejected and under threat of a 'debt recovery agent', I have been forced to pay the fines. It would appear that there is no vehicle for discretion or compassion within 'Civil Enforcement' suggesting they are simply out to 'screw the motorist' on behalf of Costa Coffee.

May I suggest to like minded motorists/shoppers that they boycott 'Costa Coffee' in protest against blatantly unjust parking conditions, excessive fines and egregious practices.

Name and address supplied.

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## Half Term at Raby Estates



Families can travel through time and space this February half term in a series of new activities across Raby Estates.

At Raby Castle, Park and Gardens, a time-travelling adventure awaits at the servant school in the medieval castle, designed to provide a hands-on way for children to explore history and experience the day-to-day jobs of a castle servant over 100 years ago.

Families can venture through the 14th century castle and have a go at some special tasks along the way – from household chores to helping the family prepare for supper. Children can also complete activities on the complimentary trail sheet to earn gold coin stamps and be given their very own wage slip at the end.

Another journey to the past awaits at Raby's woodland adventure playground, The Plotters' Forest. For the first school holiday of 2026, Raby has created a world of wonder in its new Dragon Quest, with clues dotted around its immersive play area that young knights and dames will need to find as they dash through. Children can enjoy plenty of outdoor fun as they explore the woodland route at The Plotters' Forest, featuring musical instruments, talking tubes, mischief mirrors, a giant memory game, spinning signposts, towers, climbing ladders, a slide and treetop tunnels.

High Force will continue to run its family saver ticket for the February half term, which admits two adults and two children to the waterfall. This ticket is £10 when purchased online, or £12 onsite.

Raby's Family Explorer ticket is available for £60 when purchased online and provides two adults and two children with access-all-areas, including the new activities at the castle and the Plotters' Forest, daily free activities including seed sowing and entry to Raby's picturesque Deer Park and Walled Gardens. Alternatively, the Family Explorer ticket can be purchased at Raby on the day for £65.

All activities begin on Saturday 14th February and will run through to Sunday 1st March, with the Dragon Quest trail at The Plotters' Forest and the Space Adventure trail at High Force extended until Sunday 29th March.

For further information and to book tickets, visit: [www.raby.co.uk/raby-castle/whats-on](http://www.raby.co.uk/raby-castle/whats-on)

## Beating The Deadline

More than 11.48 million people beat the deadline and filed their Self Assessment tax return for the 2024 to 2025 tax year by 31st January, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) can reveal.

There were 475,722 taxpayers who waited until the final day to file their return. On the day:

- 27,456 people submitted theirs in the final hour (23:00 to 23:59);
- the busiest hour for submitting a return was 17:00 to 17:59, when 32,982 people filed;
- HMRC advisers handled 5,409 webchats and 10,483 calls to the helplines which, unusually, were opened on a Saturday to provide extra support to customers on the deadline day.

More than 12 million Self Assessment customers were expected to file a tax return and pay any tax owed for the 2024 to 2025 tax year by 31 January. Anyone who needs to file a return and missed the deadline should meet their tax obligations as soon as possible, as late filing and late payment penalties are charged.

Customers can file their tax return now and pay any tax owed via GOV.UK. One of the quickest ways to pay is via the HMRC app. Time to Pay arrangements are available for those who cannot pay their tax bill in full, if they meet the relevant criteria. A full list of payment options is available on GOV.UK.

There are also additional penalties for paying late - 5% of the tax unpaid at 30 days, 6 months and 12 months. Interest will also be charged on any tax paid late.

Customers will be able to file their Self Assessment tax return for the 2025 to 2026 tax year from 6th April 2026.

More information about Self Assessment is available on: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

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## Member of Parliament Update

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

It's been a busy few weeks with important announcements in Parliament that will have a positive impact on our local community. To mark Holocaust Memorial Day, I was proud to sign the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment in Parliament. It was a powerful moment of reflection and a reminder of the importance of remembrance, education and standing up against hatred and antisemitism in all its forms.

Remembering the past is essential if we are to build a fairer and more tolerant future for the next generation.

I was also pleased to welcome Royal Marine Commandos to Parliament, where they showcased some of the specialist equipment they use in their work. It was a privilege to spend time with them and to see first-hand the professionalism, skill and dedication that make them a truly world-class force.

Continuing the defence theme, I recently visited HMS Duncan, a Royal Navy Type 45 destroyer. During the visit, I spoke with crew members about their experiences and about the innovative plans shaping the future of the Royal Navy. Seeing the ship's incredible capabilities up close was a real eye-opener and reinforced the vital role our Navy plays in keeping the UK safe.

In the constituency, I was proud to launch a new "Community Centre Spotlight",

highlighting the brilliant facilities that bring people together across the constituency. My first visit was to Ferryhill Sport and Education Centre, a fantastic local hub that offers so much to residents of all ages. I am really looking forward to showcasing community centres across Newton Aycliffe in the weeks ahead, so please keep an eye on my social media channels for these videos.

There has also been welcome news from the government on support for families and local businesses. An additional 500 free breakfast clubs have been announced nationally, with our area set to benefit from four more on top of the two we already had. These clubs make a real difference, ensuring children start the school day ready to learn while supporting working families.

The government has also unveiled a new support package for pubs and hospitality, including a 15% cut to business rates, a two-year real-terms freeze, licensing reform and a new High Streets Strategy. Our pubs are at the heart of many communities and these measures will help local hospitality businesses to thrive.

Finally, I have launched my online newsletter, with the January update now sent out. If you would like to stay up-to-date with my work, you can sign up here: <https://alanstricklandmp.eo.page/h2n1w>

## Managed IT Provider Adds Rugby Star to Team

A managed IT, communications and connectivity business based in Norton has welcomed a new addition to the team, in the form of Newcastle Falcons player, Jacob Oliver. Coming from an entrepreneurial family background, Jacob joins Lucid Technology Solutions as Business Development Manager, tasked specifically with growing the company's cyber security service area.

Following an education at Barnard Castle School, Jacob has worked in private equity and for a contract furniture business, while also playing rugby as hooker for Newcastle Falcons and England age groups.

Jacob said: "Rugby instilled in me copious amounts of skills that are transferable into sales. Lucid is a great business that has a genuine customer-first approach and my decision to join was made easy when meeting Paul and getting to know him and his leadership."

Jacob's first priority is to promote the new systems that Lucid is putting in place to support businesses with cyber security, with a specific focus on legal and financial firms.

Paul Alsop, MD of Lucid, said: "Jacob already has a great understanding of how to 'open doors' as it were, and has come in all fired up with the perfect attitude towards supporting us in growing the business. As a big rugby fan myself, I could see immediately that he transfers that drive on the pitch to his drive work-wise, and we're already seeing results. In his first week alone he secured some incredible contracts and that's purely down to his dedication and hard work."

Lucid Technology Solutions has been supporting businesses in the North East and beyond for 36 years, with its growing team which currently stands at 18. The business invests heavily in professional development for its staff, supports apprentices and is also ISO 9001 and 27001 certified, as well as SSAIB.

For more information, please see <https://lucidgrp.co.uk/>  
Image: Paul Alsop (L) and Jacob Oliver (R).



## Dedication of New Banner

A new Lodge Banner was formally dedicated at the Lodge of Progress during a special ceremony held at the Chester-Le-Street Masonic Centre on Friday, 16th January 2026. The banner was generously gifted to the Lodge by Past Master John Rutherford, given in loving memory of his wife, Jan, who was called to the Grand Lodge above in October

2024. The dedication marked a deeply moving moment for members and guests alike, reflecting both remembrance and renewal at the heart of Masonic life.

Rather than choosing a traditional memorial, John elected to present something living and active, an enduring symbol that will continue to serve the Lodge for generations to come. The banner stands as a testament not only to Jan's memory, but also to her quiet yet profound support of Freemasonry. She encouraged her husband's Masonic journey, gave generously, helped the Lodge, and understood Freemasonry not simply as a private interest, but as a way of shaping men who then go out to shape the world. Through this gift, her memory is woven not into stone, but into the continuing life of the Lodge itself.

Speaking about the gift, John said:

"This banner is a fitting tribute to Jan and everything she stood for. She believed strongly in the values of Freemasonry and was always proud of the work the Lodge does, both within these walls and beyond them. I wanted to give something that would live on, something that would continue to serve the Lodge and its members. I know she would have been deeply proud to see her memory honoured in this way, and to know that it will remain part of the Lodge of Progress for many years to come."

The dedication ceremony was conducted by Julian Ward, Provincial Grand Chaplain for Durham Freemasons, and was witnessed by visitors and members of the Provincial Team, led by the Head of Durham Freemasons, John Watts. The dedication was further honoured by the presence of Honorary Member of the Lodge John Thompson, former Head of Durham Freemasons and now Assistant Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

The dedication of the new banner was both a solemn and uplifting occasion, reinforcing the Lodge's commitment to remembrance, continuity, and progress. It now stands as a lasting symbol of love, support, and the enduring principles that Freemasonry seeks to uphold, accompanying the Lodge of Progress as it continues its work for present and future generations.





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		3	7		5	
	3			9		1
		6		3		5
1	5				7	3
3		8		2		
4		5		6		
	3		7	8		
		1			9	4

## A.G.M.

Woodham Village Community Association are holding their Annual General Meeting at St. Elizabeth's Close, Woodham Village DL5 4UE on Wednesday 4th March at 6.30pm. Agenda:

Elect officers and members. Review accounts. Vote on any proposals. Have a detailed review of the last extraordinary five years and the effects on the Centre and formulate our plans for the future.

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## Lucy Pittaway and GNAAS



A limited-edition range of mugs and tote bags, featuring artwork by Lucy Pittaway, has been launched in the Great North Air Ambulance Service's (GNAAS) online shop. The piece of art called 'Flying Coast to Coast' was painted by award winning Yorkshire artist Lucy Pittaway and honours the work of GNAAS.

It showcases all the areas within the region that the charity proudly covers, including North Yorkshire, the North East, Cumbria and the Isle of Man, and features their iconic helicopter soaring above local landmarks such as Roseberry Topping and the impressive mountains of Cumbria.

The artwork was first unveiled last year, with Lucy pledging to donate 10% of sales of the print, and 50% of the price of the original to GNAAS, as well as hosting a fundraising weekend at her seven galleries, including Harrogate and York.

In addition to gallery events, Lucy Pittaway Ltd has supported GNAAS through sponsored walks, prize raffles, participation in the Great North Run, clothing collections, sponsoring a table at our North East ball and other initiatives.

In total, Lucy and her team have raised more than £15,000 for GNAAS, and the company has been awarded Corporate Partner status in recognition of their support.

As part of the benefits of becoming a Corporate Partner, Lucy Pittaway's logo is featured on the side of one of GNAAS' North East based rapid response vehicles, which are used to respond to incidents during the nighttime, and also during the day when the helicopter is unable to fly.

Ben Sission, CSR and Philanthropy Specialist at GNAAS, shared his thoughts on the partnership: "Lucy and her team are truly inspiring. Since pledging GNAAS as their charity of the year in 2024, they have created a wonderful array of different fundraising activities to benefit the charity."

"From three Pittaway Picture fundraising walks to pledging proceeds from the sale of artwork and from gallery days to prize draws, they have been focused on helping raise as much money as possible for our charity."

Now, fans of Lucy's work can purchase a ceramic mug or reusable cotton tote bag featuring the 'Flying Coast to Coast' print, with profits from the sales directly supporting GNAAS' life-saving service.

You can purchase the items and other GNAAS merchandise here: <https://www.greatnorthairambulance.co.uk/product-category/new-arrivals/>

## Keith Burnside

Of Aycliffe Village, peacefully on 8th January 2026, aged 77 years. A much loved Brother and Uncle. Will family and friends please meet for a service in St. Andrews Church, Aycliffe Village on Friday 13th February at 1.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, for St. Andrews Church.

## Obituary Notices

## Joseph Dunne Woodham

Peacefully, at home on 13th January. Joseph Patrick, aged 87 years. Dearly loved Husband to the late June; cherished Dad to Richard and Alison and a much loved Grandad to Danielle and Mia. Sadly missed by all his family and friends.

The Funeral took place on Thursday 5th February.

Donations in memory of Joseph would be much appreciated in aid of The British Heart Foundation and will be accepted via the following link: [josephpatrickdunne.muchloved.com](http://josephpatrickdunne.muchloved.com) - or Whitehouse Funeral Service.

Requiescant In Pace.

## Michael Moat (Mick) 1947-2026



Mick passed away peacefully in Dumfries, aged 78, after a brave battle with leukaemia, surrounded by his Wife and Family. A devoted Husband to Anne; a loving Son and Son-in-Law; a dear Brother to Colin and the late Robin and a much loved Brother-in-Law and Uncle.

He was cherished by generations of family, friends and former colleagues and will be deeply missed.

A celebration of Mick's life will be held in County Durham in due course.

Those who would like to receive details about the gathering are invited to email: [info@celebratingmick.co.uk](mailto:info@celebratingmick.co.uk)

## Peter James Poole

Of Newton Aycliffe, formerly of Shildon, on 20th January, aged 81 years, peacefully at home. Beloved Husband of Lesley; loving Dad of Lisa and Andrea; a dear Father-in-Law to Anth and Sean; dearly loved Grandad to Jack and Hollie and a good friend to many.

A funeral service will be held at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 13th February at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, any donations, in lieu of flowers, may be left at the crematorium for St. Clare's Court Care Home Residents Fund, in memory of Peter.

## Pauline Calder Woodham

Peacefully in St. Clare's Court Care Home on 21st January, Pauline, aged 78 years. A much loved and loving Wife, Mother and Grandmother who will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral on Wednesday 18th February.

Would friends kindly meet for service in Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu, would be much appreciated, in aid of The Lewy Body Society and may be given via the MuchLoved page: <https://paulinecalder.muchloved.com>

## Eleanor Goundry 5th February 2025

Loved and never out of my thoughts. Loving Sister, Norah xxxx

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**History Project**

Newcastle University study wants to hear your experiences of hospital volunteering!  
A new oral history project is recruiting for interviewees who volunteered in hospitals in Cumbria, Northumberland, and County Durham, 1979-1997, especially in hospital radio and Leagues of Friends.

Volunteers will have the chance to share their expertise and perspectives on the NHS, British and Northern identity, deindustrialisation, and life in the rural North of England, 1979-1997. This new study wants to explore memories of the NHS and life in the North in the 1980s and '90s, in the words of people who are passionate about it.

The project is being carried out by Lily Tidman, a PhD History candidate, at Newcastle University. With degrees from Oxford University and UCL, Lily has previous experience in oral history interviews and has received training from the Oral History Society and Newcastle University's Oral History Unit. The project is overseen by supervisors Professor Graham Smith, Dr Vicky Long and Professor Clare Bamra.

The project is funded by UK Research and Innovation's (UKRI) Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), through the Northern Bridge Consortium Doctoral Training Programme.

To learn more, please get in touch with Lily Tidman on: [l.tidman2@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:l.tidman2@newcastle.ac.uk)

**REEL Cinema Bishop Auckland to Open**

A brand-new REEL Cinema is set to open its doors in Bishop Auckland on Friday 27th March 2026, marking a major milestone in the town's new retail and leisure park and bringing a community-focused cinema experience to the area.

Located within the Bishop Auckland Retail & Leisure Park, the new cinema will feature seven screens, showcasing the latest blockbuster releases, family favourites and event cinema in a contemporary, comfortable setting.

Alongside its film offer, the venue has been designed as a flexible social space for the community, with a licensed bar, integrated coffee shop and hot food, alongside all the classic cinema favourites.

The cinema will also include bookable spaces available for private hire. This makes it suitable for birthday parties, school bookings, corporate events and community use, extending its role beyond the screen and into a true local entertainment hub.

To support accessibility for all audiences, the Bishop Auckland cinema will offer a wide programme of subtitled, autism-friendly, parent and baby, senior screen and audio-described performances, ensuring the cinema is welcoming and inclusive.

The venue will also showcase the best live-streamed event cinema, bringing world-class theatre, opera, ballet and concerts to the big screen. From acclaimed stage productions to internationally celebrated performances, audiences will be able to enjoy cultural events typically found in major cities, right in the heart of Bishop Auckland.

REEL Cinema Bishop Auckland will act as a pilot site for new pre-show entertainment, introducing new onscreen content designed to enhance the experience before the film even begins. The cinema will also feature laser projection across its screens, delivering brighter images, sharper contrast and exceptional picture quality, to ensure the very best cinema-going experience for customers.

Another standout feature of the new venue is its A+ energy efficiency rating, the highest possible rating in the UK. This means the building uses significantly less energy than a typical commercial cinema, resulting in a lower environmental impact and reduced carbon footprint, while still delivering a premium customer experience.

"Very few towns blend heritage and culture quite like Bishop Auckland. You can feel the town investing in its next chapter – building on its roots with new spaces for people and community to come together – and it's a privilege for a family-owned independent like ours to play a small role in that. We're also introducing a number of 'firsts' for REEL here, which feels exactly right in a place that's looking forward while staying true to its identity."

Sunil Suri, Director, REEL Cinemas, said "The opening of the cinema represents a major boost for Bishop Auckland, completing Phase One of the wider retail and leisure park and strengthening the town's evening economy. The venue will create 30 jobs locally and provide residents with a high-quality entertainment option on their doorstep." Further details about opening celebrations, programming and ticket sales will be announced closer to launch.

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# Drop-In

Something new is launching in Newton Aycliffe - why not come along to find out more about this exciting new community project? To be held on Monday 9th February at the Lifeline Community Action Hub, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4DS, 12 noon to 1.30pm, no booking required, call in anytime. For more information, call us on 0191 386 3856 or email: [info@chapter50.org.uk](mailto:info@chapter50.org.uk)

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## Aycliffe Youth Football News



### U7 Wildcats - Mascots for the day

After a great result on Saturday, the U10 Wildcats were mascots at the Durham Women v Portsmouth fixture, roaring Durham onto a well earned victory, 2-1. The Durham players really welcomed the girls and made it a memorable day for all these young girls starting their football journey. Thank you to everyone at Durham FC for welcoming all the players and their families.

### Wildcats Girls Development and Little Eagles Boys Development

We now have spaces available for year 1 boys and girls at our development academies. If you are interested and need more info, contact Berni 07939 045242.

*The heavy rain continues to disrupt the season once again, with most of our fixtures postponed.*

### U7 Wildcats v Gateshead FC

The girls were on fire, against a tough Gateshead side, Myla opened the scoring early on before Erin doubled the lead shortly after. Aycliffe continued to control the game into the second half and the goals kept coming. Wildcats scored six without reply and only conceded a single goal very late on. Goals from Myla x 2 and Erin x 4.

### U8 Wildcats v Chester Le Street Youth

A well-deserved victory and clean sheet in a match that Aycliffe could have scored a few more. Their defensive play was strong and when they attacked it was decisive and full of quality. Throughout the match the girls were passing and controlling, creating multiple chances. POTM, with two goals, Chloe.

### U10 Pumas v Chester-le-Street Youth

There was lots of positive play on show from the Pumas. Alice was tremendous, creating several chances for the girls to score. Millie did take her chance really well for the Aycliffe goal. Lilly made several excellent saves and was brave in goal.

### Billingham Town v U7 Eagles

First game of the second half of the season, as the teams are shuffled into different divisions. However, it was a team the lads have played previously who were the opposition, but the result didn't go their way.

### Senior Football

#### Durham Corinthians 1 v Newton Aycliffe Youth Seniors 6

The Seniors were away in the league to Durham Corinthians, the opposition first team game was postponed so they were able to include eight first team players in the squad, but from the start Aycliffe were the better team. Aycliffe switched back to 5-3-3 which has served them well over the previous seasons. A good team press won the ball back at the edge of the Durham box, a neat first touch to take the ball past his defender, and a great finish by Reed Molloy, saw Aycliffe take the lead. They then missed three golden chances, before Niall Douglas tapped past the keeper for the second. More missed chances followed



before Niall added his second with a lob over the keeper.

Three up at half time, but the coaches asked for more, Niall added his third with a good finish from the edge of the box, this allowed Aycliffe to start making substitutions and changed back to 4-3-3 Jordan Maughan, Jude Bowes and Cameron Walton all went close to adding more goals before a superb ball by Jordan M was turned home by Reed.

A slip up at the back allowed Durham to pull one back, however the scoring was rounded off by Josh Batey as his initial shot was saved by the keeper, but he buried the follow up. Great team performance and a resounding win for the lads.

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