

Newton News

• COMMUNITY • BUSINESS • SCHOOLS • EVENTS • SPORTS • COUNTY NEWS • LETTERS •

As you may have noticed, we've given your Newton News an upgrade to a glossy magazine and fresh new front cover design, and we'd love your help in bringing it to life each month.

To bring your photos to life on the front cover of the Newton News, see page three for more information.

This months photo is 'The Orchid Sculpture' which stands in a managed wild flower meadow on Greenfield Way, directly alongside the railway station. It features a four-metre-high common blue butterfly resting on top of a pink orchid flower, celebrating the local green spaces and wildlife that bloom in the town's meadows during the summer months. It was commissioned by Great Aycliffe Town Council in 2009 and crafted by the award-winning artist blacksmith, Brian Russell, of Little Newsham Forge.



Proudly supporting our town and celebrating what matters most



BUSINESS



COUNTY



COMMUNITY



EVENTS

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Heelwork to Music



The Oakleaf Sports Complex in Newton Aycliffe was transformed into one of the country's leading venues for Heelwork to Music and Freestyle at the beginning of August.

K9 Pursuits pulled out all the stops to host the first Heelwork to Music Association UK event in the North East, attracting competitors from across the country who came to showcase their skills and perform alongside their dogs.

Competitors took to the ring hoping to impress the judges and earn prizes, trophies and rosettes, with a fantastic atmosphere throughout the event.

The Heelwork to Music Association UK is a new organisation designed to encourage new handlers and their dogs to take part in the sport. Food and toys can be used in the lower-level classes, helping both dogs and handlers build confidence as they progress towards the more advanced levels.

Heelwork to Music is a fun and rewarding sport for people of all ages, including children, and offers a great way to develop teamwork and strengthen the bond between handlers and their dogs.

If you are interested in Adult or Junior Heelwork to Music courses, contact K9 Pursuits by email at: k9pursuitsltd@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01325 301177.

Who knows - maybe next year, you could be entering your own dog!



Breakfast Drop-In

The next Breakfast Drop-In at Aycliffe Village Hall is on Saturday, September 12, from 10am to noon.

Enjoy a catch-up with friends over a cup of tea or coffee with a bacon, sausage or egg bun. There will also be activities for children.

S.A.C.A.

School Aycliffe Community Association

Community Hall: Bottom of Eastfields, School Aycliffe, DL5 6QH. Please follow the white/brown information signs.

Ladies Night

First Wednesday of each month, 7–9pm, £3 including refreshments. Next session: Wednesday, 2nd September. 'Land of Lead & Silver' with Rebecca from the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Details contact Christine on 07981 992686.

Community Choir

Second and fourth Monday, £3 including refreshments. Resumes Monday 14th September. For more details contact: Julie McGarth on 07742 015609.

Reading Group

We meet every 4–6 weeks to discuss our chosen book and select the next one. Cost: £5 including refreshments and room hire. Books can be borrowed from the library or purchased at a discounted rate through the group. Kindle/audiobook options are also welcome.

More details from: Georgette, 07951 758118

Email: georgetterouse236@hotmail.com

Coffee, Cake & Stuff

Thursday, 10th September, 11am to 2pm. Homemade sweet and savoury treats available to purchase. More details: Christine, 07981 992686 or Elizabeth Harker on 07813 523050.

Weird Dough

Wednesday, 30th September, 4.30–7pm. Freshly prepared pizza served on site.

Coming Soon

Dates to be confirmed
Please check our Facebook page:

Halloween Party/Disco

Bingo Night

Annual Christmas Quiz

Hire Our Hall

Ideal for parties, social gatherings and community events. Facilities include a large hall, meeting room, accessible parking and toilets, baby-changing facilities, enclosed garden/play area and large kitchen. Info: Zanna Bewick on 07929 916725

Join Our Committee

New members are always welcome, make your voice count in your local community, contact Christine Robinson, 07981 992686.

Through Your Lens

As you may have noticed, we've given your Newton News an upgrade to a glossy magazine and fresh new front cover design, and we'd love your help in bringing it to life each month.

Each edition will feature a different landmark, location or scene from around Newton Aycliffe, showcasing the people, places and moments that make our town special. Whether it's a stunning local beauty spot, a well-known building, a community event, a business celebrating a milestone, one of our churches, local wildlife, or simply a beautiful seasonal scene, we'd love to see your photographs.

If you have a picture you'd like to share, please send it to us for consideration. To give your photo the best chance of appearing on the cover, please make sure it is:

- Taken in portrait format;
- A high-resolution jpg or png image;
- Framed with plenty of background around the main subject, allowing space for the Newton News masthead and cover text.

Whether you're a keen photographer or simply capture great moments on your phone, we'd love to receive your images and celebrate the very best of Newton Aycliffe with our readers.

We look forward to seeing your town through your lens.

Send your photographs for consideration to: paul@newtonnews.co.uk



Dangerous Path

Dear Sir,

I am writing to bring to your attention the poor condition of the public pathway along Central Avenue. My name is Ian, and I have learning disabilities. Recently, one of my friends tripped on this pathway and suffered a serious injury, falling and badly injuring his chin. He had to be rushed to hospital for treatment.

I am concerned that the condition of this pathway presents a danger to people who may have difficulty walking, as well as to those using wheelchairs or mobility aids. The pathway is in need of serious attention to help prevent further accidents and injuries.

I would be very grateful if those responsible for the pathway could have it repaired as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and cooperation. I hope something can be done to make this pathway safer for everyone.

Ian

PS: Please could someone look into improving this pathway? It would make a big difference to the safety of local residents.



K. McGuinness MCians
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Future is Bright for The Light Following Opening Weekend



An unforgettable programme of activities was held across Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd August to celebrate the launch of the Durham County Council venue, which serves as the region's latest destination for culture, creativity and community.

Officially opened by the council's Chairman, Cllr Robbie Roddiss, the building's celebrations brought live performances, including music from Pitlington Brass Band, acrobatics by Cequin Circus, and live sets from some of the North East's talented singer-songwriters. Children and their families also got to explore new sights and experiences with science inspired lawn games.

Inside The Light, visitors made their mark on the venue by contributing to a collaborative illuminated sculpture inspired by moths drawn to light. They were also invited to experiment with fluorescent materials within a glowing creative playground, where their drawings and messages will become part of an ever-changing light installation.

And guests got to see the venue's inaugural exhibitions for the very first time - We Are The Durhams: The Durham Light Infantry Exhibition and Victory Over the Sun: Encounters with Light.

Cllr Robbie Rodiss, Chairman of Durham County Council, said: "This has been a long-anticipated day for Durham City and I'm pleased to say that the opening celebrations for The Light have been a huge success. The Light is a venue that not only honours the building's past, but showcases its future as a centre for art, innovation, and history. This has been a significant investment into Durham's cultural offering, and we are delighted to have already received an incredibly positive response from visitors. We can't wait to welcome more people into The Light and inspire them through an amazing programme that is planned for the rest of the year and beyond."

Victory Over the Sun: Encounters with Light brings together groundbreaking works by artists who use light in extraordinary ways, including Tracey Emin, Dan Flavin, Olafur Eliasson and Chila Burman. Running until Sunday 17th January, it explores light as both subject and material, sparking questions of perception, nature and the cosmos.

Visitors to The Light will also have the chance to discover more about the DLI at a fascinating new permanent exhibition. Featuring images, sounds, hands-on activities and rich sensory experiences, We Are The Durhams builds upon the venue's military heritage to tell a deeply human story of identity, belonging and community.

The opening weekend celebrations will continue into the final weeks of the summer holidays with a packed programme of artist-led workshops and creative activities inspired by light, colour, perception and imagination.

Details of The Light's autumn/winter programme will be announced soon. For more information visit: www.thelightdurham.org.uk - To stay up to date with the latest news and events, follow @thelightdurham on Facebook and Instagram.



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Member of Parliament Update

Email: alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk | Telephone: 01325 344185

Congratulations all the young people across our area who received their A-level, T-level, BTEC, GCSE and other results. I remember well the stress of results day, many years ago when I finished my GCSEs at Woodham.

You have worked incredibly hard to get to this point and I hope you're proud of everything you've achieved. Whatever your results, there are lots of different paths to the future you want and lots of support and advice available.

It's been a busy summer visiting local organisations and attending events in our community such as Ayclife Music festival which was a brilliant event and it's always good to see the community come together for a day of live music, entertainment and family fun. A big thank you to all the organisers.

It was also a great opportunity to catch up with local organisations and businesses, including the North East Air Ambulance, whose crews provide lifesaving care across our region.

I had a really good afternoon at the Blue Light Day in Aycliffe Town Centre. Thank you to all of the residents who came over to have a chat about local issues. And a special thanks to the emergency services and the armed forces who attended, for taking the time to come and explain their vital work to local families.

It was particularly good to meet the Royal Air Force cadets, who train in Barnard Armoury in the town and hear about the fantastic experiences they've been having. For young people looking to develop their skills, confidence and experience, the armed forces cadet schemes can be a brilliant option.

It's been a privilege to see for myself the incredible work of our military, as part of the Royal Navy Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme over the last year and I was proud to complete the programme in July. The scheme, which has been running since 1989, gives parliamentarians from all parties the opportunity to visit operational military bases, meet deployed personnel at home and abroad, and hear first-hand the experiences of our service people.

It's also been a busy summer for the government, with the new Prime Minister setting out new policies which benefit our area. To cut the cost of travel, single bus fares will be capped at £2 from January, while eligible disabled passengers will be able to use their free bus passes 24/7, removing the current time restrictions. There is also more support for our town centres, with a 20% reduction in business rates for pubs, clubs and music venues, alongside new powers to tackle rogue businesses and organised crime including 'dodgy' vape shops and other businesses linked to criminal activity.

Mental health support is also being strengthened, with two new community mental health centres planned for County Durham. These will provide more accessible support closer to where people live and help people get the support they need earlier. Alongside this wider work, helping constituents with individual problems remains a key part of my role as an MP. A local HGV driver contacted me recently after waiting months for their licence renewal. I contacted DVLA on their behalf and following my intervention, they received their renewed licence within days. I am also pleased to have helped a local resident secure more than £3,000 in backdated Pension Credit they were entitled to. If I can help you or your family, please get in touch.



Ghost Plates a Threat to Safer Roads

Ghost Plates, a Growing Threat to Safer Roads. When most people think about road safety, they think about speeding, drink or drug driving, seatbelts, or mobile phones. Few will have heard of the term 'ghost plates', yet these illegal number plates are becoming an increasingly serious threat on our roads. Ghost plates are deliberately altered so they cannot be read by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. Criminals use reflective films, sprays, or illegal lettering to make their vehicles effectively invisible to one of policing's most valuable crime-fighting tools.

Alongside cloned number plates, where offenders copy the identity of an innocent motorist's vehicle, ghost plates allow criminals to evade detection while leaving victims to deal with fines, penalties, and the stress of proving their innocence.

Illegal plates are linked to organised crime, drug trafficking, vehicle crime, people smuggling, rogue trading, and other serious offences. By concealing their identity, offenders can move more freely and reduce their chances of being caught. Every unreadable plate weakens ANPR technology, which police rely on daily to identify offenders, locate stolen vehicles, and protect communities.

The current registration plate system has failed to keep pace with technology. With thousands of registered suppliers and limited oversight, stronger safeguards are needed to prevent rogue businesses supplying illegal plates.

That is why, as joint national lead for Road Safety, I have urged Police and Crime Commissioners across England and Wales to support stronger legislation, including tougher penalties, criminal record checks for suppliers, stronger DVLA enforcement powers, and improved public awareness.

Closing these loopholes will strengthen road safety, protect innocent motorists, and make it harder for organised criminals to evade the law.

If you suspect a vehicle is displaying an illegal or cloned number plate, please report it to Durham Constabulary via 101 or the online reporting service, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Your information could help keep our communities safe.



Ghost Plates: a Growing Threat to Safer Roads

Ghost number plates are deliberately altered so they cannot be read by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. You can play your part too - please report it





Contact Durham Constabulary on 101 or via the Force's online reporting service

durham.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime



This is a Rail Milling Machine, which was in operation in the early hours of a Sunday morning. The photo was taken on Lime Lane, just next to Ashcourt, near Aycliffe Village. As far as I am aware, it was carrying out routine maintenance and works by taking a small layer of metal off the top of the rail to remove any small defects.

L. Williamson Photography.

Hiyed and PCP Creating Pathways for Local Residents



Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) and Hiyed CIC have announced a new partnership that saw the Garden Kitchen at the Pioneering Care Centre reopen on Monday 3rd August.

The collaboration brings together two organisations committed to improving lives, promoting wellbeing and creating opportunities for local people. Alongside serving freshly prepared homemade food, quality coffee and affordable meals, the Garden Kitchen will provide supported employment, work experience and skills development opportunities for people with disabilities and health conditions.

Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive, said: "We're delighted to partner with Hiyed CIC to relaunch the Garden Kitchen. Together, we'll create a welcoming community space while helping people build confidence, develop workplace skills and move towards sustainable employment." Hiyed CIC supports people facing barriers to employment, particularly those who are

neurodivergent, have learning disabilities or other health conditions. Through the partnership, individuals will gain practical experience in catering, customer service and hospitality via supported internships, volunteering and work-based learning.

Tracy Fee, Director and Founder of Hiyed CIC, said: "By working together, we can provide real work experience and clear pathways into paid employment. Every purchase made at the Garden Kitchen helps create training and employment opportunities for local people."

The partners also plan to expand their catering and hospitality services to support meetings, events and community functions, creating even more opportunities for learning and development. The Garden Kitchen is open Monday to Friday, 9am-3pm, and Saturday, 9am-1.30pm, at the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe. For menus and more information, visit: www.pcp.uk.net/garden-kitchen

New Diabetic Support Group

Together with Diabetes - Support for all.

Come and join us on Tuesday 1st September at Simpasture Community Lounge, Simpasture Court, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5JZ from 1-3pm, shared experiences, practical tips, encouragement, family friendly atmosphere, **EVERYONE WELCOME** (adults and children). No pressure to talk, just come and listen . . . don't feel alone (if type 1 or type 2 diabetes is in your life - this group is for you). We meet every fortnight. Contact Kayleigh 07950 885454 for more info.

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We Are Recruiting!

Come along to 1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Air Cadets on Thursday 3rd September and see what we're all about. Whether you're looking to challenge yourself, gain new skills or meet like-minded people, we'd love to show you what being an Air Cadet is all about.

From drill and first aid to esports, archery, sports, competitions, flying opportunities and plenty more - something for everyone. It's the perfect opportunity to see what we do, meet our cadets, staff and ask any questions you may have.

If you: Are aged 12+ or in year 8 to 17; Are ready to challenge yourself and step outside your comfort zone; Want to learn new skills, make friends, and have fun.

Register your interest by sending us a message on our Facebook page: *1407 Newton Aycliffe Squadron RAFAC*

**Barnard Armoury TA Centre, Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe.
7.00pm - 9.30pm on Thursday 3rd September.**

Come along and discover what being an Air Cadet is all about - we hope to see you there.



Aycliffe Village WI



Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society

At last month's meeting, members were treated to an excellent evening, with a presentation, bus ride and visit to the Aycliffe Bus Preservation Museum with Alex and Anna. There was plenty of singing and reminiscing on the bus ride and the museum was full of treasures and memorabilia.

September events

This month's Aycliffe Village WI events include a trip to visit the sights, shops and cafes of Hexham and Corbridge, Book Club, Crafting at St Clare's Court Care Home and a walk to Locomotion in Shildon

WI Day September 16th

To celebrate The WI's 111th birthday, we will be holding a special birthday crafting event in The Village Hall from 1pm to 4pm. There will be refreshments provided and non members are especially welcome. You don't have to be an expert, only able to paint pebbles, so please come along and join in the fun.

Our next WI Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd September at 7pm in the Village Hall which will be an evening of Poetry and Plonk, bring along a favourite poem and we'll provide the plonk. Always a very relaxed, social evening. Visitors are most welcome to join us. For more information about Aycliffe Village WI and our events, trips and visits, email: aycliffevillage@durhamwi.co.uk

75 Years in Newton Aycliffe

Dear Sir,

On Monday 10th September 1951, my parents, Malcolm and Christina Denham, younger brother Malcolm and I took possession of a newly built house at the west end of Lee Green, Newton Aycliffe. I was five soon after, on 4th November.

Some of the names of our neighbours in Lee Green were Garbutt, Vos, Hindmarch, Johnson, Packard, Price, Greaves, Bellis, McKenna, Temple and McMahon.

I think the rent for this council house was about £3.00 per week, but my mum was happy to pay an extra 3p per week for a gas cooker and another 3p per week for a washing machine, which had a mangle.

We were on the edge of the town building work. Nothing, as yet, had been completed, to the north in Emerson Way and to the west in Walker Lane and Hopper Road.

To the west, there were the remains of Simpasture Farm, where the Iron Horse pub now stands, Outside of the bend, where Finchale Road met Simpasture Gate, was a small wooden hut, which was the Methodist Chapel, where Malcolm and I attended Sunday School.

On the inside of the bend was the home of the Stevens family who ran the Post Office.

There were two shops in Finchale Road, the Post Office and Duncans the Grocer.

Above the shops was a room used by many different organisations, including the St. John's Ambulance Cadets, which I joined when I was 11. Adjoining the PO was Clarence Hall and between it and the railway line was the building used by the Church of England. Vicar Drewette lived in the first house in Clarence Chare.

My first school was in the Bede Crescent flats in the first two floors of the south section.

When at school, I remember watching the building of the Blue Bridge, a cow running up St. Cuthbert's Way and listening to the funeral of King George VI.

We left when the new Sugar Hill School was opened. My father was one of the first to be employed at E.N.V. Engineering, which later became Eaton Axles.

When the Post Office transferred to the newly opened Neville Parade, Marjory Carey opened a hairdressers. My mum, Chris, started as a cleaner and then became the receptionist when it became known as Jacques.

I am sure that there are quite a number, who moved onto the town before me, or at about the same time, who are still living.

It would be great to hear from them. They knew the town when it was just starting.

Email: paul@newtonnews.co.uk
John Strachan Denham

Newton Aycliffe W.I.



Our August meeting was a lovely social get together including the opportunity to purchase some beautiful craft items from the W.I. Merchandise Team as well as enjoying several quizzes and a game of Bingo.

In September, we have trips booked, including the History Wardrobe, featuring the Fashion Revolution. There is an excursion to Saltburn on the train, where members can enjoy tasty fish & chips and a trip on the Tram, which is back in service, followed by a stroll around the gardens, shops and cafes. Our members are also able to access get-togethers organised by W.I. House including a three course Harvest Lunch and an Eco Products Workshop. There is a Crochet Group on the second Tuesday of each month and a friendly self-help group of Saturday Stitchers for knitters, machine stitchers and embroiderers.

In September, one of our members will be running the Great North Run, raising funds for Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group, our chosen charity for 2026.

SAMARITANS
Darlington

Become a Samaritan this Autumn

If you'd like to make a difference, volunteer with us at Darlington Samaritans.

We're looking for dedicated, caring people who have time to listen.

Volunteer with us
To find out more about training with us this Autumn, please scan the QR code or visit samaritans.org/darlington



Darlington and District Samaritans is part of Samaritans, a registered charity.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm in the Methodist Church at Neville Parade. We have speakers on various topics, craft evenings, auctions and parties. There is no need to be lonely as a W.I. member, come and join our friendly and hospitable Newton Aycliffe W.I. All women are welcome and you will have the opportunity to attend trips, learn new crafts and make new friends. If you have any questions, or queries please contact our President, Christine Robinson on 07981 992686.

Heighington Matters

Fornax Permit & Local Monitoring

Almost two years after Fornax submitted its permit application to the Environment Agency, a decision is expected in the coming months.

Meanwhile, plans are progressing for independent air-quality and soil monitoring. Soil samples will be taken at selected locations across Newton Aycliffe, West Green and Heighington, with Chestnuts also being considered.

West Green has been recommended as a key location.

Initial samples will provide a baseline for comparison with future testing once the incinerator is operational. Results will be made publicly available, and I intend to attend the sampling.

Scams - Protecting Residents

Following a recent scam involving an older resident, police attended our Monday Drop-In to provide advice on recognising and avoiding scams.

The session was very well received.

The Drop-In runs every Monday from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome for the full session or simply a cuppa - men included!

Lifeline & Telecare

The council's Lifeline service provides valuable reassurance for people living independently. A pendant, worn on the wrist or around the neck, connects users to support 24/7 without needing a phone, broadband or landline. Response Officers install and test the system, and I strongly recommend this service for anyone who could benefit from that extra peace of mind.

Speeding

Reports of dangerous speeding are increasing. While details such as vehicle colour, speed and location are useful, the vehicle registration number is essential if police are to take action.

Upcoming Events

Music Night

Saturday 12th September, 7.30pm, Village Hall. Music from the 60s to 90s. Tickets £10.

Stories in Stone

Saturday 19th September, 1.00pm, St. Michael's Churchyard. History tour with Terry and Joan Johnson.

Don't forget to read the Parish Magazine, where my series on the history of the Parish continues.

Councillor Gerald Lee

Heighington & Coniscliffe Ward

Move Your Way 2026: A Superhero Success

Move Your Way 2026 has been a true labour of love, with planning beginning back in March and one clear goal in mind: to create a fully inclusive community event that encouraged people to get moving in whatever way suited them best, whilst raising vital funds for two incredible local charities, Lifeline Community Action and Little Sensations.

To make the event even more exciting, organisers chose a Superhero theme that brought smiles, laughter and imagination to the day. The aim was simple: inspire children and families to come together, celebrate health and wellbeing, embrace inclusivity and support others through fundraising. Whether they arrived as Superman, Wonder Woman, Batman, or a superhero of their own creation, every participant became a hero for their community.

Thanks to the incredible support of Great Aycliffe Town Council, Livin Housing and local County Councillors, every participant received a medal and certificate to celebrate their achievement. Cipher Medical kindly provided first aid cover, while a return bus service ensured everyone could comfortably make their way back to the start after crossing the finish line.

The route stretched from Newton Aycliffe Railway Station to Locomotion in Shildon and was carefully selected to ensure it was flat, accessible and achievable for everyone taking part. The team at Locomotion, led by the ever-supportive Pam Porter, welcomed participants at the finish and helped create a fantastic event space where local organisations could engage with families and showcase the support available within the community.

Around 80 children signed up for the free event, each accompanied by parents, carers and supporters who helped create a fantastic atmosphere from the very start. Excitement filled the air as superheroes gathered at the start line, proudly showing off their outfits. Some costumes were shop-bought, some borrowed and many lovingly homemade. Among the standout favourites were a mighty Hulk complete with oversized green fists and an unforgettable Cat Boy, who



made the journey on his scooter wearing a cape proudly featuring a hand-drawn picture of his beloved cat, Plagg.

From walkers and scooters to wheelchair rollers, everyone embraced the challenge and gave it their all. The smiles at the finish line said it all as participants proudly collected their medals and enjoyed the range of activities and engagement opportunities provided by Locomotion and partner organisations, including Durham Constabulary, the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, Aycliffe Radio, Durham County Council and Lifeline Community Action.

The event raised an incredible £1,600 for Lifeline Community Action and Little Sensations, funding that will go directly towards supporting people who need it most across our communities.

But, perhaps, the greatest achievement wasn't measured in pounds raised or miles travelled. It was seeing the community come together as one. Families made memories, children built confidence, and people of all ages and abilities proved that moving your way is what truly matters.

Move Your Way 2026 wasn't just a fundraising event. It was a celebration of community spirit, inclusion, friendship and fun. For one day, Newton Aycliffe and Shildon were filled with superheroes, and every single person who took part helped make the day extraordinary.

To everyone who participated, volunteered, sponsored, supported and cheered from the sidelines.

Thank you, you were all superheroes.



Five Acres Community Garden Goes Off-Grid



Five Acres Community Garden at Brafferton has reached a major milestone, with the five-acre site now officially operating off-grid.

The achievement marks an exciting step forward for the community garden, which was created to give its Champions a place to learn, develop new skills, spend time outdoors and enjoy new experiences, while building a sustainable space for the future.

Over recent months, the site has undergone significant development. A new solar farm is now fully operational, providing renewable energy, while a newly installed borehole supplies fresh water. The addition of a fully functioning toilet block means Five Acres now has the essential facilities needed to make greater use of the site throughout the year. Reaching this point has been a team effort, with support from a number of organisations and individuals.

A huge thank you goes to Oakes Energy Services Ltd, whose expertise and hard work helped turn the vision of renewable, off-grid energy into reality. The borehole was made possible with the support of Drilcorp, special thanks to Jaxon, Scott, Sam and Jonathan for their work installing it.

Support from the Teesworks Benevolent Foundation, particularly Jackie and Heather, also played an important role in providing the new toilet facilities. Mike from Evri Building Solutions Ltd installed the toilets, while John from Palram generously donated materials to help complete the project.

The transformation has also been captured on film thanks to Lee from DigiFin, who worked with Oakes Energy Services and Five Acres to produce a promotional video documenting the project. Using drone footage, the video offers a unique view of how far the site has come. For Five Acres, the new facilities represent much more than simply having electricity, water and toilets. They provide the foundations for the next stage of the garden's development and open the door to even more activities, learning opportunities and experiences for its Champions. What began as an empty field is steadily becoming a thriving community space, with animals, growing areas, activities and opportunities for people to learn, grow and create lasting memories.

Everyone involved at Five Acres is incredibly proud of the progress made so far and grateful to the people, businesses and organisations who have helped make it possible. With the site now equipped with its own renewable energy and water supplies, the future is looking brighter than ever. This is our five acres. This is our future, and we're only just getting started.

Around Town

Tuesday 25th August saw the return of the Around Town show to Aycliffe Radio, now a monthly show on the last Tuesday of the month from 6.00 to 8.00pm.



My guests on last month's show included Mary and John O'Sullivan of Sunshine and Showers, and Aycliffe Counselling respectively. Joining Mary and John on the first half of the show was Kayleigh Close. Kayleigh helped to set up a diabetes support group, as a parent of a 19 year old who has Type 1 diabetes, the group are helping others with the kind of support she felt was missing when her son was diagnosed. In the second half of the show my guests were Carrie Howarth and Colin McNeillie providing their own insight into the very successful Aycliffe 2026. Carrie, the volunteer coordinator and one of the event trustees provided an insight into the challenges and highs of setting up and running such a successful event. Colin, a well known presenter on Aycliffe Radio, and a long time supporter of Aycliffe Radio community based events, was one of the many photographers present to capture the atmosphere and energy of the event. That's Around Town with Phill Hawkins on the last Tuesday of the month, 6.00 to 8.00pm on Aycliffe Radio.

Phill Hawkins, Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.

Wheelchairs

In the UK it is estimated 4.3 million people experience a short-term mobility need that could benefit from a wheelchair. 44% of these people believed they would have benefitted from one to attend appointments or to continue in their normal social environment. The NHS provides wheelchairs for long-term users, but those in temporary need often have to apply privately, some have a waiting list and most have a charge. If the need for a wheelchair is unplanned, such as after an accident, a wait or a charge might have a dramatic effect on your life.

Community Spirit Newton Aycliffe can supply transit and self propelled wheelchairs, children's and bariatric chairs on a temporary loan basis, free of charge, and, they can be delivered to your door if you live within Newton Aycliffe area.

Please contact email:
communityspiritaycliffe@gmail.com
or call Anne on 07506 123561.



Woodham Academy

Y6 Open Evening

We warmly invite you to our Year 6 Open Evening

Thursday 24th September 6pm-8pm

Headteachers Welcome 6pm and 7pm

We will also be hosting open mornings for Year 6 parents/carers on;

Monday 28th September 9am-11am

Tuesday 29th September 9am-11am

Wednesday 30th September 9am-11am

Open morning visitors need to arrive at 9am and must be pre-booked by contacting our main office. If any visitors require assistance with access, for example wheelchairs, please contact the main office.



info@woodham.org.uk
01325 300328



Be Kind | Aim High | Work Hard | Never Give Up

Woodham Academy Class of 26 Results



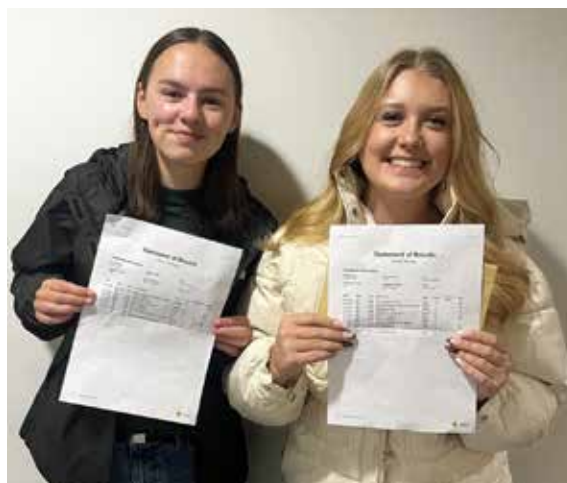
Woodham Academy's class of 26 are celebrating a fantastic set of GCSE results this summer, achieving the school's best ever results. Almost 50% of students are leaving Woodham with a grade 5 or above in English and Maths and 71% with a grade 4 or above in English and Maths. Students are rightly celebrating these results and are heading off to a range of further education, employment and apprenticeships, armed with the grades to succeed.

Mrs Dickinson, Deputy Headteacher commented 'We could not be more proud of this cohort of students. We knew from the outset they were something special, but their hard work and determination has led to them achieving the best results the school has ever had. Students have thrived in our new GCSE options, including film studies and photography which enjoyed a 100% grade 9-4 pass rate. We've also celebrated successes in our traditional options subjects including History, where students celebrated 12 grade 9's and 40% of grades above grade 7 and Chemistry where an amazing 82% of students achieved a grade 7-9. We are so proud of everything our students have achieved this year; they have worked so hard, bought into everything we have done and we wish them the best of luck with everything they do with their bright futures'.

Some notable success stories include Kitty, who was a regular on the school stage at Woodham and she achieved 2 Grade 7's, 6 grade 6's and one grade 5, and is heading off to the Northern School of Musical Theatre to study Performing Arts with the hope of become a West End star. Equally excited about her future, following an amazing set of results, is Lucy, who achieved a brilliant 7 grade 9s and 3 grade 8s and is going on to Durham 6th Form to study Biology, Chemistry and Maths.

Students have been hugely successful in securing their next steps after Woodham and are well prepared for their chosen path; 75% of all grades awarded to students were at a grade 4 or above with 60% being grade 5 or above. This has allowed students to access A Levels, L3 qualifications and apprenticeships in engineering and education. Headteacher, Mr Bell, added "we are delighted that yet again, students at Woodham continue to be successful. This is now a consistent feature of our school, and it is testament to the hard work and effort from students and staff. I'd particularly like to thank the parents and families of our students, who continue to support what we do as a school and understand that we are all working together to produce outcomes such as these. Well done to the class of 26!"

More photos can be viewed on our website: www.newtonnews.co.uk



UTC Celebrate 100% T-Level Pass Rate

UTC South Durham is celebrating another year of outstanding T Level results, achieving a 100 per cent pass rate as its Engineering and Manufacturing students prepare to take their next steps with some of the UK's leading employers and Armed Forces.

Students from the Newton Aycliffe-based technical school and sixth form have secured higher apprenticeships and employment opportunities with major organisations including Nissan Motor Corporation, Amazon, Jacobs, Accenture, A-Tech Fabrications, BTS Facades & Fabrications, MSF and Bloochip. Other students are beginning careers with the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy, highlighting the breadth of opportunities available to the latest UTC South Durham cohort. The results come during a milestone year for UTC South Durham, which is celebrating its 10th year, after being established in 2016 to provide specialist education in engineering and advanced manufacturing for young people aged 14 to 19.

Principal Tom Dower said: "We are incredibly proud of this group of young people and it has been a fantastic day, celebrating their success with them. Our T Level programme has been particularly successful with a 100% pass rate and 50% gaining Distinctions (the equivalent of AAA grades at A-Level), which is far higher than the national average of 12%. Achieving such excellent results is fantastic, but what really matters is where those qualifications take our students next.

"To see them progressing into higher apprenticeships and careers with some of the biggest and most exciting employers in engineering, manufacturing and technology - as well as the Armed Forces - is hugely rewarding.

"I'm really going to miss this cohort; they have worked tirelessly, supported each other and embraced every opportunity available to them. It has been a genuine pleasure to watch them develop and I'm excited to see what they achieve next.

"For any young person in the North East who is passionate about engineering or manufacturing and wants to get a head start on their future career, UTC South Durham provides a very different and incredibly powerful route into industry."

The latest results build on UTC South Durham's strong record of progression. In Summer 2025, 35 per cent of Year 13 leavers progressed into apprenticeships, significantly above the Durham average of nine per cent and the national average of seven per cent. Many progressed directly into advanced and degree-level opportunities with leading employers.

The UTC also records exceptionally low levels of young people becoming NEET - not in education, employment or training - while its positive destination outcomes exceed 97 per cent. UTCs were introduced by former Education Secretary Lord Baker to combine academic learning with high-quality technical education and meaningful employer partnerships from the age of 14. Nationally, more than 95 per cent of UTC leavers progress into positive destinations, including employment, apprenticeships and higher education.

UTC South Durham works closely with industry partners, including Hitachi, Gestamp and University of Sunderland, to ensure its curriculum reflects the skills employers need and offers students direct exposure to the world of work alongside qualifications including T Levels, A-levels and vocational courses.



Lunchtime Jazz



Such a treat was offered us by *#bishopaucklandjazz* with a visit to the lunchtime series by John Settle on vibraphone. He opened the programme with the lovely standard "I Let A Song Go Out Of My Heart" followed by a tribute to saxophonist / composer, Sonny Rollins with a version of his composition "Pent-Up House". This included a dazzling solo by pianist, Rick Laughlin and did I notice a bit of Jerome Kern's "Long Ago" and "Far Away".

John Settle demonstrated his complete mastery of the vibraphone as he swept up and down the instrument, casting a spell on the audience as we marvelled at the musical shapes he made. His introductions to each piece were thoroughly engaging with lots of history and respect offered to the composers of each tune. I particularly enjoyed his ability to bring in contributions from the audience. Then followed Desafinado with some outstanding solo work from drummer, Tim Johnston and his cymbal work throughout. I also liked the way John quoted other tunes by Antonio Carlos Jobim such as "Girl from Ipanema" and "So Nice" within his vibes solo. The set carried on through "Harlem Nocturne", "Move" (from Birth of the Cool) and "Tenderley" before a timely finish with "Tea For Two".

Thanks to Mick Shoulder on Double Bass who put the artists together, as always, and for his own superb playing, providing a solid foundation on which the others flourished. The next lunchtime concert welcomes singer, Esther Bennett from London and will be on Friday 11th September at 1.00pm in the Bishop Auckland Methodist Church Hall - great value for only £10.00.

'A Night at the Museum' Halloween Horror Spooktakular

Get ready for a fun-filled Halloween evening for all the family as Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Museum opens its doors for 'A Night at the Museum - Halloween Horror Spooktakular' on Saturday 31st October 2026 from 5.30pm to 9.00pm.

Local residents are invited to come along to the museum on Burtree Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6BL for an evening of Halloween entertainment, spooky surprises and family-friendly fun. There will be something for everyone to enjoy, including a scare walk, Halloween-themed disco, children's treat bag from Shake 'n' Cake, refreshments, a can bar, a Scare Bus, with plenty more Halloween surprises along the way.

Fancy dress is optional, so whether visitors want to come along in their favourite Halloween costume or simply enjoy the evening as they are, everyone is welcome, however there will be prizes for the best costumes.

The evening will also feature special Halloween performances by students from Bishop Auckland College of Performing Arts, adding some live entertainment and theatrical magic to the celebrations. This is a great opportunity for local families, friends and the wider community to come together, enjoy the museum, support local organisations and have some Halloween fun in a welcoming community atmosphere.

Tickets are just £7.50 each, with everyone attending required to have a ticket (under-16s must be accompanied by an adult). Tickets are available from: www.ayclifferadio.co.uk/tickets

Whether you love Halloween, enjoy a good scare or simply want a great evening out with the family, everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy this special community event.

So, grab your family and friends, put on your favourites Halloween costume and join us for a spooktakular 'night at the museum'!

For more information see the back page of this edition.



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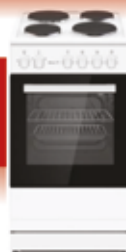


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Free Fun Filled Family Day Saboteurs Night

The Friends of Stockton & Darlington Railway (FSDR) have put together a magnificent festival that has something for everyone, not just those interested in railway enthusiasts, but who knows, you may come away being much more hooked on steam than you every thought possible! Following the SDR200 festival last year the FSDR are marking the 201st year since the worlds first passenger railway at Heighington saw Locomotion No1 carry its precious cargo with a fabulous festival right here where it all started at Heighington Station, Newton Aycliffe. The wonderful volunteers and corporate sponsors have been working hard over the last year from taking possession of the derelict building to strip out the old 1980's interior, make it safe and working with architects to develop a plan for bringing the site back to its former glory. For the first time we will be able to open the building up to the public. We will have 'hard hat' guided tours and displays with our ambitious plans for you to see and comment on.

Outside we have cleared the grounds and have a wide range of festivities for your delight. We will have live music from local artists, the fabulous North Riding band and hugely talented Sam Slatcher. There are food & refreshment vendors supporting the event from the nearby Steam Machine Brewery, Weird Dough Pizza, Auckland Cupcake Company and Barista Sistas.

There is a Miniature Railway with rides for children, a Steam Engine, Fairground Organ, Little Loco Children's corner and lots of other games and activities, including Tees Cottage demonstration on forging skills. So come along, join us in celebrating our unique heritage and get involved in keeping the 'railway that got the world on track' alive. Or get hands on and be one of or volunteers supporting the event. Please follow us on Facebook at [saveheighingtonstation](#) or [friendsofstocktonanddarlingtonrailway](#) or our website Stockton & Darlington Railway Heritage Festival 2026 - Friends Of The Stockton & Darlington Railway or contact: secretary@sdr1825.org.uk

Heathers The Musical Heading For Darlington

After a summer stint in London's West End, Heathers The Musical is heading out on a full UK tour stopping off at Darlington Hippodrome for one week only in September.

Welcome to Westerberg High, where popularity is a matter of life and death, and Veronica Sawyer is just another of the nobodies dreaming of a better day.

But when she's unexpectedly taken under the wings of the three beautiful and impossibly cruel Heathers, her dreams of popularity finally start to come true.

That is, until J.D., the mysterious teen rebel, turns up and teaches her that it might kill to be a nobody, but it's murder being a somebody... Based on the iconic 1989 cult film starring Winona Ryder and Christian Slater, Heathers first premiered in Los Angeles in 2013 to sold-out audiences before transferring to New York's New World Stages in 2014. The show was reimaged for its 2018 London debut, featuring new songs and updated script.

With three smash-hit West End runs and three record-breaking UK and Ireland tours under its belt, Heathers has become a fan-favourite. It won the 2019 WhatsOnStage Award for Best New Musical and was filmed for streaming on The Roku Channel in 2022.

Heathers The Musical runs at Darlington Hippodrome from Tuesday 22nd to Saturday 26th September. For full details or to book visit: www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk or call the Box Office on 01325 405405.

A Traitors-inspired charity mystery evening.

Inspired by the hugely popular BBC series 'The Traitors', step into an unforgettable evening of deception, suspicion, strategy and betrayal.

Featuring the acclaimed performers of Tall Tales Mysteries, this interactive fundraising event promises intrigue, laughter and plenty of twists. Organised by the Rotary Clubs of Newton Aycliffe and Teesdale & District Eco, all proceeds will support local charities, including the North Pennines National Landscape team's plant nursery at Bowlees, which grows plants and trees from locally sourced seeds to help enhance grasslands across the North Pennines. The event takes place at TCR The Hub, Barnard Castle, DL12 8TD on Friday 23rd October 2026, where there will be a cash bar and a raffle promising exciting prizes.

Book your place and join the investigation! Bring friends, test your instincts and help raise funds for good causes across the local area. The tickets are £35 and include a two-course meal (with a discount available for group bookings of 8) available from ticketsource.com



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A Month of Steam, History and Heritage Experiences at Hopetown Darlington

Following the landmark celebrations of S&DR200 across the region last year, Hopetown Darlington is proud to launch S&DR201 celebrations, a programme of events, exhibitions and steam experiences that continues the story of the Stockton & Darlington Railway and its lasting impact on the world.

Building on the momentum of the bicentenary year, S&DR201 at Hopetown celebrates the people, innovation and pioneering spirit that began in the North East and transformed global travel, trade and communication forever.

The celebration takes place between Saturday 5th and Sunday 27th September 2026.

Councillor Libby McCollom, Darlington Borough Council Cabinet Member for Local Services said: "The success of S&DR200 demonstrated just how important Darlington's railway story remains, not only to our region but to the wider world. Through S&DR201, we're building on that incredible legacy and continuing to celebrate the innovation, ambition and pioneering spirit that began right here more than 200 years ago.

Hopetown Darlington is now a must-visit destination for anyone interested in railway heritage, offering unique experiences that bring our history to life for new generations. From iconic locomotives to family-friendly events, S&DR201 ensures the story of the railway that changed the world continues to inspire residents and visitors alike."

The festival begins on Saturday 5th September with Memory of a Journey: Final Station, a vast collection of thousands of wooden peg dolls decorated during the S&DR200 celebrations. Filling the Exhibition Hall, this unique installation brings together thousands of individual creations into one remarkable display, celebrating the communities, journeys and shared experiences that rail travel has brought to ordinary people.

Throughout September, visitors will be able to experience the sights, sounds and atmosphere of the steam age through a range of heritage activities, including steam train rides and special events.

The programme culminates in the S&DR201 Steam Festival on 26th and 27th September, when the attraction, including Darlington



Locomotive Works and the 1861 Shed, will be open for a spectacular weekend of steam-powered celebration. Highlights include journeys behind Replica Locomotion No.1, offering visitors a rare opportunity to experience a recreation of the locomotive that hauled the world's first public passenger railway journey in 1825.

The centrepiece of the festival takes place on 27 September,

the anniversary of the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, when the world-famous 60163 Tornado takes to the rails on Hopetown's Heritage Railway. Built in Darlington and recognised as one of Britain's most iconic steam locomotives, Tornado represents the continuing legacy of railway engineering excellence that began with the Stockton & Darlington Railway more than 200 years ago.

Richard Starrs, Stockton & Darlington Railway Project Manager at Hopetown Darlington, said: "We're incredibly proud of the programme we've developed for S&DR201. Building on the momentum of the bicentenary celebrations, we've created a series of experiences that give visitors the chance to get closer than ever to the people, locomotives and stories that shaped railway history. From rides behind Replica Locomotion No.1 and Tornado to exhibition and steam-powered demonstrations, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

We've been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm shown by visitors over the past year, and we're delighted that S&DR201 continues the work of what we intend to become an annual celebration of Darlington's unique railway heritage. We look forward to welcoming visitors back to Hopetown year after year as we share this remarkable story."

The Stockton & Darlington Railway's first journey took place on 27th September 1825, carrying hundreds of passengers between Shildon, Darlington and Stockton. More than two centuries later, S&DR201 ensures that the story of the railway that changed the world continues to inspire future generations.

S&DR201 Continues the Legacy of the Railway That Changed the World. Find out more at www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk/sdr201



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Stiller Win Prestigious National Award



The team at Newton Aycliffe-based Stiller Warehousing and Distribution are celebrating after being presented with a prestigious national award.

The award was one of ten presented at a glittering ceremony at the annual awards ceremony organised by leading palletised freight distributor Palletline, held at the International Conference Centre in Edinburgh at which guests were entertained by comedians Conor Burns and Fred MacAuley.

The company fended off stiff competition from transport companies across the UK to win the award for Commercial Brilliance, sponsored by Allports. Stiller was one of the first companies to join the 78-strong member-owned Palletline network more than thirty years ago. Over the past couple of years an added focus on sales by the Stiller team has resulted in the company building relationships with existing customers and winning more business from new customers. Since then, the company has retained all its business despite rate reviews to mitigate increases in the cost of living, National Insurance contributions and wage increases.

In that time the volumes inputted into the pallet network have grown by 16%.

Thomas Prentice is the Business

Development Manager at Stiller. He said: "We are all absolutely elated. This award says it all. We have been an active player with Palletline for so long - we are in the top three largest depots in the network, in terms of distribution. "The whole team has put in a lot of work on our service to allow us to continue to build sales, and this has been recognised in this award from Palletline, so everyone is over the moon."

Established in 1954, Stiller Warehousing and Distribution is a third-generation family business employing more than 200 staff and operating 48 tractor units with twice as many trailers. As well as its distribution site on Aycliffe Business Park - the largest business park in the north of England - Stiller operates a number of warehouses totalling 500,000 square feet across the north.

Thomas added: "Everyone is delighted with the award. We are very service driven as opposed to growth driven, but we've still grown exponentially over the past ten years, doubling turnover and staff in that time."

More recently the company has also added a contract packaging division to its portfolio of services.

Photo: Shining brightly - Stiller Warehousing and Distribution wins the Commercial Brilliance Award from Palletline.



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Great North Air Ambulance Raffle 2026



The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) is giving supporters the chance to win a top prize of £10,000 in its annual raffle, while helping to fund the charity's life-saving work across the North of England and the Isle of Man.

The £10,000 first prize has been generously donated by AAA Roofing and is one of the biggest prizes awarded by an air ambulance raffle in the UK. There are additional cash prizes of £2,000 for second place, £1,000 for third, and £500 for fourth also up for grabs.

Tickets cost just £1 each, and every ticket purchased will help fund the charity's Operation SOS: Secure Our Service appeal and bring them closer to replacing their ageing fleet and securing the future of their service.

The charity plans to invest in three state-of-the-art helicopters and through careful financial planning, they already have the deposits for the first two aircraft, however, they urgently need to raise £2.5m to fund the deposit for a crucial third helicopter.

Since launching Operation SOS, supporters have helped the charity make significant progress towards its target, but unfortunately, they are still less than halfway.

Joe Garcia MBE, chief executive officer at GNAAS, said: "Every day our highly skilled critical care teams are on standby, ready to

respond to the region's most seriously ill and injured patients.

"By buying a ticket in our SOS Raffle, you will not only have the chance to win an incredible £10,000, but you will also be directly supporting Operation SOS and helping us secure the future of our life-saving service.

"Your support will ultimately rewrite the ending of the story for anyone unfortunate enough to need our care.

"We are enormously grateful to AAA Roofing for their generous donation of our top prize. Their support, alongside everyone who buys a ticket, will help keep our helicopters flying and our teams responding to patients at the moment they need us most." Since 2002, GNAAS has attended nearly 30,000 incidents, bringing a pilot, critical care paramedic and doctor directly to the scene to deliver advanced, hospital-level treatment.

Together, they have helped save thousands of lives and supported countless families during some of the most difficult times.

Those wishing to support the charity's life-saving work while having the chance to win one of four cash prizes can purchase tickets online at:

https://gna.as/raffle_2026

or by calling 01325 487263.

The SOS Raffle closes on 27th November, with the winning tickets drawn on 11th December.

Tech Firm Expansion

A pioneering technology company at one of the region's leading science parks has announced a major expansion.

Engineered graphene technology firm SEEDS will be moving into a new dedicated facility at NETPark, as part of Durham County Council's £100 million expansion of the site. Taking on the new unit will enable SEEDS to move from research development to commercial production, positioning the company to supply its advanced graphene technology to major international manufacturers across the global aerospace, energy, semiconductors, and automotive sectors.

The growth of industry leading science and technology companies like SEEDS has been enabled by the expansion of NETPark, which now offers an increased capacity of more than 285,000 square feet of flexible, high specification laboratory and advanced manufacturing space. With the expanded site now fully operational, it is expected to create 1,250 skilled jobs on site and contribute £625 million to the local economy over the next decade.

SEEDS' growth reflects the strength of NETPark's innovation. Working alongside the Centre for Process Innovation (CPI), Durham University and the council's business support service Business Durham, the company has transformed ground-breaking research into a commercially scalable process.

CPI has been a key partner in this journey, helping the company test and refine its ideas and providing the support needed to move SEEDS from early research into practical, scalable production.

The company's partnership with Mitsui is also now helping to accelerate its commercial reach. SEEDS formally signed its agreement with Mitsui in November, and the collaboration is already enabling introductions to major microelectronics manufacturers and opening access to global markets that would otherwise take much longer to reach.





Under 7's had their first ever game away to Chilton in the new 3v3 format. The whole team did brilliantly with some great goals, tackles, passes and dribbling in all the games.

Under 9's faced Northallerton Town Reds at home in a friendly, putting a wonderful team performance. Jacob M (4), Noah (3), and Seb scored the goals.

Under 9's faced Northallerton Town Reds, in a game full of goals. Jacob M (5), Oscar (3), and Seb with the goals for Aycliffe in an impressive performance.

Under 9 Juniors entered Clash of the titan's tournament. In a really challenging environment, Aycliffe got to the semi-finals of the plate and all the players enjoyed the experience.

Under 9's Juniors travelled to face Riverside Juniors Real, in a game that was full of goals. An incredible fourteen goals were scored in the game, with Jacob M (2), Noah (2), Boe (2), and Oscar scored for Aycliffe. POTM was Boe in her first season for Aycliffe, she put in a strong display with two goals.

Under 11's Reds faced Middleton Rangers Hurricanes in a friendly, with Fox and Michael scoring the goals. POTM was Korben, with PPOTM Leo.

Under 11's Reds faced Darlington RA Hurricanes in a friendly, with Michael scoring Aycliffe's goal.

Under 11's Reds took part in a Round Robin Tournament, finishing third to claim the plate. Michael was awarded POTT.

Under 12's were in the North Ormesby tournament, losing the final 1-0 after an excellent group stage performance. Goals from Jacob, Henry, and Oliver during the day.

Under 12's Whites entered the South Park Rangers Tournament, exiting at the semi-final stage against South Park Rangers. POTT was Ethan and Brodie.

Under 12's Blacks put in a fabulous performance, winning 8-3 in a friendly against Coxhoe. Kaiden (3), Freddie (3), Brodie, and debutant Jake, scored the goals. POTM was Franco.

Under 13's Reds faced Darlington Young Bulls, using the game to trial some new players and new formations, they eventually run out 9-0 winners.

Under 13's Reds faced Willington Whites, coming away with a fantastic 4-2 win. Alfie, Laitia, Finley S, and Koa scored the goals.

Under 13 Blacks entered a summer tournament in Newbiggin Hall, eventually lifting the Shield with a comfortable 4-0 win in the final.

Under 15's Juniors went down 3-1 to a hardworking Coundon side in a pre-season friendly.

Seniors played their last pre-season game against a strong Staindrop side, going down 1-0. MOTM was Andy B in the centre of midfield.

Seniors started their league campaign away to the Iron Horse. Goals from Adam M, Sam B, Sean R and Damo L in a dominant 4-1 win. MOTM was Noah E.

Seniors got a 0 – 0 draw with The Iron Horse in the return fixture of the Aycliffe derby. Sam B was MOTM.

Seniors continued their unbeaten start to the season, with a hard fought 2-4 win away at Dubmire. Matty M, Curtis C, and a rocket from Taylor B give Aycliffe a 1-3 lead at the break. Sub Cam How rounded up the scoring for Aycliffe to keep them top of the league. MOTM was Matty M.

Seniors won a thrilling game 5-4 against Dubmire. After leading 3-0 at the break, Aycliffe were reduced to ten men, before Dubmire brought the game level. Substitute Ollie S got the winner lobbing the keeper from thirty yards for the winner.

Seniors hosted Ouston Cherry Tree, with only thirteen players available, the team dug deep to win 5-2, with Alex B helping himself to a hat-trick, Damo L and Andy B scored the other goals. Damo was MOTM.

Aycliffe Fell Walkers

Thirty eight Aycliffe Fell Walking Club members took to the Northumberland Coast path for walks between Bamburgh and Alnmouth. This has been a popular walk over the last few



years and just goes to show that, although we are a 'fell-walking club', we don't just walk the fells and annually include coastal and waterway walks in our walking calendar. Nobody got off the coach at Bamburgh [WU1.1], but Seahouses attracted our stronger walkers with four more getting off at Embleton for an eleven mile walk to Alnmouth. By far the most popular walks were the shorter walk options from Stamford and Longhoughton, each with a brief country walk before reaching the coast. The weather was perfect for walking and the cooling breeze masked the afternoon heat that would have been quite punishing, as on the July walk. Walking from Embleton meant we were straight down onto the coast with beautiful views of Dunstanburgh Castle before arriving at Craster and meeting up with those walking from Stamford who had decided to take an early lunch. Some of these joined us as we pushed south towards Howick and Sugar Sands. We deviated away from the path to a lovely rocky spot on beach level for a pleasing lunch-stop. Like many of the AFWC walkers, we couldn't resist the lure of the Fish Inn at Boulmer for some liquid refreshment before heading off for more in Alnmouth. Everybody arrived back safely and with everyone back on the coach we set off five minutes early, which must be a first, but very helpful for the driver. We had a great day of fairly easy, level walking with great views.

Our next outing is on 12th September, when we travel to the Lake District and specifically from Rydal and Skelwith Bridge to Coniston. There are high and low-level walk options from both start points with the lure for many (but not all) of the Coniston Fells.

Aycliffe Fell Walking Club is a very friendly walking club. Please look at the website: 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. Feel free to join us on the next walk. We look forward to your interest.

Croft 2026 Meets

September 5th/6th

Kwik Fit British Touring Car
Championship Meeting

September 19th/20th

750 Motor Club Car Race Meeting

November 29th

Winter Stages Rally

Top Grappler



Aycliffe's very own Lucas Cunliffe won five categories in a top north east grappling competition, competing against some of the best opponents from around the country. Lucas beat ten opponents over ten x 5 minute rounds, submitting eight of them. Lucas, 14, trains five days a week with his team in Newton Aycliffe at Next Gen Jiu Jitsu, coached by John Paul and his dad, Dave. Classes for teenagers and adults are held daily, which are updated via their social media. The coming weeks will have several more classes added to accommodate mixed martial arts classes too. All classes are taught by active competitors, accomplished MMA Fighters and Black Belt BJJ coaches.

Impressive Season Finish for Scarlet

Scarlet Whitaker Dunn, the Newton Aycliffe based Junior Pro-kart racer, competed in rounds 5 & 6 of the Teesside Sprint Series, held at Teesside Autodrome over the weekend of 25th/26th July. Scarlet was competing in the ultra competitive Junior Pro-Kart class, which saw an impressive grid of 24 entrants.

Scarlet got off to a great start in her first race on Saturday, where she managed to convert her (drawn start position) P23 start position into an impressive P11 overall finish and an important second place in the fifteen entrant 'club' class. Her good form continued all weekend, resulting in class 'podium finishes' and awards from P12 and P10 finishes in the two finals. She drove superbly all weekend and managed to stay out of trouble in what were some very hard fought and eventful races. Her achievements were particularly noteworthy as she was competing against some of the very best young Kart racers in the country, many of whom have already won championships at other UK circuits.

Scarlet's maturity is apparent in everything she does, including her choice to retire from Kart racing for the moment to concentrate on her year 11 studies at Woodham Academy. Despite taking a break, we are sure that this won't be the last we see of Scarlet in motorsport. "While I am very sad that I won't be karting in the near future, I have loved it over the years and will always cherish the memories it has brought and the life skills it has given me," said Scarlet. Scarlets Mam said "Scarlet was very impressive this weekend. She has learnt so much from her time in motorsport and will take these forward with her in her academic studies and future career." We would like to thank Amaron Racing, PHM (Peninsula Historic Motorsport), Carbon Arc Training and Consultancy, Grandad Ron and Rob Storey for their generous assistance and financial support making this incredible journey possible.





Preparations nearly completed, by all our teams, ready for the league start over the weekend 5th/6th September. Our new teams have attended tournaments and played lots of friendlies.

Here are some of our recent highlights:

Under 9 Wildcats (photo)

The girls travelled to Newcastle for the Pro-Motive Cup, and they were outstanding from start to finish. There were five teams, of which three were from a higher level than our girls, but we still reached the final, winning 1-0, with the winner from Lydia, to bring the trophy back to Aycliffe. The whole team raised their game throughout the tournament. Holly in goal with some outstanding saves, Daisy, the captain, solid in defence and scored a well-deserved goal. Emily playing out on the wing was unlucky not to score. Ayla pressed high and winning numerous tackles, Lydia scoring three goals and the winner in the final, Chloe was player of the tournament scoring three goals, including one from her own half. Well done girls and a great springboard for the coming season.

Under 8 Falcons

One of our newest teams enjoyed a fantastic start to life as a team by lifting the 'World Cup' trophy at the Downhill Hub in Sunderland. The Falcons produced a strong and determined performance throughout the tournament, finishing second out of six teams in the group stage to secure their place in the knockout rounds. In a thrilling semi-final, the boys showed tremendous character to come from behind against a strong Blakelaw Milan side, battling back to snatch a dramatic 2-1 victory and book their place in the final. They saved one of their best performances for last, confidently overcoming Boro Rangers 2-0 in the final to be crowned tournament champions. Huge congratulations to Lincoln, Arthur, Vinny, Charlie, Koby-Lee, Archie, Chris and William.

Aycliffe Youth Seniors 11 v Wingate 0

First home game of the season, for our men in the Wearside League. They dominated the game from start to finish, after taking the lead



after three minutes. The goals continued to flow as they out played their visitors with the defence and midfield being the foundation for the win. When Wingate did get through, there was no beating Brett Davison in goal. The scorers on the night were Charlie Walsh 4, Declan Scott 2, Cameron Copeland 2, Andrew Burrows 1, Josh Batey 1 and Mason Steed 1.

Development Sections

The start of our football pathways, currently, begin at four years old, with our Wildcats girls only session and Little Eagles boys only sessions. These thriving groups develop into teams, every season, to then play in the Russell Foster and TJFA leagues. After another successful season we have opportunities to join both our development sections for boys and girls aged four, just starting reception, aged five in Year 1, and aged six in Year 2. For more information, contact Berni on 07939 045242.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The demand from both boys and girls to join the football club is huge and the requests from younger boys and girls aged 3-4 years old, to start their footballing journey, has also grown.

The club are excited to announce that we will be starting 'RISING STARS' sessions very soon, aimed at these 3-4 year old children. There will be mixed sessions and the children will be coached in the fundamentals of football as they prepare to move through to our Wildcats and Little Eagles development programmes and then into our footballing pathways when they join a team.

Further details to come, so follow us at News@NewtonAycliffeYouthFC or contact Berni for more details and to book your place, 07939 045242.

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Hydrotherapy Supports Stroke Survivor's Recovery

A County Durham woman recovering from a life-changing stroke has praised the benefits of hydrotherapy at the Pioneering Care Centre (PCC) in Newton Aycliffe, after seeing significant improvements in just a few weeks.

Carol suffered a stroke in March and spent ten weeks in hospital recovering. At one stage, she was given only a 75% chance of survival and was told she might never walk again. Unable to speak or move following the stroke, Carol required extensive support and rehabilitation before returning home. Determined to regain her independence, Carol has worked tirelessly on her recovery and now uses a walking stick to enjoy short walks around her garden and local area.

Carol was introduced to hydrotherapy by her friend Kathleen, who regularly attends sessions at the PCC. Although she had never tried hydrotherapy before, Carol decided to give it a go as part of her rehabilitation.

After just three weeks of attending the hydrotherapy pool, Carol has already noticed improvements in the movement and flexibility of her arm, which had become tight following the stroke.

Carol said: "Through doing exercises in the hydrotherapy pool, I've gained greater movement and flexibility. I can now fasten the Velcro on my shoes after a session, something that had previously been incredibly difficult. The warm water, relaxing jets and welcoming environment have also helped reduce anxiety and given me something positive to look forward to each week."

Kathleen, who supports Carol during sessions, has witnessed the progress first-hand. She said: "Week by week, Carol's range of movement has improved, allowing her arm to sit in a more natural position and move more freely. The pool provides a fantastic, supportive environment for rehabilitation."

Kathleen also benefits from using the hydrotherapy pool herself, explaining that it helps her manage both rheumatoid arthritis and mental health challenges.

To book and find out times please visit <https://www.pcp.uk.net/booking> or you can call 01325 321234 or visit the PCC in person to book also.



Making Every Contact Count

A community project offering free training and support is coming to Newton Aycliffe this month. Making Every Contact Count (MECC) is about using every day conversations to support the health and wellbeing of others. A brief, simple chat can become something meaningful, helping those you know, or are yet to meet, to make positive changes and better their wellbeing. Delivered by Wellbeing for Life and Durham County Council, there will be ten sessions across four venues in Newton Aycliffe - bringing together a whole community to create a future where we can find support in each other.

The upcoming sessions are:

- Aycliffe Leisure Centre, Beveridge Arcade, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4EH - from 10.30am to midday on Thursday 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th September
- Aycliffe Leisure Centre, Beveridge Arcade, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4EH - from 5.30pm to 7pm on Wednesday 9th and 23rd September
- Pioneering Care Centre, Carers Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4SF - from 10.30am to midday on Friday 11th September
- Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4HT - from 1.30pm to 3pm on Tuesday 15th September

If you can't make these sessions, don't worry. There are online options available at later dates:

- MECC with an introduction to Gambling Harms - from 10.30am to midday on Friday 25th September and Tuesday 6th October
- MECC - from 10.30am to midday on Wednesday 7th October

There will also be pop-up sessions across the local community during September, offering residents the chance to walk by, stop for a chat, and find out more.

Do you want to get involved? You can sign up to register at Let's Talk County Durham.

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'The Herbert Protocol'

Tap your phone to get me home

A short while ago I reached out on a few different social media platforms to get an understanding on people's awareness of the Herbert Protocol and if they'd ever heard of it. Until my amazing sister's recent, early onset dementia, diagnosis, I'd never heard of it either and not seen it in action.

I'd seen a leaflet about it, and once I'd read into it and what it does, I immediately wanted to get involved and raise the awareness of this wonderful piece of kit. Within a couple of days of enquiring, I was put in touch with two local officers, Jess and Nick from Durham Constabulary, who are also working hard on the scheme.

The Herbert Protocol is a safeguarding wristband and tag scheme to help those with a dementia diagnosis, their families and carers. The bands and tags hold critical, important information on a chip, so if someone goes missing it can be used to reunite them safely and quickly with their family and carers. It provides a simple way for individuals to be identified as needing help while allowing them to maintain their independence and dignity. The bright yellow wristbands and tags can help towards making a safer and more supportive environment once the band or tag is seen. If a smartphone is held close to a tag or wristband, the important information will appear on the phone, no batteries are needed, no charging is required and no information is given unless the phone is held close to the chip. Our aim is to make people aware, if they see someone wearing a wristband or see a tag attached to a coat or bag, they know what it is. Not everyone may be lost or disorientated, but then someone might be.

For further information or any questions about the Herbert Protocol, please contact the team on: herbertprotocol@durham.police.uk



Could you be a Co Durham Community Champion?

Do you see and talk to people in your community on a regular basis?

Maybe you've got a big group of friends or followers. Maybe you're part of a group, club or sports team, or perhaps you just enjoy meeting people and having a chat.

If this sounds like you, and you have an interest in health and wellbeing, then you could become a Community Champion.

You'll play a part in helping people live longer, healthier and happier lives, by making sure our communities get the best public health information.

You don't need to have any experience or know about health already, just an interest in knowing more and a willingness to share what you learn.

You'll be supported with regular updates from Public Health, resources and free training.

It's then up to you how you share that information with your friends, family, people you know and your community.

Sign up today to become a County Durham Together Community Champion and let's work together for a healthier County Durham.

Find out more at: www.durham.gov.uk/cdtcommunitychampions

Newton News



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Trust Launch Breath Test Trials for Earlier Cancer Detection

Clinical researchers at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust are working with researchers at Imperial College London on two research studies that aim to detect cancers using a simple breath test. The two breath test studies currently running at the Trust are VAPOR2 and PANACEA, which aim to detect gastrointestinal cancers, including cancers of the liver, oesophagus (food pipe), stomach, pancreas and bowel.

The test is based on detecting compounds present in breath, known as volatile organic compounds. Research has shown that patients with cancer produce different types of these compounds compared with individuals who do not have cancer.

Gastrointestinal cancers can be difficult to diagnose early, as patients often experience vague symptoms that can be mistaken for less serious conditions. This can make it difficult for healthcare professionals to know which patients should be referred to hospital for further investigations.

If successful, the breath test could one day be used in GP surgeries or pharmacies to help identify which patients require further tests in hospital, leading to earlier diagnoses and better outcomes for cancer patients. Patients referred to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust for further investigations may be invited to take part in the studies by the Research and

Innovation team. Participation involves breathing into a sampling bag, which can take as little as 30 seconds. The sample is then collected onto specialised tubes using a bespoke pump and sent to Imperial College London for analysis.

The research at the Trust is being led by Dr Porras Perez, alongside Clinical Endoscopist Matthew Johnston and Research Practitioner Michelle Tindall. Michelle said that, if the studies are successful, they could make a significant difference for patients in the future.

"Cancer affects so many people, of all ages, directly or indirectly. It's inspiring to see patients volunteering to take part, as they know it could make a real difference to diagnosis and care in the future. That's why research is so important – we're really excited about what this could achieve."

Steve Russell, Chief Executive at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are proud to be working in partnership with leading organisations on research that has the potential to transform how we diagnose cancer in the future."

"Studies such as PANACEA and VAPOR2 demonstrate how collaboration can help develop new tools and approaches that could support earlier diagnosis, improve outcomes and enhance patient care for generations to come. We are grateful to the patients who choose to take part in this important research and help shape the future of healthcare."

VAPOR2, funded by the charity Pancreatic Cancer UK, focuses on pancreatic cancer, known as a 'hidden killer' because symptoms are vague, associated with common, less serious conditions and typically appear when the disease is at an advanced stage. Currently, 80% of patients with pancreatic cancer are diagnosed too late for potentially life-saving treatment. The disease is the fifth leading cause of cancer death in the UK, with a five-year survival rate of just 7%.

The PANACEA study, funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) in collaboration with the Office for Life Sciences, is validating a breath test for multiple gastrointestinal cancers, including oesophageal, stomach, liver, bowel and pancreatic cancers. Together, these cancers affect over 75,000 people in the UK each year and account for more than 44,000 deaths.

The PANACEA study is expected to run until December 2026, while VAPOR2 is expected to run until 2028. Both trials are being led nationally by Professor George Hanna at Imperial College London.

Photo top: CDDFT Principal Investigator Dr Porras Perez, Research Practitioner Michelle Tindall and Clinical Endoscopist Matthew Johnston.

Middle: Breath sampling equipment, including the bespoke pump, specialised tubes and breath sampling bag.

Bottom: The specialised tubes used to transport the breath samples to the laboratory at Imperial College London for analysis.



New Policy Adopted for Social Housing

A new policy that will affect decisions on how social housing is allocated has been adopted by a council.

Durham County Council has adopted a new Housing Allocations Policy following multiple consultations with residents. By law, the new policy will be published and kept under review.

The policy sets out the council's eligibility, qualifying and housing need criteria, to make sure priority is fairly assigned and allocated to households in the greatest need. It also sets out by which manner decisions are made on how social housing is allocated, and how the council assesses applications to the housing register.

The scheme will see a new banding structure in place for housing needs, which will have four tiers, ranging from urgent or exceptional housing need in Band One, to lower housing need in Band Four.

The new policy will give additional preference to applicants who are fleeing domestic abuse, have urgent medical needs, have a connection to the armed forces, or are currently living in a property that is severely overcrowded.

The new policy also introduces a local connection rule, stating that people must have lived in County Durham for a minimum of two years before they can join the housing register.

Exemptions apply for care leavers, domestic abuse victims, veterans and their families, and people with a local homeless connection, such as those who have lived, worked or have close family in the council area.

Cllr. Dawn Bellingham, Durham County Council's member for communities and civic resilience, said: "We recognise the great need for social housing, and this new policy reinforces our desire to support residents. These new measures will ensure that social housing will be given to those who need it the most. We've listened to residents' views following multiple consultations on the new policy and, we hope it goes a long way to addressing concerns around social housing in the county."

Alan Boddy, Chief Executive of Livin Housing, said: "This is an important change at a time when demand for social housing continues to exceed the number of homes available. Everyone involved wants to make sure social housing is allocated fairly and to those who need it most. This new policy has been developed with input from residents, Durham County Council and housing associations across the county, and gives greater clarity about how decisions are made.

The new Housing Allocations Policy will be implemented on Monday 1st February 2027.

The Story Exhibition Explores War Impact on Home Front



A powerful new exhibition, exploring how conflict has shaped the people and places of County Durham, is now open.

A Debt Beyond Words focuses on the experiences of those connected to the Durham Light Infantry (DLI), as well as examining the wider experience of war and its impact on families and communities back home.

It is the latest temporary exhibition to be staged at The Story, Durham County Council's culture and registration venue on the outskirts of Durham City.

With a focus on the experiences of ordinary people, the exhibition features a fascinating selection of objects, documents and photographs from The Story's own collections and on loan from Ben Uri Gallery and Museum, Kirkleatham Museum and Beamish, The Living Museum of the North.

Among the items on display are a partially exploded German artillery shell collected by the 4th Battalion DLI after a submarine bombardment at Seaham Harbour on 11th July 1916; a wedding dress made from parachute silk and worn by RAF officer Mary Dawson at her marriage to fellow serviceman Arthur O'Neill in December 1943; and artworks depicting the Nuremberg Trials by official war artist, Dame Laura Knight. There is also a notebook kept by Alice Sharp, wife of Archibald Dobbie Sharp, 2nd Battalion DLI, recording news of his service from his enlistment in February 1917 to his death in September 1918.

Visitors can also view postcards, diaries, sketches, medals and personal items, including brooches, wallets and compacts, all with a story to tell.

Cllr. Karen Allison, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for leisure, tourism, regeneration and high street, said: "War is more than a series of military conflicts in distant lands; its impact extends into the very heart of our communities.

"In this exhibition, we have set out to show how war has shaped the people and landscapes of County Durham. It's about telling the stories of everyday people, from shining a light on extraordinary acts of bravery to delving into the romances that blossomed, the friendships forged and the losses that devastated so many families."

It is also an opportunity to remember the sacrifices of the DLI and other members of the Armed Forces who have fought to defend the freedoms we enjoy today." A Debt Beyond Words runs until January 2027.

The Story is the permanent home of the DLI Collection and Archive, along with four other historic collections, including almost six miles of archives charting more than 900 years of history.

It is also the home of the County Durham Registration Service, a permanent exhibition about the history of the area and its people, a search and discover research space and a café.

The Story is open every day and entry is free.

To find out more, visit: www.thestorydurham.org and follow @TheStoryDurham on Facebook.

More Parking Spaces for Durham Hospital

Additional parking capacity has been identified to help ease pressure at the University Hospital of North Durham following ongoing discussions between County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Durham County Council and local partners.

The Trust has been working closely with Durham County Council to make additional staff parking spaces available at nearby County Hall. By enabling more staff to park there, this will help free up space closer to the hospital for patients and visitors.

From Monday 9th March, more staff will be able to make use of the spaces at County Hall, helping to ease pressure on parking across the hospital site and in surrounding areas. The Trust recognises that parking pressures around busy hospital sites can be challenging for patients, visitors and staff and can also affect people living in nearby communities. Over recent months the Trust has been listening carefully to concerns raised by residents, local councillors and parish representatives about congestion and parking on surrounding roads. Working together with partners, several practical options have been and continue to be explored, including the use of additional nearby parking. The new spaces at County Hall are one step that partners hope will make a positive difference.

The Trust is grateful to leaders and colleagues at Durham County Council for their constructive support in helping to identify this additional capacity and for the collaborative approach taken to addressing the issue.

Clear signage will be installed to guide staff to the designated parking areas at County Hall, and staff are asked to ensure they only park within the allocated spaces. The additional spaces have been agreed in partnership with Durham County Council and will remain in place while both organisations continue to monitor parking demand and access to the hospital site, with a review planned for November 2026.

Both organisations remain committed to continuing to work together on longer-term solutions that support patients, staff and visitors while also helping to manage the impact on local roads and neighbourhoods. The Trust will continue working with Durham County Council and other partners to explore longer-term opportunities to improve parking and access to hospital sites, including discussions around potential expanded park and ride options.



£1.5m Boost to Help Reduce Potholes

An additional £1.5 million is being invested in preventative highway maintenance in County Durham over the next three years, improving road conditions and helping to reduce the number of potholes.

The investment from Durham County Council supports its commitment to maintaining and improving its 3,800km road network, and focuses on preventing road deterioration before defects develop.

Targeting preventative repairs on roads nearing the end of their serviceable life, and other areas where recurring faults are common, the programme will see £750,000 invested in 2026/27, £500,000 in 2027/28 and £250,000 in 2028/29.

The new programme, which will see the use of specialist preventative repair methods, including Mastic Asphalt Patching and Spray Injection Patching, will help extend the lifespan of road surfaces and reduce the need for reactive pothole repairs.

This additional investment is a boost to the council's annual programme, in which, £12.5 million is being invested into traditional surfacing projects, surface dressing and micro asphalt.

Around 30,000 square metres of road are expected to be treated over the three-year programme, which forms part of the council's wider strategy of investing in the right treatments at the right time to maximise the lifespan of the highway network and deliver better value for money.

Cllr Tim McGuinness, (pictured) Durham County Council's Cabinet member for rural, farming and transport, said: "Our highways team does a lot of work to reduce the number of potholes across the county, and this additional investment will bolster these extensive efforts. Extra funding gives us the ability to prevent road defects before they develop and allows us to deliver targeted, preventative repairs. Residents can report a pothole and see how we check our roads are safe at www.durham.gov.uk/potholes



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IN MEMORIAM

Angela Marie Lloyd

*Died 13th
August 2025*
Miss you loads Mum.
Love you from
SERINDIPITY and
JERICHO xxxx

Bryan Parsonage

28/8/47-1/7/22
Always loved, never
forgotten.
Love you!
Jane, Kelly, Gareth,
Warren and family
xxxx

Lee George El-Hakim



11th August 2006
Time goes so fast,
it's twenty years
since you left us.
There is never a day
that passes without
thinking about you.
You are always in our
hearts and thoughts.
You will remain there
forever. You are loved
and missed and will
be loved forever by all
your family and friends
here in England and
Beirut and your Wife,
Marie.
To a wonderful Dad.
We miss you so much.
You taught all of us so
much. We mention
your name every day.
You didn't live to see
your Grandson, but
he is named after you,
so your name, heart
and spirit lives on. You
will never be forgotten
by your Children
and Grand Children.
George, Kay, Lee,
Michelle, Alister and
Solomon

Rosalind Mary Woodward (nee Murphy)

My Beautiful Mum
11th September 2019

Grief is the price
we pay for love,
But the memories
never fade.
A special place you
hold in my heart
Mum,
and your rose
forever blooms.
Dawn

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

David Atkins (Aky)

*12th September
1977 - 2017*

To a loving Son so
sadly missed, love
you David.
From Dad Harry,
Brother Paul and
family.
Love you always xxx

CONGRATULATIONS

Benny Sayers



Happy 32nd birthday
to our Benny. This is
your year, and we are
watching you every
step of the way. Lots
of love, the family and
our Dexter.

OBITUARY

Margaret Mudie

Aged 71
Of Newton Aycliffe
Passed away
peacefully on Sunday,
26th July 2026.
She will be sadly
missed by her
Husband, Robert and
Daughters, Rebecca
and Jill, and all who
knew her.
Loved beyond words
and missed beyond
measure.

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Air Ambulance Runners

An air ambulance paramedic has challenged himself to carry a rescue manikin during the Great North Run in September.

Jake Gunn, 40, from Durham, joined the Great North Air Ambulance Service's (GNAAS) critical care team in 2021 after previously working as a specialist paramedic at the North East Ambulance Service. Jake is no stranger to unusual running challenges after previously wearing the charity's helicopter mascot costume Ellie Copter at the Great North Run in 2022, which was not only his first time taking part in the race, but his first ever half marathon.

Two years later he decided to take on the 13.1 miles dressed in his flight suit and also carrying a 10kg training bag.

Despite the poor weather, including wind and rain, causing Jake's uniform to be drenched, he still managed to cross the finish line along with approximately 60,000 other runners.

Hopefully the weather is drier this year, as Jake is now preparing to carry a rescue manikin over his shoulders which weighs

16kg, but this can increase to more than 20kg when wet. Jake has already begun training with a weighted vest and is hoping to raise £1,000 for GNAAS. He's also enquired to see whether his challenge could potentially qualify as a Guinness World Record.

Reflecting on his time at the charity and why he's doing this challenge, Jake said: "I'm pretty inspired day to day by all the work everyone does for our incredibly special charity and me doing these daft challenges and raising some money feels like I'm helping to do my bit."

To sponsor Jake, visit his JustGiving page here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/jake-gunn-3>

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