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NOVEMBER 2026

Incorporating 'The Newtonian'

Newton News

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

This months photo is supplied by Paul Metcalfe with his shot of local wildlife.

We are looking for great local photographs to feature on the cover of Newton News each month. Show us what makes our town special - landmarks, people, places, events, wildlife or beautiful seasonal scenes.

For your image to be featured, we require:

- Portrait format;
- High-resolution JPG or PNG;
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EVENTS



SCHOOL



COMMUNITY



COUNTY

IN THIS ISSUE

COMMUNITY
BUSINESS
SCHOOLS
EVENTS
SPORTS
RELIGION
COUNTY


GET YOUR
CHRISTMAS
STARTED
LOTS AND LOTS OF FESTIVE FUN
AT THE AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON!
FRI 27 NOVEMBER 2026
FESTIVE STREET FOOD MARKET & FESTIVE BAR
4PM - 7.30PM
CHRISTMAS CRAFT MARKET
10AM - 7.30PM
SANTA ARRIVES AT 5PM
CHRISTMAS TREE & LIGHTS SWITCH ON
6PM
There will be Lots of laughs with our naughty Christmas Elf on stilts and our street entertainers
Enjoy magic with Al the Balloon Modeller and bubbles galore with BubblePlay from 4.30pm onwards
Meet Santa in his Grotto and say 'Hello' to his Reindeers
There's face painting with Wilma plus a photographer
Christmas Carols sung by local Choirs
Finish off the night toasting marshmallows at the Fire Pit
* Children accompanied by an adult can visit Santa FREE of charge and will receive a GIFT (while stocks last)
Aycliffe TOWN CENTRE
* Timings are approximate and subject to slight change on the evening
The Aycliffe Town Centre 2026 Christmas Lights Switch On event is produced by Aycliffe Town Centre Management in association with Baccanalia, The Candy Queen Events and Aycliffe Radio
www.aycliffetowncentre.co.uk

Remembrance Services 2026

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER

The Remembrance Day Parade will leave the Barnard Armoury at around 10.40am and head to St. Clare's Church. There will be a short service, including the Last Post, Reveille and the two-minute silence at 11am. Wreaths will then be laid before a service inside the church. Afterwards, everyone taking part in the Parade will gather outside the church and march along Stephenson Way for the Salute and March Past. The Parade will finish in the Barnard Armoury yard. Please note that some roads and car parks will be closed during the event.

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

A service for Remembrance will be taking place at St. Andrew's Church in Aycliffe Village on Sunday 8th November, starting at 3pm. During the service, everyone will walk to the war memorial in the church grounds, where wreaths will be laid, please make sure to wear appropriate footwear for this location.

ARMISTICE DAY
WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER

Everyone is welcome to take part in a short blessing in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre, where the two-minute silence will be observed at 11am. If you would like to come along, please meet near the Town Clock in the Town Centre area on Beveridge Way from 10.50am on Wednesday 11th November.

FLAG AND LAMPLIGHT OF PEACE

Great Aycliffe Town Council will also fly 'The Flag of Peace throughout Nations' and light the Lamp Light of Peace. Its light represents light emerging from the darkness of war and gives everyone a chance to pause, remember and hope for peace around the world.

Road Closures

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE NEWTON AYCLIFFE
SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2026

For the safety of everyone attending the parade, the following roads will be closed to all vehicles for the Annual Remembrance Day Parade between approximately 10.30am and 12.30pm: Greenwell Road, Macmillan Road, Stephenson Way and St. Cuthbert's Way. Please find alternative travel routes during this short period of time.

CAR PARK CLOSURES - REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE
SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2026

The following car parks will be closed from 6am to 12.30pm: **The Phoenix Club** - Car Park to the rear of the club. **Greenwell Road / Macmillan Road** - Car Park opposite the Phoenix Club. **Stephenson Way** - Car Park outside the Leisure Centre entrance. **Bewick Crescent** - Car Park opposite the surgery. **Rear of the Thames Centre Arcade** off Stephenson Way. Please find alternative parking locations during this short period of time.

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Childhood Grief

Ten-Year-Old Daisy Teams Up With Ricky Hatton Foundation to Fight Childhood Grief.



A young girl's heartfelt gesture has brought together two stories of loss and sparked a new partnership to help children facing grief.

Ten-year-old Daisy Blu Mathison has made it her mission to help other children understand that they are not alone in their grief. Daisy lost her dad, Daley Mathison, in a motorbike accident when she was just three years old. Years later, she channelled her own experience of loss into her children's book, 'Hugsy Brightheart and the Missing Star', created to help children understand grief and find comfort after losing someone they love.

Having heard about Ricky and his passing, Daisy wanted to reach out to his family. Knowing first-hand how devastating it is to lose someone you love, she sent copies of her book to Ricky's family as a simple gesture of kindness and support.

Daisy never expected that gesture to lead to something much bigger. After learning about Daisy, her story and the work she has been doing through 'Hugsy Brightheart', the Ricky Hatton Foundation reached out to ask how they could get involved and support her mission.

The Foundation has now awarded Daisy a grant to help her continue developing her work and reach more children and families experiencing grief.

What started with a little girl wanting to offer comfort to a family who had experienced their own loss has grown into a meaningful partnership, bringing together Ricky Hatton's legacy and Daisy's determination to make a difference to bereaved children.

For Daisy, the support is not simply about funding. It is recognition that the work she has started can reach further and help more children who may otherwise feel lost in their grief.

Daisy hopes to continue raising awareness of childhood bereavement and supporting both children and adults affected by grief. She wants to give children the reassurance that their feelings are valid, while helping adults feel more confident in talking about grief and supporting bereaved children. Most importantly, Daisy wants to show that grief is not a taboo subject and that no one should ever feel they have to face it alone.

www.hugsybrightheart.com

Husqvarna Support PCP



Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) would like to extend a huge thank you to Husqvarna in Newton Aycliffe for the generous donation of a leaf blower and lawnmower.

This fantastic contribution will help keep the Community Garden at the Pioneering Care Centre (PCC) in Newton Aycliffe and outdoor spaces clean, safe and welcoming for service users, families, staff and visitors.

PCP are incredibly grateful for Husqvarna's support and commitment to helping the local community.

You can find out more about the PCC by visiting:

www.pcp.uk.net/pioneering-care-centre

Together with Diabetes

Support for ALL PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

Come and join us on Tuesday 10th November 2026 at Simpasture Community Lounge, Simpasture Court, Newton Ayclife, 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.

Meeting dates:

Tuesday 10th November

Tuesday 24th November (guest speakers diabetes nurses attending this session)

Tuesday 8th December

Tuesday 22nd December - Family Special

Contact Kayleigh on 07950 885454 for more information.

Stroke of Joy Following Pool Refurbishment





A new wave of learning will be enjoyed by County Durham pupils following an extensive refurbishment of school pools.

Durham County Council has carried out a £400,000 investment programme across its five school swimming pools.

The works include new changing rooms and bathroom facilities, with individual changing rooms and the installation of new pool liners and tiling, as well as new floors.

Cllr Cathy Hunt, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "Each week, around 600 pupils use our school pools. Not only is this time important in teaching children to learn how to swim, but it allows them to develop critical life skills, including how to stay safe around water.

"Children can learn in an inclusive and welcoming environment and our swimming team also tailor the programme to best suit the needs of each school and its pupils.

"Most of our school pools are around 30 years old, so it was important to make them fit for purpose, in order to continue to deliver this important programme."

The council's school pools are used by over 100 schools across the county. Across the county, 80% of key stage two children can swim a minimum of 25 metres, swim a range of different strokes and be able to do a safe self-rescue in a range of water-based scenarios.

This is higher than the national average, with 72% of children being able to achieve these attainment targets.

For Drowning Prevention Week, back in June, the authority delivered specific swimming sessions to 8500 children across both its school and leisure centre pools.

Photo: Pupils with Cllr Cathy Hunt, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for children and young people's services, and David Bullen, the council's school aquatics development manager.





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Cracking down on serious crime

I've been working hard with the police to ensure strong action has been taken following serious incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour taking place in parts of Aycliffe. This has included a suspected arson attack and repeated very disruptive behaviour from a number of properties.
I will not tolerate serious crime in our community. I've been in regular contact with Durham Constabulary about this and have been receiving urgent updates. Additional police resources have been moved to Newton Aycliffe and, thanks to a swift response from the police, a number of arrests have been made.
If you have information that could help the police, please contact Durham Constabulary on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Heighington Lane Incinerator

Following months of assessment, the Environment Agency has announced it's minded to approve the application for the hazardous waste incinerator on Heighington Lane.
I've opposed these plans since before I was elected as your MP. I formally objected to the original planning application and this Environment Agency environmental permit application, so I'm disappointed by the announcement.
This is not the final decision. The agency has opened a consultation on the proposed approval, which is open until 1st December. I'll be submitting a response to this latest consultation on behalf of local residents and businesses.
Please get in touch to let me know your views.
I'd also strongly encourage residents and businesses to respond directly to the Environment Agency at: *https://consultations.environment-agency.gov.uk/pri24/survey*

Working with local businesses

It was great to speak to a packed room at the Newton Aycliffe Business Park Community Breakfast. The park employs over 10,000 people across 500 companies. It was really good to talk about how we can work together to encourage local investment and create more well-paid jobs.
I've also met a number of great local businesses recently, including Steven Jackson from Newton Aycliffe who has created the You Define You mental health apps to support mental health and wellbeing.
Lots of people from our area work at NETPark in Sedgefield and one of my top priorities is growing the number of jobs. I've been working closely with Durham University to help secure £10 million of funding to create a new research and innovation centre at the site. This will be a hub for cutting edge technology, growing well-paid jobs and opportunities.



Restoring Heighington Station

Thanks to the Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway for putting on such a great event at Heighington Station recently. It was great to be there and I really enjoyed going on a tour of the building with the architect, employed by the Friends group, to learn more about plans to restore the station buildings which will be brilliant.
As always, if I can help you or your family with an issue, please get in touch.



Heighington Matters

Number 19 Bus

This new route, linking Darlington, Heighington, School Aycliffe and Newton Aycliffe is welcomed by all. For too many years access to the shops, the doctor's surgery and to friends living in Newton Aycliffe has been very difficult for many living in the Parish. Letters of complaint have been made to me over the years, particularly from parents and students living in the Chestnuts who had a difficult walk early in the morning up to Heighington during the cold, dark morning, winter days, in order for them to pick up the Number 1 bus to drive them into Darlington for their college lessons starting at 9am. I extend my thanks to everyone who has contacted me over the years about this problem. It has taken me a long time to feed your concerns into the Council and the TVCA but, at long last, they have acted - my personal thanks to both.

Hopelands Parking Bays

Residents living in Hopelands must despair at the time it has taken to have the parking bays built. A lot of consultation over the years have taken place and I thank all Hopelands residents for taking part. The Project seems to be riddled with problems with the latest finding services under the ground which would make building the new parking bays in the agreed locations too expensive. So, I'm back to square one. I've asked DBC to complete a survey in the original area earmarked a few years ago which is the land on the right side of the road as you enter Hopelands from Highside Road.

The survey has been completed. The land is clear, so the council will determine costs which will include the £15,500 that I applied for from Bellways.

School Traffic Safety & Speeding Millbank.

Many of you will know of the concerns about speeding in Heighington, particularly on Millbank, Hopelands and the surrounding streets. These have been raised by me for well over twenty years. These concerns have come from parents, residents, school staff and elderly neighbours who use these roads every day.

The Council is now preparing the next phase of 20mph schemes across the Borough. Two senior officers will decide which areas are included, with recommendations expected in spring 2027 and new limits introduced in 2028.

Over the years I have met repeatedly with Highways Officers and the Police to highlight the risks and to put forward practical ideas to slow traffic and improve safety. Although the issues have always been recognised, no changes to the road network have yet been made.

Recently I met again with Officers and a Cabinet Member to stress how important it is for Heighington to be included this time. I have followed this up with a formal letter to the two officers responsible for selecting the next areas to move to 20mph.

I want residents to know that the case for Heighington has been made clearly, firmly and with evidence gathered over many years. I now await their decision, and I remain hopeful that Heighington will finally receive the long needed support to make Millbank, and the areas around our school entry points, safer for children, families and older residents.

Three Planning Applications on Walworth Road Update

1) Stationing of caravans and utility blocks - refused on 30th September 2025 and is currently at Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.
2) 28 chalets and managers office - application is still pending consideration - awaiting technical reports from the applicant
3) A planning app has been submitted following the occupation of the site. It has gone through validation and awaiting technical reports from the applicant.

Councillor Gerald Lee, Heighington & Coniscliffe Ward.

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OakLeaf Sports Complex Refreshed and Ready for a Busy Season Ahead



Visitors to the OakLeaf Sports Complex will notice a fresh new look and improved playing surfaces following a programme of refurbishment works carried out during the summer months.
The investment, undertaken during a quieter period for the facility, included the complete re-sanding, re-sealing and re-lining of both the Sports Hall and Squash Court floors. These specialist maintenance works are essential in preserving the quality and longevity of the playing surfaces, while ensuring they continue to provide safe, high-quality facilities for users of all ages.
In addition to the floor refurbishment, both areas received an extensive deep clean, helping to enhance the overall appearance and environment of the complex. The Sports Hall has also been fully repainted, giving the space a brighter, cleaner and more welcoming feel for sports clubs, schools, community groups and casual users.
The refurbishment forms part of Great Aycliffe Town Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining its leisure assets and delivering accessible, affordable and high-quality sporting opportunities for local residents. The work supports the aims set out within the **Oak Leaf Sports Complex - 2026/27 Service Plan**, which focuses on continual improvement, protecting Council assets and providing excellent leisure facilities for the community.

"We are delighted with the improvements that have been completed over the summer. The Sports Hall and Squash Courts are among the most heavily used facilities within the complex, so it is important that we continue to invest in their upkeep and presentation. The refurbished floors, deep cleaning and redecoration have significantly enhanced the customer experience, and we look forward to welcoming users back for the new season."
OakLeaf Sports Complex Manager, Andrew Clark

One regular OakLeaf customer commented: "The difference is immediately noticeable. The Sports Hall looks brighter and fresher, and the playing surfaces feel excellent. It's great to see the Council continuing to invest in facilities that are so important to local clubs, groups and families."
The OakLeaf Sports Complex remains one of the town's premier leisure destinations, offering a wide range of activities including football, badminton, pickleball, bowls, table tennis and squash. The refurbished facilities will help ensure the complex continues to provide an excellent environment for participation, performance and enjoyment.



The OakLeaf Sports Complex is also continuing to grow its programme of community events, helping to attract visitors from across the region. Alongside its extensive sporting provision, the venue regularly hosts popular events such as model railway exhibitions and ComicCon gatherings, and has recently expanded its entertainment offering to include comedy nights and bingo evenings. These events have proved extremely popular and further reinforce the OakLeaf's role as a key community hub for residents of Great Aycliffe and beyond.
For more information on the facilities, activities and events available at the OakLeaf Sports Complex, contact reception (01325 300600) or visit the Great Aycliffe Town Council website. Online booking is now available via the Council website. Residents can also keep up to date with the latest news, events, promotions and facility updates by following the OakLeaf Sports Complex social media channels.



Newton Aycliffe Women's Institute





Following in Footsteps



Aycliffe Fell Walking Club (AFWC) were in the Lake District for another wonderful walking day between the Kirkstone Pass Inn and Staveley. Only three intrepid walkers risked the heights and strong winds whilst the others, including myself, enjoyed some more low-lying routes, but not without some climbing. Lovely views, made possible by the predicted bad weather staying away (it always does on AFWC days) and there was a bonus treat at lunchtime with some really tasty tea loaf made by one of the walkers. In the afternoon, most of the walkers would have climbed over Orrest Head which apparently was the very first hill that Alfred Wainwright climbed on his first journey into the Lakes (although he probably did it from the other side). From there it was downhill into Staveley.

All of the walkers returned safely and enjoyed relaxing times in the Eagle and Child and Nooks Bar with both offering some excellent food and beers. Others chose the F & C option at the local chippy.

The next walk is in the Ripon area on 14th November when we will be walking routes between Sawley and Ripon and circular routes from Ripon along the Ripon Rowel Walk.

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.

Autumn has arrived, as the changing colours in the town park clearly show. For Newton Aycliffe WI, October was the time to celebrate our birthday.

This year our WI group celebrated its 26th birthday with a social evening including a delicious buffet, games of bingo and a quiz.

For our 10th November meeting we have arranged an interesting talk about woman on the railways during the 1st World War presented by Alison Grange. Our December meeting will be our Christmas Party.

There are also plenty of events available for WI members to enjoy at WI House in November, including a countdown to Christmas with a light lunch provided and activities. On 1st December, there will be a Christmas Social. Monthly meet ups for WI members at WI House are Crochet Group on the second Tuesday of the month and Saturday Stitchers on the second Saturday of the month.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm at *St. Clare's Church in the Town Centre. Our meetings include guest speakers on a variety of topics, craft evenings, auctions and parties.

There is no need to be lonely - we would love you to come along and join our friendly and welcoming Newton Aycliffe WI. All women are welcome and you will have the opportunity to enjoy trips, learn new crafts if you wish, and make new friends.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact our President, Christine Robinson on 07981 992686.

** Please note the change of venue from this month to St. Clare's Church.*

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Aycliffe Village WI



Walk to Shildon Locomotion
Last month some of our members enjoyed one of our favourite sunny walks: from Newton Aycliffe to the Shildon Locomotion museum. Followed by refreshments of course!

Women and the Railways
At our last meeting we had an enlightening talk by Alison Grange from Hopetown in Darlington on the roles and inequalities of women in the early 20th century, working on the railways.



Eldon Group Meeting
A number of our members attended the annual Eldon group meeting. Our hosts were Howden le Wear at Shildon WI and they treated us to an evening of entertainment by Northern Voices and a delicious supper. Aycliffe Village won the decorated plate competition.

ACLE
Members of the WI were involved in a skills evening with our local young people's ACLE group. Skills such as sewing, crocheting, ironing and communication skills were shared and practised by the eager and fabulous young people. In return they treated us to tea and cake.

Coffee n Chat
Our next Coffee n Chat refill be held on Wednesday 11th November, when there will be an opportunity to paint peg dolls for our display. Everyone is welcome to come along for a drink and a chat in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. You don't have to be a member of the WI.

Other Events
Last month, residents from St. Clare's Court care home made birthday cards to send to their relatives. Book Club meets once a month with books kindly provided by Durham Library Service. Members have been working on a poppy display for Remembrance Day, which will be on display on the village green at the beginning of November. We were represented at the Durham Federation Autumn Council Meeting and we continue to collect items for St Clare's church food bank.

Our Next Meeting
Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th November at 7pm in the Village Hall which will be an evening of crafts for Christmas. 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*

Founder Awarded BEM



A County Durham woman, who turned her own cancer experience into a lifeline for others, has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM).
Allison White, founder of Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group, received the honour at Durham Castle in recognition of founding the charity in February 2014.
Having experienced the challenges of cancer herself, Allison was determined to ensure others would not face the journey alone.
Today, the charity provides free practical and emotional support to patients and families across County Durham and Darlington.
Allison said: "I never imagined the group would grow into what it is today, or that I would receive a British Empire Medal. I'm incredibly proud of what we have achieved, but none of it would have been possible without our wonderful volunteers, trustees and supporters."
Her work has also been recognised by the BBC Make a Difference Awards, where she was a finalist and received a Highly Commended award.

Urgent appeal for volunteer drivers
The charity provides transport to hospital appointments, welfare advice, emotional support, social activities and respite breaks.
Its volunteer drivers complete around 200 patient transport journeys each month, helping people attend vital cancer treatment. However, rising demand means more drivers are urgently needed.
Allison said: "We are desperately short of volunteer drivers, and the number of newly diagnosed cancer patients needing our help continues to increase. Even a few hours of your time could make a tremendous difference. Nobody should have the additional worry of how they will get to hospital for treatment."
Volunteers must be aged 25 or over, hold a full UK driving licence and have access to their own vehicle. Mileage expenses are paid, and DBS checks are arranged by the charity.
Allison hopes her award will raise awareness and encourage more people to get involved.
"Although the BEM has been awarded to me, I see it as recognition of everything we have achieved together. My greatest wish is that the charity continues supporting cancer patients and their families for many years to come."
Anyone interested in volunteering or supporting Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group is encouraged to contact the charity directly.

Aycliffe Village's "Unsung Hero"



Aycliffe Village postman Tony Turnbull has received Great Aycliffe Town Council's Community Recognition Award in recognition of his kindness, dedication and support for local residents.

Tony, the local postman for Aycliffe Village, was nominated by resident Helen Rickaby, who said: "He shows an interest in everything going on in the village and shows great concern for the wellbeing of less able and elderly members of our community."

Councillors unanimously agreed at the full Council meeting on 16th September that Tony should receive a Community Recognition Medal and certificate. The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Neil Collinson, presented the award and said: "Congratulations, Tony, on a well-deserved award."

Tony, who was very surprised to receive the award, said: "I feel very humbled to receive this award and grateful to the village residents for acknowledging the commitment I've given to my job over the years. It's nice to be appreciated. Also, thank you to Helen Rickaby for nominating me and for the great effort making the post box topper marking my 44yr anniversary and now Newton Aycliffe's longest serving postman with Royal Mail." He added that he had recently helped to unblock a residents hoover, taking it in his stride as all part of the day's work!

His award reflects the purpose of Great Aycliffe Town Council's Community Recognition Award Scheme, launched in 2022 to shine a well-deserved spotlight on local people who go the extra mile. The scheme celebrates the dedication, commitment and outstanding contributions that help make the Parish of Great Aycliffe such a special place.

Do you know someone in the Great Aycliffe Parish who deserves a little recognition? To nominate them for a Community Recognition Award, get in touch with Great Aycliffe Town Council on email: *info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk* or visit Great Aycliffe Town Council's website for more details.

Coffee, Cakes and Community Spirit



There was a wonderful sense of community at Bewick Crescent Surgery on Friday 25th September, as patients, staff and members of our Patient Participation Group (PPG) came together for a Macmillan Coffee Morning.

The surgery was filled with the smell of freshly brewed coffee and an amazing selection of homemade and shop-bought cakes, all generously donated by our staff and PPG members. Three members of our PPG were also on hand to help serve patients, making sure everyone had plenty of cake and coffee while enjoying a chat and supporting this very worthwhile cause.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone who took part, we were delighted to raise £283.50 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Every donation, no matter how small, helped us reach this fantastic total.

The spirit of giving continued after the coffee morning had finished. With cakes still remaining at 3.00pm, we were pleased to donate them to St Clare's Church Foodbank, ensuring that nothing went to waste and that our local community could benefit too.

A huge thank you to Diane, from our reception team, who organised the event and helped make the morning such a success. We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our staff, PPG members and patients who baked, bought cakes, donated money, helped out or simply came along to enjoy a coffee and support the cause.

It was a lovely example of what can be achieved when our surgery community comes together - raising money for an important charity while also supporting our local community.

Well done and thank you to everyone who helped make the Macmillan Coffee Morning such a success!



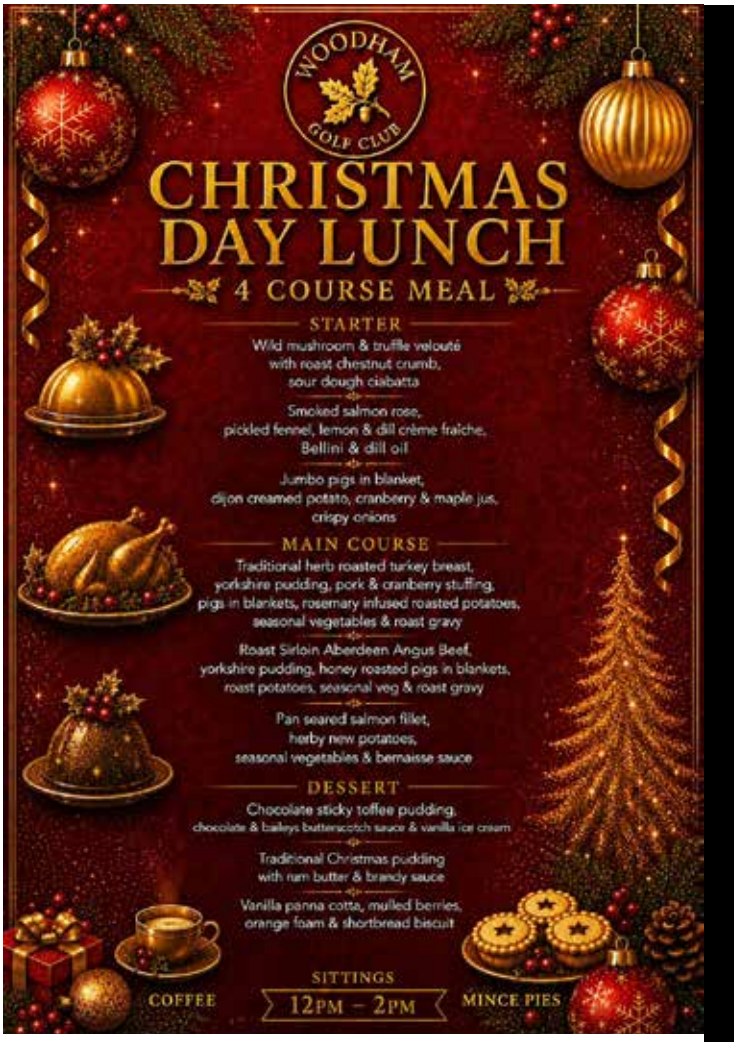

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Christmas
PARTY NIGHT
LIVE MUSIC FROM
Georgio
FESTIVE THEMED BUFFET
DJ
FESTIVE WELCOME DRINK
7PM UNTIL 11.30PM
THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER
£25 PP
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WOODHAM GOLF CLUB
Christmas
PARTY NIGHT
LIVE MUSIC FROM
Georgio
3 COURSE MEAL
DJ
WELCOME DRINK INCLUDED
7PM UNTIL 11.30PM
THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER
&
FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER
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WOODHAM GOLF CLUB
Christmas
PARTY NIGHT
FOOD MENU
STARTERS
Winter Vegetable Broth with crusty bread
Duck & Orange Pâté with dressed leaves, pickles & chutney
Classic Prawn Cocktail with Marie Rose sauce, iceberg lettuce & buttered bread & butter
MAINS
Oven Roasted Turkey Breast, pigs in blankets, potatoes & vegetables with a rich roasting gravy
Pan Fried Salmon Fillet with Mediterranean style vegetables, fondant potato & a tomato & basil jus
Chestnut Roast with potatoes, vegetables & vegetable gravy
DESSERTS
Traditional Christmas Pudding with brandy sauce & rum butter
Chocolate Melt in the Middle Pudding with vanilla ice cream & griotte cherries
Toffee & Banana Cheesecake with banana ice cream, caramel & toffee sauce
£27.95 PP
3 COURSE MEAL


WOODHAM GOLF CLUB
Christmas
PARTY NIGHT
LIVE MUSIC FROM
Tom Bowman
FESTIVE THEMED BUFFET
DJ
FESTIVE WELCOME DRINK
7PM UNTIL 11.30PM
SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER
£25
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WOODHAM GOLF CLUB
Christmas
DAY LUNCH
4 COURSE MEAL
£95 PER ADULT
£45 PER CHILD
SITTINGS
12PM - 2PM
BOOKING ESSENTIAL
WELCOME DRINK INCLUDED


WOODHAM GOLF CLUB
CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH
4 COURSE MEAL
STARTER
Wild mushroom & truffle velouté with roast chestnut crumb, sour dough ciabatta
Smoked salmon rose, pickled fennel, lemon & dill crème fraiche, Bellini & dill oil
Jumbo pigs in blanket, dijon creamed potato, cranberry & maple jus, crispy onions
MAIN COURSE
Traditional herb roasted turkey breast, yorkshire pudding, pork & cranberry stuffing, pigs in blankets, rosemary infused roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables & roast gravy
Roast Sirloin Aberdeen Angus Beef, yorkshire pudding, honey roasted pigs in blankets, roast potatoes, seasonal veg & roast gravy
Pan seared salmon fillet, herby new potatoes, seasonal vegetables & bernaise sauce
DESSERT
Chocolate sticky toffee pudding, chocolate & baileys butterscotch sauce & vanilla ice cream
Traditional Christmas pudding with rum butter & brandy sauce
Vanilla panna cotta, mulled berries, orange foam & shortbread biscuit
COFFEE
SITTINGS 12PM – 2PM
MINCE PIES


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Lunchtime Jazz



Another thoroughly enjoyable lunchtime jazz session, courtesy of *#bishopaucklandjazz*, welcomed Dean Stockdale on piano alongside regular players Mick Shoulder (bass) and John Bradford (drums). I always look forward to these monthly events and we are so lucky to have such quality musicians perform regularly for us.

The audience were treated to a great mix of standards and an original by Dean himself. They began with Autumn Leaves closely followed by a slow and spacious ballad entitled 'Tis Autumn suggesting a theme for the rest of the set, but thankfully they leapt into a rousing version of Oscar Peterson's Bossa Beguine and On the Outside Looking In, which suggested Oliver Nelson and Blue Note Swing. After that we got an inspired rendition of Pure Imagination from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory which I enjoyed never having heard it set to jazz before today. Reunion Blues by Milt Jackson created a storm with some feverishly fast solos from all involved before we were treated to a really laid back and soporific version of Have You Met Miss Jones.

These lunchtime events attract a strong regular audience to Bishop Auckland, but there are plenty of seats available for more visitors. The next performance on 13th November features guitarist Giles Strong with a trio of piano, bass and drums. Once again, this will be at the Bishop Auckland Methodist Church on Cockton Hill Road at 1.00pm. Let's make Bishop Auckland feel the swing.



Avon Court Christmas Fair

A Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 21st November 2026 at Avon Court, Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7LR, offering an opportunity for the community to get into the festive spirit.

The event will welcome stallholders from 11am, with the fair taking place from 1pm.

Stalls are available for just £5, providing an opportunity for stallholders to showcase their products and festive offerings.

Local stallholders interested in booking a space can contact Hazel Davis at Housing 21 by emailing: *Hazel.Davis@housing21.org.uk* or calling 0370 192 4553.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to come along and enjoy the seasonal event.

Event Details

Event: Christmas Fair

Date: Saturday 21st November 2026

Fair starts: 1pm

Stallholders: From 11am

Venue: Avon Court, Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7LR

Stall booking fee: £5

Stall bookings and enquiries: Hazel Davis

Email: *Hazel.Davis@housing21.org.uk*

Telephone: 0370 192 4553

Cockerton Silver Band at St. Clare's Church

Music lovers are invited to enjoy an evening of live entertainment as the award-winning Cockerton Silver Band performs at St. Clare's Church on Friday 6th November 2026.

Promising 'a truly wonderful evening of entertainment', the concert will give audiences the opportunity to enjoy the band's musical talents in a welcoming setting.

The performance will start at 7.00pm, with doors opening at 6.30pm, giving guests time to arrive and settle in before the music begins.

Tickets cost £10 per person, with refreshments included in the price.

The event offers a chance to enjoy an evening of live brass band music and a shared community experience at St. Clare's Church.

Residents and music enthusiasts are encouraged to save the date for what promises to be an enjoyable evening of entertainment.

Woodham Academy Berlin Trip 2026



Students from Woodham Academy have recently visited Berlin as part of a trip organised by the school's History Department. Students were taken on a guided tour around Berlin where they were able to see the history of the city and visit significant historical landmarks they have been learning about in school. They visited the Reichstag Building and the Brandenburg Gate. On the second day, students visited Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp to see the conditions in which prisoners were held during WW2.

This experience provided a true insight in to what life was like for the victims and hear their unique stories, this was an unforgettable experience for our students. Following our GCSE curriculum, students also had an educational talk at the Topography of Terror and visited the Memorial of the Murdered Jews.

Alongside the Weimar and Nazi Germany curriculum, Berlin, as a city, also offered our students the opportunity to enrich their knowledge of the Cold War. Students visited Check Point Charlie and the Berlin Wall which had divided the city only 35 years ago and one of the most significant landmarks of the 20th century. The division and issues of East and West Berlin were still prevalent to modern day society.

Alongside the history of the city, students also saw local sites such as the TV tower and the Olympic stadium which offered both a modern and historical perspective. Students throughout the trip demonstrated great respect and maturity, embracing the schools core values. Head Boy, Joseph Bradbury, stated: "it was an amazing opportunity to visit a city that has such historical significance and is so focused on preserving the past."





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Bishop Auckland Student Lands Dream Role to Change Lives of Others

A Bishop Auckland College student, whose parents were once warned she might not survive, is celebrating landing her dream job, dedicating her career to supporting children who face their own unique challenges.

Inspired by the vital educational support she received as a young schoolgirl, 20-year-old Erin McMenamin has secured a permanent role as an enhanced learning support assistant at Walworth Primary in Newton Aycliffe.

The job offer arrived before Erin celebrated passing her T-Level Teaching Assistant course at Bishop Auckland College with a high merit.

Erin, from Newton Aycliffe, wants to help students in a specialist social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) school stems because of the support she had during her own difficult start in life.

"Having needed extra support in primary and secondary, I think that's why I love working in specialist schools," Erin said. "I wasn't in one myself, but working with children with complex needs is easier for me to understand because of my own early years."

Her mother, Anna, is overjoyed by her daughter's achievements following a harrowing journey.

"Erin is an absolute superstar and I am so proud of her," Anna said. "She had lovely support back in the day from teaching assistants, and that has probably, in some way, played a part in why she has wanted to go down this path for a career.

"Erin was born extremely premature at 24 weeks, weighing just 1lb 7oz, and we lost her sister at the time. She was on a ventilator for a worrying length of time whilst in hospital and her lungs started to collapse.

"We were warned that (if she survived) it would be very likely that she would need breathing support at home, however, in the style of Erin, I walked into the hospital room one day during her time at Leeds and the staff had huge grins on their faces.

"She was off the ventilator and I, for the first time after months of her being born, heard her little cry. Erin has since surprised us many times with her amazing resilience and determination."

Erin had delayed development, due to her extreme prematurity. She struggled to sit up, stand or walk, but her fighting spirit prevailed.

Against the odds, her incredible survival story made local headlines two decades ago when she astounded medics by overcoming a catalogue of severe illnesses.

Born 16 weeks before her expected due date, Erin and her twin sister, Rachel, each weighed



less than 2lbs. Tragically, Rachel's heart failed at Middlesbrough's James Cook University Hospital and she lost her fight for life after only nine hours.

Erin, however, battled through a four-month stay in hospitals across Middlesbrough and Leeds, overcoming major complications with her heart, lungs, veins, stomach and bowel.

Despite doctors warning her parents that Their daughter might not survive or could require a constant oxygen supply, Erin defied every expectation.

And she is now using that same resilience to inspire the next generation in her local community.

"I did a placement at Walworth Primary during the last academic year and, before we broke up for summer, jobs came up," Erin said.

"I put my application in, got an interview, and now I have got the role. I have volunteered in mainstream schools before, but I loved the challenge of this specialist side of things at a specialist SEMH school.

"The staff there are so lovely and inspiring to work with and, although it is challenging at times, I have loved that side of it, and find it particularly rewarding."

Erin's path to the classroom has been years in the making. She previously attended Carmel College in Darlington for her secondary education and sixth form, achieving merits in her Health and Social Care and Public Services BTECs, before arriving at Bishop Auckland College to specialise in teaching support.

Erin said: "I knew I wanted to do it, but doing two full academic years on placement while at Bishop Auckland College has reaffirmed what I wanted to do."

Erin spent three days a week at college and two days on placement, praising the college staff as 'amazing' as she achieved her goals.

Her success highlights the strong achievements across Bishop Auckland College's T-Level and BTEC programmes this year, with many students now taking the next steps in their chosen careers or continuing their education.

Erin said: "I can't see myself wanting to leave Walworth. I love working there. In the future, I might like to take up teaching and come back to Bishop Auckland to study, because it is something I do love, particularly teaching the small classes, even if I enjoy teaching the bigger classes too. I do like everything about it."

'We're Not Done Yet' Vows Headteacher



Government inspectors have praised the "significant change" at a previously struggling North East primary school following its latest inspection.

During a recent visit to Woodham Burn Community Primary School, in Newton Aycliffe, Ofsted inspectors noted that "the school has undergone a significant change since the last inspection", when it received a grade of Requires Improvement in 2022 under the old inspection framework.

The latest inspection was the school's first since joining the Lingfield Education Trust in 2023, and found Woodham Burn to now be at Expected Standard in six out of seven areas.

The report noted that: "Leaders have secured improvements and changed the culture of the school", and "as a result of leaders' actions in response to a decline in pupil achievement in reading, more pupils are gaining the knowledge and skills they need to become confident readers."

Perhaps most notably, inspectors concluded that: "Visitors, staff, parents and pupils all say that behaviour has improved significantly.

"Staff are now proud to work at the school and value the vision that leaders have set out."

Executive Headteacher Mark Dipple, who joined the school in June 2025, welcomed the findings, but affirmed that staff understood there was more work ahead. It's wonderful to have the fantastic progress made at Woodham Burn over the last three years recognised by Ofsted, but we're not done yet," he said.

The only area that inspectors rated as 'Needs Attention' was the school's Early Years provision, noting that "Children are not as well prepared for Year 1 as they need to be", though also praising how staff build "warm and nurturing relationships with children. We're very aware that there's still work to do in Early Years, and we have a plan already underway," said Mr Dipple. "We are working closely with the trust and our school governors to make sure we're doing the best things possible for the children."

"These efforts are already having an impact. I'm confident that we are already delivering some aspects of Expected Standard in our Early Years setting, and we are quickly addressing those areas which need further work."

Mr Dipple added: "When Ofsted visits next, I'm determined that we'll not just be at Expected Standard, but at Strong Standard – and we have the staff team to make it happen."

Photo: Headteacher Mark Dipple with Woodham Burn pupils, and school dog Bruno.

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Art Workshop Shines Light on Issue of Mate Crime



Artwork produced by learners from a Newton Aycliffe specialist college will help raise awareness of mate crime as part of a national campaign.
Young autistic people at Thornbeck College, run by the North East Autism Society, took part in the volunteer led arts project 'From All Walks of Life', which aims to highlight how anyone can be affected by exploitation and grooming.
The project links to a campaign by Fiona Laskaris, who wants a change in the law which will allow families to request mental capacity assessments for loved ones.
Fiona began the campaign after her autistic son Christopher was murdered by a convicted criminal who exploited him in his own home.
Fiona said: "Nothing can bring back my lovely Christopher, but I want to do everything I can to raise awareness of the importance of listening to families' concerns for their vulnerable adult children. Assessing capacity properly will protect the other Christopher's out there and ensure they can live safe and fulfilled lives."
The volunteer leading the session, who wished to remain unnamed, said: "So many people need these assessments, and they're not carried out as often as they should be."
The project hopes to create hundreds of artworks by working with groups across the country, with a theme of footwear facing right across a square of card, representing unity from across a range of backgrounds. These artworks will then be brought together and exhibited around the UK.
Learners at Thornbeck College used mixed media, paint, glitter, and craft materials to create their art, taking inspiration from the style of Mackenzie Thorpe, the renowned Middlesbrough artist and North East Autism Society patron.
The volunteer said: "It's a fun project, but it represents a very serious campaign. From All Walks of Life, as the saying goes, means that it's people of all ages, men, women, they can all be affected by mate crime," They added.
Mate crime is a specific form of exploitation, where the perpetrator falsely befriends a victim in order to abuse or take advantage of them.
"Walking in the same direction shows unity, people coming together, shared experiences and a shared journey as well."
Fay Strong, Principal at Thornbeck College, said: "We were very pleased to hold the 'From All Walks of Life' workshop at Thornbeck College.
This project gave our learners the opportunity to contribute to a wider conversation and share an important message beyond the college, while engaging with important issues like disability hate crime, mate crime, and the need to support vulnerable people."

Menopause Peer Support Group

Experiencing menopause or perimenopause and looking for support?
Join our friendly informal and welcoming peer support group to share experiences, connect with others, ask questions and know you are not alone. A safe supportive space to chat, listen, learn and support each other over a cuppa!
We meet the first Thursday of the month - next meeting is Thursday 5th November from 6pm-7.30pm at PCP, Carers Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF.
December meeting will be on Thursday 3rd December from 6pm.
All welcome. Contact Jules Howe on 07809 342192 or email: *jules.howe@nhs.net*

Secret Santa

Dear Sir,
I hope this message finds you well. After the incredible success of the 2025 Silent Santa Appeal - where the number of gifts donated for local children in need exceeded every previous year - we are delighted to confirm that the Appeal will be running again for Christmas 2026.
Christmas is a joyful time for many little ones, but sadly there are still children in our area who will not experience the excitement of opening a present on Christmas morning. The Silent Santa Appeal exists to change that. With the kindness of our community, we aim to provide as many thoughtful gifts as possible to children who would otherwise go without. Even a small gesture can brighten a child's day and bring a smile they will remember.
If you feel able to help, we warmly invite you to fill a shoebox or Christmas themed gift bag with suitable items for a boy or girl aged:, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 and 10-11.
Please label the gift with the age group and whether it is for a boy or a girl. For safety reasons, we kindly ask that no items containing glass or nuts are included.
If you're able to share the Appeal with friends, colleagues, or anyone who might like to help, it would really boost what we can achieve together and bring joy to even more children this Christmas.
Donations can be dropped off at: **1 Greenhill Road, Heighington, DL5 6RN**. If it is easier, you can contact us on 07876 216192 or *gerald.lee@darlington.gov.uk* and we will gladly arrange a collection from an address that suits you.
Thank you, as always, for your generosity and support. It may be early, but we wish you all a very Merry Christmas when it comes.
Warm regards,
Cllr Gerald & Ruth Lee.

Mobile Rocket Growing Thanks to Clients for 'Sticking Around'



A leading mobile recruitment firm is thriving after halving client churn on route to a bumper first half of its financial year.

Newton Aycliffe-based Mobile Rocket is one of the UK's leading developers of temporary recruitment technology, creating custom platforms for major organisations like Amazon and the NHS.

And, following a busy period which has seen the company enter the permanent recruitment sector with a "transformational" new system, founder Adam Lee said the company is "well on track" for one of its strongest years to date.

Two consecutive quarters of accelerating growth has seen the company's annual recurring revenue soar by 30%.

And, Adam believes one of the biggest factors behind their success has simply been client retention. "We have halved churn, and that has been a huge factor. Clients love our platforms as do their users – we now have over 1m people using them each week – and that's really helped the business push on," he said.

It follows what Adam accepts was a 'challenging' previous year for the business, which like many, wasn't immune from the impact of the National Insurance hike.

However, he's confident Mobile Rocket has turned a corner, evidenced by a recent international expansion which has seen the company grow its presence in the USA.

Additionally, the successful implementation of its AI-powered Applicant Tracking System (ATS) has also helped the company crack new markets.

"We're delivering a service that clients value, and when you combine that with the quality of our team and our technology, you start to see why the business is thriving," added Adam. "The ATS has also been a huge part of our success and has directly helped us win more business. Clients like it, and having our own AI built into the platform has been a huge advantage.

"Before, recruiters would have to input everything manually – entering shifts, times and all the information needed to manage their workforce. Now they can simply 'ask and get'. The system then ranks people from low to high, streamlining the technology and making the whole process quicker. That's been transformational."

It also allows recruiters to manage more of the process under one roof, from generating vacancies and matching candidates to onboarding.

Ahead of next year, Adam said the future looks increasingly bright.

However, he also wants to challenge the perception that Mobile Rocket simply makes apps.

"Apps are only a small part of what we do," he added. "Our big market now is creating bespoke recruitment platforms for major names. We're building the technology that sits behind recruitment businesses and helps them manage their people, processes and growth. That's where we see the biggest opportunity, and the first half of this year shows what can happen when great people and technology come together."

Visit: *https://mobilerocket.co.uk*

New One-Year Trial Bus Service

A new one-year trial bus service has been introduced by Durham County Council from September, providing a much-needed public transport link between Sedgefield, Chilton and Newton Aycliffe.

The new service will operate Monday to Friday, running from the morning through to the early afternoon, offering residents a convenient way to travel between the three communities for shopping, appointments, errands and other everyday activities.

The route will provide a direct connection between Sedgefield and Newton Aycliffe via Chilton, helping to improve access to local services and facilities for residents who may not have access to a car.

Importantly, the service will also provide access to major supermarkets, including Sainsbury's in Sedgefield and Tesco in Newton Aycliffe. This will make it easier for residents to reach these shopping destinations without having to rely on lifts from family or friends or alternative, more complicated, public transport journeys.

The one-year trial will provide an opportunity to assess how well the service meets the needs of local communities and how regularly it is used. Residents are encouraged to make use of the new service and support the route during the trial period.

The introduction of the service is a positive step towards improving connectivity between Sedgefield, Chilton and Newton Aycliffe, giving local people greater choice and independence when travelling for shopping and other essential activities.

Further information, including the full timetable, stops and fares, will be available from Durham County Council and local travel information services.

KEY JOURNEY TIMES

Towards Newton Aycliffe

Sedgefield Sainsbury's	9.40	10.40	12.40	1.40
Sedgefield Barclays	9.45	10.45	12.45	1.45
Chilton Wheatsheaf	9.56	10.56	12.56	1.56
Newton Aycliffe Tesco	10.05	11.05	13.05	2.05
Aycliffe Town Centre	10.07	11.07	13.07	2.07

Towards Sedgefield

Aycliffe Town Centre	9.10	10.10	12.10	1.10
Newton Aycliffe Tesco	9.10	10.10	12.10	1.10
Chilton Wheatsheaf	9.17	10.17	12.17	1.17
Sedgefield Barclays	9.20	10.29	12.29	1.29
Sedgefield Sainsbury's	9.34	10.34	12.34	1.34



Lifeline Community Action Needs the Support of our Local Businesses

We're reaching out to local businesses and organisations to ask if you could help us make a real difference to individuals and families struggling in our community.
At Lifeline Community Action, we're seeing first-hand just how difficult things are becoming for so many people, and we need your help with two important appeals.
Can your business support our Community Pantry?
We've recently opened our Community Pantry at Newton Aycliffe Community Hub, helping families access affordable food while also reducing food waste by redistributing surplus food that might otherwise end up in landfill.
However, we've been hit by unprecedented demand, with increasing numbers of individuals and families struggling to make ends meet.
As a result, we're finding it increasingly difficult to keep our shelves, fridges and freezers stocked to meet the needs of those relying on us.
We're asking local businesses for a little help!
Would your company or organisation be willing to host one of our food donation boxes in your workplace?
Your staff could donate food items whenever they're able, and once your donation box is full, we'll happily arrange to collect it.
It's a simple way for your workplace to come together and make a meaningful difference to people living right here in our community.
We will also accept cash donations to help us purchase fresh and frozen food too!



Christmas Toy Appeal 2026 - can you help us make Christmas Magical?
Last year, thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we helped make Christmas possible for 418 children!
This year, we're hoping to beat that number, but we can't do it without the support of our wonderful community.
We're appealing to businesses, employers and their teams to help us provide Christmas gifts for children and young people who might otherwise go without.

How can your business get involved?
You could organise a workplace toy collection, encourage your staff to donate a new, unwrapped toy or gift, or even make our Christmas Toy Appeal part of your workplace's festive celebrations.

Christmas Gift Tree - Available from 16th November
From Monday 16th November, our Gift Tree will be available at the Community Hub. Simply select a gift tag from the tree, purchase the specific gift requested and return it to us. It's a lovely way for individuals, colleagues or entire teams to help make Christmas special for a child or young person in need.

Two Appeals - One Community - Together we can make a difference
Whether you can host a food donation box, organise a toy collection, take a tag from our Gift Tree or help us in another way, every contribution really does matter.
We know businesses are facing their own challenges, and we're incredibly grateful for any support you're able to offer.
Lifeline Community Action
Newton Aycliffe Community Hub
30 Beveridge Way
Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4DS
01325 321234
office@lifelinecommunityaction.co.uk
If your business would like to get involved, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you!
From all of us at Lifeline Community Action, thank you for helping us support local families, reduce food waste and bring a little Christmas magic to children who need it most.
Together for a Stronger Community.

Christmas Toy Appeal 2026
Can you help us make Christmas Magical?

Lifeline Community Action
Newton Aycliffe Community Hub
30 Beveridge Way
Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4DS
01325 321234
office@lifelinecommunityaction.co.uk

Rothmans Reunions 2026

The Rothmans Pensioners Reunions will take place this year in Darlington and Spennymoor.
Darlington: Cleveland Club, Neasham Road, Darlington from 1pm-6pm Wednesday 25th November 2026, please contact Liz on 07484 172619.
Spennymoor: Spennymoor Workingmen's Club, King Street from 1pm-6pm on Thursday 26th November, please contact Shelia on 01388 810657.
Please contact Giulio on 01325 300942 for either event.
As last year, there will be a small charge of £5 to cover the cost of the buffet etc and we would be grateful for any donation on the day towards the raffle.
To confirm attendance, please contact the reunion organisers and also to ensure the buffet is adequately covered.



Under 12's Faced Dunston UTS in the cup, running out comfortable 10-0 winners. Olly and Kaiden both helped themselves to hat tricks, with Franco (2), Benji, and Fred scoring the other goals.
Under 13's Blacks Travelled to FC Hartlepool United, going down 5-3 to strong opposition. Mason scored 2 goals with Grayson adding the other.
Under 11's Reds Faced Stockton Town Blues and went goal crazy. Fox scored an amazing five goals with Korben, Michael,and a Stockton OG with the other. POM was Parker and PPOM was Michael.
Under 12's Drew 3-3 with Ferryhill Miners United. Oliver, Noah, and a rocket from Theo were the scorers. Theo won MOTM.
Under 10's Blues Entertained Saltburn Athletic Blues. Leland scored two goals for Aycliffe and won coaches MOTM. Carter won opposition MOTM and Parents MOTM went to Elijah.
Under 15's Blacks Faced Peterlee Town Blue Evo, finishing 3-3 in an entertaining game. Kaylm scored two with Kai adding the other. PMOTM was Nathan and MMOTM was Abdul.
Under 12's Whites Faced Darlington and ran out 7-1 winners. Ethan and Fred both helped themselves to hat tricks, with Alfie adding the other.
Under 14's Whites Travelled to Hebburn in the cup. After a back-and-forth game, it ended 4-4 with Hebburn advancing 7-6 on penalties. Jarrod (2), Oscar, and MOTM Billy with Aycliffe's goals.
Under 10's Juniors Were away to Stockton Town Blues, putting in a terrific performance. Cooper (2), Lee, and Joey scored Aycliffe's goals.
Under 13's Reds Faced AJX in a county cup game. Aycliffe had an uphill battle facing a team five divisions higher, eventually bowing out in a 2-0 loss. MOTM was Laitia and CMOTM was Jenson T.
Under 8's Faced Seaton Carew, with Aycliffe putting in an impressive performance in defence and attack. Lennon scored both goals.
Under 7's Entertained Fishburn and had lots of fun scoring some great goals in some small, sided games. Alfie (3), Arwyn, Cassadee, Karson (4), Rory (3), Rowan (4), and Theo scored the goals across the games. POTD was Rowan.
Under 16's Entertained Wynyard in a tight game. Aycliffe played well in a 0-0 draw. MOTM was Oscar M.
Under 14 Blacks Travelled to face Hartlepool St. Francis, coming away with a 1-1 draw. Kai scored Aycliffe's goal and picked up OMOTM. With CMOTM going to Tyler, who was a part of a solid back four.
Under 15's Juniors Travelled to Eaglescliffe, coming away with an impressive 6-3 victory. Lucas and Jonah scoring for Aycliffe.
Seniors Welcomed Hebburn Jordans FC in the Durham County Sunday Cup. Sam B, Andrew B, and Curtis L helped Aycliffe to come back from 2-0 down to win 2-3. Such an impressive performance meant the whole team shared MOTM.
Under 11's Juniors Travelled to Trimdon, competing in a great game. MOTM was Connor.
Under 12's Blacks Faced Sunderland Farrington, putting in a fantastic performance. Kaiden (4) and Ollie (2) scored Aycliffe's goals. MOTM was Kaiden and PMOTM was Elliot.
Under 12's Had a tough day going down to Eaglescliffe. MOTM was Mario.
Under 11's Reds Faced TSC in and end to end game. Fox scored (6) with OG for the other. POTM was Matthew, PPOTM was Korben.
Under 13's Reds Faced Northallerton, comfortably winning 3-0. Alfie scored two, with Aidan adding the other goal. MOTM was Koa.
Under 10's Blues Hosted Hartlepool St. Francis Blues in what turned out to be a physical, well contested game of football. Leland (3), and Nate scored the goals. OMOTM was Isaac, PPOTM was Jude, CPOTM was Nate.
Under 10's Juniors Travelled to Great Ayton, putting in a tireless performance to be proud of.
Under 14's Whites Travelled to face Prudhoe Owls, it was one way traffic with Aycliffe winning 9-2. Oscar (4), Charlie (2), Billy, Ethan, and Kian scored the goals. MOTM was Kai.
Under 13's Blacks Travelled to face Redcar Town Whites, grabbing their first win of the season. running out 5-3 winners. Goals from Jace, Jack, and Charlie (3). MOTM was Charlie and Jace.
Under 8's Faced Grangetown, playing some lovely football with goals from Leo and Frankie.
Under 7's hosted Darlington RA scoring an amazing number of goals. Alfie (3), Cassadee, Karson (7), Rory (9), Rowan (11), and Theo (8) scoring the goals. POTD was Arwyn.
Under 16's Travelled to face Darlington Quakers, taking control from the start and scoring some amazing goals. Sam, Oscar, Joe, Carter, Jonah, and James all netted for Aycliffe. MOTM was Joe.
Under 15's Juniors Travelled to face Thornaby Town, going down 5-0 on a day to forget.
Under 11's Juniors Travelled to Cockfield for an extremely exciting end to end game with Kaeson scoring for Aycliffe. MOTM was Lincoln.
Seniors Had a Bishop Auckland Heart Foundation Cup game against Evenwood Town, drawing 1-1 before progressing 4-2 on penalties. Sam B scoring Aycliffe's goal. MOTM was Harvey W.
Under 15's Blacks Faced Whitburn & Cleadon, narrowly losing out 4-3. Goals from Kai, Sammy, and Kaylm. MOTM was Sammy.
Under 9's Faced Darlington Young Bulls, playing a fantastic game of football. Goals from Noah (2), Jacob M, Oscar, Jacob C, Arron, and an OG. PTOM was Arron.
Under 12's Has a fantastic 12-0 victory to keep them near the top of the league. Goals from Kaiden (4), Ollie (2), Jake (2), Benji (2), Elliot, and Theo. MOTM was Theo and PMOTM was James.
Under 12's Faced Kader Athletic, going down 2-7, with Henry C and Mario M scoring for Aycliffe, MOTM was Henry C.
Under 13's Reds Faced Darlington Vikings, running out 6-2 winners. Goals from Alfie (3), Oscar, Koa, and Leo. MOTM was Oscar and CMOTM was Leo.
Under 13's Blacks Faced Eaglescliffe Elementis Whites, winning 9-2. Goals from JJ (2), Mason (3), Grayson (2), and an OG.
Under 10's Juniors Hosted Riverside Juniors Madrid, in an enjoyable game. Harry, Lee, and Cooper (2) scored the goals.



Emily Crowned Double European Boxing Champ



Emily Denham has secured her second European boxing title after winning gold for England at the U17 European Championships in Montenegro, helping England claim the overall team championship.
15-year-old Emily Denham, from Newton Aycliffe, delivered an outstanding performance at the U17 European Boxing Championships in Budva, Montenegro, securing gold in the women's U70kg category on 11th October.
Emily secured victory over her Polish opponent in the quarter-final, followed by a first-round Referee Stops Contest (RSC) victory against Georgia in the semi-final. She then delivered an outstanding performance against her Russian opponent in the final, claiming gold by unanimous decision after three exciting rounds.
The achievement marks Emily's second consecutive European title, following her gold medal success at the U15 European Championships in Montenegro in 2025.
The championships brought together a record 473 boxers from 40 nations, with England topping the medal table after securing seven gold, two silver and one bronze medal.
Reflecting on her achievement, Emily said: "I'm absolutely delighted to have won another European gold medal and to represent England again. To become a double European champion is an incredible feeling, and I'm so proud to have been part of such a successful England team.
"I couldn't have achieved this without the support of my family, coaches, Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club and everyone involved with England Boxing. I'm so grateful to everyone who has helped me get here.
"The championships were brilliantly organised, and everyone involved should be really proud. Congratulations to all the boxers who competed. There was some amazing talent, and it was fantastic to be part of it."
Emily trains at Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club and is part of the England Boxing Performance Pathway, regularly travelling to Sheffield for national training sessions.
Her latest success adds to an impressive collection of national and international titles, including Cadet Schools Champion, Class A and B Schools Champion and Junior 4 Nations Champion.
With England Boxing anticipating a big year ahead for Emily in 2027, the young boxer remains focused on her development, with the long-term ambition of representing Great Britain at the 2032 Olympic Games in Brisbane.
Follow Emily's journey on Instagram: *@emilydenham42*

School Aycliffe Community Association (SACA)

Our Community Hall
Located at the bottom of Eastfields, School Aycliffe, DL5 6QH. Please follow the white and brown information signs.
Community Activities
Ladies' Night – Wednesday 4th November, 7pm
Held on the first Wednesday of each month. Our next session features Dot Mandala with Victoria Taylor. £3 per person, including light refreshments.
Contact Christine on 07981 992686 or Zanna on 07929 916725.
Reading Group
Our next session is planned for late November or early December, workload permitting. £5 per person, including refreshments and room hire.
Contact Georgette on 07951 758118.
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Bonfire Night Celebration – Thursday 5th November, 6.15pm
Tickets cost £4, including homemade soup and a hot dog.
Contact Zanna on 07929 916725 for tickets and further information.
Annual Christmas Quiz – Friday 11th December
Arrive at 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. Quizmaster Stephen Quigley will be hosting this popular fundraiser. Tickets cost £5 per person, with a maximum of six people per team. Please bring your own food and drinks; nibbles will be provided. Tickets are selling quickly, so book early!
Contact Georgette for further information.
Mobile Food Van Schedule
Huntley's Fish & Chips
4.30pm - 7pm, or until sold out:
10th and 24th November
6th and 22nd December
Weird Dough
4.30pm - 9pm, or until sold out:
25th November
Hire Our Community Hall
Looking for a venue for a party, social gathering or meeting? Our facilities include a large hall, a small meeting room, a fully equipped kitchen with serving hatch, an enclosed garden/play area, toilets with baby-changing facilities and accessible facilities, plus off-road parking.
For hire enquiries, contact Zanna Bewick on 07929 916725.
Get Involved
New committee members are always welcome. Have your say and help shape your local community. Contact Christine Robinson on 07981 992686 for an informal chat.
Thank you for your continued support.
S.A.C.A. Committee





Women's Football - Rebuild

What a fantastic start to the rebuilding of our Women's team, 14 ladies attended our very first session, enjoying passing, dribbling, teamwork challenges and a 7v7 match.
This was followed in week two with 20 ladies attending. The standard has far exceeded our expectations, the feedback has been phenomenal and we've already had more interest in joining.
There are exciting times ahead for Women's football in Newton Aycliffe, watch this space in future editions of Newton News.

A good month of results in both the cup and league for many of our teams. Exciting last-minute wins for our Under 12 and Under 14 Girls and penalty shoot out defeat for our Under 12 Eagles. These, and all our other results, can be followed on our Facebook page, News at Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club.

Durham F.A. Award

The hard work from the club and our dedicated coaches has now been recognised by Durham FA, as the first winners of the 'Wildcats Reward and Recognition' award. The girls and the coaches were presented with their award before their session on 18th October. The club are extremely proud of this award, recognising the approach we have to developing our young female footballers, in safe, fun, but structured, sessions.
Our very successful girls' development sessions started in 2004 with only one team. In the next 10 years girls football continued to grow. Then, in 2014, our club were then one of the first Wildcats centres in the country, giving the girls an identity and, with support from Durham FA, girls football had lift off. Football was now a sport that was a first option for many girls. The number of teams grew and now we are able to offer team football for every age group, with a full female pathway from Rising Stars through to Wildcats then into teams and the adult women's team. The future is bright for female footballers at Newton Aycliffe Youth FC.



Women's Just Play

The club continues with our recreational sessions, for those who just want to keep fit through football, with 14+ ladies attending each week. The focus is on fitness through creating challenges, rondos and match play. The improvement week on week is incredible! Congratulations to each Trainer of the Week, who get the coveted trophy and Greggs voucher!

Adult Men's Football

The male pathway is thriving, starting at Rising Stars mixed sessions into Little Eagles boys development on to our youth teams, culminating with opportunities to join our adult men's team in the Wearside League. However, we still have opportunities to join the squad, from any interested players who can play at this level. We are also looking to strengthen our coaching staff. If you have the knowledge and drive to coach men's football, this could be an opportunity for you.
Training is every Thursday at Greenfield 3G – 7pm 'til 8pm.
Contact us through News at Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club, if you want more information.
If you need any more information about the club, follow us on News at Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club.

FOOTBALL

Good Boy!



Police Dog Chewy was deployed alongside response and Durham Roads & Armed Policing officers in the early hours following reports of a garage burglary in Bishop Auckland. Suspects were seen fleeing the scene in a VW Golf after stealing a strimmer.

The car was immediately put on the hot list for all patrolling units and quickly spotted just five minutes later.

The car was travelling at high speeds hitting 90mph in 30mph zones and failed to stop for officers, with a pursuit authorised, but ultimately had to be abandoned due to the risk posed to the public.

However, the hunt didn't stop there when officers responded to reports of suspicious activity in the Etherley Dene area and located the vehicle - Now for the fun part.

PD Chewy was deployed alongside the force drone which resulted in a 20-year-old man and a 17-year-old boy being found hiding in a front garden and some bushes.

Both seemed to know the drill after hearing PD Chewy's bark as they lay perfectly still face down. One sheepishly gave a thumbs up when asked if he understood the police caution.

Both were arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving, failing to stop and burglary. The teenager was also arrested on suspicion of driving without a licence or insurance. They were taken into police custody.

Photo: PD Chewy was rewarded with his favourite treat!

Miss Co. Durham Sets Sights on Miss Galaxy



Dear Sir,

My name is Emily Smith from Newton Aycliffe and I am proud to serve as Miss County Durham. My pageant journey has been such an empowering experience and one that has given me confidence, a voice and a wonderful platform to make a real difference.

Now, I am taking the next exciting step - I have set my sights on joining Miss Galaxy and I am working hard to prepare for this incredible opportunity. For me, pageantry isn't just about the crown - it's about purpose, using my title to lift others up and showing what can be achieved with heart and hard work.

Alongside my pageant goals, I am running a heartfelt community campaign, that matters deeply to me. I am fundraising and collecting essential items in support of 'Christie's Cancer Charity' and every penny raised goes directly to the charity, so 100% of donations support their vital work.

A key part of my drive is collecting discreet pad pouches, alongside sanitary pads, nappies and wipes. These simple items make such a difference - giving dignity, comfort and confidence to those who need them most. I want to ensure no one feels embarrassed or without the essentials they deserve.

My goals are:

- To embrace every moment of my pageant journey and proudly represent County Durham (and Newton Aycliffe) at Miss Galaxy;
- To raise funds and awareness for 'Christie's Cancer Charity' and the support they provide;
- To collect and donate essential items - including discreet pad pouches - for families and individuals in need;
- To inspire others that we all have the power to give back and support our community;
- To show that true beauty is kindness, purpose and caring for one another.

I would love for as many people as possible to join me - whether through donating items, sharing the word or following along.

You can keep up with my journey here:

TikTok: *@mummuof2xo* - Instagram: *@emily_smithxo17*

Emily Smith.

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Help! Celebrate 17 Years in Business

A Shildon-based first aid training company is celebrating two major milestones, 17 years in business and receiving more than 1000 five-star Google reviews from its customers.

Help! First Aid Training was founded in 2009 by director Craig Fantarrow, with the business initially operating from an office at Craig's home and a single training room in Shildon.

Seventeen years later, the independent company has grown into one of the North-East's established first aid training providers, delivering courses to businesses, schools, nurseries, colleges, charities and organisations across the region.

While the business has grown, its roots remain firmly in County Durham.

Today, Help! has a team of dedicated office staff and a group of highly experienced instructors, many of whom bring real-life experience from careers in the NHS, Military, Fire Service and other emergency services.

Director Craig Fantarrow said: "We know that we wouldn't be where we are today without our incredible instructors and our loyal customers.

"Our trainers bring a huge amount of real-life experience to our courses, and that makes a real difference. We want people to leave our training feeling confident and prepared to deal with an emergency, and having enjoyed training with us."



Over the years, Help! First Aid Training has worked with an enormous variety of organisations, from small local businesses to multi-site global companies, nurseries, schools, universities, care organisations, charities, gyms, museums and veterinary practices and now trains over 2500 learners each year.

But, while reaching more customers has been an important part of the company's growth, another milestone has also been particularly meaningful to the team, when the company received its 1000th five-star Google review.

Craig said: "I am incredibly proud of everything we have achieved over the last seventeen years. I have a fantastic team around me who put their passion and enthusiasm into everything they do, and I'm very proud that so many of our customers have taken the time to leave us such positive feedback."

"Reaching more than 1000 five-star reviews is a huge milestone for us. Every single review represents someone who has spent time with our team, and it is a great honour to know that they felt their experience was worthy of five stars. We would simply like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported us, trained with us and taken the time to leave a review over the years."

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New SMART Sessions Launching in Ferryhill



Supportive (Reg. Charity No: 1095388) is launching a new SMART Recovery group in Ferryhill to help local people manage and overcome addictive or compulsive behaviours.
The first session took place on Friday 23rd October 2026 at Chapter House, 7a Dean & Chapter Industrial Estate, Ferryhill, County Durham, DL17 8LH. Sessions will then continue every Friday from 2.00pm until 3.00pm.
SMART Recovery is a practical, supportive programme that helps people understand and change unhelpful behaviours. It can support people experiencing difficulties involving alcohol, drugs, gambling or other compulsive behaviours.
The sessions provide a welcoming and non-judgemental space where participants can learn practical tools and develop healthier ways to manage thoughts, feelings and behaviours.
Barry Stanley-Wilkinson, CEO at Supportive, said: "Taking the first step towards recovery can feel daunting, and we want local people to know that support is available close to home. Our new SMART Recovery group will offer a welcoming space where people can build confidence, learn practical skills and take positive steps at their own pace. At Supportive, we believe everyone deserves to feel heard, respected and supported."
Participants do not need to have attended a SMART Recovery meeting before. No pre-booking is required, and participants can turn up to any sessions they want to attend.
The new group will also provide an additional referral option for local GPs, pharmacies, social prescribers, housing providers, charities and other professionals supporting people in Ferryhill and the surrounding communities.
"I am excited to bring the offer of SMART to Ferryhill." Added Marc Sermanni, Lead Assistant Psychologist. "It is a great opportunity to build a community space focused on acceptance and learning. The team and I look forward to having non-judgemental and open-minded discussions on recovery and wellness behaviours."
All the meeting Facilitators are expected to follow a Code of Conduct, stick to the SMART approach and always, put the safety of meeting participants first.
For further information, visit: *www.supportive.org.uk/smart-recovery*, email: *info@supportive.org.uk* or call 01740 658 880.

Christmas Markets

Get ready for the festive shopping season as Candy Queen Events hosts three spectacular Christmas Markets across Newton Aycliffe. The fun kicks off at Neville Community Centre on Saturday 7th November from 11am until 2pm. The festivities continue on Friday 27th November in the Town Centre for the Christmas Light switch-on event, where the market will run all day from 10am until the end of the event. Finally, the biggest market arrives on Sunday 29th November at Oakleaf Sports Complex (in the main sports hall) from 11am until 3pm, boasting over 50 stalls. Don't miss these perfect opportunities to support local traders and check off everything on your Christmas shopping list without needing to leave Newton Aycliffe! Look up Candy Queen Events on Facebook for more information.

Durham SEND Plan Approved by Government

A plan setting out how services will be delivered for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in County Durham, has won government approval.
The Local Area SEND Reform Plan for County Durham has been approved by the Department for Education and the Department of Health and Social Care.
The approval means Durham County Council will receive more than £32m from government towards the deficit it has accrued from the cost of supporting young people with high needs.
'High needs' budget deficits are common across local authorities in the region and nationally having been accrued because the funding provided by government falls short of the unavoidable costs of meeting statutory requirements placed upon councils.
The plan was produced by the council, which works alongside partners to deliver services for children and young people with SEND locally. Local authorities across the country were required to produce the plans as part of the government's delivery of SEND reform nationally.
The government's assessment of the plan praised County Durham's 'succinct and high-level' vision, described the plan as 'holistic' and 'ambitious but realistic', and highlighted strong partnership working, governance arrangements and co-production.
The partners will now move into the delivery phase of the programme, implementing the commitments set out in the plan and striving to deliver improvements across education, health and care services for children and young people with SEND.
The council will receive £32.472m in High Needs Stability Grant following the plan's approval. This amounts to 90% of the deficit the council had accrued in supporting children with high needs by the end of the 2025/2026 financial year - a situation mirrored among local authorities nationally.
Cllr Hunt added: "While we welcome the fact the government is covering 90% of the deficit we have accrued while being underfunded, we naturally remain disappointed the full cost is not being met. What's more we are not being recompensed for having to manage this deficit over the last few years, which will have cost local taxpayers around £3m to 4m in lost interest. We are also left with a 10% bill to meet locally that will cost our taxpayers around £11m by the time we get to 31st March 2028."

Communities Thrive Together Thanks to New Fund

A £1.5m fund is helping to improve health and wellbeing, tackle social isolation and help build people's financial resilience across County Durham.

Durham County Council is delivering its Thriving Together programme, which will see £500,000 awarded to community-led projects each year over a period of three years.

Delivered in partnership with Point North, 33 projects are being awarded funding having been selected through a competitive evaluation process.

Supported schemes include new wellbeing hubs; youth services; warm spaces; creative arts programmes; community cafés; lunch clubs; exercise sessions; gardening projects; and digital inclusion support.

There will be targeted support for priority groups including older people, young people and carers.

Many projects will also provide practical advice on issues such as debt, benefits, housing and employability.

Cllr Howard Brown, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for adult and health services, said: "Our Thriving Together programme aims to utilise the power of community-led action to address health inequalities, reduce isolation and help residents thrive across the county.

"Through a preventative, community-based approach, the programme will help improve residents' health and wellbeing while strengthening community resilience and local capacity.

"By investing in trusted local organisations that understand the needs of their communities, we can deliver tailored support where it is needed most."

Spennymoor Youth and Community Association was awarded £41,150 through the Thriving Together programme to develop its community centre as a local wellbeing hub.

The project delivers a range of weekly activities and support sessions, particularly for residents experiencing mental health challenges, social isolation and poverty.

It also runs Breakfast Buddies, a welcoming group for men of all ages, providing a regular opportunity for social interaction, peer support and connection over breakfast.

Other organisations to benefit from the Thriving Together fund include:

- Building Self Belief in Consett, which will focus on expanding digital inclusion and mental health support.
- Quaking Houses Village Hall, which will develop a comprehensive wellbeing centre.
- Communities Together Durham, which will enhance services at the Heart on the Terrace community hub in Murton.
- Teesdale and Weardale organisations delivering outreach support in rural communities.

Alongside larger three-year investments, smaller grants will enable local organisations to introduce new activities including bereavement support, family programmes, early years sessions, youth wellbeing activities and community befriending services.









E-Scooters, Christmas Gift? Or Costly Mistake?



As your Police and Crime Commissioner, safer roads sits very much at the heart of my Police, Crime and Justice Plan. I want to see fewer people killed and seriously injured on our roads, stronger enforcement against dangerous and illegal road use and greater protection for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.
That responsibility means speaking plainly when I believe people are putting themselves or others at unnecessary risk. So, as Christmas approaches and our minds turn to gift ideas, I have a very direct message for any parent, grandparent or relative thinking about buying an e-scooter as a present: Think very carefully before you buy one! Ask yourself one question: where can the person receiving it legally ride it? If the answer is to school, around the estate, along the pavement, through the park, on a cycle lane or on the road, don't buy them one.
The law is clear. Privately owned e-scooters cannot legally be ridden on public roads, pavements or cycle lanes. They can only be used on private land with the landowner's permission. They are treated as motor vehicles or 'powered transporters', so road traffic laws apply, including requirements around insurance and driving licences.
E-scooters are not harmless toys. They can, and do, kill and seriously injure people.
In 2025, 10 people were killed and an estimated 484 seriously injured in collisions involving e-scooters in Great Britain. All 10 people killed were riders. There were 1,477 casualties overall, including 235 pedestrians.
Before spending hundreds of pounds this Christmas, consider whether the person receiving the gift will be able to use it legally. If not, you could find that expensive present is seized by police and ultimately destroyed.
I also recognise the growing concerns residents have about the misuse of e-bikes, particularly where they are ridden dangerously, anti-socially or have been illegally modified. The message is the same: anyone using powered transport irresponsibly puts themselves and others at risk.
Retailers have responsibilities too. Shops and online sellers should make these restrictions crystal clear before customers hand over their money, but many don't and their customers find out the hard way.
Those who ride e-scooters illegally should understand the consequences of breaking the law. Illegal use can result in prosecution, fines, penalty points, seizure of the e-scooter and, in some cases, its destruction.
I am also concerned about e-scooters being modified or 'de-restricted' to increase their speed and power. This increases the risks to riders, pedestrians and other road users.
Battery fires can develop incredibly quickly. Owners should use the correct manufacturer-approved charger and parts, never leave an e-scooter charging, and never charge or store one where it could block an escape route.
If you already own an e-scooter, know the law and make sure your children know it too.
I urge residents to report illegal, dangerous or anti-social e-scooter and e-bike use to Durham Constabulary online or via 101. If there is an immediate risk to life or danger, call 999.
My advice is deliberately uncompromising: while you can legally buy a privately owned e-scooter, it cannot legally be ridden on a public road, cycle lane or pavement. It can only be used ON PRIVATE LAND with the landowner's permission, unless it is a rental e-scooter being used as part of a government-approved trial.
No Christmas present is worth a police seizure, penalty points, life-changing injuries or being responsible for causing death and serious injuries on our roads or in our communities.
To report illegal e-scooter use online:
https://www.durham.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime



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BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Stephen Ibinson



20th October 1938
Remembering you on your 88th birthday. I hope you knew how much we all loved you?
Take care of him Lord, in your Heaven above, where he will be reunited with his beloved Son.
All our love, Sandra and family xxx

Stephen Ibinson



30th November 1975
Many we love have passed away too soon, without reason. We remember them often in a thousand different ways, in the morning, in the night when we look at the stars, a song, a place, a smell.
With love on your birthday, Mam and family and family in Ireland xxx

Remember to tell the advertiser you found them in the Newton News

Christmas Fair

Christmas Fair at the Pioneering Care Centre
The Christmas Fair at the Pioneering Care Centre (PCC) in Newton Aycliffe will be held on Saturday 5th December from 10am to 2pm. The fair will offer a range of festive fun for all ages, including gift and craft stalls, children's activities, face painting, and visits to Santa's grotto. Refreshments will be available throughout the day from the Garden Kitchen, helping to create a warm and welcoming festive experience for the whole community.
To register your interest to be a stall holder at the fair or any future events, please contact: *ann.bell@pcp.uk.net*
To learn more about what is on at the PCC, please visit: *www.pcp.uk.net/pioneering-care-centre*



Around Town

Tuesday 27th October 2026
My guest list for this month's show was varied to say the least. In the first half of the show we had Lifeline Community Action discussing the continued development of the LCA Community Hub and the services they provide to the wider community. Alongside LCA was the team from 'Supportive', a training provider, explaining the ethos behind their SMART training programme, helping people understand the mindset and emotions of addictive behaviour.
In the second half of the show, our reigning Ms County Durham Emily Smith, was explaining why she is setting her sights on Miss Galaxy while using her pageant profile to champion a local Cancer charity close to her own heart. Joining Emily was Kayleigh Close, returning to the show for her second visit. Kayleigh, who with the help of the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, set up and now runs and facilitates a community based Diabetes support group.
Around Town, the last Tuesday of the month 6.00pm to 8.00pm on Aycliffe Radio with Phill Hawkins.

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Scouting For Girls to Headline Ayclive '27 as Event Celebrates Triple Milestone

Ayclive Festival is gearing up for its biggest, brightest and boldest year yet as it returns to Oak Leaf Sports Field on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th July 2027.

The 2027 summer gathering marks a momentous triple celebration: the 5th anniversary of Ayclive, the 80th anniversary of Newton Aycliffe and the 20th anniversary of Saturday headliners Scouting for Girls.

To commemorate these major milestones, organisers are pulling out all the stops for a weekend built around a simple promise: good music, good people, good times.

To mark the milestone launch, a strictly limited batch of Early Bird Weekend Tickets will go live on Sunday 1st November 2026 alongside the release of a brand-new website at ***www.ayclive.co.uk***. Early Bird prices start at just £25 for an Adult Weekend Pass (18+), £5 for a Child Weekend Pass (ages 5 to 17), and free admission for children under five. Organisers advise securing passes early, as Early Bird allocations are strictly limited and expected to sell out quickly.

Pop Legends & Fan Favourites Take the Main Stage

Headlining the Saturday night main stage line-up are UK indie-pop icons Scouting for Girls. Celebrating 20 years as a band, the multi-million album and single-selling group, famous for timeless chart-topping anthems including 'She's So Lovely', 'Elvis Isn't Dead' and 'Heartbeat', head to Newton Aycliffe fresh off selling out Wembley Arena, the Royal Albert Hall and two nights at the London Palladium. Four-time Brit Award nominees, the band will deliver an electric, feel-good performance to close out the weekend, supported on Saturday by seven vibrant live acts delivering a full day of music.

Closing out opening night on Friday night are high-energy Indie Rock and 2000s anthem masters Kaiser Monkey Killers (KMK). Returning as headliners following a hugely popular set at Ayclive 2024, the fan favourites headline a Friday line-up that includes two live supporting bands alongside live DJs to get the party started in style.

Expanded Site, Acoustic Stage and Family Fun

Taking place at Oak Leaf Sports Field, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, Ayclive 2027 plans to introduce exciting site expansions designed for festival-goers of every age. For the first time in the festival's history, all ages are welcome across the entire weekend on both Friday evening and the Saturday main event.

The organisers are planning a brand-new acoustic stage which will offer an intimate live music alternative alongside the main arena and marquee, with a possible expansion into surrounding grounds to feature an expanded food court packed with local traders and street food vendors, alongside larger bar set ups designed for quick, hassle-free service. Families will also be able to explore an expanded kids and teens entertainment zone filled with new activities and interactive programming alongside returning marquee favourites, with dedicated campervan/RV camping options now available for those travelling from further afield.

Driven by Community

Behind the scenes, Ayclive is a festival that brings families together, put on by Ayclive CIC, a not-for-profit organisation run entirely by volunteers. With no faceless promoters involved, it is driven by a passionate team of local people who believe County Durham deserves a proper festival on its doorstep, where every single ticket sold goes straight back into making the next event even better.

All additional event information, FAQs, ticket bookings and future artist announcements are available on ***www.ayclive.co.uk***. Be sure to keep a close eye on the website news feed and follow ***@AycliveFestival*** on Facebook and Instagram as the countdown to summer 2027 begins for regular updates.

