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Honest John Final Sale Raised £1827

Last weekend's Clearance Sale at Honest John's Charity Shop raised an incredible £1827.00.

This money will be used to honour outstanding charges and commitments of John's charity up to 31st March 2020. Any monies remaining will be donated to a local branch of the P.D.S.A. (People's Dispensary for Sick Animals), as requested by John in his will.

This also abides by the rules of the Charity Commission that when a registered charity is closed, any remaining assets have to benefit another registered



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charity. Val and Roger, John's closest friends and trustees of John's Charity, would like to thank everyone who supported the sale over the weekend by purchasing goods or making donations. Special thank you to Paul Howarth of Newton Press and members of the Aycliffe Radio team of volunteers including Karen Bennett, Carrie Howarth, Amy Harrison, Phill Hawkins, Mary O'Sullivan, Joey Collins, Ed King and Rylee Harrison who all gave up their own time to support the final clearance sale.

The success of last weekend is yet another tribute to John's outstanding contribution to charity. Once the charity is closed a final report will be published in the Newton News.

Val and Roger would also like to thank everyone for their sincere messages, cards and support during this sad time.

John always shunned awards, medals or accolades, but we are sure even he would be secretly touched by everyone's kindness.

John did not want a funeral or any fuss; but members of the Aycliffe Radio team will be organising an event to commemorate the life of this extraordinary man, watch the Newton News and listen to Aycliffe Radio for more details soon.

STOP PRESS
Since the sale ended on Sunday, members of the public have called into Newton Press offices to donate cash to John's charity - a further £70 has been added to the total made at the sale weekend.

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Roman Hit Record Breaking Numbers at K.B.B. Exhibition 2020

Europe's leading shower designer and manufacturer, Roman, has revealed its delight to hit record breaking numbers at the UK's main bathroom event, KBB.

Roman's Stand featured British manufactured products, new launches and a range of innovative developments, demonstrating the company's full range of capabilities and vast experience within the UK market.

At this year's KBB event, Roman launched new Liberty Fluted Glass Wetroom Panels which were selected by Designer Magazine as one of the most innovative products at KBB 2020 and featured in the event's Design Trail.

Roman also introduced Innov8 Sliders and Innov8 Curved Quadrants which have extremely clever running systems and fast fix installation design - the obvious visual aspect is their availability in a matt black finish as well as silver chrome - this shows how mainstream matt black is now becoming in the market.

The range features 8mm thick glass on the sliding doors and the large one door curved quadrants.

Another launch featured on the Roman stand included the new Liberty Black Grid Hinged Door with an In-Line Panel which slots into the stunning Liberty range - with availability in four colours; matt black, silver chrome, brushed nickel and



polished nickel.

David Osborne, Managing Director at Roman: "It was a tiring but very enjoyable

4-day event seeing so many customers; old and new. We hope the event will be a great kick start for 2020."

Life Expectancy Falls

Dear Sir,
For over a hundred years, up until 2010, life expectancy generally improved by about one year every four years, and England experienced continuous improvements in life expectancy, but from 2011 these improvements slowed dramatically, almost grinding to a halt, with the biggest decreases in life expectancy seen in the most deprived 10 per cent of neighbourhoods in the North East.

Life expectancy for the UK's poorest women has now fallen for the first time in 100 years, once again this evidences that the Tory ideology of 'Austerity' is hitting women more greatly. Professor Marmot, the author of the report said, "If health has stopped improving, that means society has stopped improving and if health inequalities continue and in fact increase, that means inequalities in society have been increasing," and states that "Austerity has taken a significant toll on equity and health and it is likely to continue to do so."

The cost of tackling health problems linked to deprivation could reach about £82 billion a year in lost taxes, higher welfare payments and increased NHS and social care costs.

Labour's shadow health secretary, Jonathan Ashworth, said: "This is a devastating verdict on 10 years of austerity under the Conservatives and demands urgent action from Boris Johnson".

With child poverty now at

30% in the UK, and poverty related child mortality rising, it is clear this government clearly has very little concern about the impact its policies are having on our nation's population, or the resulting inequality it causes.

Members of Sedgefield Labour's Women's Forum and Sedgefield Labour do care about these issues and are doing what we can to help those in our community. Please join us. Together we can make a difference.

Sedgefield Labour Women's Forum.

Neville Community Association

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th March at 6.45pm in Neville Community Centre.

There will be a presentation from Sonya Ingledew about Dog Behaviour and how to deal with it.

Refreshments will be available from 6.30pm. Come down and join us for a cuppa and a chat and bring your friends.

75th VE DAY CELEBRATION

Aycliffe Town Centre management are pleased and proud to present a tribute to the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, which took place on 8th May 1945 and marked the end of the World War 2 in Europe.

On Friday 8th May 2020, this year classed as a bank holiday, the local armed forces will be represented in the town centre central mall with displays, vehicles, demonstrations, parade drill and information.

The 124 Recovery Company are to bring their 32 ton recovery vehicle as well as other transport and a virtual reality bomb disposal.

The 201 Field Hospital unit will erect a field hospital tent, normally used in the field of combat, and



VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8-10 MAY 2020

demonstrate how they operate. 102 Battalion (Territorial Army) will also be on site with vehicles, demonstrations and information.

The town's 1407 Air Cadets will be on hand during the day to talk about their activities and perform a drill in the town. The Mayor, Mrs Mary Dalton, and our MP Paul Howell will arrive at 1.00pm and be piped to their seats by local piper, Neil Thain.

At 3.00pm Piper Neil will perform "Battle O'er" and a special piece written for the day entitled "VE Day 75". Neil will be joined by pipers from all across the United Kingdom, who will perform these pieces at 3pm on Friday 8th May.

To keep the audience entertained, Jenna Highfield will perform 1940s songs as well as songs from the war. Aycliffe Radio will also be on hand to fill in the gaps and inform visitors of the various displays, as well as interview the armed forces representatives.

Hand waving flags and hats will be provided to those who attend (while stocks last). Also on site will be an ice cream van and children's face painter.

75th ANNIVERSARY
VE DAY
8-10 MAY 2020

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Sunday 10th May...
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Saturday 14th March - "The Whole Hog"

Gig Pit Review: The Comrades welcomed 'The Whole Hog' back with their eclectic mix of rock that although you're familiar with, you don't often hear played by local bands. The fact there were members of at least five other local bands in to see 'The Hog' gives an idea of how highly the band are respected among the local musicians. Kicking off with Fleetwood Mac's "Oh Well" and running through classics by Family, Jethro Tull, Free, The Climax Blues Band as well as a couple of newer numbers by Joe Bonamassa and The Foo Fighters. The band gave a superb show that was well received by the punters. Rob on vocals and sax is an excellent front man whose vocal talents and on stage athletics are a visual focus that other bands could learn from. Twin guitarists whose on stage empathy speaks of long experience of working together are underpinned by a solid rhythm section fronted by John on bass who bounces well off Rob on vocals in giving the appearance of a party on stage. Musicians having a good time whilst playing always carry the crowd with them.

Saturday 21st March - "The Gatecrashers"

Recent gigs include the main stage at 'Tall Ships Race' as well as 'The Great North Run' several appearances on the main stage at 'Stormin' The Castle' and headline spots at 'Rede River Rocks Festival' and 'Rothbury Music Festival'.

Saturday 28th March - "Vinyl Chimes" (80s Tribute)

Every Friday is Open-Mic/Buskers featuring some great local talent, players welcome

For more information on bands go to

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75th ANNIVERSARY
VE DAY CELEBRATION
Friday, 8th May, 2020
11.00am to 4.00pm
Aycliffe Town Centre

What's Happening:
Local Armed Forces displays all day

- 11am - Aycliffe Radio
- 11.30am - Jenna Highfield
- 12pm - Aycliffe Radio
- 12.30pm - Jenna Highfield
- 1pm - Mayor Arrives + Piper
- 1.15pm - Aycliffe Radio
- 1.30pm - 1407 Cadets Drill
- 2pm - Jenna Highfield
- 2.30pm - Aycliffe Radio
- 3pm - Piper Plays "Battle O'er"
- 3.15pm - Jenna Highfield
- 3.45pm - Aycliffe Radio

Jenna Highfield
1940's Singer and Entertainer

124 Recovery Company
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Drill Display and Recruiting

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Vehicles, Recruiting and Display

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- * Singalong with Jenna
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NASSL Will Miss Honest John

Dear Sir,
Honest John will be a big miss to NASSL. His love for animals was so great that we helped John by taking four cats that had been left behind by someone who had moved home. He supported the charity NASSL over a number of years, and he will be a miss not only for us, but for all the people that live in Newton Aycliffe. We will miss you John, but will make sure the work goes on to support the animals in need. Please help NASSL, to support more animals. Thank you for your help and support.

Hub of Wishes Training Courses

The Hub of Wishes, Newton Aycliffe's mental health charity, has recently held a number of training courses. The courses have been varied including First Aid Level III, Mental Health First Aid, Coping Strategies and Confidence Building. A Business Administration course is ongoing. Our members report back a sense of achievement, growing confidence, more understanding of mental health, how to cope with anxiety, etc. They are asking us to provide more courses and we now have a number of courses available in the coming weeks.

Some people attending our training courses will need a little more support and this is no problem. Encouragement and support are always available from the tutors and staff. If you would like to attend a course but lack the confidence, please be assured that you would receive support and nobody will judge you. Everyone feels a little nervous at the beginning of a course, but as we work through it and get to know one another, we feel more at ease and happy with work completed.

Future Courses:

some dates to be confirmed
20th March
Volunteer Course
Fridays 10.00am to 1.00pm. This runs to 22nd May 2020.
Health and Nutrition
Team Leading Course
Food Hygiene
Mental Health Awareness
If you are interested in any of our courses and/or wish to attend our centre, please telephone Vicki or Joanne for an informal chat.
Telephone 01325 300121
thehubofwishes@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook and YouTube too!
PLEASE NOTE OUR WEBSITE IS:
www.hubofwishes.co.uk (no "the" before hub).

"When Leo Met Mave"



Lionel Musgrave, Leo to friends, only child to Stanley and Nellie from Coundon was born in Newcastle on Sunday 28th February 1936, although his mother once told Mavis he was actually born on the 29th making Lionel a mere 21 years old and as many who know him would appreciate this with his sweet personality and suave handsome good looks once referred to as "Omar Sharif". When he was 15/16 years old he worked for British Rail at Shildon, like his father. Then at the age of 18, in 1954, completed two years National Service in the Armed Forces with the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry based in Osnabrück Germany. Afterwards he briefly returned to British Rail in Shildon.

Mavis, née Christlow, one of two girls born to Frederick and Margaret Jane, was born in Spennymoor on Sunday 9th October 1938. After leaving school Mavis did a number of part-time jobs to pay to attend evening college to gain further secretarial qualifications. They both worked at Smart & Browns Electricals, Merrington Lane, Spennymoor in the late 1950's where Lionel's mother worked, also Mavis' sister and future brother-in-law. Often, when Mavis left her office to walk along the factory, there was this good looking lad with lashings of black wavy hair, wearing a red tartan shirt and a beaming smile who would jump in front of her making sure she noticed him!

They started to date, going to dances at The Rink in Spennymoor, the cinema and taking rides on Lionel's beloved Lambretta. They married on Saturday 5th March 1960 in Spennymoor and their Reception was at The Coatham Hotel where Lionel introduced Mavis to coffee for the very first time. Lionel rented a flat in Redcar, starting a new job at I.C.I. Willington, Mavis shortly followed where they bought a bungalow. They have two daughters Jacqui and Mandy. Mavis worked as Manageress of a Drycleaners, the original building still standing. They moved house a couple of times then moved back to Newton Aycliffe in 1965, Lionel travelled by car back and forth to Willington for several years.

In the 70's Lionel got work in Newton Aycliffe, then at Cummins Engineering in Darlington until he retired. Mavis worked for Toothills (friend to Heather, the late Mary, the late Edna and Pam), Ozalids and Alcan Metal then in the late 1970's Aycliffe Development Corporation which later became Sedgfield District Council relocating her back to her hometown of Spennymoor, she worked there for several years until she retired.

Lionel and Mavis also have three beautiful granddaughters.

Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary Mam & Dad

Love from Jacqui, Iain, Rebecca, Charlotte and Isabel, Mandy & Brian xxx



Walworth Outstanding Residential Provision

At a recent Ofsted Care Inspection Walworth School's residential provision was again judged "outstanding" by the Inspector. The three-day inspection closely monitored all Residential Care Standards of Practice within the school. The Inspector was particularly impressed with the work that staff do supporting the children's wellbeing, commenting that, "Children make remarkable progress with their emotional health and wellbeing . . . and receive an excellent level of

individualised care in the residential provision". Head Teacher, Mr. Peter Wallbanks, said, "this is a great achievement for the Residential Provision and we are delighted to see all the hard work done being recognised by Ofsted. As a school we try very hard indeed to support all our children's wellbeing and social skills development and recognition of this is a testimony to all we try to achieve and the hard work of the staff team".



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Aycliffe's Talent on Show at Greenfield

Greenfield Community College are excited to be hosting the second round of 'Aycliffe's Got Talent'. The competition, organised by Newton News and Aycliffe Radio, will see talented Under 16's singing, dancing or showcasing their musical skills. The competition will take place on Thursday 19 March, at 6.30pm in the main hall at Greenfield Community College. Limited tickets are on sale for non-competitors at only £1 each and are available from Newton Press or Greenfield Community College. The winner will receive £100 in cash and a slot on Aycliffe Radio Music Festival in May this year. Greenfield Community College are delighted to host the event, their annual Greenfield's Got Talent has been a popular part of the Greenfield calendar and they are now looking forward to being a part of Aycliffe's Got Talent and welcoming young people from the wider community.



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EXHIBITION TELLS UNTOLD STORIES OF ISOLATED GENERATION

An older woman sits in her living room, alone. She speaks about her day-to-day experience, an experience that a growing number of older people in our communities face.

For eight months, artist Sharon Bailey has visited older people who live by themselves, stuck in their home for long periods of time.

She travelled across Newcastle, Gateshead and East Durham listening to their stories and documenting their lives.

Her exhibition, entitled Home Alone, commissioned by Durham County Council, brings these untold stories out of the home and into public spaces.

With a living room as the set, the performance focuses on an older woman sitting alone as she speaks to audiences about her day-to-day life, using homely props to tell her story.

As well as the performance area, Home Alone includes

photographs from people's homes, diary excerpts and a specially commissioned monologue by writer Catrina McHugh MBE.

Home Alone will be performed in libraries across County Durham.

CLlr Joy Allen, Cabinet member for transformation, culture and tourism, said: "Home Alone is an exhibition which highlights an important issue and is a performance that always proves popular with audiences in whatever location it is installed."

"Sharon's exhibition is a creative and engaging way to approach a difficult topic and gives us a chance to experience some fascinating and moving tales from inspiring people, drawing people together to hear the untold stories of older generations."

"Home Alone's tour fittingly coincided with International Women's Day, on 8 March, helping to highlight women's



achievements while raising awareness for the struggles older women may face." Last year, Home Alone was brought into Castledene Shopping Centre, Peterlee, where over 500 people stopped by mid-shop to see and hear the stories on display.

Home Alone exhibition has been commissioned by Durham County Council, funded by Arts Council England, Equal Arts, East Durham Creates, and supported by Newcastle City Council, Search Newcastle, Elders Council

Newcastle, East Durham Trust, Open Clasp Theatre Company and Grange Day Centre, Throckley.

The exhibition will be at Newton Aycliffe Library from 23rd to 27th March; Spennymoor Library from 30th March to 3rd April; Shildon Library from 6th to 9th April, Crook Library from 14th to 17th April and Chester-le-Street Library from 20th to 24th April.

For more information about upcoming library events, visit www.durham.gov.uk/libraries

MP Serves up Offer of Support at Business Breakfast

Newly elected County Durham MP, Paul Howell, has offered to support businesses in any way he can – as he returned to an engineering training provider he last visited 45 years ago.

The last time Sedgefield's new MP was at South West Durham Training in Newton Aycliffe was in 1975. The then 16-year-old, choosing his post school options, could never have imagined he would one day return as the local Member of Parliament.

Mr Howell ended up training as an accountant and enjoyed a long career at companies including Darchem, Perstorp-Warerite, Blue Circle and Wilsonart before his election last December.

Speaking at South West Durham Training's annual Business Breakfast event, the MP said he had an open door and wanted to help companies of all sizes – using his access to Ministers to make them aware of issues businesses wished to raise.

Mr Howell said: "The unique way the House of Commons works means that when you are in the voting lobby, everyone from your side is there – and I mean everyone. "Yesterday morning I had a well known multinational company approach me about some concerns they had and in the afternoon I was able to raise this with Liz Truss (Secretary of State for International Trade). If I can help any business in any way, I will – just get in touch."

Andy Dunn, General Manager for Stockton-based car parts manufacturer Nifco, outlined the firm's apprenticeship



recruitment strategy during a presentation to delegates, stressing the importance of enthusiasm and a strong work ethic above academic aptitude.

Former Procter & Gamble executive, Laura Graham, then told how she has built a highly successful day nursery from scratch in two years and is now expanding the premises at Whitehouse Farm near Morpeth, Northumberland.

The event coincided with National Careers Week, a nationwide celebration of careers guidance supporting young people from education into employment. Hollie Statham, from civil engineering firm Bowmer and Kirkland, and Tom Gallon, from the North East LEP, also presented employability skills sessions to Bishop Auckland College students as part of the national campaign's activities.

Stuart Johnson, CEO of South West Durham Training, said the Business Breakfast had been a huge success: "We had a great range of speakers, from our new local MP offering support to businesses, to

a major regional employer outlining what they look for in a new apprentice, to an entrepreneur who has swapped corporate life for an exciting journey building her own small business.

"We are very grateful to both the speakers and all the representatives of local businesses who attended to support the event."

Photo: Stuart Johnson, CEO of South West Durham Training, is pictured with Paul Howell MP.

Olive Garden Fund Raising



All the staff at The Olive Garden would like to thank our generous customers once again for their contributions towards our collection for Brian Tough, a volunteer at Coxhoe Stray Aid. Together we raised £135 which will go towards helping to rescue, reunite or rehome the lost, abused, abandoned or unwanted dogs and cats in the local area.

Film Show

FEEL GOOD FILM SHOWS

We are sorry to announce that St. Clare's Tuesday "Feel Good Film Shows" are cancelled until further notice due to my incapacity, a silly back injury.

Apologies to all our friends, we will return as soon as possible.

Ric Hargreaves

UPDATE ON COUNTY PARTNERSHIP WORK

Councillors will be updated on the progress of key initiatives carried out by partners across County Durham when they meet next week.

It follows the launch of the County Durham Vision 2035 in September last year which shared key ambitions for the area's future.

The future and partners pledged to support plans to create more and better jobs within the county, help people to live long and independent lives, and to connect communities over the next 15 years.

Work has begun to review the structure of the partnership to ensure it fits with the ambitions of the new vision. Cabinet will hear of several successes, including the tenth anniversary of Lumiere which has brought more than one million visitors to Durham since its launch.

Updates will be given on the growth of the visitor economy in County Durham, which has helped almost 12,000 people into employment across the area.

Cabinet will hear about the work of the Active Durham

Partnership which has seen over 100 schools sign up to doing 10-30 minutes exercise every day, while other Area Action Partnerships (AAP) are delivering their own healthy lifestyle programmes, aimed at a range of people within the county.

Those 14 AAPs are also benefitting from their share of £140,000 to provide holiday schemes for young people and their families to socialise, be active and learn new skills while enjoying healthy meals. Other AAP projects have supported residents to tackle the impact of welfare reform, access advice and entitlements and become debt free or significantly reduce their debts.

More updates will include projects set up to help older people at risk of isolation, efforts to improve the mental health of workers across the county, and recognising the success of children and young people through the County Durham Children and Young People's Awards. Cabinet will be asked to note the contents of this update when it meets on Wednesday, 18 March.

LET'S GET CREATIVE

Come and get involved with our adult craft group, learn new skills with our volunteer, chat and share ideas with others.

We meet every Tuesday from 1.00pm to 3.00pm in Newton Aycliffe Library for only £1.00 per week.

For more details contact 03000 269519 or email newtonayc.lib@durham.gov.uk

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Great Aycliffe

CANCER

Support Group

Presents an

Proceeds to Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group

St. Clare's Church

Saturday 28th March

10.00am till 2.00pm

Craft Stalls - Bake Sale - Tombola

Plus many more stalls

Children's Easter Egg Competition

(£1.00 to enter)

St. Clare's weekly Coffee Morning will also be run alongside our Fundraising Event, so refreshments will be available

EVERYONE WELCOME

Community Calendar

A new service for the organisers of events throughout Newton Aycliffe. Publicise your event with activity, date, venue and price. Send your information to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

St Patrick's Party Night

Thursday 19th March at The Phoenix Club
£3cc inc. free raffle ticket

Under 16s Talent Competition

Thursday 19th March at Greenfield College
Tickets £1 from College or Newton Press

Model Railway Exhibition

Saturday 21st March at the Youth Centre, Burn Lane
Adults £5, Children 50p

Easter Quiz

Friday 27th March, School Aycliffe Community Centre
£6 per person, max 6 in a team

Neville Parade Methodist Church Craft & Gifts Fair

Saturday 28th March (10.00am to 2.00pm)

Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group Easter Fair

Saturday 28th March at St. Clare's Church (10am)

90s Classix v 00s Clubland

Saturday 4th April at The Big Club

Tickets £6 from the Club or Newton Press

ACORN Petting Zoo

Saturday 18th April, Aycliffe Leisure Centre, 10-2pm
£1 admission

St George's Day Party Night

Thursday 23rd March at The Phoenix Club
£3cc inc. free raffle ticket

VE Day Celebrations

Friday 8th May at Aycliffe Town Centre
Free Event

Punk All Dayer 2

Friday 8th May at The Turbinia
Tickets £10 from Gaz Avery or The Turbinia

The Forge Festival

8-10th May at Hammers & Pincers
Tickets £7 day or £15 for weekend

SK8 Event

Saturday 23rd May in Town Park, Burn Lane
Free event run by Great Aycliffe Town Council

Our People Are Crazy Party Night

Thursday 11th June at The Phoenix Club
£3cc inc. free raffle ticket

Aycliffe Radio Music Festival

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th June at Aycliffe Town Centre
Free Event

5k/10k Fun Run

Sunday 21st June at West Park
Contact Aycliffe Running Club for details

Phoenix Motor Cycle Club Bike Rally

Sunday 4th July at Town Centre
Times to be confirmed

Emergency Services Day

Wednesday 12th August at Aycliffe Town Centre
Free event

Christmas Celebrations 2020

Saturday 28th November at Aycliffe Town Centre
Free event

Aycliffe Radio Xmas Live 2020

Saturday 5th December - TBC

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The Invisible Man - Dark Waters

Sonic the Hedgehog - 1917

Fantasy Island - Military Wives

Dolittle - Call of the Wild

Emma - Bad Boys For Life

Like a Boss - Greed

Jumanji: Next Level - Little Women

Paw Patrol: Ready, Race, Rescue

The Boy 2 - The Gentlemen

Personal History of David Copperfield

PARLIAMENT TALK



Paul Howell, Member of Parliament for Sedgefield



Last Wednesday saw the third meeting in 3 days with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, this time around infrastructure projects before going to an NHS England briefing and a call in to the Police Federation reception. Thursday, I travelled back home and was able to call in to the Governing Body meeting for Horndale Primary School. I also took a walk around the town centre where I met, amongst others, Simon from Junction 7 who told me Jane was out of sorts, get well soon Jane, you and Simon do fabulous work.

Friday was a business breakfast at South West Durham Training followed by a quick tour, it's changed a lot since I first visited in 1976! Looks a great place to learn and they are very well connected to local and regional employers. Then it was over to Sedgefield for a surgery. Then, on Saturday, it was down to Middleton St George for a surgery in the morning, happily this also coincided with their monthly food and craft market. Worth a trip to, some great crafts, but I was particularly attracted to scones, sausages and cakes. Samosas for lunch before off to The Big Club to catch up with the "In This Together" team for their coffee morning. What a fabulous initiative they have started.

Monday meant a quick staff meeting with my team, we have just recruited David to help us and we have completed the paperwork for the office so hope for the keys this week. We will be moving into offices upstairs in the town centre. I then caught the train to London and attended a briefing with officials from the National Security Centre around Huawei before the telecoms vote on Tuesday

and then a meeting with Liz Truss, Secretary of State for International Trade, where we discussed European Supply Chains and the announcement that the US will now accept British beef.

Tuesday was a wall to wall meeting day, I was in the Conservative offices at 8.00. I then had my first real BEIS select committee meeting, last week was largely formalities but this week we were looking at the Post Office Horizon problems. After lunch a review session on life so far in Westminster before a session on Universal

Credit, then a Parish and Town Council drop-in followed by a meeting with the Minister of State for Local Government. In the evening a briefing with the Secretary of State for DEFRA (Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs) then a Rotary Polio eradication reception. The down side of such a busy day was I missed two APPG's on Credit Unions and End of Life Choices, but I will catch up with the chairs of these.

Have a good week

Paul Howell
Member of Parliament
for Sedgefield

Prestigious Appointment for Aycliffe Air Cadet



1407 (Newton Aycliffe) squadron's Cadet Warrant Officer, Paul Ughra, was formally appointed as Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for County Durham at a ceremony at Bradford Armoury, Darlington last week.

The role includes attendance with the Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Sue Snowdon, at a number of official engagements, including remembrance events, Royal visits and parades.

The Lord Lieutenant's Cadets are appointed on an annual basis and include representatives from Sea

Cadets, Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps. CWO Ughra was nominated by his Commanding Officer, Flt. Lt. Karin Scott, and had to then undertake an interview with the Wing Commander of Durham/Northumberland Wing and a second interview with representatives of the Reserve Forces and Cadet Association.

Flt. Lt. Scott said, "CWO Ughra has been a cadet for over five years and he has achieved numerous certificates and awards for his dedication and service, his appointment is well deserved."

A Week in the Life of our MP



Programme Schedule

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEWTON AYCLIFFE
TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT
"Aycliffe Town Centre... Shopping for You"



Every Night from 12 Midnight to 3am
cuddle up and listen to classic "Love Songs"

SATURDAY

9-10am	Eurovision Show	Simon Harding
10-12am	Moderation	Jack & Garvey
12-2pm	Kitchen Floorfillers	Cazbo Jangles
2-4pm	Weekly Edition	Paul Baker
4-6pm	Northern & Classic Soul (R)	Kevin Sowerby
"The Saturday Night Experience" Sponsored by Bengal Lounge Indian Restaurant & Takeaway		
6-8pm	Evening Session	Jimjams
8-9pm	Rock the House	Carl Booth
9-10pm	Retro Trance Mix	OZ-DJ
10-12am	Street 'n' Drum 'n' Bass	MC Supa

SUNDAY

9-10am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
Yesterdays Music Today Sponsored by MV Mobility		
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
12-2pm	Country / Americana	David Ringer
Blues Show Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service		
2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin & Monica
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6-7.30pm	Jazz Time	Mike Dixon
8-10pm	The Rock Show	CAD
10-12am	Paul's Down Time	Paul Kjenstad

MONDAY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
5-6pm	Teenage Tunes	Ellarae Bower
6-7pm	60s Show	Karl Simons
7-8pm	70s Show	Peter Rush
8-9pm	80s Show	Gary Avery
9-10pm	90s Show	Paul Baker
10-11pm	00s Show	Producer Dan
11-12am	Teens Show	Andy Fittes

TUESDAY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
6-7pm	Sports Talk	Sean Lawless
7.30-9.30pm	Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby

WEDNESDAY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
Community Connect Sponsored by ROF59		
5-6.30pm	Community Connect	Amy & Carrie
6.30-8pm	Independent Music Show	Joey Collins
8-10pm	Alternative Aycliffe	Gaz n Alby

THURSDAY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
6-8pm	The List	Colin McNeillie
8-10pm	BeatRoote	Graeme Roote

FRIDAY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	Guest Presenter Session	
20th Mar	Nathan Abbott - 90s Classix	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby

Check our website for full schedule

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

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Radio Shaker - www.radio.net





Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

Additional information about all the following is available on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB156

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

As for the County Council:

- The DCC Environment Scrutiny meeting on Monday 9 March dealt with: the important issue of fuel poverty; the ticking timebomb which is low carbon funding; and the issues of major public interest: Leisure Centres, and the Gala Theatre, Durham.

I also attended two meetings in connection with my responsibilities in my role as DCC Cabinet Support:

- Climate Action County Durham (CADC) met on Thursday 5 March, at which I spoke about the DCC Climate Emergency Response Action Plan. DCC's job now is to recruit partners and 'allies' to deliver the Plan, and CADC hopes to develop into such an alliance of partners. The meeting also heard from Peter Stark, who is trying to set up a North East Climate Coalition (NECC) to do the same for the North-East.

- Then, on the evening of Thursday 5 March, I attended a meeting of the Friends of the Stockton

& Darlington Railway. Chair Trish Pemberton described the meetings she had attended with MPs and the Heritage Alliance, and Vice-Chair Niall Hammond described a 'pleasing' meeting with DCC, where he learned how Council is preparing the infrastructure and access for visitors to the railway's bicentenary in 2025.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

- The Great Aycliffe Town Council Policy & Resources Meeting on Wednesday 4 March: objected to BT's decision to remove the telephone box at Whinlatter Place; reported on its (excellent) internal audit procedures; and agreed to buy four bespoke metal seats for VE Day.

CONSULTATIONS AND THE BIG SPRING CLEAN

DCC wants to know your views on the following consultations:

- Supporting young people to have an independent voice;
 - Road safety;
 - Licensing of privately rented homes in some areas of the county.
- Finally, why not get involved in the Big Spring Clean?

Supporting Hydration & Nutrition Week



Local Wellbeing charity Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) will be supporting the global health campaign for Hydration and Nutrition week this March. The Pioneering Care Centre 'Garden Kitchen' coffee shop is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am until 3:00pm and Saturday mornings serving delicious and nutritious breakfast, lunches and light snacks.

The breakfast menu throughout the week will include porridge, fresh fruit, yogurts and English breakfast. The light lunch menu, offers a tempting range of wraps, sandwiches, soup, omelettes, jacket potatoes and fresh salads, whilst the ever popular Wednesday special will be ham with poached egg served with new potatoes. Finally fish & chip Friday's treat is steamed smoked cod or haddock with fresh vegetables.

Hydration and Nutrition week runs from 16th until 22nd March 2020 and aims to highlight and support people to understand the benefits of a range of food and drink in maintaining everyday health and wellbeing. So why not join us at the Pioneering Care Centre, pop in during Hydration and Nutrition week to enjoy a tasty meal and refreshing drink in a relaxed and friendly environment.

If you would like to

find out more about Hydration and Nutrition week please visit: <https://nutritionandhydrationweek.co.uk>

Referee Visit Cancelled

Dear Sir,
Thank you for including the referee visit story in last week's Newton News. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the visit of Martin. This is because the Professional Game Match Officials Ltd (PGMOL), has advised all match officials to restrict their movement to match days only. This decision has been reached in view of the existing circumstances surrounding the Coronavirus. We hope to welcome Martin to the Bishop Auckland R.A. some time soon.
Kind regards,
Terry Farley

Campaign to Support Those in Need

Jason Thompson
Zach Melton

Jay has been a huge part of the town for the whole of his life. He touched many people with his sense of humour, his ability to light up the room and would help anyone. Zach, being Jay's son, had struggled with accessing the vital support he needed and now tragically, due to this same lack of support, they have both lost their lives.

Jay's partner, Cath Hugill and his Sister, Karen Black, are both campaigning to get this lack of support highlighted and changed within Durham County Council and the Government. They recently met with MP, Paul Howell and his Campaign Manager Rachel Mills, who are in full support of the changes needed.

In a recent interview with the Northern Echo, Cath and Karen said "we are being encouraged to speak out – but why, when drastic changes need to be made to our mental health system? There are too many people losing their lives unnecessarily, which destroys not only lives, but families and communities". The north east, Newton Aycliffe included, is struggling with far too

many people who suffer with mental health issues and subsequently taking their own lives. There are reviews published online, promising action such as early intervention programmes and more support in areas where it's needed. These reviews go back years and yet nothing is changing.

There is no clarity over the route needed in order to access these vital services; an individual must also consent to having support and there are no checks and balances to ensure the individual is in the right place to refuse support. A conversation with a family member could be the difference between our loved ones accessing these services before it's too late. The family have asked for as many people as possible to support the petition. Please also consider contacting your own MP. Please help us to make a change: <http://chnq.it/BJjsqGPVX>

A local support group has also been formed in the town called 'In This Together', they hold regular events and share useful tips on how to cope and also where to get help. For more information follow our page on Facebook, search inthis togetherne

Sergeant's Blog NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

By Sergeant Andy Boyd



Greetings from the Neighbourhood Police Team at Newton Aycliffe. Over the last couple of months the team has been very busy addressing a number of issues across the town, some of these are well documented on local social media residents pages . . . I know this as I find myself following these on my days off, much to the frustration of my wife when I should be hoovering!

We find ourselves in a situation where Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is increasing (it does during the winter months, but is abnormally high at present). The team have been taking a number of steps to reduce and stop this, but unfortunately this is not a short-term fix. We are working very closely with the ASB Team at Durham County Council to engage and educate youths, and then ultimately enforce the law if they don't listen to advice. There is an escalation scale we have to follow which does take time, but courts are looking for this process to be followed if they are to back us in granting Criminal Behaviour Orders on youths to give us further powers to deal with them effectively. Make no bones about this, we are committed to dealing robustly with ASB in Newton Aycliffe!

If we need to obtain these orders we will, like many of you, I am sick of the behaviour of this small group of youths that are causing misery for the community and it will stop . . . approximately 10 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts issued so far and more to come . . . the next step is court. We are also dealing with these youths for specific criminal offences and they are being sent to

the Youth Offending Team who work directly with them to divert them away from further offending.

On a positive note, our Response and CID colleagues were involved in arresting and dealing with Neil McCormack on the 3rd February for a number of shed burglaries and shoplifting offences in the town. He has recently been sentenced to 14 months in prison.

We have also executed a Magistrates Search Warrant for drugs in the Western area of Newton Aycliffe, a female was arrested and drugs seized. Enquiries are ongoing at this moment in time as drugs analysis has to take place prior to charge. Drug taking and supply causes a lot of harm in the community and we would encourage you to report any concerns to us via 101 or Crimestoppers.

As part of the Western Area TLP (Time Limited Project) which brings partners together to problem solve around youth provision and ASB, we have just been granted planning permission for a Community Garden in Silverdale Place. If you'd like to help with this, please get in touch with Simon Day at Junction 7.

Last month I also had a student from St. Mary's School shadowing me for the day. Sgt. Annabelle did an amazing job in briefing the team, running custody, taking fingerprints, chairing meetings and representing the team at the Cuppa with a Copper at The ARK.

Please follow our Facebook page to see all that we are up to . . . it might be that you can identify our Proclaimer descendant too!! As Jerry Springer used to say "look after yourself and each other!"

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

*Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings
of the Town Council and its Committees*

Wednesday 8th April 2020 - 7.15pm
Environment & Recreation Meetings

NOTE:- Further information on Public Participation and Public Questions can be obtained by visiting the Council's Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

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COMMUNITY SPIRIT
NEWTON AYCLIFFE

**Spring
Craft Fayre**

AT
THE BIG CLUB

WMC - Sheraton Road

Date 14th MARCH 2020 Time 11am - 3pm

Lots of Local Craft Stalls
Refreshments available at the Springtime Cafe
£1.00 Entry with a free tea or coffee!



Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER



13th March 2020

Telephone: 01325 300700 • Email: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

SUMMER EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY



The Town Council has some great events scheduled for the Summer together with local organisations and groups who have been awarded funding to assist with the cost of organising their events.

The following is a list of dates for the Summer events programme, however, there may be others added so check our website for up to date information (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)



FANTAZMAGORIA	Oak Leaf Sports Complex 10am - 4pm	Sunday 15th March	Aliens to Zombies, Star Wars to Steampunk	£2.00 per adult Under 14's - 50p
BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY	Oak Leaf Sports Complex	Sunday 12th April	Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt 9am or 10.30am	£3.50 per child. Adults can join in the fun and have their Breakfast £5.00
VE DAY CELEBRATIONS	Oak Leaf Sports Complex Times to be arranged	Friday 8th May	Children's Party and Adult Quiz - Mayor to Raise a Toast to the Heroes in the Bar at 3 pm	Free
SKATE COMPETITION & DEMONSTRATIONS	Town Park 11am - 4pm	Saturday 23rd May	Skate Board Competitions and Demonstrations	Free
SENIOR CITIZENS EXCURSIONS	Various Destinations	Mon 1st June - Tue 7th July	Coach Trips & Luncheon	Free
LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL	Town Centre 12 noon - 6pm	Sat 13th & Sun 14th June	Organised by Aycliffe Radio	Free
PARTY IN THE PARK - DURHAM BRASS FESTIVAL	Town Park - afternoon in conjunction with DCC	Sunday 12th July	Brass bands and entertainment	Free
FUN IN THE PARKS	Town Park 11am - 3pm	Wednesday 22nd July	For younger families 4-7yrs	Free
FUN IN THE PARKS	Oakleaf Sports Complex 11am - 3pm	Fri 24th July - Animal Theme	For younger families 4-7yrs	Free
FUN IN THE PARKS	Woodham Park 11am - 3pm	Wed 29th July - Adventure Theme	Adventure Park for 8-14yrs	Free
FUN IN THE PARKS	St. Oswald's Park 11am - 3pm	Fri 31st July - Teddy Bears Picnic	For younger families 4-7yrs	Free
FUN IN THE PARKS	Moore Lane Park 11am - 3pm	Wed 5th August - Circus Theme	For younger families 4-7yrs	Free
FUN IN THE PARKS	Horndale Park 11am - 3pm	Fri 7th August - A visit from The Trolls	For younger families 4-7yrs	Free
FUN IN THE PARKS	Aycliffe Village Park 11am - 3pm	Wed 12th August - A visit from Marvel Superheroes	For younger families 4-7yrs	Free
FUN IN THE PARKS	Simpasture Park 11am - 3pm	Friday 14th August	For younger families 4-7yrs	Free

Senior Citizens Excursions



Great Aycliffe Town Council are pleased to announce that their annual 'Trips' will be commencing on Monday 1st June 2020.

To be eligible you **MUST** be a resident of the Electoral Parish **and** 60 years of age before the 1st April in the year of travel.

The application forms and full itineraries will be available from Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre & Library, Council Offices, Oakleaf Sports and Golf Complexes and our website from 9:00 am on **Tuesday 21st April**.

Venues for 2020 will be Scarborough, Berwick, South Shields, Keswick, Blackpool and Northumberland/

Seahouses.

Just choose your venue and date of travel (from the schedule) and we provide a three-course meal with tea or coffee in a good quality establishment. On most of the excursions we also have a comfort stop on the outward and/or return journeys.

Transport is by executive coach with toilet facilities. Some coaches have a wheelchair hoist to enable people with mobility problems to get onto the coach without using the steps at the front, or to enable wheelchair users to remain in their chair whilst travelling.

If you have a query regarding your entitlement to book an excursion, please telephone 01325 300700.



2020/21 Town Council Budget

The Town Council has recently set its Revenue and Capital Budget for the 2020/21 financial year.

Clearly the budget that we set is important to our local community, both in terms of how our spending plans may impact on the provision of services and investment in assets for the benefit of the town, and in terms of the level of Council Tax that we need to raise from local taxpayers in order to fund these plans.

The Council has set a 2020/21 Revenue Budget that protects and maintains all services to current standards next year, whilst putting additional resources in place to support the development of new and improved community events.

The Council is also maintaining some surplus resources within the budget which will allow it to continue to replenish its balances and reserves.

This will help ensure that we can continue to make capital investment in community assets such as our cemeteries, allotments, parks and play areas, for the benefit of the community, in the coming years.

The Council has agreed a 2020/21 Capital Programme Budget of £287,250, with the budget focused on essential investment linked to the delivery of the Council's Asset Management Plan.

Planned investment includes building maintenance works, replacement works machinery including electrical alternatives, information technology server upgrade, play area refurbishment, footpath repairs and Ash Die Back Disease tree removal works and replanting.

In approving the 2020/21 Revenue and Capital Budget, the Council has agreed to raise the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax bill by 2.24% next year.

This would increase the Town Council element of the Council Tax bill by £3.66 per year for the vast majority of local taxpayers i.e. those living in Band A properties.

The Council appreciates that any increase in the monthly outgoings of our local taxpayers will not be popular.

However, we hope taxpayers will agree that a monthly increase of 31p is a small price to pay to ensure that all of the services provided by the Town Council can be protected for another year, and that reserves can continue to be replenished, with the added benefit of further investment in new and improved community events next year.

TOWN COUNCIL SURVEY – YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE

Thank you to all our residents who took part in the Great Aycliffe Town Council 'Your Voice, Your Choice' satisfaction survey. The results of this, the fourth Great Aycliffe wide satisfaction survey for Town Council facilities and services, show an improvement in nearly all areas.

Whilst nationally, overall satisfaction trends are falling, with a 9% drop, from 72% to 63%, the Town Council has shown a 16% increase to 88%. In addition, nationally, only 59% of people feel they are kept informed about local services as compared to 72% within the Great Aycliffe area. These are both great results and reflect the hard work undertaken by the Town Council.

Residents were asked if they felt that the Town Council portion of the Council Tax provides value for money for the services received. 87% of respondents agreed this was value for money which is a very positive result.

80% of respondents were in support of the proposed 2.25% increase in the Town Council Tax for 2020/21 equating to £3.67 per year or 31p per month at Council Tax Band A.

As always it is important to gauge how residents feel about the area overall and although recent reports suggest that residents are concerned about anti-social behaviour and crime, overall 92% of residents still consider Great Aycliffe is a pleasant place to live in.

We asked if the **allotments** were good value for money with 85% of respondents agreeing they were. Comments on this service included. We were asked to have more available/reduce the waiting lists and we have taken action to streamline the process as far as possible within the limits of legislation which we have to follow. We follow a rigorous schedule of inspections and checks on all of our allotment sites.

For our **cemeteries**, the residents who responded rated the cemetery service very highly. Out of the comments received, most of which were how good or well the cemeteries look. A few comments were made regarding the hedge at Stephenson Way and a couple suggested improved maintenance was needed. The hedge has now been replanted.

Results for the **Parks and Play areas**: The Town Park, St. Oswald's Park and Cobblers Hall Play Area received the highest scores for satisfaction, quality and range of equipment.

Residents were generally happy with the parks and plays areas and the level of provision around the town. Several residents commented that more equipment was needed, however due to the size of some play areas, such as School Aycliffe, it does limit the type and size of equipment that can be installed. There were also several comments asking for more trees to be planted and that some of the equipment was old. Litter picking and security issues were also raised. Unfortunately, anti-social behaviour is an issue across the town and our staff will continue to work to keep the parks safe.

There was high overall satisfaction with all **environmental areas**. Woodham Burn was considered the least well maintained and scored lower for value for money (79%).



Comments included: cleaning up the burn and the footpaths generally and along the Great Aycliffe Way need more maintenance as they are getting overgrown, but it was acknowledged that the weather and nature did not help, plus, improve signage and publicity. The Council continuously work to improve the paths in our ownership, however it should be noted that some of the paths in the Burn and the Great Aycliffe Way are not in Town Council ownership. We will discuss issues raised with other land owners.

Overall satisfaction was very high amongst users of the **Oakleaf Sports Complex**. There were 23 comments made regarding the Oakleaf Sports Complex and its facilities and, although there were a few negative comments, the satisfaction overall is still high. The largest number of comments were made regarding the cost of running the service. Other comments included, more advertising needed, a great facility, more classes and activities needed, and a number of people commented on the lack of choice and limited catering range.

There was high overall satisfaction with the **Golf Complex**. Although the costs associated with the golf course are queried by some residents, under the budget questions only 4 people overall thought the quality of service was poor and no respondents thought the facilities were very poor. The golf shop and driving range each had 1 person who thought the services were poor whilst 2 respondents thought the golf course provided a poor quality of service.



The greatest number of comments being received was about the cost of the course, residents having to subsidise the facility. It is clear that those who use the golf course and driving range, value the service, with a number of positive comments received regarding how good the course was and how it was improving. The shop also received some very positive comments although there were a few comments regarding the lack of choice.

We asked if the **football pitches** at School Aycliffe, Moore Lane and Simpasture were well maintained, good value for money and to rate them as a facility. Only 1 resident thought the facilities were very poor and that was at Moore Lane. The following being the main areas of concern: poor drainage, better maintenance needed, dog fouling and cost / increase fees.

Residents were asked if they were aware of the **Pre-School** service. 61% of respondents were aware of this service, with 89% of respondents agreeing it was value for money. There were a number of comments regarding the suitability of the Town Council providing a service that comes under the remit of Durham County Council, there should be no cost to the council for this service, parents should pay it all and increase provision. It should be noted that although primary and secondary schools are under the remit of the County Council, pre-school provision may be offered by any suitable organisation.

Satisfaction is generally very high for **Town Council events**, residents would like to see them continue and they are considered value for money.

There were several comments regarding suggested improvements for events.

In general it was felt that the events are well organised and good value for money.

It was felt that advertising of events could be wider and the Council is committed to increased use of social media for this purpose. It was felt that the age range should be expanded to provide more events for teenagers. The Council is exploring this and last year's Sk8 event will be continued this year. Christmas lights are provided on the main routes through the town, along with the Christmas trees at St Clare's and the A167 junction. The Town Council does not provide Christmas lights within the Town Centre as it is privately owned. It was asked why does Durham County Council does not pay for the Christmas display as it does in other areas.

Some commented that Santa letters are done everywhere now and we will investigate whether it is still appropriate to provide this service. The Santa Tours are now part of most people's Christmas Eve and we would like to acknowledge the assistance and support received from local businesses and volunteers. Santa tours continue to be very popular and well received by most residents.

Comments on the fireworks display included using illuminations or projected fireworks rather than the display. Comments received from the survey indicate those who attend the display feel organised events are very important and enjoyable, however, comments were received regarding the stress on animals and some of the more vulnerable residents. Bands for the firework display should be posted out to all the residents in Aycliffe. This would not be cost effective. Other residents, however, thought that the fireworks should be discontinued as they are a waste of money.

Our Senior Citizens' Excursions had a few suggestions, including a dog friendly trip to the coast, a price of £5 per head should be made on all trips to keep budget down, try some different places, a 1/2 day for those that cannot sit on a bus to long. Why do senior citizens get free trips and meals out? Numbers on bus have been made up by younger people being allocated spare places. To answer some of these comments – we do offer a half-day excursion, we provide a number of different venues and we ask the passengers on each excursion for ideas for next year's day trips. All travellers must be over 60 and residents of Great Aycliffe, unless they are a registered carer accompanying a passenger who needs their assistance.

Suggested improvements for the Fun in the Parks events included: at least 2 events for 9 - 15-year olds. Limit them to 2 or 3 and make them different each year. More activities for older children at Fun in the Parks and to bring back Great Aycliffe Show instead of the Fun in the Parks. Fun in the Parks is specifically aimed at younger children and are themed each year, with changing themes as far as possible. New events aimed at a higher age group are being explored and we will continue with the cyclo-cross and wheeled sports events, which are aimed at different age groups.

The Town Council has an Events Sub-Committee which considers outside events. We asked residents what **new events and activities they would like the Town Council to provide**. We will explore what can be provided by the Town Council, within budgets and feasibility.

Suggestions included, the return of the Aycliffe Show as it used to be, or similar. Incorporate a food festival. A carnival similar to those provided in the 1970s, a Christmas market or market in general, recycling events, more fun in the park events in the summer. Greater community engagement. A family fun walking day or days promoted in schools. Cycling events. Family mini marathon run days, promoting health and wellbeing.

Music events for teenagers, nature classes for children around wildlife parks etc and some guided nature walks. Keep the SK8 event, two-day beer, food and music event, by-the-sea to town park weekend. More for OAPs and things for the teens. Things for the teens – 14-18 an older version of fun in the park that's not all fair rides that cost silly money. Do the adventure fun in the park again. Scrap the fireworks and organise a summer concert, organised by GATC not a third party, an outdoor film event and a music festival.

Christmas events and lunch parties for the elderly, a town sports day to raise money for local charity, weekly activities well-advertised with transport provided to bring lonely people together. A winter wonderland, synthetic ice rink event. A Christmas lights switch on, more for toddlers/babies. Pick a charitable cause each year that would benefit our area that isn't covered in the budget or is underfunded, domestic abuse, homelessness, alcohol addiction and run events to help improve these areas of our community. Utilise an empty town centre shop and or pop up shop to advertise council services.

Residents were also given the opportunity to add any further comments or make the Council aware of any issues with 13 comments being received. Some of these are not within the Town Council's remit but are listed below. Where these are not our responsibility we will pass them on to the relevant agency or organisation for their consideration.

- I feel the council should engage more openly and clearly with the residents and other external stakeholders like, Aycliffe business park community ltd (ABPC) and the owners of the Town Centre as well as the GARA (Great Aycliffe Residents Association).
- Now that the 2nd tier authority has gone (SDC) GATC should have planning powers devolved from DCC which would reflect what the town would have had if the loggn (sic) for new town had taken over from ADC.

- Town Councils and other elected bodies on the whole do a good job under difficult circumstances. A lot of people will only contact council to complain. I will contact to complain or praise when necessary.
- More bench seating in open areas for elderly. Paths and walkways maintained. Stop vehicles parking on grass verges, across paths, blocking access for mobility scooters, prams and pushchairs. More speed traps in Woodham area. Maintain bridleways and nature walks. Think of the elderly who want to get out and about.
- Anti-social behaviour seems to be rising.
- I think as a Town Council we should have a representative on Police & Fire Brigade Panels as one of the biggest towns in County Durham, we have in my what crimes are being committed because then you phone you have to wait 24 hours to get someone to come out from Bishop or Darlington to take statements.
- I live on the Chestnuts in School Aycliffe and although I come under the Darlington Council I do use some of your facilities and rate them highly.
- Carry on doing what you're doing, you'll never please everyone - I myself am happy.
- Would like to see the park patrol wardens walking around the parks more often, especially around West Park also more signage about not feeding ducks and geese bread.
- I was very disappointed when DCC took lamp posts out from Woodham Golf Club to Woodham roundabout. It is very dark along there now, quite scary with woods at either side. I wouldn't want to stand and wait for a bus near the roundabout why can't GATC take responsibility for lighting around their own town. We feel so cut off now :-((I know, it'll be costly).
- More police.
- The council staff are amazing!!! Working behind the scenes and still doing a fabulous job.
- Parking around streets is terrible and getting worse, I appreciate that it is a county council matter but the town council should be pushing to get more parking

Great Aycliffe Town Council would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the satisfaction survey.

If you would like to become involved in Town Council matters please contact Chrissy Walton, Corporate & Policy Officer on 01325 300700.



SK8 Fest

23rd May 2020, 11.00am – 4.00pm

Professionals will be travelling from across the UK to perform in the Town Park, Newton Aycliffe.

There will be international BMX riders, scooter riders and skateboarders demonstrating their skills in the skate park.

Other FREE attractions to test your skills include Battle Bunker, Inflatable Assault Course and an Unclimbable Ladder.





Event organised by GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL
01325 300700 www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk





Sports Complex

Tel: 01325 300600 www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY LUNCH

Sunday 22nd March

12noon & 2pm

Payment Required on Booking

THE FIRST 20 Mothers

who order Sunday Lunch

will receive a

free bunch of

flowers



Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Sunday 12th April

Have your Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

then take part in the Easter Egg Hunt

Choose from either 9am breakfast

or 10.30am breakfast

Only £3.50 per child

Adults may purchase breakfast for £5.00



FANTAZMAGORIA

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH

Aliens to Zombies - Star Wars to Steampunk

10.00 Until 16.00

Facebook @ 'Fantazmagoria 2020'

£2.00 per Adult - Under 14's only 50p

Table Top Games - Model Kit Displays

Demonstrations - Traders

FREE Parking - On Site Bar

Organised by the Film & TV

Model Club

ah.ftvmc@gmail.com



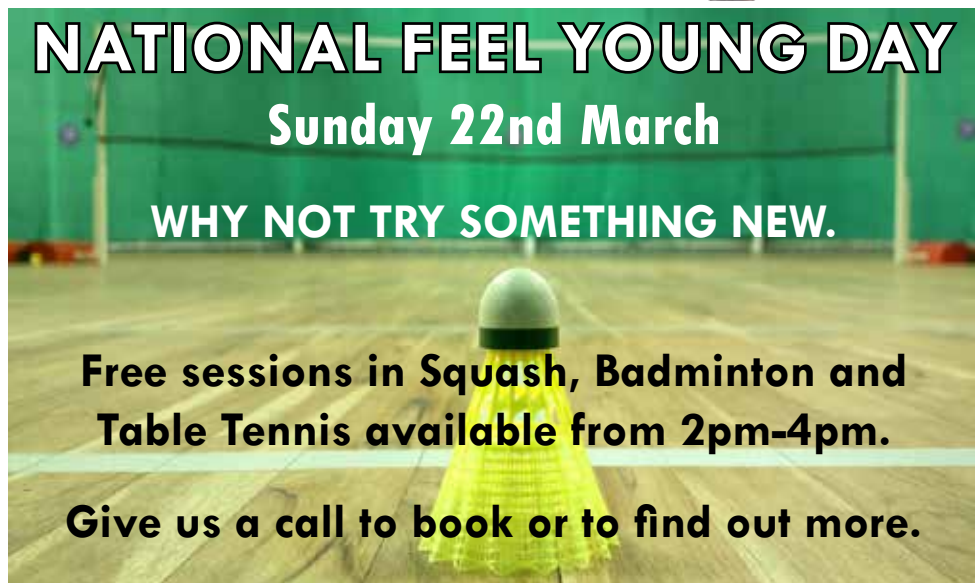
NATIONAL FEEL YOUNG DAY

Sunday 22nd March

WHY NOT TRY SOMETHING NEW.

Free sessions in Squash, Badminton and
Table Tennis available from 2pm-4pm.

Give us a call to book or to find out more.



Driving Range Prices

Small £2.50

Large £4.50



Green Fees	Weekday	Weekday	Weekends	Weekends
	Peak	Off peak	Peak	Off Peak
Adult	£14.00	£11.00	£17.00	£12.00
Concession	£12.00	£8.50	£15.00	£10.00

Peak times are from 7:30AM – 12PM weekdays and from
7AM – 1PM weekends

2020/21 GOLF MEMBERSHIPS UNLIMITED GOLF UNTIL 31ST MARCH 2021

Membership fee includes Golf Club & DCGU fees

Adult 7 Day	£395	19 - 25	£250
Adult 5 Day	£350	Junior 15 - 18	£50
Over 60 – 7 Day	£350	Junior (up to 14)	FREE
Over 60 – 5 Day	£300		

Proud hosts of the 2019 Durham County
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warm welcome to ensure the
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by all who played"*

Jonathan Ward – Durham County
Golf Union Secretary



For more information contact us on 01325 310820 or visit www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

18 – hole course, floodlit driving range, buggy hire, changing facilities & shop. Coaching from PGA Pro Ralph Givens. Bar & catering available at Oakleaf Sports Complex. Visiting party package available.

Community Hubs Development Project

Durham Community Action is recognised as the leading infrastructure organisation for County Durham: providing advice, support and assistance to frontline groups operating in the Voluntary and Community Sector. We have been awarded a National Lottery Community Fund grant to work alongside organisations to deliver a Community Hubs Development Programme across the county. The aim of the project is to build resilience in communities through provision of well run and well led community spaces by:

- Ensuring trusted support is available for volunteers who carry responsibilities for managing these spaces;
- Building a sustainable legacy of community venues and spaces for County Durham which reflects the geographical diversity and communities of the county;
- Contributing to a strengthened infrastructure of thriving social and community opportunities and assets.

A Community Hub will:

- Develop new ideas to address and resolve local issues within the community;
- Enable communities to support their own needs;
- Combat social isolation and loneliness;
- Provide access to advice and other support services;
- Build local support networks within the community.

Our Offer:

- A designated Development Officer to provide bespoke advice, information and guidance;
- Help to undertake an organisational health check in both governance and finance;
- Support to develop sustainable plans;
- Opportunity to work towards quality marks;
- Tailored training and development sessions for your trustees, staff and volunteers;
- Small grants available



(subject to specific partnership criteria, terms and conditions). If you would like to find out more please contact us on 01388 742040 or email info@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk

A GOOD SERVICE

Dear Sir,
Recently I had cause to be very annoyed and upset with a certain local Milkman who did not refund money owed to me when I had to stop my milk delivery. I had an account and paid in advance. I am not going into details. Suffice to say that if business is so bad that he needs to keep money owed to a senior citizen, then good luck to him!!

So I was feeling fed up with business people, especially as finding a decorator who quoted a reasonable price for two days work was becoming problematic.

Then I found Christian Kay and Melanie Greenup. What stars they proved to be. Not only did they decorate my lounge and brighten up the ceiling and paintwork in my kitchen, to a very high standard, but they also helped with a large household job which was proving an issue.

So, though I will not be recommending the local Milkman, I can wholeheartedly say that if you need a decorating job doing, and doing well, then contact this team. They arrive early and work non-stop. I shall certainly be asking them to tackle my decorating from now on.

Name & address supplied

FANCY A CHUFFIN GOOD EXCURSION WITH THE KIDS?



Then come along to the 11th Annual Model Railway Exhibition organised by Rotary Newton Aycliffe at the Youth and Community Centre, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4HT (Tesco) on Saturday 21st March 2020 from 10am to 5pm.

This year's event will be better than ever with 23 working layouts booked for the event ranging from "Z" to "O" scales (very small to very large) representing locations from the UK and Europe. Of special interest will be a self-drive Thomas and Friends layout from Shildon Model Railway Club. Several of the layouts will feature digital operation including sound.

Traders will be well represented with 10 stands selling new and pre-owned model railway items along with die-cast models, scenery, photographs and books. Four full size preservation societies will be lending their support while other enthusiasts will be manning a tombola stall and serving refreshments. Free parking is available at St Mary's RC Church just yards from the event. There is disability access, refreshments and a family tombola.

This is a real community event including sponsorship from Durham County Council, Great Aycliffe

Town Council and Barclays Bank plc. Assistance from Shildon Model Railway Club, the Army Reserve, St Mary's Church, and some 35 Rotarians is much appreciated. Proceeds from the exhibition will be shared between Heel and Toe and The Railway Children. Entry costs £5 for adults, £4 for concessions and 50p for children. There are family tickets available at £10. Further information is available from Rtn John Burrows on 07870 210269 or email jandeburrows@gmail.com

Landslide Woodham Win for Michael



Dear Residents,

I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who voted in the Woodham By-election last week. Being elected to the town council is both an honour and a responsibility. I will continue to work on local issues and look forward to speaking to many more people across the area.

Most critically our eyes must now turn to the County Council and the expected election in May for the North Aycliffe & Middridge Division.

If we are to truly improve our area and get fair council tax, we must make sure we have County Councillors standing up and leading on this issue.

This is why I will stand for the County Council next, and continue to fight for the whole area and indeed the whole of Newton Aycliffe to get fair council tax.

If you agree with me please get in touch with me now.

Thank you.

Michael Stead
michaelstead.aycliffe@gmail.com
Telephone: 01325 313380

SEDGEFIELD 75 QUICK OFF THE BLOCKS



Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club took part in Richmond Dales Swimming Club's "Off the Blocks" competition held at Billingham Forum pool last weekend.

10 young swimmers competed in a combined total of 47 individual swims and two team events. Charlie McEwan won golds in both 200 freestyle and 50 butterfly. Charlotte Lee swam in four events setting a personal best in 100m freestyle.

Chloe Harding set three new PB times out of the six races she entered and won silver in 100m individual medley, and bronze in 50m freestyle, backstroke and butterfly events.

Kathryn Lee took an incredible six seconds from her 100m individual medley PB winning bronze in the process. She also won silvers in 50m backstroke, 100m backstroke and 100m freestyle.

Oliver Turnbull also hit a big PB in 100m individual medley and made improvements at 100m freestyle and breaststroke in his six events.

Tom Curran set five new PBs out of seven and took gold in 50m backstroke and freestyle, silver in 100m & 200m freestyle and 100m individual medley and a bronze at 50m butterfly.

Zoe Hodgson had another good competition, winning bronze in 100m individual medley and 50m freestyle also setting five PBs including over five seconds in her 200m freestyle.

Ellis Dickinson continued his excellent rate of improvement taking

over five seconds off his 100m freestyle PB set only one month ago and getting another PB in 50m backstroke.

Lucy Mason took medals in three out of three events, golds in 50m and 100m freestyle and bronze in 50m breaststroke.

Dylan Forster also had a 100% medal return winning silver in 50m freestyle and 100m backstroke.

The excitement of the gala continued as the girls teamed up in the 200m freestyle and medley relay events finishing fourth in both.

An excellent weekend of swimming proving all the hard work in training pays off when racing. Very well done to all the swimmers and poolside parents, especially Owen getting his feet wet for the first time as a helper.

Another well-run gala from Richmond Dale Swimming Club.

www.sedgefield75.com

Situations VACANT

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If you are interested in applying for a role, please send your CV through to sophie@beaumontgm.co.uk
Beaumont House, Groat Drive,
Aycliffe Business Park, DL5 6HY

New Pathways Together

The ARK, Silverdale Place Men Talking Together meeting every Wednesday from 10.00am until 12.30pm. This group welcomes men who may not like meeting in a larger place or may be recovering from an illness but would like to leave their homes and meet people, talk about their problems and be pointed in the right direction, also men with possible mental health problems are welcome.

Ring 01325 308094 or 07967 901477 for further information.

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Friday: 8am - 7pm
Saturday: 8am - 4pm

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Aycliffe Business Park
Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DS
Mobile: 07738 066 723



READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Pam Lovelass sent in this photo of newly born lambs after a visit to Mainsgill Farm. Send your photos to paul@newtonnews.co.uk



A fundraising event in aid of "Supporting Families" will be held at the Woodham Community Centre on Saturday 11th April from 10am to 12noon. There will be stalls, raffle, bring and buy as well as tea and coffee served. "Supporting Families" is a project which helps families in need or on a low income to provide items they need for their children and is based in Newton Aycliffe. If you need help or can donate some items, such as baby baths, Moses baskets and stands, cots, safety gates, toys, clothes for all ages, shoes, travel systems, buggies or car seats, please contact Sheena, Liz or Yvonne on 07725 369915.

CHAIRING CLIMATE ACTION



Earlier this week, local councillor, John D. Clare,

Durham County Council's Climate Change Champion, attended the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) 'Big Energy Summit' in Warwick. DCC Climate Change Officers delivered a workshop on 'Communicating the message', and Cllr. Clare chaired the Wednesday morning session of

the conference on Infrastructure. Cllr. Clare commented: "It was a very useful conference. DCC was able to show off its successes, and we heard what other councils are doing about Climate Change. We came home with lots of good ideas ... and lots of jobs to do!"

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FLOWER DEMO

Area demonstrator, Marie Bradley from Selston in Nottinghamshire, presents an evening of flower arranging under the seasonal title 'Waiting for Another Spring' at Shildon Civic Hall on Monday, 6th April at 7.30pm. Free to members, visitors £5.00. There will be a selection of stalls to peruse and the bar will be open. All arrangements will be raffled for club funds at the end of the evening.

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AYCLIFFE RUNNING CLUB NEWS

Finally, after many weeks of bad weather, the conditions had improved and this made for a good weekend of racing which also saw many of our female members taking part in events for International Women's Day.

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We had many attending parkruns and even saw several achieving PB's. At Sedgefield the following members achieved PB's for that course, Richard McFarlane in 28.02, David Thompson in 29.03, Nici Ingma in 30.52 and Sandra Rudd in 31.18. We also had a group

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participate in a bit of Parkrun tourism down at Catterick where the course is run on paths around the racecourse. Two members achieved PBs on that course as they had done it before, Peter Milburn in 20.16 and Sue Milburn in 23.50 (1st o60). We also had the following members complete this course in good times, John Richardson 25.20, David Stothard in 25.45, Pat Edwards in 28.31, Ian Baronowski in 28.43, Penny Johnson in 33.26 and Sam Baronowski in 33.48.

Down in Todmorden nr Burnley, two members took the opportunity to revisit that parkrun whilst visiting friends. They had done this before and they both achieved PBs. Tracey Pickering in 30.43 followed by Cliff Pickering in 33.07.

On Sunday we had members taking part in several races. First up at Hart, nr Hartlepool, four members took part in the Run Fit 5k trail race. This actually turns out to be 6k and a challenging route. first home for ARC was David Stothard in 34.27, followed by Ian Stothard in 41.44, Hannah Richardson in 42.05 and Eve Doe in 45.25. In Durham, Richard Holland

took part in his first marathon in the Saturn Running - To Infinity and Beyond Race. This is a race that takes place in Durham, near the river and uses a 3 mile route and runners complete varying distances as they wish in a time limit of 7 hours. Richard chose this to complete a marathon distance which he did in 4 hours 34.45 off very little training.

Finally, a bit further down in North Yorkshire nr Leyburn, Carley Gibson took part in the Race the Train race organised by Moors and Dales (MAD) trails. There were two options of 14 miles and 5.5 miles and Carley chose to do the 5.5 mile race which she completed in 1.26.50.

For anyone interested in joining the club, you can simply turn up at one of our sessions all of which start from the Oakleaf Complex in Newton Aycliffe. Monday night is beginners run at 6.30p.m., Tuesday is endurance/speed session from 7.00p.m., and Thursday is a track session and this takes place at Shildon Track. Further details can be found on our website or facebook pages or alternatively you can message the club via facebook for more information.



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Two Young Teams
Travelled to Manchester

Sedgefield recently sent two
teams to the Manchester
Winter Festival where we
played against many teams
of varying abilities from
across the country.
Everyone had a lot of
pool time and gained
valuable match experience.
Although we did not come
away with any medals this

time, everyone had a lot of
fun and thoroughly enjoyed
the day – particularly some
of the younger members
who were taking part in
their first tournament.
Thanks go to coaches
Kate and Steve, who were
helped by Ben – and also to
the parents for making the
trip to Manchester despite
the treacherous weather
conditions.
Further details can be seen
on the clubs website and
Facebook page. Anyone
who would like to try this
fun and exciting sport is

invited to attend a free trial
at Newton Aycliffe Leisure
Centre on Saturday
afternoons at 4pm. There
is no need to book a place,
but if possible please
contact 07579 030598
or email sedgefieldwp@
hotmail.com so we can let
the coaches know to expect
you.
The club is based between
Newton Aycliffe and
Spennymoor Leisure
Centres with a range of
members aged from 8
years to adult. Both boys
and girls are welcome.

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original UMM site.
There is plenty of car parking
space, if you would like
picking up for your first visit
ring 07967 901477 or 308094.
We visited Seaton Carew for
fish and chips this week and
are going to Preston Park next
week - places of your choice,
over the next few months
using The Community Mini
Bus. As one of our members
said "If you are at a loose end
with nothing to do, come and
join us".
We serve pies, sausage rolls,
cakes and tea/coffee all free.
People from areas outside of
Newton Aycliffe are also very
welcome. Ring 07967 901477
or 308094 for more details.

Addressing the Issues

Dear Sir,
In reply to Cllr Chandran's
letter, 'Facts do not cease
to exist because you ignore
them'. I could not agree more
because Cllr Chandran has at
last got something right.
In his article, Cllr Chandran
totally ignores events prior
to when I became Leader
of the Council in 1991. Cllr
Chandran appears to have
selective memory loss from
his time as a councillor from
1983 to 1991, when not only
was he a councillor but for
four years Deputy Leader of
the Council.
On becoming Leader in 1991,
I was faced with Council debts
of £632,500, with varying
high interest rates of between
9.6% and 14.1% and annual
repayments of £41,506.
At least £266,500 of loans
were taken out during his
time as a councillor prior to
1991. Cllr Chandran is correct
that during his Chairmanship
of the Policy and Resources
Committee from 1994 to
October 1995, he did not take
out a loan at 17.5%. On the
2 June 1995, he did however
take out a loan of £125,000 at
8.12%.

At the time of writing, the
Council has now paid off most
of the loans and have a loan
debt of £112,429 and annual
payments of £7,193. During
my period of leadership, we
have therefore reduced loan
debt of £520,000 and annual
annuity of £34,313.

Some of the points from Cllr
Chandran's letter:

1. He states he resigned in
October 1995, when he left
the parish for a short time.
What he omits to say was
that he did not become an
elected member again until
May 2013, an absence of
17 years. He points out
that he has copies of the
Council's agendas (these are
available to any member of
the public who has the time
and inclination to obtain
them). All that the minutes
record are the decisions
made at Council meetings. It
gives no information on the
background material or the
debates that took place.
2. Councillor Chandran refers
to the fact that he proposed
me for Honorary Freeman of the
Parish. The decision to make

me Freeman was a unanimous
decision of the Council.
3. As for being friends, I try
to treat all in a friendly and
polite manner and I do have a
number of close friends. Arun
could never be a close friend.
A true friend does not make
covert tape recordings of your
conversations and you cannot
trust their ulterior motives,
now or in the future.

4. Arun is already on the
campaign trail for the
elections in May 2021. He is
already accusing the Labour
Party of dirty tactics but you
have only to look at the way
he attacks Cllr Blenkinsopp,
another Independent member,
in his letter to see the kind
of dirty tactics he is already
taking.

He is going to drain the
swamp next year. Good luck
to him, he may drag up more
than he wants to – not many
of us have haloes and wings.
I will not be replying to
any letters for the coming
weeks as I will have more
than enough problems to
address due to the probable
Coronavirus epidemic, but I
hope, God willing, to be able
to address other issues in due
course.

Cllr Bob Fleming
*Chairman of Policy
and Resources*
Leader of the Council

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Found Teddy

Dear Sir,
I found this little Beanie toy
whilst walking my dog in
the Cobblers Hall area.
It's now been washed and
I'd like to reunite it with its
owner, if they'd like it back.
Please contact Joanne on
07796 908126.



"ALL SORTS" Charity Shop
next to St. Clare's Church Hall
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Sudoku (Medium, difficulty rating 0.51)

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

MAKING A BUZZ AT PCP!



Shildon's Busy Bees made a flying visit to Health and Wellbeing charity Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) to gift two donations. The diligent ladies, who regularly raise

money for local causes, brought two cheques totalling £500. £300 was for PCP's 'Dive In' appeal, which is raising money to refurbish PCP's Hydrotherapy Pool. The

Pool has been in operation now for over 20 years and is a lifeline for many people providing therapeutic benefits including reducing muscle and nerve problems; improving sleep disorders; and reducing stress.

A further cheque of £200 was for Options, a day service that supports adults with learning and physical disabilities, providing 68 day places. The service helps members to develop everyday skills, confidence and independence.

Carol Gaskarth, PCP's Chief Executive, said: "We are extremely grateful to the numerous local champions like Busy Bees that continue to support our Charity through donations and volunteering. Their generosity enables us to deliver a range of activities to support Health, Wellbeing and Learning for All to our local communities. If you would like to support PCP please contact us at the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net."

Women's Group Reveals New Banner



Dear Sir,
Last Sunday was International Women's Day and the County Durham Women's Banner Group celebrated by holding a special event to reveal their new Silk Banner to add to the many historical silk banners displayed at the annual Miners Gala. The creative design features one of Aycliffe's very own Aycliffe Angels.

As women from all around the county stood up and shared their memories and experiences in the form of stories, poems, and songs about their struggle for gender equality and against injustice, it became apparent that the fighting spirit of Durham's women is still alive and as relevant today as it was during the days of suffrage, the Aycliffe Angels

and the 80's miners' strike. Today's generation of Durham women are continuing to 'carry the banner' to celebrate the contribution women have made in our society and for their ongoing fight for gender equality, rights which were acknowledged to have been moving backwards over the last decade. As one speaker pointed out "When women win, we all win." Aycliffe can be proud that, although our town is not built around a history of mining, like the villages and towns in our area, we will now be represented on a banner at the 'Big Meeting' thanks to the work of these strong, vocal and inspirational women. Kathy Beetham.

Photo by Wendy Hillary

Durham Constabulary is dedicated to making your neighbourhood safer. If you have any issues affecting your quality of life and want to discuss it with your Neighbourhood Policing Team, then get involved in your local PACT meeting.

Next Meeting:
Wednesday 25th March
from 6-7pm
Middridge Village Hall

The meeting will start at 6.00pm and will be attended by a representative from your Neighbourhood Policing Team. They will be specific to your area and individual neighbourhood priorities will be discussed. All members of the community are welcome. You can talk to us privately afterwards if you wish.

Obituary

Derrick Cole



28th February 2020
Aged 81 years

Passed away peacefully at Defoe Court Nursing Home, Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Husband of the late Lorraine; devoted Dad of Linda, Lee, Tony and Vikki; loving Father-in-Law of Andrew, Joanne, Susan and Glen; special Granda of Nycola, Hollie, Ryan, Connor, Jack, Charlotte, Gary and Ted; precious Great Granda of Emily and Abigail; amazing Big Brother of Brenda and Sheila.

Derrick was well known as the owner of local business E.C. Cabinets Ltd., a small family run business that he, and Lorraine, set up in 1994. He will be sadly missed by family, friends, colleagues and customers. Funeral to be held on Thursday 19th March 2020. Would family and friends please meet at 10.30am for a Service in Wear Valley Crematorium. No flowers please, there will be a plate for donations to the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

Mary Abbott

Newton Aycliffe
Peacefully at home on 6th March, aged 89 years. Dearly beloved Wife of the late David; a much loved Mam, Mother-in-Law, Nana and Great Nana. Will family and friends please meet for a Funeral Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 20th March at 10.30am.

Dennis William Burkitt



7th March 2020
Passed away peacefully on 7th March after a short illness. Loving Husband of Kath; loving Father to Susan and Kevin; loving Grandfather. He will be sadly missed. Funeral to take place on Monday 23rd March at 1.30pm at Wear Valley Crematorium.

EXPLORE CREATIVE POSSIBILITIES AT GREENFIELD ARTS

Greenfield Arts are celebrating their 20th birthday and are excited to announce their new summer programme brimming with opportunities and possibilities. The summer activities include projects, specialist courses, exhibitions and activities for adults and young people that encourage and support creativity.

We are delighted to welcome artist in residence Bethan Maddocks who will be holding creative community drop-in sessions and holding inspiring interventions with students and our Cree group which will culminate in a new exhibition inspired by her residency.

There are a host of opportunities for young people to get involved in with free 'Can Create' craft sessions, our regular art club and summer holiday activities and exhibitions. Students from Greenfield Community College will be demonstrating a wealth of creativity in their own exhibition, showcasing painting, photography and design.

Would you like to develop your skills and challenge yourself? The specialist programme offers the chance to explore painting, cyanotype, sketchbook skills and welcomes inspirational tutor David Taylor in our brand-new creative thinking, come along and explore new ways of seeing and learn more about the techniques and skills involved in our new programme.

Express yourself with our popular favourites such as Spanish and Yoga, or be part of a creative forum with a self-led community group supported by artist Sharron Bates.

These are just a few of the many opportunities available in an exciting summer programme that celebrates Greenfield Arts, challenge perceptions and embraces possibility. Greenfield Arts are committed to providing quality arts opportunities and have bespoke spaces, at their Arts Centre facility in Newton Aycliffe, to offer to creatives and community groups.

To find out more information and to reserve your place online for courses and

activities just check out the website, www.greenfield-arts.co.uk or email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or you can contact our friendly team on 01325 379048 for further information.

In Memoriam

Frances Woodhead

19th March
For My Wife

Thank you for the endless love that will help me through each day. And thank you for the memories.
All my love, Peter xxx

Frances Woodhead

19th March

The world changes from year to year. Our lives from day to day. The love and memories of you Mum, shall never pass away.
Lots of Love, Gary xxxx

Frances Woodhead

19th March
Mum

You left us beautiful memories. Your love is still our guide, although we cannot see you. You are always by our side.
Lots of love
Mandy and John xxx

Mary Hind

15th March 2009

Always in our hearts. Never forgotten.
All our love,
Janet, Tony & David xxx

Carol Reed

13th March 2015

You rest in the arms of angels, in a place of peace and love. Watching over us always, from heaven up above.

You guide us through our worries, and help us through each day. Always by our sides, you never went away.

The bond cannot be broken, made from love so pure. Death does not break the bond, it lives on forever more.

You rest in the arms of angels, free from illness and pain. Waiting for the day, we are together once more.

Sadly missed,
Roy, Steven, Lara and families xxxx

Birthday Remembrance

George Richards

16th March 1930

Special memories, today would have been your 90th birthday. Miss you and love you still.
Lily

Happy 90th Birthday Dad

Hope you party like you loved to here. Miss you. Elizabeth, Keith and all your loving family.

Frank Swinburne
18th March

Time goes so fast, it's been seven years now since we had to say goodbye for now.

There is never a day goes by without us all thinking about you, you are always in our heart and thoughts.

We all love and miss you every single day.

Your forever loving Wife, Pauline, Diane, Frank, Kevin, Hannah, Luke and Amy.

Acknowledgement

Bernard Clarke

The family of the late Bernard Clarke wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and their neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement, also for the cards and donations to Parkinsons UK.

Thanks to the staff of St. Clare's Court Nursing Home, Father Anthony for a comforting Service and Kevan at Gibson's Funeral Services.

Tracey Hughes

(nee Leadbitter)

Martyn, Eddie, Mary and Daughters would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral of Tracey.

We would like to thank friends and neighbours for all the cards and kind words about Tracey.

Thank you to Bryan Shepherd, Funeral Director and a special thank you to all the Doctors and Nurses who looked after Tracey so well.

The collection at the Crematorium came to a massive £506 which will be divided between Macmillan Cancer Support and Alzheimers.

RUGBY UPDATE

Newton Aycliffe 1st XV welcomed Seghill at Moore Lane after a three week layoff due to the frequent adverse weather. The conditions were perfect last Saturday for rugby. The decent crowd of Aycliffe fans turned up in anticipation of another victory in order to sustain the fifth place in the Northumberland Durham League division 3. Aycliffe had sustained a heavy defeat when they played at Seghill earlier in the season. It was time to see how much the home side had improved. The one thing that hampered Aycliffe's team selection was the 6 Nations match between England and Wales. The fixture at Twickenham had enticed some key players so it was great that old boys, like prop Mark Affleck and Nr 8 Warren Parsonage and centre/coach Chris Richards, step in to help. There was also a couple of new Durham Tigers players who got their chance to switch codes for the time being. This was good to see as the relationship between The Durham Tigers and Aycliffe rugby has got stronger over recent years. Added to this Seghill had what looked like a youthful back line and a well drilled pack. This was evident from the kick off when Seghill scored the first points of the match, a converted try 0-5 (5 mins). Aycliffe settled down from this and centre James Thacker took possession from some good handling and stormed over to score, the conversion was missed. 5-7 (12 mins). There was a period of strong defence from Aycliffe as Seghill were happy to push hard into the 22m area, however the pressure paid off when the visitors went over to score another converted try. 5-14 (22 mins). Seghill had their tails up and kept up the attacking intensity. Despite some excellent tackling from both the forwards and back line Seghill went

over for their third try, this time the conversion was unsuccessful due to the swirling wind. 5-19 (35 mins). Aycliffe defended the last five minutes, so the halftime score remained the same. Aycliffe suffered more heartache when Parsonage was yellow carded and they also lost the captain, second row Luke Harty, through injury. Aycliffe were not playing to their true potential but every player in this match put in a good shift. Seghill resumed their attacking prowess and went on to score points from a penalty try which awards them the full seven points with no need for a conversion. 5-26 (50 mins). Ten minutes later the constant attacking moves were too much for the home side when they succumbed to yet another try 5-31 (60 mins). The Aycliffe fans still got behind the team despite the scoreline and from a successful counter-attack by Aycliffe, full back Tom Prior scored a try following some slick passing amongst the backs. 10-31 (70 mins). Undeterred Seghill still managed to score their final try to dampen the enthusiasm of the hardy Aycliffe fans. 10-36 (78 mins). Aycliffe still had time for one final push and the forwards secured a good ball and with a deft pass from second row Jeff Hodgson, centre Adam Gascoigne collected handsomely to score the final points of the match. 15-36 (80 mins). A defeat for Aycliffe but an improvement all the same from the previous score line of 63-12. Aycliffe wish to thank sponsor Bengal Lounge for their continued support. Aycliffe's next fixture is hopefully this Saturday at home to Wallsend, kick off 3pm. This is a rearranged fixture therefore confirmation will be made on the club Facebook page.

N.A.F.C. REPORT

Report by Joe Ramage

Newton Aycliffe returned to winning ways on Saturday with a hard-fought win over Penrith at the Frenchfield Stadium.

The visitors had to withstand some early pressure before securing an impressive 4-1 on the road to bounce back from the mid-week disappointment against Hebburn Town. Jake Petitjean broke the deadlock with a smart freekick on the half hour mark before a brace from Liam Jarvie, including one from the penalty spot, put the game beyond the reach of the hosts following Stu Johnson's reply.

There was still time for Marc Costello to add the finishing touches five minutes from time for Colin Stromsøy's side who consolidated their spot in fifth place in the Ebac Northern League Division One table.

There was some positive news for Stromsøy who was able to welcome Adam Burnicle back into his starting 11 after overcoming a late fitness test. Burnicle was one of three changes to the side who lost at home on Tuesday night with Johnson Ballan's recent substitute appearances earning himself a start in place of Ethan Wood and Kevin Carr filling in for Alex Barnes. But it was the Bonny Blues who made the brighter start as they looked to capitalise on any low confidence in Aycliffe following Tuesday's reverse. Adam Pickford was called into action inside the opening three minutes when Shaun Gardner broke clear of Connor Phelan as he diverted the ball wide for a corner.

Grant Davison got on the end of a cross from the right but his header wasn't troubling Pickford in goal. Phelan found himself on the end of a strong challenge from Mally Holliday who was booked as the home side continued to press forward.

As the wind and the rain began whipping in from the nearby River Eden, Aycliffe grabbed a foothold in the game with Jarvie and Ballan seeing plenty of possession. And it was through Ballan where Aycliffe took the initiative after a clever run saw him fouled on the edge of the penalty area.

After some deliberation it was Petitjean who stepped up and curled expertly around the Penrith wall into the corner of Luke Miller's net.

Petitjean nearly doubled Aycliffe's advantage just 60 seconds later after Burnicle sent him racing clear but Miller's outstretched leg was enough to deny the midfielder.

In the 35th minute the game turned on its head as Aycliffe extended their lead from the penalty spot after Penrith felt they should have had a penalty of their own seconds early following a coming together between



Penrith 1-4 Newton Aycliffe

Aaron Brown and Max Brown.

Instead it was Aycliffe who went up the other end of the field with Jarvie who was brought down by Ric Faustino. Jarvie stepped up himself and drilled the ball down the middle to give Aycliffe a healthy advantage going into the break.

With no changes at the interval it was Burnicle who had the first chance of the second half after some good interchange with Jarvie. Burnicle evaded the Penrith back line and opened his body but sent his effort over the bar much to his frustration.

Four minutes later and it was Burnicle again who almost scored, in freak circumstances, as he sent a clearance away from deep inside his own half. But after the wind caught hold of it Miller misplaced his kick and the ball rolled agonisingly towards the goal line before the goalkeeper managed to scramble it away and spare his blushes.

Carr almost capped a wonderful Aycliffe move on the hour mark after the impressive Ballan worked his way into the penalty area and his pull back was left by Petitjean for Carr who fired narrowly wide.

Aidan McGee got his head to a well worked corner from Carr but couldn't keep his effort on target as the visitors looked to assert their second half dominance.

But with the game entering its final 15 minutes Aycliffe were given a fright as Johnson found himself free inside the penalty area from Gardner's cross.

The Penrith man did well to keep his strike low beyond the outstretched Pickford and give the hosts what seemed like a lifeline.

But immediately from the restart Aycliffe ensured there would be no need for nerves in the closing stages as Jarvie restored the two-goal lead.

Another excellent ball from Petitjean found Ballan who managed to cut inside onto his right and sting the palms of Miller who could only parry into the waiting Jarvie who coolly slotted home for his fourth goal in a week. It would be Jarvie's final

act in the game as he was replaced by Ryan Redford who made an impact just minutes later when his through ball, after some excellent work by substitute Andre-Vasile Ardelean and Ballan, found the onrushing Costello who placed a calm left-footed drive into the corner.

The win moves Stromsøy's side onto 53 points in the Ebac Northern League Division One table, just a point behind North Shields ahead of Wednesday's trip to Newcastle Benfield in the quarter final of Mitre Brooks Milesen League Cup.

Aycliffe return to the Beaumont Landscapes Stadium on Saturday 14th March when local rivals Bishop Auckland will be the visitors.

Stunning By-election Victory for Lib Dems

Lib Dem candidate Michael Stead won a stunning victory in the Woodham By-election for the Town Council Last Thursday.

RESULT:

Brandon Fleet

LABOUR - 116

Michael Stead

LIB DEM - 892

Clive Taylor-Sholl

IND - 112

Turnout 22.89%

Michael Stead ran a very effective campaign. He won a stunning 79% of all the votes cast, in what was a previously Labour held seat. This win will send shockwaves through Labour with full County

and Town Council elections due in May next year. More importantly there is likely to be a By-election in May this year for the County Council seat that Paul Howell MP is going to vacate.

Michael Stead is likely to stand in that and looks odds on favourite to win it.

Cllr Arun Chandran, Independent, said "Michael is to be congratulated on his very decisive win, as a Lib Dem Councillor he will bring further diverse views to the Council. I think one party dominance may be coming to an end."

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