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Friday 20th March 2020 First Published in 1948 and still FREE

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## GREAT BIG DANCE OFF



Woodham's Dance Academy have been working exceptionally hard to prepare for a very busy half term. They rehearse every Wednesday after school and dedicate time over lunch to prepare. On Thursday 5th

March, The Dance Academy travelled to Halifax to compete in 'The Great Big Dance Off'. This prestigious competition holds regional heats across the country where many schools and dance clubs

compete to gain a place in the finals. With many performers showcasing their talents, the level of competition was exceptionally high. With Woodham's pieces falling into the KS4/KS5 category, they showed determination to perform both pieces to a very high standard.

The first dance the students performed was 'Adiemus'. This is a powerful piece that includes everyone from the dance academy and was the largest group performance of the night, comprising all 49 students on stage at once. Choreographed by Hannah Kent, the piece is to highlight the different strengths of the Dance Academy, bringing together the full age range of Year 7 to Year 10.

The second piece choreographed by Kay Clarey of Joanne Banks Dancers was to a lively 'Can't hold us'. Another piece that brought together all ages with complex skill and technique. The formations within this piece scored particularly well with the judges along with creativity and dynamics. This was an amazing experience for all students involved and prepared them for a performance at the Gala Theatre for the 'Feet First Dance Showcase' on Monday 16th March. The Dance Academy are also working exceptionally hard to master all pieces ready for our annual Dance Showcase. This is due to be held on Thursday 2nd April, 7.00pm at Woodham Academy. Tickets will be available from reception or on parent pay with a cost of £3.00 for an adult and £2.00 for a student (check with venue).

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## JAZZ TIME ON AYCLIFFE RADIO

Sunday 6.00-7.00pm

We will be highlighting the life and music of Jazz Drummer, Abbie Finn this weekend.

Abbie started her Jazz career at Woodham Academy, which flourished under the Durham County Music Service. She then continued her career at Leeds College of Music and is now a well known Jazz drummer.

On Sunday we hear her selection of tracks and why she has chosen them. Although she cannot be present personally, because of the present crisis, we will highlight her career so far.

Mike Dixon

Jazz Time

# County Durham SEND Services Improving

Services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in County Durham are improving, according to government inspectors.

A joint team from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission reviewed education, health and care services provided across the area in January this year.

After assessing services and receiving feedback from more than 400 parents and carers, they found that organisations in the county have made progress in improving services since the inspectors' last visit in January 2018 when some concerns were raised.

The latest report highlights a number of areas where positive changes have been

achieved.

It found that the partnership between education, health and social care leaders is stronger than it was and that that there had been a determined focus on improving arrangements for identifying, assessing and meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND.

Durham County Council and health services are praised for their commitment to involving children, young people and their families in shaping services, with this work "contributing strongly" to improvement in SEND arrangements.

The report cites the Making Changes Together parent and carer forum, the Rollercoaster Support Group and eXtreme group of young people as examples of those that have been "instrumental in several significant developments since the initial inspection". The area's participation strategy is praised for setting out "clear and helpful quality standards" for joint working for children and young people and their families.

The report also highlights that "children and young people with SEND and their families have increasingly strong and influential voices in the development of the area's strategic plans" and that there has been a "marked reduction" in waiting times for specialist autism assessment and speech and language therapy assessment, with times now in line with national guidance.

The inspectors felt that previous concerns about the effective use of performance data to tackle weaknesses have been addressed by

the development of new systems and strengthening of existing ones. Again, with children and young people featuring more prominently in this work.

This has resulted in the fact that "the area's self-evaluation provides a clearer and more comprehensive assessment of how well SEND arrangements are working in County Durham".

Commissioning decisions, service planning and performance monitoring are also better informed by the area's analysis of education, health and social care needs, according to the report.

Overall, both the council and North Durham and Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Groups are praised for their "greater collective ambition" for service users.

Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "Working closely with our partners across education, health and care, we've really focused on addressing the issues raised in the 2018 inspection and I am pleased that these efforts have been recognised by the inspectors."

"Our Local Offer website, for example, which provides a wealth of information for the families of children and young people with SEND and offers a first point of contact for many people has seen significant improvements over the past two years."

"Children, young people and their families have played in key role in shaping the changes that have been made and this is clearly acknowledged within the

report. Last year, we carried out a consultation asking people what they thought of our plans for SEND services and we received an excellent response. This feedback provided has been invaluable to our work and, again, I am pleased that this was very clear to the inspectors."

"Going forward, it is crucial that the needs and views of service users and their families continue to be embedded at the heart of SEND provision in County Durham and I would very much like to reassure them that this will be the case."

Nicola Bailey, chief officer of NHS North Durham and NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield clinical commissioning groups, said: "An enormous amount of work has taken place since the original inspection to address the areas identified for improvement in 2018."

"It was pleasing that the inspectors noted the progress that had been made in our strategic leadership, use of performance data, co-production and joint commissioning to improve our offer for children and young people with SEND."

"We will continue to work in close partnership with Durham County Council to build on these improvements to ensure that all children and young people with SEND are supported to meet their potential."

While the inspectors' report highlights the range of improvements that have been made since their last visit, it also identifies areas

where work is still needed. It states the council and CCGs have not yet fully achieved their objective of improving understanding and awareness of SEND at every level. The inspectors also found that children and young people and their families continue to have very different experiences at schools and with individual health and social care services, with the quality of health advice remaining too variable and the quality of education, health and care assessments suffering from a lack of participation of

some health professionals. The report identifies that there are gaps in commissioned support following autism assessment but recognises that leaders from all organisations are aware that provision needs to be strengthened.

The SEND Strategic Partnership is now considering the report and is working on a new action plan to address the areas of further improvement identified in the inspection findings and from feedback from families.



## BEING NEIGHBOURLY

Over the coming weeks/months more and more residents will become self-isolated. If you are aware of a neighbour who finds themselves in this predicament, you can still help. By filling in the form below and posting through their letter box you are showing your willingness to assist them. By working together we can help our neighbours, especially those in our area who are most vulnerable.

*Hello!* If you are self-isolating, I can help

My name is .....

I live locally, at .....

My phone number is .....

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19, I can help with:

☐ Picking up shopping

☐ Posting mail

☐ A friendly phone call

☐ Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I will do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on doorsteps.

 & newtonnews

## FIND A DOG a home

### Three Legged Rowland

Would you 'Rowland' play with this amazing three-legged rescue dog? Rowland is a two-year-old Greyhound cross Collie who came into the care of Dogs Trust Darlington in February 2018, after being found straying. He is a beautiful boy, who is very loving and adores people, although he can be sensitive at times.

This young man has not had the easiest start in life; not only was he left to fend for himself at the age of just six months old, he has also had to recover from surgery to his rear left leg. Sadly, this required a full limb amputation which he had at the start of 2020 and he is now making a great recovery. Rowland is getting used to life with three legs and is on light exercise at this moment in time.

Rowland spends much of his time in the office as he likes human company and he is very well behaved. He is just happy to lie on his cosy bed with his toys and have a lazy day. Rowland loves his toys and the soft, squeaky ones are his favourite; he's very gentle and takes really good care of them.

In his new home Rowland would like:

- Someone to be around for most of the day
- To be the only pet in the home
- A garden for playtime and gentle exercise
- Lots of soft & squeaky toys

Rowland is ready for his happy-ever-after; could you be the one to give this handsome boy the amazing life he deserves? Rowland is just one of over 65 dogs currently looking for a home at the centre and in foster care.

For more information on Rowland or any of the other lovely dogs we have at the centre, please contact the team on 01325638143, visit the website or email us at [darlington@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:darlington@dogstrust.org.uk)





## WHEELS TO WORK SCHEME

The Wheels to Work is currently being delivered in Newton Aycliffe to help people get established in their first six months of employment by providing them with much-needed transport to get to work. The project is currently being supported through Area Budget Funding from the Great Aycliffe and Middlesbrough Partnership. The Wheels to Work scheme is aimed at ensuring that travelling is not a barrier for those starting in a new job role or training.

Anyone aged 16 years or over, who has a provisional licence, will be able to hire one of 30 mopeds, when needed. Individuals will have the option to loan either a 50cc moped for £25 a week, or a 125cc for £30 a week.

The cost will cover Compulsory Basic Training (CBT), protective clothing, a heavy duty lock, insurance, breakdown cover, servicing and maintenance of the moped. At the end of the loan period individuals may be offered the opportunity to purchase the moped, working with the project lead to ensure this is an affordable option.

Since joining the Wheels to Work scheme there have been a number of applications made in the GAMP area, with several of these currently being processed.

Susan Matthews, Wheels to Work Project officer, said: "If you are in the Great Aycliffe and Middlesbrough area then I would encourage you to get in touch to see if this scheme can be of benefit. The referral process can also look at other possible transport solutions such as car sharing as well as a scooter loan. We are looking forward to offering residents in the GAMP area the chance to take up work or training opportunities where lack of transport has up to now been a barrier."

## AYCLIFFE DEFIBRILLATOR CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The campaign to provide all residents of Newton Aycliffe with 24 hour access to potential lifesaving equipment within a 500 yard radius of their homes moves on, thanks again to widespread community support.

Having these units available is crucial to supporting our emergency services in the chain of survival in the event of a cardiac arrest.

Statistically 75% of cardiac arrests occur either with a member of your own family, or someone you know very well. Using CPR only may only provide less than 5% survival rates, with a defibrillator on hand survival rates could be increased to 70%. Dial 999 and you will be directed to your nearest unit which you can then take to wherever it is needed. We have just completed a thorough revamp with the Ambulance Service and now have a robust system in place to achieve this.

**Firstly**, pictured with the latest defibrillator unit, to be installed on 27th March, is David Sutton-Lloyd and Simon Day of Junction7 outside 7 Silverdale Place. Livin have supported this purchase, installation and will maintain going forward.

**Secondly**, pictured with David Sutton-Lloyd is Mr Paul Smith, Aycliffe Town Centre Manager, representing the Landlords Freshwater. After discussing our campaign plans and general first aid provision in the Town Centre the Landlords are keen to be involved. They have made a generous donation towards purchasing and installing a 24 hour defibrillator unit in the middle of the Town Centre. Once installed, they will then take over the responsibility for its future upkeep.

They are also providing the free use of a shop unit to run events to help raise donations and run free CPR and Defibrillator awareness sessions. These are aimed at giving people confidence and skills to use CPR and a defibrillator.

### WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?

**Thirdly**, Great Aycliffe Town Council, who were one of the original donors when this campaign first started, have again unanimously agreed to support these important free CPR and defibrillator



awareness sessions. 562 people have participated to date in these sessions. The 2 hour session could be the most important time "in the life" of someone you love and care for.

**Fourthly**, the Youth Council of Great Aycliffe, following many of them completing awareness sessions, have been fundraising and are donating this money towards the next defibrillator.

Next targets are the Town Centre unit and a unit for the Simpasture area.

After these two units we will still have some gaps to fill in the area to provide total coverage of Newton Aycliffe. With the continued help already shown by our community, I know we can achieve this.

To fill these first two gaps, we now need to fundraise, and I estimate we require another £2,400. A small amount when you consider the number of people that they would provide cover for!

We already have commitment from several sources, and others wish to join, including the Taylor family (Rachael, Trevor, Calum and Andrea) who set up "Kick it for Seonaid" a charity helping provide defibrillators in memory of their daughter.

Watch out for the venues and dates in the Newton News, we had intended to organise these soon,

however the current Government Covid-19 situation announced on Monday has affected this plan.

If you require more information, or better still want to donate now, please contact:

David Sutton-Lloyd  
01325 316144  
woodham.community@gmail.com

## Annual 10k & Fun Run Cancelled

Dear Sir,  
We are very disappointed to inform you that Aycliffe Running Club have made the decision to cancel the 2020 Aycliffe 10K and Fun Run. This is in line with government advice to avoid unnecessary public gatherings and the use of emergency services to support the event.

As there are many other races trying to reschedule later in the year, this uncertainty and congestion has led us to the decision to cancel rather than postpone.

Anne Kellett  
Chair  
Trevor Needham  
Race Director

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### HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

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Thai Green Vegetable Curry with a choice of Coriander Rice or Chips (V) - £9.00

**\*\* CURRENCY SPECIAL \*\*** - 2 x Thai Curry's, 2 x Rice, 2 x Chips, 1 x Prawn Crackers - £20.00

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# Manufacturer Fabricates a Year of Rapid Major Growth

A County Durham manufacturer is going from strength to strength following a 20 per cent increase in turnover last year.

BTS Facades and Fabrications, which is based in Newton Aycliffe and manufactures metal rainscreen and fabrications for the construction industry, will end the financial year with turnover of £8.5 million - a rise of £1.6 million.

The financial results mark a period of major growth for the firm, with the appointment of a technical manager, investment in a range of new equipment and a £50,000 grant.

BTS managing director Phil Atkinson said: "We recently appointed Mark Wiper as technical manager and his first objective will be to review and retest all our systems - over the past three years, we've very much focused on automation and sales, and our existing systems have taken a back seat."

"There are a few improvements we can make, and value engineering will be done, so Mark will initially be focused on system testing, certification and legislative compliance. It's a perfect fit for our overall growth strategy, as we want our technical offering to be aligned to our other strategies, such as automation."

Mark, who has three years of experience in a similar role and has worked



in the industry for 34 years, added: "I have an extensive background in product and system testing and certification in the construction industry, and I'm looking forward to putting this into practice at BTS."

"It's exciting to be working with a new team, and BTS is a dynamic business, with significant scope for growth in a competitive market."

"The team are also investing heavily in the future in terms of assets and hardware as well as personnel, which clearly demonstrates it's a company with a long-term future, not only for myself,

but for the wider region."

Over the past two years, BTS has invested in five new pieces of machinery, including a new panel bender and a new press, to make its manufacturing processes more streamlined and efficient.

Phil added: "Our strategy for automated equipment is paying off; we have the best automation in the industry, and we always research extensively into the best available machines and software."

"All of this helps our sales team go after those bigger contracts, backed by the confidence that we have the facility to service our ever-growing client base."

"We've also been awarded £50,000 from the County Durham Growth Fund, which we will use to invest in further new machinery to improve efficiencies."

"In the past five years, the BTS team has grown from 34 to 55, and we're not standing still. We are continually trying to improve the business and invest in more efficient machines and processes, and our goals for the next five years are more of the same; more automation, more training, more people and more growth."

The £50,000 of capital grant funding was secured from the County Durham Growth Fund, to support their latest investment of over £155k. The fund was set up by Business Durham, the economic development arm of Durham County Council, along with their delivery partner UMi, to help stimulate and enable businesses to grow by providing funding towards capital investment projects. County Durham Growth Fund is funded from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020.

For more information about BTS Facades and Fabrications, visit [www.btsfabrications.co.uk](http://www.btsfabrications.co.uk)

## DARLINGTON JAZZ CLUB

### Notice of Cancellation of Mama Shakers Gig

Dear Sir,  
Due to the current government advice and restrictions around COVID-19, Darlington New Orleans Jazz has had to postpone the visit of Mama Shakers to St. Augustine's Parish Centre booked for 28th March.

Promoters Ray Sams and Graham Forster send apologies to the club's loyal supporters, but present circumstances have made such action necessary for the health of everyone involved.

Subsequent DNOJC gigs remain under review, and further advice about each event will be posted nearer the time. For more information go to [www.darlingtonjazz.co.uk](http://www.darlingtonjazz.co.uk)

## CRAFT FAIR CANCELLED

The Craft Fair due to be held at Neville Parade Methodist Church on 28th March is now cancelled.

# World Famous DJs Added to Hardwick Festival Line-Up

A world-renowned club brand and some of the UK's most in-demand DJs are heading to one of the North East's biggest festivals this summer. Organisers of Hardwick Festival, which returns to Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield, from 22 to 23 August, recently revealed an impressive line-up featuring Nile Rodgers and Chic, Travis, Rebecca Ferguson and Rag 'n' Bone Man.

And after the success of last year's Courtyard Arena, flamboyant party-starters Glitterbox will also return to entertain crowds on Saturday, featuring some of the biggest names in dance music.

Grammy award-nominated Todd Terry has been revealed as headliner, having been at the forefront of the genre for almost two decades, and he will be joined by The Shapeshifters, best known for hits such as Lola's Theme, When Love Breaks Down and Try My Love.

John Morales, one of the most recognised names in dance music history, will also take to the decks, along with Melvo Baptiste, who is a regular everywhere from international festivals to some

of London's most exclusive venues, and Katie Goodman, fresh from supporting huge names like Horse Meat Disco, Dimitri From Paris and Low Steppa.

On Sunday, the Courtyard Arena will be home to Sedgefield event To The Manor Born with headliner Sam Divine, who is in demand around the world and known for her successful label DVINE, along with Graeme Park, who has performed everywhere from Manchester's legendary Hacienda to Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage.

They will be joined by North East duo Jo Manji, Brandon Block, who has been entertaining crowds for more than three decades, award winning DJ and producer Alex P and Tony Hutchinson. Along with the return of the Courtyard Arena, music fans will also be able to see top DJs at the Tree House Arena, featuring sets from award winning Greg Wilson, Norman Jay MBE - one of the founders of Kiss FM - Brandon Block and Ricky Morrison, who has played at many of the best clubs in the world.

Also appearing at the new arena across the weekend are Jess Bays, Linden C, Steve Butler, Michael Johnson,

Mark Hutchinson, Simon Gibb, Pete Wharrier and Rob Oxley.

And another new addition for the summer event is the Soul Tent, with music from DJs including Terry Jones, Bob Jefferies, Keith Martin, Deano, Steve Teasdale, Gary Weetman and Daz Carr.

John Adamson, owner of Hardwick Hall Hotel, believes the new stages will be very popular. "It's incredible to be hosting so many huge names this summer, who have performed at some of the most prestigious venues and events around the world," said John.

"We are always striving to create a full site-wide experience with plenty of choice for music fans and I think this year's line-up is one of our best yet."

Tickets for this year's Hardwick Festival are currently on sale at £55 for one day or £99 for both days plus booking fees. Concession tickets are available for children and 13-17 year olds.

Camping and glamping options are available for those who want to immerse themselves in the festival experience.

For more information or to book tickets, visit [www.hardwicklive.co.uk](http://www.hardwicklive.co.uk)



Compiled by  
County Councillor John Clare

Further information about all the following is available on my blog at: [bit.ly/CNB157](http://bit.ly/CNB157) It was all going very well until last weekend, but since then Coronavirus has changed everything, and my email inbox has been full of cancellations (most notably the Bishop Auckland Food Festival, as well as every County Council and Labour Party meeting).

This may therefore be the last County Newsbits for some time. Since my election as a County Councillor I have been proud to be 'the councillor who keeps you informed' about Council matters ... but, for the foreseeable future, I fear that there will be little to tell you.

**COUNCIL**  
All Council meetings this week were cancelled apart from the DCC Cabinet meeting, which dealt with a number of issues including: council performance and partnership work; designating a list of 96 local parks & heritage assets; and a scheme to start building council houses again.

**LOCAL SUCCESSES**  
Last week started really well:

- The Weardale Railway has been bought (and saved) by the Auckland Project which plans to re-connect the line with the S&DR line to Darlington.
- The 'Pitman's Parliament' at Redhills Durham Miners' Hall was last week successful in winning a

Lottery Heritage Fund grant which will renovate it.

- And the famous Cornish mural at County Hall is being moved to Bishop Auckland Town Hall ahead of County Hall's demolition.

### PROGRESS ON THE ECONOMY

- In the area of the economy, the North East Business Awards (Durham, Sunderland & Tyneside) on Thursday 12 March saw shortlisting (though not victory) for Aycliffe Business Park's Excelpoint (Small Business Award) and Crafter's Companion (Company of the Year).

- And there was good news this week also for ABP's Roman, Logico, and BTS Facades & Fabrications.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**  
Although Coronavirus had already scuppered my big moment this week speaking at an international conference in Florence, I was able to attend last week a very successful APSE conference in Warwick, at which I was honoured to chair one of the sessions. I have reported in detail on this conference in my blog.

**CORONAVIRUS**  
• Coronavirus is all over the news, of course, but: - you can keep up with the official government site. - the Anything Aycliffe facebook forum seems a good focal point for local news.

- and of course, your wonderful Newton News will be with you each week.



John Morales



CARTER THOMPSON  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

## Confused about your pension choices?

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[jonb@ctwealth.co.uk](mailto:jonb@ctwealth.co.uk)  
[www.ctwealth.co.uk](http://www.ctwealth.co.uk)

### (CLARENCE GREEN AND TRAVELLERS GREEN, NEWTON AYCLIFFE) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2020

The Council on 13/3/20 made the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular traffic from proceeding on the phased closure of 225m of Clarence Green, Newton Aycliffe and 133m of Travellers Green, Newton Aycliffe to enable construction of new build property works to be undertaken. Throughout the period of closure access and egress will be maintained. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence from 7.30am on 23/3/20 and are anticipated to be necessary for 18 months. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

Dated: 20th March 2020



Helen Lynch  
Head of Legal & Democratic Services  
County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL

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## One Year in Business and Still Going Strong



Kelsey's Cafe opened one year ago and have gone from strength to strength, becoming quite the buzz around the Business Park and are very proud of how hard they have worked to get this far.

"People laughed at us when we first started, saying we wouldn't make it past the first few months, but here we are a year later and still going strong" said Kelly. Kelly Purdie and Lindsey Courtney are two hard working mums who are out to prove that if you work hard you can achieve your dreams.

Kelsey's Cafe is based on at Remdrandt Way, Aycliffe Business Park DL5 6BD. The girls can be contacted on 07341 873554, visit the website at www.kelseyscatering.co.uk

find them on Facebook.

Both Lindsey and Kelly are keen to get the family involved, Kelly's husband, Richard, transformed the cafe into a comfortable, light and airy restaurant with his joinery skills. Lindsey's husband Nick, inspired the duo to create and develop their cooking skills and they are forever expanding on the choices available. Even the children get involved choosing the cake of the week or giving opinions on a newly inspired dish.

The couple are also adept at outside catering and are available for any occasion, why not give them a try? Kelly and Lindsey are also offering a FREE delivery service up to 7pm, every day except Sunday.

## Crack Down on Pavement Parking

- Pavements set to become safer for parents and disabled people thanks to proposals to crack down on pavement parking

- Consultation will look at options including how a national pavement parking ban could work, taking into account necessary exceptions, and extended enforcement powers for local authorities

- Latest in a series of improvements by the Transport Secretary to accelerate pace of change for a more accessible transport network

New proposals to tackle pavement parking and make streets safer for parents and disabled people were set out recently by Transport Secretary Grant Shapps.

The Government is set to consult on proposals in the summer designed to improve the lives of people with mobility or sight impairments, as well as parents with prams who may be forced into the road to get around parked cars.

The 12 week consultation will include options such as allowing local authorities with civil parking enforcement powers to crack down on unnecessary obstruction of the pavement. Currently, outside London, only police have this power. It will also consider how a

nationwide ban on pavement parking enforced by local authorities might work, allowing for any necessary exceptions or designated spots for pavement parking where needed, and how a tailored approach may be required in rural and suburban areas which face very different challenges.

In 2019 the Department for Transport concluded a review which looked at the problems caused by pavement parking, the effectiveness of legislation, and the case for reform.

It found that pavement parking was problematic for 95 per cent of respondents who are visually impaired and 98 per cent of wheelchair users.

The Transport Select Committee also recently

conducted an inquiry into the is-sue, with the commitment to consult on proposals forming a key part of the Government's response to its findings.

The Department is also looking at possible options to streamline and digitise the process used to create restrictions such as temporary road closures for road-works, special events or permanent changes to speed limits and parking restrictions, known as 'Traffic Regulation Orders'.

A TRO Discovery Project, carried out in partnership with GeoPlace, Ordnance Survey and the British Parking Association, completed last year which explored the process of making TROs, and how TRO data is made available

and used across the country. A legislative review of the is now underway to find ways to improve it and make it easier for local authorities to implement restrictions.

Last month, the Government launched an advertising campaign to improve the journeys of disabled passengers on public transport. 'it's everyone's journey' will raise awareness about the needs of disabled people when using public transport, particularly people with non-visible impairments, and will also prompt members of the public to think and consider how their behaviour might impact others.

For more information visit [gov.uk/everyonesjourney](http://gov.uk/everyonesjourney), or follow #ItsEveryonesJourney and @IEJGov.

## Woodham Community Centre

Dear Sir,

This week our Committee have made a decision, in view of the latest Public Health statement, to completely close Woodham Community Centre from midnight until further notice.

This is not a decision that was taken lightly.

In view of the large numbers using the centre, many in the high risk age groups, this is to protect the wider community.

We will keep everyone informed and look forward to "normal service as soon as possible".

David Sutton-Lloyd

## CANCELLED EVENTS

Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group are disappointed to report that events planned for Friday 27th March at Whitehouse Funeral office and Saturday 28th March at St. Clare's are to be cancelled, due to the COVID-19 virus.

## LOWERING STANDARDS

Dear Sir,

There has been a noticeable decline and lack of standards since the loss of Sedgfield Borough when the County Council took on so many towns and spreading themselves so thin.

Not just myself, but many people I have spoken to, say this is now so.

About two months ago I phoned a department describing in detail the exact area, at a bus stop next to Rose Lodge Care Home. Piles of rubbish, tin cans and cartons as well as other rubbish in the ditch behind. Two weeks later and it is all still there. So I phoned once more, but still the rubbish is still there.

I get the feeling, like others who make complaints, that they have no intention of acting, I feel these officials need a good shake up and get their act together. There are a lot of areas like this on our town.

Name & address supplied

## Greenfield Students Celebrate British Science Week



Students from Greenfield Community College got hands on as they celebrated British Science Week. Students were keen to give up their own time as part of this extended offer to explore science in new and innovative ways.

This year the theme from British Science week is 'Our Diverse Planet' which formed a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths, featuring entertaining and engaging events across the UK, providing a platform to stimulate and support teachers to encourage STEM activities.

Students were invited to take part in some experiments linked to the theme, they were able to learn how to identify their own diverse fingerprints, identifying

different types and patterns. They also explored the science of bath bombs and how these could be used as a bath-time alternative to products which retail in single use plastic bottles. Some students researched the diverse conditions on earth and even designed an Antarctic Research Station which could support human life of scientists investigating the harsh climate, learning more about science and sustainability in practical and amazing ways. Greenfield Community College are committed to offering valuable opportunities to students as part of their extended learning programme to encourage self-led learning and enable students to achieve their full potential.

Great Aycliffe



Town Council

## Public Information Notice

Due to the current pandemic of Covid-19 (Coronavirus) and government and NHS advice, a number of events organised by Great Aycliffe Town Council have been cancelled.

These are currently the MMA Event at the OakLeaf Sports Complex, Stargazing, the Senior Citizens' Excursions, SK8 Fest and Brightwater after school activities.

The OakLeaf Sports Complex will be closed with effect from close of business on Wednesday 18th March, until further notice.

The OakLeaf Golf Complex is still open for use, but we ask that those with symptoms do not visit. Users are requested to wash their hands or use hand sanitiser when accessing the golf shop. Payments are encouraged via card, contactless where possible.

The Council's Pre-School at St. Oswald's is still open, however this may change subject to government instruction and staff availability.

The Council Offices will remain staffed and open for contact via telephone and e-mail, but we would request that you do not attend in person.

All Council meetings have been suspended until further notice.

Should the Council Offices close, contact numbers will be made available via the main Council Office number, 01325 300700 or website [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

This is a rapidly evolving situation and updates on further closures will be available via social media and the Council's website.

The Town Council would like to thank the public for their co-operation in these unprecedented circumstances.

Further information on Covid-19 is available from:

Durham County Council [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk)

or the NHS <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>



# Landlords Warned over Energy Efficiency Rules

*Move could see reduction in properties to rent*

Local landlords are being urged by Crook estate agency Vickers & Barrass to prepare for new energy efficiency rules, which come into effect from April. The news follows Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) introduced to make buyers and tenants more aware of the energy cost and environmental impact associated with a building. Usually containing a letter and a number together with a list of possible improvements (Recommendations), the rating scale runs from A to G (A is the most energy efficient). Under the Government's Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES), a residential let property must achieve an E EPC rating as a minimum.

Now, with effect from the 1 April 2020, the regulations will apply to all existing tenancies as well as new agreements and landlords are being urged to be ready to ensure their rental properties comply.

Changes to EPC regulations are part of a government led initiative targeting energy inefficient housing in England and Wales in a wider strategy to tackle climate change.

It is estimated that around 7% of properties in the private rented sector currently hold the lowest EPC ratings according to the Energy Saving Trust.

Vickers & Barrass says there are possible grounds for an exemption including cost.

If after implementing improvements costing £3,500 including VAT and the property is still unable to achieve a target EPC rating of E or better a



*Vickers & Barrass' Edd Forster is urging landlords to act now over new energy regulations coming into force this spring*

landlord can register for an exemption on the Private Rented Sector (PRS) Exemption Register.

While welcoming an initiative designed to raise standards, Vickers & Barrass fears that many local landlords may decide not to implement the required improvements and instead sell their properties, reducing further the options for hard pressed tenants searching for accommodation.

Edd Forster, sales manager at Vickers & Barrass, said: "New regulations are always a question of balance for landlords, who have faced continued change and increasing costs over the last few years."

"We could see more landlords exit the market in the months ahead, leading to a lack of suitable rental accommodation at a time when there is a desperate shortage of stock to let."

"They may look to evict tenants where the property falls below the minimum requirement of an E, so they can implement improvements or make the decision to sell."

With only a few weeks until the changes take effect, landlords whose properties are currently F or G EPC rated need to start planning improvements now to make sure they are ready for the deadline, Edd Forster advised.

"Landlords should check the recommendations in the EPC and obtain quotations for the suggested works. It may be worth instructing an assessor to undertake a new EPC assessment if improvements have been undertaken or it is considered the previous assessment was not correct. "Assessment techniques have improved and may produce a more accurate rating which is above the minimum standard."

The news comes as Vickers & Barrass reports a very strong lettings market – it continues to seek more properties to meet demand: "As always we will be monitoring the sales and lettings market over the coming weeks, while continuing to support and advise landlords and vendors," Edd Forster added.

## Green Jobs Could Increase 85% in 10 Years

• A new report from the REA has found that jobs in renewable energy and clean technology could increase by 85% in just 10 years if supported by the Government.

• A fifth (46,000) of these jobs are predicted to be in the North of England, which is currently home to a number of carbon intensive job clusters.

• To see growth in the renewable energy and clean technology sector the Government must implement effective policies in the short and long term.

A new report from the REA has found that jobs in the renewables and clean technology industry could increase by 85% in just ten years with the right support from Government.

Employment in the renewables and clean technology industry stood at 128,954 in 2017/18 but could grow to 238,000 by 2030. Of this number, 46,000 jobs are expected to be in the north of England which is currently home to a number of carbon intensive job clusters.

This forecast comes after a rather disappointing year for industry job growth which saw an increase of just 1.5% from 2017 figures amid a series of subsidy cuts in the Solar PV industry. Despite some policy advances taking place in the year following these figures, including the legislation for Net Zero and the Offshore Wind Sector Deal, a number of policy barriers remain in place preventing the industry unleashing its full potential. This is why the REA are calling upon the Government to set out a range of policy proposals as part of a comprehensive decarbonisation strategy by COP26, and adopt some higher-level actions by implementing a more effective taxation system that promotes renewable energy, clean technologies and protects natural capital, provide a route to market for renewable transport, power and heat technologies. The REA has a range of detailed, practical policy proposals to enable this.

Dr Nina Skorupska CBE, Chief Executive of the REA said:

"This report highlights the enormous opportunities the renewables and clean technology industry holds for the UK. One of the advantages of our industry is that it covers the lengths and breadths of the country, as such its benefit can be felt throughout the UK."

With the Government's commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2050 we can see that there is political will, however, this needs to be backed up by policy for the renewable energy and clean technology sector. This report provides the Government with that insight, and we are calling on them to deliver this urgently ahead of COP 26."

## Historic Norman Cornish Mural Moved to New Home



An iconic mural, commissioned by Durham County Council to mark the opening of County Hall in 1963, has been successfully moved to its new home in Bishop Auckland.

The painting by Norman Cornish, one of the most respected and much-loved artists to emerge from the North East, depicts the arrival of the banners at Durham Miners' Gala.

It had been on display at County Hall since it opened and is fitting that its first move in almost 60 years is during Cornish's centenary year.

The mural has been re-located to its new home of Bishop Auckland Town Hall ahead of its re-opening in April.

Norman Cornish was born in Spennymoor in 1919 and worked as a coal miner before becoming a professional artist.

After being commissioned by the council, Cornish was granted 12 months unpaid leave from Mainsforth Colliery in Ferryhill to complete the painting, with most of the work being completed during the coldest winter in 40 years.

Although it arrived at County Hall in 1963 rolled up in the back of a carpet van, the mural's removal was an incredibly intricate process, involving several experts.

Gillian Kirkbride, Durham County Council's heritage museums and collections manager, who has overseen the project, said: "It has been a very delicate process to move such a significant part of Durham's history to its new home and we are relieved to see it safely installed in Bishop Auckland Town Hall."

"A number of specialists were involved in the planning and relocation to ensure that the painting was safely transported."

The mural is now on display at Bishop Auckland Town Hall, along with pieces from the Norman Cornish archive. The public will be able to view the mural and exhibition from April, when the town hall is due to re-open following its refurbishment.

Cllr Joy Allen, the council's Cabinet member for transformation, culture and tourism, said: "We are

delighted to welcome the Norman Cornish mural to the town hall, particularly during Norman's centenary year.

"The entire exhibition, which will be free to attend, will be

proudly displayed following the refurbishment and we look forward to welcoming visitors to learn more about his hugely significant work around the heart of Durham's mining culture."



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Or kindly make a donation here



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We will beat leprosy together



# The Wheelers Celebrate 50 Years



Chris and Barbara Wheeler are pleased to announce that they will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on the 28th March 2020. They had planned to commemorate this event with a cruise from Singapore into East Asia. Unfortunately this has been cancelled due to the Corona virus, however they will be spending a long weekend on the Isle of Skye. Chris is from Fulham and Barbara

from Whitby. They met at Newcastle University and have enjoyed a very successful career in teaching. Having lived in Great Aycliffe for over forty two years they have brought up their son and daughter in Aycliffe Village. Currently happily retired they enjoy long periods of time in their villa in Greece and when home in England spending time with their wonderful grandchildren.

## 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

## CHECK WITH THE VENUE IF THE EVENT IS STILL GOING AHEAD

### Easter Quiz

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

### St George's Day Party Night

Thursday 23rd April 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

### 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

### 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

# Citizens Advice Information if you are Unable to Work

If you cannot work due to coronavirus and are eligible for Statutory Sick Pay you will get it from day one, rather than from the fourth day of your illness. Statutory Sick Pay will be payable if you are staying at home on Government advice, not just if you are infected by coronavirus. This will apply from 13 March 2020.

If you need to provide evidence to your employer that you need to stay at home due to coronavirus, you will soon be able to get it from NHS 111 Online instead of having to get a Fit Note from your doctor, however, this is currently under development and should be available soon. If you are not eligible to receive sick pay you can apply for Universal Credit and/or apply for New Style Employment and Support Allowance.

If you're already claiming benefits - Special arrangements will be in place for people in receipt of benefits who cannot attend health reassessments or jobcentre appointments because they are required to stay at home or are infected by coronavirus.

If you're already claiming Universal Credit and think you may have been affected by coronavirus, please contact your work coach as soon as possible. You can do this by using your online journal, or by calling the Universal Credit helpline on 0800 328 5644.

If you are disabled or sick and cannot attend a reassessment for Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit, you will continue to receive your payments whilst your new assessment is rearranged.

You must tell DWP in good time that you are staying at home on Government advice or have been diagnosed with coronavirus, otherwise you may be sanctioned. If you have a Claimant Commitment, it should be reviewed to make sure it is still reasonable and your mandatory work search

and work availability requirements should be removed to account for a period of sickness.

If you are self-employed and claiming Universal Credit, and are required to stay at home or are ill as a result of coronavirus, the Minimum Income Floor (an assumed level of income) will not be applied for a period of time whilst you are affected.

If you're making a new claim - Don't delay making a benefit claim, even if you think you may be affected by coronavirus. You can apply for Universal Credit online, or if you need help to claim you can call the Citizens Advice Help to Claim line on 0800 1448 444. If you need to claim Universal Credit or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) because of coronavirus, you will not be required to produce a Fit Note.

If you are affected by coronavirus you will be able to apply for Universal Credit and can receive up to a month's advance upfront without physically attending a jobcentre.

# Horndale Community Association Cancel Meetings

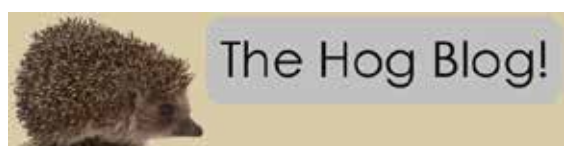
Following Government advice we have decided to cancel our meetings and community work until further notice.

We have also cancelled our Whitby trip on April 26th, all monies will be refunded in due course, probably when things improve, we don't want to put anyone at risk by visiting to hand money back. All other trips are still on and will be assessed near to each one. We will do our best to keep you informed. All our committee are in the at risk category so will be in isolation for as long as necessary.

Our first trip of 2020 was to Newcastle Greyhound Stadium in February, a great night was had by all, some doing better than others on the betting side.

Please take care and look after each other.

Philip Clark



## 90s v 00s Event Postponed

Our event on Saturday 4th April has been rescheduled by Newton Aycliffe WMC, to keep in line with government guidelines of non-essential activities at the club and with large gatherings.

We are in talks with the Big Club and the acts to arrange a new date, all tickets will be honoured (if you cannot attend the new date, we will arrange a refund).

We are so sorry that this event could not take place, but it is totally out of our control and your safety comes first. Stay safe, Direct Events

Viv, Joan and I would like to thank everyone who visited us at our fundraising table last Saturday at the Community Spirit Craft Fair. We also thank Marlene for her donation of crafts and also June for her little hedgehogs and Pom Pom animals, we now have the necessary funds to feed and care for the hedgehogs in our rescue centre.

With the uncertainty which the Coronavirus has brought us we don't know when our next fundraiser will be, the next one we

have booked is at the Methodist Church on the 28th March.

All hoggies in our care are still doing well, Molly is more mobile and the others are gaining weight so they can be released when the weather gets better.

If you need any help or advice, as I have said in previous issues, the British Hedgehog Preservation Society wait to hear from you on 01584 890801.

From us all at Prickly Haven take care of yourselves.

Maxine, Viv and Joan



## 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"**

**Some of our shows will be cancelled until the Coronavirus situation is resolved  
HOWEVER WE WILL CONTINUE BROADCASTING 24/7**

### 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
<b>"The Saturday Night Experience" Sponsored by Bengal Lounge Indian Restaurant &amp; Takeaway</b>		
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
<b>Yesterdays Music Today Sponsored by MV Mobility</b>		
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	Random Reiki Master	Phil Hawkins
12-2pm	Country / Americana	David Ringer
<b>Blues Show Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service</b>		
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	All About the 60s	Honest John
<i>(sports talk cancelled until sports start up again)</i>		
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
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	BeatRoots	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	<b>Guest Presenter Session</b>	
• 27th Mar -	Pauly Mac - Rare Vinyl Mix (Australia)	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby

**Check our website for full schedule  
www.ayclifferadio.co.uk**

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## RECITAL CANCELLED

Darlington Piano Society's recital by Steven Osborne which was to have taken place in Central Hall at 3pm on 29th March, has been cancelled.

This follows recent guidance in relation to the coronavirus epidemic. Plans are being discussed to rearrange this recital in the first half of the 2020-21 season, which begins in October.

## MUSIC SOCIETY

Given the current health issues, regretfully, Bishop Auckland Music Society has decided to cancel the 2020 concert series which was to have begun on Friday, 3rd April in the Methodist Church on Cockton Hill Road.

## Does Phone Use While Driving Drive you Round the Bend?

Despite the obvious dangers and potential for prosecution, we are STILL seeing drivers flouting the law and using their phones at the wheel, which is why we're cracking down on it as part of a week of national week of action next week. The campaign will be carried out by officers from the Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit (CDSOU) to educate drivers and enforce the law where appropriate.

The use of mobile phones whilst driving has been recognised for some time as a contributory factor in collisions and one of the Fatal 4.

However, the growth in the use of smart phones is being highlighted as a possible reason for the increased use of the phone in the car.

Drivers are now not only



tempted to make and answer calls but also to answer and send emails as well as respond to social network site alerts.

This has increased the likelihood of drivers being distracted and therefore the risk of being involved in a serious collision is increasing.

It's illegal to hold a phone

or sat nav while driving – you must have hands-free access, like a windscreen mount or built-in sat nav – and it cannot block your view of the road.

You must also be in full control of your vehicle at all times. You can be stopped by police and prosecuted if they think you're not in control and are distracted.

The law applies even when you're stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic. If caught using a hand-held phone, you could kill someone. That is why drivers face six penalty points and a £200 fine.

Chief Inspector, Graham Milne, from CDSOU, said: "We cannot stress enough how serious an offence this is."

"It only takes seconds of being distracted at the wheel to cause a serious collision which can cause catastrophic effects."

"Last year across Cleveland and Durham we saw 36 fatal collisions, many of them with contributing factors such as drivers using their mobile phones."

"Be in no doubt, you can kill someone. Our message is simple – put the phone away while driving!" #StandingUpForHangingUp

## No Church? New Church!

Following the announcement made by Archbishops Justin of Canterbury and John of York this week, that all Churches in the Church of England must suspend all Services as of now, but must also find new and creative ways of being a church, our Great Aycliffe Parish churches are beginning to form a plan.

### This is where we are:

No church services... instead, St. Clare's Church will be open for individual quiet prayer every afternoon from 1pm until 4pm, Monday to Thursday; from 6pm until 7pm on Saturdays and from 10am until 12 each Sunday. You can also leave prayer requests which will be honoured as the Parish Team pray each day.

We are currently learning how to "live stream", so that sermons as well as study notes and prayer resources will be available for people to be "at church" in their own homes, by looking at our website: [www.parishofgreataycliffe.co.uk](http://www.parishofgreataycliffe.co.uk) or our Facebook page Parish of Great Aycliffe.

We are still offering care and support (from a safe distance), anyone with concerns can call Rev's Ann or Jeff on 01325 315194 or Pam Lovelass on 07779 942347.

For queries about weddings, baptisms (christenings) and funerals please call Rev's Ann or Jeff on the number above as guidelines are still being worked out.

Messy Church families will receive a special message via their Facebook page Youth/ChildrenSt.Clares, please do look at their Messy Media Message which will be broadcast this Saturday 21st March!

We might have no Services at the moment in church, but we, the people, are still church and here for our community.

*The Parish Team of Great Aycliffe Parish.*

## Young Chef Makes it to Cookery Finals

A chef de partie at the North East's only two Michelin star restaurant is celebrating after winning his way into the semi final of cookery's most prestigious competition.

Jonathan Ferguson, 23, works at The Raby Hunt and this week competed in the final round of The Roux Scholarship, in front of a panel of experienced judges.

The competition is seen as a huge boost and over the years winners have gone on to have glittering careers in the industry.

Jonathan is one of only 18 chefs to have made it through to the semi finals, where he will face preparing a dish in front of Michel Roux Jnr, Brian Turner CBE and James Martin.

To get through to this stage he was tasked with submitting a recipe using hake, clams and leeks which he cooked, photographed and submitted with the recipe.

The dish was then blind cooked and judged, winning Jonathan a place in the next round which took place in

Birmingham on March 19, where he cooked his dish plus a mystery dessert.

"This is the second year that I've entered The Roux Scholarship and last year I didn't get through to this stage, so it's a good feeling to have done it this time round," he said.

Jonathan is also being supported by his family, Grace Conroy, his dad Daniel Ferguson and his brother David.

"It's fantastic to know they are all rooting for me," he said.

James Close, chef/owner of The Raby Hunt said the team were very proud of Jonathan.

"We're delighted he's got through because it is so fiercely competitive," said James. Hopefully the experience he's gained working here will stand him in good stead and he'll do really well."

Among the prizes the winner of The Roux Scholarship receives are a three month internship at any three Michelin star restaurant of their choosing, anywhere in the world.

## OFFICE UNITS TO LET

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**For more information contact Stuart on 01325 300212**



\* Subject to small business relief

## CORONA CRISIS

Everyone's checking the news on TV or their phone, because it feels like we're now entering some twilight zone. As Coronavirus widens its grip, and more of our nation is falling sick.

Panic buying has become the norm, despite being told it's such bad form. Pasta, hand gel and toilet rolls, to find some seems everyone's goal!

Flights have been cancelled, sport matches too. It's hard, but necessary to look after you! Keep washing your hands thoroughly, and 'elbow bump' in order to stay free.

Of catching or spreading this dangerous bug, it's more loving to refrain from giving a hug. The NHS is under great strain, they hope more ventilators and beds soon to gain,

In order to attend those that are sick, and halt the spread of this bug quick. We salute the doctors, and their teams, because their wards are bursting at the seams.

Please don't think it couldn't happen to you, but keep positive and cheerful. No good feeling blue, our nation is strong and we will this weather, the United Kingdom, GB will fight it together!

MMK 2020



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## HEIGHINGTON MATTERS

### Coronavirus Support

St Michael's Church  
Heighington

Advice on dealing with the Coronavirus is changing daily, and it's likely many people will have to self-isolate in the not too distant future. We are putting measures in place to help all who are in need, so that no one feels they are on their own with no one to turn to.

- If you are self-isolating and need help with food deliveries, collecting prescriptions, etc, or would just like a friendly phone call, do not hesitate to contact us.

- Crucially, if you are able to help out with any of the above, in whatever capacity, please get in touch so that we can produce a list of people we can call on for assistance. Tel: 07716 883418

E: stmichaelsheighington@gmail.com

- If you need pastoral care or spiritual support, please contact the Church Pastoral Team for confidential ministering on: 07546 726992

- Visit our website on: www.stmichaelsheighington.xara.hosting for more information and daily prayers. We're also on facebook and twitter

### PLEASE NOTE:

Heighington doctors' surgery is now only seeing patients by appointment. Please ring the main surgery on 01325 316637 at 0800 hrs for a same-day triage telephone appointment. A clinician will then decide if you need to be seen face-to-face.

### Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday will be different this year with sons and daughters being advised not to take risks by meeting up with their parents. Rev Lissa Scott has come up with a good idea by asking everyone to place a candle in their front window on Mothering Sunday at 7pm so people who are alone or perhaps worried will know that there are people thinking of them.

### Parking on Yellow lines in and around the School

Parents are continuing to park on yellow lines. I have sent a letter to every parent whose child attends Heighington School warning them if this dangerous parking continues I will instruct our Enforcement Team to drop by and leave a few parking tickets. It seems that some parents are continuing to park where they know they should not park so let me say for the last time - continue in this way and I will bring in the Enforcement officers.

**Litter and Dog Fouling**  
I am proud of living in Heighington and its surrounds and I know most of you will agree with this sentiment. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful village surrounded by beautiful countryside and kept clean by our Parish Council litter picker and our valiant litter picking volunteers who clean up the highways and byways every month. Why then do I see a litter bin outside of our Spar Shop that is full with litter bags spewing onto the green below when there is another empty bin 20 yards away outside of the village hall and yet another two outside of the two bus shelters. What is it that stops sensible clean living villagers use a bin that is full to capacity when they can walk a little distance to an empty bin - or even take the litter home. Sadly we have another disgusting problem - dogs depositing on our Sports Field. I fail to understand how anyone can let their dogs run wild in a field that is used by small children and young people when most people are aware of the health risk associated with dog dirt. Should you be seen with a dog in the Sports Field you will be prosecuted.

**And a Happy Note**  
Spring is around the corner. Daffodils are coming into bloom. My frogs have woken up and are doing what healthy frogs do at this time of year - despite the cold. So life is not full of doom and gloom. Keep safe and keep well.

**Councillor Gerald G. Lee**

## NETPark Businesses Hope to Deliver Revolutionary Healthcare Savings

A highly innovative, problem-solving healthcare supplier and a cutting-edge electronics firm are collaborating on a new product which could potentially save the NHS £250m a year.

Quality Hospital Solutions (QHS) and PragmatIC, both based at the North East Technology Park (NETPark) in Sedgefield, County Durham, are working together on SamplePod - a revolutionary tracking and transport system for pathology samples.

Inventor and Managing Director of QHS, Andrew Turner, designed SamplePod after a large regional Pathology lab highlighted, they wanted to develop a more efficient and time saving way of transporting their samples.

NHS Foundation Trusts receive thousands of samples per day for analysis into their pathology departments, with the samples arriving in many different types and sizes of tubes.

Transporting and processing these samples can be inefficient, as the current system involves packing specimens into several individual plastic bags along with paper request forms.

This system uses a tremendous amount of non-recyclable packaging, due to strict regulations in the healthcare industry. Therefore, Andrew was determined to find a solution to reduce waste, drive efficiency and increase capacity.

His innovative product, SamplePod, will remove more than five tonnes of waste from one pathology lab alone.

QHS works in collaboration with South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS, Academic Health and Science Network and industry leading technology partners.

The company has teamed up with innovative electronics firm PragmatIC to develop the tracking element of SamplePod using radio frequency identification (RFID).

PragmatIC's ground-breaking flexible integrated circuit technology allows ultra-low cost RFID to be added to every sample tube, giving each one a unique digital identity that can be read wirelessly. The individual sample IDs are locked to the master RFID chip within the SamplePod itself. Therefore, each sample can be fully traced in real-time from Primary Care or ward, all the way through to the pathology lab.

Initially, SamplePod will be trialled with 10 GP surgeries in Gateshead before being rolled out to a total of 1,600 surgeries in the borough.

NETPark is managed by Business Durham, the economic development arm

of Durham County Council. To find out more about SamplePod visit [www.samplepod.co.uk](http://www.samplepod.co.uk) and for PragmatIC go to [www.pragmatic.tech](http://www.pragmatic.tech).



L-R: Scott White, CEO PragmatIC, Janet Todd, NETPark Manager - Business Durham, Andrew Turner, Inventor of SamplePod and Managing Director of QHS and Ken Williamson, Chief Operating Officer PragmatIC.

## UTC South Durham Celebrates National Careers Week

UTC South Durham celebrated National Careers Week (2nd - 7th March 2020) with a day of activities designed to introduce students to different sectors, employers, and education providers.

A dropdown day for Year 10 students took place on Tuesday 3rd March. The event saw over ten different organisations visit UTC South Durham at Newton Aycliffe, including Costain, Gestamp, NYBEP, and the University of Sunderland.

NYBEP delivered The Trading Game, an interactive activity which taught the students about the stock market, Costain brought in VR goggles and a robotic line marker to teach students about traffic management, and talks were given by construction experts. English teacher Nik Jones also ran the UTC Careers Game, which is designed to get students thinking about how their careers choices affect their way of life, including the cost of living right through to pension age!

UTC Careers Lead Cherakee Bradley organised the event. She said: "Here at UTC we are fully supporting National Careers Week with activities running throughout the week. We are very fortunate in being supported by industry and Higher Education to give our students outstanding careers experiences, raising aspiration, exploring the world of work and enabling students to make informed careers and education decisions as they move through their education and beyond.

National Careers Week is an ideal opportunity to raise the profile of careers although teachers and staff at UTC bring the curriculum to life all year round with careers

activities, visits to industry directly linked to curriculum, highlighting skills, industry projects, work experience weeks, mock interviews, a careers club and lots more activities to expand students experiences and knowledge. Students are our future, it is so important we offer them experiences and knowledge which will help them chose a career which is right for them and one that will be accessible to them as our society and economy changes encouraging social mobility and economic growth. It's truly brilliant to be a careers leader being part of this support for our young people."



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:**  
**Saturday 4th April**  
**from 2-4pm**  
**Tesco, Town Centre**

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.

## The Importance of Talking to Children About Coronavirus

The British Psychological Society says it is vital to talk openly to children and reassure them about the changes they are seeing around them due to Coronavirus.

Some of the changes, like people wearing face masks or empty supermarket shelves, can be scary for children and they are likely to need to talk to someone they trust about some of the imaginative misinformation they might have heard from friends at school.

The advice stresses that it is important to be truthful, but remember your child's age. An honest and accurate approach is best, giving them factual information, but adjusting the amount and detail to fit their age. For example, you might say 'we don't yet have a vaccination for Coronavirus, but doctors are working very hard on it' or 'a lot of people might get sick, but for most people it is like a cold or flu and they get better'.

Other advice from the BPS's Division of Educational and Child Psychology includes:

- Younger children might understand a cartoon or picture better than an explanation. We also recommend that adults watch news programmes and then filter this information to their child in a way that's right for their development.

- Allow children to ask questions: It is natural that children will have questions and worries about Coronavirus. Giving them the space to ask these questions and have answers is a good

way to alleviate anxiety. It is ok to say you don't know - at the moment, there are questions we don't have answers to about Coronavirus. You can explain this to your child and add in information about what people are doing to try to answer these questions. Maybe your child has an idea too - let them tell you or draw them.

- Try to manage your own worries: Uncertainty can make all of us feel anxious or worried. Identify other adults you can talk to about your own worries and questions. What things usually help to make you feel a bit calmer? If you are at home, music, breathing and relaxation techniques, distraction (such as watching something funny), and time with family members or pets can all help. Talk to your children when you feel calm to reassure them.

- Give practical guidance: Remind your child of the most important things they can do to stay healthy - washing their hands and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' advice for coughs and sneezes. Help your child practise and increase their motivation for keeping going (maybe thinking of a song they want to sing while washing their hands).

The BPS will continue to post advice on its website ([www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk)) on ways to cope with the Coronavirus pandemic in the coming days and weeks.

### Useful resources:

National Association of School Psychologists [www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org)  
Child Mind Institute Inc. <https://childmind.org>

## YOUR NEWS ITEMS PRINTED FREE IN NEWTON NEWS

Some readers are under the impression Newton News makes a charge for printing stories about events in the community involving businesses and town organisations.

Whilst other publications may charge for this service, your community newspaper **DOES NOT** and never has demanded payment for news items. If your organisation or company has newsworthy information they wish to share with our community please get in touch. We would be happy to hear from you and take photos if required.

Remember, Newton News has a circulation of over 17,500 weekly, delivering to each household in Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding villages. We also deliver to over 280 companies on Aycliffe Business Park and leave copies to be picked up in public places.

We also have a very active website with over 15 million views in 4 years. The website hosts current and past issues of Newton News. Our popular website attracts local, national and international views each week from all around the world. Our Facebook page currently has over 10,000 likes and growing.

**Newton News website is the best source locally for all matters relating to Newton Aycliffe.**

Feel free also to send in any news and photos by email to [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk) - We look forward to receiving your next piece of good news.

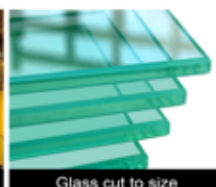
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# U.T.C. Students Complete Kilimanjaro Stair Climb Challenge

A group of Year 10 students at UTC South Durham participated in a fundraising day on Friday 6th March. The students took part in a virtual stair climb, completing the equivalent number of steps they would need to reach the top of Kilimanjaro. Over the course of the morning, the students worked as a team to complete 2578 flights of stairs (38680 steps) in 2 hours and 35 minutes! The students were tasked with raising funds as part of their project with Groundwork NE & Cumbria, a federation of charities which works with disadvantaged communities

across the UK. In addition to the stair climb, the students also held a bake sale, created a Go Fund Me page, and held an afternoon tea for residents of a local care home, Avon Court. UTC staff were also involved in the activities, helping with the stair climb and volunteering for 'soak a teacher'! The funds raised will go towards creating a mental, physical and social wellbeing area for students and staff at UTC. UTC is working closely with Avon Court on the Groundwork project which aims to reduce loneliness in older people. The virtual stair climb was the second part of their project with

Groundwork. The first part of the project took place in February when the students visited Avon Court to deliver bird boxes which they had handmade in UTC's engineering hall. The students and Avon Court residents enjoyed afternoon tea together and decorated the bird boxes which have since been put up in the grounds of the nursing home. On Friday 6th, after the students had completed the stair climb, Avon Court residents visited UTC and had afternoon tea with the students and staff, before touring the building. Teacher Gareth Saville, co-ordinated the Groundwork project with the students, he said: "The students completed the stair climb in 2 hours and 35 minutes. It was a fantastic achievement from the students who also hosted a cake sale as well as numerous other challenges around the school. We are so proud of the students who worked incredibly hard on the fundraising activities. We're looking forward to continuing to work with Groundwork and Avon Court in the future."



# LABOUR LEFT TO DO ALL THE WORK

CRM cases logged	May 2017- May 2018	May 2018- May 2019	May 2019- Feb 2020
Cllr Scott Durham	0	2	2
Cllr Paul Howell	5	9	2
Cllr John D Clare	171	169	123

Dear Sir,  
When a Councillor reports a local problem to Durham County Council, the case is logged on the Council's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. This does not include complaints to livin or the police, nor cases where an experienced or senior councillor might bypass the system and go straight to the officers. Nevertheless, it is a proxy indicator of how hard a local councillor is working to look after their patch.

**AYCLIFFE NORTH & MIDDRIDGE WARD**  
Aycliffe North & Middridge Ward has three councillors, one Labour (Cllr John D Clare) and two Conservatives (Cllrs Scott Durham and Paul Howell). As you may have seen, during the recent election it was claimed that Labour has been neglecting Aycliffe North & Middridge Ward. When we saw this we immediately submitted a Freedom of Information request to DCC to supply the number of cases logged on

the CRM system.  
**THE TABLE SHOWS THE RESULTS**  
In the 34 months May 2017 to February 2020, Cllr Durham reported 4 CRM cases, Cllr Howell 16, and Labour Cllr John D Clare 463. When we spoke to Cllr Clare about this he reminded us that there is much more to his councillor's role than reporting things like potholes and fly-tipping. However, the information totally refutes the claim that Labour is neglecting Aycliffe North & Middridge Ward. In the 2017 local elections, the people of Aycliffe North & Middridge Ward rejected two of the experienced Labour candidates, and voted instead for two unknown Conservative councillors from Darlington. We presume people believed that they would do a better job than Labour. What actually happened, it seems, was that they left Labour Councillor John D Clare to do it all. Sedgefield CLP Campaigns Team

# CATHOLIC CHURCH CLOSURES

From Friday evening all Catholic churches in the area will be closed for public worship. The only services allowed will be baptisms and weddings already arranged and funerals, but with a much smaller number of people. Up-to-date information will be available on the website www.aycliffeshildoncatholic.com and if you need the services of the Church at any time, please email anthony.cornforth@gmail.com or call 01325 313611.

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# RUNNING CLUB NEWS



After a better week last week it was back to races being cancelled again this week but for reasons other than the weather.

However, local Parkruns still took place as did a few races. On Saturday at Shildon Cliff Pickering achieved a PB for that course in 32.05.

In Sedgfield, Richard MacFarlane achieved 27.37, Dave Thompson 28.35 and Marie Rudd 35.32.

Finally, at Darlington Parkrun, Ian Stothard achieved a PB of 33.02.

On Sunday the racing started close to home with several members taking place in the first race of the Darlington Trail Series. This one taking place at West Park. The race was ran in the opposite direction as normal and was in windy conditions. Dez Fielden was first home for ARC in 19.35, followed by Sue Milburn in 25.25, Melanie Rowland in 30.55, Tracey Pickering in 31.29, Craig Robinson in 31.46 and Cliff Pickering in 34.20.

Further South in Thirsk there was a good turnout from the club for the Thirsk 10 miler. This is a popular race and this year had a slightly altered route from previous years

and was again run in Windy conditions. First home for ARC was Paul Dalton in 1.00.03, followed by Andy Talbot in 1.03.55 (2nd in his age cat) and also beating the clubs previous record for that distance by 14 minutes, Floyd Jones in 1.04.29, Richard Campbell in 1.05.22, Tracey Surtees in 1.06.37, Corey Horn in 1.11.04, Rob Young in 1.14.11, Angela Sutheran in 1.19.40, Trish Kay in 1.22.18,



John Young in 1.30.07 and Susan Clark in 1.52.49.

The final race to report took place in Northumberland in Ovingham nr Prudhoe. This was a 20 mile race organised by Run Nation and was being used by some athletes as part of their Marathon training. However, almost all of the big Marathons have been cancelled and late in the day Run Nation also added a half marathon option.

John Surtees took part in the Half Marathon where he broke the 1 hour 20 barrier in a time of 1 hour 19.11. He was followed by Richie Johnson in 2.17.35.

In the 20 mile distance, Simon Mathew Turner was first home in 2 hour 52 mins and 27 seconds. He was followed by Julie Nisbet in 3 hours 09 minutes and 27 seconds.

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 6.30pm, Tuesday is endurance/speed session from 7.00pm, 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.



## Railway Museums Closed to the Public

Dear Sir,

Our mission is to inspire futures. But right now we need to focus on today and on the health and welfare of our visitors and colleagues as the nation comes together to deal with the threat of coronavirus. Following discussions with Government this afternoon, and guided by the science, we have decided that from this evening, (17th March) and until further notice, we will close all of our sites to the public. This includes our five museums: the Science Museum in London; National Railway Museum in York; Science and Industry Museum in Manchester; National Science and Media Museum in Bradford; and Locomotion in Shildon, County Durham. While our doors will be closed for a while, our collection - and the inspirational stories it contains - will remain open to you online. Our talented teams, who have dealt so professionally with the challenges of the past few weeks, will find new ways to ignite your curiosity and lift your spirits during some difficult days ahead. Thank you for your support for our museums and thank you for pulling together at this concerning time. We know you'll bear with us; if you have tickets to upcoming events, we will be in touch soon.

Given the uncertainty we are all facing together, it is not possible to say when our museums will be able to reopen to visitors. But we look forward to welcoming back old friends and igniting the curiosity of many more people who haven't yet had the chance to visit us. For the time being, please stay safe and keep in touch with us through our social media channels.

Best wishes,  
**Sir Ian Blatchford**  
Director and Chief Executive, Science Museum Group

## Covid-19 Public TV Information Campaign

• New TV adverts featuring Chief Medical Officer Professor Chris Whitty and voiced by actor Mark Strong highlight key actions for public to take in the fight against coronavirus.

• Part of next stage of Government's public information campaign, launched across various channels, including TV, radio, online and billboards

• New ads come after the PM confirmed new social distancing measures and stay at home advice to limit virus spread

The UK's Chief Medical Officer and actor Mark Strong will feature in new TV adverts as part of the government's public awareness campaign to delay the spread of COVID-19 and keep people safe.

The adverts, which can be viewed here <https://we.tl/t-ykE0xtA1pb>, hit screens this week and help explain new guidance to stay at home for 14 days if someone in your household has symptoms.

The guidance sets out that individuals will still be asked to self-isolate for seven days from the onset of symptoms, but any individuals in the household will now be asked to self-isolate for 14 days from that moment as well.

If other members of your household develop symptoms, however mild, at any time during the 14 days they must not leave the home for 7 days from when symptoms started.

The new phase of the campaign will build on the existing radio, online, digital and billboard adverts

currently visible all over the country. These reinforce the importance of washing your hands more often for 20 seconds and ask people to self-isolate for seven days if they develop a high temperature or a new continuous cough - however mild.

The government's public awareness campaign offers clear, practical advice so people can play their part in preventing and slowing the spread of the virus.

The awareness campaign also reiterates the importance of seeking help online by visiting NHS.uk/coronavirus to check your symptoms and follow the medical advice, rather than visiting your GP. It also urges people with any symptoms to avoid contact with older and more vulnerable people.

Only if symptoms become worse should people use the NHS 111 service. To ensure the phone service is readily available to those who need it, where possible people should use the 111 website rather than calling.

NHS, Public Health England and Local Authority Public Health teams up and down the country are working tirelessly to support everyone in need of advice, testing or treatment.

Since January, public health teams and world leading scientists have been working round the clock on the COVID-19 response, and government has been working with partners across the country to provide tailored advice to the public, travellers coming into the country and those most at risk from COVID-19.

## Situations VACANT

### CHILD CARER REQUIRED

Darlington professional, friendly family are looking to find someone to help support their precious 10 year old daughter who has disabilities. Duties will include personal care, play assistance, with medication and feeds and sometimes accompanying their child to activities.

After school hours, 3.30pm to 8.30pm, 2-3 days per week. Possible night shifts available. Some additional hours are available during school holidays, flexibility is required.

Candidate must be kind, patient, trustworthy and reliable. Experience with people who have complex needs is essential.

Candidate must be a non-smoking female, with a fun happy nature, who will be joining a small team of like-minded loyal carers. Candidate will be working within a busy happy family home. Driving licence would be an advantage. DBS and references are also required.

Please contact Margaret on email:  
[maggipecock1970@gmail.com](mailto:maggipecock1970@gmail.com)

## AYCLIFFE ARCHERS IN NOVICE COMPETITION



Five of our archers did well at the local Novice Competition - Stewart Bainbridge, Andy Watson and Mike Fleet all shot well in their first competition. Tricia Snaith won the bronze and our youngest archer, Aaron Murphy, came away with gold in the under 12's. Thanks to the host club "Whitburn Archers".

Aycliffe Archers can be contacted via club secretary Tony on 07483 870623 of for more details any interested readers can find more on our website, search "Aycliffe Archers Public Group".



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





## Talking & Listening Phone Service

Councillor Dorothy Bowman, who has worked with the elderly in the community for many years, would like to offer her services to the older, lonely and vulnerable people of Newton Aycliffe during this very difficult Coronavirus time.

'Caring, Sharing and Working Together' in our Community of Newton Aycliffe has always been one of her main priorities over the last 20 years and feels that there is no greater need for Talking

and Listening at this present time with the exception of the World War years, which some of us will remember. There will always be one of two numbers, which are 01325 308094, this has an answer machine occasionally, or 07967 901477, in no circumstances will alternative numbers be used.

'New Friends New Places', the Tuesday Group and 'Men Talking Together' ran and organised by Cllr Dorothy Bowman are closed until further notice.

## Hairdressing Academy Acquired by Learning Curve Group

Learning Curve Group (LCG) are delighted to announce the acquisition of London based hair and beauty training provider the London Hairdressing Apprenticeship Academy (LHAA) and their subsidiary, London Beauty Training Academy (LBTA). LCG, who already have hair and beauty academies in the north east and north west under their own name, will continue to operate both LHAA and LBTA as stand-alone brands within the Group.

The deal, for an undisclosed

sum, will see LCG establish their first fixed premises across the capital, with LHAA's six existing hair academies and two LBTA beauty academies; with plans for further growth once the businesses are fully integrated. All 80 existing LHAA and LBTA staff will transfer across, giving LCG a headcount in excess of 500. As one of the largest, and most diverse providers in the sector, clients and learners of LHAA/LBTA will benefit from access to LCG's much broader range of funded training provision

and apprenticeship schemes. Equally, the synergies will see LCG Academies benefit from the 'best in class' provision delivered by both LHAA and LBTA.

Brenda McLeish, CEO at Learning Curve Group said: 'We're delighted to be adding LHAA and LBTA to our already broad training provision and establishing a base in London.'

LHAA and LBTA are hugely impressive businesses that are delivering vital skills to learners across London. The business shared our values and vision of keeping the learner at the centre of everything we do, and we are looking forward to further growing the brands and helping make this in-demand provision accessible to even more learners.'

Francine and Trevor Luker, founders and directors at London Hairdressing Apprenticeship Academy said:

'LHAA and LBTA have become established as sector leaders in the provision of hair and beauty training. We work with some amazing clients and we are beyond proud of the fantastic team we have here, and everything that they have achieved.'

The time was right for us to step back and gain further investment in the Academies. This will enable them to grow and reach the amazing potential that we know they

can. We needed LHAA and LBTA to be owned by an organisation that cared as much as we all do here, and with Learning Curve Group, we have found that perfect match.'

LCG were supported in the deal by Burness Paul and EY, whilst LHAA were supported by Macintyre Hudson, SBP Law Solicitors and HW Fisher.

## CREDIT UNION CLOSED

NE First Credit Union collection Point in Newton Aycliffe Library will be closed until further notice. This took effect from Thursday 19th March. Members of the Credit Union can get advice and help by contacting NE First on 0330 055 3666 or via the website [www.nefirstcu.co.uk](http://www.nefirstcu.co.uk)

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## Talented Trio Joins Growing DTW Team



The team at North East marketing and public relations agency DTW is expanding with the addition of three new members of staff to kick off 2020.

Anthony Doyle, Rebecca Dew and Richard Johnston have all joined the team at the Tees Valley-based agency.

The expansion comes on the back of a series of successes in securing new clients and growing existing projects across the UK and further afield.

DTW is currently working for organisations like the Law Society of England and Wales, the Financial Conduct Authority and multi-national tolling and mobility solutions provider emovis. The company also works with a number of local organisations, including Road Safety GB North East, Middlesbrough & Stockton Mind and Middlesbrough Council.

Anthony joins as a Senior Strategist, specialising in digital marketing, data analysis, SEO and website development. A Teesside native who has worked around the world, Anthony brings a combination of strategic, technical and development expertise to the DTW team, and will be leading on the development of the company's growing digital offering to clients. He has 20 years' experience of working in marketing, having led enterprise marketing teams for major multi-national organisations, such as Frog Education and QS Unisolution in the software and education sectors.

Rebecca joins as a Public Relations and Digital Engagement Specialist, and will be providing media

relations, copywriting and social media content services to clients. She has a National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) diploma in Multimedia Journalism and a BA (Hons) in English Language and Linguistics from York St John University.

Richard joins as the lead creative in DTW's growing film and digital content team, having previously worked at the prestigious Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity in Canada. He is responsible for all aspects of filming – from storyboarding and planning, to working behind the camera and editing. He graduated in 2016 with a BA (Hons) First Class in Film and Television Production from Teesside University.

Chris Taylor, Managing Director of DTW, said: "Our vision is very simple – it is about creating meaningful campaigns that are world-class, make a difference and help our clients succeed. I'm delighted to welcome Anthony, Rebecca and Richard because they will really strengthen our hugely talented team and are already making a difference to the work we are delivering for our clients."

He added: "We've started 2020 with a bang – and it's important to us to invest in quality staff to ensure that we can continue to meet the growing demand from different sectors of the economy."

DTW, which is ranked by PR Week as one of the top ten public sector specialist PR agencies in the UK, now employs 15 people at its base in Guisborough, providing expert marketing and public relations consultancy alongside film, social media, animation and design.

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# Durham4Schools Workshop



A group of Year 9 students recently attended a Durham4schools workshop, 'The Normans in Durham', at Palace Green Library. They had a very informative guided tour of Durham Castle visiting the Great Hall, Buttery, Black Staircase and other areas not usually open to visitors. Along the way they learnt how the castle was built up and why it is so important in Durham's history. The afternoon session took place in the Museum of Archaeology and the

Learning Centre. The students studied artefacts from the Norman period and tried on replica chain mail and armour. They finished the day learning about how money was made in the local mint and had a go at designing their own coins.

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

ISSUES WITH DOGS  
ARE ON THE DECLINE

Work to encourage dog  
owners to be more responsible  
has seen a welcome fall in the  
number of complaints about  
dog fouling and stray dogs in  
County Durham.  
Durham County Council  
launched a Public Space  
Protection Order (PSPO) in  
2017 to tackle issues such as  
dog fouling and stray dogs,  
making it an offence to allow  
a dog to stray, failing to keep a  
pet on a lead, or allowing dogs  
into designated play areas.  
Since then, reported cases of  
dog fouling have fallen by 45  
per cent.

As well as a welcome fall in  
those reports, the order has  
had a positive effect on the  
number of stray dogs found  
across the county.  
Since 2015/6, the number of  
strays reported has fallen by  
more than a third and the  
number of strays taken to  
kennels in the last year was  
658, a 44 per cent reduction.

The PSPO is one of several  
measures introduced to tackle  
these issues. The civic pride  
team regularly visit schools  
in the county to talk about  
the importance of being a  
responsible dog owner.  
Dog walkers are also  
encouraged to sign up to the  
council's green dog walker  
scheme, pledging to always  
clean up after their pet and  
carry extra dog bags for other  
walkers who might not have  
one to hand.

Neighbourhood Protection  
Manager, Ian Hoult, said:  
"We're obviously pleased with  
this reduction in dog-related

issues. It reflects the hard work  
that we've undertaken to keep  
our streets safe and clean.  
However, we do understand  
that these issues remain a  
concern for communities and  
we would reassure people that  
we will continue to focus our  
efforts on these.

"I'd also stress that we know  
the vast majority of people  
are responsible dog owners  
and that our work aims to  
tackle the minority. That's  
why we will be continuing  
to engage with residents and  
encouraging them to sign up to  
the green dog walker scheme.  
We'd also encourage residents  
to let us know about anyone  
who isn't being a responsible  
pet owner, either by calling us  
our going onto our website."

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need to take this measure to  
protect everyone working,  
volunteering or visiting the  
centre.

However, we are still able to  
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two new telephone numbers,  
from 10.00am to 4.00pm.  
Vicki Lawrence and Joanne  
Howe, the Manager and  
Assistant Manager will be  
available to listen and chat  
with people during these  
times. If you are unable  
to speak to someone when  
you telephone the numbers,  
please leave your name and  
number and they will return  
your call.

**These contact numbers are:**  
**Vicki - 07394 507551**  
**Joanne - 07394 507552**

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website and Facebook to  
keep in touch with our  
members and anyone having  
difficulties during these  
trying times.



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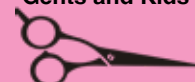
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# St. Teresa's Need Help as Fundraising is Curtailed

A much loved hospice has urged the community 'not to wash its hands of us' as the crisis caused by coronavirus threatens to stifle fundraising efforts.

St Teresa's Hospice needs to raise £3 million a year to provide free day, in-patient and community care for people living with life-limiting illnesses and their families in Darlington, South Durham and North Yorkshire. But the pandemic is threatening its life-blood by limiting events and its ability to attract vital donations.

Emergency measures have already been put in place to protect the health of patients, volunteers and staff and keep open the hospice's string of charity shops, which are so critical to continued income generation.

St Teresa's Hospice Chief Executive Jane Bradshaw said: "This crisis is unprecedented and we fully appreciate the worry and disruption the virus is causing worldwide. But we pray, that in the melee, the community we have served for more than 30 years doesn't wash its hands of us and helps us get through this turbulent period, so we can pay our essential workforce."

"We rely on the public's support and fear that many of the events, such as running and sponsored cycle rides, may be postponed or cancelled."



"High profile events, such as the Great North Run and London Marathon, have been major sources of income for the hospice as our lovely family of supporters go to extraordinary lengths to help us continue our work. Unfortunately these might not take place or may be postponed which will severely affect our fundraising efforts." The hospice's own annual fundraisers are also under constant review as the health crisis deepens.

The hospice has reviewed all of its services to boost levels of infection control even higher. The day services have been transferred to telephone only, while in-patient visitors must phone in advance, with numbers being limited to two per patient.

Vital community services, including home and rapid

response care, will continue but patients will be asked whether they or any members

of their family have exhibited coronavirus symptoms or been in contact with anyone who is self-isolating.

The hospice's charity shops will remain open until further notice with staff and volunteers following official handwashing and sanitising advice. The hospice eBay shop will be operated by staff from home and house clearances will continue.

An online appeal has been launched with a Just Giving Page and members of the public can also become official 'Friends of the Hospice'. Fundraising packs can also be obtained offering ideas to help raise money during any periods of isolation.

Mrs Bradshaw added: "This community has supported the hospice incredibly well for more than three decades. With some help to tide us over during this extraordinary period I am sure we can meet these challenges to continue to help local people during their most testing times."



Comparing yourself to anyone else is a total waste of time, the only person you can ever be is you. So it makes more sense to be a quality original than a cheap copy of something else. Comparisons always come from a place of weakness and low self esteem. Strong, grounded, successful people don't waste time comparing themselves to anyone. They are too busy feeling good about themselves, enjoying who they are and the happiness this brings.

Those who compare themselves to others tend to under value their own self worth and over value the other person creating an unrealistic perception of the other person. If you place someone on a pedestal, you automatically put yourself down in relation to their lofty position. Compliance or conformity rarely, if ever, brings the happiness or acceptance we desire. Being true to ourselves provides a solid foundation to build solid relationships on. When we look to others to value and love us, we always run the risk of leaving ourselves open to be used and abused. Love can come in many ways, but it's never disguised as selfishness, abuse or neglect.

If you find yourself having to ask for love and respect you are obviously speaking to the wrong person, and you need to move on and find the right person to love you for who you are, and support you to be all that you can be. Then, all you have to do is take the time to find out who you really are.



**Paul Howell, Member of Parliament for Sedgefield**

Well what a week! It has been an extraordinary experience over the last few months since being elected but nothing could have led me to anticipate what has happened this week.

Starting with the Budget last Wednesday when the chancellor delivered a package that included £30 billion support for people and businesses affected by the Coronavirus and promised to do more if required, less than a week later he has introduced £330 billion of loans and guarantees to further support business.

The scale of these interventions is eye watering and difficult for anyone to comprehend the magnitude of but we can all recognise that they are very substantial. This is written early Wednesday and we anticipate further interventions directed more towards employees.

The Health Secretary then announced measures supporting the NHS and advising on actions to try and control the spread of the disease. This includes, if you or anyone in your home has a high temperature or a new and continuous cough then you should stay at home for 14 days. If at all possible you

should not go out even to buy food and essentials, instead you should ask for assistance with your daily necessities. There are many false stories circulating on the internet and it is important that you take the correct advice, please use the Government and NHS websites, www.gov.uk and www.nhs.uk, as your primary sources of information. For more local information use www.durham.gov.uk and watch their Facebook and Twitter pages for updates. Locally the support services are working flat out through their local resilience plans to coordinate and help. Please support them by helping and checking on any neighbours who might require help. My staff and I are part of this process but it is the normal teams from the NHS, Social Care and the Emergency Services who are the real front line team and we thank them for their extraordinary efforts at this time, bearing in mind that they are people too and will have the same concerns and issues as the rest of us.

Please stay safe and look after yourselves and others.  
**Paul Howell**  
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

## In Memoriam

### Mick Bonas

28th March 1992

Memories of a wonderful Father, taken far too soon. Love you always Dad, from Lee, Julie, Sarah and all your Grandchildren xx

### Obituary

#### 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.

#### Amanda Susan Renwick

24th March



Our special Daughter and Mother, sending a dove to Heaven with presents on its wings. A million hugs and kisses, just to let you know we all love and miss you so.

All our love, Mam, Dad, Cara and all the family

### Congratulations

#### Tony Moore



**Happy 60th Birthday**  
Happy 60th Tony, all my love, Marie  
Happy 60th Birthday Dad, love from Mark, Becky and Alex.  
Happy 60th Tony. Love from Ann.

### EMILY COOK

22nd April 2004 to 21st March 2017  
"Our Beautiful Star"



forever. So shine on our bright star.  
Love you, Uncle Michael and Auntie Caroline xx

Each day we always question, as we always wonder why. Why you had to leave us dear Emily, our angel in the sky. Love from Thomas, Michael and Matthew xxxx

Emily, your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.

God love our beautiful angel. Lesley, Brian and family xxx

Our Emily, how could we ever forget, those beautiful brown eyes, that cheeky face and lovely smile. The days you danced, the days you played - you were the princess.

Me and Holly were your slaves, you were a teacher and we were your pupils.

We played board games and you always won (cos you cheated) ha!!

I asked what you wanted to be when you grew up . . . but now you rest in the arms of the angels, you touched the hearts of many. You will always be in our hearts forever.

Love, Uncle Howard, Auntie Eleanor and David xxx

Our beautiful Em, softly the leaves of memory fall, gently we gather and treasure them all. Some may forget now that you are gone, but we will remember no matter how long.

Auntie Vicki, Uncle Dave and all your friends from the Hub xxxx

Emily, your memories are like threads of gold, they never tarnish or grow old, just like the memories we share of you, locked in our hearts, wrapped tight with love.

Chris and Hayley xx

#### Dennis Leonard (Denny)

Aged 76, died peacefully at home on Wednesday 11th March with his close family present.

Funeral to be held at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon, on Tuesday 24th March at 13.30.

Floral tributes by family only but donations to Macmillan Cancer Support welcomed from friends and attendees.

#### June Stainthorpe (Woodham)

Passed away in hospital on 14th March. A Funeral Service for immediate family only will be held on Monday 30th March in St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe.

Would friends meet for Committal Service at Wear Valley Crematorium at 1.30pm.

All are welcome for refreshments afterwards at Woodham Golf Club. Enquiries to Whitehouse Funeral Service. Tel: 01325 318600. (Due to the Coronavirus, arrangements could be changed).

#### Norman Henry Saunders



18th March 2019

*Gone But Not Forgotten*  
One year has passed, though you left us so many beautiful memories.

Although we cannot see you, we know you are always watching over us. We love and miss you so very, very much.

Until we meet again. Your ever loving Wife Margaret; Sons Shaun, Adrian, Craig; Partners, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

#### Jenny Tarvit

If roses grow in Heaven Lord, please pick a bunch for me. Place them in my Mother's arms and tell her they are from me.

Tell her I love her and miss her, and when she turns to smile, place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while.

Because remembering her is easy, I do it every day. But there is an ache within my heart that will never go away.

Happy Mother's Day Mam, all our love from Kathy, Martin and family xxxxxx

#### Barbara Sutton

We all say on this special day, thank you to our Mother and Nana for all the love you gave all of us in your life, we will never forget.

Always in our hearts  
All the family





# Success at Nationwide Street Dance Finals

Students from South Durham School of Dance have just competed in the IDTA Nationwide Street Dance Finals, held in Stoke, where they danced in some really large sections against other dancers in their age category, with the majority of sections including more than 80 dancers. This is a hugely competitive competition with the best dancers from each region of the country represented at the finals (following the regional qualifiers that took place a few months ago). We had a number of students reach the Quarter and Semi Finals, with some placing in the Finals!

We now have a Nationwide Champion in Posi Ashiru, who achieved an overall 1st place in the 6 – 10 years Stardance Section!

Isla Rose Mcallister also reached the Nationwide Finals in the 3 – 5 years

section and is now the Nationwide Runner Up after placing in 2nd position overall in the final. Teni Ashiru also reached the Nationwide Finals in the 6 – 8 years section and placed 4th position overall. Alesha Ross and Ayo Ashiru reached the Nationwide Finals in the Duos section and are now Nationwide Runners Up after placing in 2nd position in the final of the 10 – 12 years category. Posi Ashiru and Teni Ashiru also reached the finals of the 7 – 9 years Duos section, placing an overall 5th position in the final. Alesha Ross, Ayo Ashiru, Posi Ashiru and Teni Ashiru also reached the final of the Nationwide Quads section. This was a hugely competitive competition with around 53 sets of Quads competing in this, the 12 years and under section. There were eight

sets of quads in the final and they placed 6th overall, which was an amazing achievement given the large number of heats to get through before reaching the final. Caroline Race, Principal of South Durham School of Dance said 'I am so proud of all of my students who have competed at these finals. They have all done incredibly well and have worked so hard in the run up

to these finals and they are a credit to themselves and their parents. I would also like to say a massive 'thank you' to Mia Dunbar, who helps me teach the Street class each Monday night'. South Durham School of Dance is based at Greenfield School Arts Centre in Newton Aycliffe and holds classes most nights of the week. A registered IDTA Freestyle Dance School competing in Freestyle, Lyrical/Slow Dance (in both

IDTA and ADFP), Rock n Roll, Street, Commercial, Ballet and Tap, Acro, Flexibility and Tumbling. South Durham School of Dance also do IDTA Examinations in Freestyle, Lyrical, Rock n Roll and Street as well as private lessons and fitness classes. For more information about the Dance School, please contact Caroline Race on 07949 911642.



Teni Ashiru



Posi Ashiru



Isla Rose Mcallister



Posi Ashiru, Teni Ashiru, Ayo Ashiru &amp; Alesha Ross



Ayo Ashiru &amp; Alesha Ross

## SKATERS COME HOME WITH A MEDAL HAUL

Skaters representing Spectrum RSC based at Sunnydale Leisure Centre in Shildon came home with medals after a successful competition at Spring Solos. The National Competition at Kettering held 14th/15th March 2020 attracted skaters from all over the country. Team Spectrum had fantastic performances with five of the eleven skaters performing at this level for the first time. Ten year old Jazzmyn Loring, who moved into Elementary category, gained a silver medal for her Carlos Tango and Denver Shuffle. Nine year old Iris Comerford skated to a Bollywood themed freedance achieving a bronze medal in her category. All of the skaters performed well and enjoyed a weekend together although there were some restrictions in place due to the coronavirus - there was no podium and no handshakes, hugging was not allowed and everyone in the building was encouraged to handwash regularly!

**Results from the weekend:**  
**Solo Dance - Non Medallist**  
 Ella Newson, 6th.  
 Iris Comerford, 7th.  
 Lucy Owen, 15th.  
 Kam Comerford, 10th.  
 Matthew Bowden, 8th.  
 Maddison Longstaff-Jones, 12th.  
 Katie Bowden, 16th.  
**Solo Dance - Elementary**  
 Jazzmyn Loring, 2nd.  
**Solo Dance - Inter-Bronze**  
 Nicola Stevens, 12th.  
**Duo Dance - Non-Medallist**  
 Iris Comerford & Matthew Bowden, 7th.  
 Maddison Longstaff-Jones & Katie Bowden, 9th.  
 Kam Comerford & Ella Newson, 10th.  
**Duo Dance - Elementary/Prelim**  
 Jazzmyn Loring & Hannah Godwin, 12th.  
**Couples Dance**  
 Iris Comerford & Matthew



Bowden, 10th.  
 Freedance - Non-Medallist  
 Iris Comerford, 3rd.  
 Kam Comerford, 5th.  
 Ella Newson, 6th.  
 Lucy Owen, 9th.  
 Liam Stevens, 11th.  
 Matthew Bowden, 9th.  
 Maddison Longstaff-Jones, 12th.

Katie Bowden, 12th.  
 Following advice from the government and our national governing body Spectrum RSC are sadly now cancelling all public roller discos and beginners lessons. For updates please stay connected on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

## Local Water Polo Players Win Silver



Seven players from Sedgefield Water Polo Club were recently selected to participate in the Under 18's Inter Regional competitions representing the North East region. The girls competed in January in Manchester where Poppy Stephenson and Ella Boyer came away in third place with bronze medals after two wins, one draw and one loss. The boys competed the following weekend in Sheffield where Matthew Taylor, Kes McEwan, Jude Henderson, Ryan-Jay Griffiths and Ben Alderson came away in second place with silver medals after winning all games with

the exception of the final. The boys were coached by Sedgefield's own John and James Pratt; both of whom have experience of playing the sport at high level. Both teams played to a very high standard, which is testament to their dedication and the hard work that they put into training at both Club and Regional level. Anyone aged 8 and over who is interested in trying water polo as a fun and exciting hobby is asked to call or text the club on 07579 030598 or email sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com. Free trials take place on most Saturdays from 3.00-4.30pm; these should be booked in advance.

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