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# Newton News Takes Unprecedented Break

Newton Press are disappointed to report that this edition of the Newton News will be our last printed version for a few weeks to keep our staff, deliverers and you safe.

Since 1948 Newton Aycliffe has had its very own local community newspaper delivered to each house in the local area. Newton Press took over publishing, printing and arranging delivery of the Newton News in 1968 and has only once missed one other edition in the last 52 years. We try to follow the ethos and methods of our mentor and founder, Syd Howarth MBE, who took the original four page newsletter to a tabloid sixteen page newspaper; from once a month to weekly; from black and white to full colour. Over this time updating the residents with details of activities, events and local news, always trying to inform and pull together the community and encourage everyone to work together for the good of all.

The only time Newton News has missed a printed edition was in March 2018 when heavy snow fall prevented our paper delivery getting through. On that occasion we uploaded the edition to our



website and received over 96,000 complete newspaper downloads for that week's edition, the numbers have been consistent since.

#### STATS:

Title	D/loads
30th March 2018	96,721
22nd Feb., 2019	89,866
4th May 2018	80,216
25th May 2018	76,569
11th May 2018	75,887
14th Dec., 2018	70,069

As the Coronavirus pushes the government into taking drastic action, the uncertainty of what will happen changes day by day, after this week, we will still be available for our readers online via [www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk).

We are, however, concerned about those residents who do not have online access or social media accounts. This group includes many of the elderly, infirm and vulnerable in our society who, more and more rely on the Newton News to keep them abreast of what is happening around them.

During this unprecedented time we encourage residents to check on their neighbours via telephone or a message through the door, please remember the advice given and social distance. A form on page two is reproduced to help with this neighbourly action.

Newton News will, we hope, be back to normal as soon as possible and continue to do what we have always done, unite our community and keep our readers informed.

At this time Newton News and Newton Press would like to thank our paper delivery team, they deliver your newspaper, week in and week out, in all sorts of weathers... but never in a situation like this.

Take care and we will see you on the other side.  
Paul, Stuart & Christopher Howarth

## ACORN Community Association

Dear Sir,  
Due to the current situation, re Covid-19, all ACORN Community Association meetings, events and excursions have been regrettably cancelled for the foreseeable future. We as a group would not want to be responsible for the gathering of groups of people at this time. The majority of our members are in excess of 70 years of age and many are vulnerable.

I have just returned from Turkey having been recalled from holiday on a plane with hundreds of passengers and have therefore self isolated for 14 days as a precaution. I would like to help in whatever way that I can and have been racking my old addled brain for ideas. My wife, Elaine, and I are keeping in touch by telephone and whatsapp with as many of our members and friends as we can.

ACORN has ordered a few tins of cat food from a charity organisation who we work with and expect delivery next week, at which time we will advertise these goods free. We continue to be good neighbours and residents of Newton Aycliffe. Please keep us informed and stay safe.  
Ken Robson

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# Woodham High School Musical Success

Students in the Performing Arts Academy took to the stage at the end of February for their performance of Disney's High School Musical. The performances evidenced the hard work and dedication of students who have been attending the four different sessions that exist within the Performing Arts Academy; Light and Sound, Rockademy, Stage & Set Design and Drama. Students who attend the different sessions have been meeting every Thursday after school in order to put the performance together. Students created everything

for the show including the sound and lighting, live band, costumes and props and it was easy to see the high levels of talent that the students possess.

This is the debut year for the Performing Arts Academy and, with over 100 students being involved so far, it is clear that it will continue to be successful for many years to come.

Aycliffe Radio were in attendance on the final night and interviewed the cast afterwards. This session will be broadcast on Sunday 12th April (Easter Sunday) at 7.30pm.



## The Hub of Wishes are Here to Help

The Hub of Wishes understands more than most the impact these times are having on peoples mental health, we took the difficult decision under government directives to close the centre. We had made strategic plans in case of such an event, which is enabling people to contact us by phone, Facebook, messenger, email and text. We are still working from

home Monday to Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm.

It is so important to keep open the communication to help our community through these scary and challenging times.

Our numbers are:  
Vicki - 07394 507551  
Joanne - 07394 507552  
We don't want anyone to suffer in silence we are still here to help and support adults experiencing any kind of Mental Health issue.

## 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.**

## Stay at Home

Dear Sir,  
I don't usually contact newspapers, but I feel so strongly about this that I just HAD to. My husband and I have been following the government advice and staying at home. We sat in the garden this afternoon (after all, it was a nice day), to get some fresh air. Imagine then, our disbelief when we realised that TWO sets of neighbours in adjoining properties were entertaining visitors, family/friends in their gardens, despite the stay at home advice. This was wrong on so many levels: One visitor was obviously a grandma - she was putting herself and her family at risk! Government advice is for everyone to stay home unless for important reasons I have diabetes and am at risk of complications if I get the virus. I was social distancing in my own garden and yet these people were putting me at risk, wandering close to the fence near our garden. These rules are for EVERYONE, stay at home, means exactly that! Cobblers Hall Resident  
Name & address supplied

## "WILL OUR CHILDREN LOOK AT US WITH SHAME OR WITH PRIDE?"

Dear Sir,  
"There are dark clouds," said the boy. "Yes, but they will move on." Said the horse, "the blue sky above never leaves." The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse - Charlie Mackesy

No one can argue that we are facing a very uncertain and challenging time. I have been working with young people as a child behaviour specialist for 18 years now and being in schools this week and witnessing the reactions of our children and young people as they leave their friends, teachers and schools has been very difficult. They have had to walk away from exams that they have worked towards, some of them will still be in school, some will not. Some will still be able to see their friends and family, some will not. Our children are scared and unsure about the immediate future and are going to take their lead from us. This has made me ask a question of myself and others, 'Who do you want to be at the end of all of this?' What do I mean by this? Quite simply, do you want to be the person that buys baby milk that you don't need, just to sell it at a profit, as I heard in Tesco at the weekend? Do you want to be the person that tries to buy 96 toilet rolls, for reasons many cannot quite understand? Do you want to be the person that ignores the boundaries that have been put in place to keep us as safe as possible, just because you want to do what you want to do? Or do you want to be the person that thought about the needs of others and acted accordingly?

"Ask not what your country

can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." J. F. Kennedy.

Make no mistake, our country is not just a lump of rock in a rather choppy sea. Our country and our community is our children and right now they are looking to us for guidance and support. We are their barometer of how to behave in this challenging time. What are we going to show them?

Although we are only at the beginning, and the end is unknown, this will end. We all need to step up and set an example to our children through our choices, that will minimize the long term impact of this incredibly difficult experience.

So right now we have the opportunity to choose behaviours that will build a foundation for our children which will allow them to live in a community, a country, and a world that can be better after this than it was before.

Please do not think that I am dismissive of the lives that have been lost or the lives that may still be lost, but my hope is that we can show our children that 'When you can be anything in this world, be kind.' are not just meaningless words that we share around for likes, that it should be a statement of fact, as at no time in our recent history have we needed to show more kindness and consideration to others than now.

So when the clouds move on and the blue sky returns, how do we want our children to look at us, with shame or with pride?

Thank you  
Tracey

**75th ANNIVERSARY**

# VE/VJ Day Celebration

**Sat., 15th August 2020**

**11.00am to 4.00pm**

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- 11am - Aycliffe Radio
- 11.30am - Jenna Highfield
- 12pm - Aycliffe Radio
- 12.30pm - Jenna Highfield
- 1pm - Mayor Arrives - Piper
- 1.15pm - Aycliffe Radio
- 1.30pm - 1407 Cadets Drill
- 2pm - Jenna Highfield
- 2.30pm - Aycliffe Radio
- 3pm - Piper Plays "Battle Oer"
- 3.15pm - Jenna Highfield
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## Visit County Durham Announces Support for Tourist Businesses

Destination management organisation Visit County Durham has today announced support for visitor economy businesses in the county, for whom the current COVID-19 outbreak has had a significant effect.

Visit County Durham works on behalf of businesses and public agencies to support the growth and development of the county's visitor economy, which is worth £914m and supports 11,998 jobs.

Operating as a Partnership organisation, over 360 businesses from the accommodation, attraction, activity, food and drink, retail, entertainment, events and tourism services industries receive a package of business support and promotion for an annual partnership fee. However, Visit County Durham is set to waive these fees for 2020/21 to show solidarity and support for their Partners.

Ivor Stolliday, chairman of Visit County Durham, said: "In these unprecedented times it is vital that we support our visitor economy businesses.

By waiving Partnership fees for 2020/21 we hope to ease some of the financial pressure our businesses are currently facing. And once we have navigated the challenging situation the industry is facing, we will work closely with our Partners to assist in their recovery."

Cllr Joy Allen, Cabinet member for transformation, culture and tourism at Durham County Council, said: "During this uncertain climate we all recognise the importance of supporting businesses who will be affected by the outbreak of Coronavirus. Tourism is a vital part of Durham's economy and, by waiving Partnership fees, our businesses can be reassured they will still receive the support from Visit County Durham without any added financial pressure in this difficult time."

The county's visitor economy has proven its resilience in the past, and with this support in place, Visit County Durham and its Partners will be best placed to work together to ensure a timely recovery for the industry.

## Greenfield Students Continue ...

Students from Greenfield Community College are well practised at being strong self-led learners and with the support of dedicated and expert staff have recently made further progress using quality online learning packages as part of their studies.

During these unprecedented times, it has been challenging for everyone, and it was a particularly emotional day last Friday for Year 11 students, as the school building closed for most students. It is reassuring to know however that students throughout the school are equipped with the means to move forward and achieve their goals.

Just one example of the use of innovative online resources is Hegarty maths; this is an educational tool used by many schools, and students at Greenfield have spent over 2615 hours on Hegarty in the last six weeks; that's an extra 3.1 hours of extra time spent working on valuable self-led studying.

A massive 113,390 questions were answered correctly by students at Greenfield Community College, with 85% achieving a figure of 70% or more. Well done! The online initiative set up

by Colin Hegarty, Global teacher of the year, saw an upturn of 60,000 users this week as students continue their studies at home.

Staff at Greenfield are supporting students in every way possible with a host of online resources and printed home packs available for each year group covering a wide range of subjects and tasks. The school are also finding ways to help support those families of children who may need a little more help at this time.

As with many institutions and organisations Greenfield Community College are finding ways to continue and to support their staff, students and families in a positive and innovative way, fostering their approach to encourage self-led learning and supporting their community in every way they can. Contact the school via the school email [contact@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:contact@greenfieldschool.net) or visit the website [www.greenfieldschool.net](http://www.greenfieldschool.net) for more information. Click on the school closure link on the home page for up to date information. There are lots of online learning resources and areas of work for Greenfield students on the home page of the school website under 'student home access'.

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT INSPIRED BY VE DAY

Greenfield Arts are delighted to be part of an inspiring project, in partnership with Shildon Town Council, that celebrates and is informed by the community spirit that was prevalent during wartime Britain.

This year will see the 75th anniversary of VE Day which brought communities together in celebration at the end of a terrible period of history.

The future project, which is funded and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, will bring together members of the community. We will generate a unique creative response that will result in a collective artwork/sculpture that recognises the strength of community and the significant heritage of this period.

Katy Milne, Director of Creativity at Greenfield Arts and Artist Vicky Holbrough, will work alongside a number of groups including Jubilee Fields, the Railway Institute and Lilburn Close as well as open drop in sessions at the Civic Hall. The final piece will be a fantastic result of the sum of its parts with contributions from local groups, the wider community and input from students from Greenfield Community College. Thank you to Kath Regan at Shildon Town Council for working hard and securing the funding. "What a fantastic community we have in our area with such generous spirit. This project is inspired by the anniversary of VE day and how people worked to help each other. These are still enormous strengths we see visible in our community day to day and we see in the many acts of kindness, thoughtful actions and self-improving nature of this place. We look forward to working together to create an artistic response to this which can be shared across the town."

During the present difficult conditions, it is wonderful to see the many positive acts of kindness across our community and kindred spirits that are looking out for one another.

The final art work, brought together by Artist Vicky Holbrough, will then be displayed in public spaces across Shildon.



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- if you would like to speak to your local police officer



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# LIES, DAMN-LIES AND STATICS!

Dear Sir,  
Sedgefield CLP Campaign team (Momentum?) consider that, because statics show Cllr. J. D. Clare refers substantially more complaints to DCC than his fellow Conservative Ward Councillors, he is a better Councillor. This is nonsense! Cllr. Clare is perceived by the Ward electorate as being the best to complain to because he is a Labour Councillor and DCC is a Labour/Momentum controlled Council, with an almost exclusively Labour Cabinet. The electorate know that Non-Labour Councillors are excluded from decision making and properly representing their electorate. My wife used to consistently complain to DCC when street-lights were 'out' on the A167. She got fed up with the lack of prompt action. However, this is changing. At the recent Woodham West GATC election the Labour / Momentum candidate, backed up by his Campaign Team, got 116 votes, 776 less than the Liberal Democrat and only four votes more than the Independent Candidate. At the General election voters fled from Labour/Momentum and they continue to do so. Until Labour rid themselves of the cancer that is Momentum only Momentum supporters will vote for them. Two weeks ago Sedgefield Labour Women's Forum (Cllr. Kathy Beetham?) latched on to an 'Independent' Report on the fall in life expectancy (especially among woman). They linked this fall to the, "Tory ideology of Austerity". Again, this is nonsense and for the following reasons:  
1) Labour's Gordon Brown and Alastair Darling bailed out the Banks and, in so doing, made it impossible for the country to borrow. They maxed out our Credit

Card. Both the Coalition Government and Cameron's government were elected on manifestos of 'Austerity'. That is what they said they HAD to do and, luckily, we elected them. While Cameron was offering 'Austerity', Ed Miliband's Labour offered 'Austerity Lite'. This, the electorate rejected.  
2) Life expectancy starts at the moment of conception. The circumstances and health of the parents being an important factor for life expectancy. The effects of 'Austerity' on children born 5 years ago will not be apparent until they die. However, the effects of the Abortion Act were, and are, immediate. Why are the Labour party women so worried about the fall in life expectancy when they support ending a life even before birth?  
3) The increased life expectancy of people born immediately post-war has been attributed to the fact that they were born in a time of extreme austerity. I can remember sweets coming off rationing when I was four/five years old. Rationing was reinstated due to there being a lack of sugar. There were very few obese children in my class! I did not know about Diabetes.  
4) It is obvious that the increase in childhood obesity and diabetes, the Aids/HIV epidemic, and cancers caused by increased pollution, are generally, the main drivers in the fall in life expectancy currently being experienced. Both, the Labour/Momentum Campaign Group and their Women's Forum, are abusing statistics in order to try and hoodwink the electorate into believing that they give a hoot about life expectancy and good representative  
Yours Sincerely,  
Alastair P.G. Welsh

# COMMENT IS FREE BUT FACTS ARE SACRED

Dear Sir,  
Labour Leader, Bob Fleming, referred two weeks ago to a loan I took out of £125,000 at 8.12% on 2 June 1995. As if I had committed some awful act and saddled the Council with debt. Let's look more closely at the facts around that shall we. Firstly, The Finance Committee on 10.2.1993 (Minute 147 refers) proposed by Eddy Adam and seconded by Bob Fleming, agreed to apply for a loan sanction for the new cemetery. Then the Committee on 6.4.1994 (Minute 164) was advised by the Town Clerk, John Farquhar, that during his absence on sick leave (recovering from a heart attack), that the acting Town Clerk, Tom Toward, had cancelled the loan application. John Farquhar, on his return, had obtained a bridging loan costing only £250, and the loan sanction £125,000 had been re obtained for 1995/96. The Committee endorsed the actions of the Town Clerk. On both occasions, the Committee unanimously agreed to these actions, and present at both those meetings and voting in favour was Bob Fleming. On each of these occasions (1993 and 1994), Bob Fleming was Labour Leader and Eddy Adam was Deputy Labour Leader. In 1995 Bob was Labour Leader and George Gray Deputy Labour Leader. In addition, John Dormer was Chairman and John Wray was Vice Chairman of Finance at the 10.2.93 meeting and John Dormer was Chairman and Angela Fleming Vice Chairman of Finance at the 6.4.94 meeting. I simply signed the loan agreement on 2 June 1995 as the then Chairman of Finance on behalf of the Council. Angela Fleming was my Vice Chairman. This is just one of the points raised by Bob Fleming, implying I had done something horribly wrong, when in fact he was Labour Leader throughout 1993 to 1995, the Council had unanimously agreed it, I simply applied the Council's signature in 1995, in accordance with its twice unanimous decision. Bob Fleming also asserted in Newton News that "on becoming Leader in 1991, he was faced with Council Debts of £632,500 at varying high interest of 9.6% to 14.1% and annual repayment of £41,506." He then goes on to admit that £366,000 was taken out after 1991 when he was Labour leader. I have double checked the figures and just as I proved he misled you on the £125,000 loan (which he supported) likewise he misled you again on the £632,500 so called debt in 1991. The Council had taken out loan debt between 1973 and 1983 of £494,500, (before I was elected in May 1983). The Council then took out two loans totalling £158,000 in 1986. The Council then took on a loan of £125,000 on 2.6.1995 and £200,000 on 17.5.2004. Bob was Labour Leader from 1990 and Chairman of Finance from 1997. I think the facts speak for themselves. At no time since he was elected in 1987 did he object to any loans taken out. Cllr Arun M Chandran Independent

# A Tribute to Honest John

Dear Sir,  
I am so sorry and saddened to hear about Honest John's passing. I know he will be sadly missed by many and will be such a loss to Newton Aycliffe. I am very proud to say John was a very good friend and he was there for me when I needed him most. His door was open and he would listen to my concerns for hours, never once tiring or growing weary of a friend in need. I will never forget John's kindness, hospitality and his gifted sense of humour. We shared many an evening laughing at ourselves and the wider world in general. John was very knowledgeable in what he did, having an encyclopedic memory for pottery and antiques. He had tremendous drive and enthusiasm, setting off from his home at unearthly hours in the middle of winter to set up his stall both in the town centre market and Sunday car boot fairs. Never complaining, instead a nice smile and a kind word always waited anyone who stopped by the stall for a chat. I would often tell him to start thinking of himself, but of course, this always fell on deaf ears. Such as John's selflessness in helping the local community. It was this desire to help and give to others, which, as I am sure many will agree, wasn't really truly "officially" recognised, but certainly was acknowledged by those he helped and the people of Newton Aycliffe, which was what mattered to John. He was truly a man of the people, gentle, happy and a kind soul. One of life's good guys. We will all miss him so much. Andrew from Ferryhill



This project helps families struggling, on a low income, to get what they need for their Children, in and around Newton Aycliffe. If you need help, especially during this difficult time, or can donate some items such as Baby Baths, Moses Baskets and Stands, Cots, Safety Gates, Toys, Clothes for all ages, including Shoes, Travel Systems, Buggies and Car Seats, please contact Sheena, Yvonne or Liz on 07725 369915.



# Do DCC Officers Need 'A Good Shake Up'?

Dear Sir,  
Last week, a letter of complaint was sent to the Newton News about litter behind a bus stop. The correspondent noted that the rubbish had not been removed, felt that Durham County Council needed "a good shake up", and looked back to a happier time under Sedgefield Borough Council. **TAKING ACTION** I asked DCC to find out what had happened. A littering report had indeed been made on 17 January by phone. However, the location stated in the complaint was Burnhill Way, not Burn Lane where the problem was, so the cleansing team had been unable to locate the problem. The complainant did not leave an email address, and so was not informed. There

is no record of a second call. I reported the problem for cleansing, the area has now been placed on a regular schedule, and was picked this week.

## USE YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR!

I will make two points:

(1) any resident can report any problem to DCC. The best way to do this is online on the County Council website, but whether you do so online or by phone to 03000 260 000, please always make sure you make a note of the FS number.

(2) If the work you identified is not done to your satisfaction, if you tell your local County Councillor the FS number, they will be able to find out what is going on and make sure the matter is addressed properly.

## THE PROBLEM OF LITTER

Finally, may I say that there was no golden litter-free age before DCC – I remember in the 1990s delivering leaflets on behalf of the wonderful Cllr Alan Gray, who was campaigning on a promise to do something about the high levels of litter in Woodham. Litter is a problem that needs continual effort, and – although no excuse for complacency – litter levels in County Durham are just two-thirds of the national figure. Cllr John D Clare

# M.o.T. Exemption

- Cars, motorcycles and vans to be granted MoT exemption
- This will allow people to carry on with essential travel
- Vehicles must be kept in roadworthy condition

Vehicle owners will be granted a six-month exemption from MOT testing, enabling them to continue to travel to work where this absolutely cannot be done from home, or shop for necessities. All cars, vans and motorcycles which usually would require an MOT test will be exempted from needing a test from 30th March. Vehicles must be kept in a roadworthy condition, and garages will remain open for essential repair work. Drivers can be prosecuted if driving unsafe vehicles. People should stay at home and avoid travel. The only reasons people should leave their homes is set out in the government guidance. Legislation will be introduced on 30th March and will come into immediate effect for 12 months, following a short consultation with key organisations. Drivers will still need to get their vehicle tested until the new regulations come into place, if they need to use it. If you can't get an MoT that's due because you're in self-isolation, the Department for Transport is working with insurers and the police to ensure people aren't unfairly penalised for things out of their control. Practical driving tests and annual testing for lorries, buses and coaches have been suspended for up to three months.

# HEARTS OF GOLD

Dear Sir,  
In my neighbourhood (Greathead Crescent area), a young couple with a baby, have put through a lot of my neighbours letter boxes a note, offering help to do shopping, pick up prescriptions, pick up magazines etc. This really does give me a feel good factor at this desperate time. Thank you to Emily, Michael and Alice for thinking of others at this time. S.M.

# Disgusted at Chemist Charges

Dear Sir,  
In these restricted times it is amazing how kind some people are with regard to helping neighbours and generally thinking of others. My husband and I are classed as high risk and have been told by the NHS that we have to completely isolate for at least 12 weeks. As we have no family within the area many people have been in touch to offer help which is very kind. Some large firms are really helping people through these difficult times, however not all of them. Boots the Chemists are a very large firm with stores world wide and yet when I rang to ask if we could have our prescription delivered after collecting them for 40 years and using the shop for goods we were told the following: Apparently since September last year Boots have introduced charging for delivering prescriptions. The charges are £5 for one delivery or you can choose to pay for a year in advance and get your medicines for £55!!! Big deal, a £5 reduction for a year for people in Aycliffe who have been loyal to Boots for many years this is totally disgusting. There are many people who just cannot afford to pay this for delivery and not everyone who is absolutely house bound will have someone able to collect their prescription and necessary medicine for them. I find this totally disgusting and surely such a large company can deliver vital medicines for free for those who are isolated without family to help in these strange times. Personally I am disgusted and will as far as possible boycott Boots in future, as other chemists within Newton Aycliffe are delivering much needed critical and in some cases life saving medicines for free. It would be interesting to have a reply from Boots and thank you and well done to other smaller Chemists in Newton Aycliffe who are really trying to help the residents in need, it will be appreciated. Yours sincerely A.J. Bergg Mrs.

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

The impact of the Coronavirus is hitting people in many ways and the range of emails and calls we are getting is immense. The biggest priority for us all is to take notice on the recent advice on Social Distancing and I would implore you all to take notice and follow advice, it is for ALL our benefits.

I have provided separately details of the various help lines, web sites etc that are available and we are seeing very significant demand on these.

People have intense personal concerns and issues and whilst it is very difficult please be patient with the staff working in these areas as a lot of them have been retrained to support the demand and they are all doing there absolute best.

One very visible concern locally last week was that of food on the shelves of supermarkets. I personally spoke to the staff in a number of supermarkets both in Newton Aycliffe and the rest of the Sedgefield constituency and the message was very clear. That food is available in the supply chain but the demand from people is extraordinary and making the shelves look empty. The stores I visited in Aycliffe and elsewhere after lunch still had product on the shelves despite one having had queues around the car park in the morning, can I please implore everyone to buy at normal levels and allow others to get their share too.

I would ask everyone to be particularly considerate to the supermarket staff who are working incredibly hard and yet at times are getting unreasonable abuse from people which is wholly unacceptable, they are doing their very best. I would also pay credit to organisations like Junction 7, Community Spirit and many others who are stepping up and helping others.

We get very specific questions and also more general suggestions and lobbying for solutions, I can assure everyone that all of these are being fed into the teams that are working incredibly hard to deliver both policy and action. I have briefings with the Council, Police etc to discuss actions being taken and pressures resulting and I am ensuring that where necessary issues are escalated.

The single biggest issue continuing to hit us as I write is support for self employed and I know the treasury team are working very hard on that and I have had representations from numerous residents and have put these up for consideration.

Depending on personal situations everyone's priorities are very different with examples being, "how

do I get food if I need to self isolate", "my bank isn't helping re business loans", "why can't our broadband be better in the village", please can you consider the range of different problems that we are having to address at the same time and be patient, everyone is working very hard to get you answers.

As this evolves there will be more issues arising and the focus will change, we will do everything we can to support people as this extraordinary situation evolves.

It is imperative that people use sources of information that are reliable and have integrity. The websites of the Government, NHS and Durham County Council are obvious starters but your local publication like Newton News are also fantastic source of particularly local information. Indeed where the Newton News goes further is in reaching the members of our community that are not on social media and we are incredibly lucky to have this community resource.

**Paul Howell**  
Member of Parliament  
for Sedgefield

## ROMAN REVEAL MEASURES TO COMBAT COVID-19

Europe's leading shower designer and manufacturer, Roman, reveals new strict measures to protect its workforce, customers and business partners during the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak.

In light of the mounting severity and uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, it is Roman's number one priority to keep employees and business partners healthy and safe, as well as managing resources to ensure continuity in the product supply and provision of services.

Given the unpredictable situation Roman is facing globally, the evolution of the Coronavirus crisis is being closely monitored and reviewed on a daily basis, to ensure continuity of supply and of course safety for all. Roman has introduced a number of measures across the business to minimise any risk to employees, customers and business partners. Roman's measures include, but are not limited to:-

- All company travel prohibited, all company events cancelled, and all face-to-face meetings postponed until further notice.
- Business development and all communication is all being transacted through phone calls and online forms of communication e.g. email, Skype etc.
- All employees who fall in

Elior and Stephenson Way Academy and Primary School are the winners of ITV and Veg Power's Eat Them to Defeat Them school catering challenge.

The school catering challenge ran nationally and aimed to highlight the brilliant, innovative and creative work that catering teams across the country were doing to help support this year's campaign. The judges awarded Stephenson Way's team for doing such a brilliant job at capturing the spirit of the campaign and involving so many children in their colourful and inspiring designs. They transformed the school canteen with a fantastic display of evil vegetables! The kids loved it and enjoyed being the heroes as they had to EAT THEM TO DEFEAT THEM.

Following the success of 2019's campaign, February 2020 saw ITV and Veg Power launch a new, bigger and better incarnation of Eat them to Defeat Them. This year, 6 x 10 second adverts are airing alongside the original ad on ITV, Channel 4 and Sky, with each advert challenging kids to eat that week's featured veg.

The EAT THEM TO DEFEAT THEM campaign has been in 1500 primary schools across the country in 2020 with a schools programme that was designed by educators,



public health professionals, school caterers and the Veg Power Creative team in line with the curriculum and government healthy-eating guidelines.

Many schools posted some of their wonderful and innovative creative ideas via #EatThemToDefeatThem. During the schools closure due to Covid-19 it is possible to download fun creative worksheets and art projects from the Eat them To Defeat them Website.

Earlier this year, ITV and Veg Power published the evaluation report for 2019's Eat Them To Defeat Them campaign. "This report is just the beginning of our journey," said Baroness Rosie Boycott, Veg Power Chair. "One campaign is not going to change the world. But the positive results we have seen already are nothing short of an extraordinary start."

The campaign was seen by 38 million people on ITV and sales data from econometrics specialist Pearl Metrics and data analyst Nielsen show there was a 2.3 per cent uplift in vegetable sales during the campaign. This helped generate an extra 17.7 million unit sales of vegetables with a retail value of £16.2m.6

In addition, Childwise and YouGov suggests that attitudes and behaviour among children and their parents have started to change. A YouGov survey of 1,000 children and their parents showed the advert was liked by 64% of children aged between 6-11 years. 43% of kids who saw the ad said they wanted to eat more vegetables that week.6

Veg Power is part of the Peas Please initiative which aims to deliver meaningful change in the food system by 2023 by making it easier for everyone, particularly those on low incomes, to eat more veg. The initiative is coordinated by partner organisations in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and aims to bring together businesses and brands from across the UK food system to secure commitments to improve the availability, affordability and quality of the veg offered in supermarkets, shops, schools, pubs, fast food outlets and beyond.

Earlier this year, Peas Please published its second Progress Report, announcing that 90 million more portions of veg have been served as a result of the initiative. The report showcases 'Veg Pledges'

made by 63 contract caterers, high street chains, retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, public food procurers, broadcasters and 22 Veg Cities.

Jade Gower, Promotions Manager from Elior said "We are delighted to have been awarded the top and runner up prizes in the Caterers Challenge for Stephenson Way Infants and Middlestone Moor respectively. Not only that, but to have six of our schools make the shortlist is such a great testament to the hardwork of all of our catering teams. We have fully embraced Eat Them to Defeat Them across our education sites as we



recognise the lasting positive impact it makes to the pupils and what a difference it truly has made! We are proud to

have had the team's creative efforts in bringing Eat Them To Defeat Them to life recognised"

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>**

# PUPILS VISIT KEEPMOAT HOMES



## Great Aycliffe Parish

Our Authorised Pastoral Assistant Pam, along with Team Vicar Reverend Jeff Anderson have devised a Parish Care Plan so that anyone vulnerable has someone they can have a chat with on the phone and if they need anything we can work together to make it happen. The Parish Care Plan Team are all trusted members of Great Aycliffe Parish, many are part of our trained Pastoral Care Team so they are well equipped to listen and support. Any practical needs are being met in a safe way, we can shop or collect medicines and leave them on the doorstep. We are working to stay connected in other ways too - those who are able to connect via the internet can go to [www.parishofgreataycliffe.co.uk](http://www.parishofgreataycliffe.co.uk) where they will find prayer resources and videos of worship they can share. Members of Facebook can go to the Parish of Great Aycliffe Facebook page (anyone can join) and find the resources there too and lots to encourage and bless them. Our wonderful St. Clare's Messy Church

Team have posted on their Youth/Children St. Clare's page, I would encourage anyone to have a look and listen to Shine Choir, they would uplift anyone's spirits! The Youth Team have posted prayers too that give you a virtual hug! Our St. Elizabeth's Messy Church are set to post on their Facebook page this weekend, please have a look! Our Foodbank, while it can be operated safely, is currently still open each Wednesday and Friday afternoon. We are still working out how to be a church in these awful times; anyone in need please be in touch with myself, Rev. Ann or Rev. Jeff (01325 315194, or 07731 824622) or with APA Pam Lovelass 07779 942347. If you do not need anything but have prayer requests for someone you are concerned about, please get in touch. Despite all that is happening God is good, we see Him in all the loving acts of kindness going on around us! Love and prayers, Reverend Ann and the Great Aycliffe Parish Team.

On Wednesday 5th March, Year 2 pupils from Byerley Park went to visit the Keepmoat Homes building site as part of their Science topic about materials. When they got there, they had to put on hard hats and high-viz jackets. They found out about the different materials that the houses are made from. In summer, they hope to go back to see the show homes. They really enjoyed their visit. By Edith and Jessica Y6

## Durham Constabulary Response to Outbreak

Chief Superintendent Chris Curtis, the officer in charge of Durham Constabulary's response to the outbreak, says that police will continue to be there when needed, despite the impact of Covid-19. Chief Superintendent Chris Curtis said: "Durham Constabulary has taken all necessary steps to ensure we can continue to protect the public and uphold the service that keeps the public safe every day. I understand that people are worried because these are undeniably difficult times for everyone and our officers and staff are only human: we can catch a flu just like everyone else. "But as you would expect, we have well-rehearsed plans in place for every eventuality and that means we can make sure that our officers - and the vital staff who support

them - will still be out there doing what they do best: preventing crime, catching criminals and keeping our communities safe. "Virus or no virus, we will always be there when the public need us". Although precise figures are not available, early evidence suggests that calls for service to the force's control room at police headquarters have fallen over the last week. Nevertheless officers are urging members of the public to consider whether they really need to call police and also to be patient with the call handlers who are operating under increased pressure during the present emergency. Chief Supt Curtis added: "I have been very proud of the response I have seen from everyone at Durham Constabulary - with staff volunteering to take on different roles where their help is needed most. "Right now, the public won't see much of a difference - we've had to cancel some community meetings, some school visits and some training - but we will still have the same number of officers on the streets and if you call 999 we'll still send help to your door, day or night. Members of the public can help by not calling the police unless you really need to, but we're absolutely confident we have enough officers and enough call handlers to manage in any emergency". Senior officers also asked members of the public to look out for each other during the current situation. Chief Supt Curtis said: "I would like to thank the public for the support they are offering our frontline officers and staff at this time. "But more importantly, we'd like to ask them to look out for each other - their families, friends and neighbours and particularly those who are most vulnerable. "At time like this we all pull together and help look after each other".

## Organised Crime & Coronavirus

The National Crime Agency today warned that organised crime groups may try to exploit the coronavirus outbreak to target the UK. Despite the unprecedented situation with the pandemic, the NCA is continuing to protect the public and leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime throughout this difficult time. NCA intelligence assessments have identified a number of issues that criminals are already looking to exploit. Cyber-crime investigators have seen instances of coronavirus-themed malicious apps and websites, as well as email phishing attacks aimed at stealing personal and financial information.

The NCA's National Cyber Crime Unit is advising people to be extra vigilant when seeking out online information relating to the pandemic and to ensure they are following online safety advice which can be found on the National Cyber Security Centre website. The City of London Police have issued an alert regarding fraudsters using the outbreak to facilitate fraud and cyber-crime. Reported cases include criminals posing as health officials in an attempt to get victims to disclose personal information. There have also been cases of criminal networks exploiting demand for certain coronavirus-related products. One such incident saw a consignment of suspected fake Covid-19 test kits sent from the UK seized by US border officials in Los Angeles. A man was arrested in Sussex by City of London Police attempting to send 60 more fake treatment kits to France, the US, and other parts of the UK, and has since been charged.

The NCA is continuing its work to protect children from abuse and exploitation online. A man from Darlington was sentenced on Monday for making more than 45,000 abuse images as a result of an NCA investigation. As schools close, the agency is increasing its work with partners to bolster child safeguarding and online safety education. There is a risk of increased offending as people spend more time online and indoors, and the NCA is appealing to parents and carers to visit the Thinkuknow educational website for advice about keeping children and young people safe. While travel restrictions are impacting the levels of traffic passing through the UK border, only this week a seizure of half-a-tonne of cocaine was made by Border Force at Dover, leading NCA officers to charge a man with attempted importation. A man from Blackpool was also charged by the NCA after the recovery of firearms and ammunition at the Channel ports.

## Learning Curve Group Donates £20k Balance to Emergency Fund

As the Covid-19 pandemic hits, various groups are working to help ease the pressure on those worst affected. The County Durham Community Foundation have responded to the needs of their community and launched the County Durham Covid-19 Response Fund to help those community groups survive. The Learning Curve Group Charity Foundation has been one of the founding supporters and have donated their entire fund of over £20k to support front-line community groups and local charities in County Durham as the uncertainty continues. Brenda McLeish, CEO of Learning Curve Group said "People are at the centre of everything we do, so we've made an important decision to change the pillars upon which our fund was established with the aim of supporting those who are in need of funds more than ever. As changes are announced daily, we are committed to supporting the local community in whatever way we can. Be that through launching our #EducateWhilstYouIsolate campaign to help people fill their days with learning by expanding eligibility to our fully funded online courses or through donating our entire LCG Foundation fund to this brilliant community cause. I'm just happy that the foundation is set up and is able to help those who need support the most at this difficult time". Working with County Durham Community

Foundation the funds could help buy:

- £5 could buy a hot dinner for an older person self-isolating
- £10 could buy basic food items for a food bank (as people panic buy items, those who cannot afford to are left without access to essentials)
- £20 could buy fuel to help a volunteer deliver meals on wheels
- £50 could support village halls to call elderly people in self-isolation
- £100 could keep the lights on for a community group

You can also donate, please go to: [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/durhamcovid](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/durhamcovid) Chief Executive of County Durham Community Foundation, Michelle Cooper, said: "The situation is becoming more serious as each hour passes, and we cannot afford to wait around. We are devoting all of our time and energy into supporting our local grassroots groups, which in turn will bolster our communities. "Illness, isolation, loneliness and poverty are very real in County Durham and Darlington right now, and exasperated by the spread of Covid-19: but if we work together we can provide support to the life-changing local community services that will lessen the blow."

If you or someone you know would be interested in enrolling onto a fully funded online course, please contact LCG on [training@learningcurvegroup.co.uk](mailto:training@learningcurvegroup.co.uk) or visit the website here to view their courses and sign up.

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## 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:**  
**[maggiepeacock1970@gmail.com](mailto:maggiepeacock1970@gmail.com)**

# Helping Those in Need Across County Durham

As communities across County Durham rally together during these unprecedented times, Durham County Council is offering support and advice to residents.

The council recognises that the Coronavirus outbreak is worrying for many people, particularly anyone over 70, those who have underlying health conditions and those who are vulnerable or self-isolating.

They have therefore lifted time restrictions on bus passes to ensure that anyone who does need to shop for themselves can access the earlier slots being offered by supermarkets.

While volunteer groups are also setting up rapidly to help those in need, they are being urged to do so safely and follow Government advice.

The simple steps recommended include social distancing, regularly washing your hands for a longer period of time, and taking suitable precautions if you need to exchange money for goods.

As well as the fantastic response of many volunteers, all residents are being urged to be good neighbours during these uncertain times and think about who is living next door.

That could be considering whether they might need extra support with their shopping, or keeping in touch through a simple phone call to prevent feelings of isolation.

The council is also anticipating extra pressure on resources during this

difficult period and would ask anyone who regularly donates to a charity or food bank to continue to do so. Gordon Elliott, the council's head of partnerships and community engagement, said: "If there can be any positives out of an emergency like this, it is the way our community can come together to support each other and show kindness. It's really no surprise at all that we have seen so many volunteer groups set up so quickly across the county, but it is vital that they keep themselves safe while they help others."

"We also want to reassure those people who might need extra help and support that we will be keeping them up to date with what is open in their community, what services are available and what support there is through local groups in the coming weeks. We are working hard to update our database of established, but also new volunteer and support organisations, which will be an invaluable resource to all our residents."

We will be supporting key voluntary services through Durham County Council's 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs). Each AAP's Facebook site will also be used to highlight the support that is available locally. You can find a link to your own AAP at: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/AAPs>. You can also find out more on our website at: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/22961/Support-for-our-communities-and-volunteering>

# Local IT Company Offers Free Remote Connection

Dear Sir,  
I run a I.T company and we cover the entire north east.

I personally live in Newton Aycliffe and so far it has scared me watching the many companies we are involved with starting to crumble.

I came up with the idea of offering a proven IT and Telecoms solution for mobile workers to local businesses for free during the pandemic. We have a small data centre that enables calls to be made and received by employees just as if they were still at the office.

In combination with our hosted desktop solution or IT as a service, most businesses can remain productive as this technology will provide them with access to their apps, data and IT infrastructure with an IT support package.

This is actually being offered for **FREE**, no catches and no commitments.

My business depends on other businesses surviving



this pandemic, and what we are offering allows a business to keep running while its employees remain isolated at home.

We have several customers already using these technologies as we already have agreements in place with software vendors to make this happen.

This is not about making a sale, this really is about keeping businesses afloat and maintain employment levels as much as possible.

Laurie Guthrie  
Tel: 01325 776305  
[sales@northernit.co.uk](mailto:sales@northernit.co.uk)

# Free Maths Lessons for Kids Affected by the Coronavirus

• With coronavirus closing schools across the UK, Exemplar Education – the UK's largest home learning provider – is offering children free access to its online maths tuition programme.

• Exemplar has today written to all schools faced with closure saying that its maths lessons from Year 1 right up to GCSE will be available to any child who needs it.

• Steve O'Hara, Programme Director at Exemplar Education says, "We want to make sure children don't fall behind if their school closes or they have to self-isolate. Our platform is user-friendly, curriculum aligned and supports the learning of millions of kids. And now we are making it free of charge for 30 days".

Exemplar Education, the UK's largest home learning company, has today announced it will offer free maths lessons for millions of kids affected by the coronavirus. As children self-isolate and schools look likely to close across the UK, Exemplar Education has written to 20,000 schools offering to give pupils free access to its online maths programme including its popular GCSE maths revision package.

Exemplar Education is the UK's largest home learning company with 400,000 children having enrolled on its courses and over 5,500 lessons completed every day with an average pass mark of 95.7%.

The programme is a user-friendly online teaching system specifically created to support the UK National Curriculum. It has over 2,000 video lessons and 6 million questions for children to answer. Exemplar's hopes that this offer will mean that children isolated at home will not fall behind with their studies.

Exemplar Education's online learning system offers children a tailored approach to learning, with children getting their own log in and taking an online assessment before starting the course to ensure they are at the right academic starting point. Parents are also given a log in so that they can track their children's progress.

The Exemplar free offer is intended to run for thirty days and support children self-isolating and schools struggling to deal with closure.

For more information about how to get started visit the website at : <https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/vSunC12m6S250nTGAjEk/>

protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/vSunC12m6S250nTGAjEk/

## Reusable Nappies on the Rise

Parents across the country are struggling to buy disposable nappies due to empty shelves. As a result, many are making an eco-friendly switch to reusable nappies as a safer, alternative option.

Reusable nappies are not only better for the environment by cutting down on landfill, but they are a cheaper option in the long run. Selling at Boots or online, reusable nappies can be purchased for £18.00 for a single nappy and can be washed and reused again and again. Parents need up to 4 or 5 reusable nappies until the toddler is in pants but because they don't contain toxins, dioxins, and carcinogens, they are gentler on baby's skin.

One company TotsBots has reported a 700% hike in sales in the past few weeks alone, and this figure is increasing daily.

## Junction7 Foodbank Coronavirus Protocols – Another Reminder

Junction 7 will continue to help the people of Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas.

The Foodbank can be accessed by people who have not enough money to buy food. A referral system has been put in place.

Agencies and professionals can refer clients. Clients can also self refer.

All foodbank requests should be emailed to [junc7tion@gmail.com](mailto:junc7tion@gmail.com). A few relevant questions need to be replied to.

If not possible to pick up we have a bank of volunteers who can deliver to homes. This will be followed by government guidelines.

For the people who have enough money to buy food but can't get out to do shopping, we have set up a group of volunteers, with a current DBS that can do shopping. Money can be transferred into our charity bank or paypal account. All receipts will be returned. A list of shopping items can be emailed to us.

If people don't have access to the internet we can be contacted by phone. We will then do our best to get shopping to them.

We are also setting up a buddy service. This will involve a volunteer that has a DBS, contacting a client either by phone, text or social media. This is to check in how they are doing and if they need shopping or just a general chat.

If this service is required or any other please contact us on [junc7tion@gmail.com](mailto:junc7tion@gmail.com)  
**Jan 07851 723647**  
**Simon 07783 539167**

During this time of National Crisis due to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic it is more important than ever that we follow the advice the government has published; it will save lives. To remind you of what the advice is: - If you have a new and continuous cough or high temperature or other symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. If you live with others and you are the first in the household to have symptoms of coronavirus, then you must stay at home for 7 days, but all other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Only call NHS 111 if your symptoms get worse or are no better after isolation. Do not go to the Hospital or you local GP.

Please wash your hands more often for 20 seconds using soap and water when you get home or into work, blow your nose, sneeze or cough or handle food.

If you find yourself in a situation of uncertainty around your job, please follow the advice the Government has published. It will help to reassure you as to your situation and how you can access finances and help such as Universal Credit, Statutory Sick Pay and Sick Notes.

If you are a business owner and require support, please visit the Government webpage where you will be able to find details of how the government can help you and how you can apply for this support.

Please stay at home, make no unnecessary journeys or social contact. Only leave home for essential shopping, medical needs or one form of exercise per day. You can travel to and from work only if absolutely necessary. You and your employer should be making all possible efforts to work from home. However, in some cases the government understands this may not be possible. Do not visit other people's houses or socialise outside your home. The police have been given the powers to fine individuals should they not follow the rules.

Please follow this advice as it will save lives and allow our NHS and Public Services to combat this pandemic and we will win this fight.

For any further help or information please visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) or call Durham County Council on 0191 377 1889 or Darlington Borough Council 01325 405000 where they will be able to help. Or email my office at [paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk) or call 020 7219 4272.

Thank you for following the governments advice in doing so you will save lives. Best wishes,

**Paul Howell**  
Member of Parliament  
for Sedgefield



## Programme Schedule

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEWTON AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT

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**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	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
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
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	BeatRoote	Graeme Roote

### FRIDAY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	<b>Guest Presenter Session</b>	
• 27th Mar -	<b>Pauly Mac</b> - Rare Vinyl Mix (Australia)	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby

**Check our website for full schedule**  
**[www.ayclifferadio.co.uk](http://www.ayclifferadio.co.uk)**

Newton Broadcasting Limited (t/a Aycliffe Radio) is a Private Company Limited by Guarantee, registered on 19th February 2018 in England and Wales  
Registration number 1121835. Registered office: Aycliffe Radio, c/o Blue Bridge Centre, St. Cuthbert's Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DS.  
Aycliffe Radio is CIC Registered (No. 11455404)  
Scheduled shows can be changed/cancelled at any time.



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# IMPORTANT CHANGES TO DARLINGTON COUNCIL SERVICES

Following the Prime Minister's announcement this week and the call for our country to work together to protect life and beat Coronavirus, there are some significant changes to our services.

Our aims are to protect our residents, particularly those most vulnerable, and to minimise disruption to our most crucial services as we go through this unprecedented time, making sure people can go about their day to day lives with access to services

essential for their health, safety and welfare.

To do this however, we have no choice but to prioritise what we do. Some services will stop so that more essential ones can keep going. Things will change on a daily basis and we will keep you as up to date as we possibly can during this extremely difficult time.

Here are the current key changes to our services:

- All council car parks are free with immediate effect until further notice.
- The tip is closed until

further notice.

- The start of this year's garden waste service will be delayed by at least a month to ensure our refuse collection services are not affected for as long as possible.
- Our refuse and recycling collections will continue as normal for now.
- Bulky waste collections have stopped with immediate effect.
- We will be carrying out emergency highways and streetlight repairs only.
- Dog waste bins won't be emptied so please bag it and take it home to bin it.
- Arboriculturalist (looking after trees) service stopped.
- Gully clearing stopped unless essential.
- Town centre mechanical sweepers stopped.

- The land charges service will not be available for at least three weeks.
- School crossing patrols are suspended with immediate effect.
- Grass cutting and grounds maintenance will stop with immediate effect.
- Parks will remain open to allow people the opportunity for their daily exercise but play areas will be closed. People must only exercise once every day, alone or with people from their household and stay at least two metres away from other people.
- Day opportunities for those with learning disabilities stopped with immediate effect.
- Learning and Skills buildings are closed but online resources are being produced.
- Register office is open on an appointment only basis. People have 42 days to register a birth and only five to register a death. An online tool for registering a death is currently in development.
- Essential housing maintenance only will be done.
- Schools are issuing supermarket food vouchers in place of school meals. Please contact individual schools for more detail.
- Planning applications are still being accepted but the committees are cancelled for now.

- Follow government advice, this can be found at [www.darlington.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/coronavirus)
- Please stay home!

Councillor Heather Scott, Leader of Darlington Borough Council, said: "This is the most unique and unprecedented situation in our generation and with that in mind I want to ask the people of Darlington to work with us, to follow government advice and to be mindful of the impact of their actions on others.

"As we work tirelessly to ensure we can continue to provide the most critical services, I would ask that you do as much as you possibly can to help too. If we all work together I am confident we can get through this and back to our normal lives as quickly as possible, in the meantime I would ask for your understanding and support during the most challenging of times.

"I am proud to be leader of the council in Darlington and know our town and our people will do whatever it takes to make sure we come through this. Please follow the instructions from Government, be sensible, be safe and be kind."

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## Hippodrome Offers Resource Learning Packs

Teachers and parents can now download and share for free online Heritage Learning Resource Packs from the Darlington Hippodrome website.

Teachers and parents can now download and share for free online Heritage Learning Resource Packs from the Darlington Hippodrome website. The packs include whiteboard slides, activity sheets, teacher notes and a wealth of resources within four subject areas: Pepi and his Palaces of Variety, Darlington Hippodrome, Pantomime Magic and Around the Hippodrome - A Local Study.

Each subject area has four sets of information which can be downloaded and used together or individually - Teacher Notes, Read and Explain, PowerPoint Slides and Resource Folders.

The Teacher Notes are a series of PDF documents aimed at giving an outline of the subject area and summarising the learning objectives for the activities. The Read and Explain documents are sheets about key themes or characters in the theatre's history which are explored in the four subject areas. The PowerPoint slides feature literacy, numeracy and comprehension-based activities and the Resource Folders contain a mix of templates, images and maps to aid further engagement within activities.

The Heritage Learning Resource Packs can be downloaded for free from the Take Part section of the Darlington Hippodrome website [www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk](http://www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk)

## PRAYING FOR YOU ALL

To all our friends and supporters we are thinking and praying for you at this difficult time.

All Coffee Mornings and events are curtailed until further notice.

We will miss our gatherings and friendship. We thank you for your support and look forward to meeting you when all is clear.

Love and prayers from all at St Elizabeth's Church in Woodham Village.

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## NEWTON NEWS

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## Police Notice

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are closing the following front counter facilities until further notice:

- Consett
- Stanley
- Chester-le-Street
- Seaham
- Barnard Castle
- Newton Aycliffe
- Crook
- Spennymoor

In addition the following front counters will provide a reduced service and will only be open between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday:

- Darlington
- Bishop Auckland
- Peterlee
- Durham

A Durham Constabulary spokesman said: "We are managing our resources to ensure minimal disruption, while providing support to other critical functions. The situation will be reviewed on an on-going basis.

"We would like to reassure you that this will in no way affect our ability to respond to crime and incidents and we will update you further should the situation change.

"Thank you all for your understanding."

# Council Pledges to Support Businesses Affected by Pandemic

A council has pledged to do everything in its power to quickly implement the support announced by Government for businesses and workers impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Durham County Council is urging businesses to take advantage of the support packages announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Friday. This includes accessing the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which will see the Government pay 80 per cent of employee's salaries up to £2,500 per month to maintain employment and support their workforce. Guidance on the 12-month business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality,

leisure and relevant nursery providers has also now been confirmed and council staff are busy processing these changes with revised bills due to be issued in the coming days. Teams are also poised to implement the grants schemes once the final guidance is issued by Government, which is expected this week. These schemes, aimed at those businesses in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief and businesses with a

rateable value of between £15,000 and £51,000, will see the council issue grants of between £10,000 and £25,000 in the coming days, once the national guidelines are published. The council is also working closely with colleagues at Business Durham and Visit County Durham to actively promote all of the support on offer. Information has been uploaded on to the council and Business

Durham websites and this is being regularly updated. Last week the council wrote to all businesses that would be eligible for support through the announcements made by the Government.

Cllr Carl Marshall, the council's Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "Across the county, we've worked tirelessly to build our economy and create jobs because we

know how vital they are to our residents and their families. The progress we've made in the last ten years would not have been possible without the hard work and passion of our skilled workforce. That's why it's vital businesses, large and small, utilise the funds being made available and do everything they can to retain their employees. "Accessing the Coronavirus Job Retention

Scheme will guarantee workers receive 80 per cent of their wages and is the best way to ensure the funds go to working people."

The council is also taking additional steps to ease the burden on businesses, including arranging to pay its own suppliers immediately rather than wait the standard 30 days, suspending debt recovery action and offering three-month rent deferrals for tenants in Business Durham's commercial properties. Virtual employability sessions are also being offered to job seekers and

grants to help cover the cost of home working technology are being offered through the Digital Drive County Durham programme.

Advice for businesses and employees in County Durham can be found at [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk) and at [www.businessdurham.co.uk/news-events-county-durham/covid-19-information](http://www.businessdurham.co.uk/news-events-county-durham/covid-19-information).

For the latest advice and information from the Government, visit [www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses)

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# Update on Council Services Amid Coronavirus Outbreak

Durham County Council continues to update residents on the impact of services as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The council is reassuring people that they are working hard to ensure priority services are continuing

during these unprecedented times. Details of other services that have been impacted are as follows:

- The council has issued advice to anyone sleeping rough or staying in temporary accommodation or hostels today. Those who feel unwell in temporary accommodation should alert staff, avoid having visitors to their rooms and make sure any shared bathrooms or kitchens are cleaned after use to stop the spread of the virus. Rough sleepers with symptoms are being urged to let a day centre, outreach team or local support service aware of their situation without going to them in person.

- As a result of the Coronavirus, the council's Housing Solutions will no longer be offering face to face housing advice but they will continue to operate a telephone and email service.

- The council is working tirelessly to implement the range of Business Rates reliefs and grants announced by the Government.

Having only received the government guidance in the last few days we have prioritised applying all the rate reliefs to businesses who qualify. This has now been completed with revised bills showing the new discounts going out today. In total, rates liabilities have been reduced by £44million for next year under this scheme.

- We are now implementing the Government's Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grant Fund payments, which will see grants of £10,000 and £25,000 being paid to qualifying businesses. We are contacting qualifying

businesses to make them aware of their eligibility for these awards and to collect the information we need to process the payments in line with government guidelines. Details of how qualifying businesses can provide us with the information we need in order to process the payments will be posted to our website and via Business Durham later today. In total the council expects to pay grants totalling around £77million under the Small Business Grant Fund and around £12million under the Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grant Fund and is doing everything it can to make those payments as quickly as we can.

- One Point Family Centres and Hubs will only be able to offer advice, guidance and signposting over the phone on 03000 261 111. Further advice and guidance, including around mental health and wellbeing for families can be found at [www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus) If you have concerns about the safety of a child or young person please get in touch with our First Contact service on 03000 26 79 79. If you are worried about your child's health please contact your GP or call 111. If you need to contact your 0-19 Growing Healthy Team County Durham (Health Visiting and School Nursing) please ring our Single Point of Contact on 03000 263538.

- The council continues to urge residents to follow government guidelines around staying at home unless it is absolutely necessary and observing rules regarding social distancing.

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**CLASS 1** European  
Tramper Driver seeks full  
time employment. Seven  
years experience, CPC  
Card, Digi Card, Krone  
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## For Sale

**"ALL SORTS"** Charity Shop  
next to St. Clare's Church Hall  
is open 10.00am to 1.00pm  
every Tuesday, Thursday and  
Saturday. Every penny made  
from my sales will continue  
to be donated to good causes.  
The shop is run and funded  
solely by Godfrey Bennett who  
would like to thank all his many  
supporters. **Shop Closed Until  
Further Notice.**

**SET OF 4** woods "Vitalite"  
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ono. Tel 01325 321750

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Damask mattress, delivery  
arranged, £125. Tel 07789  
113343.

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County Durham &  
Darlington has some of the  
highest members of the newly  
diagnosed cancer cases in all  
of England, measured across  
the 4 main cancer groups  
(bowel, prostate, breast and  
lung).

The facilities at Darlington  
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with the space and dignity  
they need and deserve during  
treatments. A planned new  
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## Sudoku (Hard, difficulty rating 0.67)

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

# STUDENTS INSPIRED BY 3M VISITING WIZARDS

Visiting Wizards, a.k.a STEM Ambassadors (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), from science-based technology company 3M in Newton Aycliffe, were special guests at Levendale School in Yarm, as part of the annual British Science Week celebrations (6-15 March). The STEM Ambassadors, made up of graduate trainees and industrial placement students who work at the 3M site, delivered a fun, interactive STEM workshop to enthusiastic pupils at the school. As well as discussing the principles of observation and creative thinking, the Visiting Wizards led the children in a range of practical activities, including hand and foot average measurements



and a Hot Wheels car speed trial, to demonstrate data collection, measurement and analysis. They then discussed

with the children how all these skills are important in the jobs of scientists and engineers.

Teacher and science lead at Levendale School, Katherine Butterfield said: "The workshop was thoroughly enjoyed by all of the children. It was delivered in an entertaining way by young people who are clearly passionate about science and engineering."

This is 3M's fourth year as a lead partner of British Science Week, which is run by the British Science Association (BSA). The week aims to put science at the heart of society and culture and to inspire the next generation of scientists. 2020's theme is centred on 'our diverse planet' to celebrate ecological, cultural and societal diversity. Alongside the week, 3M and the BSA also launched a campaign called 'Smashing Stereotypes' to challenge the misplaced image that young people often have of scientists - a lonely male, wearing a white coat, confined to working at a laboratory bench. The campaign will showcase the varied backgrounds, career paths and diverse roles of people working in the STEM field.

James Morgan, an industrial placement student at the 3M site, and one of the Visiting Wizards said: "Through events like this, we hope to inspire young people to pursue STEM subjects, show the broad range of careers available and demonstrate how innovation and science can improve everyday life. We particularly want to dispel the stereotypical image of scientists and show the diversity of the STEM workforce and that scientists are just like other people."

# Dogs Trust Coronavirus Response Plans

- Dogs Trust Darlington will move to appointment-only system from now on;
- The Sadberge based centre will be closed to walk-in members of the public during this time;
- Charity is no longer

taking charity shop goods at rehoming centres or shops to limit unnecessary contact and will advise when receiving new stock again.

Dogs Trust Darlington last week announced temporary changes to its activities following Government advice to limit non-essential contact. The UK's largest dog welfare charity, which has 20 rehoming centres across the UK, has outlined plans to protect the health and wellbeing of its staff and visitors, whilst continuing to carry out the essential work of caring for and rehoming dogs.

Dogs Trust Darlington will move to an appointment-only system for potential adopters and all centres will be closed to walk-in members of the general public until further notice.

The charity will also run appointments for people who wish to give up their dog for any reason. People who have a current reservation or are due to collect their new family member will not be affected and can contact their local centre by phone if they have any questions.

The charity is also postponing all non-essential community events and has suspended Dog School training classes, including those based at the rehoming centre, for the time being. Those wishing to donate any pre-loved items to the charity are asked not to bring donations to the Darlington rehoming centre or their nearest Dogs Trust charity shop in person, until further notice.

The charity's staff will be limiting all unnecessary social interaction, practising frequent hand washing with soap and sanitiser, and visitors will be asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitiser before and during their visit.

Catherine Gillie, Regional Manager at Dogs Trust, said: "The health and wellbeing of our staff and our local communities is of paramount importance to us. We will continue to monitor and follow advice from the Government and are doing what we can to limit non-essential travel and contact."

"We need to continue our essential work of caring for and rehoming as many dogs as we can in a way that aims to protect everyone involved in the process. That's why

## Bulk Buying Doesn't Work

Waste recycling and sustainability firm, Warrens Group, is calling upon families and individuals to help in the fight against food waste and household waste in response to consumers turning to bulk and panic-buying due to the pandemic crisis.

Kevin Quigley, commercial director at Warrens Group, said: "People are turning to bulk-buying items that don't have a long shelf life, and these items will ultimately end up as waste if they're not cautious."

"If you're worried and want to stock up, do so with long-life products such as tinned goods, food that can be frozen and dried products. We must all work together to limit the amount of waste ending up in our bins."

"Make a list before you hit the supermarket, and plan your meals in advance. Do you really need to stock up on all of those crisps, fresh greens and wet wipes?"

"Consider the amount of plastic packaging that wraps your products, how eco-friendly they are (for example wet wipes are incredibly damaging to the environment) and how long your fresh goods will actually last."

"Not storing your food correctly can lead to more food being wasted. Separating foods that produce more ethylene gas from those that don't is a great way to reduce food spoilage. Ethylene promotes ripening in foods such as bananas, avocados and tomatoes."

"In a time where we have to be considerate towards others, think twice before you pick up those extra packs of toilet rolls, soap and hand sanitiser. Don't only consider the impact on other people, think about its impact on the environment too. Don't waste food and try to recycle what you can."

## ONLINE ISOLATION NOTES LAUNCHED

Providing Proof of Coronavirus Absence from Work

People unable to work for more than seven days because of coronavirus (COVID-19) can obtain an isolation note through a new online service.

Isolation notes will provide employees with evidence for their employers that they have been advised to self-isolate due to coronavirus, either because they have symptoms or they live with someone who has symptoms, and so cannot work.

As isolation notes can be obtained without contacting a doctor, this will reduce the pressure on GP surgeries and prevent people needing to leave their homes. For the first seven days off work, employees can self-certify so they don't need any evidence for their employer. After that, employers may ask for evidence of sickness absence. Where this is related to having symptoms of coronavirus or living with someone who has symptoms, the isolation note can be used to provide evidence of the advice to self-isolate.

People who need to claim Universal Credit or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) because of coronavirus will not be required to produce a fit note or an isolation note. More details on coronavirus and claiming benefits can be found at [www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/coronavirus)

The notes can be accessed through the NHS website ([www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19)) and NHS 111 online ([www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19](http://www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19)). After answering a few questions, an isolation note will be emailed to the user. If they don't have an email address, they can have the note sent to a trusted family member or friend, or directly to their employer. The service can also be used to generate an isolation note on behalf of someone else.

The isolation note service has been commissioned by NHSX and built by NHS Digital.

Health and Social Care Secretary, Matt Hancock, said: "It is absolutely vital we do everything we can to ease the burden on our healthcare professionals, allowing them to spend as much time as possible with those patients that need them most."

"Digital isolation notes will provide reassurance to those self-isolating and their employers while also reducing the pressure on our NHS, so they can continue doing all they can to protect the people of this country and save lives."

The isolation note service can be accessed via <https://111.nhs.uk/isolation-note/> or <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>, as well as via the NHS app.

## Congratulations

**Diane Danson**  
28th March

**Happy Birthday**

Hope you have a lovely day. Love from Chris, Karen, Emily and Tyler xxx

## In Memoriam

**Frank Swinburne**  
24th March

We miss and love you everyday. From your loving family xxxxx

**Sue Gorley**  
28th March 1981

We both said "I Do". Would have been 39 years celebrating our marriage this year. RIP my darling, "all my love", Colin x

**Valerie Graveling**  
29th March 2016



The moment that you died, my heart was torn in two. One side filled with heartache, the other died with you.

I often lie awake at night, when the world is fast asleep, and take a walk down memory lane, with tears upon my cheeks. Remembering you is easy, I do it every day. But missing you is a heartache that never goes away. I hold you tightly within my heart, and there you will remain, until the joyous day arrives, that we will meet again. Your loving daughter, TRACY xxx

## Birthday Remembrance

**Grant Edger**  
27th March 1968

**My Wonderful Son on your birthday**

Of all the special gifts in life, however great or small. To have you as my son, was the greatest of them all.

A special time,  
A special face,  
A special son,  
I can't replace, with an aching heart, I whisper "I miss you son".  
Love from Mam, Paul, Lee and Andy xxxxx

**Ronny Mayoh**

**85th Birthday**

Remembering you on your 85th birthday. Still missed so much by all the family xxxx

## Obituary

**Greta Cason**  
(nee Charlton)

Greta of Newton Aycliffe, formerly of Byers Green, suddenly at home on the 12th March, aged 81 years. Dearly loved Wife of the late James; a much loved Mam, Nana, Great Nana and Mother-in-Law.

Family and friends please meet for Service at Wear Valley Crematorium (Coundon) on Tuesday 31st March for 2.30pm.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for The British Heart Foundation.

## Let them know you are thinking about them

with a PhotoAd in the Newton News

Photoads and all other personal advertising can be placed at:

our office at: **NEWTON PRESS**

Blue Bridge Centre, Aycliffe Business Park DL5 6DS

Adverts can also be placed online at [www.newtonnewsads.co.uk](http://www.newtonnewsads.co.uk)

or via email directly to [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk)

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Remember, we only charge 30p per word for Personal Lineage advertisements and 40p per word for Business Ads (boxes are extra)

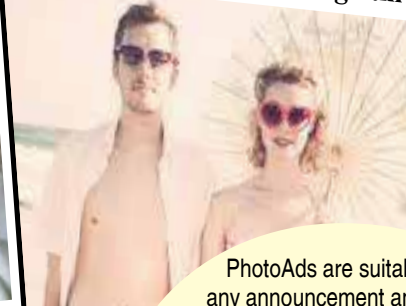
**Alice Springs**



**Happy 21st Birthday**  
10-10-10

to our beautiful Daughter on your 21st birthday. Lots of love from Mam & Dad xxx

**Bonny and Clyde Cunningham**



**Golden**

ations Mar on 1st Jan ters, Gra

PhotoAds are suitable for any announcement and are preserved forever on our website [www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk)

We are currently working on an archive site which will bring you ALL the past issues of the Newton News as far back as 1948!

# Coates Gears up for the Challenge Ahead

Max Coates headed to Croft Circuit this week, in preparation for the start of the MINI CHALLENGE at the end of this month. With the first round of the MINI CHALLENGE on the 28th and 29th March at Donington Park in

Derbyshire, Max Coates took the opportunity of a track day at his local circuit to unveil his 2020 livery to the media and sponsors alike.

With the support of his team from Elite Motorsport, his 2020 Mini JCW hatchback was unveiled and then Coates took sponsors and the media for a hot lap around the Croft Circuit. His sponsors could gain an understanding of the level of driving skills required to be competitive in motorsport.

Passenger laps were enjoyed by sponsors, Primex Plastics, RPC bpi PLASgran, JIC transport, NGK Spark Plugs, Gala Performance and other partners who are supporting Max Coates in 2020.

The team then headed to Donington Park so that the Mini JCW could be tested further by Max



ready for the start of the championship.

Commenting on the events this week, Max said; "It was really important for me to be able to show my sponsors the new 2020 car and let them experience what I love about motorsport. I'm glad everyone had big smiles at the end of their hot laps. It was then onto the serious matter of testing with the team as we headed to Donington Park. This gave me more track time

to familiarise myself with the Mini JCW hatchback having been racing in Renault Clio's for the last 3 years. I'm pleased to say testing went really well and I can't now wait for the first round of the championship on the 28th/29th March." Fans will be able to follow the season via Max's, Elite Motorsport and the MINI CHALLENGE social media as well as live on ITV4 from each event. Tickets for each race meeting are available via the individual circuit's websites.

**\*\* The first three rounds of the championship have been postponed due to the Coronavirus, updates will be provided when details have been confirmed. \*\***

# AYCLIFFE BREWERY ADAPTS TO SERVE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Steam Machine Brewing Company is now operating a drive through system for its delicious Craft Beers and gourmet Street Food-style takeaways Thursday to Monday between 5 – 9pm.

Like all other bars, restaurants, cafes, and tap rooms around the country, restrictions for public safety came into place on Saturday the 21st March preventing customers from sitting at tables or ordering draught beers, but Steam Machine has adapted quickly to the changing circumstances.

Co-founder Nick Smith said: "We sell our Newton Aycliffe beer all over the world, but first and foremost we are a community led brewery, and if we can provide some sort of service for the wonderful local people in a safe manner during this crisis, then that's what we'll do."

On the 25th March breweries were placed onto the notable exceptions list, which means they are expected to provide a service during the lockdown, alongside supermarkets, health shops, petrol stations, pet shops, banks and hardware stores. Nick added: "It's easy to



see why. Using local off-licences and breweries for alcohol purchases will ease congestion in busy supermarkets, reducing the risk for everyone."

Founded in 2015, Steam Machine has grown year on year due to the popularity of their beers amongst the regulars of Aycliffe, as well as demand for their products further afield. They are well known nationally for their excellent quality and experimentation of unusual ingredients.

They moved into their new site at 26 Northfield Way in summer 2019, where they've held many successful events, and have been busy developing a kitchen to offer gourmet street food.

"On top of our popular beers, we are also offering a delicious alternative to standard takeaways, starting with our quick

fired sourdough pizzas. We are currently operating a drive through system where people order the food and beer online from our website, and we place it on the curb side. Like everyone, we have trying times ahead of us, but we are trying to utilise local bakers, butchers, and green grocers as much as possible. At the end of the day, we have great beer and tasty food available for people, for as long as we are allowed to provide it in a responsible way. And we are currently exploring how to do home delivery."

Find more information on Steam Machine's beers and food offerings on their facebook page or website [www.steammachinebrew.com](http://www.steammachinebrew.com)

07415 75 99 45  
Photo: Nick Smith, Gulen Smith, Pete Batten, Phil Norman

## LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

I have received many phone calls and emails this week commending residents who are going out of their way to help neighbours with offers of support and help at this uncertain time.

Please be mindful of your elderly neighbours who probably do not have social media access and may not be aware of what help is available locally.

Take care  
Paul Howarth, Editor

## OFFICE UNITS TO LET

SYDNEY HOUSE

a dedication

Fully refurbished offices now available to let in an eco-friendly building. Located at the entrance to Aycliffe Business Park on St. Cuthberts Way (old Newton Press building), easy access to A1M.

Office comes with:

- Secure Private Access
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From 42m<sup>2</sup> (500ft<sup>2</sup>) to 89m<sup>2</sup> (958ft<sup>2</sup>)

For more information contact Stuart on 01325 300212



**ONLY TWO UNITS LEFT**

\* Subject to small business relief

## Digital Maternity Exemption Certificates

Midwives, practice nurses and health visitors can sign up to issue digital maternity exemption certificates to ensure mothers instantly receive their certificate

The NHSBSA is encouraging midwives to sign up to the digital service to help reduce the waiting time for paper applications to be processed in light of the current COVID-19 outbreak.

Pregnant mothers and women who have given birth in the last 12 months are entitled to free NHS dental treatment and NHS prescriptions with a valid maternity exemption certificate.

The NHSBSA's digital maternity exemption service ensures that women receive their certificate instantly. Registration takes less than five minutes and mothers will get their digital exemption certificate straight away if they've provided an email address.

To register visit: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/digitalmatex](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/digitalmatex) 55,000 maternity exemption applications have already been made through our digital service. Out of an average of 460,000 annual maternity exemption certificate applications, around 28% are received via the digital route.

The remaining 72% are received through a paper application form which mothers fill in and pass on to their GP or midwife to countersign and post. Mothers could wait weeks before receiving their certificate in the post as

the forms are often sent in weekly batches.

Brendan Brown, Director of Citizen Services said: "We want all pregnant woman and new mums in England to be issued with a maternity exemption certificate and are encouraging as many midwives as possible to register to use the service so their patients can use their maternity exemption certificate straight away, and avoid having to pay prescriptions charges and NHS dental treatment."

"We want to make sure our services continue to run as effectively as possible. It only takes 5 minutes for midwives, practice nurses and health visitors to register to use the service and new or expectant mothers can be issued with a digital exemption certificate."

### How to sign up to the digital maternity exemption service:

Midwives, practice nurses or health visitors registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) can now register online to issue maternity exemption certificates on behalf of new or expectant mothers by visiting [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/digitalmatex](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/digitalmatex)

To help us verify your professional identity, you'll need:

- Last name
- Date of birth
- NMC PIN
- NHSmail address and password

For more information about maternity exemption certificates visit: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/digitalmatex](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/digitalmatex)

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Available Thursday only

- Popadoms with Mango Chutney & Onion Salad
- Any Appetiser • Any Main Course • Any Rice or Nan (excludes Fish and King Prawns) - Terms and Conditions apply

**DINE IN**  
**WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY BANQUET SPECIAL ONLY £10.95**  
Per Person

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