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V.E. Day 75th Anniversary Celebrated

A national celebration of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day was to take place on Friday 8th May this year. The normal Monday May Bank Holiday was moved to the Friday to accommodate this special event.

However, due to the current pandemic the national event has been cancelled.

Aycliffe Town Centre Management and Aycliffe Radio had organised a day of 1940s music and displays from our local armed services including the 124 Recovery Company, the 201 Field Hospital Unit, the 102 Battalion (Territorial Army) and the town's 1407 Air Cadets.

Although we are hoping to reschedule the celebration to Saturday 15th August (VJ Day), Newton News and Aycliffe Radio are to commemorate VE Day in their own way.

Next week's edition of the Newton News will look back at Newton Aycliffe in the 1940s, focussing mainly on the Royal Ordnance Factory and the Aycliffe Angels, who were working in Aycliffe during the war time period. We will pay homage to the

Angels and inform readers of what it was they did during their time at the Royal Ordnance Factory.

The 8th May special edition is sponsored by Freshwater, the Town Centre landlords who are keen to get involved in the local community. Copies will be available to pick up at retail outlets around Newton Aycliffe.

ABOUT VE DAY

• *Victory in Europe Day, generally known as VE Day, marks 8th May 1945, the day on which World War II in Europe ended.*

• *In the United Kingdom on 8th May 1945, more than one million people celebrated in the streets to mark the end of the European part of the war. In London, crowds massed in Trafalgar Square and up The Mall to Buckingham Palace, where King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, appeared on the balcony of the palace before the cheering crowds.*

• *VE Day is celebrated and remembered by people around Britain each year. The 70th anniversary of VE Day, in 2015, was*



VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY

marked with a series of events across the UK. There were three days of commemorations including parades, street parties, a service of thanksgiving and a concert in central London.

Aycliffe Radio Donate to Care Homes

Aycliffe Radio will be commencing a new day time show aimed at the over 70s which is entitled "Memory Lane". This show will take listeners back to the 1940s and 1950s playing music, past radio ads and information clips. The new show will start on Friday 8th May at 1.00pm with a three hour special and will continue weekdays from 1.00pm to 2.00pm. The presenter for this show, Gary Avery, will announce birthday and anniversary dedications on a Monday for those celebrating that week - please send your dedications and requests to info@ayclifferadio.co.uk. As Aycliffe Radio are an internet based radio station, they have donated an Amazon Echo Show to each of the Care Homes residents lounges in Newton Aycliffe, this will enable the residents to tune in and listen to this new show and to be used for other entertainment purposes.

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GREENFIELD GALLERY IS ENGAGING

The Greenfield Gallery, as part of the overall offer from Greenfield Arts, may be a 'hidden gem' to some, but its popularity and reach to the wider community and across the area is remarkable.

The gallery is a professional space that offers exhibition and engagement opportunities for everyone including students, professional artists and local artists from the wider community. The appeal is such that exhibitions are already programmed for 2021 and the team at Greenfield Arts are busy organising 2022.

Over the last 20 years The Greenfield Gallery has hosted 240 exhibitions and seen over 100,000 people visit the space. We have worked with over 530

artists in the gallery and are delighted to be celebrating this as part of our 20th birthday this year.

Over the last year the creative exhibitions have been wide-ranging and have recorded a footfall of over 4000 visitors. Feedback has been exceptionally positive, with comments praising the space, the curation and the careful programming of events. We were particularly pleased to be selected as one of the gallery spaces to curate and host an exhibition as part of a county wide centenary programme of work by artist Norman Cornish. The exhibition 'Cornish: Man of Destiny' allowed Greenfield Arts to develop a further range of creative activities and arts opportunities across the community,

which saw over 700 people attend workshops, study the work of the artist and even create their own response with an exhibition of their own.

The Open Art exhibition this year broke all records with an entry of over fifty artists and over 150 pieces. The standard and range is a testament to the creativity of the local and wider community and although the exhibition ran for a shorter time this year it has been inspirational to others. Award winning cultural leader, Katy Milne, Creative Director of Greenfield Arts, has been delighted with the response to the gallery over the years. "We have worked with so many inspirational artists who have used the space in very different ways to explore and express a variety of ideas and concepts in our gallery and through our programmes. It has been very rewarding to be able to maximise upon these opportunities to inspire the curiosity and creativity in others and see creative responses develop in a new way as a result."

Although the gallery is closed at present we are looking forward to a time when the gallery can open its doors once again to the community and celebrate its birthday year. If you would like to know more about Greenfield Arts check out the website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk



UTC Students Help to Make 3200 PPE Visors for Key Workers



Tom Shepherd in the process of making the visors at UTC

UTC South Durham students have been using their engineering skills to help make PPE visors for key workers. The students have been supporting UTC's Visors for Victory initiative which was created at the beginning of April in response to the lack of PPE available to key workers.

UTC South Durham staff designed the visors and have been producing them using laser cutters in the school's engineering hall. Since Thursday 2nd April, UTC have donated free-of-charge over 3200 visors to over 100 organisations across the North East, including hospitals, care homes, GP surgeries, and food banks.

Five students have been involved in the initiative so far: Matthew Cowling, Sam Hall, Connor Lowrie, Thomas Shepherd, Connor Tilley and Max Turner. The students, who all study engineering and/or product design at UTC, have been putting their technical skills to good use by helping to manufacture the visors alongside fellow students and staff members.

Tom Shepherd, who is a Year 13 student planning to study Product Design at university, said: "I have spent the past 4 years learning practical engineering skills at UTC and when I saw the school begin production of visors to help fight the pandemic I realised I could help out. The design and manufacture skills I had enjoyed learning and developing meant that I was already familiar with the tools and machines used to produce the visors, so it made sense that I should try to help in providing much needed PPE for the NHS locally. I firmly believe that since I have these skills this is the perfect opportunity to use them and give something back."

Sixth Form student Connor Lowrie has also been making visors at home using his 3D printer. To date, Connor has produced 350 visors which he has donated to key workers, including



Connor Lowrie with one of the visors he had 3D printed at home Tom Shepherd in the process of making the visors at UTC.

district nursing teams and care homes.

Some of the students' parents have also been involved in the initiative, including Max's mum, Claire Kirk. Max and Claire have been working together to produce the visors alongside members of staff, and were motivated to help by their gratitude to the NHS.

Claire said: "When Max heard that UTC were making the visors he immediately asked if we could help. We both have a lot to thank the NHS for over recent years. They looked after my mother who was very sick for a number of years, as well as caring for both of Max's grandfathers during treatment for cancer. It seemed a great way to say thank you to those who care for us."

Based in Newton Aycliffe, UTC South Durham is a STEM focused school for 14-19 year olds, specialising in engineering and advanced manufacturing. UTC is one of 20 schools within the UTC (University Technical Colleges) network which are supporting the NHS by making masks and other protective equipment using 3D printers.

Council Encourages Businesses to Apply for Support

7,500 Business Receive £83m in Grants

Businesses in County Durham are being encouraged to seek financial support after nearly 7,500 grants were paid out totalling almost £83m.

Durham County Council is inviting local companies to apply for Business Support Grants to ease the financial burden they may be facing during the coronavirus pandemic, where they meet the government's eligibility criteria.

The council is determined to be as flexible it can be within the restrictions of the eligibility criteria, to ensure that as much of the government grant provided as possible is allocated to businesses in County Durham.

The council has to date paid out 7,466 grants totalling some £82.700m – 85.57 per cent of the overall sum that was originally estimated would be paid out. It is working hard to increase the numbers of businesses that will be supported above the original estimate of 8,700.

These figures are the highest of any local authority in the North East in terms of the percentage of grants paid, and eight highest nationally. In terms of the number and value of grants paid to date, the council is third nationally.

The council and its economic development arm Business Durham have been approaching companies which were not originally identified as eligible for the grants to encourage them to apply, where they can demonstrate they meet the government's eligibility criteria.

Cllr Carl Marshall, the council's Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "We are really pleased to have paid out more than

£80m in grants so far to help more than 7,000 county businesses through these unprecedented times. We are not resting on our laurels though and are determined to ensure every business that is eligible can access this support.

"The fact we are the top North East council in terms of the volume and value of payments made and percentage of expected grants already paid, plus being ranked so highly nationally, is testament to our staff who are doing everything they can to support our businesses in this incredibly challenging climate. We've spent a number of years encouraging businesses to set up, locate and develop in County Durham and ensuring this money is paid to companies as quickly as possible builds on that work."

"We would encourage any companies in County Durham which have not applied for a grant to find out whether they are eligible – there is plenty of information on our website. We are determined that no eligible business is left without this support."

The grants of either £10,000 or £25,000 are designed to help small businesses that have been affected by the coronavirus outbreak.

Guidelines around which businesses are eligible for the grant have been set by the government.

One of the key eligibility criteria is that a business must have been occupying a qualifying business premises that was listed in the council's rating list at 11 March.

Businesses can find out whether they are eligible and get more information by visiting <http://www.durham.gov.uk/ndrgrants>

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- 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 Hymn"
- 3.15pm - Jenna Highfield
- 3.45pm - Aycliffe Radio

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Drill Display and Recruiting

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- Vintage Vehicles

Prospective Students Invited to 'Virtual' Open Event



A County Durham college and its engineering training centre are inviting prospective learners to join an open event from the comfort of their own home. With colleges, like schools, being forced to remain closed during the COVID-19 lockdown, they are finding innovative ways to both teach remotely as well as help applicants for courses starting in September. Bishop Auckland College and South West Durham Training are therefore holding their first ever 'virtual' open evening next month, where applicants can speak to course tutors and careers advisors via live chat and over the telephone. The event will be available from the following curriculum areas: art and design; barbering; beauty therapy; brickwork; business; carpentry and joinery; catering; childcare; criminology; engineering; foundation learning; hairdressing; health and social care; IT and computing; motor vehicle; music; painting and decorating; performing arts;

photography; plumbing; sport and uniformed services. There will also be tutors available to advise on apprenticeships and higher education courses. Natalie Davison-Terranova, Principal and Chief Executive of the Bishop Auckland College Group, said: "It has been hard for both staff and students to adapt to working from home since the lockdown was introduced last month, but I am incredibly proud of how they have found innovative ways to enjoy remote teaching and learning." "And while our doors at our campuses and centres may be closed at the moment, our staff are working hard remotely to continue to support both our current learners and those looking to join us in September." "This 'virtual' open evening is another way we can give applicants direct access to our tutors and careers advisors to help them choose the right course and confirm their place for next year." The Virtual Open Evening is being held on Thursday 7th May from 5pm to 7pm and people can register to take part via the Bishop Auckland College website at bacoll.ac.uk/Events/virtualmay

Council Thanks Residents for Kind-Hearted Messages

"I am more grateful than I can say and thank them from the bottom of my heart for everything they did and all with such gentleness and professionalism." "We really are very grateful to you and cannot stress how much of a difference it has made to us this week just knowing we're not alone in these worrying times." These are just two of the hundreds of messages of gratitude and appreciation for Durham County Council workers during the coronavirus pandemic. And now the local authority has moved to thank those who have gone to the effort of sending in such kind-hearted messages despite the challenges posed by the virus. The council has been striving to ensure the essential services it provides for residents are impacted as little as possible by COVID-19, such as collecting bins and caring for vulnerable children and adults. It was the efforts of the authority's emergency duty team (EDT) that yielded the first message above. The team received a call from Jenny Payne, whose County Durham based mother had been admitted to hospital following a suspected stroke. Jenny's mother is the main carer for her 92 year old husband who is blind, and because of restrictions in place due to coronavirus, the couple's daughter was unable to travel from her home in Cumbria to help. Jenny called the EDT which after contacting several providers was able to put a care package in place for her father within 24 hours, and arrange meal provision. Jenny said: "I will never be able to thank them enough because they supported me whilst I was in a panic and so upset. They were so calm and they were just completely

practical and helpful." The "knowing we're not alone in these worrying times" message came as a result of the council's County Durham Together Community Hub. Via the hub, the council was able to both arrange for one resident to have someone call at her home to see if there was anything she needed, and provide advice on supermarket delivery options specifically for the elderly and vulnerable. The thank you message received read: "We cannot tell you how much more supported and reassured we feel. It just makes all the difference to know that there is support out there if required." Two more messages came into staff from the council's pest control team. One came from a resident who missed an officer's call to her home after her car suffered a puncture, only for him to come back after she contacted the authority. In her message of thanks, she said: "All sorted thank you. He was in the area and came back and what amazing service I have had today on

the text, the phone and from the officer...outstanding please pass that on to all involved." The second came following a visit by a pest control officer to the home of a couple who were self-isolating. Relaying what the resident reported in her phone call of thanks, the officer's manager said: "She told me you reassured her she can enjoy her garden, even though she cannot see her grandchildren." "She was getting emotional and she nearly had me in tears, her last words to me were she loves us and the job we do." Cllr Andrea Patterson, the council's Cabinet member for corporate services and rural issues, said: "On behalf of all our staff, I'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the residents for their kind messages of support. "We truly have an amazing workforce and that has never been more apparent than in the current climate, and I would like to pass on my gratitude to all our staff for everything they are doing to continue providing services to residents."



Rotarians Assist with Delivery of the Newton News



Dear Sir
Members of Rotary Newton Aycliffe assisted last weekend in delivering a special publication of the Newton News. Working alongside Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership and Paul Howells MP, Newton Press aimed to specifically target the elderly, infirm, housebound and disabled who may not have access to the internet. The edition featured information, contacts, phone numbers etc. to help residents find the assistance, support or guidance they may need in the current crisis. Syd Howarth would be immensely proud that sons Paul, Stuart and Christopher are continuing to support the community from Newton Press in these unprecedented times. Rotary Newton Aycliffe

Greenfield Students Learn Creatively



Students from Greenfield Community College have been responding brilliantly to self-led learning, taking up the many resources available to them and managing their own learning from home. Following the extension of the current situation due to Coronavirus, Greenfield Community College have continued to support and develop learning in the home. Printed learning packs of material across the curriculum are constantly updated and available for students, as well as online and personal support from expert teaching staff. Staff are updating learning resources regularly through the school website and setting work for students to complete each day. The success of Hegarty Maths and GCSEPod is continuing and there are also opportunities to visit virtual classrooms through the new Oak National Academy and the BBC's launch of Bitesize Daily Learning led by 200 teachers, including well-loved science guru Brian Cox. A small number of students are continuing their study on site, accessing learning opportunities directly from staff. Students recently had the opportunity to develop their skills and explore more about self-led learning through a virtual SOLE

session (Self-organised Learning Environment) with million dollar TED prize winning Professor Sugata Mitra, live from his home in Calcutta India. The students responded brilliantly coming up with innovative ideas and presenting their findings with confidence and newfound knowledge. There are a number of resources and links on Greenfield Community College's Twitter page, @GreenfieldTweet, where for example staff have recently celebrated World Book Night, English Subject Specialist Ms Rose, has prompted staff to celebrate the importance of reading and share what they are reading with everyone through their photos and videos. Greenfield Community College are committed to continuing extended learning opportunities and are supporting the Greenfield community through unprecedented times in as many ways as possible. Please continue to visit the school website greenfieldschool.net and other social media platforms to access materials, resources and support throughout this period and you can contact the school via our email contact@greenfieldschool.net for any more information.

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Looking to a Post-Covid Future

Dear Sir,
Last Wednesday I was invited by Durham University's Energy Institute (DEI) – in my role as Durham County Council Climate Change Champion – to a virtual meeting to discuss what one delegate described as “our inadvertent climate experiment”.

Early on in the crisis (19 March), DEI Professor Simone Abram had published an article in the academic journal The Conversation suggesting that Coronavirus had slashed CO₂ emissions and “provided us with an opportunity to keep them down” ... and the meeting was to explore those opportunities.

HEALING NATURE

There is no doubt that the pandemic has been good for Nature, and also that people are noticing. You can SEE the reduction in pollution from space. Songbirds and hedgehogs are recovering in numbers; deer are wandering into deserted town centres ... and people are liking it. They are also liking the reduction in traffic to 1950s' levels; some towns have shut roads to vehicular traffic, and cycling & walking groups are urging that they should do more whilst they have the opportunity. Less obvious has been the shift in demand patterns which has meant that, for the first time ever, the UK has had 18 consecutive days with no coal used in electricity generation.

By chance, my DEI meeting coincided with the 50th anniversary of Earth Day – that international day when people “protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for our planet”.

THE POST-COVID CLIMATE

And so the meeting discussed environmental opportunities for a post-Covid world. Will it be possible to redirect money from roads into public transport? What are the opportunities for embedding less climate-damaging diet and consumption-patterns? This is not just about climate, moreover, and the discussion rapidly broadened into social and economic issues. How might we turn investors' attention to social returns, not just financial? The pandemic has highlighted the UK's poor record on homelessness, poverty (particularly fuel poverty) and housing. In particular, it has forced us to reassess whom we regard as ‘valued’ ‘key’ workers, and the call is that in future we should recognise monetarily the contribution of people who only a few weeks ago were being labelled by the government “low-skilled or temporary”. Can we improve the pay and working conditions of NHS workers, binmen, supermarket assistants, lorry drivers etc. ... now we have realised that it they who really make the world go round?

LINEAR OR DOUGHNUT?

Professor Simone Abrams herself hoped that “the door is gradually opening” to the realisation that we cannot continue our current laissez faire linear capitalism –

which plunders the earth harmfully at one end, turns it with maximum damage into transient consumer trash with built-in obsolescence, and then throws it away into the sea at the other end. Delegates spoke favourably of the Amsterdam ‘doughnut’ economic model – a controlled economy which seeks first to provide everyone with their human-rights basics (food, clean water, housing, sanitation, energy, education, healthcare, gender equality, an income and a political voice – the doughnut's ‘hole’ that no one must fall into), and then sets a ceiling on consumption (the sprinkles on the outside edge) which is limited by the earth's capacities – climate, soils, oceans, the ozone layer, freshwater and biodiversity. **IS IT ACHIEVABLE?**

I fear I was a good deal more negative than the meeting was happy with. My personal fear is that – far from being able to build on the benefits that we have seen – we may lose many of the climate and environmental advances that we have achieved in the past two years. Are people emerging from lockdown going to stomach suggestions that we should voluntarily continue its restrictions to save the planet? There will be a strong campaign to holiday in Britain, but is there not a danger that people want to get back in their car, or fly abroad for a holiday? And I know that we have suddenly realised the dietary value of bread, milk and eggs ... but is it not more likely that there will be a binge on meat and McDonald's rather than a venture into veganism? Will households impoverished by lockdown go out and buy expensive/lasting-quality ... or throw-away/cheap?

The economy has taken a huge hit. Yes there is less pollution and less traffic ... but only because we have shut down two-thirds of our economic activity; we cannot sustain such a reduction. Already the call is to relax the restrictions and reinvigorate the economy – Business Durham is discussing ‘how’ for County Durham as I write – and is there not a likelihood that the call will be for more consumer spending, more production, more trade and traffic ... and (the danger is) all that at any cost? Will firms hanging on from bankruptcy by a thread and needing to pay back government loans (nb not grants) ... will they agree to an increase in the minimum wage, and calls to end agency work & zero-hours? The price of oil fell below zero last week – does anybody see any chance of us reducing our use of this now all-but-free fossil fuel?

The government has had to throw money at the problem to prevent society collapsing. Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak has already stated that we will have to ‘pay it back’ – and it would be a brave person who predicts anything but a future of extended austerity. Councils, meanwhile, have by law to balance their budgets, and it will test the resolve of even the most climate-conscious

councils to maintain low carbon budgets against the economic and social needs generated by the pandemic and the lockdown.

THE LESSON OF HISTORY

So I am NOT confident that the undoubted environmental lessons of the pandemic will lead to an awakened world of increased climate action; indeed, I fear that we will have all on not to yield to voices which would have us roll back our climate commitments and societal aspirations.

Seventy-five years ago next week, VE Day brought the Second World War in Europe to an end. To maintain the public's war effort, the government had undertaken a massive consultation on the sort of Britain people wanted to see after the war. Their message was “bread for everybody before cake for anybody”, and that directive resulted in the Beveridge Report, the Welfare State, free secondary education, a council housing boom, and the NHS. It also resulted in the creation of Newton Aycliffe as the flagship of Beveridge's vision; we are that legacy.

But that achievement came out of six years of war and a clear government commitment, not out of six weeks of lockdown and some vague aspirations for a greener, fairer world. One thing that life has taught me is that the rich and powerful are always ready and planned on how they can gain from disaster. If we are to come out of this disaster not having LOST ground on where we were, we need to make very clear the voice of the ‘angry young people’ in Joni Mitchell's song Banquet: “Tell them we're very hungry now for a sweeter fare.”

Clr John D Clare
DCC Climate
Change Champion



Paul Howell, Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

Another week of lockdown that has been very well respected by the vast majority of people and everyone needs to be congratulated. Thank you. Hopefully many of you will have been able to see the informative edition produced last week and I thank the team at Newton News for producing it and also those volunteers that assisted in the distribution.

I have regular discussions with leaders of the Local Authorities, NHS and Police and I am pleased to say that whilst there have been pressures on PPE all our local supplies are robust and the occupancy rate of our intensive care beds is at less than half capacity so if you need non Covid 19 medical help the NHS remains available for you.

My week has seen the introduction of virtual working in Parliament, last Thursday (23/4) we had a BEIS (Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) select committee meeting where we had the Secretary of State in front of us to answer questions and this week we are primarily talking to Businesses. BEIS, like all select committees is cross party so the witnesses get questions from various perspectives. These meetings will take place most weeks when the House is sitting and are normally televised or accessible on Parliament.tv. Virtual forums are also in use for many other more informal discussions and I have amongst others had forums with Rob Jenrick, the Secretary of State for Local

Government and Liz Truss, the Secretary of State for International Trade. These respectively discussed Local Government finance and the progress and strategy of post Brexit trade discussions.

I have been able to talk to a number of local business leaders to understand their perspective and particular pressures and I know one of their concerns is the clarity for people around going back to work. I have provided in a separate submission a 5 question approach that David from my team created that explains the current rules very well.

I, like many others, am largely working from home with occasional forays to volunteer at places like Play Cafe. My team and I hold daily virtual meetings and continue to work on both Covid 19 and other issues that affect you. We receive very many questions and will do our absolute best to reply as quickly as possible should you contact us. It is good to see the Prime Minister back in post and congratulations to him and Carrie on the birth of their son.

I along with everyone else look forward to the lifting of some restrictions. It is of course critical that this happens in a controlled and considered way and will undoubtedly require continued patience. For now though please Stay at Home, Protect our NHS and Save Lives.

Paul Howell MP
Member of Parliament
for Sedgefield
P a u l . H o w e l l . M P @
Parliament.uk

Dogs Trust Advice to Prevent Separation Anxiety



Dogs Trust is issuing advice to dog owners following concerns over a ticking time bomb of separation anxiety when families return to their normal routine.

If your dog is used to being left alone, then try to make sure you continue to leave them for periods during the day, so they don't ‘lose’ the ability to cope.

For puppies and dogs that are anxious when left, use the following tips to help them cope alone:

- Make sure your dog has a comfy bed or den, where they can relax in peace.
- Give them something fun to occupy them, such as a long-lasting treat or puzzle toy.
- While your dog is enjoying their treat, take a couple of steps to the other side of the room. If your dog stays where they are, wait a moment, then go back and reward them with an extra treat.
- Increase the distance you move away and the time you wait before returning with the extra treat.
- You should soon be able to leave the room and close the door or gate.
- Progress to spending more time in a different room. Build this into the daily routine.
- It's important that your dog remains relaxed. If they show signs of distress, leave

them for a shorter period, or don't move as far away, next time.

Rachel Casey, Director of Canine Behaviour and Research at Dogs Trust, said: “For many of us it has been great to spend so much time with our dogs during lockdown and mostly our dogs love us being around too. But all this extra attention could potentially create a ticking time bomb of separation anxiety for our dogs. If they expect us to be about all the time, it will be more difficult for them to cope once we go back to our normal lives and aren't in the house 24/7.

“Now is the time to act to avoid future problems – and it's easy to do. Just make sure that you factor in time apart from your dog each day to help them be able to cope when alone – this could be separated from you by a door or child gate for an hour or two whilst you're working or home schooling the kids. By organizing your dog's day, with time apart, play times, exercise, other activity sessions (like giving them a food filled toy) and quiet times, you can make sure that your dog maintains their ability to cope with the different aspects of ‘normal’ life when we get back to it.”

For more ideas on how to keep your dog occupied visit www.dogstrust.org.uk

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



This is a photo of Hill House Farm house at the new Forrest Park Industrial Estate, before it is demolished. Send your photos to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

CARTER THOMPSON
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Confused about your pension choices?

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www.ctwealth.co.uk

Durham Deemed the UK's Greenest City



Durham has been hailed as the UK's greenest city as carbon emissions reduced by half and air quality continues to improve.

Solar technology specialists, The Solar Centre, researched Government data to rank cities based on 10 green criteria including waste management, air quality, carbon emissions and green spaces.

Durham came out on top in the study which compared 59 cities including Swansea, which came second, and Newcastle Upon Tyne, which ranked third.

Climate change has been at the top of Durham County Council's agenda and The Solar Centre findings were welcomed in recognising the authority's 47 per cent carbon emissions reduction between 2009 and 2019.

Another significant factor was the score for air quality, with Durham holding the best score compared to other cities. Availability of green spaces and parks also boosted Durham's overall ranking.

CLr John Clare, Durham County Council's climate change champion, said, "We are pleased to receive this

recognition for our work to combat climate change, which is a testimony to the amazing work of the council's environment and low carbon teams. Creating a clean and green county is at the core of the council's Climate Action Plan and we will continue to build on these promising figures.

"We declared a Climate Emergency in February 2019, which committed us to an 80 per cent reduction in council emissions by 2030 and to making the county carbon neutral by 2050.

"We are constantly implementing ways to tackle climate change from innovative angles. This includes helping businesses and residents become more energy efficient, and integrating clean technology in our county's infrastructure."

Find out more about what Durham County Council is doing to reduce its carbon footprint and tackle climate change at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/climatechange>

See the study findings here: <https://www.thesolarcentre.co.uk/uk-greenest-cities/index.html>

A Digital Dawn Chorus with Durham Wildlife Trust

Durham Wildlife Trust is asking people to record birdsong and submit it electronically to be added to a 'digital dawn chorus'.

The nature conservation charity ordinarily delivers weekly wildlife-themed events, however the current restrictions on movements has resulted in the cancellation of all those planned until late May.

The charity has moved many of its resources online to keep people in touch with wildlife during these unusual times, including running a number of online training events and launching a new initiative called Wild@Home, designed to offer people of all ages activities to complete at or near home with a different theme each week.

With many commenting on social media that they are noticing more about the wildlife close to their homes, the Trust felt it was the ideal opportunity to ask people to participate in a digital project.

Head of Conservation Mark Dinning said: "One of our favourite annual activities is the Dawn Chorus event which was due to take place at Low Barns nature reserve on 3 May. We had planned to take a small group out into the site in the early morning to listen to the bird songs and note down the different species.

"Instead, we are now planning to bring that event into everyone's living rooms with a digital recording of birds from across the North East. But we need the help of our followers and supporters to do that.

"We are asking for people to record short video clips of single birds singing from their windows, in their gardens or on their daily walks. Clips can be submitted electronically - there are details of how to do so on our website - then in late May we will share with everyone our digital dawn chorus performance featuring the many and varied bird species from across the region."

Clips should be submitted no later than 8th May. To find out more visit: www.durhamwt.com/dawnchorus

Business Advice

There are so many so businesses affected in so many different ways and my thoughts go to all of them. The Chancellor has put in place some extraordinary support to attempt to help them through this but the scale of problem means that there will always be those who fall through the gaps.

I, along with so many other MPs, are doing our best to make specific representations for those in the gaps to try and extend the support further. My team and I receive many emails explaining to us where these gaps are and we do everything we can to get these into the thoughts of the ministers that matter.

One of the regular questions is why do none essential business remain open? I think it's worth restating the instructions around staying at home. The message is that you should only leave home to go for food, to go for exercise, to care for someone or to go to work. You should also only go to work if you cannot work from home.

This means that you should go to work so long as it is safe to do so and your employer requires you. There is no constraints around what products are being produced nor not being a key worker that prevent you going to work. If your employer is able to create a safe environment and you are able to get there safely then it is acceptable under the rules to go to work.

The purpose of the furlough scheme is to help businesses that cannot continue whether that is as a result of not being allowed to, whether their products/services are not required or whether they can't facilitate safe working. It is to prevent these companies needing to close and make people redundant and to at least give them a chance of starting again when this is over.

So long as they are safe, keeping businesses trading is a critical platform for emerging from the economic disaster we are seeing. On another level I am sure that a lot of employees that are still able to work appreciate being able to have a more normal life than most of us at the moment.

To help people make sense of all the guidance here are five questions to ask yourself to decide if you should be going to work. Work your way through ALL questions, starting with Q1.

Q1: Do you have to stay at home for health reasons?

This may be because you are over 70, you are vulnerable (eg a pre-existing condition, or a high risk category), you have been exposed to someone (and are self isolating) or because you have symptoms and are quarantining.

If you do not have to stay at home for health reasons then go to the next question...

Q2: Do you have to stay at home to look after your child?

Schools have closed so children may need looking after at home by you. The exception is if you have a key worker role (these are listed online).

If you do not have to stay at home to look after a child then go to the next question...

Q3: Can you do your job from home?

This is really important. You and your employer should make EVERY effort to work from home. Government guidance says people can leave the house "if travelling to and from work but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home."

If you cannot do your job from home then go to the next question...

Q4: Is your job at one of those businesses that has been told to close?

Some businesses and places of work have had to close. These are typically ones that encourage people to gather - restaurants, pubs, clubs and such - or ones where there is close contact with people, such as hairdressers.

[UPDATE: for the latest list of businesses to close please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close>]

If your place of work has not closed, then go to the next question...

Q5: Do your working practices allow you to observe social distancing at work?

Jobs like construction, deliveries, warehouse work and others can often be carried out with sensible adjustment. For example, the Royal Mail do not require people receiving packages to provide a signature.

Very many self-employed people, trades, contractors, gardeners, taxi drivers etc. may fall into this category. If you can maintain social distancing at work then you can go to work.

If you cannot maintain safe distance from people, then you should STAY HOME. PROTECT THE NHS. SAVE LIVES.

DO NOT go outside except for essential trips (shopping, collecting medicines, a funeral etc.) or one period of exercise a day.

Full guidance for employees, employers and businesses can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

Paul Howell MP
Member of Parliament
for Sedgefield
paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk
07464 898442



Programme Schedule

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Updates from MP Paul Howell at 12noon

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
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
12-2am	Night Club Session	

SUNDAY

9-10am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	Random Reiki Master	Phil Hawkins
12-2pm	Country & Americana Show	David Ringer
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
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
6-8pm	The List	Colin McNeillie
8-10pm	BeatRoote	Graeme Roote

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
1-4pm	VE Day Celebration - 1940s Music	
6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	8th May - Martin Norris - Movin' Melodies	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby
12-2am	Night Club Session	

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

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BRIC-A-BRAC APPEAL
We are appealing for good quality items to use for auctions/raffles, car boot sales to help boost our funds and support more animals in need, as well as vert costs.

WILD BIRD APPEAL
In order to help the wild bird population over the winter months, we are appealing for donations of fat balls, peanuts and bird seed.

CAT FOOD APPEAL
We are in need off wet cat food, kitten food and cat litter to support the animals currently in our care.

DROP OFF POINTS
Any of the above items can be dropped off at Tesco's, Honest John, Julie's Pet Show or Grannies Choice - thank you for your support.

Please contact 01325 321855 or 01325 311215

Working Together for Long-Term Employment Through Covid-19



North-East manufacturer BTS Facades and Fabrications hasn't let Covid-19 halt its work with a local trust by paying upfront for future services, ensuring the continuation of The Employability Trust.

The trust, which has helped 234 people gain sustainable employment since its inception in 2011, works with businesses across the region to provide support services from warehousing to manufacturing, while at the same time offering jobs and training opportunities to the long term unemployed. CEO of The Employability Trust Bill Marley said: "Working with BTS has enabled us to employ two people to work solely on their contract which includes cutting extrusion, fabrication and the assembly of rails. These two individuals had previously been unsuccessful in employment but thanks to this contract, are thriving in the workplace and with their own mental health.

"Having the support of companies like BTS at this time means the world as we can continue doing what we do best – increasing individual employability and

self-worth which ultimately leads to sustainable and long-term employment."

Managing Director of BTS, which is based in Newton Aycliffe, Phil Atkinson said: "Working with the Employability Trust means we're able to produce as much as possible while also supporting a very worthy cause.

"As a business we want to do all we can to support employment opportunities within the region and we know we can rely on the superior quality and standards we expect."

The Employability Trust, which works with a number of national and regional brands, is always looking for opportunities to create jobs and certainty for the long-term unemployed and is keen to hear from businesses that may require their services. For more information, please visit: www.theemployabilitytrust.com

For more information about BTS Facades and Fabrications, please visit www.btsfabrications.co.uk Photo: The Employability Trust which has been supported by BTS Facades & Fabrications

Sport Achievements at Greenfield College

Students from Greenfield Community College have earned many sporting achievements over the last few months and although the school closure has paused play at present it seems an appropriate time to reflect and celebrate the resilience and determination of many students.

Greenfield Community College run an extended programme of lunchtime and afterschool opportunities including a wide and diverse range of activities including football, netball, rugby, gymnastics, handball, boxercise, table-tennis and badminton.

The netball season was a great success with teams working together to achieve their goals. Some outstanding performances highlight their hard work and dedication: Year 9 A team have been unbeaten all season winning the South West Durham Schools Netball league for a 2nd Year.

The Boccia and Basketball teams were successful in the Sedgefield School Sport Partnership, Year 9 Boccia team came away with gold medals securing a place at the county qualifying event after finishing in 1st place, while the basketball team achieved a well-deserved silver medal.

Individual praise goes to Year 8 student Jayden who finished 1st in the South West Durham Championships at Barnard Castle, qualifying to represent South West Durham in the County Championships.

These are just a few of the many sporting achievements.



Greenfield Community College are committed to offering a broad extended learning programme in sport. They have formed a strong alliance with professional clubs and individuals. Former professional footballer and manager Martin Gray runs a number of training sessions at Greenfield and the school work with Sunderland's

Foundation of Light, local tennis, basketball and netball clubs to inspire and offer young people to specialise in their chosen sport. The excellent facilities are well used by the school and the community and the school are looking forward to welcoming back students, teams and clubs later in the year.

LEARNING CURVE GROUP STEP UP DURING COVID-19

Training provider Learning Curve Group (LCG), have donated 29 digital tablets and valuable PPE to South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to support staff and patients during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Learning Curve Group is dedicated to helping in the battle against Covid-19 in any way they can. Donating the tablets, they hope means patients are able to have contact with the outside world and loved ones. Since visitors are restricted on hospital wards, staff have witnessed many heart-breaking situations which could have been made a little bit better if families could communicate with their loved ones.

Earlier on in the pandemic The Learning Curve Group Charity Foundation decided to help ease the pressure on those worst affected groups and charities in County Durham and donated the entire funds of over £20k to support front-line community groups as the uncertainty continued.

Alongside the tablets, Learning Curve Group's academies have donated PPE, too. Their Sunderland Construction Academy and Hartlepool Beauty Academy donated masks and gloves to a local GP practice in Sunderland and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Their caring and compassionate staff members are also giving a helping hand in whichever way they can. One example is Tutor Rebecca Pattinson, who has been busy making scrub bags and mask holders which have been distributed to care homes and hospitals including Auckland Park - Mental Health Hospital.

Rebecca is busy making more which will be sent to Darlington and Durham Hospitals.

Brenda McLeish, CEO Learning Curve Group, said: "It was a privilege to be able to support NHS patients at South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with the donation of 29 tablets. There's never been a more challenging time and being able to help connect patients to their families is the least we could do. I am delighted that we've also been able to donate the remaining essential PPE from our academies and am exceptionally proud of Rebecca for using her own time to make scrub bags and mask holders for the frontline staff.

People are at the centre of everything we do, so earlier on in the pandemic we made an important decision to change the pillars upon which The Learning Curve Group Charity Foundation fund was going to be accessed we donated the entire fund of over £20k to support front-line community groups and local charities in County Durham as the uncertainty continues with the aim of supporting those who are in need of funds more than ever."

Beverley Smith of South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said: "Thanks to the donations of tablets from Learning Curve Group, patients are able to communicate to those who can't visit. What some would see as small gestures have such a huge impact on our patients and I can't thank them enough for their amazing donation of IPADS for our patients to use. So appreciated".

Visit County Durham Launches Virtual Campaign

Destination management organisation Visit County Durham has launched a campaign that lets people enjoy a virtual visit to the county, from the safety of their sofa.

With all national and international marketing activity delivered by Visit County Durham to encourage visits to the county now paused in light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the focus has quickly moved towards supporting businesses and providing people who were planning to visit Durham in the coming weeks, or those for whom the county is on their travel 'wish list', with uplifting and inspiring content to be enjoyed at home.

Using the long-standing #LoveDurham hashtag, the 'LoveDurham from your sofa' campaign features virtual tours, videos, craft ideas, recipes, quizzes, Durham trivia, film and TV locations and colouring in sheets depicting some of the county's iconic locations.

As well as content produced by Visit County Durham, the campaign also showcases content from visitor economy businesses across the county, providing an opportunity to keep their profile raised during these unprecedented times.

Ivor Stolliday, chairman of

Visit County Durham, said: "It is vital that we emphasise the Government message to stay at home, but we wanted to do that whilst providing fun and creative ways for visitors to discover and enjoy the county safely. Now is not the time for people to visit Durham. For now, we will bring Durham to them, until it is safe to welcome them back to our amazing county with open arms."

Cllr Joy Allen, Cabinet member for transformation, culture and tourism at Durham County Council, added: "This is a really positive campaign from Visit County Durham. It is very hard for us to ask people not to visit our amazing county due to the Coronavirus but absolutely essential that we do so in the interests of protecting the NHS and saving lives. This campaign allows people to enjoy everything that is great about our county from the comfort of their own homes - until such time as we are able to welcome them back again with open arms. It is also a great way for tourism businesses to keep their profile up at what is a very difficult time for them."

The website for the campaign is www.thisisdurham.com/fromyoursofa, and will be promoted through social media and e-newsletters.

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Libraries Offer Free Family History Learning at Home

People can now enjoy delving into their family history through a popular library service in the comfort of their own homes, thanks to Durham County Council.

The local authority like many others around the country offers access to Ancestry (Library Edition) free of charge for people coming into its libraries and using their computers.

But with the council having closed its libraries to slow the spread of the Coronavirus, it has now made Ancestry available for people to enjoy free of charge on their computers at home.

Ancestry (Library edition) offers access to historical documents and photographs plus local history, oral histories, indexes and other resources.

Users can search:

- Census records for England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands from 1841 to 1901

- Military, immigration/emigration, court and probate records

- England and Wales Civil Registration indexes for births, deaths and marriages
- UK and Ireland parish and probate records from the 1500s to the 1800s and even earlier
- England and Wales National Probate Calendar from 1861 to 1941
- Return of Owners of Land 1873 for England and Wales
- Registers of coroner's inquests for New South Wales, Australia from 1796 to 1947
- UK naval medals from 1793 to 1972
- Military campaign medal award rolls from 1914 to 1949

The site is available through the council's website at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/libraryonline>

People must be library members to use it but if they are not already they can become a member free of charge by visiting the library online webpage.

The council has already moved the library service's popular storytelling sessions for children online.

CLr Joy Allen, the council's Cabinet member for transformation, culture and tourism, said: "Ancestry is a fascinating resource that our library service offers free of charge, allowing people to find out more about their family history and to access a wealth of historical documents and photos.

The library service also offers members access to a wide range of eMagazines such as Family Tree Magazine and Your Family History, which will give readers ideas for scrapbooking, preserving photos and lots more. These can be also be accessed at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/libraryonline>



Greenfield Poets Shortlisted



Students from Greenfield Community College have been shortlisted for the prestigious Terry Kelly Poetry Prize.

Poetry created by Year 10 students formed part of a recent project devised and led by Greenfield Arts. The group of young people involved were inspired by a recent exhibition in The Greenfield Gallery, 'Cornish: A Man of Destiny', as part of the Durham County wide Cornish Centenary programme. The young people worked alongside creative practitioners, Tony Gadd and Richard Bliss, to produce their own written and visual responses to the exhibition.

Katy Milne, Director of Creativity, was thrilled with the level of engagement and

the thoughtful responses from the students, "It was wonderful to see the students appreciate the artwork and respond with such interesting questions that inspired the creation of their own work. This work formed part of a response exhibition, Inspired by Cornish, in our public gallery space. I'm so pleased the young peoples' work has been shortlisted for this award, well done to them."

Staff and students from Greenfield Community College will be invited to attend the awards celebration later in the year. This will offer the opportunity to celebrate the students work, and the work of other young people from across the North East, at The Customs House in

South Shields.

Greenfield Arts are committed to promoting and stimulating creativity, curiosity and enquiry through high quality arts provision and were delighted to help inspire these students and others to be creative, by offering an exciting extended learning opportunity.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

Tel: Paul

01325 300212

or paul@newtonnews.co.uk

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Well done Nichola and Millie, who designed and made a selection of key worker models and displayed them in their front garden in School Aycliffe.

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Garden Waste Collections to Restart

Garden waste services in County Durham will now be able to go ahead with changes to collection dates after they were initially postponed due to Coronavirus.

Last month, Durham County Council had to postpone garden waste collections in order to maintain its essential refuse and recycling services during the Coronavirus outbreak.

After reviewing its operations, and as part of its

plans to reinstate services, the council is now able to once again deliver its garden waste collection to residents.

The council is aware of how valuable this service is to residents so, to ensure it will be able to continue in conjunction with normal waste collection services, it will be changing garden waste collection days to Saturdays and Mondays. This will allow continued support to rubbish and recycling collections which operate from Tuesday to Friday.

Residents who are scheduled to have their usual collection on a Tuesday or Wednesday can expect their new collection day to be on a Saturday while those who are scheduled to

have a collection on Thursday or Friday can expect their new collection to be on a Monday. The council will be informing residents who are signed up to the service of their specific collection dates which will begin on either Saturday 2 May, Monday 4 May, Saturday 9 May or Monday 11 May, dependent on their collection calendar. Collection dates can be checked online via MyDurham at www.durham.gov.uk.

The council continues to monitor government guidance and will keep the service under review over the next four months. Customers will be given advice on remaining collections beyond this time. Information on collection

dates is being updated on MyDurham and correspondence detailing changes to garden waste collections is being sent to residents who have subscribed to the service.

Cllr Brian Stephens, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "We know our residents value the garden waste service so we are pleased to be able to continue it under these new collection days. We would like to thank residents for their continued support and understanding as we work to maintain essential services."

"Our priority has been to support our refuse and recycling rounds, which operate Tuesday to Friday each week. By moving the garden waste collection to

Saturdays and Mondays, we can continue to provide this important service to customers at a time when we have spare capacity.

"Our garden waste customers are being advised of their new collection days and when they will commence, with the first for some customers starting on Saturday 2 May. We will continue to provide customers with information regarding any further changes to services as a result of the pandemic."

Those who do not wish to continue with the garden waste scheme should inform the council by Monday 11 May by completing a refund request form at www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste or calling the customer services team on 03000 260 000.

HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR DURING THE LOCKDOWN

Two North East councils have teamed up with emergency services to encourage residents to be good neighbours during the Coronavirus pandemic.

It follows new advice issued by the government about how we can safely help others at a time when services such as GPs, community fire and police officers aren't able to get out into communities in the same way they would normally.

Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council are working with their partners to share advice and tips that will help communities support each other during these difficult times.

With some vulnerable people having to isolate themselves for a period of 12 weeks in order to be shielded from the virus, residents are being urged to be good neighbours.

People are advised to accept help from family, friends and neighbours where possible, with some ways of supporting each other including offering to collect essential food items or prescriptions on their behalf. To do so safely, it should be done while residents are either getting their own essentials or taking their daily exercise, with reminders that those essentials should be left on the doorstep, ensuring social distancing guidelines are followed. Local GPs or pharmacies may also be able to arrange a delivery for prescriptions.

Offering emotional support is another part of supporting neighbours. Many people are feeling anxious or worried as a result of the pandemic and a simple conversation over the fence or on the telephone could make a big difference to someone who is feeling isolated.

Anyone in need of extra support or feeling more isolated can also access the virtual community hubs set up by both Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council.

The community hubs were developed to support people and families who are vulnerable and in need during the Coronavirus pandemic, linking them to existing local services where possible and supporting them with essential aid where necessary. More information on those, as well as help forums can be found on the councils' websites: www.durhamlocate.org.uk and www.darlington.gov.uk/coronavirus

Cllr Lucy Hovvels MBE, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for adult and health services, said: "It is more important than ever to look out for each other. As the lockdown period continues many people, especially those who are vulnerable, will feel increasingly anxious and isolated. "Simple and safe steps to

keep in touch with those people, offer to collect some essentials for them, or even to point them towards our community hubs if they need more support, will make a big difference in helping them feel more comfortable."

Councillor Jonathan Darlington Borough Council's Cabinet member for stronger communities said: "I am proud that, in Darlington, we are seeing and hearing about wonderful examples of good neighbourliness and people looking out for one another as we continue to face this pandemic."

"The council has been working closely with community groups and hundreds of people have volunteered to help vulnerable people as part of the Darlington Cares: Community initiative. That's great to see. There's never been a better time to get to know your neighbours, especially if they may be vulnerable, in a socially-distanced way of course. All the examples of people helping one another really have been heart-warming to see."

At a time when the fire service is unable to carry out usual community visits, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) is asking people to remind elderly or vulnerable friends and neighbours to keep checking their smoke alarms and be mindful of fire safety in the home and garden.

Following a slight rise in the number of garden fires earlier this month, CDDFRS is also asking the public to refrain from burning their garden waste until normal waste disposal services resume. In addition to the concern that garden fires could get out of hand and put people at risk, residents are asked to be considerate to their neighbours who could be using their gardens for the only fresh air that they can get.

Other ways to support neighbours include reporting any suspicious behaviour to the police or taking part in neighbourhood watch schemes. Durham Constabulary is also reminding people that they can be a good neighbour digitally, as well as in person.

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County 'Social Care Army' of Care Workers Praised During Covid-19

Officials across County Durham have praised their 'social care army' for the dedication and compassion shown by care workers during the Covid-19 crisis. County Durham Care Partnership, which brings together NHS organisations, Durham County Council and other providers to deliver improved, joined up health and social care services, has thanked all front-line carers across the county.

Sarah Burns, head of integrated strategic commissioning for Durham County Council and NHS County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), said: "Care workers support the most frail and vulnerable people in our community whether that be in care homes, supported housing or in people's own homes. "Alongside our doctors and nurses, they are at the front-line of the fight against coronavirus and their commitment and hard work is valued every day - even more so during this current crisis. "Care homes may be closed to visitors at this time but family and friends can be assured that their loved

ones are well looked after and their wishes respected." GP Dr Dilys Waller, Woodview Medical Practice, Cockfield, praised carers, residents and their families for their response and support during the Coronavirus pandemic. "Coronavirus is a huge concern to everyone, especially those working in care homes and family members of residents. "We know that in many cases it is the residents and their families wish that care is continued to be delivered in a planned way within the care home, by staff that have looked after them, often for years, who want to deliver the best care they possibly can." Sue Jacques, chief executive of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, expressed her appreciation for carers across the county. "We'd like to thank all carers who are working tirelessly, in partnership with us and other NHS services, to care for people

at this time" she said. "Their dedication and compassion for vulnerable people across County Durham is clear and their commitment and hard work is valued every day - even more so during this current pandemic." Cllr Lucy Hovvels MBE, Durham County Council's cabinet member for adult and health services, added: "People who work in care help some of the most vulnerable members of our society and in the current climate those they look after are among the most susceptible to coronavirus," she said.

"However we know the county's care workers' commitment to those they support has not been diminished by the threat of COVID-19 and on behalf of the council I would like to say a huge thank you to all of them." Durham County Council's County Durham Care Academy has launched an online fast-track recruitment and training programme in response to the pressures placed on the sector by COVID-19. Three key roles, including care assistants, kitchen assistants and domestic

assistants are being recruited as part of the campaign. Applications received to date are currently being progressed to allow the hopefuls to be placed with care providers across County Durham. Opportunities are available to anyone wishing to work in adult social care, including those without prior experience. The academy is also

offering remote training and development to provide potential new staff with the skills they will need to access opportunities in the sector. Full details and how to apply can be found at: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/careacademyrecruitment> with regular updates on the Care Academy Facebook page: facebook.com/CareAcademyDurham

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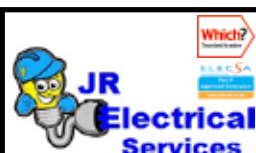


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British Business Investments, a commercial subsidiary of the British Business Bank, has announced a new £15m commitment to Par Equity as the latest partner in its Regional Angels Programme. The funds from British Business Investments will be invested by Par Equity alongside the Par EIS Fund and the Par Investor Network to deliver over £75m of new funding for scale-up businesses primarily in the North of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The £15m commitment from the Regional Angels Programme will help to drive further investment into promising scale-up businesses in these parts of the UK. The

Programme will also help with Par Equity's follow-on investment activity, ensuring that the portfolio receives the capital it needs to reach critical milestones. The Par Investor Network, with nearly 200 members, invests alongside the Par EIS Fund to create a distinct, operationally focused investment model where professional investors and experienced business angels add value to businesses throughout the investment lifecycle. The announcement comes as Par Equity completes a £1.6m investment into EC-OG, drawing on the pledged capital from the Regional Angels Programme for the first time. EC-OG has launched Halo, a subsea power hub, providing efficient, autonomous energy management for subsea applications. The company leverages its proprietary technology with deep sector expertise to service customers at a fraction of the cost of incumbent subsea power solutions. The investment will support a scale-up phase for the business, creating up to 40 jobs in Aberdeen over the coming 12 months.

PR Company
Supporting
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A north east PR and marketing agency has launched an initiative to help businesses share their great news while supporting charities through the Coronavirus crisis.

Harvey & Hugo Ltd will donate 20 per cent from the fee of all new Pay-as-Hugo PR and marketing services to a charity of the clients' choice.

This follows the announcement from Chancellor Rishi Sunak of a £750 million package to keep struggling charities afloat during the pandemic.

Managing Director, Charlotte Nichols said: "I found it really upsetting to hear the plight of charities across the country, but especially those in my home region of the North East, so I'd decided I wanted to do something to help before the Government's announcement last week. Even though charities will benefit from the rescue package, there are many organisations that still need support."

"As former PR and marketing director for Wag & Company North East Friendship Dogs, I understand how challenging funding can be for charities so by offering a simple solution we hope to make a small difference."

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Charlotte continued: "Times are tough for all businesses at the moment, but great brands will build their equity during crises such as these, so it's vital not to neglect your marketing."

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£

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Please hand advertisement and payment to:
NEWTON PRESS

Blue Bridge Centre, St Cuthbert's Way, Aycliffe Business Park

Sorry, but we **CANNOT** accept telephone orders for advertisements.
However the ads can be emailed to: paul@newtonnews.co.uk
and paid by credit card or pay online at www.newtonnewsads.co.uk

Sudoku (Easy, difficulty rating 0.40)

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

Local Pest Control

Dear Sir,
Can you please inform residents of Newton Aycliffe that Pestguard, based in Newton Aycliffe, has now re-started pest control activities after receiving clearance and key worker status from government ministers to carry on.

We want to assure customers that social distancing will be implemented at ALL TIMES for the duration of any call out. We ask customers to please help with any social distancing requests.

We are in unprecedented times, and not knowing how long the lockdown will continue, or for how long social distancing will effect us... we must stay safe at all times.

The rat population has increased over the past few months as people will already be aware and we are receiving a lot of calls from customers saying they have rats in their gardens, garage, and even bathrooms. We ask residents to be mindful of storage of waste in their bins, keep lids closed, do not overfill so that the lids do not close, any overfill WILL attract rodents, and if you have to use plastic bags for excess waste, please store it in a safe place until bin clearance teams call to collect. Please call a pest controller if you encounter a rat problem.

We are also receiving calls about wasp nests in walls, these are MASON BEES not wasps, and as such, are harmless. There is also the ground bee called MINOR BEES, again these are harmless - please do not kill these bees, they will not sting you.

There is also the hover fly, looks like a sort of wasp/bee that hovers motionless in the air, which I know people will have seen in their gardens over the past few weeks, these are fly's, not bees or wasps and are totally harmless.

I ask people to stay safe, stay at home and help protect lives.

Brian Sowerby
Pestguard
01325 301063
or 07790 732089

OFFSTAGE BUT NOT OFFLINE



Darlington Hippodrome offers online dance and drama classes for young people and adults.

Darlington Hippodrome is running regular online dance and drama classes available to young people and adults in a move to keep people active in body, mind and spirit during this period of social distancing.

Hippodrome Youth Theatre sessions are tailored to specific age groups and explore a range of theatre techniques and styles. Sessions start with warm up games and exercises to engage the creativity of the group and encourage teamwork and focus and then move on to explore specific theatre skills and performance work. Sessions are broken down to three age groups - 7 to 10 years on Mondays from 3.30pm to 5pm, 10 to 13 years on Thursdays from 3.30pm to 5pm and 13+ years on Thursdays from 5pm to 6.30pm.

Run in partnership with The D Project, Hippodrome Youth Dance sessions include Mix It Up Dance for ages 7-11, Contemporary Dance and an open Ballet and Body Conditioning session for ages 9+.

As well as being aimed at existing members of the Hippodrome's Youth Theatre and Youth Dance, these online classes are also open to new participants on a donate what you decide basis - as part of the booking process, individuals will be given the option to donate to the Hippodrome's A Place For Everyone fund, an initiative with the aim of opening up theatre to audiences, practitioners and

performers, regardless of social, physical or economic barriers.

Adults are also encouraged to get involved online with new Adult Dance Fitness sessions. These will be fun movement and exercise sessions to music aimed at maintaining stamina, strength and flexibility whilst keeping spirits high! The first session will take place over Zoom on Tuesday 28 April at 7.30pm.

To sign up for any of the theatre, dance or fitness sessions please visit the Take Part page of the Hippodrome website www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk

Delivery Programmes for Shielded Residents Supported by Council's Food Parcels

Staff at a North East council are being redeployed to help those in the community who are most vulnerable during the Coronavirus outbreak.

Durham County Council's staff have been preparing food boxes to assist their Community Hubs in making sure essential items are reaching vulnerable residents who cannot leave their homes due to risk of catching the virus.

The initiative has been created to provide support when other large-scale plans, such as the Government's food distribution programme and priority slots for supermarket deliveries, are not available to some vulnerable residents.

It will run alongside other schemes such as the council's Welfare Assistance scheme, local shops and restaurants doing deliveries, and other local schemes ran by partner organisations and food banks.

In response to residents coming through Community Hubs in need of food, redeployed council staff have been preparing boxes which



are then distributed to pick up points for Hub operatives to collect and deliver to those in need.

Over 900 food boxes have been prepared so far to assist Community Hubs across the county and will be delivered to those who have contacted the hub and need help accessing essentials.

The boxes contain enough food and supplies to last one person for around a week and will replace the need for some shopping arrangements currently in place with the Community Hub.

Community Hub staff will deliver to people's homes following previous arrangements set up and, following the existing process, will include charging for the parcels

in circumstances where residents simply need access to food and essential supplies and cannot leave their home.

Cllr Angela Surtees, Cabinet member for social inclusion, said: "It is vitally important that during the Coronavirus outbreak we all work as a team to support shielded populations and vulnerable residents who cannot leave home even to access basic supplies."

"While a large majority of residents have friends, family or neighbours who can support them in getting the essentials they need, there are those who will have to rely on the government distribution programme and other schemes which are actively delivering essentials, food supplies and meals on a

large scale.

"This food box initiative is not a blanket delivery programme, but has been created as a responsive service to complement the fantastic work of our Community Hubs in supporting shielded populations on a large scale. "Our staff are working tirelessly to make sure residents who are most at risk do not run out of the items they need during this uncertain time."

In Memoriam

Georgie Stokes

Died 5th May 2015

A devoted Husband of Joy-Marie.

Your love and all our special memories I treasure.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Obituary

James Kavanagh Newton Aycliffe

24th April, Suddenly but peacefully at home after a long illness.

James, aged 88 years. Dearly loved Husband of Maria; much loved Dad of Mary, Bernadette, Catherine, Fiona and Mandy; a dear Father-in-Law, Grandad and Great-Grandad.

Sadly missed by all his family and many friends. Due to current circumstances a private family funeral will take place at Wear Valley Crematorium on Monday 11th May at 1.30pm. Rest In Peace.

Paul Howell MP Member of Parliament for Sedgefield



CORONAVIRUS ADVICE



I am not currently able to hold face-to-face advice surgeries, but if you live in the Sedgefield Constituency and you are self isolating and finding it hard to manage, please contact us on any of the details below and we will do everything we can to get you the help you need.

paul.howell.mp@parliament.org.uk

Telephone: 0207 219 1599

Mobile: 07464 898442

Paul is a Member of Parliament

THE LITTLE BUDDHA

"Settle is such a nice word, isn't it?"

Settle is such a nice word... isn't it?

Settle is a comforting word; it's sort of warm and welcoming. Settling in or settling down, relaxing and going with the flow. No hassle or aggravation, just going along to get along. Of course every light word casts a shadow and settle is no different. Settle can also have a hard edge to it when we take it upon ourselves to settle a score, to punish and get even, or restore a sense of natural balance.

Settle is also a word to hide behind when selfishness wants to appear reasonable. It can hide a victim mentality when we are willing to settle for less than we deserve. Settle can imply a willingness to take what we can get at any price, and settling always goes for less than more.

Sometimes settling is the easy option and when we lack self worth or self esteem settling will always seem like a bargain to those who have no idea of their true worth.

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with a PhotoAd in the Newton News

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our office at: **NEWTON PRESS**

Blue Bridge Centre, Aycliffe Business Park DL5 6DS

Adverts can also be placed online at www.newtonnewsads.co.uk or via email directly to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

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Extras words are charged at 30p per word. Photographs can be collected from Newton Press offices after publication and are held on file for six months. Please ensure all copy is written clearly.

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

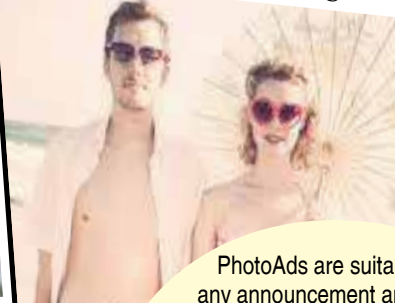
Alice Springs



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

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!

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR CRAFTERS

Sara Davies said: "The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are extremely coveted, prestigious accolades. Only a small selection of businesses are fortunate enough to receive a Queen's Award, so to be awarded one for international trade is incredible and is testament to the hard work of our team."

"Crafter's Companion has grown on a phenomenal scale throughout the past few years and we have made exceptional developments when it comes to international trade, so much so that our international sales have now overtaken that of our UK business."

"When trying to break international markets, it's vital to know the market inside and out and knowing your customers in these geographical areas is key. We have been successful in growing our international business because we have established a strong brand

identity and with that, a loyal customer base and sense of community amongst our shoppers.

"Our products are innovative, they break the mould and we have produced many 'firsts' for the market. Many of our product development team are crafters in their spare time and therefore are able to create new ranges with crafters in mind."

"This year has been very strange and uncertain for so many businesses. I am so thankful that I work with an amazing group of people who carry the best interests of the company at heart and do everything that they possibly can to see it succeed."

"Winning a Queen's Enterprise Award is a fantastic honour, especially when you consider the calibre of companies who have received one in the past, so the fact that we have won our own award is very welcome news."

GUARDING AGAINST CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

The region's biggest council is issuing an extra word of warning about scams prompted by the coronavirus outbreak that may be targeting vulnerable people.

Durham County Council's trading standards team is advising residents to be wary of coronavirus based scams during the uncertain time.

Whilst the message to be wary carries across the whole of the UK, residents in County Durham are being offered advice and support from the council.

A coronavirus scam advice page has been set up, helping point out what residents should look out for to avoid becoming a victim.

Guidance includes warning against advertisements for virus testing kits, vaccines and miracle cures. Unofficial shopping and medical collection services, as well as home

cleaning services, are also highlighted as deserving extra caution.

See Durham County Council's advice page: www.durham.gov.uk/covid-scams

Joanne Waller, head of community protection with Durham County Council, said: "In these challenging times for legitimate businesses, sadly there is a criminal element seeking to exploit people's concerns and anxieties which may result in making hasty decisions and falling victim to scams and frauds."

"We would urge all residents of County Durham to be on their guard and mindful of scams which may target them at this time and follow the advice we are providing."

"If someone claims to represent the council or a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressurise you into accepting a service, they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure."

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has analysed 509 reports of scams related to coronavirus with total losses by those targeted of £1.6 million. In addition to council guidance, the following scams are highlighted by the NFIB.

Agencies advising recipients that they have been fined £250 for leaving their home twice in one day during the lockdown period or from HMRC requesting bank details to process a tax relief payment.

Phishing, which can take the form of an email that contains a malicious attachment, giving criminals access to banking details, usernames and passwords or a text with a link to a website.

Doorstep crime related to coronavirus includes substandard facemasks, antibacterial hand gels and other products being sold at an inflated price.

A more worrying development has been reports of criminals posing as NHS staff, offering vaccines which they claim will protect people from contracting coronavirus. A vaccine has not yet been developed and will never be offered to members of the public on their doorsteps.

If someone knocks at your door offering any of these services, please do not engage as they are scams. If downloading any software to connect with friends and family, it is advised that people make sure this is from a reputable source and not from a link on a social media site or from an email and do not supply any bank details at the point of download.

Residents are urged to report any scams they may be targeted by to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or online at www.actionfraud.police.uk/

Advice regarding scams is available from the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133. An online scam helper tool is available to check if something might be a scam at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/>

Residents can also protect themselves and their community by becoming a Friend Against Scams. Friends Against Scams is a National Trading Standards Scams Team initiative which aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering people to take a stand against scams. www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk/elearning/durham

Durham BRASS Festival Cancelled

An international music festival has been cancelled as part of the ongoing national effort to reduce the spread of Coronavirus.

Durham BRASS was due to take place across County Durham this summer, with ten days of live gigs, open air concerts, street parties and school performances set to entertain people of all ages between 10 and 19 July.

Organiser Durham County Council has been closely following Government guidelines in response to the pandemic and is regularly reviewing its 2020 festival and events programme as the situation evolves.

This week, the local authority made the regrettable but necessary decision to cancel BRASS. The decision follows the cancellation of a number of other council-run events, including Bishop Auckland Food Festival, Durham Adventure Festival and Seaham Food Festival.

Last year, more than 40,000 people experienced Durham BRASS, boosting the county's economy by hundreds of thousands of pounds and introducing new audiences to 21st century brass music from around the world.

CLlr Joy Allen, the council's

Cabinet member for transformation, culture and tourism, said: "BRASS has been delighting audiences of all ages for more than a decade and has helped put County Durham on the cultural map, so we are sorry it can not go ahead this year. "It is vital we follow the Government's social distancing guidelines and our main priority is the health our communities, visitors, musicians, partners, sponsors, festival staff, and volunteers."

"BRASS is all about bringing people together, both in terms of our international line up of musicians and our wonderful Big Brass Bash parties. Sadly, this is just not possible this year. However, we know how uplifting music can be, especially during difficult times like these, and we will continue to spread the joy of BRASS through our social media channels until we can all get together again."

For more information about how to look after your mental health and wellbeing, visit www.durham.gov.uk/covid19mentalhealth

To find out more about BRASS and to stay up to date with the latest festival news, visit www.brassfestival.co.uk

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.

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For more information contact Stuart on 01325 300212



ONLY ONE UNIT LEFT

* Subject to small business relief

Durham Christian Partnership Update

Over the last number of weeks I have had the privilege of seeing, at first hand, the unselfish and dedicated resolve of our staff and volunteers from all over the region, and I can only describe you all as truly amazing. I make no apologies for saying each week that I thank God for you all because I not only see what is happening on the front line, as it were, but also see what goes on behind the scenes to keep things going. Without you, our amazing staff and volunteers, staunch supporters, donors and not least, the Grace of God, we could not function as we do. We are appearing to be moving towards the peak of the outbreak here in our country so may I

ask that you continue to be vigilant in all that you do and please stay safe as we edge towards better times. Again, I would encourage us all to pray this weekend for our families and friends, our organisation and also for those we are helping because, many of whom, are encountering severe difficulties.

Psalm 125:

1 They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

2 As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.

I thank God for you all
Glenn Jones
Chairman

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