

whitehouse  
funeral service

Private Chapels of Rest

Surtees House  
Hilton Road  
Newton Aycliffe DL5 6EN

The truly independent family company caring for your needs  
**T: 01325 318600** (24 hour)

Friday 8th May 2020 First Published in 1948 and still FREE

# newtonnews

Incorporating "The Newtonian" - Aycliffe's Community Newspaper  
[www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk) - No. 1 website for local news

Aycliffe Radio working in partnership with Newton News  
[www.ayclifferadio.co.uk](http://www.ayclifferadio.co.uk)

Newton News, Blue Bridge Centre, St. Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 6DS - Tel: 01325 300212  
Editor: paul@newtonnews.co.uk • Advertising: paul@newtonnews.co.uk

## BENGAL LOUNGE

Contemporary Indian Restaurant

**DINE IN**

**THALI NIGHT**

TUESDAY NIGHTS ONLY

**ONLY £11.95**

[www.bengal-lounge.co.uk](http://www.bengal-lounge.co.uk)  
6 St Elizabeth's Close, Woodham Village, DL5 4UE  
**TEL: 301066 or 313326**

**elachi** indian restaurant

1 Upper Beveridge Walkway  
Town Centre DL5 4EE  
(next to Steven Russell)  
**Tel: 01325 316516**

**Monday Thali Night**  
Dine in for £10.95

**Sunday & Thursday Banquet Special** £9.95

Delivery Available [www.elachirestaurant.co.uk](http://www.elachirestaurant.co.uk)  
Free delivery in Aycliffe on orders over £10  
Delivery outside Aycliffe small charge.  
10% Discount available on collected orders

## V.E. Day Special Edition

This edition of the Newton News is published with assistance from Freshwater, Town Centre Landlords and ROF59 Activity Centre




**Gordon Fletcher & Sons**  
Independent Family Funeral Directors

*A caring personal service, from a local family business, Here to help you through those difficult times. You know when you need us, we'll be there, day or night.*

**OFFICE & PRIVATE CHAPELS OF REST**  
Personalised Pre Payment Funeral Plans Available

**Cobblers Hall Village Centre**  
Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe  
**Tel: (01325) 319519**

**Scooters from £295**  
**Adjustable Beds from £595**

- Wheelchairs, Bath Lifts and Stair Lifts
- No Obligation, FREE Home Demonstration
- Servicing and Repairs (at your home)

**Lift Recline Chairs from £495**

**M.V. MOBILITY** All employees will use social distancing  
MOBILE SHOWROOM  
Part exchange welcome, written details on request  
**Call Michael on 01325 931032 or 0191 484 6172**  
Established 2003

# Celebrating VE Day 2020

"I am proud to be part of leading VE Day 75 - celebrating the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe on the 8th May 1945" said Neil Thain, who is playing his part in the VE Day 75, an international commemoration marking 75 years since the end of World War 2.



Organised by Pageantmaster Bruno Peck LVO OBE OPR, and his dedicated team, the playing of Battle's O'er and VE 75 Years by pipers around the world taking place on 8th May 2020, throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and in 28 countries, including New Zealand, Ireland, Australia, Bermuda, France, Belgium, Canada, South Africa, Russia, the United States and Germany is a unique aspect of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day which marked the end of the war in Europe on 8th May 1945.

world that wants to pay tribute to the many pipers that lost their lives during WWII, along with the many, many millions at home and abroad that gave and sacrificed so much to ensure we all share and enjoy the freedom we have today, and feel sure I will have a tear in my eyes on the day, knowing that these pipers are playing this together at this special moment in time. I am so proud of them," said Bruno. Piper Robert Procter, City of Leeds Pipe Band said, "When the UK lockdown announcement was made, I was disappointed that I would be unable to play my Pipes at the top of Scafell Pike, the highest Peak in England, where I had originally planned. That said I am delighted this aspect of the VE day 75 celebrations can still go ahead, my band mates are still participating from home and I'll be able to play in safety on my own

in Saltaire, Yorkshire, for neighbours to enjoy." Piper Rod McLeod, Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) of Canada said, "I am proud to be part of the VE Day team dedicated to this historic event and will be playing Battle's O'er and VE 75 Years from my home in Calgary, Canada during this difficult time, paying tribute to the hundreds of pipers who saw wartime service, along with those in my country that gave so much to ensure and celebrate the freedom we all have today. The pipers through their selfless bravery inspired the troops through their unique musical skills and paid the ultimate price."

**Newton Aycliffe's Involvement:**  
Neil Thain, a local Newton Aycliffe piper will be playing at 3.00pm on Friday 8th May. Neil works in the security industry and will take some time off from his daily schedule to play the two tunes in tribute to the fallen and to commemorate the 75th Anniversary. Neil said: "I am proud to be a part of this historic international event to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day; a pivotal moment in our history. It's a chance to commemorate those who sacrificed so much and celebrate the peace that they achieved."

**BESPOKE**  
WINDOWS DARLINGTON LTD

**SPECIAL OFFER:**  
Five Windows + One Door  
**£2880 inc. VAT**

- UPVC Windows and Doors
- Conservatories
- Composite Doors
- Bi-Folding Doors

**Telephone 01325 468222**  
Email: [info@bespoke-windows.co.uk](mailto:info@bespoke-windows.co.uk)

**Bedroom Image**

## Sliding Wardrobes

Manufactured in our Newton Aycliffe Factory



[www.bedroomimage.co.uk](http://www.bedroomimage.co.uk)  
Visit our new studio at:  
24 Cockerton Green, Darlington DL3 9EU  
**Telephone (01325) 464100**  
or  
Middlesbrough and Washington  
Telephone 0191 417 9174

**ELECTRICIAN**  
[www.armstrong-electrics.co.uk](http://www.armstrong-electrics.co.uk)

**DO YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO GET SOMEONE TO COME AND DO A SMALL JOB?**

- ♦ Fault Finding / Repairs
- ♦ Extra Lights and Sockets
- ♦ New Fuse Boards / Alarms
- ♦ Rewires
- ♦ Landlord Inspections
- ♦ Qualified Electrician
- ♦ Reliable Service
- ♦ Tidy Work
- ♦ Free Quote
- ♦ Satisfaction Guaranteed

**I WILL ASSURE YOU OF A QUICK RESPONSE AND A REASONABLY PRICED SERVICE**  
**Call Gary on 01325 589011**

**HACKETT & BAINES LTD**  
Est. 1898

## BIG SIZE MENSWEAR

**2XL to 8XL**  
huge range of designs now in stock

## THE WINDOW GUY

**LOW PRICES ON NEW**

- Doors • Windows • Conservatories •
- Porches • Guttering • Facias •
- Soffits • Brickwork • Door Canopies •

We also complete all aspects of repair work on: • Misted Units • Broken Locks • Leaks •

**For a sensible, no obligation quotation**  
**07816 675935 anytime or 304286 after 6pm**

## SEATON LENG

FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
EST. 1891

**01325 465 647**  
24 hours, day and night  
59A Bondgate / Darlington / DL3 7JR

## Electric Adjustable Bed Ranges

**FROM £599**



**Free Delivery**  
47-49 Main Street, Shildon DL4 1AF 01388 772671  
Email: [hackettandbaines@btconnect.com](mailto:hackettandbaines@btconnect.com)

# ROTARY DONATE TO JUNCTION7



Rotary Newton Aycliffe has formed partnerships with quite a few charitable organisations in our community and one of these is Junction7. This is a charity that fulfils a need in many areas offering help in the form of an emergency food service, preloved school uniforms, adult and children's clothing and, for a small donation, may be able to supply preloved white goods and furniture. Rotary is proud and happy to contribute to their efforts. The image shows Jane and Simon surrounded by some of the goods purchased with the donation which was also supported by a matching grant from Rotary District.

# COMMEMORATE VE DAY AT HOME AND STAY SAFE

As the 75th anniversary of VE Day approaches, arrangements are being made to help people in County Durham commemorate the occasion safely at home.

In recent months, the nation's focus has been on the coronavirus pandemic, but Durham County Council recognises that there is still a strong desire among residents to pay tribute to the Second World War generation.

To help residents mark the milestone, a special webpage - [www.durham.gov.uk/veday75](http://www.durham.gov.uk/veday75) - has gone live today (Friday 1 May). This provides information about the virtual activities on offer, as well as links to online exhibitions, history videos and ideas on how to hold a VE Day party at home.

Sadly, parades cannot take place this year, but on VE Day, Friday 8 May, shortly before the two minutes silence at 11am, people in County Durham can join together virtually for a recording of a bugler performing The Last Post. This will be shared on the council's Facebook and Twitter accounts and will provide a poignant way for residents to reflect on those who fought for a free world. To follow the council on social media, visit [www.facebook.com/durhamcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/durhamcouncil), [www.durhamcouncil.com](http://www.durhamcouncil.com)



[twitter.com/durhamcouncil](https://twitter.com/durhamcouncil) and [www.instagram.com/durham\\_county\\_council](https://www.instagram.com/durham_county_council) Staff and volunteers at Durham County Record Office (DCRO) and the DLI Collection have also been busy creating online activities to help people find out more about this important period in history. Durham County Council cares for the DLI Collection on behalf of the DLI Trustees, and both DCRO, in County Hall, and the DLI Collection, based at DLI Research and Study Centre in Spennymoor, were planning exhibitions to commemorate the end of the war.

The DLI Collection exhibition has been postponed until later in the year, and the team is now calling on residents of all ages to design triangles for celebratory bunting. This will be displayed at the exhibition when it can go ahead. Templates can be downloaded at [www.durham.gov.uk/veday75](http://www.durham.gov.uk/veday75) and decorated designs can be scanned to [dlicollectionenquiries@durham.gov.uk](mailto:dlicollectionenquiries@durham.gov.uk).

The council will also share some of the designs on social media. Anyone who would like their design to be included, can send it to the team within a direct message on either Facebook or Twitter.

The DCRO exhibition, compiled by military historian Steve Shannon, meanwhile, has been moved online until it is able to take place. 'We have come through: Remembering VE Day 1945' features photographs, newspaper articles and other first-hand accounts from the time and is available at [www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk](http://www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk).

Pupils across County Durham will also be marking the milestone, with children in school and those at home coming together virtually to learn more about the Second World War. DCRO's education service has created a special learning pack to help schools teach children about this historic event. The free resource will soon be available on the Learning Zone at [www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk](http://www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk) and teachers can contact the DCRO team on [record.office@durham.gov.uk](mailto:record.office@durham.gov.uk) to request a copy.

At two County Durham schools, the activities have been inspired by the schools' own logbook entries for 8 May 1945, which are cared for by DCRO. As well as staging tea parties at home



and in school, pupils at St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Primary School in Crook and Aycliffe Village Primary School have been learning about what their predecessors did on that historic day - from parades and bonfires, to prayers, games and tending to the school garden.

The council is also supporting the Government's VE Day 75 at home campaign, which encourages people to celebrate the anniversary at home or in their care setting and then share their activities online with the hashtag #VEDay75. Among the national activities planned for 8 May is a televised address by Her Majesty the Queen on BBC One at 9pm - the same time as her father, King George VI, gave a radio address in 1945. This will be followed by a UK wide singalong of Dame Vera Lynn's wartime classic We'll Meet Again, led by the Royal British Legion.

More information and links to the national activities taking place, along with party packs, recipe ideas and more, can be found at [www.durham.gov.uk/veday75](http://www.durham.gov.uk/veday75)



## PARLIAMENT TALK

Paul Howell, Member of Parliament for Sedgfield

This weekend would have been one of major celebrations, being 75 years since VE day and we would have expected street parties etc to be the norm but we will not have the opportunity for anything significant this time with even the main celebrations being delayed.

I think it is important though to do what you can to recognise that 75 years have passed since victory in Europe was declared and remember those whose sacrifice then meant we have our free society now. So I have at least bought some bunting to put up. (Bought on line from "All about Words" based in Sedgfield from their Etsy store and printed at home.) If the weather allows I hope to have a socially distant beer or two over the garden fence with neighbours to celebrate the 75 years of peace. I am sure many will do the same but please remember we are at a critical stage and we need to hold the social distancing rules just a little longer.

It is good to see that we are starting to consider options and methods to start to head towards whatever our new normality will be. This is written before the Prime Minister starts to share plans with us but the key indices seem to be heading in a direction that will allow changes to be started. My current "normality" continues with "Zoom" and "Teams" meetings. These are two video conferencing software platforms that very few of us would have heard of a few weeks ago but are now in use by Governments and Councils as well as the general public as primary methods of communication. My thanks to the local and national teams that have worked hard to ensure appropriate security for us. Last week I was able to talk with The Secretary of State for International Trade, Liz

Truss about how international supply lines were being supported and the strategy and progress on trade deals post Brexit as well as the Secretary of State for DEFRA (Department for Environment and Rural Affairs) where the bulk of the discussion related to the dairy industry.

On Thursday (30/4) we had a BEIS select committee meeting where we heard representations to Government from the small business and retail sectors. There was support for the initiatives taken so far and they were also able to promote where there were still gaps to address. The day before I had joined a conference call of local small businesses which helped inform my understanding before joining this call.

I was also able to speak directly with the minister for Digital Infrastructure where we discussed both the need for significant improvements to rural broadband but also the wider concerns around the 5G rollout and Huawei. I raised with him specifics of broadband needs in our villages.

At a local level I continue to thank all of our front line workers and can assure you that all the reports I get from the leaders of the Police Council and NHS are positive. Crime is down and we are seeing new police recruits joining the force; the Council continue to prioritise and deliver support and I understand plans are afoot to open the tip soon and the local hospitals have the PPE they need and enough intensive care capacity to start the rescheduling of elective surgery.

Please look after your friends and neighbours and give them a call if you can but until you are told otherwise remember, *Stay Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives.*

**Paul Howell MP**  
MP for Sedgfield

# DIVE in

Hydrotherapy Pool Refurbishment

HELP US TO RAISE £410,000 TO IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES

Families in your local community rely on our Hydrotherapy Pool for recovery and rehabilitation from serious illness and for pain management.

People like Mandy, pictured here, use the Hydrotherapy Pool to relieve pain and to regain their independence.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We need your help to completely redevelop our 20 year old Hydrotherapy Pool, which is in desperate need of refurbishment or the Pool will have to close.

The pool is available to everyone without the need for a GP referral, with your support we can keep providing this vitally important therapeutic service.

Your donation will help us to:  
 Double the size of the original pool  
 Provide improved lifting and hoist equipment  
 Provide larger and better equipped changing rooms.

Visit [www.diveinPCP.co.uk](http://www.diveinPCP.co.uk) to find out how you can help  
 Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF Tel: 01325 321234

## BAGPIPES PLAYED FOR NHS

Dear Sir,  
I thought I would drop you an email to let you know that the last few Thursdays, as part of our streets clap for carers, one of our neighbours has come out and played his bagpipes! This is great for everyone standing on their doorsteps and gets us all jigging and clapping along. I'm not sure if you have plans to publish any local stories about how Newtonians are acknowledging their thanks for the NHS, but thought this was a little bit different. We live in Hareson Road and the gentleman's name is Neil Thain.

75th ANNIVERSARY

# VE/VJ Day Celebration

Sat., 15th August 2020

11.00am to 4.00pm

Aycliffe Town Centre

**What's Happening:**  
Local Armed Forces displays all day

- 11am - Aycliffe Radio
- 11.30am - Jenna Highfield
- 12pm - Aycliffe Radio
- 12.30pm - Jenna Highfield
- 1pm - Mayor Arrives - Piper
- 1.15pm - Aycliffe Radio
- 1.30pm - 1407 Cadets Drill
- 2pm - Jenna Highfield
- 2.30pm - Aycliffe Radio
- 3pm - Piper/Pipers "Bands Out"
- 3.15pm - Jenna Highfield
- 3.45pm - Aycliffe Radio

Jenna Highfield  
1940's Singer and Entertainer

124 Recovery Company  
Vehicles, Recruiting and Display

201 Field Hospital  
Medical Treatment Facility Display

1407 Squadron Air Cadets  
Drill Display and Recruiting

102 Battalion REME  
Vehicles, Recruiting and Display

FREE HATS AND FLAGS

(while stocks last)

- \* Vintage Vehicles
- \* Singalong with Jenna
- \* Bagpipes at 1pm & 3pm
- \* MP & Mayor Visit
- \* Ice Cream / Face Painter
- \* Vintage Vehicles

# Celebrating VE Day Anniversary

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.

Today'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 is was they did during their time at the Royal Ordnance Factory.

Aycliffe Radio will be commencing a new day time show aimed at the over 70s which will be entitled "Memory Lane". This show will concentrate on music from the 1940s and 1950s. 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 will announce birthday and



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

anniversary dedications on a Monday for those celebrating that week.

## DOG FOUND



This two year old shih tzu was found in our Aycliffe branch of Tesco in the car park. He is chipped but the details are not up to date. Please contact the finder if he is yours or you have any information 01325 321871. He was taken to Wilson Vets and is now lodging comfortably at StrayAid.

# GP BANK HOLIDAY OPENING TIMES

Primary Care services across County Durham will be available to patients over the VE Day, May bank holiday.

Anyone requiring medical care will be able to access GP services by calling NHS111 on Friday 8 May. Dr Stewart Findlay, chief officer, NHS County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), said: "The VE Day bank holiday will be a working day for the NHS. "GP services will be open and operating from seven hubs across County Durham, from 8am to 6pm on Friday 8 May and over the weekend - in addition we also have out of hours arrangements in place from Friday, 6pm, till Monday, 8am.

"Patients will be able to access healthcare services by calling NHS111 for a telephone assessment which will enable appointments to be prioritised for those most in need."

All GP services across the county have moved to total telephone triage, using on line and video consultations. Patients are asked not to enter GP hubs for any reason before the need for a face-to-face appointment being agreed. Health advice is also available to patients by completing an online (eConsult) form on their local practice website.

"It is very important to stress that primary and community services remain available over the bank holiday," added Dr Findlay. "If anyone has any urgent health concerns they should ring NHS111 as soon as possible and not ignore symptoms."

# BUS PRESERVATION CELEBRATE 40 YEARS



Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society celebrates its 40th anniversary this year and as part of that milestone in the Society's history it intended to be part of the 75th anniversary of WW2 VE Day on the 8th May.

Unfortunately Covid - 19 has taken the limelight for the foreseeable future. However, not to be outdone the Society offers, through the Newton News, to recognise VE Day with some interesting items of local history.

*In coming forward to further this effort the United Company has inaugurated a "Spitfire" fund so as to make a gift of one of these fighter planes to the nation. The Company's employees are themselves closely making voluntary weekly contributions to the fund YOU are a link in our chain of approach to secure contributions which will help to build up the fund as quickly as possible. When the amount subscribed is sufficient to face the cost of one plane we shall continue our effort as our staff hope to provide not one but others which for all we know may beat off and destroy the enemy actually attacking our homes in the towns and villages through which our services operate.*

*I would ask you to remember that in spite of the increasing cost of your daily expenditure we have not asked for more and have not raised a fare since the outbreak of war. If at any time while the scheme is in being you can afford to purchase from our conductors a United "Spitfire" fund ticket at a cost of 3d or 6d, it will be very much appreciated and give great encouragement to those who drive you and look after your welfare, as well as to those who are engaged in our offices and works. Any of your friends who do not use the United buses may purchase a United "Spitfire" fund ticket at any "United" Enquiry Office.*

A.T. Evans, General Manager, Grange Road, Darlington

**Spitfire Fund**  
Firstly the photo shows the Society's 1942 United double decker bus GHN 189 here seen with the City of Lincoln, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Lancaster bomber at RAF Coningsby in 1992. In that year the bus went to London for the Brighton Run and to celebrate the Lancaster and the bus both going into service in 1942.

**Bus Tickets**  
Meanwhile, during the war years United sponsored a Spitfire Fund ticket because Mr. Bevin said "we must have bombers, we must have Spitfires". No doubt Aycliffe Angels workers on the Industrial Estate who used the bus to get to and from work will have bought such tickets at that time. The Society have just had a batch of said tickets reprinted and are hopeful that before the year end will be able to give them away to collectors of WW2 nostalgia. The special 3d ticket issued to subscribers of the Spitfire Fund was orange, with the "3d" payment overprinted in red (illustrated above).



The reverse contained a message from United's General Manager, Mr AT Evans (reproduced left). This particular ticket appears to have been part of a batch printed rather carelessly, perhaps this task was performed under blackout conditions? The Society also has for sale, at a nominal price of £2.00 each, photo paper quality reprints of the Lancaster bomber picture. For further enquiries please contact Kevin Openshaw, Chairman on 01325 315961 or Ian Wiggett, Secretary on 01325 317657.

**KEEP YOUR PROPERTY SAFE**

**DBS FABRICATION**

All security solutions undertaken such as Grills, Gates, Bars, Be-Spoke Boxes

**Call DBS on 01325 307230**  
Mobile: Scott 07772 182357  
Email: scott@dbs-fabrication.co.uk  
Website: www.dbs-fabrication.co.uk

# BETHANY HOUSE COMMEMORATE VE DAY



Bethany House care home residents have been involved with creating the above display, many thanks to Paul for making the soliders, Kenzo for building a rifle out of Lego, Sarah for decorating the cake, and friends for contributing to the display. We will never forget the many people who served during WW2.

**HAVE YOU MADE A WILL?**  
We can help protect your family's interests. Protect your PROPERTY for your loved ones. Lasting Powers of Attorney, Trusts, Storage. Call NOW on **01325 324515** for appointment **£49.00** inc VAT (per will) and **Free Home Visit** During the day or evening

**E.M.P. SOLUTIONS WILLWRITERS & ESTATE PLANNING PRACTITIONERS**

Members of the Society of Will Writers F.Inst.PA (Qualified Paralegal)

**lucid**  
TRANSPARENT TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

**IT SUPPORT & NETWORK SECURITY**  
TELECOMS | SECURITY DEVELOPMENT

**lucidgrp.co.uk**  
01325 582121 hi@lucidgrp.co.uk  
Blue Bridge Centre, Horndale Ave, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7YR

**coop** Funeralcare

Providing a caring personal service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Newton Aycliffe Funeralcare**  
Oakcliffe Cottage, Macmillan Road, DL5 4LH  
**01325 300 510**

www.coop.co.uk/funeralcare



## Programme Schedule

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



**CLASSIC "LOVE SONGS"**  
Sun-Thurs 12 to 3am, Fri & Sat 2-4am

**Some of our shows will be cancelled until the Coronavirus situation is resolved**

**HOWEVER WE WILL CONTINUE BROADCASTING 24/7**  
Updates from MP Paul Howell at 12noon daily

### SATURDAY

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

### SUNDAY

|   |                          |                 |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 9-10am  | Church Service           | Xcel Centre     |
| 10-11am   | Yesterdays Music Today   | Alan Brown      |
| 11-12pm   | Mystery Year             | Paul Baker      |
| 12-2pm  | Country & Americana Show | David Ringer    |
| <b>Blues Show Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service</b> |                          |                 |
| 2-4pm   | Bear Blues Show          | Collin & 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 |
| 1-2pm   | Memory Lane        | Gary Avery    |
| 2-4pm   | 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 |
| 1-2pm       | Memory Lane             | A DJ          |
| 2-4pm       | 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 |
| 1-2pm   | Memory Lane          | A DJ          |
| 2-4pm   | Afternoon Aycliffe   | Paul Baker    |
| 8-10pm  | Alternative Aycliffe | Gaz n Alby    |

### THURSDAY

|         |                    |                 |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 10-12am | Golden Years       | Paul Baker      |
| 12-1pm  | A to Z of Pop      | Richard Smith   |
| 1-2pm   | Memory Lane        | A DJ            |
| 2-4pm   | 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 |
| 1-2pm   | Memory Lane              | A DJ          |
| 2-4pm   | Afternoon Aycliffe       | Paul Baker    |
| 6-8pm   | Techno Trance Mix        | PVR Studios   |
| 8-10pm  | 15th May - Nathan Abbott | 90s Classix   |
| 10-12am | Alternative Aycliffe (R) | Gaz n Alby    |
| 12-2am  | Night Club Session       |               |

Check our website for full schedule

**www.ayclifferadio.co.uk**

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



### LISTENING OPTIONS:

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk - Free App (all formats)  
TuneIn - Radios Online - Internet Radio - Alexa  
UK Online Radio - Radio Garden - Online Radio Box  
Streema - StreamFinder - Deezer  
Radio Shaker - www.radio.net

# The Real Aycliffe Angels and Their Impact

In 2004, Northern Echo community web editor, Andrew Hutton, forced the 'Aycliffe Angels' onto the public stage in a much-needed campaign for recognition.

The Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) had of necessity been as shrouded in secrecy as it had been shrouded in the Aycliffe mists which protected it from bombing raids. People in County Durham – even those living nearby – were generally unaware what went on behind its high barbed wire fences ... so much so that one young Angel's mother could become annoyed that the ROF did not provide fires for its workers in cold weather!

The Angels' work was secret, so there were no wartime photos of the site, few newspaper reports, no demob fanfare at the end of it all ... and no national recognition of the kind that was accorded to such as the Land Army and the Bevin Boys. It was this that Hutton and the Echo successfully redressed, culminating in a national service of remembrance at Coventry Cathedral in 2000 attended by the Queen and the Prime Minister. Since then there have been further acknowledgements of the Angels' contribution to the war effort, though falling short of the national medal the campaigners sought.

### THE NORMAL STORY OF THE ANGELS

Popular articles about the Aycliffe Angels – usually featuring the memories of one or more of these amazing women – tend to follow a pattern. They start with a description of the ROF and its importance to the war effort; they reference the danger of the work; but then they cap the article with a positive reflection. In this, moreover, they are supported by the Angels themselves: "Happy days and happy memories" reads the back of a group photo donated to the Town Council. Similarly, the Angels interviewed by Greenfield students in 2005 shared, (e.g.): "We used to have a laugh and used to hear different tales and what they used to do, going to dances and getting into mischief, and it was really a happy time – I really enjoyed it".

There is no doubt that there was solidarity and comradeship. Relative to other jobs for young women, the wages were good. There was a full-time Entertainments team on site organising concerts and events such as trips to the seaside. Gracie Fields came to perform. And – as all workers – the Angels well capable of 'having a laugh' at work: including, rather darkly, according to one Angel, lying under a blanket and trying to convince the supervisor that there had been an accident. In 2005 Korczyński et al. evidenced the importance of singing for the workers: "We sang ourselves through that war".

### THE REALITY OF THE ROF

But it would be wrong to focus too much on the fun of

the factory, and the humility of the Angels – more than half-a-century after the events – to play down the dangers as "a thing we had to do and everyone just got on with it". To do so is to undervalue the hardship, stress and frequent accidents to which these women sacrificed a formative part of their younger lives.

In addition to the newspaper fanfares, there have been a number of serious oral history studies of the Aycliffe Angels. In the late 1980s Professor Richard Brown interviewed more than 70 Angels for his work on the gender issues of paid labour during the war, and in 2007 two Canadian academics talked to a number of Angels as part of their research into how people doing dangerous jobs are able to cope and even thrive.

Academic studies such as these have revealed truths about the reality of the ROF that show a different side to the 'happy singing heroines' we read about in the press.

### NOT A NICE PLACE TO WORK

For a start, the ROF was not a nice place to work. "Even on a nice day it still looked what a prison would look like, and when it was wet and the wind was howling – dreadful!" In a letter to the Treasury in November 1944 Douglas Jay, President of the Board of Trade, described the buildings as "unfit for general purposes". No windows in most of them ... and we have already seen that many were (for obvious safety reasons) unheated.

Many of the overwhelmingly female workforce travelled in from all over Durham, an arduous journey on often unreliable transport – starting at 4.30am for the day shift, and going home in the early hours for the night shift. One Angel remembered having a weekend off every three weeks. More than half the women at the ROF were married with young children, but there was no nursery or crèche at Aycliffe as at some government factories; those of us who have been complaining because we have run out of butter in the current lockdown might pause for a while consider the situation of these women who – with their husbands away at war – were running the home alone whilst working shifts, finding child-minding out of their wages, and feeding their families (on rations) despite setting off for work before the shops opened, and arriving home after they closed.

On arrival, the women were frisked in the 'sifting house' for matches, hair grips or anything else that could cause a spark; they were told to hang things like rings in a cloth bag round their neck. The work was repetitive and boring. One woman's job, for example, for the entire length of her 8-hour shift, was to check with a gauge the width and length of shell casings: "soul-destroying" was how she described it. "I wouldn't say I was sorry to leave," commented another



Angel to the Imperial War Museum Sound Archive. "I think it was too monotonous the work for me." No wonder they sang while they worked!

To make things worse, the only 'training' the girls were given was a quick briefing on how to do the specific task allotted to them – plus they were frequently moved from factory to factory to plug gaps on assembly lines – so they never saw the process from beginning to end, and thus never appreciated the value of their work within that process.

### UNDERVALUED AND LOOKED DOWN UPON

The judgement of Selina Todd, who reviewed the interviews for her 2005 book on young women and work, was that: "a large number of women who worked at Newton Aycliffe Royal Ordnance Factory ... were negative about their experiences". They were integrated into the workforce in a very controlling way, usually in non-managerial roles. Worst of all, in a society still dominated by middle class values, although the Angels were central to wartime production, their 'betters' were scandalised by their off-duty (and sometimes on-duty) sexual behaviour, and they "were frequently treated as a social and moral problem by social investigators and policy makers when they refused to conform to a stereotype of self-sacrifice".

Winston Churchill visited in 1942, but of the female workforce the newspapers reported only that "pretty 21-year-old Miss Gladys Stoddart is likely to be known among her fellow workers and at the nearby hostel as 'the girl that kissed Churchill'..." after she presented him with a cigar and gave him a peck on the cheek. In a comment to set back women's rights

by decades, Gladys told the Northern Echo: "I was so excited that I scarcely knew what I was saying".

Thus undervalued, the women who took over the jobs of the men who were away fighting sometimes reacted in ways that break our comfortable image of the 'inspirational home-front heroine'. Some of the oral records reveal negativity, work-avoidance, and even tap-dancing to the piped music when they should have been working. Kitty Burn boasted to the IWM Sound Archive that, annoyed by a disciplinary meeting to address her absenteeism, she stomped off to the doctor "and got a permanent sick note. So after that every time, whether I had a nose bleed or not, I took the sick note in and there was nothing they could do about it [laughs]".

Even the singing was not as innocent as it seems! Workers genuinely joined in with patriotic songs and Vera Lynn, but some ended the day with a chorus of "[Nasty word] Britannia". One of the songs was a watchword to warn that the 'danger man' [one of the Danger Building Inspectors] was on his way; and workers were well aware that singing while they worked gave their work a rhythm (a "swing") which increased production ... and produced a much-needed bonus on their wages.

### THE ACHIEVEMENT

Women's work during the war, certainly at Aycliffe, unarguably helped to win the war. But did it accomplish anything for women?

For the (overwhelmingly male) historians of the 1960s and 1970s, the answer was yes. They saw – in the successful taking on of roles previously labelled as 'men's jobs', and in the social freedom that a job and money-in-their-pockets created – an 'emancipation'

which 'allowed' women to enter the workforce after the war.

The (often female) historians of the 1980s thought differently. Conducting oral interviews such as those with the Aycliffe Angels, they reinterpreted women's war work in terms of the Marxist concept of an oppressed 'reserve army of labour', there at the beck and call of the capitalist system, to be used and dumped as necessary to keep the wheels of industry turning. Women they said, were called up only because they were needed and, after the war, married women were encouraged to return to domesticity to release a job for the returning soldiers ... whilst, by the way – because there was still a shortage of workers – unmarried women continued to be recruited. The dubious reward for their war contribution, feminist historian Penny Summerfield suggested, was a 'double day' of low-paid, menial '5 Cs' work (cleaning, catering, caring, cashiering and clerical) during the day ... on top of the housework when they got home at night.

You may be relieved to hear that modern historians such as Selina Todd tend to think that, taken as a whole, young women \*did\* gain something from their war work, because it broke the traditional patriarchal family bonds, released them socially, and gave them confidence. Many of the ROF Angels might have gone straight into marriage-and-family, but the following 1950s cohort of their younger sisters broke the mould.

So it seems that we owe the Aycliffe Angels – not the paragon-Angels of myth, but the human-being-Angels of reality – a great debt ... not least, of course, the town we live in.

John D Clare



## Winston Churchill VE Day Speech

“My dear friends, this is your hour. This is not victory of a party or of any class. It’s a victory of the great British nation as a whole. We were the first, in this ancient island, to draw the sword against tyranny. After a while we were left all alone against the most tremendous military power that has been seen. We were all alone for a whole year.

There we stood, alone. Did anyone want to give in? [The crowd shouted “No.”] Were we down-hearted? [“No!”] The lights went out and the bombs came down. But every man, woman and child in the country had no thought of quitting the struggle. London can take it. So we came back after long months from the jaws of death, out of the mouth of hell, while all the world wondered. When shall the reputation and faith of this generation of English men and women fail? I say that in the long years to come not only will the people of this island but of the world, wherever the bird of freedom chirps in human hearts, look back to what we’ve done and they will say “do not despair, do not yield to violence and tyranny, march straightforward and die if need be-unconquered.” Now we have emerged from one deadly struggle, a terrible foe has been cast on the ground and awaits our judgment and our mercy.

But there is another foe who occupies large portions of the British Empire, a foe stained with cruelty and greed, the Japanese. I rejoice we can all take a night off today and another day tomorrow. Tomorrow our great Russian allies will also be celebrating victory and after that we must begin the task of rebuilding our hearth and homes, doing our utmost to make this country a land in which all have a chance, in which all have a

duty, and we must turn ourselves to fulfill our duty to our own countrymen, and to our gallant allies of the United States who were so foully and treacherously attacked by Japan. We will go hand and hand with them. Even if it is a hard struggle we will not be the ones who will fail.”



# The Aycliffe Angels



**This is an insight into the Aycliffe Royal Ordnance Factory, ROF 59, (1941-1945) and the 'Aycliffe Angels'.**

The huge munitions factory employed some 17,000 workers, mostly women, between 1941 and 1945 and was an extremely important part of the country's war effort. The work was highly dangerous as the women filled bullets and bombs for the boys on the battlefield. There were a number of serious and fatal explosions, with eight women being killed in one blast.

## Why were they called 'Aycliffe Angels'?

The reason is quite simple, Lord Haw Haw (William Joyce), was a traitor who worked for the Nazis during World War II, making English language propaganda radio broadcasts on Radio Luxembourg and other stations.

He dubbed them "the Little Angels of Aycliffe", promising that the Luftwaffe would bomb them into submission.

Fortunately, that never happened! "The Little Angels of Aycliffe won't get away with it," he had said in numerous broadcasts, highlighting the importance of their work.

## Royal Ordnance Factory 59

The Aycliffe factory, ROF 59, was mainly a filling and assembly plant, putting powder into shells and bullets, assembling detonators and fuses. Many of the component parts were manufactured elsewhere in the UK and shipped to Aycliffe by rail.

Some of the ammunition casings were manufactured at another nearby ROF at Spennymoor. The Spennymoor ammunition was then filled at ROF Aycliffe. Spennymoor is known to have produced .303 cartridges such as Ball Mk 7 and 8Z, Blank L Mk 5, Incendiary B Mk 6, B Mk 6Z, B Mk 7 and B Mk 7Z. Aycliffe produced some 700,000,000 (700 Million!) bullets during its period of operation.

## Highly Dangerous Work!

The work was extremely repetitive, fragmented and boring, but high levels of companionship existed amongst the women as they risked their lives on a daily basis filling the bombs and bullets.

Many of the women started work at 18, not having experienced factory work before, but the average age at the factory was 34. Over 1000 of the 17000 workers were aged over 50.

By its nature the work was very dangerous and many workers were killed and injured during the manufacturing process; however due to the secrecy surrounding the factory and its workers, many incidents went unrecorded and unreported in the news and their efforts went unrecognised.

In 2000 The Northern Echo launched a campaign to have their work officially recognised, this led to a memorial Service which was attended by Prime Minister and local MP Tony Blair and the Queen. A permanent memorial was also placed in Newton Aycliffe outside St Clare's Church commemorating their efforts.

## Operations

The marshy location was chosen as it was an ideal site, shrouded in fog and mist for much of the year providing cover against bombing by the Luftwaffe. It opened as ROF 59 (Filling Factory) early in 1941, resulting in the construction and opening of two new stations on the former Clarence Railway at Simpasture and Demons Bridge.

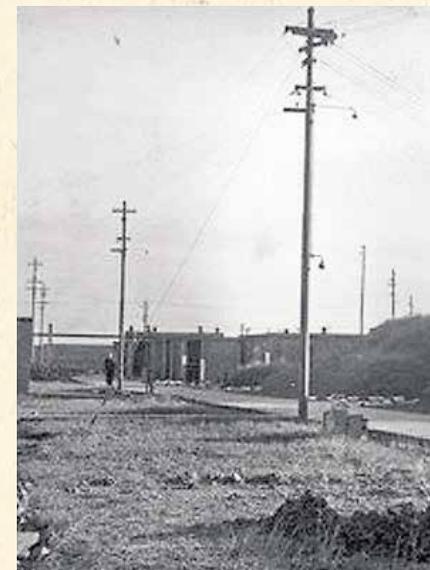
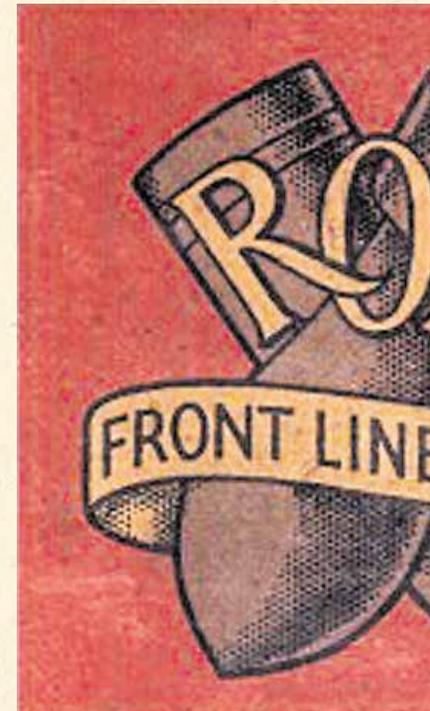
As a munitions factory, ROF Aycliffe operated 24 hours a day in three shift groups. They were transported from surrounding areas onto the site by bus and train, with the most local workers arriving on foot or by bicycle.

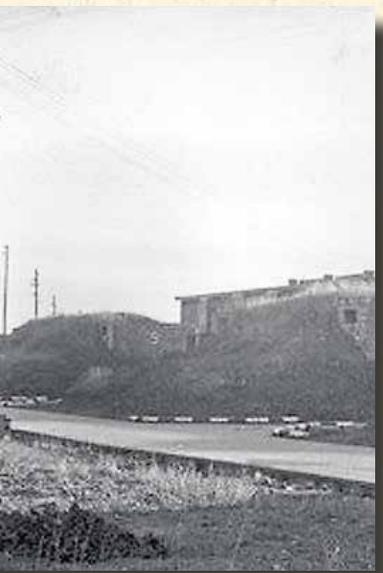
During its existence, the factory produced finished munitions including bullets, shells and mines. Operational for just over four years until the end of World War II in 1945. The factory was designated as a 'Top Secret' installation and surrounded by high fences with barbed wire.

The factory was visited during the war years by Winston Churchill and members of the British Royal Family. Many well-known entertainers of the day also performed at the factory for the workers.

## Post-war

After the war, the factory closed and the site was turned into the Newton Aycliffe Industrial Estate in the late 1940s. Many of the original buildings are still standing and are in use today.





## Activity Centre

Royal Ordnance Factory 59 was an 867-acre group of buildings built in the early 1940s, designed to produce bullets, shells and mines for the war effort.

The 21st Century ROF 59 you see today is the brainchild of John Finley, whose grandmother Olive, mother Dorothy, and aunts Winnie and Teresa worked at the factories during the war.

Mr Finley said "It wasn't something the family talked about. People didn't make a big deal about what they did in the war. My uncle Tom used to tell me about mornings before school when he'd sit on the step waiting for my gran to come home from her nightshift and seeing that her hair had gone a funny colour, because the chemicals in the explosive compounds which dyed workers' skin and hair yellow."

"I had no idea where that work was. It was only when someone in the family told uncle Tom what I was doing, he dug out some old photos and it all came to light" said John.

The new ROF 59 complex has maintained some of the original elements of the building, including brickwork and signage. And over time more memorabilia will be added to ensure Aycliffe's proud history and the memory of the Aycliffe Angels lives on for generations to come. The building is now an activity centre, which is a huge boost to the local community.



# Royal Ordnance Factory Explosion

## Aycliffe R.O.F. Explosion. Workers' Conduct Praised by Coroner at Darlington

The exemplary conduct of the workpeople generally and the bravery of one girl - Miss Constance Ruby Kendal, aged 24, of 16 Heighington Street, Aycliffe, following an explosion at the Aycliffe R.O.F. won high praise from the Coroner (Mr. J. E. Brown-Humes) at the inquest at Darlington today on the eight people killed in the explosion. The accident happened in the early hours of 2nd May and seven people were killed outright, one died in hospital, and 22 others were injured, one seriously.

### The people killed were:

**William Clark Hobson**, married, aged 51, Grainger Terrace, Leamside, Fence Houses.

**Isabella Bailey**, married, aged 44, 149, Gilesgate, Durham.

**Christopher Seagrave**, married, aged 39, 9 Park Terrace, Witton Park.

**Edmund William Smith**, married, aged 29, 13 Market Place, Pickering.

**Elsie Barrett**, widow, aged 27, Bildershaw, West Auckland.

**Alice Maude Wilson**, single, aged 26, 2 Town Wall, Hartlepool.

**James Bunton**, married, aged 31, Bells Hill, Rainton Gate, Fence Houses

**William Mitchell**, single, aged 31, 27 Percy Street, Hetton-le-Hole, who died in hospital shortly after admission.

### Grave Accident

Mr. C.A. Hinks represented the relatives of Seagrave and Smith, and Mr. J. G. Marsham the R.O.F. The inquest was also attended by Mr. J. T. Dunn, H.M. Inspector of factories, and Supt. H. Hudson.

At the outset the coroner said that it was one of the gravest accidents that had happened during the time he had been coroner for the Darlington ward. The accident, he said, resulted in a shadow being cast over the homes of many people in widely separated parts of the county, and he wished, at once, to express his sympathy with the relatives of the people who had lost their lives in that a dreadful fashion. The accident was perhaps the more unfortunate because of the fact it had happened at the end of the war in Europe. It would have been more gratifying if could have said at the end of the war, but one might take some comfort from the fact that at this stage of the war it was not likely that there would be many more such dreadful occurrences.

### Exhaustive Government Inquiry

Mr. Brown-Humes said that a very exhaustive government inquiry had been held and he had before him a most comprehensive report which had been drawn up and which would be available to interested parties.

Evidence of identification of William Mitchell was given by Annie Baker, his sister, of Hetton-le-Hole.

Margret Carter, married, assistant forewoman at Aycliffe R.O.F. of Neville's Cross said that she made a roll call after the explosion and was satisfied that Bunton, Hobson, Bailey, and Wilson were killed in the explosion. No trace could be found of any one of them. A little later she identified the remains of Barrett and had seen Mitchell carried on to a stretcher. She could speak with certainty of the deaths of these six people.

Joseph Raisbeck Webb, Assistant foreman fitter, 18, Millford Terrace, Ferryhill, said that Seagrave and Smith were missing when he made his roll call. He knew they were working in the building where the explosion occurred.

### Belt Came off Machine

Constance Ruby Kendal, single, aged 24, of 16 Heighington Terrace, Aycliffe, a quality control operative at the factory, said that she was in the building when the explosion occurred. She saw Bailey and Wilson working on an extruder filling machine.

She heard someone say that the belt had come off the machine and Smith went down to see to it. Witness detailed the various people who were near the machine, and said that Mitchell was near her when the explosion occurred.

The Coroner: You seem to be fortunate to be here? How were you saved?

Witness replied that she had ten small wounds in her back but she was now quite better.

The Coroner: You are to be congratulated on your most miraculous escape. You were in the middle of it.

Supt. Huitson: She was saved by a blast wall.

William Haithwaite, safety officer at the factory said that the explosion occurred in the mortar filling shop. Answering the Coroner, he said that Miss Kendall was lucky and very brave.

### Two-Day Inquiry

An inquiry which lasted two days was held at the factory and was conducted by Lt-Col. R. A. Thomas, Chief Inspector of explosives, Home Office. He produced a copy of his report, and said that a great amount of scientific evidence was given and investigations were being continued in certain directions. They could not yet say what was the exact cause of the accident. "There was no evidence of carelessness or negligence on the part of anyone" said Mr. Haithwaite. All the evidence tended to show that all general safety precautions had been properly carried out.

The Coroner: I think it is only fair that I should read the concluding paragraph of the report. It says:- "The morale of all concerned, from the assistant superintendent, who was in charge, downwards, was a very high order, and will be referred to more particularly later. It should be said that some

600 people were about in various shops when this regrettable accident happened, and they behaved in exemplary fashion. Moreover, the succeeding shift, which came in at 7am was present and willing to start operations."

### Conduct Beyond Praise

The Coroner: I am told that the conduct of the ambulance drivers and everybody else was beyond praise.

Witness: Yes.

Replying to the Coroner, Mr. Haithwaite said that Miss Kendall came to work the next day and was at the inquiry on the succeeding two days.

The Coroner: So far as anything can be bright in this dreadful accident it is the conduct of everybody concerned.

Mr. Hinks said that he would like to be assured that relatives would be able to get information when the later report was issued. Mr. Brown-Humes said he thought there would be no objection and an assurance was given by Mr. Marsham that a copy of the second report would be sent to the Coroner.

### The Verdict

A verdict of "Accidental death the result of the explosion of an extruder filling machine from some unknown cause" was returned in all cases. Mr. Marsham and Supt. Huitson joined with the Coroner in his expression of sympathy with the relatives. The Superintendent congratulated Miss Kendal on her escape and her courage.



Newspaper cuttings from this era can be viewed on the Newton News website [www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk)

# Greenfield Student Support for Future

Students from Greenfield Community College are preparing for their future and are supported in many ways to reach their full potential. The level of support, in these unprecedented times, is continuing to reach students and families, providing reassurance and strong advice for student's planning their next steps. Greenfield students have also had the benefit of a valuable careers programme

and the school have a strong relationship with colleges, organisations and industry. The programme has included arranged visits to local colleges for those who wish to further their education and personal interviews with college staff are arranged on-site to help students make the best possible choices. One-to-one advice on careers and further education is available through an expert team of staff, Careers Lead Mr Tait is busy tracking student destinations at present and would encourage any students who haven't yet

committed to their choice to get in touch to get the best advice for their future, if you have any queries contact Mr Tait. There are also some useful links on our social media platforms which may be of help at this time. Students have also had the opportunity to work alongside mentors as part of the Future First initiative which encourages alumni to support current students and help them choose their next steps. The programme gives a unique insight into professional roles and a range of employment opportunities. The

mentor scheme has been inspirational for Greenfield students. Greenfield is committed to offering the best careers advice and was one of only 13 secondary schools in the country to pilot the Gatsby Benchmark Scheme which is now provided to all secondary schools as best practice. The scheme addresses the career needs of every student and the importance of workplace connections, apprenticeships and market changes, highlighting the importance of STEAM subjects and tailoring the needs of each student. For further information please visit our website or to contact Mr Tait please email [contact@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:contact@greenfieldschool.net)

# Appeal for Community Equipment

An urgent appeal has been made by local community equipment suppliers Medequip for the return of beds and other items of equipment loaned through Community Equipment Services if they are no longer in use. Medequip teams, working with local authorities, have noticed a drop in returns of vital community equipment over the past few weeks. It is understandable that consumers may have concerns about contact with people from outside their household under social distancing rules, but it's vital that these items continue to be returned so patients can be cared for safely in their own homes. Community equipment provider Medequip understands consumers' concerns. They are using approved infection control procedures and enhanced PPE to protect those whose homes they visit, as well as their employees. Please help facilitate more NHS patient discharges and free up more vital bed spaces. If you no longer need the items you have on loan, contact Medequip so they can be collected and recycled. Contact details to arrange collection can be found on any paperwork left with you, or on a label on the equipment itself. Additional information is available online at: <https://www.medequip-uk.com/returning-equipment> Thank you for helping Medequip to help the NHS!

# Sara Davies to Guest Host Virtual Crafternoon with Mind

Craft business leader and Dragons' Den's Sara Davies MBE will be sharing her crafting expertise to guest host a one-off special virtual Crafternoon, to help raise vital funds for Mind, the mental health charity, it was announced this week. At a time when the nation is spending a lot of time at home, Mind has taken the nation's craftiest fundraiser online, and on Friday 15th May at 4pm, Sara will be hosting a fun and relaxing hour-long craft session live on her Facebook page where viewers can do something creative and take time for themselves, whilst helping raise funds for better mental health.

we receive from virtual Crafternoon will help us ensure no one has to face a mental health problem alone." In the session crafting beginners and enthusiasts alike can join Sara in making origami flowers, using simply some glue, a pair of hands and upcycling paper found around the home. Speaking about her own mental health since lockdown, Sara said: "This is a worrying time for everyone and for me, it's really hard not being able to see family and friends on a regular basis, so I'm really thankful that modern technology helps us to stay in touch!"

"Something I have been grateful for throughout this time is quality time with the family. Spending time with my two boys, whether we're baking together, home-schooling or crafting, has been a welcome distraction and has helped to keep my spirits up. She concluded: "I'm thrilled that Mind have asked me to be a part of their Crafternoon, especially as it combines two things I absolutely love, crafting and having a good old chat!"

Sara said: "It's more important now than ever to talk about mental health and the work that Mind is doing to promote positive wellbeing and mental health is crucial. "People are looking for new ways to escape what's happening in the outside world and relax, even if it's just for half an hour, and crafting is the perfect way to do that. Mind's Crafternoons are the perfect way to introduce people to this engaging community - it's going to be really fun!" Paul Farmer, CEO of Mind, said: "We are very pleased that Sara Davies is joining us to guest host our virtual Crafternoon on Friday 15th May. As the impact of the coronavirus outbreak continues to unfold, the effects on the mental health of the nation are unquestionable and it's more important than ever that we take steps to look after our wellbeing. "Virtual Crafternoon is a great way to support our wellbeing during this uncertain time. It's an hour to do something fun, creative and relaxing, whilst helping to fundraise for Mind's vital support services. It's free to take part, but every donation

For more information on joining the session, and for daily inspiration on craft ideas to make with the family during lockdown, follow Sara on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter - @saradaviescc, or check in at [www.mind.org.uk/virtualcrafternoon](http://www.mind.org.uk/virtualcrafternoon) for updates on all the latest in their series of Virtual Crafternoons. Just £8 could allow Mind to answer one call to their Infoline. When experiencing a mental health problem, supportive and reliable information can change lives. Last year, Mind's Infoline responded to over 100,000 calls. To donate to Mind visit <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/virtualcrafternoon>

## Pest Control

**PROTECH Direct Pest Control.** Experts in industrial, commercial and domestic pest control. 18+ years experience, fully insured, free quotes. Tel 01325 310520 or 07896 848856 (24 hours)

**Pest Control**  
CALL PESTGUARD TODAY  
Newton Aycliffe Based  
Fully Licensed & Insured  
30+ years trading  
throughout the North East  
**01325 301063**  
**07790 732089**  
[www.pestguard1.co.uk](http://www.pestguard1.co.uk)

## Plumbing

**NC PLUMBING Services**  
All plumbing requirements undertaken  
From a drip to a full bathroom refit  
Complete bathroom specialist  
Full tiling and wall cladding service  
Full power flush service - No job too small  
Central heating problems repaired  
**Neil 07882 233219 or 01325 589224**  
out of hours call out available

## DO YOU NEED A POP UP BANNER TO PROMOTE YOUR CLUB OR ORGANISATION?

Prices from £60.00  
Contact: Newton Press  
01325 300212



We now accept all major debit/credit cards  
\*GUARANTEED SAME DAY CALL OUT\*  
**FAST-FLOW**  
Plumbing and Heating  
• Boilers Installed, repaired & serviced  
• Full heating systems  
• Bathroom refurb  
• Wall and Floor Tiling  
• Showers • Electrics  
safe  
548094  
**07701 359375** 01325 492715  
01325 247364

## Caravan

**RSR**  
Rated Servicing and Repairs  
Caravan and Motorhome Servicing & Repairs  
Insurance work undertaken  
**01325 582005**  
[info@ratedservicingandrepairs.co.uk](mailto:info@ratedservicingandrepairs.co.uk)

## Locksmiths

**SHILDON LOCKSMITHS**  
UPVC DOOR DOCTOR  
Locks Changed - Lock Repairs  
Mechanism Repair/Replacement  
Door Adjustment - Door Furniture  
Emergency Door Opening  
90% OF PARTS IN STOCK  
24 Hour Emergency Call Out  
**01388 741 114**  
**07748 044 808**  
[www.shildonlocksmiths.co.uk](http://www.shildonlocksmiths.co.uk)

**WATERWAYS**  
PLUMBING SERVICES  
[www.waterwaysplumbingservices.com](http://www.waterwaysplumbingservices.com)  
• Bathroom Design/Installation  
• All plumbing work undertaken  
• Kitchen Installations  
• Repairs • Tiling  
• No call out charge  
• FREE Quotes • Power Flushing  
For a fast, friendly, reliable service, call Jason on  
**01325 301808**  
**07963 358338**  
[waterways@talktalk.net](mailto:waterways@talktalk.net)

Time served tradesman  
Over 40 years experience  
**W. HEATHCOTE**  
Plumbing, Heating & Gas Servicing and Repairs  
Boilers installed, repaired and serviced  
Central heating systems  
Power flushing  
Bathrooms refurbished  
Got a problem? Give me a call  
**01325 307 052**  
**07595 051 717**  
CALL OUT SERVICE  
[www.heathcote.com](http://www.heathcote.com)

**LOCAL PLUMBER**  
Small Job Expert  
Undertaking your small jobs, the big companies don't want - from dripping taps to broken toilets  
NO CALL OUT CHARGE  
Call Joe **07535 362 591**

**HEAT**  
24 Hour Call-out  
Plumbing, Heating and Gas Service Engineers  
Free Estimates, Bathrooms & Tiling, All Work Guaranteed  
Ring John Nellis on  
**01325 358596**  
Mobile **07931 591381**

**Guy Gas Services**  
Combi Boiler Installer  
Boiler Installs  
Servicing - Repairs  
General Plumbing  
Gas Fires  
For all Gas & Central Heating Enquiries  
**01325 304349**  
**07962 148116**

**ELITE PLUMBING SERVICES**  
Dripping Taps - Problem Toilets  
Replacement Taps  
Radiators Repaired or Replaced  
NO JOB TOO SMALL  
NO CALL OUT CHARGE  
**Scott 07949 054947**

## Driving School

**Jacks Driving School**  
Fully Qualified High Grade Instructors  
TRAILER/CARAVAN TRAINING ALSO AVAILABLE  
Helping you to relax, enjoy and build confidence  
Excellent first time pass rate - Block booking offers  
**Jack: 07949 195 184**  
Special offer: First 5 hours £90 - [www.jacksdrivingschool.co.uk](http://www.jacksdrivingschool.co.uk)

## Joinery

**Foster Joinery Services**  
All Aspects of Joinery Undertaken  
From inside the home: Doors, Hardwood and Laminate Flooring, Skirting and Architrave, Staircases and revamping what you already have, Loft entrances and Loft Ladders.  
To the outside: Doors, Decking, Fencing. Also Plastering Tiling and Bathroom fitting. No job too small - Can supply all materials  
Just ring **07748 967 374** for a FREE quote

## Roofing

**JK Roofing & Building**  
All Roofing and Building work undertaken  
• Full Roofs • Extensions • Felt Roofs  
• UPVC Fascias/Soffits • Dry Verge/Ridge  
Free estimates:  
**Tel: 07596 801534**  
or 07562 439455

**Andrew's Roofing**  
Chimney Stacks - Ridge Tile Repairs - Brickwork Repointed  
Flat Roofs - Slating & Tiling  
Felted & Pointing - Guttering  
Fibre glass flat roofing  
With 20 Years Guarantee  
Free Estimates  
**Tel: 01388 605489**  
**07986 217936**

**BREWARD**  
roofing contractors  
Serving the region since 1945  
• New Roofs • Flat Roofs • High Performance Felt • Tiling, Slating, Fibreglass Roofs • Stone Slating • Leadwork • Repairs • Chimneys • Dry Verge Systems • uPVC Guttering, Soffits & Fascias • Storm Damage • Velux • Insurance Work Welcome  
All Work Guaranteed  
Time Served - Free Estimates  
Finance Available  
**01388 661308 or 07967 018998**

## Iron / Steel

**VALLEY WROUGHT IRON**  
High Quality Gates, Wall Railings & Garden Fences  
Free Estimates and Advice  
Experienced Tradesmen  
Friendly Reliable Fast Advice  
Contact Stephen on  
**07976 554046** anytime  
E: [info@valleywroughtiron.co.uk](mailto:info@valleywroughtiron.co.uk)  
[www.valleywroughtiron.co.uk](http://www.valleywroughtiron.co.uk)

For all your print requirements  
Newton Press 300212

**C SMILLIE**  
• Joinery • Building • Decorating •  
Established 1984  
Apprenticeship Served  
**312024** after 6pm

**NEWTON NEWS**  
NEWTON NEWS is published and printed by Newton Press, which was first established in 1948 and incorporates "The Newtonian". Visit the on-line version at [www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk)  
DISCLAIMER Newton News cannot be held responsible for advertisers offering goods or services. As a general rule we would advise anyone NOT to part with any money until the order has been completed to your full satisfaction. All information is correct, to the best of our knowledge, at the time of printing. Newton News accepts articles in good faith and takes no responsibility for errors and/or omissions.

# Check In & Chat with County Durham Together

County Durham residents who have been left feeling lonely and isolated from the impact of coronavirus can now check in and chat to the team at County Durham Together.

The community hub has launched its chat service to combat the loneliness that can often be felt when shielding or self-isolating. Durham County Council set up the hub alongside local groups, volunteers and charities, helping to support the county's most vulnerable residents with

access to essential food supplies, welfare and general advice.

More than 200 council staff have since been redeployed to work for the hub, where they've been answering phones and finding out how residents can be supported through the pandemic.

Their new 'check in and chat' service is open to anyone who needs to hear a friendly voice or for someone to chat and listen to them, as well as checking in to see if they are ok.

In addition to a wide range of mental health and befriending services already in place to support County Durham residents, hub staff will also be there to provide companionship to callers, discussing their interests or family stories in

a bid to brighten their days. The hub is also offering a reading service to callers as part of the council's online library service Borrowbox. A selection of books, alongside good news and local news stories from the library's newspaper, emagazine and economics collections are on offer for residents to listen to at home.

Fans of the reading service can also take advantage of a 'lucky dip' doorstep book offer which will see fiction, non-fiction or children's books delivered to their door for them to keep. Anyone wanting to access the hub's check in and chat or reading service should call 03000 260 260 or email communityhub@durham.gov.uk

Cllr Lucy Hovvels MBE, Cabinet member for adult and health services, said: "It is vital that we look after our mental health in the same way as our physical health. Given the current challenges that everyone is facing, it is natural to sometimes feel overwhelmed or to have ups and downs. But what is important is that we know that there are people there who can help and services offering extra support, so

please don't feel isolated or alone."

More information on how to look after mental health and support services that are available can be found on the council's website: [www.durham.gov.uk/covid19mentalhealth](http://www.durham.gov.uk/covid19mentalhealth)



# Herbal Gin Company Free Delivery Service

As many of you will know The Herbal Gin Company opened its doors just as the Coronavirus pandemic started to tighten its grip, not the best time to open a new business we were told. But with the help of the people of Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas we have bucked the trend as our FREE delivery service went from strength to strength. During this period, we also developed distilled and bottled three NEW flavours which have been received very well with lots of positive comments and feedback.

It soon became apparent to the distillery that the popularity of the fruit flavoured gins was pushing the popularity of the fruit flavoured gins was pushing a social media conversation has generated requests for a new next batch of flavours. The suggestions have ranged from lemon sherbet through forest fruits and passion fruit to more modern flavours such as chocolate brownie and a pancakes and maple syrup option.

Dr Scott, one of the co-directors of the distillery said "We want to investigate all these different flavours in order to reward our

customers with their suggestions and to push for a recipe collection that they truly want to experience. It may be that we consider some limited edition runs depending upon seasonal preferences and we are also starting to look at the possibility of 'ready to drink' options in cans, so that people can enjoy a selection of our flavours with our G&T's in multi-can pack."

He went on to say, "Fruity options are expected for flavouring but whilst pancakes and maple syrup may seem a bit left-field, one of the main ingredients of maple syrup is fenugreek which we have in some of our recipes. There is a link in one of our blog posts that shows that a smell of fenugreek stopped New York in its tracks on three separate occasions and so if it can attract that sort of attention by mistake we would like to incorporate that attention into one of our gins!"

The next flavour due to be developed is a Smoked Orange that provides for a unique fruity flavour and is due for release in the next two to three weeks.

## Removals

**Smiths removals**  
Full House, Part Load or Single Items.  
Local and National Storage Available.  
**01325 319842**  
**07970 201841**  
or **07857 602267**

MAN WITH VAN cheap removals also household furniture bought. Tel 07860 560 295

ASK SERVICES Man + Van. Removal, delivery and lots more. Contact Paul 07399 628345

**Your Move**  
Local Family Run Business  
Est. 2005 - Fully Insured  
Single Items from £15  
3 Bed House from £99  
Call Jor for a free quote  
Tel: **07535 362591**

**ACORN REMOVALS**  
SINCE 1992  
LOCAL & NATIONWIDE  
Call Tony on  
**07779 89 00 06**

## Electrical

**DJW ELECTRICS**  
No Job Too Small  
Installation Certificates  
Fuse Board Upgrades  
Rewires | Lighting  
Extra Sockets  
Fault Finding  
Free Quotes  
• EMERGENCY CALL OUTS •  
Contact Dave on  
Telephone:  
**01325 317535**  
**07563 088 946**

**JR Electrical Services**  
• Fuse Board Upgrades •  
• Rewires Full or Part - Lighting •  
• Extra Sockets - Fault Finding •  
• No Job Too Small - Free quotes •  
• OAP Discounts •  
Phone Justin on  
**01325 313282**  
**07817 629535**  
justin@jr-electrical.co.uk  
(Part P Qualified)  
Check out our website for monthly deals: [www.jr-electrical.co.uk](http://www.jr-electrical.co.uk)

## Storage

"U" STORE Aycliffe Business Park. Domestic and Industrial storage. Open 6 days a week. Large and small containers from £12 per week. Tel 01325 317716, 07850 646355

## Decorating

C. A. PLASTERERS all plastering work, artex skimmed, small jobs, free estimates, 01388 721206  
**BOB HOWARD** Painter and Decorator. Over 20 years of experience in all aspects of decorating. High standard of interior and exterior and wallpaper hanging. Competitive rates and free estimates. Tel 07966 529120 or 07966 527833

**DRAGON DECORATORS** All aspects of interior & exterior decorating, including children's artwork. Over 25 years experience. Member of "Checked & Vetted". No job too small, free estimates. During Coronavirus Pandemic I will be wearing full PPE. Contact Colin on 07952 364426

**G. CROSSEN**  
PAINTER & DECORATOR  
**304447 - 07340 606402**  
Time Served - C&G - Established 1998

**Steve Hutchinson**  
Painter and Decorator  
Over 28 years experience, reasonable rates, no job too small.  
Call today for a free estimate  
**01325 483 697**  
or **07745 037 754**

**Brushstrokes Decorators**  
Free no obligation quotes and advice from a time served painter & decorator. Interior & exterior work, no job too small. End of tenancy clean up for landlord's. Gutters and fascias cleaned from £60. Discounts for OAP & NHS staff  
Tel: **01325 312953**  
Mobile: **07587 140912**

## Gardening

**LANDSCAPE & BLOCKPAVING SPECIALISTS**  
**GARY O'CONNOR**  
• Driveways • Patios • Paving  
• Walling • Fencing • More  
FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE WITH VERY COMPETITIVE RATES CALL GARY ON  
**01325 320 267**  
**07866 561 340**

WWW.SUPREMEFENCING.CO.UK  
**SUPREME FENCING**  
Fencing & Timber Supply Store  
Opening hours  
**Monday - Friday: 8am - 5pm**  
**Saturday: 8.30am - 12pm**  
Address: Whinfield Drive, Newton Aycliffe Business Park, DL5 6AU  
**01325 787 550 - LOCAL DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

**07544 802052 or 01325 321113**  
[www.awtreecare.co.uk](http://www.awtreecare.co.uk)  
**a.w.treecare**  
The Tree & Hedge Professionals  
Time Served Royal Horticultural Society Arborist  
• Felling, Dismantling & Pruning • Hedge Cutting  
• STUMP GRINDING AND REMOVAL  
• Local Authority Approved Contractor  
All Areas Covered - Free Quotations and Advice  
**Alexander Walker** TechArborA., ND Arb., SOC Arb  
Fully Insured - Professionally Trained - Aycliffe Based

**ALPINE LANDSCAPES.** Patios, Driveways, Fencing, Decking, Gravel, Turfing, Walls. All work guaranteed. 25 years experience, est 15 years, professional advice. [www.alpinelandscapes.co.uk](http://www.alpinelandscapes.co.uk) - contact Alan on 07974 710351  
**MARTIN SHIRES** Garden Landscaping Services, Block Paving Specialists. Fencing, Decking, Patios, Walls, Turfing, Hedges. Quality guaranteed work. Tel 321891 or 07989 024 501

**ROSEWOOD** Tree Work. Felled, Pruned, Hedges Cut, Fencing, Gravel. All aspects of groundwork considered. 20% off for OAPs. Tel 01325 318679 or 07740 999075

For all your print requirements  
Newton Press 300212

**GREENKEEPER LANDSCAPES**  
Phil Thompson  
Professional Landscaper  
Over 20 years experience  
All aspects of horticultural and tree work  
Patios, blockpaving specialist  
Hedges, Fencing, Decking & Turfing & Grasscutting  
Tel: **01325 308432**  
Mobile: **07765 374 905**

**GARDEN SERVICES**  
Lawns Cut - Hedges Trimmed  
Trees & Shrubs Pruned,  
Cut Back or Removed  
**TEL 01325 318269**  
[www.esproperty-estate.co.uk](http://www.esproperty-estate.co.uk)

## Home Services

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS**, from Fencing & Decking Outside to Internal Refurbishments Inside. All Those Small Handyman Jobs Considered Too. Call: 01325 318269 or Visit: [www.esproperty-estate.co.uk](http://www.esproperty-estate.co.uk)

**CARPET FITTER** and vinyl flooring specialist. Contact Richard on 07946 435 177

**GUTTER CLEANING SERVICE** Gutters, fascia and soffits cleaned. Contact Paul 07399 628345

**LAUNDRY LADIES** Offering a wash, dry and ironing service (domestic or commercial). Free collection and drop off included. Tel 07928 768744 or laundryladies16@gmail.com

**CLEANING ANGELS.** For all your cleaning needs. Commercial cleaning available. Domestic, end of tenancy, holiday lets, builders cabins, oven cleans, office cleaning, window cleaning (up to 8ft), caravan cleaning, ironing service available. Competitive rates. Find us on Facebook. Contact Angela 07518 798 595

'**THE BRICKLAYING ANGELS**'. Newly qualified bricklayer I am doing brick BBQs, brick walls, bird tables etc. Find us on Facebook or Contact Angela on 07928 768744

**AYCLIFFE CLEANING SERVICES**  
• Carpet and upholstery cleaning  
• Leather cleaning and repair  
• Pressure washing  
• Gutter clean & repair  
• End of tenancy cleans  
• Domestic and Commercial cleaning  
• Janitorial supplies  
• Fully insured  
**07895 697 115**  
**01325 494294**  
Proud members of  
**Checkatrade.com**  
Where reputation matters

**BENNETTS APPLIANCE REPAIRS**  
ALL MAKES OF WASHERS  
TUMBLERS, MICROWAVES  
DISHWASHERS  
VACUUM CLEANERS  
FRIDGE/FREEZERS  
COOKERS  
\* Free Estimates  
\* No Call Out Charge  
\* Appliances Plumbed in  
**Telephone: 321756**

**GUTTER CLEANING**  
Gutter and UPVC  
Cleaning Service  
No Ladders Required  
Conservatory Cleaning  
Also Gutters Renewed  
and/or Repaired  
**07519 376870**

**RE-UPHOLSTERY**  
Suites and Chairs  
New Foams & Springs  
Large Pattern Range  
Free Estimates & Advice  
**TEL: 01740 655908**  
After hours 01325 313584  
**NEWAVE FURNITURE**



## Aerial Installations

### TV. AERIAL FITTERS

All aspects of aerial work undertaken

Quick service & fair prices

Call **Richard Naylor** 01325 307075

**J & O AERIALS** Facebook: J-O Aerials  
J-and-o-installations@live.co.uk  
✓ Digital aerial installation and upgrades CCTV  
✓ T.V. Wall-Mounting  
✓ Additional rooms wired  
✓ Freesat/Sky and repairs  
✓ 3- 5 year guarantee  
15% OFF with this advert  
**youview freesat Freeview sky HD BT**  
Quality Service, Quality Materials, Affordable Prices  
AYCLIFFE BASED- PREMIER DIGITAL AERIALS  
Contact Luke: **07528 357642** or **01325 954194**

# Newton Aycliffe Key Worker Recognition

Firstly I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is Jess Webb, I am 17 years old and I'm proud to say I have lived in Newton Aycliffe all of my life, and feel passionate about what happens within the town. I am currently studying A Levels at the Queen Elizabeth college in Darlington, and my plan is to apply to study journalism at university next year. The Newton News have kindly given me an opportunity to gain some experience by writing for the paper covering some key issues or stories occurring within our town.

So whilst we are all going through this difficult and unprecedented lockdown period. I thought I would start by interviewing a variety of key workers living and working in the town, in order to highlight and recognise the important role they play in our community, and to celebrate the commitment

and resilience they have as individuals. I have asked them questions relating to how they achieved their Key Worker positions, so others might feel inspired and want to consider following in their footsteps!

The Cambridge dictionary defines a key worker as; "someone who is considered to provide an essential service, that is important for society".

Our first key worker is Hollie McSkelly who is currently a Healthcare Assistant Apprentice at one of our local hospitals.

Hollie informed me that she has been in her job for two months supporting women on maternity and labour wards. She works alongside midwives to ensure that women and their families have the best care and support throughout their pregnancies, deliveries and recovery after birth.

Hollie is currently both earning a salary and gaining a vocational qualification, at the same time as learning the knowledge and skills required for her job role; which will then support her to progress in a career in the National Health Service.

She informed me that she previously worked as a waitress in a cafe, a junior shop assistant in a newsagents and then her first full time job was working in a nursery as a nursery practitioner; all which would have no doubt provided her with some transferable skills for her current role.

When asked what she likes most about her job, she replied that "Everyday is different and is challenging. I am able to learn new things everyday and work with many different healthcare professionals".

When asked what she found difficult about her job, she informed me that the "long 12 hour shifts can be really draining", but she said you then do work less days

through the week which then gives her more time to complete her college work, so there are benefits to the shifts as well.

Hollie reported that some of the skills and qualities needed for her job includes:

- Communication, listening, and observational skills;
- Ability to work with different individuals;
- Ability to follow instructions, policies and procedures;
- Quick thinking and Problem solving skills;
- Ability to remain calm in different situations and work in a team;

It's essential that everyone considers their work life balance to promote their own well-being, and when asked what Hollie does in her spare time, she reported enjoying shopping, eating out and socialising with friends. She also told me she was a big fan of all things Disney, (like me), and her favourite films are Wild Child, Mean Girls and Clueless.

When asked who has been Hollie's inspiration in her life she didn't even need to think "My Grandma and Grandad! They both have hearts of absolute gold and are amazing role models". I am sure you would like to join me in thanking Hollie, and recognising the key and vital role that she plays in society. Thank You Hollie and good luck in your studies and future career!

## Hippodrome Extends Box Office Opening Times

Darlington Hippodrome is extending the opening hours of the Box Office during this period of lockdown due to the outbreak of Covid19.

Darlington Hippodrome is extending the opening hours of the Box Office. From Monday 4 May the opening times will be weekdays from 9am to 6pm with an extension to 8pm on Thursday evenings.

With the theatre still currently closed under Government directives, Hippodrome Box Office staff are working remotely to ensure customers can still contact the venue. The extended opening hours will make it far more convenient for customers to call with any questions or to book for future shows.

You can speak to a member of the Box Office staff by calling 01325 405405 or for information you can visit the website 24 hours a day at www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk

# GREENFIELD ARTS PROJECT CREATIVITY



Greenfield Arts are pleased to be able to maintain and develop a number of ongoing creative projects at present. Although many members of the community are familiar with our Arts Centre facility, which is currently closed, in this, our birthday year, it is an opportunity to reflect upon some of the wonderful events and projects that have been developed in the wider community that have helped bring so much positivity and creativity to people's lives.

Although our community arts centre and wider community activity is on hold, the team at Greenfield Arts are working hard with partners to develop current projects and look forward to a future Greenfield Arts programme offer which include projects such as, Shildon in Motion, The Wizard and Typhoon, a community spirit project and an outdoor art work project. Creative Director, Katy Milne has joined forces in collaboration with artists and partners in the community to bring about a positive change and invite the community to be creative, curious and enquiring.

Shildon in Motion is a project that has allowed us to work with the fabulous Shildon community to bring about a new artistic gateway to Shildon Railway Station which will be unveiled later in the year. Students have been working with professional artists recognising influential figures from Shildon in a project titled, The Wizard and Typhoon. This project is supporting and inspiring young people to be creative, learn about the heritage of their area and celebrate two musician/composers, Allan and Bulch who came from the area. We are looking forward to many new projects in development, in particular, two new projects that will celebrate our sense of community and offer creative activity to explore ideas.

Over the past two decades, although there are too many to mention, there are sure to be projects and installations that have brought a smile to many. A few examples you may have come across include; Bring the Funny an uplifting installation seen at Newton Aycliffe Railway Station; Cutting Loose with its spectacular creations and amazing carnival finale; commissioned installations that you may see dotted about the region and the many free activities that have encouraged creativity

in young people, families and adults.

We are currently making a film for our 20th birthday celebration and would like the community to help us celebrate, what does creativity mean to you? Have you been inspired by our projects or activities? What activities or projects have you enjoyed? You can find out more by following us on twitter @GreenfieldArts or emailing the team, contact info@greenfield-arts.co.uk. Thank you to all of our partners and funders who have helped make such a difference. Greenfield Arts are committed to bringing high quality creative projects and arts activities to the community, visit our website at www.greenfield-arts.co.uk to find out more.

## 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

## Licence Applications

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

David Graham trading as North East Truck & Trailer Ltd of Unit 19 Leaside, Newton Aycliffe is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep an extra 5 goods vehicles and 2 trailers at the operating centre at Unit 19 Leaside, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DE. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

8th May 2020

## Tuition

ENJOY LEARNING Guitar, Bass or Drums at home. Tel Roger 01325 321 444 - Friendly, Experienced, Local.

## Entertainment

INASPIN ROADSHOW Discos for all occasions. Weddings, birthdays, etc. a speciality. State of the Art Light Show. Tel 01325 310646 or 07952 244404

PROF. NINCOMPOOP Children's entertainer making birthday parties special. Balloons, magic and tomfoolery, midweek discounts. Tel Gary on 310646 or 07952 244404. Website: www.professor-nincompoop.com - Facebook: Prof Nincompoop

## Wanted

WANTED Mobility scooter and wheelchair, working or not. Tel 07401 133459

HOUSEHOLD furniture bought. Tel. 07860 560295

## Accommodation

### HOUSE TO RENT

Now available. 3 bedroom house in Guthrum Place, Newton Aycliffe. Contact Langdale Estates on 01388 810500 for more information.

## Pets

DOG WALKING (Dave Oliver) Daytime, half hour sessions £5.50 per dog. Police checked and fully insured. Years of experience in dog handling. Tel 07756 825637

DOG GROOMING Est. 2019 Contact Katrina at The Dog Bar for all your grooming needs 07757 836 805

## Personal

BVA Foundation FREE Confidential Post Abortion Counselling available

Telephone: 01642 616077

## Opticians

K. McGuinness Opticians Town Centre Newton Aycliffe Tel: 316600

## Chiropody

CHIROPODY Mr P. Oliver BSc (Hons) - M.Ch.S for a Home Visit call 01325 320126

## Hairdressing

Gems Freelance Hair Styling (Formerly of Mosaics) All services provided: Cuts & Colours Perms and Wedding Gents and Kids Call for prices 07746 131321

HAIR DESIGN Experienced mobile hair dresser, competitive rates. Call Lynn on 07904 219997

## Soduko (Very Hard, difficulty rating 0.82)

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

## Computers

### AYCLIFFE COMPUTERS

Computers Built to your own Specification PC, Laptop & Mac Repairs iPad/Tablet Set Up & Sync Upgrades - Data Recovery Windows 10 Installation Broadband Installation Networking - Anti Virus Call out within 24 hours, usually same day

No Call Out Charge Within Newton News Circulation area

Contact Rob 01325 310737 07841 867170 aycliffecomputers@googlemail.com

WE ARE NOT CONNECTED TO ANY OTHER COMPUTER BUSINESS IN N/AYCLIFFE

Paul Howell MP Member of Parliament for Sedgfield



## CORONAVIRUS ADVICE



I am not currently able to hold face-to-face advice surgeries, but if you live in the Sedgfield 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.

PROTECT THE NHS

save lives

paul.howell.mp@parliament.org.uk Telephone: 0207 219 1599 Mobile: 07464 898442

# "6K in 6 Days" Challenge

The challenge has been backed by Bradley Lowery Foundation patron and Dragon's Den investor, Sara Davies, who recorded a personal video for the launch. The "6K in 6 days" challenge, which begins on 1 May, is open to all ages and capabilities. Participants are asked to walk, run or wheel six kilometres in one day or spread the distance out over six days, raising £20 or more for the charity.

Those who hit the target will receive a commemorative medal and will be encouraged to nominate three friends to take up the gauntlet. The 6k can be completed as part of an individual's daily exercise or done within the home or garden. "6k in 6 days" vests and t-shirts will also be available from the charity's website for £5. Since it was founded, the Bradley Lowery Foundation has raised more than

£3million for dozens of poorly children; established a dedicated support line for the families of children with cancer; donated over £200Ks to researching childhood cancers and campaigned for new drugs to be introduced in the UK. Gemma Lowery, founder and chief executive of the Bradley Lowery Foundation, said: "The last few weeks have been incredibly difficult for everyone, and we know that people are looking for exciting new challenges to get them up and moving when they've got cabin fever. "Brad's love of sport and activity was such a huge part of his life, so we hope that 6K in 6 days will light that fire inside others who need the motivation to get going. It's not a long distance and it's an easily achievable fundraising target for all ages, so we hope it will be manageable from the toddlers to the Captain Toms. We want to get people moving for a great cause. Will you take up the challenge?"



# Police Recruits in Training



Two dozen new police recruits have started training this week, strengthening the thin blue line protecting our communities in difficult times. The 24-strong team of new police constables proudly pulled on the Durham Constabulary uniform for the first time on Monday, at the start of a rigorous 13-week classroom-based training programme. They will then take part in a 10-week period under the supervision of a tutor in their assigned neighbourhoods before going out on the beat on the streets of County Durham and Darlington. The new officers follow on from 24 PCs and 20 PCSOs who started their training earlier this year. All applied to become police officers long before the coronavirus pandemic swept the country and the recruits have had to get used to new ways of working at the force's dedicated training centre at Meadowfield, Durham City. The new intake were sworn in by magistrates on

Tuesday at an attestation ceremony held over Skype rather than the traditional parade, while the trainee constables are being split into smaller classes to allow for social distancing measures. Over the next few months they will be put through their paces learning everything from laws and legislation, right through to police powers of arrest and stop and search, investigative skills and supporting victims. Chief Constable, Jo Farrell, visited the new recruits today (Wednesday) to personally welcome them to the force. Mrs Farrell said: "It's a pleasure to welcome our new recruits to the team as they embark on new careers which will see them make a huge difference to the lives of people in the communities they serve. "These are unprecedented times and a unique challenge, one which our new recruits would not have expected when they first filled in the application

form to join Durham Constabulary. "But throughout these turbulent times, our officers continue to do what they have always done: preventing crime, catching criminals and keeping our communities safe. "We are out there every day, tackling high harm incidents and offering residents reassurance, and I'm sure our new recruits will enjoy getting stuck in." The new intake form part of a recruitment drive at Durham Constabulary which is expected to see approximately 200 extra constables join the forces over the next three years. Durham Constabulary expects to reopen recruitment for another 24 constables in May. Anyone considering a career in policing should keep an eye on the force website for more information <https://www.durham.police.uk/Join-us/Pages/Recruitment.aspx>

# BRINGING BACK THE MEMORIES

Aycliffe Radio have, this week, donated an Amazon Echo Show to all the care homes in Newton Aycliffe. This generous act of kindness has an ulterior motive, as they introduce a new show for listeners in the over 60 age group. "Memory Lane" will broadcast Monday to Friday from 1.00pm to 2.00pm on Aycliffe Radio and will showcase songs and music from the 1940s and 1950s, helping listeners of a certain age to reminisce about their youth and remind them of days gone by. However, Friday 8th May will be a one off special running from 1pm to 4pm and will concentrate on the 1940's wartime era. Requests and dedications from the care homes will also be played (which may include more modern tracks). If you would like a request or dedication on the Monday show, email the details to [info@ayclifferradio.co.uk](mailto:info@ayclifferradio.co.uk) Aycliffe Radio is currently only available online, hence the reason for an Amazon Echo Show for the care homes. Listeners can listen to the station via their online devices or the website [www.ayclifferradio.co.uk](http://www.ayclifferradio.co.uk).



## BECOME A STEM HERO OF TOMORROW, APPLY TO UTC TODAY

Find out more at our Virtual Open Evening Tuesday 19 May at 6pm

Book a place at [utcsouthdurham.org](http://utcsouthdurham.org)



## Newton News COVID-19 Community Funding

Thanks to funding secured through the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership, Newton News published and distributed a Coronavirus Information 'special edition' of the weekly publication. Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership have been allocated £100,000 to help support groups who are working hard to provide support to those most in need. The Newton News were successful in applying and securing £750 to help them publish the special edition and distribute copies to vulnerable residents within the area. There were also additional copies made available to the general public to collect at various local outlets. Paul Howarth, Newton News Director said: "Through funding from Newton Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership and a contribution from Paul Howell MP, we were able to produce a Covid-19 special edition of the Newton News and organise to have it delivered to the towns' most vulnerable residents through a network of local volunteers and retail outlets in the town." "These residents rely on the weekly publication for local

information, as the majority do not have access to social media or the internet. The funding enabled us to provide a vital edition containing information for those who may need to access help and support during the pandemic." The Newton News continues to publish a weekly edition however due to current government guidelines the paper is not being delivered to households, but is available online on the website [www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk). For further information on support in the area please check [www.durhamlocate.org.uk](http://www.durhamlocate.org.uk) or call 03000 260 260

**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](http://paul@newtonnews.co.uk)

**GAROLLA ROLLER SHUTTER DOORS**

Great For: Space Saving, Kerb Appeal, Ease of Use. 0800 465 1932

THERMALLY INSULATED ELECTRIC GARAGE DOORS

Garolla can save a lot of space inside your garage. Rolls up vertically into a box. Takes only 8 inches of headroom! Opens vertically so you can park up close to the door. Remotely open/close the garage even from inside your car.

- Acoustic & Thermal Insulation
- Brush Sealed Rails
- Pay on Completion
- Two Remote Controls
- 18 Colours Available

Free Disposal of Old Door!

LIMITED OFFER - was £1354  
**NOW ONLY £895** INC. VAT & FULL FITTING  
MADE TO MEASURE, CALL US NOW!

01325 930 238 07537 149 128  
Phone Lines Open 7 Days a Week

**BENGAL LOUNGE**

Contemporary Indian Restaurant

Free Delivery on Orders £10+  
10% Off Collections

**TAKE AWAY BANQUET SPECIAL ONLY £9.95**  
Available Thursday only

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

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

[www.bengal-lounge.co.uk](http://www.bengal-lounge.co.uk)  
6 St Elizabeth's Close, Woodham Village, DL5 4UE  
**TEL: 301066 or 313326**