

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Magazine
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Durham's Brass Festival Moves Online



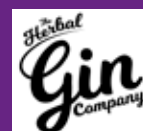
See page 3 for full story

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Volunteers Week Certificates Awarded



Durham County Volunteers week was cancelled due to Covid19, Supporting Families manager, Sheena Stephenson, decided to award her volunteers certificates in recognition of their hard work with Supporting Families over the previous year. The event took place, socially distanced, on a recent sunny day outdoors. Well done everyone. Photos show Rachel Stephenson, Yvonne Beynon, Liz Joy and Bob Munn.

Aycliffe Angel Celebrates Turning 106

Renee Glover, believed to be the oldest woman in Darlington, marked her 106th birthday (Sunday 21 June) with 587 cards and special celebrations at her care home in Darlington.

Before the big day, Renee's five-generation family launched an appeal for local people to send her cards to mark the occasion as lockdown had impacted other plans, hoping for 106 of them.

318 cards were sent in to the care home, Wilton House, and a collection box was added to the entrance of Tesco in Newton Aycliffe which received over 200 cards. The cards from the collection box were delivered by members from Aycliffe Bike Club who arranged a special procession.

Her Majesty The Queen, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Darlington MP Peter Gibson also sent cards and letters with birthday wishes.

Renee's family have been blown away by the public's response, with enough cards being sent to decorate a whole wall in the dining room of her care home.

Socially distanced celebrations were planned by Renee's granddaughters and care home staff. Renee's family took it in turns to visit her from outside of the home while she sat in the dining room surrounded by all of her cards. A singer and guitarist performed outside for residents, Subway kindly gifted a birthday tea of sandwiches, crisps and cookies, and Cakes by Sarah donated a birthday cake.

Renee's granddaughter Sarah said: "We have been totally overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of the general public and local businesses which have contributed to making this lockdown birthday so very special."

Emma Hardy, care home manager at Wilton House, added: "We have had the absolute pleasure of caring for Renee for four years. She is an amazing lady and deserving of every single card she received, which have taken over our dining room! We made her birthday really special despite the social distancing protections we have in place. It was lovely for Renee to see her family, enjoy some music, cake and a birthday tea. Some of our other residents also got to celebrate with her from a safe 2m distance."

Renee worked at the Royal Ordnance Factory in Newton Aycliffe as an inspector during the war. She lived with her family before moving into Wilton House in 2016.



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Aldi Provide Baby Gates for Supporting Families



The Supporting Families team would like to say a huge thank you to Melissa & her staff in Aldi for obtaining some safety gates during the Covid19 pandemic.

After trying numerous websites to order some safety gates online, with none being available, I was in Aldi shopping and mentioned the struggle we were having to get safety gates for our clients. I asked Melissa if she could check Aldi for some and the next week there just happened to be a baby event in Aldi so Melissa kindly kept some back for us.

Thank you so much, Sheena, Yvonne, Liz, Bob and Rachel, Supporting Families Team.

Durham's Brass Festival Moves Online

Durham BRASS will be livening up living rooms across County Durham and beyond when the festival moves online next month. The festival, which was scheduled to take place between Friday 10 and Sunday 19 July, had to be cancelled earlier this year as part of the ongoing national effort to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

But fans of the Durham County Council festival can now enjoy BRASS Online 2020, taking place from Monday 13 to Saturday 18 July, via the BRASS website, www.brassfestival.co.uk.

The online festival will feature many of the BRASS favourites from around the world, including interactive and entertaining workshops hosted by the likes of Spanish amigos Artistas Del Gremio, Mouw 'n' Brass from France and the UK's own Backchat Brass.

There will also be special lockdown performances from more favourites, including Mr Wilson's Second Liners, with their unique colour and sound bursting from the screen with some exclusive content for BRASS 2020.

The festival team has also teamed up with the volunteer-run cinema co-operative Star and Shadow in Newcastle, which set up its own radio station during lockdown. On Monday 13 and Friday 17 July, from 7pm to 9pm, two special shows will be broadcast via the Star and Shadow and BRASS websites, celebrating the tradition and diversity of brass music and featuring musical clips, interviews and more.

Alongside the workshops and new performances, fans will be able to take a look back at some of the best BRASS moments from over the years, including Durham Hymns, and Durham Music Service will be delivering a number of tutorials over the course of the festival too.

To bring the online festival to a close on Saturday 18 July, five of BRASS's favourite street bands will perform together online, with a backdrop of footage from previous years.

Cllr Joy Allen, Cabinet member for transformation, culture and tourism at the council, said: "For years now, Durham BRASS has spread the joy of music to communities across County Durham and while we can't welcome bands to the county this year, we're delighted that they'll still be spreading their music online."

"I'm sure for many people, Durham BRASS is part of the soundtrack to their summer and thanks to the festival moving online, that doesn't have to change this year. We will still be able to enjoy our favourite bands from all over the world, this time from the comfort of our own home. I'm also sure that BRASS Online 2020 will make us all look forward to welcoming these bold and brilliant musicians back to the county in the future."

To view the full line up visit www.brassfestival.co.uk

To find out more about Star and Shadow, visit www.starandshadow.org.uk



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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Above is a photo John Williamson took of a Red Admiral butterfly feeding on nectar from pyracantha blossom. Send your photos to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

NHS Cleaning Service Helps Students Safely Return to School



NTH Solutions, the provider of estates and facilities services to North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, has helped students return to 18 schools across the Tees Valley and surrounding areas, including St Joseph's RCVA Primary School in Newton Aycliffe, with its NHS standard deep cleaning service.

The NHS-owned company has partnered with schools across the region to deliver its Infection Control Deep Cleaning and Advisory Service, which provides staff, children and parents with the peace of mind that the schools have been deep cleaned and bio decontaminated to the highest possible standards.

The unique initiative offers a Reassurance Partnership to schools and other organisations in the North East and Yorkshire, providing an ongoing deep cleaning service to uphold a baseline level of cleanliness, all while reinvesting profits back into the NHS to support front-line patient care.

In addition to the deep cleaning and bio decontamination procedures, the service offers retraining of existing cleaning staff, audits to ensure cleaning standards are being maintained, drop-in sessions to provide information and reassurance for staff and/or pupils, swift outbreak response and official certification to confirm the school has been decontaminated to NHS standards.

One of the latest education trusts to partner with NTH Solutions is Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust, which contains a total of 18 local schools, including Newton Aycliffe-based St Joseph's RCVA Primary School.

NTH Solutions has been working with the education trust to prepare schools in welcoming students back on 15th June and in September as well as providing ongoing advisory support and regular deep cleans to reassure staff, parents and students about safely returning to school amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

As well as building strong partnerships within the community, and to ensure the cleaning support in the hospital is not impacted, NTH Solutions has so far introduced 30 new jobs to the Tees Valley, with all staff receiving the rigorous NHS training.

Maura Regan, Chief Executive Officer of Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust, said: "With schools reopening in line with government guidelines, the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is our utmost priority."

"In addition to enforcing social distancing measures throughout our schools, we have worked with NTH Solutions to deep clean our schools for safe reopening. The benefit of partnering with an NHS owned company has been invaluable, as it provided us with expert advice in building a new environmental management plan, while also supporting our local NHS Trust."

Graeme Kelly, Assistant Director of Decontamination at NTH Solutions, said: "As an NHS-owned company, we are fully aware of the importance of infection prevention and control and the associated hygiene practices required in the workplace. This is particularly important for environments where it is more difficult to social distance, such as schools, colleges and nurseries, which is why we are committed to supporting the education sector in getting back up and running, and most importantly supporting them in maintaining a safe environment."

"As organisations across the country adapt to government guidance surrounding Covid-19, our Infection Control Deep Cleaning and Advisory Service will continue to support schools and other local businesses and organisations in the implementation and maintenance of high levels of cleanliness, as well as putting measures in place to protect staff, pupils, customers and the wider community."

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HOW SCHOOL HAS BEEN FOR CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS

By Jess Webb

Greetings Fellow Newtonian's.

So I have been interviewing and thanking key workers over the last couple of months for their commitment and hard work, and thought I now should look to some of our younger generation, to gain what understanding of the Coronavirus they have, and what they have been doing over the lockdown period.

I am aware there has been a lot of controversy around children either attending or not attending school. But I wanted to focus on, and make people aware of, the positive experience that some of the children in our local community have had attending their school during lockdown, and what they have been up to at home during this unprecedented period.

I had been told about sisters Summer and Quinn, who have been attending one of the local schools within Newton Aycliffe throughout the lockdown period. I gained permission from their mother Becki Pedelty, who is a key worker from one of our local hospitals, to ask Summer and Quinn the following questions:

To set the scene, Summer and Quinn were asked their ages, why they were still attending school and what they understood about the Coronavirus.

Quinn said she was 5 years old and in Reception class at school, she said she understood Coronavirus is very dangerous and that everyone must wash their hands a lot to prevent it spreading. Quinn said she needed to go to school, as her mum works in a hospital, and helps people get better. Summer said she was 9 nearly 10 and in year 5, and she said that Coronavirus is a virus that makes it hard for you to breathe, it's spread by coughing. Summer also said that everyone must stay 2 metres apart from each other, and wash their hands regularly, and use hand gels to help keep safe.

Summer said she had continued to attend

school as her mum is a keyworker and her dad also needed to keep going to work too.

I think you will all agree they both have a good understanding of the seriousness of Coronavirus and what they need to do to keep safe, despite the age they are, well done Summer and Quinn!

I must add they both said they were very proud of their mam, and the work she was doing in the hospital. But I feel it's important to say Summer did say she was scared at first that her mam would catch the virus at work, so it highlights how key workers children have been feeling during this period and how brave they have also been when worrying about their parents.

I asked if they were both enjoying going to school. Quinn said she didn't at first because her friends weren't there, and she was upset that she had missed a school trip, but it helped that her sister was with her at school. Both Quinn and Summer agreed that they missed their friends not being at school, and looked forward to them returning. But Summer did go on to say that school was better than it normally was, and despite not many people attending the school, at least one or two of her friends have been at school with her so it had been ok, but she did say she missed her best friend.

I asked what fun activities Summer and Quinn had been doing at school, and if they still had any of their usual lessons, break time and school dinners. Quinn said they played outside, and played lots of fun games, like jump start Johnny and Joe Wicks to keep fit. Summer mentioned that they were doing lots of arts and crafts activities, with her favourite being making a sock monkey. Summer said that she didn't like Joe Wicks as much as Quinn, but that she loved just to dance. They also said they were loving doing lots of gardening and growing things. I asked if they were doing lessons like Maths, English and Science, and Quinn wasn't sure, but Summer said yes, but they were much more fun. I asked if Quinn and Summer had missed having school dinners. Quinn said she was happy because she had got to go on packed lunch, and Summer said she had always been on packed lunch.

I think a very important question most people will want to know is, if Summer and Quinn felt safe attending school, and what had the school done or been asking them to do, in order to keep them and other children safe. They both said they felt safe at school, and that they both had their own desk now, and that the classes changed depending on how many children were at school that day. They said washing their hands all the time, spending lots of time playing outside, and trying to keep 2 metres apart from other people. Summer said the school had arranged a new way in and out of the school too, to stop them bumping into each other. When asked if it was easy to follow the rules the school had put in place; Summer said it was as they had been following the rules for a while now and that teachers were there



to remind them, and Quinn said when she's playing she sometimes forgets, but she always washes her hands.

With all the pressure on schools during this time, it really sounds like Summer and Quinn's school, and the teachers, have been doing a fantastic job keeping the children safe, as well as making it really fun to attend. So I think you will all want to agree the school deserves a round of applause. I asked Summer and Quinn what they had been doing at home for fun during lockdown. They both said they had been doing a lot outside including being out on their bikes, taking their dog for walks and playing in the garden. They also said they had been enjoying playing on the computer and playing games with their mam and dad. It sounds like they have been having a great time despite this situation. They also said they had been keeping in contact with family and friends through FaceTime, Summer said she had a phone so had a chat group with some of her friends, and Quinn had written a letter to her friend Daisy.

This interview has made me think, and understand, how this situation can affect our younger generation, and the worries they may have had about their key worker parents still attending work. But also with good planning from schools, family support, virtual communication methods with family and friends, together with the resilience of our brave children, I am hopeful that the younger generation can overcome this Covid 19 period.

Well done to Summer and Quinn's school and their mother being a Key Worker, most of all.

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National Express' iconic white coaches were back on the road this week (from Wednesday 1st July) following an 86 day break.

The last coach arrived in Birmingham from London at 23:55 on 5th April before a three-month suspension of all National Express scheduled services in response to the covid-19 pandemic.

The UK's largest coach operator will now resume services at a reduced frequency on its national network of intercity routes, with new covid secure measures in place to allow customers to travel in confidence.

Covid secure measures include:

- Enhanced cleaning regimes in line with Government and industry recommendations will be in place in stations and on coaches, including regular aerosol based disinfection with a high performance antiviral solution - sometimes called 'fogging'.
- An additional filter using three types of technology, including UVC radiation to reduce bacteria and corona type viruses, and a PM2.5 filter to improve air quality; has been installed on the air conditioning systems of all coaches.
- Social distancing in coach stations and on vehicles with the maximum capacity of all coaches limited to 50%. Passengers will be asked to fill vehicles from the back and empty from the front and only sit in window seats with aisle seats blocked off.
- Temperature screening of customers before allowing travel. Anyone with a high temperature reading (over 38°) will not be allowed to travel and given a full refund.
- Protective screens on vehicles and in coach stations along with gloves, masks and visors and a supply of hand sanitiser for all drivers and customer service teams, backed up with covid-19 training.
- A requirement for customers to provide and wear face coverings, preferably a face mask, when in coach stations and travelling on vehicles, in line with Government guidelines.

The first service will depart from Poole at 05:05 on Wednesday 1 July to arrive at London's Victoria coach station at 08:50. The new timetable will focus on major towns and cities, connecting over 180 locations across the UK and equivalent to around a quarter of the mileage of the pre-covid national intercity network. The network scope and frequency will be increased in response to demand.

For more information, visit www.nationalexpress.com

SEND SERVICES IMPROVED IN COUNTY DURHAM

SEND services in County Durham have improved significantly in the last three years, a latest Ofsted and CQC inspection has shown.

Between November 2017 and December 2017, Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) services across the county were assessed in a joint inspection by Ofsted and CQC.

During this time, the inspection team identified four specific areas which needed a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) be drawn up to improve local area provision. Over the last three years, Durham County Council has been working closely in partnership to improve these four areas while receiving monitoring and support visits from the DfE Regional SEN and Disability Professional Adviser, and the NHS England Deputy Director of Quality Assurance. All local areas with a WSOA are subject to a revisit from Ofsted and the CQC around 18 months after the WSOA was signed off. The WSOA was declared fit for purpose in June 2018 and the council was notified of the revisit in early January 2020, with inspectors on site between 22 and 24 January 2020. During the revisit, inspectors noted a genuine commitment to ensuring there were various communication and engagement mechanisms with families, and over 400 parents, carers and young people contributed feedback during the inspection.

An outcome letter was received in March 2020 announcing that sufficient progress had been made in all four areas. As a result, no further monitoring of progress is now planned.

The letter highlighted a number of areas where positive changes have been made to SEND services.

It noted that the partnership between education, health and social care leaders is stronger than it was in 2017 and there had been a determined focus on improving arrangements for identifying, assessing and meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND.

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

The letter added that groups such as the Making Changes Together parent and carer forum, the Rollercoaster Support Group, and eXtreme group of young people have been "instrumental in several significant developments since the initial inspection". The inspection found that children and young people with SEND and their families have increasingly strong and influential voices in

the development of the area's plans. There has also been a marked reduction in waiting times for specialist autism assessment and speech and language therapy assessment, with times now in line with national guidance. Commissioning decisions, service planning and performance monitoring are also better informed by the area's analysis of education, health and social care needs.

Overall, both the council and Durham Clinical Commissioning Group were praised for their "greater collective ambition" for service users. The council and partners are now working on an action plan to develop local SEND support even further for children and their families. This is being taken forward through the local SEND partnership.

Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Durham County Council's cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "Partners across education, health and care services have worked together closely to address the issues that were raised in the previous inspection. We are immensely pleased to see that this work has paid off and that the significant improvements to the county's SEND services have been acknowledged and praised in this inspection.

"Going forward, it is crucial that the needs and views of young people and their families continue to be embedded at the heart of SEND provision, and our services are now working to continue developing this support even further."

Cabinet will discuss a report on the recent inspection of local SEND services when they meet virtually on Wednesday, 8 July at 9.30am. Members of the public can view the meeting live via the council's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/DurhamCouncil

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2019 Group Shot

More than 30 apprenticeship vacancies at a North East local authority will offer new career opportunities for people looking to earn as they learn. Durham County Council is recruiting apprentices across a wide range of occupations, with roles available from entry-level to degree-level apprenticeships.

People have until Sunday 19 July to apply for the following opportunities, which are due to start in September.

- waste resource operative (Level 2)
- horticulture (Level 2)
- business administration (Level 3)
- HR support (Level 3)
- financial management (Level 3)
- degree apprenticeships (Level 6) in civil engineering and quantity surveying

The council is welcoming applicants of all ages and backgrounds to apply for the posts, which are advertised at www.northeastjobs.org.uk

Twenty-year-old Josh Thorns had worked in various temporary roles, including casual work in leisure centres and teaching English to young people from other countries, before securing his current financial management apprenticeship with the council.

Josh started his three-year apprenticeship in September 2019, based at Durham's County Hall, and is studying AAT qualifications with New College Durham. As he lives locally, in normal circumstances Josh can walk or cycle to work and his day release placement at college, but he is currently working from home due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Josh said: "I decided that rather than go to university, an apprenticeship would suit my career goals best. I was impressed with the council's apprenticeship programme and the range of apprenticeships available, so I applied for several posts and was pleased to be appointed as a financial management apprentice. "This has been a great way to start my career in accountancy and I'm really enjoying meeting new people, developing my skills and receiving a regular wage."

Cllr Andrea Patterson, the council's Cabinet member for corporate services and rural issues, said: "Apprenticeships can provide the perfect balance between practical experience and education, allowing people to earn whilst they work towards a recognised qualification at the same time.

"The impact of coronavirus means that the recruitment process for apprenticeship posts will be a little different this year, with interviews, enrolment, and induction carried out on-line, but all applicants will be supported throughout the whole process.

"The health and safety of the public and all our employees is priority. We have risk assessments and measures in place to ensure our existing staff and new recruits can all work safely, and I'm pleased that we're still able to offer people this fantastic opportunity for people to start or develop their careers."

To find out more about apprenticeship opportunities at Durham County Council, visit www.durham.gov.uk/apprenticeships

Drink Responsibly When the Pubs Reopen This Weekend

The mother of a young man who was killed during a night out is teaming up with Durham Constabulary to encourage revellers to drink responsibly this weekend.

The first pubs and bars are due to reopen after three months of lockdown on Saturday, July 4.

But Maxine Thompson-Curl is urging people to take it steady when they do decide to go back to the pub.

Her son, Kristian Thompson, died after being punched in the head during a night out in Consett, on his 19th birthday, in 2011.

Since then, Mrs Thompson-Curl has led a campaign to raise awareness about the devastating impact drink-fuelled violence can have, while supporting other families in similar situations.

She set up One Punch North East as a campaigning group in 2014, now a registered charity, and has spoken to thousands of schoolchildren across the region about what happened to Kristian. Officers will be out in force this weekend across County Durham and Darlington to help keep people safe if they do decide to return to the pub. The force has also been working closely with its partners to ensure licensees are aware of their responsibilities and promote responsible drinking.

Chief Constable Jo Farrell said: "We are really pleased to see the pubs and bars reopening but we would urge people to act responsibly when the restrictions are lifted. Coronavirus remains a real risk to public health and we have seen some irresponsible behaviour nationally in terms of mass gatherings and antisocial behaviour. The vast majority of drinkers are responsible but we know some people will drink to excess or cause harm to others so we would encourage everyone in County Durham and Darlington to think twice about their actions and enjoy their weekend safely. The key advice is to know your limits and consider how you will get home safely."



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New Partners Help Employability Scheme Expand



As Employability Day approaches, a scheme that helps people to learn new skills and breakdown barriers has welcomed two new partners on board.

LINKCD was launched in July 2019 and brings together community-minded organisations and training providers to support people in County Durham who face multiple obstacles to gaining employment. Part funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), the scheme is led by Durham County Council's Employability Durham service and is delivered in partnership with the local authority's housing solutions team, Karbon Homes, Livin Housing Ltd and Changing Lives. More than 150 people are currently receiving assistance through the scheme and, after recruiting two more delivery partners, it is hoped this number will continue to grow.

Northern Learning Trust and Bernicia Homes will join the project next month and are recruiting new members of staff to act as mentors, providing employability support to their tenants in County Durham.

The announcement was made ahead of Employability Day (Friday 26 June), a nationwide campaign to celebrate and promote employment support led by the Employment Related Services Association.

Aimed at fostering a sense of optimism and aspiration for the future, LINKCD has a heavier focus on the exploration of ideas, training and volunteering than many other employability schemes. It is open to unemployed County Durham residents aged 18 and over and can be especially beneficial for those who do not feel ready for paid employment but are keen to explore the options available to them. One-to-one guidance is offered to identify and address barriers and promote wellbeing, while links are also made with other local organisations that can provide additional support.

Mentoring sessions are usually offered in community venues, but the team has adapted the way they work to ensure they continue to operate during the pandemic. This includes offering support via phone, email, video conferencing technology and social media. Cllr Carl Marshall, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "We are delighted Northern Learning Trust and Bernicia Homes are joining us as partners on the LINKCD scheme. With their experience, we will be able to help even more people in County Durham to overcome barriers, enter the workplace and improve their quality of life. If you think you or someone you know could benefit from the scheme, I would urge you to get in touch and find out more about the support on offer."

LINKCD is part funded by ESF as part of the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme in England. For more information about the project, visit www.durham.gov.uk/employability or contact the Employability Durham team on employability@durham.gov.uk or search for Employability Durham on Facebook.

£15M Boost for Better Rail Journeys in the North East

Thousands of passengers in the North East of England are set to benefit from more frequent, reliable rail services and better connections, thanks to £15 million of government investment, the Transport Secretary has announced today (Monday, June 29).

The new Horden Station in Durham opened to passengers for the first time this week, and will be served by one train per hour calling at all stations between Newcastle and Middlesbrough. This

restores a vital link for up to 70,000 passengers in an area that hadn't had a station over a 20 kilometre stretch, after the previous station was closed in the Beeching cuts in 1964.

The £10.55 million project, led by Durham County Council and Network Rail, has been supported by £4.4 million from the Department for Transport's New Stations Fund.

The Transport Secretary has also announced £8.7million of investment to develop proposals for a package of enhancements to modernise Darlington station. These include two new platforms for local services, one new platform for southbound long-distance services and a raft of improvements to make the station more accessible.

A further £2.45 million has also been agreed to develop proposals which would see platform 2 at Middlesbrough Station extended to accommodate longer trains with more seats, and a new platform built, increasing capacity for local services and delivering more comfortable journeys for passengers.

Today's announcement comes as engineering works continue on the £1.2 billion programme of infrastructure enhancements for the East Coast Main Line (ECML) that will increase capacity and reduce journey times.

Power supplies north of York are being upgraded to enable more electric services to run, minimising the use of diesel fuel and reducing the impact on the environment. The work between York and Newcastle is due to be completed by the end of 2022 with the upgrades between Newcastle and Edinburgh set to be completed around 12 months later.

The East Coast Main Line is also set to become Britain's first mainline digital rail link with £350 million of new investment to install state-of-the-art electronic signalling designed to cut journey times and slash delays.

Conventional signalling will be replaced with a digital system that allows trains to talk to the track allowing the smooth flow of trains, making journeys safer and reduce signal failures that every year result in thousands of hours of delays.



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ANEC Writes to Region's MPs Amid £272m Shortfall



Councils across the North East have joined forces to write to the region's MPs amid an estimated £272m shortfall in government coronavirus financial support.

The Association of North East Councils (ANEC), which comprises all 12 of the region's local authorities, has this week written to all MPs in the North East calling on the government to commit to covering all costs councils face as a result of the pandemic.

The letter comes on the back of ANEC, which is chaired by Durham County Council Leader Cllr Simon Henig, writing to the Prime Minister last month.

The new letter sets out how North east local authorities have, to date, between them, received £166 million from the government to help them meet the costs of the pandemic. However the councils will have incurred a combined estimated £438m in costs and lost income by March 2021, giving a shortfall of £272m for the financial year 2020/21. The briefing note explains that if there are further local or national lockdowns the shortfall will increase.

It asks MPs that the government both: commit to fund all COVID-19 cost and income pressures, and recognise the longer-term impact on council finances.

Cllr Henig said: "These figures lay bare the extent of the shortfall councils in the North East are facing in terms of the financial support provided by the government and the actual costs and lost income resulting from the coronavirus. While we are grateful for the funding we have received, it is clear that it is not anywhere near enough.

"We have already written as ANEC to the Prime Minister asking for the government to cover council's costs. We have now chosen to set out the financial situation our local authorities are facing to all our North East MPs in the hope they can support us in what we are asking for of government."

The briefing note sets out the financial pressures the 12 councils face, namely: supporting the adult social care market by increasing weekly fees to finance the increased costs in relation to PPE, supplies and staffing costs; community support (food, support and advice); home to school transport costs; reductions in council tax and business rates income; lost income in leisure, culture and car parking; and trading losses.

The note also sets out the medium and long-term issues facing councils as a result of the pandemic.

It says it is "essential that local government takes a leadership role" in the recovery of local communities and businesses as it is "best placed to work closely" with them.

At the same, the note makes clear "recovery will need resourcing" with councils having "borne the brunt of austerity" and those in the North East "particularly affected". It asks that sufficient resources be allocated to local government, "in a fair way" that is based on need, and calls for longer-term funding settlements that will "provide certainty."

The briefing note speaks of the need for demand led services such as adults' and children's social care to be properly resourced, with recognition of the "significant" cost pressures resulting from increased demand for children's social care in the North East.

It also refers to how funding raised from council tax is "inequitable" across the country, with percentage increases in "wealthier areas raising significantly more that increases in lower tax-base areas like the North East."

Lastly the note calls for longer term government support for businesses, through wider business rates reliefs or continuing the furlough scheme for certain sectors.

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Weekly Programme Schedule

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Updates from MP Paul Howell at 12noon daily

SATURDAY

9-10am	Eurovision Show	Simon Harding
10-12am	Moderation	Jack & Garvey
12-2pm	Kitchen Floorfillers	Caz Bojangles
2-4pm	Weekly Edition	Paul Baker
4-6pm	Northern & Classic Soul (R)	Kevin Sowerby
"The Saturday Night Experience" Sponsored by Bengal Lounge Indian Restaurant & Takeaway		
6-8pm	Evening Session	Jimjams
8-9pm	Rock the House	Carl Booth
9-10pm	Retro Trance Mix	OZ-DJ
10-12am	Street 'n' Drum 'n' Bass	MC Supa
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
Blues Show Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service		
2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin & Monica
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6-7.30pm	Jazz Time	Mike Dixon
8-10pm	The Rock Show	CAD
10-12am	Paul's Down Time	Paul Kjenstad

MONDAY TO FRIDAY DAILY

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

MONDAY

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

6-7pm	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
7.30-9.30pm	Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby

WEDNESDAY

6-7.30pm	Joey's Jukebox	Joey Collins
8-10pm	Alternative Aycliffe	Gaz n Alby

THURSDAY

6-8pm	The List	Colin McNeillie
8-10pm	BeatRoute	Graeme Roote

FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	10th July - Martin Norris 'Movin' Melodies'	Gaz n Alby
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	

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

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HIPPODROME HOLDS VIRTUAL CAREERS FAIR

At this time of the year school leavers are usually preparing to attend a selection of careers fairs, maybe a small-scale event at their school or college or maybe a larger, national event. Following the Covid 19 outbreak students are having to search online for information to help them with their options, research prospective employers or learn more about a specific industry.

To assist school leavers, Darlington Hippodrome has created a series of short videos giving an insight into the various roles available within the theatre required to ensure the smooth running of a successful arts venue. From box office management, front of house services and the financial aspects to marketing and management opportunities, several members of the Hippodrome staff have created videos based on their own position within the theatre.

Councillor Andy Keir, says "Working in a theatre is an exciting, enjoyable and fulfilling prospect for anyone with a passion for the arts with so many opportunities available throughout the creative arts and heritage sectors."

The videos are being shared on the Hippodrome's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds throughout the week.

Greenfield Recognised for Student Award



Greenfield Community College are delighted to announce that they have been recognised for their outstanding work and commitment to 'student voice'. They have achieved 'Runner Up' in a national Secondary School Voice Award.

Students at Greenfield Community College have been provided with a number of platforms and opportunities to 'have their say' and meaningfully contribute to their learning experience. This has included initiatives led by Greenfield Arts such as student leadership teams, conferences, projects, participation in teacher training, designing learning materials and taking part in a continual discussion and enquiry through their time4success lessons.

The voice of the students have also been communicated through their own 'Newhounds' team; they are a group of enthusiastic and resourceful young people who have been instrumental in contributing to publications and learning resources that reflect the voice of their peers and support school improvement.

The awards highlighted the breadth of commitment the school has made and how this creates a meaningful discourse between staff and students. The judge's comments were exceptionally positive about the work at Greenfield Community College, The sheer scale of projects and promoting student voice here was arguably the most impressive feature; the idea of leaving a "footprint" in school was a particular highlight! I also look forward to hearing more from The Newhounds in the years to come, as well as seeing more from those featured in and who helped create the video. This school should also be highly commended for the mutual respect between staff and students that was so evident in their application.

Greenfield Community College is a Specialist Arts and Science School and is committed to providing opportunities to support students to reach their full potential. Greenfield Community College promotes an inclusive curriculum and a strong student voice, encouraging students to work together to realise an outstanding learning experience.

To find out more visit our website www.greenfieldschool.net or contact us by email for more information contact@greenfieldschool.net

Rotary Newton Aycliffe and Supporting Families



The Supporting Families team would like to say a huge thank you to the Rotary Club, Newton Aycliffe for their kind donation which enabled us to buy 10 safety gates to keep our clients children safe from the stairs or the kitchen, especially as these were in short supply due to Covid19. God bless you all, Sheena, Yvonne, Liz, Bob and Rachel, Supporting Families team.

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BRIC-A-BRAC APPEAL

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

WILD BIRD APPEAL

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

CAT FOOD APPEAL

We are in need of wet cat food, kitten food and cat litter to support the animals currently in our care.

DROP OFF POINTS

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

Please contact 01325 321855 or 01325 311215

Covid-19 Testing Access Expanded Even Further

Coronavirus testing has been made even easier and more accessible, the Health Secretary announced today. Six new 'walk through' local testing sites are now offering appointments to people in England, with the capacity to test hundreds of people each day and are all easily accessible by foot or on a bike.

Three months since the first regional drive through test site was set up in Nottingham, there are now 68 such sites across the country, alongside six new walk-through sites in England, new mobile testing units, and special home test postboxes for safe and easy returns.

Free and accessible testing is a cornerstone of the new NHS Test and Trace service, which is working to stop the spread of coronavirus in local communities and to support the lifting of restrictions so people can see more of their friends and family, help businesses get back on their feet and get people back in jobs. The NHS Test and Trace service has identified 113,925 people as recent close contacts since the service began on 28 May 2020.

The new walk-through sites will bring testing to the heart of communities, by focusing on offering appointments to people without cars who can safely travel on foot, without coming into contact with others. These sites will continue to be expanded where there is demand from local communities and will provide a convenient option, close to where people live and work.

Home testing kits can now be returned without booking a courier service, allowing those choosing this testing option to post their testing kits at any of the 30,000 Royal Mail priority postboxes across the UK, which will all be marked by a regionalised NHS logo by 3rd July.

In addition to this, 30 additional mobile testing units are now travelling the UK, responding to increased regional demand for testing, and supporting hard to reach areas. Mobile testing enables temporary testing sites to be set up quickly to serve communities on a rolling basis and target specific demand. This brings the total of mobile units to 147, currently staffed by military personnel, in England, Scotland and Wales and by civilian staff in Northern Ireland. This number will further increase to 236 across the United Kingdom by the end of July.

Specialised translation services will soon be offered across a range of 68 drive-through testing sites, to support people who don't speak English as their first language such as Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Gujarati, Mandarin, Polish, and British Sign Language for people with hearing difficulties.

The expansion of testing announced today supports the existing NHS/PHE infrastructure, which has more than doubled its testing capacity since the coronavirus pandemic began, and supports our commitment to expand local direction of national testing resources and move to a more locally owned and delivered testing model.

The Lighthouse labs were created at the same time existing NHSE/PHE lab capacity was expanded, which allowed NHS capacity to be reserved to test patients and NHS staff while testing eligibility was broadened out through the lighthouse labs. This has meant we have always had the ability to test patients and this has meant we have staff, key workers and eventually everyone.

Across the UK testing capacity has been expanded to more than 200,000 tests a day, meaning that anyone with symptoms can immediately book a test for free. Local Authorities in England will have greater autonomy to deliver different types of testing models which are suited to the needs of their population and local communities.

Anyone with symptoms of coronavirus - a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - should book a test immediately.

In England, anyone testing positive will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, to help them trace their recent contacts and further control the spread of the virus.

Tan Hill to Support Homeless Charity's Furniture Project

A homelessness charity is set to prove the toughness of its furniture this weekend after kind-hearted owners of England's highest pub bought tables ahead of its Saturday reopening event.

The world-famous Tan Hill Inn is situated on top of The Pennines in the North Yorkshire Dales and endures ferocious weather conditions. Cornerstone Supported Housing and Counselling took the initiative to offer the Tan Hill one of its sturdy outdoor pub tables for free - asking for a chance to showcase its wares to the pub's 55,000 Facebook followers.

But the owners went further, buying six and taking swift delivery of their durable tables from the Willington-based charity, last week.

The endorsement of Cornerstone's not-for-profit furniture-making venture comes 24 years after the Tan Hill 'Inn' famously boosted the fortunes of double glazing firm Everest.

The reopening on Saturday comes after Prime Minister Boris Johnson last week gave the green light for licensees of pubs and restaurants to return to business on July 4 under strict guidelines. As a result, the team at the Inn has created an outdoor, safe-space, serving area, after being inundated with first-night bookings when the news was announced.

Pub boss, Andrew Hields, took ownership of Tan Hill in June 2018 and the spectacular fire-lit reopening is part of many exciting events and attractions planned for the historic venue.

A spokesperson for the Tan Hill team took to social media, praising the efforts of Cornerstone and its furniture: "We are delighted with our new lovely tables from the charity Cornerstone. It's so wonderful that Tan Hill Inn can have their urgent requirements for outside tables met by an organisation that is so valuable and doing such great work within the community. We think you will agree that these tables really are class!"

Cornerstone - which also has community hubs and supported housing in Hartlepool - developed its furniture business in 2010 to help it become less reliant on grant funding.

But the venture was forced to close its doors to customers for almost two months as a result of COVID-19 guidance and legislation.

However, after the boost of winning an £18,000 government grant last week that will help it to continue operating until the autumn, the charity is committed to working itself out of difficulty by selling its home and furniture, pub furniture and heavy-duty sheds and summerhouses.

Cornerstone provides emergency accommodation and semi-supported living for homeless people including rough sleepers. Its staff and volunteers conduct regular late night and early morning street sweeps offering help and support to those they find.

Cornerstone also provides vocational training to help adults and young people not attending a traditional education facility to get into work - the training takes place through its joinery leaning and training centre and a number of its retail outlets.

Both paid staff and volunteers work at Cornerstone and some of the volunteers have the experience, both direct and indirect, with the criminal justice system. Cornerstone also provides family and relationship support.

To find out more about Cornerstone visit www.cornerstone-north.org or The Tan Hill Inn www.tanhillinn.com



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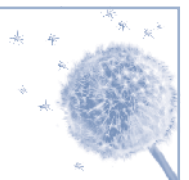


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Greenfield Summer School Returns

Greenfield Community College are looking forward to welcoming a group of Year 6 students to a summer school as part of their transition to secondary school.

The creative summer school, led by Greenfield Arts, is a

lovely way for students to prepare for their new journey, becoming familiar with their new surroundings, meeting some of their teachers and forming friendships whilst learning creatively. Previous summer schools have proven to be a great success helping everyone feel confident and secure in their new environment. Last year's students were given the opportunity to work with an artist and make their own film, sharing a positive approach and highlighting how to develop skills and attributes when starting school. The film has been shared with students at Greenfield and is a wonderful resource for other students.

This year's summer school, 'Future Me', will help prepare the students for their new journey and develop their ability to be self-led learners. Greenfield will offer a safe and creative environment, taking into full consideration the expectations and guidelines in the current climate. The students will be able to work creatively with artists and practitioners through their own creative project.

This summer school offer is part of range of support and information provided by the school for new students and their families. Ms D Davis, Assistant Headteacher and Transition lead, has created a new webpage full of helpful information for getting ready to come to school, there is a virtual tour of the school to help students get familiar and there are weekly challenges to develop the Greenfield Learner attributes. Visit our webpage and look for the Transition tab for more www.greenfieldschool.net

In summer school and throughout their school years, students are developing their ability to be self-led learners. Greenfield Community College promotes an inclusive curriculum and a strong student voice, encouraging students to work together to realise an outstanding learning experience. Greenfield Community College is a Specialist Arts and Science school and is committed to providing opportunities such as summer school to support students to reach their full potential. To find out more about our school please visit our website or contact us by email for more information contact@greenfieldschool.net



Drive-Thru Birth Registration Service Introduced

A special 'drive-thru' service has enabled the families of more than a hundred babies born in County Durham to register their births.

Local authorities were forced to suspend birth registrations in March in response to Government guidance on preventing the spread of coronavirus.

Changes to the rules mean that councils are now able to restart services but preparation work, such as the installation of protective screens, is needed to allow for social distancing in register offices. Due to the demand for the service, Durham County Council has introduced a temporary drive-thru service to allow families to register their child's births now.

Parents are given an appointment to visit Aykley Heads House Register Office in Durham and are asked to remain in their car when they arrive.

A registrar then calls the parents' mobile and takes all the required information over the phone. The parents are then asked to step into the foyer of the building where their ID is checked, the paperwork signed and the birth certificate handed over – all in line with social distancing and handwashing measures.

In the past two weeks, 102 babies' births have been registered in this way, including that of lockdown baby Theo George Todd, from Darlington. Theo was born on 27 April but his parents Ryan Todd and Kathryn Farrell had not been able to register his birth until this week.

Primary school teacher Kathryn, said: "We're glad that Theo George is finally official after a very quick and easy registration process."

Registrar Jade Harker, who issued Theo's birth certificate, said: "It's nice to have a bit of normality after the past few months. Being able to see the babies is lovely – even if it is from a distance. All the parents have been so grateful that their baby is now official and has a birth certificate – and that they can even apply for them to have their own passports now."

Cllr Alan Napier, Deputy Leader of Durham County Council, said: "We know that many parents have been keen to register their babies' births and that not being able to has been frustrating for them. It's great that registrations can now take place but we do need to take some time to make sure that our register offices can accommodate social distancing and I hope that people will bear with us while we carry out this work."

"In the meantime, I am really pleased that we have been able to introduce the drive-thru service and that so many parents have already been able to finally collect birth certificates for their children. "Our registration staff have been working particularly hard over the past few months and I would like to thank them for their dedication and commitment."

To register a birth, email aykleyheadsregisteroffice@durham.gov.uk



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UTC South Durham Students Excel in Maths Challenge

Students in Years 10 and 11 at UTC South Durham are celebrating the results of the UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge they participated in earlier this year.

The UK Maths Trust runs the annual competition which tests students on their mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency. Competitors achieve Bronze, Silver, or Gold certificates based on their results, and the top performers are invited to take part in the Pink Kangaroo, a follow on competition.

Of the UTC students who participated in the competition: 3 achieved gold, 4 were awarded silver, and a further 7 attained bronze. Those with gold certificates are in the top 6% of students nationally, the 4 with silver are in the top 20%, and the 7 bronze certificate holders are in the top 40%.

Year 11 student Rosie Stonehouse, and Year 10 students Owen Shepperson and Jayden Hawcroft were awarded gold. Rosie also won a certificate for achieving the best result at UTC, and Owen was awarded a certificate for having the best results in his year group. Rosie, Owen and Jayden have all qualified for the Pink Kangaroo, putting them inside the top 8000 students in the country.

The other students who were awarded certificates were: Sophie Simpson, Sam Bewick, Paul Orchard, Alisha Khan, Alycia Simpson, Darcy Abbs, Ethanial Whyvell, Harry Brown, Loui Kinnie, Mohib Khan, and Oscar Stockdale.

Speaking about the results, UTC Principal Tom Dower said: "Everyone at UTC is incredibly proud of the achievements of the students who participated in the Maths Challenge, and we are delighted to see that so many students have been awarded certificates. The results show the commitment of the UTC Maths team and the strength of their teaching."

UTC South Durham is a specialist technical school and Sixth Form for 14-19 year olds. Based on the Newton Aycliffe Business Park, the school opened in September 2016 and focuses on STEM education.

Photo: Sophie Simpson (left) and Owen Shepperson (right) with their UKMT Maths Challenge certificates



Youthy FC Support Town Foodbanks



As a result of the Covid 19 Pandemic, the football season was cancelled, and also the end of season presentation evening, when we reward all of our 300+ players for their efforts throughout the football year. The club still intends to acknowledge the players for the season but in a smaller way. Therefore it was decided, by all our coaches, that as an FA Charter Standard Community Club, we should endeavour to help our local community in Newton Aycliffe.

We contacted both foodbanks in Newton Aycliffe and donated £500 each, to Junction 7 and Durham Foodbank, for families in need in Newton Aycliffe. This donation was greatly appreciated by both organisations, who are doing a fabulous job in difficult times and we wish them all very best in their efforts in the future.

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Creating the Way Through Lockdown with Supportive Art

A love of art, photography and the desire for a challenge has led two unlikely friends to make creative pieces to combat isolation during lockdown.

During our The Weardale Tub art project last year, 15-year-old Harry Short attended a glass making workshop at Killhope Lead Mining Museum with his mum, Lindsey.

A keen photographer and artist, Harry is home schooled due to a number of serious complex medical challenges but is passionate about photography and is involved in an art club which he set up in his local area. While at the workshop at Killhope Lead Mining Museum, organised by the council's Community Arts team, Harry met the project's documentary photographer, local artist Elaine Vizor, and began talking to her about his own photography and art.

Since the workshop, with support from his mum, Harry has kept in contact with Elaine, who also teaches photography at Greenfield Arts in Newton Aycliffe, and the pair talk regularly about their love of creativity.

Combating isolation

However, at the beginning of lockdown, Harry was placed in the 'shielding' category and was worried about being even more isolated than usual when not being able to leave the house during the coronavirus outbreak.

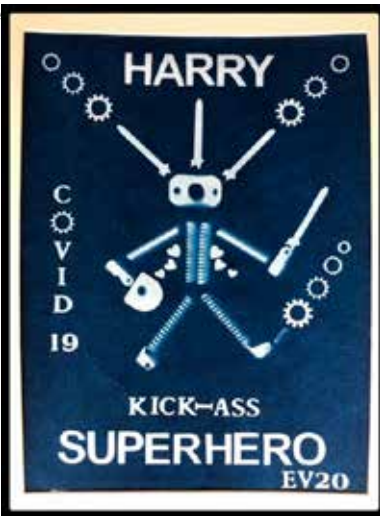
To help combat this, Elaine invited Harry to join her in her 'TWELVE WEEKS' project to create art to represent each week of the initial self-isolation. For the duration of the project Harry and Elaine have been challenging each other to create a different piece of artwork each week and they share their unique creations with each other.

The duo have now completed 12 weeks of creative art. Harry has created a variety of different pieces of art, from clay sculptures, felting and paintings to drawings, photography and other forms of creative art. Meanwhile, Elaine has been creating Cyanotype images, using the vintage, cameraless photographic printing process that produces cyan-blue prints, relating to different aspects of lockdown. A further challenge to both Harry and Elaine was to only use resources they had to hand already or saved from the bin as the weeks went on, strictly no buying in of new materials.

Bringing people together

Throughout this difficult period caused by the pandemic, Harry, Lindsey and Elaine have helped each other through some tough times and their art challenge has given them a focus and a connection despite being miles apart.

Cllr Joy Allen, Cabinet member for transformation, culture and tourism, said: "Harry and Elaine's story is a heart-warming example of how creative hobbies like art and photography can bring people together during lockdown. Even though they can't meet, the pair have been able to find something fun to share together and have been able to ease some of the difficulties of being isolated at this time. Supporting each other during this pandemic is vitally important for our communities, and also our physical and mental health, especially for those who are vulnerable or shielding during the coronavirus outbreak. I am pleased to see that a project set up by our Community Arts team has played its part in starting Harry and Elaine's friendship which has been able to grow through their support for each other during lockdown and through their shared love of art."



We're Here for you says County Durham Drug and Alcohol Service

Drug and alcohol recovery workers at County Durham Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services say they are "here to help" people who have become more dependent during the pandemic.

Area Manager Phil Ransome said: "We believe some people may be misusing drink and drugs to cope with boredom, stress, anxiety about the future, about job insecurity and job loss. They may have troubles within their relationships.

"We would like people to know we're here to help them with any concerns or worries that they may have. Our friendly workers offer a full range of supportive services. They will work with you and develop a plan to deal with the issues you are facing."

The Global Drugs Survey (GDS) found that more than 55% of British drinkers who responded reported an increase in the number of days they consumed alcohol each week during the COVID-19 lockdown, with 33% of people reporting an increase in binge drinking. Almost 44% of British cannabis users reported the number of days they were using products containing THC had increased, whilst over a third of benzodiazepine users said the number of days they were using had increased.

Having more time on your hands and being bored are given as the main reasons for increasing the use of THC and benzodiazepine, with secondary factors including addressing mood and worries. Phil explained that some people may not want to start to deal with issues or they may be worried about their safety or privacy. People may be thinking it wasn't an ideal time to start dealing with this issue and they may also be worried about their safety should they begin counselling.

"We understand just how difficult things are at the moment and as a service we're committed to continue to help those people seeking our support."

Almost all appointments are taking place on the telephone, or via online Zoom meetings for both one to one and group discussions. This allows people to access services from the comfort of their home and to interact with others who are also receiving support. Face-to-face appointments are available when needed, with steps in place to ensure people are kept as safe as possible.

To find out more, please call County Durham Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services on 03000 266 666 or email DurhamContact@humankindcharity.org.uk for more details on how they can help.

The GDS special edition on Covid-19 has been developed to understand the impact of the pandemic on people's lives, with a specific focus on the use of alcohol and other drugs, mental health and relationships.



Paul Howell
Member of Parliament
for Sedgefield

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Another very interesting week last week, last Tuesday evening I joined the Aycliffe Rotary Club for their meeting as Jean Thompson handed over to Trish Pemberton as the new president for the 2020/21 year. Cllr John Clare gave an interesting presentation on climate change and in particular the work being done in Durham. I wish Trish a very successful year as President, knowing her interests I am sure we will talk trains at some point.

On Thursday morning I attended the BEIS select committee where we began our discussions on the post pandemic growth inquiry. We started by looking at the Economic environment before the pandemic and discussing the impact with Professor Mariana Mazzucato, who is the director of UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose and a Professor of Economics of Innovation and Public Purpose, and Professor Diane Coyle, who is the Bennett Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge. Friday was another busy morning with back to back virtual meetings starting with the Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary, Jo Farrell, to talk in particular around antisocial behaviour and criminal damage issues. We followed this with a meeting of the Tees Valley MPs and TVCA Mayor Ben Houchen. Then it was Heart UK who were briefing me on CVD or cardiovascular disease. I will talk more on this another time but if you don't have regular checks on your cholesterol levels please can I implore you to do so. After that I talked to local landlords about Durham County Council's proposed selective licensing scheme and followed that with a call to Sue Jacques who is Chief Executive of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and the last call of the morning was a discussion around HS2.

The afternoon saw us back, looking at our new office, which is to be in Sydney House on the Business Park just next to Greggs. We are working on moving in and organising IT etc and expect to be up and running in a couple of weeks. I then popped into the Blue Bridge Centre to see the guys from Community Support and wished them well in their endeavours. It is wonderful to see someone picking up the mantle of Honest John's work.

Over the weekend it was good to get into the town centre a couple of times and see the shopkeepers who are delighted to be back and open again, I would encourage you to go and support them.

Monday it was train to London time but before that I was able to catch up with people from Durham University who are undertaking modelling work around the impact of coronavirus. The data they are working with should be particularly useful as we exit this pandemic. In the afternoon we were debating the Business and Planning Bill in Chamber, during which I was also able to deliver my maiden speech. A very proud moment.

This Bill is formulated around the changes to regulations that will temporarily allow more flexibility in areas like the creation of pavement cafes to allow restaurants and pubs to operate. In my maiden speech I thanked Phil Wilson for his efforts previously and wished him well. I was able to use the opportunity to strongly advocate for the need to make sure we continue our efforts to level up the UK.

Tuesday saw me in the London office and included an online discussion around Climate Change with some constituents followed by the passing of the Immigration Bill later in the day.

As I am sure you are all aware there are significant liftings to lockdown restrictions starting this weekend on the Fourth of July and I hope we can all take the opportunity to support some of the places that have been shut for so long but in a sensible manner. Please respect the virus and continue to practice as much social distancing as you can. The rules are the minimums and there is nothing to stop you giving everyone more space if you can.

I wish you all a great week.

Stay safe and look after each other.

Paul Howell

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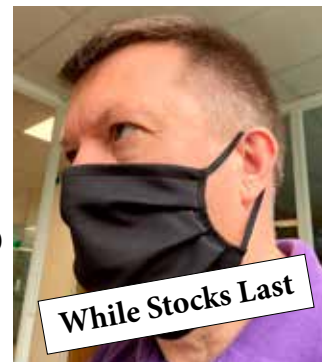
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Fun and Frivolity Continues at Darlington Bottle Shop

A Darlington wine merchant has introduced several new measures to ensure business continues despite the ongoing Coronavirus lockdown.

Frivolity Bottle Shop, which is located in Cockerton, has launched a delivery service to cater to customers remaining at home through the pandemic, as well as expanding its team to fulfil demand.

A new website is also on the cards as owner David Tindale adapts to a growing customer base and a new way of sharing his wines, beers and spirits.

With wholesale trade to bars and restaurants and twice-monthly shop events forced on hold, David was determined to not let the lockdown affect his business and took the steps to allow Frivolity to remain as close to 'business as usual' as possible.

Fast forward 14 weeks and deliveries are continuing to thrive. Now, David has enlisted the help of local web development company, Webahead Internet Ltd, to accommodate the ever-growing orders.

The new website will allow David to expand

his reach beyond his native Cockerton, by extending delivery of Frivolity's extensive range of products further afield in Teesside and County Durham, as well as offering nationwide next day delivery and gift options. Frivolity opened in Cockerton in July 2019, after David made the leap to move from market stalls and street food markets to his own premises. Now, he's looking forward to first birthday celebrations.

For more information on Frivolity and its services, visit <https://frivolitybottleshop.selz.com>

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Still a Chance to Grab a Gardening Prize

There's still time for County Durham gardeners to win a £30 National Garden Voucher in a council photography competition. The Garden Treasures contest has been organised by Durham County Council and encourages people to share why their beautiful outside spaces are important to them.

Residents have until Monday 17 August to submit images of their floral displays and green spaces, along with a brief explanation of how gardening has helped them through the coronavirus pandemic, to be in with a chance of winning.

Entries can be made in any of the following five categories, up to a maximum of four images per person:

- Garden, either front or back
- Yard area
- Floral containers, including baskets, tubs and troughs
- Children's garden area
- Most improved (please send before and after photographs)

One winner from each category will receive a £30 National Garden Voucher and their photo will be included in a public vote to decide the People's Choice award.

The competition is open to all County Durham residents over the age of 18, with parents and guardians invited to make a nomination on behalf of younger gardeners.

Cllr Brian Stephens, Durham County Council Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "We've received some fantastic entries already, but we know there are many more people who have been busy in their gardens and we'd love them to share their photos with us. Green spaces have become so important to a lot of people during the coronavirus pandemic and we're looking to celebrate the positive effect outdoor spaces can have during these difficult times.

"Whether it has helped people to keep active, offered a peaceful area to relax or become a place to share quality time with friends and family, we want to see what people have created and hear why their garden means so much to them right now.

"We're not necessarily looking for large, grand spaces or professional standards – the competition is open to everyone, from total beginners to experienced gardeners, whatever the size of their growing space. With a £30 garden centre voucher up for grabs in each category, it's definitely worth a go."

To enter, recent photographs, no larger than 4MB and in JPG format, should be emailed to civicpride@durham.gov.uk along with contact details and a brief description of what the garden or planted area means to entrants at this time.

Submissions should not be framed or contain watermarks and are restricted to four pictures per entry. Photographs with people in them will not be accepted.

Suitable entries will be uploaded to the Civic Pride Instagram page www.instagram.com/civicpridedurham/#GardenTreasures where they can be viewed and shared.

Entries for the individual categories close on Monday 17 August. The People's Choice award will be open to voting from Tuesday 18 August until midnight on Thursday 20 August.

Winners will be notified by telephone or email by Friday 28 August.

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Lockdown Project



Whilst looking through last week's Newton News I noticed an article on garden makeovers during lockdown. Above are before and after images of my patio. The base is hand stencilled, cost £50 in paint and sealant; and the new sofa cost £350. The project took me two days from start to finish and we absolutely love it. I am a part time art teacher, so it was nice to get my hands dirty and create some art for us to enjoy over the weekends of lockdown and in the future. We got prices, all of which we considered, but, with extra time on our hands, we decided to be thrifty. In the money we saved we have now been able to afford the materials needed for our new fence. Which was out of reach originally. We used masonry paint, a laser cut stencil, which we made ourselves and got to work. Wasn't easy going on the knees, but worth it, now it's done. We bought this house two years ago, and I've always felt the need to apologise to people when they visit, for the state of the garden, as we hadn't got round to doing it. But now it's going to be the place I take people first. Hopefully our two young labradors don't destroy it in the mean time. Sabrina Brett
ED: Send your lockdown project details to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Congratulations



**HAPPY 21ST BIRTHDAY
JACK HOWARTH
5TH JULY**

21 years of having you as our son, now that is something to celebrate! Not what you had in mind, but enjoy anyway.
All our love Mam & Dad xxx
Happy birthday bro, have a good day, love Joe xx
Happy 21st birthday Jack.
Lots of love Nan, Grandad, Lee & family xxx

In Memoriam

Brian Dunn
8th July 2010

It's been the hardest thing to lose you, you meant so much to me. But you are in my heart forever, and that is where you will always be.
Deeply loved and missed, from your loving Wife Margaret
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Jeff Clark
Died 4th July 2002

Treasured memories of my dear devoted friend. Forever in my thoughts.
Joy Marie

Jeff Clark
Died 4th July 2002

To us you were so special. We only wish with all our hearts that you were here with us today.
From all your loving family xxx

Brian Dunn
8th July 2010

The Best Little Dad and Granda in the world!!

We treasure all our memories of the happy times we had. With the wisest, most caring one in a million Granda and Dad.
Deeply missed and loved always, from all your Bairs and Grandbairns.
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Barbara Sutton
14/5/1932 - 3/7/2015

On this day our Mother and Nana and Dad and Grandad were back together again. Our two angel's in Heaven and you will be forever in all our hearts. With the love you give us, we will never forget. R.I.P.
All the family

For all your print requirements
Newton Press 300212

Obituary

Denise Rowland
(nee Baxter)

Denise, who passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on 19th June 2020, aged 73 years.
A beloved Wife to William; a dearly loved Mother and Mother-in-Law to Tracey, Mark, Julie, John and George; also a devoted and much loved Nana and Great Nana. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Funeral to take place at St. Clare's Church on Friday 10th July at 11.45am, followed by burial at West Cemetery

Kathleen Elliott
12th June 2020

In Aycliffe Care Home, aged 98 years. Kathleen (nee Longstaff). Loved Wife to the late Jimmy, beloved Mum to Alistair and Finlay, dear Sister to Jenny and the late Isobel.

June Storey
26th June

Marilyn (Nee Sheldon) aged 70 years, following a long illness bravely borne. Much loved Wife of Laurance; loving Mam of Andrea, Gemma and the late Craig; Mother-in-Law of Lee and Michael and treasured Nanna of Eve, James, Faye and Jack. A private family Funeral Service will take place at Wear Valley Crematorium on Monday 6th July.

Jenny Lockey
Newton Aycliffe

Wife of the late Jack Lockey. Passed away peacefully in Lindisfarne Care Home on 27th June 2020. A much loved Mam, Grandma and Great-Grandma. Thanks to Lindisfarne staff for their wonderful care.

Veronia (Von) Hudson
(Nee Cogan also known as Bradley)

of Newton Aycliffe, peacefully at home with her loving family by her side on June 27, aged 84 years. A much loved wife of the late Robert (Bob), a dearly loved Mam to Angie, Phil and the late Paul; a treasured Gran and Ganny and a dear Sister and Friend. Funeral service to take place at St Clares Church, Newton Aycliffe on Monday July 13 at 12.45 pm. To be followed by committal in Stephenson Way Cemetery.

Birthday Remembrance

Maureen Savage
6th July 1938

If roses grow in Heaven Lord, pick a bunch from me. Please them in my Mother's arms, tell her they are from me. Tell her we love and miss her and when she turns and smiles, place a kiss upon her cheek and tell her it's from us and hold her for a while. Because remembering you is easy, we do it every day. But there is a ache within all our hearts that will never go away.
Happy Heavenly Birthday Mam.
Love always, Kim, Yvonne, Ruth, Brian and all family

Aycliffe Rugby Prepare for New Season



Whilst the government strategically plan the next social distancing rules under the current covid-19 pandemic, and Newton Aycliffe Sports Club plan to open the clubhouse on July 4th using government guidelines to protect the public and staff, Newton Aycliffe RUFC are being proactive in planning for the coming new season.

All rugby clubs in England are guided by strict rules and regulations from the RFU. The road map for the community rugby game has reached phase B. This allows small groups of up to 6 players to train in preparation for match fitness. Club coach, Bob Malvern, is keen to get the current crop of players down to Moore Lane to start the training programme for the 2020/21 season. A trial session will run on Wednesday 1st July with a select 6 to test all the safety precautions before all available players can start pre-season training under the strict guidelines on subsequent Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

The league structure and start dates have still to be finalised. This said, the club are now actively recruiting new players.

PLAYERS WANTED

Do you want a fresh challenge?
Returning to rugby?
Fancy a change of club?
New to Newton Aycliffe?
Newton Aycliffe is a family club, so why not

come and give it a try?
New players of all ages are always welcome, whether new to the game or experienced. We can offer you a place in our senior squads or you can help start, and be part of, the first ever senior ladies team which we are keen to introduce at Newton Aycliffe RUFC.

Kids rugby training will resume at the club as soon as the RFU guidelines allow. For further details about senior rugby contact club coach Bob Malvern on 07398 167461. For further details about youth development contact Director of Rugby, Pete Ryans on 07796 172599. Follow Newton Aycliffe Rugby on Facebook. <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/newtonaycliffe>

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