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Established 1948

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Magazine

Editorial and Advertising contact: paul@newtonnews.co.uk - Telephone: 01325 300212 - www.newtonnews.co.uk

Successful Charity Skydive Raises £600



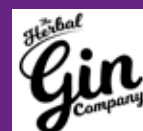
See page 2 for full story

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PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgefield



RETURN OF THE RAILWAY MUSEUMS

After 119 days of lockdown, the National Railway Museum in York and Locomotion in Shildon, County Durham have announced plans to reopen to the public this summer.

Locomotion will reopen on Tuesday 28 July and the National Railway Museum will reopen the following week on Tuesday 4 August. Both sites have undergone a rigorous cleaning regime prior to reopening and additional site-wide cleaning will continue to take place each day. Visitors will be encouraged to observe social distancing measures and the wearing of facemasks will be recommended.

In a significant change designed to keep the sites safe and comfortable, visitors at both sites will be required to book a timed slot in advance. Tickets will be free and available from the museum websites, but overall visitor numbers will be limited each day to avoid overcrowding. Tickets for Locomotion can be booked from 14th July, with National Railway Museum tickets available from Monday 20 July. Both sites will begin a phased reopening, initially on a limited number of days each week, before a gradual return to daily opening.

At York, the Great Hall which is home to world-famous locomotives such as Mallard and a replica of Stephenson's Rocket, will be first to open. The main gift shop and the Great Hall café will also reopen from 4 August, although steam rides, the miniature railway and the under-five's play area will remain closed for the time being.

In the coming weeks, the remaining museum areas such as Station Hall, the Warehouse and outdoor spaces are also due to reopen.

At Locomotion, the main collection building which features more than 40 historic rail vehicles will open from 28 July. The café will also reopen with a limited capacity, serving a reduced menu. The model railway, steam rides and cab access will return at a later date.

A one-way system will be in operation at Locomotion to ensure visitors can observe safe social distancing. Demonstrations of Rowland Emmett's popular mechanical sculpture 'A Quiet Afternoon in the Cloud Cuckoo Valley' will increase, to be held hourly.

Judith McNicol, Director of the National Railway Museum, said: "We know that our sites – with their large, open buildings, outdoor spaces and car parking, can be great places for people to begin to re-engage with culture with confidence. We are cautiously reopening in stages at both museums, to ensure the safety of our guests and colleagues. At Locomotion and the National Railway Museum, we have dramatically enhanced our cleaning processes and introduced practical measures to allow visitors to maintain social distancing whilst enjoying the best of our collection. Although visitors may notice a few changes when they return, they can be assured of a warm welcome and the chance to enjoy our unrivalled collection of railway and engineering achievements."

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the National Railway Museum welcomed more than 750,000 visitors each year with Locomotion receiving around 200,000. To book a free ticket for the National Railway Museum, visit: www.railwaymuseum.org.uk

SUCCESSFUL CHARITY SKYDIVE RAISES £600



I'm so glad to be able to give you this update on my charity sky dive from last week. It was a long day, we had a 6/7 hour wait to jump because the weather was not on our side, but we got there eventually!

I'm delighted to tell you we have raised a whopping £600 for Isla Caton and her fight against neuroblastoma. £409 was raised through donations from PayPal, and Shake n Cake raised a cracking £95.50 from generous customers, which then they matched themselves making a total of £191!

I would like to give a huge thank you to all my friends and family who have all donated and shared to support me, including the 'All Sorts' charity shop within St. Clare's Church, who made a very kind donation.

I would also like to say a VERY special thanks to Shake n Cake for all their support for this cause, they were amazing in their ideas and advertisements and have really made a huge contribution for such a worthy cause.

Isla and I are tremendously grateful to have such an amazing community who can come together and support others when a lot of people themselves are in a time of need during this pandemic. For now my feet are firmly back on the ground and I thank you all again!



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PLEASE support us through these unprecedented times.
We are following all government guidelines and allowing for social distancing to take place.

Newton News

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Rotary Newton Aycliffe Answer a Call for Help From Across the Miles



Bukti Air Sanih Bali Village has been very badly affected by Coronavirus, especially the old. Rotary Newton Aycliffe has helped them achieve their goal with a very welcome donation.

John and Ann Millward live in Bali and are close friends of Brian Winwood, a member of Rotary Newton Aycliffe. Brian said "This is what John wrote to me in a casual conversation".

It wasn't until Widi just said in a conversation "many people with poorly stomachs because no food. They bring us notifications from the head of the village with government instructions, we are told to stay in and isolate".

The government has closed some shops and restricted opening times on others

and local markets. But all they are doing is bringing the same amount of people together in a shorter space of time, worse really. We are trying to help people in our local village get food during the bad times Coronavirus has created for many. The government has them locked down and isolating just like us, but it is difficult for some Balinese people, many out of work and particularly older people are going hungry. They remain in contact with others when they shouldn't because they need food. Widi (our lady) told us that old people and single parents in particular are suffering. The same as in the UK and many other places, but this is at another level and it is sad.

We gave Widi and Kadek some money and they put together small bags of food containing eggs, noodles and two kilos of rice and they handed them out around the village for us. Bukti Air Sanih Bali Village has been very badly affected by Coronavirus, especially the old.

Brief resume about John & Ann

We were married and lived for many years in the North East and North Yorkshire. Much of our family is still there. Ann was always involved in some kind of charity work be it baking cakes for some fund raising event or working as a volunteer for many years in charity shops such as Help The Aged, she helped whenever she was asked, whilst John's work as a Graphic Designer kept him busy throughout the North East and beyond, working for local and international companies. Much like now, in lockdown, due to Coronavirus, computers and the internet allowed us to work more remotely and we moved to Scotland then on to France where we lived for 10 years. But we always loved the far east and Asia so two years ago we made the decision to move to the island of Bali in Indonesia. Most people you ask will include 'paradise' in their description of Bali and indeed it is in many ways. Coronavirus has highlighted this tropical island's dependency and incomes on the millions of tourists that come every year from all over the world. Almost overnight everything came to a stop.

Co-Veni - CoVidi - Co-Vici

Rainbow windows fading,
Like a cough snatched into a sleeve;
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For a glimpse, a chance to believe?
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Blown away with the leaves . . .
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Greenfield Gallery Call Out for Artists Online

Greenfield Arts are launching an exciting new exhibition, Made at Home, to be shared online. Although our arts centre facility is presently closed we are continuing to connect with our community through a programme of activities and are looking forward to being able to showcase a range of artwork.



Made at Home is a venture into a more 'blended' creative approach. Artists can submit and share a digital image of a piece of art made during their recent time at home. The artwork can be in a medium of choice and we are looking forward to receiving images of photographs, ceramics and textiles as well as drawing and painting. It will be a lovely opportunity to support artists and share creativity in a positive way.

The exhibition launch includes a video workshop by visual artist Bethan Maddocks who's innovative and inspirational work will give a unique insight into Bethan's approach and her use of paper as a material for her ideas.

The deadline for submissions is Friday 31st July and there will be further artist workshops connected to the exhibition to inspire and inform. The exhibition will run from Monday 10th August to Friday 21st August 2020 and will be shared online reaching a potentially global audience.

Greenfield Arts are committed to promoting stimulating and creative arts opportunities that help develop creative connections within the community. If you would like to find out more about our exhibition and our future programme of activities and projects please visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

PR Agency Facing Post-Covid World with a Fresh Start



Harvey & Hugo has been based in Business Central, Darlington, since 2015, but will now be going it alone, after managing director Charlotte Nichols felt the relationship with the office had run its course.

Explaining the decision, Charlotte said: "Breaking up is hard to do, but it's very much a case of us not them. With everything we – and the rest of the world – has been through lately, we felt the time was right to say goodbye.

"My main concern has always been the health and safety of The Pack; we can all work from home and it works well for us, so why increase people's risk by making them come into an office? Some Pack members are shielding, and some have underlying health conditions, so I wouldn't want them coming into the office anyway. An added benefit is a better work-life balance with no commute and more time at home, which is also a boost to the team's health."

With increasing uncertainty over the potential for a second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, as well as questions over the impact this would have on the economy, Charlotte said the decision to split up was also a practical one.

She added: "I am worried that there will be a second wave and I don't want the burden of having an office that we can't use over winter. I want to be as financially agile going into an uncertain future, putting people before premises and prioritising The Pack's health and safety. We've also found that we're so much more productive working from home; as a very sociable group, we would find ourselves distracted in the office. This way, the team can get more done in less time, meaning they have more free time to do the things they love – which is so important after the upheaval of the past few months."

While the relationship has come to an end, the break-up was amicable – and Charlotte has fond memories of their time together.

She said: "We loved our time in Business Central. We were the first tenant to move in back in May 2015 and, as well as providing space to help my business flourish over the years, I also went through some major personal landmarks, including getting married and having a baby, while I was a tenant. In fact, Business Central was one of my one-year-old daughter's first trips out, and I regularly visited during my maternity leave.

"I would definitely recommend the centre for other businesses and I know a great office with the best view in Darlington going spare!" The forward-thinking agency – one of the first to realise the potential for in digital marketing more than a decade ago – had always embraced change, and plans are in place to ensure it can continue to provide its PR, content marketing and social media services in new and innovative ways.

Charlotte said: "I feel real mixed emotions about splitting up, but I'm also excited about this decision and embracing a new way of working. We're still working collaboratively and having fun using technology, such as video calling and social media, to keep in touch with our clients and each other.

"We're going to still meet regularly for social events - albeit in a socially-distanced way - and as the COVID situation improves, we'll look to work collaboratively from venues around the region, the UK and even abroad."

Despite no longer having a physical office presence, Harvey & Hugo will continue to keep the Business Central virtual address to allow clients to contact The Pack via post.

Alternatively, for more information on any of the agency's service, visit the website at www.harveyandhugo.com

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Ban on Old Coach, Bus & Lorry Tyres

Tyres aged ten years and older will be banned from lorries, buses and coaches on roads in England, Scotland and Wales in a boost to road safety, Roads Minister Baroness Vere announced this week. The ban follows an extensive investigation, including research commissioned by the Department for Transport, which indicated ageing tyres suffer corrosion which could cause them to fail. The move will make it illegal to fit tyres aged ten years or older to the front wheels of lorries, buses and coaches, and all wheels of minibuses. The secondary legislation will be laid in the autumn and will also apply to re-treaded tyres - with the date of re-treading to be marked - making the age of the tyre clearly visible. Roads Minister Baroness Vere said: "In the same way that you wouldn't drive a car with faulty brakes, ensuring your tyres are fit for purpose is crucial in making every journey safer. Taking this step will give drivers across the country confidence their lorries, buses and coaches are truly fit for use - a safety boost for road users everywhere. This change is in no small way the result of years of campaigning, particularly from Frances Molloy, to whom I thank and pay tribute."

Face Masks Long Overdue

Dear Sir,
For all those people opposed to the mandatory obligation to now wear face masks in shops from 24th July, for me it couldn't come too soon and I fully support it. Our shop assistants and supermarket staff have been the least protected members of society right from the start of this pandemic. To me they are absolute heroes for going to work every day without any protection whatsoever. I was so relieved for them when eventually their risk was acknowledged, and screens were installed at the check-outs. I would also like these people who are complaining, to realise how much safer vulnerable people will feel in public. I was horrified to visit Tesco after 9pm last Saturday and to see that all the arrows etc. have now been removed. When left to their

own 'common sense' unfortunately some people behave as though coronavirus no longer exists. The government definitely left it too late to introduce this measure, but I feel we will most certainly benefit from the compulsory wearing of face masks as wintertime approaches. Coronavirus spreads much more quickly in colder conditions and hopefully the wearing of these masks will prevent us from also passing on other respiratory infections to each other, such as bronchitis, influenza, etc. How difficult is it to wear a face mask for a little while? It is the least we can do to protect each other. I have no issues with it whatsoever.
Yours Sincerely
Audrey Wallis
Cargill Close



CORONAVIRUS Got Symptoms? Get Tested

Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms
Together we can keep our communities safe



www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus



(THE ORLANDS, NEWTON AYCLIFFE) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2020

The Council on 3/7/2020 made the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular traffic from proceeding on 25m of The Orlands that extends westwards from 1 The Orlands to the rear of The Royal Telegraph Pub to enable new water supply works to be undertaken. An alt route for traffic is available from the western side of the closure from North Terrace south and south easterly to The Green, then north easterly and northerly onto Well Bank leading to The Orlands and the eastern side of the closure, and vice versa. the maximum duration of the order is 18 months. The works are expected to commence on 4/7/2020 and are anticipated to be completed in 3 days. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

Dated: 17/7/2020



Helen Lynch
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
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Full Steam Ahead for a #SummerOfSkills



If this pandemic has taught us anything, it's that there is still a huge appetite for learning, and this is why Learning Curve Group is getting ready for a #SummerOfSkills.

As business leaders work to recover from the economic virus that Covid-19 has bestowed upon their organisations, it's important now, more than ever, that the skills of potentially diminished workforces take centre stage. Ensuring the right skills are with the right people within your business could make or break your ability and pace to recover.

Face to face delivery in schools, colleges and workplaces is slowly returning but there continues to be a plethora of online qualifications to support any business recovery strategy and many of them can also be fully funded through the Government's Adult Education Budget, meaning workforces can upskill free of charge - furlough or not.

Brenda McLeish, Chief Executive Officer of Learning Curve Group said: "Our #EducateWhilstYouIsolate campaign, which was launched in March, has enabled us to support a large number of individuals to access accredited learning safely from their home over the past four months. The campaign saw phenomenal demand as people sought to use their time in isolation to learn new skills or further develop the skills that they have."

"A number of businesses across the Tees Valley took advantage of this campaign by using our funding to help furloughed and non-furloughed employees stay on track during lockdown. And to now be able to continue that support as we enter a summer of skills fills me with such joy. The Tees Valley business community will come out of this pandemic bigger and better than ever!"

"I'm so pleased to be able to continue to offer businesses and individuals the same opportunity. We have over 40 courses to choose from which are suitable to a range of sectors and funding is limited, so it's extremely important that employers and individuals who are interested get in touch straight away to secure theirs."

Darryl from Seeability said of the range offered, "Learning Curve Group has been fantastic and the courses they run are relevant to the environment we work in. The induction process is very well thought out and they ensure each individual receives the right support. Aside from that, you can have a fantastic conversation over the phone with them, they're great and are always willing to help".

There really is no better time to make sure the skills in your business work for your business and with over 40 fully funded qualifications to choose from there is support available for all sectors.

If you'd like to take advantage of these fully funded qualifications, get in touch with our team today: training@learningcurvegroup.co.uk

NURSING COURSE APPLICANTS UP 16%

A record number of nurses and midwives are employed in the NHS, as the Nursing and Midwifery's Council reports its largest ever annual increase of registered nursing and midwifery professionals.

Around 18,370 more nurses, midwives and nursing associates are now on the Nursing and Midwifery Council's permanent register to work in the UK compared to a year ago, bringing the total number to 716,607 by 31 March 2020. The number of people trained in the UK leaving the register has also fallen to a five-year low.

The number of nursing and midwifery applicants to English universities has also risen for the second year running as the Government works towards delivering 50,000 more nurses by the end of Parliament.

The latest UCAS stats show that applicant numbers for nursing and midwifery courses are up 16% year-on-year, reaching 47,320 by the end of June. This is the second year in a row that applicant numbers have risen. In 2019 there was a 6.4% increase in people accepted onto nursing and midwifery courses in England compared to 2018.

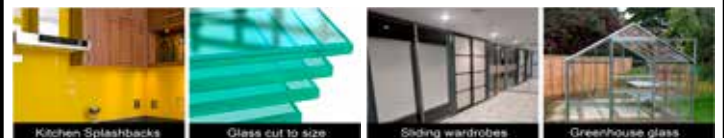
Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "I'm delighted to see record numbers of nurses and midwives now working in our NHS as we work towards delivering 50,000 more nurses in this parliament."

"As we continue our battle with this deadly disease, our world leading healthcare system has never been more important. We will continue to give it the support it needs today, as well as protecting it for generations to come. Nurses have saved countless lives during the pandemic, and the NHS simply couldn't function without them."

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said: "This pandemic demonstrated just how talented and valued our brilliant nurses and midwives are, and it is fantastic to see an explosion of applications for nursing and midwifery courses. As well as a hugely rewarding career in one of the world's best healthcare systems, degree students will benefit from at least £5,000 a year from the Government in free additional support during their studies. With over 12,000 more fully qualified nurses working in our NHS compared to last year, we are well on our way to delivering 50,000 more by the end of this Parliament."

The number of new applicants between January and June was 68% higher than the same period last year (11,360 in 2020, compared to 6,750 in 2019). Nearly two thirds of nursing and midwifery applicants living in England are mature students aged 21 or over, a 24% increase on last year. New applicants or those without an offer can still seek a place at university via the clearing process which runs from the 6th July to 20th October.

Student nurses and midwives starting courses from September will benefit from new guaranteed, additional support of at least £5,000 a year to help with their living costs, which they won't have to pay back.



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Darlington Building Society to Reopen Branches on Saturdays



Darlington Building Society branches are reopening on Saturdays from this week as it extends its policy of putting customers first during the coronavirus pandemic. The Society has adopted an "open for business" strategy throughout the crisis by making an initial commitment to open branches between 9am and 1pm Monday to Friday. To ensure the safety of staff and members, social distancing measures were put in place, along with protective screens, PPE, hand sanitiser, and increased cleaning. The weekday opening hours were increased from 9am to 2.30pm from June 15, and now branches are to open from this Saturday, between 9am and 2pm, to give members more time to make essential transactions. Chief executive, Andrew Craddock, is proud that his staff have maintained a strong service to customers that has exceeded many other financial institutions. Apart from a two-day closure of Northallerton branch, when a staff member tested positive for the virus, all branches have opened every day apart from Saturdays. Mr Craddock said: "That record is a remarkable achievement by the staff. We had to react quickly, with IT staff moving heaven and earth, and others having to juggle childcare and the support of elderly relatives, but the way people have pulled together is tremendous. "Now, we are in a position to go further for our customers by extending the opening of our branches to Saturdays, to give our members more options and make it as convenient as possible." During the lockdown, staff have also been making telephone calls to some of the Society's most vulnerable members, just to keep in touch. Ninety-five per cent of head office staff, and 100 per cent of the mortgage team, have been working from home, with DBS making an early decision not to participate in the Government's furlough scheme. Instead, staff were given an assurance that they would remain on full pay, with no redundancies, for at least the remainder of 2020. "We are a strong, resilient business, with reserves that have been built up over more than 160 years, and we felt it would be wrong to take the Government's cash when we were able to stand on our own two feet," said Mr Craddock.

Mandatory MOT Testing Reintroduced from 1st August



Mandatory MOT testing is to be reintroduced from 1 August 2020 as COVID-19 restrictions are slowly lifted, Roads Minister Baroness Vere announced on Monday 29th June. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, drivers were granted a 6-month exemption from MOT testing in March to help slow the spread of the virus. However, as restrictions are eased when safe to do so, all drivers whose car, motorcycle or van is due for an MOT test from 1 August will be required to get a test certificate to continue driving their vehicle. MOT tests are important for road safety and ensure that vehicle parts, including tyres, seat belts, brakes, lights and exhausts, are in proper working order. Drivers with an MOT due date before 1 August will still receive a 6-month exemption from testing. However, all vehicles must continue to be properly maintained and kept in a roadworthy condition, and people are able to voluntarily get their MOT sooner should they wish, even if they are exempt from the legal requirement. Motorists can be prosecuted for driving an unsafe vehicle. Only some garages remained open to conduct essential services during the coronavirus outbreak, but now over 90% are open across the country. Testing capacity has already reached 70% of normal levels and is steadily increasing. While exemptions are still available for vehicle owners with an MOT due date before 1 August, it is vital that drivers still take their vehicle to be checked if they notice something is wrong in the same way that they usually would. If drivers are vulnerable or self-isolating they should contact their local garage as many are offering pick-up and drop-off services, so drivers can get their car checked without having to visit a garage. The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) has also issued guidance to all MOT testers about safely conducting tests in line with the latest Government advice.




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SWAN's Year 6 Leavers 2020



Stephenson Way Academy have created a 'bitmoji' photo to replace the traditional end of year class photo. The staff and pupils at Stephenson Way Academy would like to wish our Year 6 SWANS every success as they leave us and head towards their next adventure. We're so proud of everything they've achieved during their time with us, now it's time to soar.

College Launches Sports Coaching Degree with OU

Bishop Auckland College is launching its second full degree programme this September in partnership with the Open University. The validation of the BSc (Hons) in Sports Coaching by the Open University means learners can complete a full degree at the college without having to travel far to study a university-level programme. From September, students can either study full time for three years or part time for up to six years. Applicants who already hold a Level 5 qualification in sport (such as a Foundation Degree or Higher National Diploma) can apply to join the programme for a one-year 'top-up' option to enable them to achieve a full degree.

Other advantages include significant financial savings. The £7,500 annual course fee is well below the average university fee of £9,250. Students will also receive £500 cashback each year to help with the purchase of study materials. They will also benefit from lectures delivered by teaching staff with a wealth of experience in sports coaching who currently work in the industry.

A further £500 per student per year will be paid by the college into a learning fund to resource masterclasses, international trips to key sporting venues as well as visiting speakers and guest lecturers.

The new degree syllabus covers advanced coaching, contemporary issues in sports coaching and health, performance analysis and all undergraduates will undertake a final year research project.

The college has already received a great deal of interest from past students as well as new enquiries and anticipate the course to be very popular, although places will be limited. Recent graduates from the college's highly successful Higher National Diploma in Sport have already signed up for the final 'top-up' year in order to achieve a full honours degree in sport.

Higher Education Development Manager and Sports Coaching Programme Leader, Kevin Hodgson, who led on the development of the course, said: "This degree will appeal to applicants who have studied sport at A-Level, Level 3 or HND, those already working in sporting venues like leisure centres, sports clubs and private gyms, and others employed as sports coaches for local authorities, private coaching companies or as health professionals.

"We are delighted at the number of applications we have already had, which demonstrates the huge demand for this degree course to be available locally. It's a great addition to prospective students from Bishop Auckland and its surrounding towns and villages, allowing them to study high level qualifications without barriers such as travel or finance preventing them from doing so."

Local Author Debut Novel

Newton Aycliffe author, Stacey Gowland, is releasing her debut novel *The Meadows* on the 17th of July. Stacey began writing the novel four years ago but had to put it on hold while she had a new baby, completed her MA degree in Creative Writing, and her PGCE and SCITT teacher training. Despite taking a short break from the novel, she continued to write and had a short story *The Making of Nancy* shortlisted and published by The Bristol Prize. Her novel, *The Meadows*, which will be available to buy in paperback and eBook formats on Amazon, Kobo, Barnes and Noble, as well as



local independent bookshops, is a social realist piece of gritty fiction which focuses on the life of several characters after a teenage girl is attacked by a group of school girls. The novel, set in the northeast of England, shows how laws and opinions are effected by social and economic class differences, how social media can be a blessing and a curse, and the implications of 'kids being kids'. Stacey submitted the first draft of *The Meadows* to the Penguin Random House WriteNow competition and was both long listed and short listed, her prize for making the short list was meeting editors, authors, literary agents, and having her novel read by them as well as receiving full feedback which she said helped to motivate her to continue writing it. Stacey is currently working on her next novel and a short story collaboration as well as teaching secondary English full time.

The Blurb

She should be choosing baby names. Instead she is choosing between the life of her sister and that of her unborn child.

Emily has lived her whole life making choices that have alienated her. After the only tie that kept her bonded to her family, her little sister Maggie is attacked, her ties are severed. Now she must make the ultimate choice, one which will be felt by everyone and one that will hurt her most of all.

Shakira just wants her mam's acceptance and is willing to do almost anything to get it, even if it means doing things she will regret.

Life on The Meadows estate is about making up your own rules. If there is a problem, it is dealt with on the estate. The people there learned long ago that they are on their own and have adapted. The only rule they all live by is, you do not harm children. Unless of course it is the children causing the harm.

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INEOS DONATES £10,000 THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL INEOS



This month, global firm INEOS' Newton Aycliffe site has donated £10,000 to cancer support charity Team Solan through the international INEOS Community Fund. The grant will support the vital work of the charity throughout the Coronavirus crisis as it continues on its mission to improve the lives of families affected by cancer across Co. Durham and Darlington.

The charity was set up by Mark Solan in 2015 after he took part in white-collar boxing event to fundraise on behalf of Cancer Research UK in memory of both his mother and grandmother. Following his fundraising success Mark was inspired to support people affected by cancer throughout his local community and launched Team Solan with one clear goal: "Let's KO cancer."

The charity is now an important community resource working to provide emotional and practical support to people with any cancer diagnosis. Based in Spennymoor, Team Solan ordinarily is able to offer a range of support services. The premises serve as a centre for help and advice and allow the charity to offer visitors treatments and therapies and even just a place to relax and spend some time away. Since the beginning of lockdown the charity has focussed its efforts on providing essential support to families throughout the wider community. Team Solan's volunteers have worked at pace to meet rising public demand in the wake of the Coronavirus crisis to offer practical and emotional support to families most in need. As part of a range of services offered by the team, local people have been able to avail of help with transport to hospital and other essential medical journeys. Volunteers have also been on hand to ensure food and everyday essentials reach families in difficulty and the team has also provided a listening ear and emotional support to help people experiencing loneliness and isolation during the crisis.

Mark Solan, Founder of Team Solan, said: "We're grateful for this incredible donation from INEOS and we are determined to put it to great use by supporting people living with cancer and their families in these even tougher days. This generous support will help us keep responding to the needs of many. Whether they need care, help with day to day tasks or even just a listening ear, we'll be there" The £1M INEOS Community Fund was established by INEOS Chairman Sir Jim Ratcliffe in March 2020 in tandem with the company's COVID-19 "Hands On" campaign, which set up new production lines to provide millions of bottles of free hand sanitiser per month to hospitals and frontline healthcare. The fund enables INEOS sites across the world to support the charitable organisations doing vital work in their local communities at this particularly difficult time.

Janet Ward, UK Communications Manager at INEOS company INOVYN, said: "Team Solan is a truly inspiring local charity making a huge difference to the lives of people living with cancer and their families. The team of volunteers have come together to offer the most fantastic support throughout the Coronavirus crisis to people across Co. Durham and Darlington. We are delighted to be able to support this brilliant service through the international INEOS Community Fund."

More information on the work of Team Solan and details on how you can support it can be found via its website: www.teamsolan.org.uk

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Weekly Programme Schedule

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Classic "Love Songs" Sun-Thurs 12 to 3am, Fri & Sat 2-4am

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 (Mon, Tues & Wed)	Richard Smith
12-1pm	Call Me No 1 (Tues & Thurs)	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	BeatRoots	Graeme Roote

FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	24th July - Pauly Mac 'Rare Vinyl' (Australia)	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby

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

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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



I recently saw a lot of these brightly coloured, six spot, Burnet Moths on land near the Business Park. Taken by Shirley Feasby (Aycliffe Village).



Ahmad Elhasan took this photo on 4th March 2020 at 9.12 in the morning, a lovely shot of Newton's Aycliffe West Park. Send your pics to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

New Service Supports Those With Employment Challenges

A new service supporting regional employers and helping those whose jobs have been affected as a result of coronavirus has been launched in County Durham.

County Durham Jobs Fuse is a joint service, created by Durham County Council, the National Careers Service and the Department for Work and Pensions.

It aims to connect employers who have urgent vacancies with people in County Durham who are available to start work.

As part of the County Durham Jobs Fuse package, the National Careers Service will provide support to those in the region who have lost their jobs or whose jobs have been affected by coronavirus.

People can contact the National Careers Service helpline for free, impartial, and expert careers advice, as well as practical guidance such as CV writing and access to training.

Cllr Carl Marshall, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "We understand that many people are concerned about the impact of coronavirus and we want to do everything we can to support those who have been adversely affected, which is why we're pleased to have helped launch County Durham Jobs Fuse.

"This will provide much needed support to employers and help people across the county get back into work at this challenging time."

Leanne Misaljevich, area manager for the National Careers Service in North East and Cumbria said: "We face hugely uncertain times and in response to this we are delighted to be working with DWP and Durham County Council to form the County Durham Jobs Fuse.

"The National Careers Service is uniquely positioned to be able to provide free, impartial careers and employment advice and guidance to residents and employers in the County Durham area, all delivered by our team of professional careers advisers."

Paul Robson, partnership manager for Department for Work and Pensions, added: "We are very pleased to see how County Durham partners have worked together to support the work of our Jobcentre Plus colleagues who are incredibly busy and working hard to ensure that everyone gets the support they need at this challenging time."

Individuals can seek support by calling the National Careers Service freephone number 0800 100 900 or visit the website www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk.

Employers can get in touch via 0808 1963 596 or email the dedicated inbox JobsFuse@educationdevelopmenttrust.co.uk

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The contractual hours for this position are 37 hours per week whole time, a shift pattern will be arranged between 6.45 and 21.30, with an enhanced rate paid for hours after 20.00. Annual leave entitlement is to be taken during school holiday periods.

If you can share our commitment to providing the best possible learning environment for our students, and the best possible working environment for our staff, we would be pleased to receive your application.

Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered. Completed forms should be returned to the school.

Please contact Chloe Taylor on 07469402590 or by emailing chloe.taylor@greenfieldschool.net for further information and an application pack.

Greenfield Community College is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. As a disability confident employer, we are committed to employing disabled people and people with health conditions making reasonable adjustments to support disabled applicants when required.

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment. All posts are subject to a satisfactory DBS clearance.

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Scariest Event in the North Set to Return



Socially distanced scares are set to terrify the North East, as the region's biggest horror attraction plans its return this autumn. Psycho Path presents Fear Ground will once again be back at the 700 acres site at Lintz Hall Farm, Burnopfield this October, with an all new look and even more shocks than before.

And this year everyone from scaredy cats to hardened thrill seekers can decide what appeals to them the most, as each activity will come with its own "scare score" which highlights its fear factor. Tickets are now on sale for the event, which will take place every Friday and Saturday in October, culminating in a bumper finale event at Halloween.

And organisers are already making contingency plans to ensure that whatever social distancing might still be in place by the autumn can be accommodated.

"We want people to be scared but for all the right reasons," said Christiano Crawford, one of the directors and creators of Psycho Path.

"Which is why we have put in place a whole host of options we can choose from, depending on what the Government allows at the time. "But whatever it is, the good news is that people will still have a great experience. We have the luxury of a huge outdoor site, which makes it much easier for us to adapt."

Although the full programme is under wraps at the moment, the aim this year is to increase the number of mazes which have been particularly popular at previous events.

Tickets have just gone on sale and range from £12 to £26 for the Halloween event and can be bought at <https://www.psycho-path.co.uk/psycho-path-events/>

Despite having just gone on sale, Christiano said there has been a huge amount of interest already.

"I think people are just wanting something to look forward to and to get back to normal. We're delighted with the response we've had so far and we know we're going to deliver another incredible experience" he said.

Free Energy Efficient Heating Systems Offered to Low Income Homes

Residents in County Durham are being urged to check whether they are eligible to receive a new gas boiler and central heating, which could lead to lower energy bills and a warmer home.

Durham County Council is working in partnership with utilities supplier E.ON and heating, insulation and renewables company 0800 Repair, to offer grants of up to £6,000 for homeowners on low incomes to replace solid fuel or electric storage heaters.

The Warm Homes Fund will install 200 energy efficient gas boilers and central heating systems in homes with an income of less than £26,000 or which are in receipt of a means tested benefit. To qualify, applicants must currently heat their house with solid fuel and only one radiator or use an electric storage heater.

David Jones is the first homeowner to have a gas boiler and central heating installed through the fully funded scheme.

Mr Jones, of John Street, Easington, said: "I am delighted with my new central heating system, my home is warm and comfortable now and I'm not worried about the cold weather and high coal bills anymore".

Cllr Angela Surtees, the council's Cabinet member for Social Inclusion, said: "This is a fantastic way for residents to have a warmer home and lower energy bills. I urge residents to apply as soon as possible as there is a limited number of grants available until November 2020."

The Warm Homes Fund is supported by Grahame Morris, MP for Easington. He said: "The Warm Homes Fund is an excellent initiative by Durham County Council, helping vulnerable people to heat homes by replacing inefficient solid fuel or electric storage heating systems. I am encouraging residents to check their eligibility before the scheme closes in November."

For further information, or to apply for a Warm Homes Grant, residents can contact 0800 Repair by calling 0808 169 7127.

Further information about a variety of schemes available to help householders make their properties more energy efficient can be found on the council's website at

www.durham.gov.uk/housingenergyimprovements



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Easter Fun Run ...in July!



The Easter bunny will be making a belated appearance this July, when the Darlington Trail Series host their "virtual" Easter Fun Run. Organiser Darryn Wood was forced to postpone the 5K run because of the COVID-19 outbreak but was determined to make it happen to raise much-needed funds for St Teresa's Hospice.

The Easter Fun Run would have been the group's first major event of 2020 and will now take place in the days leading up to Sunday July 19. Now a virtual event, entrants are encouraged to complete their own run in their own time. As a reward for their efforts, they can pick up a medal and Easter egg from Darryn and his team who will be based in Darlington's South Park between 10am and 4pm on Sunday July 19. The Darlington Trail Series team will be following current Government guidelines around social distancing and hygiene practices, and all runners are encouraged to do the same.

Darryn said: "We were disappointed that the event had to be postponed in April but we knew it was the right thing to do for everyone's safety. I don't give up easily, and especially where St Teresa's Hospice is concerned I will do whatever I can to get people involved in raising funds. I love the idea that we are holding an Easter fun run in July. I just hope the eggs don't melt!"

St Teresa's Hospice needs to raise over £3m a year to provide free day, in-patient and community care, as well as family support and bereavement counselling, for people living with life-limiting illnesses and their families in Darlington, South Durham and North Yorkshire. The Easter Fun Run is open to all ages and abilities and participants can run, jog or walk. Fancy dress is encouraged.

Places are limited and advance registration is essential. Runners can register a place in the Easter Fun Run at <https://racebest.com/races/533ve>. The entry fee is £7 per person and runners are asked to raise sponsorship in aid of St Teresa's Hospice.

Miners' Gala Exhibition Moves Online For 136th Celebration

A popular exhibition on the history of the Durham Miners' Gala, which was set to be displayed this weekend, will move online to celebrate virtual Gala Day.

The 136th Durham Miners' Gala was scheduled to take place on Saturday, 11 July, but was cancelled earlier this year due to the coronavirus outbreak.

However, organisers The Durham Miners' Association and Marras – Friends of Durham Miners' Gala arranged to mark the day online with a series of new content and a live event.

Exhibitions and displays, which would have featured on the day, will also move online where they can still be viewed and enjoyed by those celebrating the festival.

Durham County Record Office has produced a virtual version of the exhibition they would have displayed at the event which will be available to view on the record office website. The Mining Durham's Hidden Depths annual exhibition has been a regular and popular feature in the 'big tent' on Gala Day since 2010. This year's exhibition explains the history of the Durham Miners' Gala, which started in 1871, and how the county has been shaped by work of the miners' association.

Featuring archives from the Durham Miners' Association, the largest miners' trade union in the country, the exhibition explores the association's powerful history and its members over the past 149 years.

An accompanying home learning resource pack, Child Miners, has also been created and is also free to view online at the record office website.

The Brass festival will also be marking the connection between mining and brass bands with its video piece, The Stories of Their Banners. The video features an original piece of music from 2004, from composer Will Todd, which celebrates the Durham Miners' Gala and has been reworked for a virtual choir and brass band. This will be available to watch from 6.30pm from Monday, 13 July. Cllr Joy Allen, Durham County Council's cabinet member for transformation, culture and tourism, said: "Although the Durham Miners' Gala has not been able to take place this year in the way it traditionally would, the festival can still be celebrated with as much enjoyment with a host of online content that has been organised throughout the day.

Online celebrations for the Durham Miners' Gala can be watched at @DurhamMinersGala on Facebook and @DurhamGala on Twitter. Durham County Record Office's Miners' Gala exhibition will be available to view online at www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk/article/23726/Celebrating-Gala-Day-2020

The Home Learning Resource Pack, Child Miners, can be found at <http://www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk/article/23723/Home-Learning-The-Brass-Festival's-piece-The-Stories-of-Their-Banners>, will be available to view at www.brassfestival.co.uk/brasspost/will-todd-gala-gloria/

For more information about Durham County Record Office's services, visit www.durham.gov.uk/recordoffice



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Refurbishment to Transform Gala Theatre & Cinema

Front-of-house facilities at a popular Durham City theatre and cinema are to be transformed as the venue undergoes a refurbishment.

Work at Gala Theatre and Cinema will include improvements to the foyer, bar area and box office areas as well as the introduction of an updated till system.

The changes are being made to improve facilities for customers, creating more welcoming, inviting and fit-for-purpose public areas. The venue, in the city's Millennium Place, has been closed to visitors since March as a result of Government restrictions introduced to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The improvement works had been planned before the closure but have been delayed due to the pandemic. It is now hoped that the Gala will reopen to visitors in January 2021, Government coronavirus restrictions permitting.

Cllr Joy Allen, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for transformation, culture and tourism, said: "This investment is incredibly important. It will significantly improve the customer experience for everyone visiting Gala Theatre and Cinema and will, hopefully, bring in new visitors – something that is crucial to the venue's recovery from the impact of the coronavirus.

"We had already planned to close the venue to carry out the refurbishment. It is unfortunate that the additional closure due to the coronavirus pandemic means that visitors will now have to wait a little longer to return to Gala.

"Government guidance permitting, we are confident that the venue will be able to reopen in the New Year. I am sure customers will feel that the wait was well worth it with some fantastic new front-of-house facilities to welcome them back."

The closure will mean the theatre and cinema's full autumn programme has been cancelled, including the annual pantomime. This year's show, which was due to be Robin Hood, will now take place during Christmas 2021. The Gala Gallery will also remain closed.

Anyone who had purchased tickets for shows this year will be contacted regarding a refund or an alternative date if the

performance has been rescheduled. However, this may take some time, so customers are asked to be patient. The Empire Theatre, in Consett, will also remain closed for the rest of

the year, with plans for it to reopen in January 2021. Maintenance work at the venue had to be paused when coronavirus restrictions were introduced. Its annual Christmas show will also be moved to 2021.

Meanwhile, the council is looking at whether it is possible to reinstate some events and performances at Bishop Auckland Town Hall, which has also just undergone a significant refurbishment programme.

Many members of staff who normally work at the three sites were redeployed at the beginning of the pandemic and have provided invaluable support to vulnerable residents through the council's virtual community hub and other essential frontline services over recent months. Where this demand has now reduced, the council has placed staff on the Government furlough scheme.

Tickets for performances from January 2021 onwards at the Gala, Empire and Bishop Auckland Town Hall can be booked online at www.galadurham.co.uk, www.empireconsett.co.uk and www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk.

If you have tickets for a performance that was scheduled to take place during 2020, venue staff will contact you direct.



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Last week started with a good catch up with Hitachi who are joining forces on a scheme with Hyperdrive Tech from Sunderland to develop battery powered trains. This is an innovative beginning to the creation of a North East hub for battery technology which will assist with the governments Net Zero target and provide more employment to this area. I then attended a briefing meeting with Local Trust regarding our first full meeting of the APPG on Left Behind Neighbourhoods. On Thursday it was the BEIS select committee where we had the Secretary of State Alok Sharma joining us to be questioned on the work of the BEIS (Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy) department. He was joined by Sam Beckett who is the interim Permanent Secretary and two Director Generals, Joanna Whittington and Jo Shanmugalingham. We covered a number of subjects including Project Birch (which relates to specific business support); Support in local lockdowns (like Leicester); Commercial rent and business support; Pregnant women and Covid 19 work implications; 5 Business focus groups established by his department; the Green recovery agenda; Industrial Strategy and "Shovel ready projects"; Sunday Trading; COP 26; The energy White paper; Funding Research and Development; The Horizon enquiry into Sub Postmasters; Equality and Diversity within his department and more generally; reform of the audit market and supply chains that include exploited workers.

As you can see the brief of BEIS is incredibly wide. I was then able to join Rachel and David in the office as we start to organise ourselves as we await IT connectivity etc and we are looking to plan our summer as hopefully Covid 19 constraints continue to lift and we can get out and about more. If you would like us to visit your organisation or if you would like to meet us at the office please do get in touch.

I then had a meeting with Labour MPs around the project proposal to reopen the Leamside line and reconnect Ferryhill with Tyneside and Wearside. I was able to follow this with meetings on Monday with Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport, and then Chris Heaton-Harris, Minister for Rail, where I raised this further.

Tuesday saw the first meeting of the Left Behind Communities APPG which was very well supported with over 70 people joining us. We discussed the need to look at how we could drive support into these communities as they are at higher risk than most from the impacts of Covid 19 and it must be understood, were not in a good place even before the pandemic. I am determined to make sure this APPG delivers tangible actions and real improvements to these communities and is not just a 'talking shop'.

After the 23rd July, Parliament is in recess. This means that I am much more available in the constituency and hopefully, as Covid lifts, it will mean I can get out and about and see more of you.

Please remember that as we all get out more and resume some aspects of our normal routines it is still vitally important that we respect the virus and maintain as much social distance as we possibly can and, where appropriate, wear our face coverings.

Please also give your consideration to our key workers, some of them are also getting used to the additional PPE they are now wearing.

Stay Safe and look after each other,
Paul Howell, MP

Creative Summer Activities Planned to Showcase Hidden Heritage

A host of creative activities will be held virtually this summer to celebrate the heritage of a County Durham town.

From July to October 2020, the people of Bishop Auckland and beyond will be able to take part in five different online projects which aim to uncover memories, stories, crafts, people and places that reflect the history and heritage of the town.

In a partnership between Durham County Council's community arts team and the Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone, these five projects come together to make 'Hidden Bishop Auckland' which will run online throughout the summer.

Each creative project has been made in conjunction with local and regional artists. Due to restrictions in place, as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, the projects have been redeveloped and will be delivered online through social media and digital platforms.

The free projects have been designed to engage with people of all ages and abilities. For each activity, people can send in their creative submissions for a chance to be featured in this year's Bishop Auckland History and Heritage Festival, which will take place online in October, as well as displayed in an exhibition in 2022 in Bishop Auckland Town Hall. There will also be other activities as part of the festival to be announced soon.

'Hidden Stories', produced by artist Richard Bliss, will launch on 22 July. Participants can help Richard discover the history of the town hall and inspire the creation of a "workers shirt" in the style that would have been worn in the 1800s when the venue was built. People can join his virtual "town gatherings" via Zoom to hear a talk and share stories of the town hall, its more recent history, its origins and its links with music. Zoom places will be limited and can be booked via email to hiddenbishopauckland@durham.gov.uk

Richard will also be delivering short online workshop via social media on how to conserve your own heirlooms and artefacts and, for younger members of the family, how to make a puppet from old clothing.

'Hidden Gems', with photographer Lee Dobson, will launch on 1 August. Lee will be talking budding photographers through a series of engaging short tutorials online via social media, focusing on taking shots around Bishop Auckland's Heritage Action Zone area. People can then send in their images of local landmarks, building features and structures, based on a number of themes. Some images will be chosen to be included on one of 12 designs for digital postcards.

'Hidden Places in Faces', with artist Stu Langley, will launch on 20 July. For this project, Stu is asking people to take and submit some video footage of their favourite places in Bishop Auckland. Sending these in along with a photo of their head in profile, Stu will then animate a film which will celebrate places in faces. Stu will deliver a series of short social media tutorials using free to download apps which will help people digitally animate their own film.

'Hidden Crafts', by local arts organisation Daisy Arts, will launch online on 20 July. Daisy Arts will deliver a series of online short craft activity sessions created for both children and adults using different techniques and easily sourced materials and recycling. People can make a wildflower brooch, a pop-up structure, build a tower, try mosaic art and make a kite to fly.

There will also be a limited number of doorstep activity packs which can be delivered directly to homes and will include all the resources to make a Midsummer cushion. Activities will run in the summer holidays and during October half-term.

Hidden Bishop Auckland is funded through Durham County Council's Towns and Villages Fund and its community arts team, South Durham Enterprise Agency, and Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone, which is funded by Historic England and Durham County Council.

All entries from the projects should be sent to hiddenbishopauckland@durham.gov.uk. Entries should state the name of the project in the subject line of the email, for example, Hidden Gems. Photos and videos should have a person's first name and the initial of their surname as the file name. For more information about Hidden Bishop Auckland's summer activities, visit the project's Facebook page @BishopAucklandhaz and @BishopTownHall



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Building Society Marks Rail Anniversary by Keeping Profit-Share Pledge



A north east building society has promised to go on sharing its profits with local good causes for the next five years. Darlington Building Society has donated five per cent of its profits to support the community since 2017, helping a wide range of groups and initiatives.

Darlington Building Society normally reviews the pledge annually, but chief executive Andrew Craddock has announced that the Society will maintain the five per cent pledge until 2025 to tie in with the 200th anniversary of the world's first public railway between Stockton and Darlington.

Mr Craddock had planned to unveil the 'five per cent for five years' pledge to members at this year's annual general meeting. The meeting could not go ahead in the normal way, due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the promise was still made at a virtual event. The board is also exploring ways to top up the amount given to local communities during that period.

"The five per cent pledge is close to our hearts, so we want it to continue despite all the challenges. Our communities still need our help so that financial support will remain in place, not just annually, but for the next five years," says Mr Craddock.

Staff volunteering is also a big part of Darlington Building Society's community commitment and that has also been reinforced during the Covid-19 crisis.

At the start of the lockdown, the Society promised staff they would be kept on full pay even though some have been working part-time due to the challenges posed by the pandemic. They were encouraged to use that spare capacity to help their local communities, and a large number signed up to volunteer for the NHS.

As a southerner, being born and raised in Buckinghamshire, Mr Craddock has been impressed by the strength of community spirit in the North-East – and the response of the staff at Darlington Building Society is typical of that sense of togetherness.

"We are all going through difficult times, but it is the acts of kindness, and the way people are looking out for each other, that have been so inspiring," he says. "That is particularly evident in the North-East – and I'm proud that Darlington Building Society is playing its full part and has remained open for business throughout."

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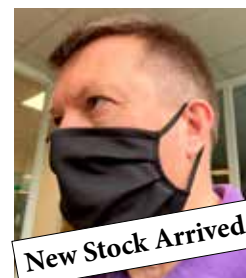
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Acknowledgement

Marilyn Storey

Laurance, Andrea & Gemma, the family of the late Marilyn wish to express their thanks for the many cards and telephone calls received during this sad time. Many thanks go to Dr Melanie Pritchard of Peaseway Surgery, the nurses of Ward 42 at Darlington Memorial Hospital, to Rev Daniel Hudson of St Clares Church, who has been so kind and understanding, and to Gillian Cogan of Co-op Funeralcare in Newton Aycliffe for all of her assistance over the last few weeks.

Good Luck

Liam Wynn

Good luck Liam on your new adventure. We will miss you. Love, Nana and all the family

Birthday Remembrance

Paul Stevens 20th July

Since you can't be with us today, then we will just close our eyes and imagine that we are celebrating your 50th birthday with you. Love and miss you always. Mam, Dad, Julie and Family xxx

Licensing

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

MT Haulage Ltd. of St Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6XW is applying to change an existing licence to use St Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6XW as an operating centre for 12 vehicles and 12 trailers. 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. 17th July 2020

In Memoriam

Jenny Toole

Died 14th July 2019

In loving memory of a wonderful Mother, Mother-in-Law, Nana, Great Nana and Aunt. Love and miss you every day. Maureen, Christine, Karen and families

Lawrence Brumwell Died 15th July 1987

Always remembered and forever loved. God bless. Jeannette, Owen, Carl and family

Kirsty Sheila Hughes 22/9/1986 - 18/7/2017

God saw you were getting tired and a cure was not to be. So he put His arms around you and whispered come to me. With tearful eyes we watched you and saw you pass away. Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, he only takes the best. Always in our thoughts, love you always Kirsty. Mam and Dad

Obituary

Dennis Compton

Of School Aycliffe. Peacefully at home on July 13th aged 77 years. A much loved Husband to Yvonne; Father of Paul, Peter and Robert also a Grandad and Great Grandad. Funeral Service to take place at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Friday 24th July at 10.30am.

Ada & Dick Hutson Mam 4/4/27-5/6/07 Dad 19/4/29-18/7/13

Because you are both always thought about in such a special way, because you always did so much to brighten up each day and because you cared for others selflessly you whole life through, we say a little prayer each day especially for you. The Heaven will protect you both and will somehow let you know that you both meant so much to us and that we miss you both. Forever in our hearts. Your loving family xx

Funeral Cards

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Volunteer and Help at Darlington FC

Darlington FC is a Club with its roots at the heart of its local community. The role that Darlington FC plays in the lives of many different groups of people across the town cannot be underestimated and it provides interest, passion and enjoyment for thousands of supporters. The Club is run almost exclusively by a dedicated band of volunteers – without them we would struggle to operate at our current level. All volunteers are as important as each other to the function of our Club. Some are lifelong supporters of the Club, others are not, but all have a passion to be part of something that makes a positive impact on the lives of others. Volunteering can be extremely rewarding and is a great way to meet new people and put your skills to use for the greater good. At Darlington FC it comes in all shapes and sizes.

Coronavirus Recovery Study

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust is part of the new Durham Tees Valley Research Alliance along with South Tees and North Tees NHS Foundation Trusts, and has been recruiting patients for the national COVID-19 research trial which has made a major breakthrough in the fight against the virus.

Almost 100 patients cared for by CDDFT agreed to take part in the RECOVERY study, a national clinical trial aiming to identify treatments that may be beneficial for people hospitalised with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Across the Alliance, nearly 500 patients from the region have entered the study.

James Limb, Director of Research and Innovation, explains, "Three months ago, there were no known treatments for COVID-19. The RECOVERY Trial, led by Oxford University and set up in record time at the start of the pandemic, is testing seven potential treatments and, thanks to the willingness of patients recruited to the study and the work of our teams, we've been contributing vital data. Nationally, nearly 12000 patients are part of the trial." "Recently, it was announced that the trial has identified a clear survival benefit to giving a

daily dose of a drug called dexamethasone to any patient ill enough with COVID-19 to need oxygen or ventilation. The significance of this result is enormous – dexamethasone is inexpensive, well-tolerated, easily available, and it is the first drug anywhere to show an improvement in survival for COVID patients. The actual results show a one third reduction in deaths in patients ill enough to be on a ventilator, and a one fifth reduction in those needing oxygen."

"Whilst all hospitalised COVID-19 patients should be considered for dexamethasone, the RECOVERY trial is continuing to test other potential treatments for COVID including convalescent plasma from survivors, and tocilizumab, a drug which alters the immune response. Another six COVID-19 trials are also underway in our hospitals, as well as a range of trials for other conditions. We encourage all patients to take part in research – their help plays an important part in improving medical care."

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Mike Amos' Book A Worthy Read

Dear Sir,
It was good to see the article about the autobiography of perhaps the region's best known local journalist in last week's Newton News. Mike Amos has devoted his working life writing about the people and places that make this area so special, firstly in The Evening Despatch and then The Northern Echo.

Myself, writing this from the wrong side of 50, I remember the often soaking wet paper boy delivering the morning title to my parents' home 6 days a week so that we could read our local and national news. The articles written on various subjects by Mike were important to the fabric of the paper. A publication I still don't like to miss each day. When I read of this book, which has been self published by Mike and contains many colour photos in its 390 glossy pages, I decided to email Mike and jump in the car to personally collect my copy. A man I had never met welcomed me and exchanged my crispy new tenner for an autographed copy of his memoir.

The book, and I am only around two thirds of the way through, is most enjoyable, packed with memories and warm words and phrases that I too grew up with. I am toying with the idea of further copies for relatives. It's hard to believe that, in this strange year, Christmas is just a few months away. Anyone with a now elderly relative that reads would love this.

As stated in the article last week, the author can be contacted mikeamos81@aol.com
Darren Clarke

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