Newton News

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Honest John's Charity Finally Closes

After delays due to the lockdown, Honest John's charity (John's Aycliffe Community Kitty) can now finally be closed.

On Tuesday 28th July Val and Roger (charity trustees) presented a cheque for £3445.16 to the Spennymoor branch of the P.D.S.A. (People's Dispensary for Sick Animals). This figure is the funds which were left in the charity account. As per the terms of the Charity Commission, any remaining funds, when a charity closes, must be paid to another registered charity.

As an animal lover, particularly cats, John chose the P.D.S.A. in his will.

Beverley Colling, the P.D.S.A. branch manager, was delighted and quite overwhelmed with John's legacy and would like to assure the people of Newton Aycliffe that it will be spent wisely caring for sick animals in our area.

Finally, Val and Roger would again wish to thank everyone in Newton Aycliffe who supported John and his charity work over the years and for their continued support since he died.

Newton News FOLLOW US ON SIMPLY SEARCH newton-news

Challenge Plastic Waste at this Reliable 'Plastic Free Shop'

This new online shop, created by a mother daughter duo, with the goal to make your plastic free life easy and hassle free.

The Plastic Free Planet has been created to combat the fight against plastic pollution. Formed to encourage the purchase of plastic free products, ensuring no more plastic is being added into circulation around the planet. The variety of plastic free products sold on this online shop are all UK based, warranting a reduced carbon footprint. This reduction comes from cutting down on the distance the products travel from their creation up to delivery to the customer.

When asked what resulted in the creation of The Plastic Free Planet, Georgia Windross, the co-founder, said "Through my own personal research, I have painstakingly found not all plastic free products are that, often non-recyclable plastic is used. On my search to finding affordable UK plastic free products for everyday use I quickly realised I wasn't the only one searching for a website where all these products are readily available."

This online shop provides a variety of products from a great team of suppliers all with similar

you can easily incorporate plastic free products into your everyday life. The sad truth is, if nothing is done now to reduce plastic waste the issue is only going to spiral further out of control. According to a new report on the future of the seas, ocean plastic is set to triple by 2025. This speaks

the importance of this online shop, created

environmental goals. This powerful team

provides you with quality items that ensure



to make changing to a plastic free lifestyle affordable and attainable for all people.



We are delighted to start our Sunday Lunches again on Sunday 2nd August

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Cancer Care Centre of Excellence

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

The facilities at Darlington Memorial Hospital are no longer providing patients with the space and dignity they need and deserve during treatments. A planned new unit will be four times bigger.

To donate to this appeal please donate via phone to: 01325 743781 or by BACS to: CDDFT Charity Sort Code: 60-70-80 Account: 10011056.



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Guest Speaker at Rotary Zoom Meeting

Last week the speaker for our Rotary Zoom meeting was lan Mills who is a trustee of the charity Abraham's Children in Crisis (ACIC), a small organisation working in the Holy Land to support the welfare, education and medical needs of

Many live with extreme poverty and could face abandonment, family breakdown or the death of one or both parents. The physical and psychological damage can be heart-breaking and to deal with such challenges the charity has advisers both in the UK and in the Holy Land who are qualified and experienced in the care of children in the area in which the charity seeks to give support.

After 10 years in Cleveland Police, lan went to work in the chaplaincy at Durham Prison where he met our very own Mike Dixon. A theological trip with Mike led to an interest in the welfare of children in Israel and Palestine and on returning home, lan contacted a charity in Newcastle, became a trustee and made many visits to Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Since 2011, Ian has spent half of the year







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in the Holy Land and the other half in the UK trying to raise funds and awareness of the plight of affected children and in 2014, along with friends, lan formed Abraham's Children in Crisis. They are still going strong although coronavirus has meant that they are mostly unable to give talks or fundraise in the usual ways. lan told us, "many children live with feelings of hopelessness and to be able to offer hope and see the smiles is worth everything".

If anyone would like to know more about their work, lan would be happy to respond at ianmills1959@gmail.com or if you would like to become a sponsor, you can find details on the website: www.acincrisis.weebly.com

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HARDWICK HALL SUMMER EVENTS 2020

Hardwick Hall Hotel in County Durham has revealed plans to host a full Outdoor Summer Sessions programme on certain days between 21 August and 13 September. And it means anyone who has missed their favourite festivals and performers because of COVID-19 can now get their music fix – in a unique socially distanced way.

The hotel has put together a whole programme of family friendly events where attendees will be able to book a social distanced booth for up to six people. The announcement about the events has been made following weeks of working on a detailed plan to ensure that all attendees are kept safe. Measures put in place include a strict one way system, limited access around



the site, food and drink delivered directly after being ordered via a special app, multiple hand sanitisation stations, staggered arrival and departure times to maintain distancing and designated toilets areas. The sessions will include performances by singers including Heather Small, Gabrielle, George Michael tribute act Rob Lamberti and a whole host of big name DJs, meaning that music fans can still enjoy the experience of an outdoor show. The programme also includes the return of the much-loved Oyster Festival in a new format. Options for attendees include booking a picnic bench complete with its own umbrella for up to six people, with a number of private dining pods available for anyone wanting to enjoy the experience in style.

'To Rebut a Couple of Accusations'



Dear Sir,

A letter last week asked if you could trust your MP. I hope to prove you can, but it is always easy to criticise from behind a cloak of anonymity. I wonder why the writer felt this was necessary, possibly so they won't have to admit their mistakes?

To rebut a couple of accusations:

Yes, I said I would stand down from my Councillor positions and this was scheduled to happen in time for the May elections. My decision on this timing was to save the council the cost of running a separate election when they already planned one in May for the PCVC. I have previously stated that the allowances I received in this time would be donated to charity and this is happening, I have some funds left if anyone wants to suggest causes.

Once the coronavirus lockdown began all local elections were paused, meaning that if I stood down a replacement could not be selected. I therefore took the decision to delay standing down until this changes to leave residents with representation in place. I fully recognise the limitations of filling multiple roles so I have declined allowances since April. It is now unlikely that local elections will take place before the all out Durham County Council elections next May. With regard to claims about my voting record and the NHS, we could not have been clearer in all communication on the planned trade deals that the NHS is not on the table.

What we have is a constant tirade of unfounded allegations, typically from members of the Labour Party who themselves drove PFI initiatives which massively undermined NHS finances.

Remember that any trade agreements with the USA and other countries will be completed well before the next elections. So, if we don't hold to those commitments the opportunity for reckoning will be then.

I will continue to do my best to represent the people of Sedgefield, it's just a shame that some people are more intent on deliberately misrepresenting what I do or say. If anyone wants to meet to discuss anything we now have our office operational and you can make an appointment by emailing me on paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

The hotel is even offering its own double decker bus with an upper deck which can also be booked privately for a group.

The sessions kick off on Friday 21 August with two of the UK's top tribute bands – Coldplay UK and The Jam'd.

The following night Heather Small – the voice of M People – will be live in concert along with DJs Norman Jay and Graeme Park, while Sunday 23 August will be a fund-raising event with a ladies day in aid of the Angel Trust.

The hotel has also organised two kids' festival events – one on Monday 24 August which will be an Ariana Grande tribute act and on Thursday 27 August which will feature Diva Mix.

Friday 28 August will be time to sing a long to the Kroud Karaoke Night, while the following evening George Michael tribute act Rob Lamberti will host Club Tropicana along with DJ Murray Mint. The Manor Born Garden Party is planned for 30 August, with performances by Alison Limerick and DJs Jeremy Healy, Danny Rampling, Michael Johnson and Tony Hutchinson.

The following day Disney turns up at the hotel for two special Bank Holiday Monday events with Fairytale, taking place at 11am and then again at 3pm.

Top singer Gabrielle will be live in concert on Friday 4 September, with a complete change of pace the following day with the Angel Trust's Drag Race Bingo. On Sunday 6 September, visitors can enjoy a Proms in the Park afternoon tea.

On 11 September the hotel will also host its annual Oyster Festival again in private booths, with performances by Boyzlife, Emerald Thieves and Crackpot.

And the sessions will end on 13 September, with an event in aid of the Red Sky Foundation, the Red Sky White Party which will feature DJs Brandon Block and Storm.

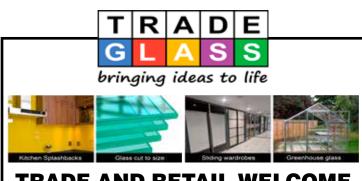
John Adamson, owner of Hardwick Hall, believes the events programme will be widely welcomed. "Everyone has felt the loss of not being to enjoy any live entertainment for the past four months and been disappointed that major festivals have been cancelled. We've worked really hard to put together a fantastic programme of events with someone for everyone and at really reasonable prices. At the same time we have put in place a detailed plan to ensure that social distancing is maintained and that these events are taking place in a safe environment."

Tickets for all the events – which vary in price - Tickets are on sale now. For further information/tickets prices or to book go to www.hardwickhallhotel.co.uk



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Bishop of Jarrow to Chair National Situations VACANT **Young Vocations Scheme**

The Bishop of Jarrow is to take on the role of chairing the Church of England's 'Ministry Experience Scheme' (MES). In the Dioceses of Durham, the scheme is helping young people from all walks of life across the North East find their way to ordained and lay ministry by allowing them to volunteer for one year and experience ministry in the community.

The scheme gives 18s-30s, from all backgrounds, space and time to test God's calling on their lives. It offers the chance to experience practical ministry, enrich theological understanding and further personal development, all with ongoing support from peers and supervisors. In Durham, the scheme goes under the banner 'Ministery Experience Volunteers' (MEV) emphasising the importance of volunteering as part of the process of people discerning their call to God's ministry. Bishop Sarah said: "I was pleased to be asked because, in my first 14 months here in Durham Diocese, I've recognised how pivotal through our scheme has been in increasing our numbers of young people going forward to ministry training.
"This is a perfect fit for me personally

because I've always been passionate about young vocations and seeing young people in contexts that represent the breadth of society discern God's call on their life. It's also a good fit for me as the sponsoring Bishop overseeing the selection and training of those going forward for ordination and lay ministry, seeking to enable women and men to be shaped and equipped for life long ministry serving both church and local communities."

Vic Wilson, the MES programme Manager for the Church of England, said: "I am excited that Bishop Sarah has agreed to take on the role of steering group chair, at this time, as MES looks to push forward, with some new central funding, to help many more young adults discover their vocation in life for the benefit of the whole church."

In 2019-20 nationally there were 25 schemes involving over 100 participants, 10 of which were in the Diocese of Durham, spread across seven regional locations, Bishop Auckland; Stockton; Durham City; Washington; East Durham; Sunderland and Hartlepool. In 2020 - 21 the plan is that the scheme will have a total of twelve. Bishop Sarah added: "You will have seen the announcement of 6 people going forward for ordination training from St Nics in Durham recently. The news is fantastic, but even more so when you factor in those coming through to ordination from



other MEV locations such as Sunderland. Easington, Wheatley Hill & Wingate. For the first time, in 2022 and 2023 the Diocese of Durham will have enough people leaving training to meet our own needs and also support the wider Church of England in ministry.'

The Rt Revd Sarah Clark, Bishop of Jarrow takes over chairing the scheme from The Rt Revd Philip North, Bishop of Burnley who previously served as vicar in Hartlepool until

To Wear A Face **Mask Or Not?**

I would like to share with your paper my confusion about the wearing of face masks in shops.

The government has stated that it is not compulsory for shop floor workers to wear a mask but the customers must. So, I wonder if it's fine for shop workers not to wear them then they must be immune to the virus and unable to pass it onto the rest of the workforce and the public at large, and, assuming that, when they visit other outlets of a different type of shop then by the government's reasoning they do not need to wear masks because they work in the retail

Does anyone else have a view on this? Wilko staff do not seem to be wearing any protection, yet in Tesco's all the staff are using visors and/or masks, even the Ladbrook girl was using a visor and she was outside the shop! Well done to them. Confused? You bet!

Kind regards, Fred of Garburn Place

Cleaner Required

Immediate start at Cobblers Hall pub Thursday to Monday, 8am to 10am. Please apply in writing by Wednesday 5th August, 12noon Contact: 01325 315899 Email:

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NEW VENUE

NEW FRIENDS, NEW PLACES, charity number 1141788, is a group for older people, which was started in 2008 for those interested to come and enjoy themselves, meet new people, socialise and visit places of interest.

We are moving our weekly meetings to the Big Club, Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe.

We invite new members to come along and join us every Tuesday from 2.00pm until 4.30pm, starting Tuesday 4th August. To any older person who has never visited our group, they will find us very welcoming. All government rules and regulations have been strictly adhered to with regards to social distancing.

For more information ring 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

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Annual Survey Asks to Check Your Voter Information Works Complete at Key

Households in County Durham are being asked to check if the voter information for their home is correct.

Elections will be taking place in May next year, therefore it is important that residents make sure they are able to take part. As part of Durham County Council's annual canvass, households will soon receive a pack asking them to check the information currently held on the electoral register.

Although the majority of households will not have to take action this year if their details are correct, it is important that everyone follows the instructions in the pack that will be arriving in the post over the

David Collingwood, Durham County Council's electoral services manager, said: "It is important that residents keep an eye out for messages so that we can make sure we have the right details on the electoral register for every address in County Durham. Elections are taking place next year and for everyone to have their say, the electoral register must be accurate.

People who have moved recently are particularly encouraged to look out for the voter registration messages and check the details. It's estimated that 36 per cent of people who have lived at an address for less than one year will be registered.

If you have recently moved or your details are not included on the form, you can go online to register at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. For more information, call 03000 261 212 or email electoralservices@durham.gov.uk



£5.5 Million Infrastructure **Employment Site**



Multimillion-pound infrastructure works at a site, which is primed for a key role in County Durham's economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, are now complete.

The improvements, at junction 61 of the A1(M), at Bowburn, will significantly improve access to the Integra 61 development, which is set to become a premier industrial and logistics location, as well as addressing longstanding congestion and safety issues.

The 205-acre site, owned and being developed by Citrus Group, will provide three million sq ft of high quality industrial and logistics space as well as 270 residential properties, a hotel, nursery and roadside retail units

The £5.5 million junction improvement scheme has been carried out by Durham County Council and jointly funded by the authority, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Highways England. The investment has already helped attract online retailer Amazon, which earlier this month announced plans to open its second north east fulfilment centre at the site, bringing more than one thousand permanent new jobs to the area.

Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, said: "Integra 61 is one of a number of key employment sites around County Durham which have the potential to attract international investors and bring more and better jobs to the north east. Located next to the A1(M), the site already offered excellent connections to the wider region and beyond, but these improvements were essential in order to make the site viable for major investors.

"Growing the economy has always been one of the council's key priorities but, as we work towards rebuilding the economy following the coronavirus pandemic, it is now more important than ever. Sites such as Integra 61 are essential to the county's economic future.

The council has worked closely with Citrus Group, the North East LEP and Highways England during the 14-month highways project, which has seen the widening of the junction from two lanes to five and changes to the layout of the A688.

David Cullingford, leading the project for the Citrus Group, said: "After seven years plus in the making, seeing the development now coming to fruition is hugely exciting and the fact that Amazon has recognised the attractions of the site underpins our own confidence in the location and aspiration to create the north east's premier industrial and logistics

"The support we have had throughout from the county council, the North East LEP, the local community and other stakeholders has been fantastic and demonstrates what can be achieved by working together in partnership.

For more information about the Integra 61 site, visit http://www. durham.gov.uk/junction61 or www.integra61.co.uk





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Council's Digital Transformation Leads to Awards Shortlist

Durham County Council has been shortlisted for the Digital Transformation category in The MJ Awards 2020, which recognises achievement in local government.

It follows the council's efforts to bring more services online, improve the quality and choice of those digital services and help its communities to thrive in a digital world.

There are now more than 120 council services available online, allowing residents more flexibility over when and how they can engage with the council.

Additionally, many of its business processes have been updated to reflect advances in digital technology, allowing mobile working, reduced travelling and fewer paper records.

The council is also helping its communities to become more digital by increasing the coverage of super-fast broadband and supporting more residents to get digitally connected.

Cllr Andrea Patterson, Cabinet member for corporate services and rural issues, said: "It is fantastic that we've been shortlisted for a national award, which recognises our effort to improve and enhance our digital services. It is thanks to the dedication and commitment of our staff and partners working together that has made this possible. They have embraced new technologies, adapted working practices to offer greater flexibility and strengthened our service offer." Cllr Joy Allen, Cabinet member for transformation, culture and tourism, said: "Sixty-five per cent of our customers now make their service requests online, highlighting how important it is that we use technology to improve the quality of our services and work in better and smarter ways to support our residents. As we continue to innovate those services, we can continue to provide the best digital offers to all residents, businesses and visitors to the county." The winners of The MJ Awards 2020 will be announced at a virtual awards ceremony, which takes place in October.



ROF59 Rear Field Saturday 8th August 2020

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County Durham Welcomes Investment for Bridge Headed for **Northern Rail Upgrades**

Durham County Councillor Carl Marshall has welcomed an announcement from government to invest in upgrading rail services in the North.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has announced £600 million worth of investment in northern rail networks, with £589 million allocated to upgrading and electrifying the Transpennine main line between Leeds, Huddersfield and Manchester.

The investment will also see the creation of a new Northern Transport Acceleration Council which will give northern leaders a 'direct line' to ministers in accelerating transport projects and connecting the North's towns and cities.

Cllr Carl Marshall, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economic regeneration and board member for Transport for the North, welcomed today's announcement as an opportunity to work closer with ministers to highlight where rail improvements are most needed.

However, Cllr Marshall added that more investment is still needed for North East rail services to stop the region from falling behind other areas in the North.

He said: "Today's announcement is a good start towards investment in rail infrastructure in the North. This upgrade will hopefully lead towards a more reliable train service and an establishment of better timetables. I look forward to the opportunity to work closely with ministers in the creation of the new transport council.

"However, today's announcement is primarily focused on upgrades to North West rail services. While this is beneficial to the whole of the North's rail infrastructure, this needs to be followed up by further investment in the North East and the East Coast Main Line. I am urging the government to make an announcement in Autumn regarding improvements to the East Coast Main Line, which the North East so desperately needs to avoid slipping further behind the North West.'

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World's First Iron Railway Locomotion in Shildon



Locomotion in Shildon, County Durham, has re-opened to the public, after being closed since 17 March because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Locomotion is the first museum in the Science Museum Group to open after lockdown, and will be followed by the National Railway Museum in York on 4 August.

As part of preparing for re-opening, the museum at Shildon has introduced some significant changes designed to keep the site safe and comfortable. Visitors will be required to book a timed slot in advance. Tickets are free and available from the museum's website, and overall visitor numbers will be limited each day to avoid overcrowding.

It is also marked by the announcement that the world's first iron railway bridge will be returning to County Durham for permanent display at the Shildon museum. Locomotion is a hugely important gathering place, and a source of great pride for the people of Shildon, a small town that can rightly call itself the 'cradle of the railways'. Designed by renowned railway pioneer George Stephenson, Gaunless Bridge is the first iron railway bridge in the world. Built in 1823 in Newcastle upon Tyne, the bridge spanned the River Gaunless in West Auckland, County Durham, on the Stockton & Darlington Railway, a location just a short distance from Shildon.

The bridge was dismantled in 1901 and carefully preserved. It was later rebuilt for an exhibition commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Stockton & Darlington Railway in 1925 and then became a centrepiece of the North Eastern Railway's museum which opened in York in 1927. The bridge was moved to its current location in York as part of the development of the National Railway Museum which opened in 1975. The move of the Gaunless Bridge to Locomotion is the latest addition

to an ambitious conservation project effort, including the preservation of a series of important historic buildings for future generations to enjoy. In total, seven buildings are being preserved, including railway cottages, the goods shed and parcel office. The buildings are a fantastic asset to the Locomotion site and add to the rich history of the area in terms of connections with the Stockton & Darlington Railway, Timothy Hackworth, and the development of the railways. As well as preserving its historic buildings, a £4.5m plan will see the construction of a new, 4,000m2 'Building Two', close to the existing visitor centre which will almost double the amount of covered space available to the public. The building will house up to 50 vehicles from the national collection, bringing the total number of rail vehicles at

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Aycliffe Radio Drive In Music Events at ROF59

Aycliffe Radio have, so far, arranged three successful 'Drive In' events at ROF59 rear field with near capacity sell outs each time. The latest was on Saturday 25th July, an Ibiza House Party, and although we did not enjoy glorious sunshine, the four DJs put on a great show entertaining those who attended.

Forthcoming events include:

8th August - Cheesy Pop Party from 6-10pm 15th August - 90s & 00s Dance Anthems 2, 5-10pm 22/23rd August - Majestic Theatre pantomime

29th August - Special Event for Key Workers - watch this space

30th August - Punk Rock Day 2 from 1-10pm

See page 7 for more information or visit www.ayclifferadio.co.uk Photography by Pink Fairy Captures









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6-8pm **Evening Session** JimJams Rock the House Carl Booth 8-9pm 9-10pm Retro Trance Mix OZ-DJ 10-12am Street 'n' Drum 'n' Bass MC Supa Night Club Session 12-2am Α ΠΙ

SUNDAY

9-10am Church Service Xcel Centre Yesterdays Music Today Alan Brown 10-11am 11-12pm Mystery Year Paul Baker 12-2pm Country & Americana Show David Ringer

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Bear Blues Show Colin & Monica 2-4pm 4-6pm Folk/Celtic/Rock Show Steve & Col 6-7.30pm Jazz Time Mike Dixon 10-12am Paul's Down Time Paul Kienstad

MONDAY to FRIDAY DAILY

10-12am Golden Years A to Z of Pop (Mon, Tues & Wed) 12-1pm 12-1pm Call Me No 1 (Tues & Thurs) 1-2pm Memory Lane Afternoon Aycliffe 2-4pm

MONDAY

6-7pm 60s Show 7-8pm 70s Show 8-9pm 80s Show 9-10pm 90s Show 10-11pm 00s Show 11-12am Teens Show

THESNAV

Mystery Year 6-7pm 7.30-9.30pm Northern & Classic Soul

WEDNESDAY 6-7.30pm

8-10pm Alternative Aycliffe **THURSDAY**

6-8pm 8-10pm

The List BeatRoote FRIDAY 6-8nm

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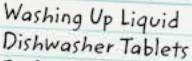


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A Helping Hand for Durham Foodbank from Lucite International

A £5,000 donation is helping Durham Foodbank carry on its vital work supporting some of the area's most vulnerable people with safe and secure access to food.

The donation came on behalf of Lucite International (LI), whose Newton Aycliffe site employs over 70 people, as part of a series of donations across Europe to support some of the causes most affected by COVID-19's impact.

Durham Foodbank's Newton Aycliffe centre is based at St Clare's Church and has been running since 2012, while another 27 distribution centres operate throughout County Durham.

The service was nominated by LI's Newton Aycliffe site in June – home of the company's Specialty Polymers & Resins team – as a result of its volunteers' tireless efforts giving out over 100 food parcels per month, which were maintained during a tough time where volunteer numbers halved as a result of shielding measures and periods of self-isolation.





major projects.

Jackie said: "Last year, 19,470 parcels were given out in total from all of the Foodbank's centres and one third of these were for children. As well as being a Foodbank, they are also offering other services during this period such as financial advice.

"The volunteers told me they often receive food donations from people who have used their service in the past and are now back on their feet and want to give something in return as a thank you! "Everyone involved with the Foodbank was delighted and so very grateful for our donation. It was so nice to be able to see for myself what they do and a pleasure to be able to give a donation to such a worthy cause."





Last Tuesday in Westminster I attended a briefing regarding the new Covid related powers for local authorities to be able to facilitate a snap shutdown if their local area becomes a hotspot. These are quite far reaching powers for local authorities and obviously we don't want our area to have to undergo such an exercise, but it was good to be made aware of the plans and approach. It is very important to the more of us that we all stay mindful of Covid prevention measures, wash our hands regularly and wear masks whenever

On Wednesday I had a meeting with the Chief Whip and I also attended a consultation on the Gender Recognition Act. On Wednesday evening I took part in the last meeting of the 1922 Committee before recess, where the Prime Minister took the opportunity to speak with us.

On Thursday morning I was back in the Constituency office to meet a local business owner. We can now meet residents in the office, obviously with social distancing procedures in place, so if any residents would prefer to do so, please do get in touch with us and we will gladly book you in. Thursday afternoon I attended a meeting with officers from Durham County Council during which I again pressed for urgent action and support on the issues within our area with rural broadband access. This was followed by a conservative MPs' team meeting with our Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen, discussing some of the excellent initiatives for local growth and employment that he and his staff are progressing.

As Covid is now allowing we are having more local meetings. Now that the restrictions have lifted a little it is good to be able to have some more "in person" meetings with residents and be able to visit them, whilst email and telephone contact is good, some issues are definitely best addressed by attending in person and seeing for yourself what needs to be done.

Inspector Sarah Honeyman met with us in our office to give us an update on Newton Aycliffe policing. As part of our remit for the Constituency we have started regular meetings with all Neighbourhood Police officers to keep up to date on the wideranging policing matters within our communities. I also attended a meeting with the Newton Aycliffe Town Centre Manager, Paul Smith, and our neighbourhood PCSO officers where we discussed some of the works undertaken recently by the landlords, including new security fencing and other safety measures. I also visited Kromek on the Sedgefield NetPark business park. I am always amazed by the high tec work undertaken at NetPark and every visit is fascinating. My Office Manager Rachel and I visited constituents with various different issues in Wingate, Trimdon and Wheatley Hill. On my return to the office I had a quick turn around after some further telephone calls and visited Play Café at The Big Club with my newest staff member Joe to help out. Whilst I was there I became a member of the Big Club, so hopefully I might well see some of you there for a pint over recess! It was brilliant to see the bar open again after all the refurbishment work the team have done during lockdown.

The government's Eat Out to Help Out scheme begins next week, if you can take advantage of this please do. There is an App launched by government which shows which establishments in your postcode area are taking part and local businesses will also advertise if they are in the scheme. I know that they would be very grateful for customers to take advantage of this scheme if possible. As ever I must remind everyone to remember to take every precaution with regard to Coronavirus. We must, if at all possible, try to avoid a second wave or local hotspot. Please remember your social distancing, hand washing and remember we must now wear masks in most retail premises, unless exempt.

Best Wishes and Stay Safe,

Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

Parliament Artists Inspire Exhibition at Greenfield Arts

Greenfield Arts are connecting with the community and have commissioned a number of professional artists to take part in a series of inspirational videos. The artist videos form part of a call out for our new online exhibition, Made at Home, but are also a unique and thought-provoking insight into the work and lives of three professionals during these times.

Greenfield Arts hopes to inspire creativity and explore ideas with the wider community and support ways to reflect upon experiences over the last few weeks. The exhibition gives an opportunity to express ourselves by using what we may have learned or noticed in



recent months and the initial response has been excellent. The video series begins with artist Bethan Maddocks, a visual artist who is working as artist in residence at Greenfield Arts. Bethan describes how she works with paper, the materials she uses and the thoughts behind her work, creating a mobile reflecting the many aspects of life in 'lockdown'.

Elaine Vizor, professional photographer, gives a personal account of her own work and experiences, sharing her inspirations, the simple materials taken 'from home' and examples of the wonderful results that can be achieved.

The final video features artist Jilly Johnston who takes a hands-on approach and explores the ways she has branched out during this time. The piece includes hints and tips with a workshop approach, sharing skills as Jilly creates her illustration online.

If you would like to know more about the online series and exhibition please visit our website where you can find out about Greenfield Arts and join our mailing list. Closing date for online exhibition entries is Friday 31 July. You can also access our newsletters via social media on our Facebook and Twitter pages. Contact our team on info@ greenfield-arts.co.uk for further details.

Change of Name

MEN TALKING TOGETHER have changed the name of the centre to "THE COSY CABIN" instead of The Big Shed, which is located in Unit 14A I.E.S. Centre, DL5 6DR (behind Screwfix/Crafters Companion and only 5 minutes walk from Simpasture shops, behind Newton Press on the original UMM site). Our next get together is on Monday 3rd August from 11.00am to 1.00pm.

There is plenty of car parking space or if you would like to be picked up for you first visit, please ring 07967 901477 or 01325 308094. We visited Seaton Carew for fish and chips last week and are to take a trip to Preston Park next week. We encourage members to recommend places to visit, using the Community Mini Bus. One of our members quoted "If you are at a loose end with nothing to do, come and join us".

There are pies, sausage rolls, cakes, as well as tea/coffee - all FREE. Others from outside of Newton Aycliffe are also very welcome. Ring 07967 901477 / 308094 for more information.



Paul Howell Member of Parthament for Sedrefield

paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk Telephone: 020 7219 6385 Mobile: 07464 898442



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BINCHESTER ROMAN FORT SET TO REOPEN

A popular history attraction near Bishop Auckland is set to reopen after closing due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Binchester Roman Fort, a popular summer day out for families and history buffs, was forced to closed because of the outbreak. The site, which includes a well-preserved Roman fort dating back to 75AD, is now opening the doors to the past once again from Saturday 1 August.

Opening times will be shorter than usual, every day between 10.30am and 4pm.

Measures are in place for adhering to Government guidelines on coronavirus. The site will offer extra facilities for hand sanitation, contactless card payments, and one-way systems.

David Mason, principal archaeologist at Durham County Council, said: "We are extremely pleased to be welcoming visitors back to this fascinating site. Things will be a little different to usual as we try and ensure the safety of staff and visitors. There will be no reenactment events this season and we cannot allow large groups of people at this time. We would ask people to keep two metres apart from those not in their household and wash their hands before and after their visit.

"Despite these new measures, Binchester remains a great day out and we will be thrilled to welcome people back."

To find out more or plan a visit, go to www.durham.gov.uk/binchester





Greenfield Students are Ready to Return



Greenfield Community College students will be returning to school in September to return to full time face-to-face lessons with their teachers as they prepare for their next steps. There will be a phased return, with each year group being provided with a day to return to school. Safety measures will be in place and the school will be following guidelines.

Please check our website for further updates and advice www. greenfieldschool.net

Greenfield Community College are committed to supporting young people and providing high quality learning experiences that help students to be the best that they can be. The school will continue to offer its broad and balanced curriculum that gives students opportunities to reach their full potential. Greenfield Community College is a specialist Arts and Science school with a strong record in developing the achievements of every student; establishing a solid grounding in core subjects whilst also allowing for diversity, continually excelling in subjects such as Photography, Dance and PE. The school is proud of its extended provision through the work of Greenfield Arts and Greenfield Sports.

Students have been supported during lockdown with a wide range of online resources, expert teaching and support with a consistent and well thought out supply of printed packs and resources. Students have been able to access school networks and retain a continual dialogue with their teachers. The school has been recognised as a regional winner by GCSE Pod for its student engagement and learning during this period, as well as a recent award for student voice and recognition from Inspire, for supporting student wellbeing.

Students have been excelling in many ways whilst learning at home. Progress in Hegarty Maths and Pod Games assignments have been 'phenomenal'. Feedback has been excellent from students and families, "the school has been superb during this time both educationally and with the personal support received. There is always work sent out and it is of a high quality, brilliant". Year 9 student.

Thank you to all of our students and their families for their efforts and commitments during these times. We look forward to continuing to work together and support all of our young people.



Eat Out to Help Out - Look for the Logo

More than 53,000 outlets across the UK have so far signed up to the UK Government's Eat Out to Help Out Scheme - and a new official Government online finder is available to help diners locate them.

As Eat Out to Help Out stickers and posters start to appear in the windows of restaurants, cafes, bars and other establishments across the country, customers who want to take advantage of the scheme are advised to look out for the logo.



The logo means diners that eat-in will benefit from a 50% discount, up to a maximum of £10 per person, on food and nonalcoholic drinks, any Monday to Wednesday in August - and no voucher is required. Diners can take advantage of the offer as many times as they like during the month.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak said: "Our restaurants, cafes and bars play a vital role in our economy, employing more

than a million people. They have been hit hard by coronavirus, so it's vital we do everything we can to help them recover. "Our Eat Out to Help Out scheme is designed to get more customers through the door – protecting jobs by giving businesses the confidence to retain and hire staff. More than 53.000 businesses across the country have already signed up, and from today you'll be able to find one near you with the online finder.'

To find out if a restaurant is participating in the Eat Out to Help Out scheme you can use the online restaurant finder now live on GOV.UK. Simply enter your postcode, or one near to where you want to eat out, to get a list of participating outlets within a fivemile radius.

You can also get in touch with your local restaurant to see if they're taking part or check their website.

Participating outlets must wait seven days from registration to make their first claim with all eligible claims being paid within five working days. Claims can be submitted weekly and businesses are encouraged to register before the 3 August to benefit for the entire month in which the scheme runs.

Further information for businesses, including how to register and make a claim, is available online at GOV.UK

Crafter's Companion Welcomes New Non-Executive Director

Crafter's Companion is welcoming a new Non-Executive Director to its board. Jim Butler has 30' years' experience in business and management. Prior to his consultancy role for Crafter's Companion, Jim worked for Games Workshop, joining the company through a management trainee scheme in 1990. Throughout his time at the business, Jim managed various departments including product development, leadership development and global e-commerce, which had annual sales of more than £50 million. In his new role at Crafter's Companion, Jim hopes to support the craft retailer through the



challenges of growth, helping the company to expand and exist in new markets, while maintaining its dedication to the customer. He will also share his recent experience in ecommerce with the team, exploring which approaches drive the most value.

Jim, who lives in Nottingham with his wife and three children, said: "A non-exec role presents a fantastic opportunity to share my knowledge and experience, and my passion for niche businesses, with this amazing company.

"Apart from the fantastic people, who I'm very excited about working with, Crafter's Companion has the drive to surprise and delight its customers. There's a strong sense of creativity and innovation running through the company, and I'd love to help harness these ideas.

"I get satisfaction from helping people achieve more, and I can see plenty of opportunity to help the people in Crafter's Companion deliver success now and in the future. The potential for this company and its products is enormous. The idea of helping to unlock that potential is very exciting."

Sara Davies, Founder and Creative Director at Crafter's Companion, said "We're very excited to have Jim on board. He was a crucial part of Games Workshop's phenomenal success and we are thrilled that he is able to share his wealth of experience and ideas with the company.'



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'Lobby Fodder'

Dear Sir,

I had dealings with Paul Howell, as a Durham County Councillor for the Aycliffe North & Middridge Ward, and considered him to be a reasonable, moderate Conservative.

However, as MP for Sedgefield, he has apparently been nothing but 'Lobby Fodder', unquestioningly supporting our Government of rightwing extremists as they make the UK 'world-beating', unfortunately usually by our being worse than everyone else!

I can only hope that he will eventually see the error of his ways, and will be prepared to put his constituent's interests before those of his cowed and subservient Party.

Alan Jordan, South Side, Middridge

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The Hog Blog!

Hi everyone, it has been an eventful week here at Prickly Haven, but first we would like to take the opportunity to thank a very kind man/ex-postman who safely delivered six hoglets with mum to Joan and Dave's house after he intervened a potentially fatal attack on this beautiful little family. It is important to know that these babies need to be left with mum, without intrusion, for the first two weeks of life otherwise mum will kill and eat her own hoglets.

Thank you to Alison and John, our friends and neighbours, for the donation of beautiful toys to sell on our car boot sale this weekend. Wendy, for her visit to see our latest arrival Millie, she arrived on Monday, found wobbling in a back garden in Darlington. She is very small but doing OK, she has settled very well after being kept warm and quiet.

More positive news is that Scruffy, who came in with injuries to his face and back, is fully recovered and was released into Tara's very hog friendly garden with other Prickly Haven Survivors, he is very happy there with Scooby and Co.

Over the last few weeks we have been investing in equipment so that we can deal with different types of emergencies, we now have a nebuliser for hedgehogs with breathing issues, just in case the vet isn't available. We have fifteen in rescue at the moment and they are all doing well I am glad to announce.

Don't forget, if you see a hedgehog out during the day please contact the British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801 or if it's more urgent a vet who will help you, without incurring a charge, who will assess and pass on to a rehabber for follow up care and release back into the wild. Please remember hedgehogs are nocturnal and shouldn't be out during the day sunbathing!

Thank you. Maxine, Joan and Viv

In Memoriam

Fiona McKenzie Laycock

Died 30th July 2019

memories you are held precious S0 and our cherished photographs too. But they are substitute for the love, kindness care and that was the living

presence of you.
And an ocean of tears has brought no relief, it only adds to the depths of our grief.
So we pray angels in Heaven kindly convey to you that we love you, miss you and will do ever-so.

For gone are the golden days our families often shared, you live in our hearts and minds and will always be there.

Held close in our love where forever you

Held close in our love where forever you will stay, may Heaven love and bless you as much as we do our dearest MHO Graigh. Love you - Miss you - Will do ever-so. Dad and family

Fiona McKenzie Laycock

Died 30th July 2019

Fiona. You were my love, my life, my best friend.

I miss you every minute of every day. Your ever loving Husband, Dave

Passed away suddenly

on 5th August 2019.

Never forgotten and

HAVE YOU

GOT NEWS

FOR US?
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in local news stories.

We like to feature good

news and interesting items on achievements

& community service

Tel: Paul

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always loved.

The daughter of Reginald Williamson.

Birthday Remembrance Remembering Marilyn Llewellyn (Williamson)

Lester Stephen Atkinson 29th July 1953

Happy Birthday in Heaven

Wishing you were here today, for even, just a while. So we could say Happy Birthday, and see your loving smile.

The only gifts today will be, your sweet memories left behind. Of laughter, joy and happiness, that echo in our minds.

We'll gaze upon pictures, we'll think of you with love. And hope you're doing fine, in Heaven up above

May Angels hold you closely, and sing you a happy song. And we'll be sending wishes, today and all year long.

Happy Heavenly Birthday to a devoted Husband, Father and Grandad.

All our love forever and always Sue, Stephen, Kelly, Michael and Eden

Obituary

Elizabeth Lodge (Betty)

Passed away peacefully in Defoe Court Care Home on 23rd July, aged 89 years.

Dear Partner of Charlie, devoted Mam of Barrie and Lindy, also a much loved Nana.

Will family and friends please meet for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Tuesday 4th August at 1.30pm. Family flowers only.

Peter Barron Died 21st July 2020 Aged 80 years



Much loved Husband of the late Maureen, loving Dad of Stephen, Michael and Shelly, beloved Grandad of Sam, Laura, Tom, Sophie, Abbie, Hannah, Rubi and Ben. Not forgetting Great Grandad to Evie, Elliott and Flynn.

A Service will be held at Coundon Crematorium on Wednesday 5th August at 2.30pm. Family flowers only, donations can be made to Parkinsons UK.

Afterwards at The Big Club (4pm).



newtonnews FB

Congratulations



Congratulations on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary 30th July 2020

Ray and Edna met in 1958, while working at Patons and Baldwins. They were married on 30th July 1960. They lived in Darlington for a short time, before moving to Newton Aycliffe. Ray and Edna have three children, David, Sandra and Sue, as well as two grandchildren, Tom and Dan.

Ray worked in the wood and engineering industries. Edna took time off to bring up the family, then worked at the Aycliffe Young Peoples Centre.

Now both retired, they enjoy family gettogethers and outings in the car. "Never go home the same way that you came", has always been their motto. Mam says that Dad has to tell everyone that they are still happily married!

Best wishes, thanks for being wonderful parents and grandparents,

Lots of Love from David, Sandra, Sue, Nick, Tom, Dan and all the family.

For all your

Wedding Stationery

NEWTON PRESS 300212

sales@newtonpress.net

Heather & Clive Castle

Many congratulations on your Golden Wedding Anniversary on 1st August 2020. The last six years have been your toughest, but the love you have for each other has never been stronger. Lots of love, Justyn and Lucy

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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.

HOMES FOR RABBITSThere are a large number of pet rabbits in need of good homes. If you can help please contact us for more information.

 $\pmb{CATFOOD\ APPEAL}$ We are in need off wet cat food, kitten food and cat litter to support the animals currently in our care.

DROP OFF POINTS

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

Please contact 01325 321855 or 01325 311215

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Aycliffe Cricket Club Latest News



Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, got back to form with an excellent 75 run victory at home to Thornaby 2nd XI in the NYSD 2nd division. After being asked to bat first, Aycliffe scored a challenging 187 for 8 in their allotted 50 overs. In-form Adam Gittins was again full of runs as he top scored with his second consecutive half century, finishing with a superb score of 71 and he was given good support from captain Adam Randall (36 runs) and Luke Telford (21 runs). In reply, Aycliffe's opening bowlers Michael Howe and Jack Slatcher finished with four wickets each and George Slatcher chipped in with a couple of wickets as the visitors were dismissed for 112 off 38.4 overs. The second team had a thumping win by a massive 165 runs away at Bedale 2nd XI in the NYSD 4th division. Aycliffe won the toss and chose to bat first scoring an impregnable 210 for 9 declared after 39 overs. 15 year old Matty Greaves hit his first senior half century when he top scored with an unbeaten 50. Greaves, together with 14 year old Owen Smith, put on 74 runs for the 9th wicket, which is a new 2nd team record for the ninth wicket partnership, beating the previous best by two runs. Kyle Robinson (25 runs) and Sean Morgan (22 runs) also made useful contributions during the Aycliffe innings. In reply Bedale were skittled out for just 45 runs from 16.1 overs. Fast bowler Sean Morgan was unplayable as he finished with career best figures of six wickets for just nine runs. Another outstanding performance came from 13 year old leg spinner Thomas Dearden, who was playing only his second senior game when he took the last three Bedale wickets to fall in consecutive balls to become the youngest senior player and only the fourth player in the club's history to take a second team

The u15's made the short trip to Sedgefield and were well beaten by 41 runs. The homeside elected to bat first and scored 111 for 3 in their 18 overs. In reply Aycliffe were thankful for a tremendous innings by Owen Smith, who top scored with 48 from 48 balls with six boundaries, to give their innings some substance as they were restricted to 70 for 8 from their 18 overs. The club's u11's played well at home to Sedgefield but lost by 18 runs. Captain Will Dearden top scored with an unbeaten 16 in the Aycliffe innings and when the visitors

hat-trick.



replied, Tom Norman finished an excellent spell of bowling a career best 4 wickets for 5 runs.

The club's newest team, under 11's girls, were delighted to win their first ever game when they defeated Durham City at home by 17 runs with an excellent performance from Aycliffe captain Allisha Taylor who top scored for the hosts with 25 runs.

Photo: 13 year old second team leg spin bowler. Thomas Dearden, who became the youngest person in the club's history to take a senior hat-trick.



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