

Friday 14th August 2020

Established 1948

# Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Magazine

Editorial and Advertising contact: [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk) - Telephone: 01325 300212 - [www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk)



## Newton Aycliffe Swimming Pool is Open

See page 2 for full story

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PAUL HOWELL  
MP for Sedgefield





## SIX COUNTY DURHAM SWIMMING POOLS TO REOPEN

Six Durham County Council-run facilities welcomed swimmers back from Monday (10 August), for the first time since being forced to close in March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Sessions at the Louisa Centre, in Stanley; Freeman's Quay, in Durham; and leisure centres in Chester-le-Street, **Newton Aycliffe**, Woodhouse Close and Teesdale; must be booked in advance.

Swimmers are also being advised to expect a number of changes to allow for social distancing and to reflect public health advice.

Activity will be limited to lane swimming throughout the week, with some family fun sessions at weekends and aqua fit classes. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

In order to limit the risk of spreading coronavirus, usual shower, changing and locker facilities will not be available. Instead, swimmers will be asked to wear their costumes under their clothes when arriving for their swim session. They will then be allocated a chair at the side of the pool where they can leave their clothes and any other belongings. Changing facilities will be available when exiting the pool.

Cllr Carl Marshall, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "We've had a



fantastic response since our leisure centres opened last month for fitness classes and gym sessions so we're pleased to now be able to reopen our pools as well.

"Going for a swim is going to be a little different for the time being, but the changes we have made are extremely important in order to protect customers and staff and help prevent the spread of coronavirus. Without them we would not be able to reopen our pools. That said, I'm sure many people will be so pleased to get back in the pool that they will get used to the changes. "It's vital that we work to reinstate services wherever possible in order to support the county's recovery from the pandemic."

Ongoing maintenance work at Consett Pool means it will also remain closed for the time being. It is also not possible to reopen the pool at Spennymoor leisure centre at this time. The pool is not suitable for lane swimming, meaning effective social distancing measures cannot be introduced. The council is in discussions with the contractor responsible for operating Peterlee Leisure Centre with regard to an opening date.

To book a session at a participating leisure centre, log into the Thrive app. Full details regarding the changes are also available at [www.durham.gov.uk/leisure](http://www.durham.gov.uk/leisure)

## 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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# FREE MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR AYCLIFFE'S KEY WORKERS

Aycliffe Radio are proud to be able to offer all key workers who live or work in Newton Aycliffe a **FREE MUSIC FESTIVAL**, as a form of a thank you for your efforts during the pandemic.

Aycliffe Radio has been running a series of successful Drive In events at ROF59 Activity Centre (rear field) to help boost the spirits and give residents the opportunity to come out and enjoy themselves with great music, both live and recorded, in a socially distanced environment.

The Drive In events have proved popular and mostly selling out each time. 90s/00s Dance Anthems, a Cheesy Pop Party, Punk Rock Day and Ibiza Tunes were the first; with more to come over the next few weeks including a second 90s/00s Dance Anthems this weekend (Saturday night) from 5-10pm, a Majestic Panto 'Little Red Riding Hood' and a second Punk Rock Day on 30th August (which is sold out already).

On Saturday 29th August, (Bank Holiday weekend), Aycliffe Radio will be bringing together some of the best local acts to perform at our special 'HEROFEST'. The event will take place over two sessions, 12.00 noon to 4.30pm and 5.30pm to 10.00pm and will include children's balloon modelling and magic from Prof Nincompoo, stilt walker (weather permitting), a fully stocked bar, barbecue and refreshments as well as presenters from Aycliffe Radio filling in between the acts.

**Key workers who live or work in Newton Aycliffe must register for this event to reserve their 'pod' on this drive in event, bring the family or come with co-workers - book your place at:**

[www.ayclifferadio.co.uk/events/key-worker](http://www.ayclifferadio.co.uk/events/key-worker)

The first session from 12.00 noon to 4.30pm, will include live entertainment from Amy Stevens, Cassandra Bowtell and Whiskey Haze with Rebecca Laheney, Rhian Lesley, Jay Murray and Harris Tweed & His Rocking Band between 5.30 and 10pm.

This invitation is open to any key workers who live or work in Newton Aycliffe and their families.

The event is supported by ROF59, Shake 'n' Cake, Paul Howell MP and Click 'e' Mart. All cars will be socially distanced parked, a bar, toilets, sanitiser station and refreshments will be available throughout the day. All car occupants attending this event must have their own seat within the car and social distancing must be adhered to.

## Rotary Young Photographer Competition

The winner of the local heat will be awarded a £50 Amazon gift card and the winner of the national final will have time with a professional photographer.

The Young Photographer Competition is a well-established and successful competition organised and promoted by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (Rotary GB&I). There are three stages to the competition, local, district and national. Each stage is designed to support and encourage the development of photographic skills.

The competition is open to all schools and colleges, those who are home educated and any other young peoples' organisations, eg. RotaKids, Interact, Scouts, Guides. Access the link for more details and an information pack: <https://bit.ly/2XtCmQS>



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# Police Launch New Road Safety Scheme This Month

As covid-19 lockdown restrictions ease, officers have seen an increase in the levels of traffic on the roads and have been listening to residents who say speeding is a concern in their communities.

The new bureau will be able to conduct safety camera deployments at nominated sites across County Durham and Darlington and also look to educate drivers on other road safety offences such as the use of seatbelts and using mobile phones.

Bureau manager, Terri Raine, for Durham Constabulary said: "This is an important area of activity which we know helps make communities safer and will therefore always be a priority for the constabulary."

"As well as targeting speeding motorists, the force will also be targeting uninsured drivers who put other road users in danger especially as they are often involved in other crimes such as drugs offences or driving without a licence."

"Bad driving can have devastating consequences for everyone involved so we would always encourage drivers to think twice and just slow down."

Acting Police Victims' Commissioner, Steve White, added: "This is a local priority in the Police and Crime plan and is something I take seriously."

"Speeding is an issue that is regularly highlighted to us by communities across Durham and Darlington and we are determined to take action and support of local residents."

In preparation for its launch, the new unit has already identified dangerous drivers who flaunt speed limits across County Durham and Darlington.

For example, on a 30mph road in Sherburn Hill, 59 vehicles were speeding within just one hour with the highest recorded speed being 51mph.

After a visit to Maiden Law near Lanchester, 47 vehicles were speeding with the worst offenders travelling at 52mph in a 30mph limit and in Geneva Road in Darlington, a vehicle was also clocked doing 52mph in the 30mph zone.

## N.A.F.C. REPORT



### Saturday 8 August - Pre-season friendly Newton Aycliffe 5 v Tow Law 1

Newton Aycliffe returned to action on Saturday for the first time in five months, coming from behind to kick-start their pre-season with a comprehensive victory over Tow Law Town. The game was played behind closed doors due to current government and FA guidance which prohibits spectators at matches involving National League System clubs.

Ben Reay scored the pick of the bunch along with goals from Adam Burnicle, Ryan Redford and a double from Arran Wearmouth helping to seal a comfortable win at the Beaumont Landscapes Stadium. Former Aycliffe man, Mattie Moffat, opened the scoring for the Lawyers in the early stages striking from distance to catch out goalkeeper Adam Pickford who could only parry the ball into the side of the net.

The visitors looked sharper in the opening 10 minutes having played their first game of pre-season against Consett in mid-week. Colin Stromsoy's men began to shake off the cobwebs after conceding with Burnicle looking a threat to the Tow Law back line. The striker saw one effort cleared off the line after going around the goalkeeper before his far post strike was deflected into the side netting.

Eventually the hosts did get back on terms after Liam Walters was brought down in the area. Burnicle stepped up and sent the keeper the wrong way to level the scores. The water break allowed Stromsoy to shuffle his pack a little, bringing on Arran Wearmouth who put the hosts in front 10 minutes before the break. Liam Jarvie found space on the right and his cross eventually made its way to Wearmouth who converted from close range.

Wearmouth doubled his tally moments later as Aycliffe were awarded another penalty after an excellent passage of play was brought to an abrupt end by the Tow Law goalkeeper.

Jarvie almost added a fourth before the half time whistle as Aycliffe really began to find their stride.

A string of changes at the break from Stromsoy was rewarded inside three minutes of the second half with the goal of the game from Reay. After a neat interchange down the left-hand-side, Reay found space on the edge of the penalty area before expertly curling into the top corner beyond the outstretched hand of the goalkeeper.

Six minutes later and Aycliffe had their fifth following a lapse in concentration in the Lawyers back line which allowed Wearmouth to run clear. Despite being on a hat-trick, Wearmouth unselfishly rolled the ball to Redford who tapped into an empty net.

Aycliffe could have scored more in the second half and had a sixth ruled out for offside as the Northern League Division Two outfit tired in the blistering Aycliffe sunshine.

There was still time for a third penalty of the game however as Connor Phelan was adjudged to have impeded Moffat.

Moffat stepped up to take the spot kick but was unable to add a consolation as his penalty was saved by Pickford down to his right. It proved to be the end of the goalmouth action as Aycliffe ran out comfortable winners in what was a pleasing first performance back from Stromsoy's men.

## SYD HOWARTH Community Service Award

### Nominate a community minded individual

The Howarth family, in memory of Syd Howarth, MBE, are offering the residents of Newton Aycliffe the opportunity to nominate an individual who has excelled over the last year.

The nominees must be from Newton Aycliffe and the winner will receive a plaque and £250 to go towards their own or another local charity.

Those nominating must give the name and address of the nominee along with reasons why this individual should win (up to 250 words).

Closing date for nominations is 31st August 2020, at which time those that were nominated will be published in the Newton News and the Howarth family will choose the winner.

The winner will be awarded the prize on Wednesday 21st October 2020 (Syd's birthday).

Entries to be sent via email to:

**paul@newtonpress.net**

or posted to:

**Paul Howarth  
Newton Press  
Blue Bridge Centre  
St. Cuthberts Way  
Newton Aycliffe  
DL5 6DS**



# Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, had a disappointing six wicket defeat away at fast improving Norton 1st team in the NYSD 2nd division. Electing to bat first Aycliffe were dismissed for 149 after 48.2 overs thanks to a good innings from captain Adam Randall (sponsored by DTS Joinery), who top scored with 37 and he received good support from Jack Slatcher (29 runs) and his younger brother George chipped in with 15 runs. In reply Norton eased to victory after 37.3 overs despite some good bowling from George Slatcher (2 for 22), Luke Telford (1 for 18) and Matty Greaves (1 for 35).

On Sunday the first team travelled to the early NYSD Premier League pace setters, Billingham Synthonia 1st XI, in the prestigious Kerridge Cup and put in an excellent performance despite losing by 41 runs. The home side scored 191 for 9 in their 40 overs with Aycliffe acting captain Michael Howe the pick of the bowlers taking a creditable 4 for 38 and 15 year Matty Greaves also bowled well taking a first team best of 3 for 32. In reply Aycliffe batted with much determination, especially as Billingham had two of the quickest bowlers in the league at their disposal. The visitors were eventually dismissed for a very respectable 150 all out after 36.5 overs thanks to a fighting innings of 36 from Joe Haines and an entertaining 26 from Jack Slatcher. Credit must go to opening batsman Luke Telford, who was peppered with a barrage of bouncers and took a number of blows from the Billingham pacemen, but stuck to his task well and was eventually dismissed for a very brave 24 runs.

The second team put in a fighting performance at home to local rivals Sedgfield, but were still beaten by four wickets in their NYSD 4th division clash. Electing to bat first, Aycliffe were dismissed for a poor score of 83 after 35 overs with



only Matty French (13 not out), Sean Morgan (13 runs) and Tom Dearden (10 runs) reaching double figures. In reply a terrific spell of fast bowling from Aycliffe's Sean Morgan (4 for 25) had the visitors reeling at 27 for 4. However their middle order rallied, but two late wickets from Leo Mercy (2 for 22) gave Sedgfield another scare, however their experienced captain Graham Scanlon (25 not out) saw his side safely home after 23 overs.

The u15's lost by 44 runs away at a typically strong Darlington side in the NYACC league. The home club chose to bat first and set a challenging total of 114 for 2 in their allotted 18 overs. In reply Aycliffe were restricted to 70 for 9 after 18 overs and there were good innings from captain Matty Greaves (20 runs), Tom Dearden (12 runs) and Leo Mercy (11 runs).

The club's u13's lost a close game by just 13 runs at home to Sedgfield in the NYACC league. Sedgfield chose to bat first and scored 97 for 5 in their 18 overs. Will Dearden was the pick of the bowlers, taking 2 for 5 and he was supported well by AJ Wild, Leo Stout and Dan Heaton, who all chipped in with a wicket each. In reply Aycliffe captain Tom Dearden batted superbly scoring 30 (retired) off just 35 balls and his younger brother Will also batted well scoring 18 runs as Aycliffe finished on a respectable 84 for 7 after their allotted 18 overs.

The u11's team had a superb 7 run victory at home to Darlington in their NYACC match. Will Moffatt was the pick of the bowlers for Aycliffe taking 2 for 13 from his 3 overs.

When Aycliffe batted, captain Will Dearden led the way with an outstanding innings of 27 and there was also an excellent innings from Alfie Spensley, who hit 16 runs.

The Aycliffe senior women earned their first ever win, in only their second competitive game, when they defeated Sacriston away by 30 runs in a terrific performance.

*Photo above of the victorious Newton Aycliffe Senior Womens team and their coaches.*

## Motorcycle Madman

Dear Sir,  
Who is the motorcycle madman of Woodham/Aycliffe? The noise polluter who tears around Woodham Way, Burnhill Way, Middridge Road, the A167 and A689, deafening everyone in a 2 mile radius 3 or 4 times almost every day. I'm not talking about the kids on their sewing machines, this is obviously a serious bike.

Where does he live and more importantly are his neighbours frightened or just stone deaf? For goodness sake someone rescue us from this idiot, or at least buy him a bike that can change gear below 10 zillion revs.

It's pretty obvious he's breaking every single speed limit going, police, anyone? How long before he injures himself or worse still, some innocent bystander.

It's been going on for months now, someone please save us from this annoying idiot.

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### CAT FOOD APPEAL

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

### DROP OFF POINTS

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# ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND OFF ROAD BIKES

As many of our residents know only too well, there are a number of off-road bikes being ridden illegally around the town. This is an issue that affects all parts of County Durham and is difficult to resolve as the tactics available to us have to avoid putting the safety of the public at risk.

Therefore we rely heavily on information from the public so that we can take action against those responsible. This is not a quick process and we have procedures we must follow. However, the team are keen to work with our community to reduce this dangerous nuisance.

We have our Operation Endurance (motorbike) team to support us, but they are a small team covering the whole of Co Durham and Cleveland. Hopefully the information we are providing below will assist residents and we encourage you all to help us and provide the information we need. We have already acted upon information provided over the past two weeks and have issued 3 warnings as a direct result.

The next step will be to seize these bikes. Please report these incidents by phoning 101 and if you have any pictures or footage then you can private message our Newton Aycliffe Police Facebook page.

## Grants Available to Support Independent Living

County Durham residents with disabilities are being reminded to take advantage of home improvement grants of up to £30,000. Durham County Council's Home Improvement Agency helps disabled and vulnerable residents access grants to adapt their homes to meet their needs.

Disabled Facilities Grants can help to fund improvements that will enhance disabled people's quality of life, enabling them to live in their own homes for longer.

Typical adaptations include:

- ramps
- stairlifts
- through floor lifts
- extensions (for ground floor living)
- level access showers
- external lifts
- internal alterations
- external alterations

Owner-occupiers, private rental tenants and housing association tenants are all eligible.

As well as the grants, home improvement loans are available to anyone who owns their own home. Repayment, equity and interest free loans are on offer and can fund works including roof renewal and repairs, window and door renewal, damp proofing, electrical and heating improvements and structural work.

There is also a project management service for anyone planning adaptations in their own homes. For a small fee, a housing surveyor can design to an individual's brief, tender, appoint contractors and project manage the work through to completion. This can be anything from small scale internal work to larger extensions, along with adaptations for disabled clients who do not qualify for grant assistance.

The Home Improvement Agency also provides advice and guidance to help people who are older and/or disabled find out about adaptations that could benefit them.

For more information about who is eligible and how to apply, visit [www.durham.gov.uk/article/3373/Disabled-Facilities-Grant](http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3373/Disabled-Facilities-Grant) or contact [ddhia@durham.gov.uk](mailto:ddhia@durham.gov.uk) or the council's Social Care Direct team on 03000 267 979 or [scd@durham.gov.uk](mailto:scd@durham.gov.uk)

Riding a motorbike in an antisocial manner can result in prosecution for the rider, or the parents who are held accountable for the actions of their children.

It is illegal to ride any motorbike in public open spaces such as parks, play areas and on pavements.

You can only ride an off road motorbike legally if it's on private land, and you have the land owners permission. Land owned by the local council is not classed as private land.

Illegally used off road bikes can be seized and crushed.

A rider must:

- Be aged 17 or over (or 16 if the bike is a moped)
- Hold a valid driving license
- Have valid motor insurance
- Wear suitable safety equipment

Failure to comply is a criminal offence and may result in prosecution under the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Police Reform Act 2002.

Off road bikes are regarded as motor vehicles they must be constructed to a specific standard in order to be ridden on a public highway.

They must also have:


- DVLA registration (Log book)
- A valid MOT
- Road Tax
- Fitted with lights
- Fitted with registration plates

You can help by, Calling on 101 and provide information anonymously, or by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800555111.

Helpful information would include:

- The name and address of the owner of the off road bike
- Where the bike is stored
- When and where the bike is used (e.g days, times, and routes)
- Any other useful information such as description of those who use the bike, its make/model/ colour.

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**To use a "Mechanically-Propelled" Cycle on a road or other public place you are required to have insurance.**

**The definition of road includes a highway, lay-bys, public footpaths and bridleways.**

**To obtain a provisional moped licence you must be at least 16 years old.**

**To obtain a provisional motorcycle licence you must be at least 17 years old.**

### Pit Bikes, a word.....

Over the last few years the sales of pit bikes have boomed. Whether bought in good faith as a gift, a christmas present or a toy, it must be borne in mind that they are mechanically propelled motor vehicles, and if used on the roads or footpaths are subject to road traffic law. Irresponsible use of pit bikes, quads or off road motorcycles are a growing problem within our county and are the cause of many complaints from concerned members of the public. Our advice to owners and riders is to be responsible, do it properly, and contact the below for a safe and enjoyable experience.

If you have any information regarding off-road bikes, including where they are stored or who is riding them, please contact Durham Constabulary on 101.

Alternatively, contact us on our Facebook page 'Newton Aycliffe Police' by sending us a private message.



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# NEW BUSINESS PARK MOVES ANOTHER STEP FORWARD WITH GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Plans for a major new business park in Durham City are progressing thanks to £6 million of government funding.

Durham County Council has secured the money from the government's Getting Building Fund, which aims to deliver jobs, skills and infrastructure across the country.

The funding will cover half the cost of the first building on the proposed Aykley Heads Business Park, enabling the creation of office space on 'Plot C', which has been identified as Phase 1 of the development for the new business park. The council will contribute the other half of the cost, with the building totalling £12 million.

The three-storey building will offer 3,500 sqm of office space, providing flexible accommodation to either single or multiple employers in an accessible and sought-after location close to the East Coast Main Line and other public transport, as well as cycling routes. It will also offer more than 60 car parking spaces.

Once completed, this project will create up to 300 jobs whilst acting as a catalyst for the wider masterplan and stimulating over £150 million of private sector investment.

Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, said: "I am delighted that we have secured government funding to cover half of the cost of the first new building at the proposed Aykley Heads Business Park. It's just three weeks since we announced that a planning application had been submitted, marking the start of the process that will see up to 4,000 new, high quality jobs coming to Durham.

"Today marks an important next step in bringing forward the first building and turning our vision into a reality. It is clear that the government has seen the potential of the site and its excellent locational advantages and the tremendous environment that already exists.

"This development, providing high quality offices in a mature parkland



setting, meets the demands of business and the office market. It also promotes sustainable travel as well as employee wellbeing, suitable for modern methods of working and digitally enabled to promote excellent work for now and in the future. That's one of the reasons why we believe it will create a future model for business parks.

"Moreover, with an uncertain business market as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, we believe these plans will stimulate private investment, secure job opportunities and support businesses, helping to transform the county and establish Durham as a jobs hub

within the North East."

Aykley Heads, north of the city centre, is already home to Atom Bank, Waterstones, the North East England Chamber of Commerce, Salvus House and many other businesses.

Once fully completed, the entire business park is proposed to provide up to 38,468sqm of floorspace and to be divided into an initial two phases and six plots. Each plot proposes office buildings and car parking spaces.

James Ramsbotham, chief executive of the North East Chamber of Commerce, which is supporting the proposed park, said: "It is fantastic that the government has agreed to provide funding towards this exciting development at Aykley Heads. It's a big step in the vision to establish a dynamic business park in the north east becoming a reality.

"With superb access to the national road and rail network, an internationally renowned university and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this site is exceptional and will no doubt help to strengthen the North East's position in commerce."

Should planning permission be granted, work on Plot C would begin over the next year. To find out more about the proposed business park visit <http://www.durham.gov.uk/aykleyheads>

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Whiskey Haze - Harris Tweed & His Rocking Band  
Jay Murray - Amy Stevens - Rhian Lesley

Children's Balloon Modelling & Magic - Stilt Walker - Radio DJs

# The Hog Blog Latest

To begin with Joan, Viv and I would like to convey our thanks to all those who have supported this rescue centre with donations of food, toys and various items to help us raise funds to feed the hedgehogs in our care. Firstly, Brian from the Community Support Initiative for his fab donation, the food for all our hogs is quite pricey but it helps them recover; June and Will for their donation of food etc, and also Lesley and Steve for leaving a donation with a poorly hog who is making progress, we have called her Willow.



On a more serious note, we have seen a lot of hogs who have been so traumatised by various things, dogs etc. It has proved sometimes fatal, hedgehogs are now on the at risk list of extinction which puts more pressure on us to act and get them into rescue centres as soon as they are discovered, that alone gives us a better chance to save them. For anyone who wants more information the hedgehog street app shows what we can do to help the population recover.

Joan's hoglets are still doing very nicely, very small and their eyes have just opened, quite adorable characters. All rescue hedgehogs are doing very well and responding well to medication, too small for release, but time is on their side still.

Tip of the week: Make a hedgehog highway, cut a small hole about the size of a CD on the bottom of your garden fence, this will enable hedgehogs to pass through your gardens.

Also to remind you to ring BHPS for help or assistance on 01584 890801

Have a good week  
Maxine, Joan and Viv

# Simple Research for the Truth

Dear Sir,

I enjoy the Newton News including the letters from local people and from representatives of local Political Parties. Not being attached to any particular political party I get frustrated at some of the almost childish comments made by some political contributors. The latest from Alan Jordan (31/7/2020).

I don't know Mr Jordan, but can only guess at his political leanings. He is anti Boris and anti Tory but his recent comments in local newspapers and Newton News are verging on the laughable. He calls the Tories a "cowed and subservient party". He doesn't explain this or produce any evidence for his comments. The recent General Election results gives the lie to that comment. Our newly elected MP is criticised for not doing what Mr Jordan thinks he should do. Elsewhere he rants on about Boris and the Tories claiming that we should ignore Boris and his rhetoric and concentrate on what he does with his almost inevitable bad consequences.

I am no fan of Boris, await the inevitable, justifiable enquiry, into the handling of the Corona Virus by his government, Mr Jordan rants on, but offers no substantive evidence to back up his claims. He ignores the Governments Furlough scheme which has helped millions of workers; he ignores the governments programme to increase house building and other government plans to help the economy and the positive progress being made in tackling the Covid pandemic, albeit possibly late, and not as effective as it could have been. Facts are a damaging truth for Mr Jordan and his rants, they don't sit well with his anti government diatribes.

My advice to readers is to do some simple research of readily available facts, make your own mind up and ignore Mr Jordan and his almost childish rants.

John Walker, Newton Aycliffe.

# Extra Boost to Support Working Families Affected by Coronavirus

Families who benefit from government funded childcare support were given a boost today as the Government announced that they would not lose out due to COVID-19.

Working parents or carers, who are eligible for Tax-Free Childcare or 30 Hours Free Childcare but have temporarily fallen below the minimum income requirement as a result of the pandemic, will continue to receive financial support until 31 October.

Critical workers who may exceed the income threshold for the 2020-21 tax year, as a result of working more to play a vital role in tackling the coronavirus pandemic, will continue to receive support this tax year.

Through Tax-Free Childcare, delivered by HMRC, families will receive a £2 government top-up for every £8 they pay into their child's account, up to the value of £2,000 per child, or £4,000 per disabled child in financial support. The money can be used towards the cost of qualifying childcare for a child up to the age of 11 or 17 for a disabled child.

HMRC's Deputy Chief Executive and Second Permanent Secretary, Angela MacDonald, said:

"HMRC has been providing vital financial support to families during a time when it has been needed most and we will continue to help them as they gradually transition back to a normal life.

"We want to make sure families will not be adversely affected by any abrupt change in circumstances, which is why we have extended available support through Tax-Free Childcare to give families that extra boost."

The Department for Education (DfE) provides 30 Hours Free Childcare to eligible three to four year olds in England with more than 600,000 three and four year olds benefitting from this offer in the first two years of delivery, and nearly 350,000 children benefitted from 30 hours in January 2020 alone. DfE has seen more than 55,000 parents applying for 30 hours places since the start of lockdown restrictions which demonstrates how essential this support is and why parents' eligibility must be protected.

DfE's Children's Minister, Vicky Ford, said: "Our 30 Hours childcare offer has always been about supporting parents back into work, and in these times, this ambition is now more important than ever. That is why we are again extending eligibility for the government's childcare offers so that no parent loses out because of a fall in income due to coronavirus.

"This builds on our significant financial support for the early years sector – who are so integral to the UK's recovery from this pandemic. We are continuing to provide longer term reassurance to nurseries and childminders that are open by 'block-buying' childcare places for the rest of this year at the level we would have funded before coronavirus, regardless of how many children are attending." To continue receiving the financial support for Tax-Free Childcare and 30 Hours Free Childcare, parents need to reconfirm their eligibility every three months.

HMRC has continued to help Working Tax Credit claimants with the cost of childcare throughout the pandemic. Parents and carers in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credits who have continued to pay childcare fees they have incurred, despite their children being unable to access childcare because of COVID-19, must notify HMRC if they expect this to continue beyond 7 September. After this date HMRC will no longer pay the childcare element for those in this position.

Claimants should update HMRC as soon as possible if their childcare stops or if the costs for their childcare decrease or end. Parents and carers can report such changes by calling the tax credits helpline.

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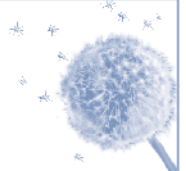


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# Supporting Fundraising Efforts to Fight Coronavirus in Peru



Rotary Newton Aycliffe has long standing links with Peru and has received news from there of the worsening situation with coronavirus spreading rapidly, doctors and nurses losing their lives because of lack of PPE and a health system on the verge of collapse. The epicentre of the Covid-19 pandemic in Peru has moved to Arequipa, the second largest city after Lima, and with over one million residents. In recent weeks Arequipa has seen a huge increase in cases that has put the healthcare system under immense pressure with crowded under equipped hospitals and protests against authorities for an alleged lack of foresight before the spread of the infectious disease progressed.

Campana Medicos Solidarios Arequipa is urgently reaching out to you to help save lives by donating to a fund which will provide PPE to safeguard frontline workers and deliver other essential supplies such as oxygen and medicines to those who need it most. Cecilia Zuniga is a volunteer with Medicos Solidarios and tells us that they are so overwhelmed that many patients are having to sleep in tents outside the hospital on freezing winter nights with no heating and with doctors attempting to keep them as comfortable as possible. She asks 'please donate what you can as our only motivation is to help this city stay afloat and protect the lives of the doctors and patients'.

To donate, please access their Go Fund Me account at <https://bit.ly/2XlpfLY> or go to their Facebook page at Medicos Solidarios Facebook - the link here to YouTube shows the state of the city <https://youtu.be/3SsiXOUBbB8>

# Live Outdoor Music Event at The Hammers & Pincers

The Hammers and Pincers are hosting Leeds band The Dunwells on Sunday 20 September, 3-5pm in their fantastic outdoor space. The Dunwells are two brothers, Joe and Dave, from Leeds who are an amazing live band. They have supported acts such as Bryan Adams, Mumford & Sons and are currently on tour with Scouting for Girls, hopefully coming to Durham Cathedral in October. When lockdown started back in March they decided that, as they couldn't play live music, they would put on a daily live show on YouTube and Facebook for an hour every evening at 6 pm from their respective homes. They quickly grew a large Facebook group called The Army of Friends who watched the show each day and chatted with each other via the comments. This proved to be a great support group during what was a really dark period in a lot of people's lives, having a daily dose of music, banter and laughter to look forward to. They even wrote a song called Army of Friends about the pandemic and our fantastic NHS heroes and made a video to go along with it including a lot of the people from The Army of Friends group. They did 100 of these daily live shows and now still do three live shows a week, two of which are from their studio in Leeds city centre.

As it has been so difficult to play live music and go to gigs this should be a great afternoon event, up close and personal as there are limited tickets available, due to social distancing, in the large outside area at The Hammers. You can get tickets via their web site [www.thedunwells.com](http://www.thedunwells.com) and you can listen to their music via their social media and YouTube. We look forward to seeing plenty of local people there.

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## HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

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## Baghdaddies Bring Brass and Cheer



Greenfield Arts were delighted to welcome the fabulous Baghdaddies this summer to their site, brightening up the day for an invited audience with their special brand of music as they performed their 'doorstep' offer.

A big thankyou to Jack Drum Arts for bringing this to Greenfield Arts and to County Durham Community Foundation and other supporters who enabled the offer. The outdoor opportunity brought together adults from our local community and some of our Cree group to reconnect together face to face and enjoy an afternoon of marvellous music. It was just the tonic.

The band, based locally in Newcastle, played their special brand of Balkan Boogie, getting the audience tapping their feet and singing along, making the careful social distance feel less of a barrier, as everyone enjoyed the Latin and Ska beats. Greenfield Arts were delighted to host this live music performance and are committed to promoting high quality arts opportunities for the wider community. To find out more about Greenfield Arts visit our website [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk) or contact our team by email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk)

## Entries Open for 31st Environment Awards

A prestigious County Durham award, which celebrates groups and individuals who are championing a greener environment, is looking for entrants for its 31st award ceremony.

Entries opened on Monday, 10 August, for the County Durham Environment Awards 2020 with a number of categories available that recognise the people who are making a positive environmental impact in the county.

The awards are organised by Durham County Council on behalf of the County Durham Environment Partnership which works with organisations and communities to improve the county's natural and built environment.

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, judging for each category this year will be done virtually. Usually, judges will gather to look at the entries together but this time they will be sent packs of information to look at in their own homes.

Entrants are now being sought in the following categories:

- Built Environment
- Community Partnership
- Greener Business
- Volunteer Group of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year - Under 18
- Volunteer of the Year - Over 18
- Climate Change
- Craftmanship
- Natural Environment
- Waste Management
- Places and Spaces
- Schools and Colleges

Anyone can nominate a person or scheme for an award. This year, entries from groups and organisations who have had a green impact during the pandemic will also be considered but the entry must fit into one of the above categories.

Cllr Brian Stephens, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "The Environment Awards have become a very important event in acknowledging, praising and encouraging some incredible green projects, that would not happen without the time and dedication of individuals, groups and private and public bodies. "Despite the ongoing effects of the coronavirus pandemic, we have been able to adapt the awards in a way that still enables us to safely celebrate the commitment of those working to create a greener environment for our county. If you or someone you know has gone above and beyond to make a positive environmental impact, then I strongly encourage you to enter."

Jim Cokill, chair of County Durham Environment Partnership, said: "These awards, which celebrated a significant milestone last year, would not be possible without the support of partners, businesses and community groups, as well as the hundreds of fantastic entrants over the years who have shown their dedication to preserving our natural and built environment.

"We're incredibly pleased that the effects of the current pandemic have not stopped these awards going ahead and that we can do the judging process remotely, meaning we can continue to recognise the efforts from those who put in the time and effort to do tremendous environmental work in the county."

For more information about the awards, contact [environment.awards@durham.gov.uk](mailto:environment.awards@durham.gov.uk) or 03000 265 545. To find out how to make a submission for the categories, visit [www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/enawards](http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/enawards)

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**NEWTON AYCLIFFE**

A Long History of a New Town

Stephen Creaney





# YAPPY DOG CHORUS, ALL DAY . . .

Dear Sir,  
Having lived relatively peacefully in Ashfield for a number of years, recently the air resounds with the 'song' of barking dogs!  
I only wish they knew the tune!  
All peace is shattered, no sooner does one stop than another starts. It's no longer pleasant to sit in our garden on a nice day, in fact I'm more likely to stay inside, and shut all doors and windows! There are those who bark because they've been shut outside, (some don't appear to be taken for any walking exercise), those who bark at each other, those who bark when anyone passes by, and those who just bark, bark, bark! All apparently without reprimand, nor even noticed by their owners, surely they can't all be deaf?  
I have not 'named' any of these owners - which is why I've also not named myself - but come on folks, you must know when it's your dog or dogs making the din. Give the rest of us - including the owners with quiet dogs - some peace . . . PLEASE!!  
From a dog lover - if they're trained!

## 100k Charity Run in May



When COVID-19 forced PCP employee Charlotte Bugg and her fiancé Sean Johnson to rearrange their wedding, the pair decided to make their 'would-be-wedding month' one to remember by both running 100 kilometres for Charity. Charlotte is a support officer for PCP's Option's Project. Options helps adults with physical and learning disabilities through providing activities that promote independence, choice and control.  
Charlotte explained, "In May 2020, Sean and I were supposed to be getting married and venturing off for a dream honeymoon. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, this had to be put on hold, so we thought we would keep ourselves busy and do something beneficial for our health whilst fundraising for the amazing Options Project at PCP, where I work - what better way than us both running 100k in a month! We've been genuinely overwhelmed by the support received and by everyone's generosity, we've raised over £1077!"  
Carol Gaskarth, PCP's Chief Executive, added, "The range of fundraising activities our staff have been involved with over the past few weeks has been phenomenal.  
For further information about PCP please contact us at the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF tel: 01325 321234, email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net or follow PCP on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: @PCPandCentre

## AYCLIFFE RADIO

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### Weekly Programme Schedule

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"Aycliffe Town Centre . . . Shopping for You"



**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
<b>"The Saturday Night Experience" Sponsored by Bengal Lounge Indian Restaurant &amp; Takeaway</b>		
6-8pm	Evening Session	Jimjams
8-9pm	Rock the House	Carl Booth
9-10pm	Retro Trance Mix	OZ-DJ
10-12am	Street 'n' Drum 'n' Bass	MC Supa
12-2am	Night Club Session	A DJ

#### SUNDAY

9-10am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
12-2pm	Country & Americana Show	David Ringer
<b>Blues Show Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service</b>		
2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin & Monica
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6-7.30pm	Jazz Time	Mike Dixon
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	BeatRoute	Graeme Roote

#### FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	21st August - Nathan Abbott 90s Classix	Gaz n Alby
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	

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

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# Homebuyers Appointments System Helps With New Builds at Heighington

An appointment-only visiting system at a new homes development in Heighington is helping to make finding a new home safer and easier. The new system was introduced at Bellway's Meadow Rise, off Walworth Lane to ensure the safety of both employees and customers following the easing of lockdown restrictions. Staff have found the new arrangements work really well, especially with interest in new homes rising post-lockdown, and having one-to-one appointments makes it easier for visitors to get the information they need about the range of three and four-bedroom homes on offer.

The builder has put a range of safety measures for visitors in place, including opening the doors for customers prior to appointments, providing gloves and hand sanitiser, installing Perspex screens, and abiding by strict social distancing measures – with one household allowed in the sales centres and showhomes at a time.

Darren Pelusi, Sales Manager for Bellway's Durham division, said: "Keeping buyers safe is first and foremost our biggest priority."

"We've been receiving lots of positive feedback on the new appointments system, which has turned out to be a hit with both house-hunters visiting the development, and the team here when it comes to maximising efficiency as well as safety."

"The new system allows us to allocate time to individual households and give buyers an ensured one-to-one experience, which usually lasts from 45 minutes to an hour-and-a-half."

"Interest levels have really gone up since sites have re-opened across the board, and the system has helped us to organise visits and safely show people around the showhomes and stock plots that they are interested in."

To book an appointment to visit Bellway's Meadow Rise, call 01325 271 965. There's a range of new homes available to reserve at the development, priced from £244,995.

Visit [bellway.co.uk/visiting-us](http://bellway.co.uk/visiting-us) to find out more about how Bellway is helping keep visitors safe.



## Eat Out to Help Out Scheme First Week Figures

HMRC has published figures for the first week of the Eat Out to Help Out scheme: **Up to midnight on 9 August**

- Total number of registered individual restaurant premises 83,000
- Total number of claims made by businesses 14,000
- Total number of individual restaurant premises claimed for 22,000
- Total amount claimed £53.7m
- Number of covers claimed for 10.5m

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, said: "Britons are eating out to help out in big numbers. And they aren't just getting a great deal – they're supporting the almost 2 million people employed in this sector. These amazing figures show that our plan for jobs is delivering."

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[www.newtonpress.net](http://www.newtonpress.net)





## Parliament Talk

Last week started with a busy Wednesday morning where I first joined Ben Houchen in launching the new flights from Teesside to Heathrow. Not everyone realises but Teesside Airport is predominately in the Sedgefield constituency. It was great to see this reintroduction as this now means we have excellent connectivity from here to the rest of the world via both Heathrow and Amsterdam allowing both business and leisure options.

I then went straight to Ferryhill where the local Councillors have started a petition supporting efforts to reopen Ferryhill Railway Station. I am also working with the Labour MP's to the north of me in reworking an application to reinstate the Leamside Line which would significantly improve connections and rail capacity into Tyneside and Wearside.

After a couple of days away with Mrs H, I then joined Cleveland Bridge on the M42 where they were installing the first steel bridge on the HS2 project. This bridge has been fabricated from weathering steel (same as the Angel of the North) at their site in Darlington, which is within the Sedgefield constituency. It was then transported in 16 sections, the largest of which was 50 tonnes, before being assembled next to the junction to create a structure weighing 2,750 tonnes. This structure was then moved into place whilst I was there on Saturday, to see a man driving a bridge is a new experience for me! The important message for me from this is that when people ask what HS2 does for the North East, the answer is twofold, it is the increased capacity on our national rail network but additionally the jobs it supports for local industry.

Monday saw me back at Play Cafe, probably the last time for a while due to other commitments and then Westminster reopening. Tuesday has seen a number of constituents meeting me in our offices.

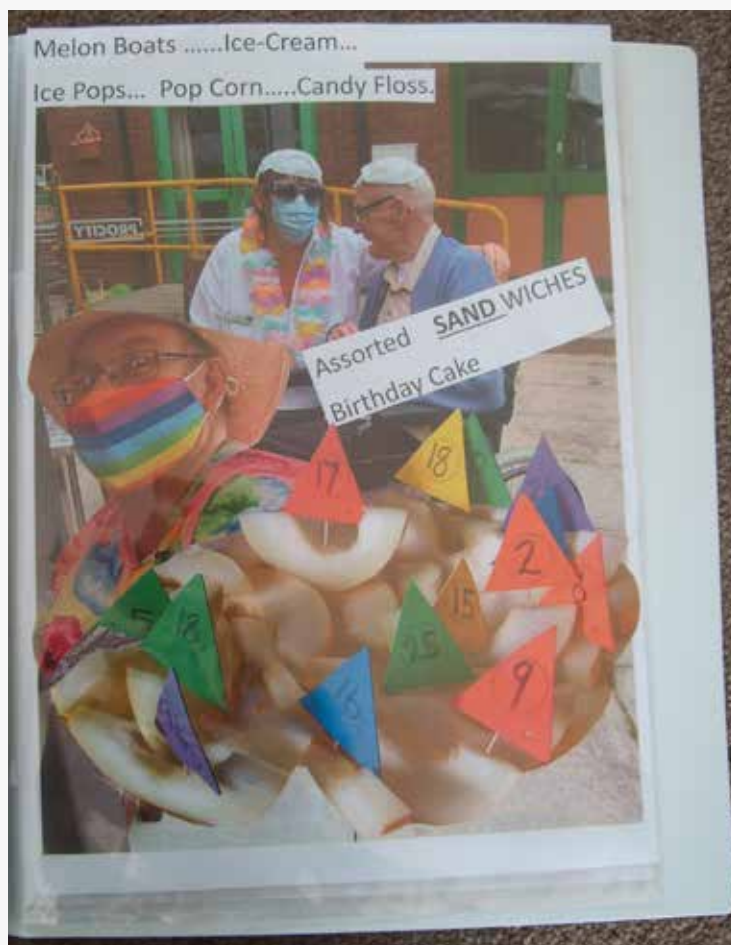
To give you a flavour of our emails for the week, we have the usual personal ones from constituents that we try to prioritise and then we have campaign emails that are from a coordinated source and are an identical email sent from numerous people, we will answer these but after the more personal ones. The greatest quantity of these this week were Newcastle United and Super Trawlers, I have supported both the need for more transparency from the Premier League and the need for us to increase control of our waters.

*Stay safe, wash your hands,*

*cover your face and give people space.*

Paul Howell, Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

# BETHANY RESIDENTS ENJOY A BEACH DAY



Debbie and Alan created a seaside themed event for residents living at Bethany House on Wednesday 5th August. The sun parasols were decorated with bunting and balloons, our patio filled with sand, buckets and spades, a paddling pool, deck chairs, carpet grass and beach balls.

Car park music was kindly provided by Brian, who played the street organ, residents sang along to the tunes and they loved the different sounds the pipe organ made.

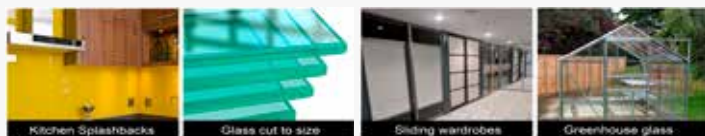
Lunch was fish & chip shop goodies followed by melon boats.

The residents, in their bedrooms, found the sensory jars interesting and fun and they enjoyed the seaside music and goodies.

A choice of activities were on offer during the day including sand art, pebble painting, seaside sensory jars, design your own post card and a knobbly knees competition, great fun had by all - we also celebrated two birthdays.

Whilst residents were eating cones of candy floss, popcorn, rainbow rice or ice-creams, Debbie and Alan relaxed for five minutes by the pool.

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# Online Exhibition Captures the Imagination

Greenfield Arts have been thrilled with the level of interest in their first online exhibition. Made at Home is a new venture, inviting artists and individuals to submit artwork that has been made during recent times.

Over forty artists have contributed to the exhibition and it has attracted local, national and global interest, even featuring work from Australia and the USA! There is a wide range of medium including painting, drawing, photography, textiles, collage and mixed media pieces. Many pieces 'made at home' reflect recent times and draw upon inspiration from time spent at home. The exhibition celebrates the way in which the arts, making and creating, can allow us to explore, be creative and express ourselves.

Greenfield Arts began the call out for the exhibition by commissioning three artists who created inspirational videos about them and their work. It was a fascinating insight into the processes and thinking behind the artist's process, provoking curiosity and creativity.

The final part of the Made at Home programme will see an artist response to the way in which arts and creativity have been of benefit to many, particularly recently, and a new artwork will be created and displayed at Greenfield Arts, Arts Centre facility.

The final art work will be on display in the arts centre when it reopens during the Autumn season. The Made at Home exhibition is available online from Monday 10 August and runs until Friday 21 August. You can view the range of artwork via our website, just visit [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk)



# House Special is Vicar's Chopstick Communion

For one Church of England Diocese of Durham Vicar, applying her Chinese cultural heritage to the task of keeping parishioners safe during COVID is proving to be something of a house speciality. Reopening churches for public worship within Covid-19 safety protocols has challenged clergy to adopt innovative ways to deliver services.

One such vicar, the Revd Eileen Harrop Vicar of St Mary's in Gainford and St Andrew's in Winston, decided that the best way to administer the bread at the Eucharist (Holy Communion) was to use extra-long serving Chopsticks. Eileen's confidence in using them coming from her upbringing and love of Asian cooking learnt from her childhood in Singapore.

Revd Eileen said: "Many of my parishioners were quite anxious at the thought of taking communion, even though we are only permitted to do so under strict guidelines to ensure that there is no chance of transmission of the virus. I thought, why can't I use a long pair of Chopsticks, real bread rather than wafers and drop it into the communicants' hands? Administering the communion in this way ensures that there is no cross-contamination and my parishioners feel reassured and confident to take part.

"It's rather special that the long chopsticks I use are normally used for the festive occasion 'Lo Hei' meaning 'stir the uplifted breath of life'. They take on an even greater meaning used in this context.

"This is a first for both churches, and perhaps a first in any parish church in the diocese. My congregation at St Andrew's, Winston, received Communion this way for their first service, following on from testing the idea at St Mary's, Gainford the previous week."

Revd Eileen is Singaporean Chinese and spent her early years there during the country's transition to Independence from Britain. Eileen came to the UK to study at Keele University in 1979.

She met Brian, her husband of 35 years, while completing her teaching placement in her final year of university, returning to Singapore for a period before once again coming back to the UK, for postgraduate study and finally marrying Brian. The couple lived in Singapore for a period where Eileen worked and travelled as an organisational change consultant to multinational conglomerates, and Brian was a University lecturer. Eileen and Brian returned to the UK in 1996 and Eileen prepared for Ordination at Ridley Hall and Wolfston College, Cambridge before being ordained in Canterbury Cathedral in 2012.



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# Happiness Hubs Fund Launches Grants to Support Local Communities



Leading health and wellbeing charity Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is thrilled to announce the launch of the Happiness Hubs Fund. A fund that provides one-off grants to local community providers in County Durham and Darlington to launch, or extend current projects which will provide non-crisis mental health support, by providing spaces that can be accessed by local communities. A total of £100,000 of funding is available and will be used to provide grants of up to £5,000. This fund is part of NHS County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG's) wider Community Crisis Care Transformation delivery. Successful projects will deliver

positive outcomes for people affected by poor mental health, enabling them to live a happier, healthier and safer lives. Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive, said: "As an organisation we have an emphasis on supporting people and communities to improve their mental wellbeing and resilience, and this fund will provide vital support at a neighbourhood level. Many people may be struggling with social isolation, loneliness or feel detached in the current climate and the fund aims to support small organisations across Darlington and County Durham to provide a safe place for people to go. "Mental health doesn't discriminate, anyone can suffer from poor mental health and 1 in 4 people in England each year will have a mental health problem. We're delighted to work with the CCG and other partners and establishing local 'Happiness Hubs' and when they're up and running I look forward to visiting to see how they are working to support positive wellbeing for all." If you would like information about the Happiness Hub Fund please contact Jane Cunningham on 07715 204462 or Happiness.Hubs@pcp.uk.net

## Running 100 Kilometres Across the Finish Line

A North East councillor is putting her running shoes to good use throughout August. Cllr Katie Corrigan, chairman of Durham County Council and Mayor of Durham City, is taking on a 100km challenge this month to raise money for local charity, The Cheesy Waffles Project. The project offers support to children, young people and adults between the ages of 7 and 30 years old across County Durham, who have additional needs.

In March, the charity established the 'Remote Rainbow Project' to help those young people and their parents or carers through the coronavirus pandemic.

Since then, more than 50 of the project's members have been offered timetabled, socially distanced activities and additional support to help them learn new skills, try new activities and stay in contact with their friends.

In addition to providing personal calls, social media activities and activity packs, the project also offers a recovery programme called 'Small Steps Programme' which allows small, targeted groups to attend the centre and engage in sessions delivered by staff.

To raise funds for the project through her Mayor's charity, Cllr Corrigan will run between 2 and 5km every day in August.

Cllr Corrigan, who will complete most of her runs in Durham, said: "The activities offered by The Cheesy Waffles Project have given these young people a vital focus during what has been a difficult time for all of us, so I wanted to set myself a challenge to help give something back to this amazing group."

"The project engages, encourages and supports many young people and adults across County Durham who have additional needs, giving them an opportunity to develop independent skills and engage in community work which raises their self-esteem and confidence. If running 100km throughout the month will help the project to continue this fantastic work, then I know it will be worth every step."

For more information or to make a donation, you can visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/katie-corrigan>



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	5	8	4		9		
9			7		3		5
	7					3	1
			5		2		8
		9					
4						1	
8							2
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## Free Copies for Bereaved Children During Covid

After the success of her first book 'Can we go Outside to Play? Not Today' which was based on her daughter and lockdown. Her new book is based around bereavement and it gives ideas of activities that might help 'a little bit'. A limited number of copies of the book and activity packs are available for free for families who have been bereaved during Covid19 Pandemic.

Jillian says, 'I heard stories from friends and family about young children losing their mothers/parents/grandparents from Covid and of course other illnesses during this time and I just wanted to do something small that could help. I have already given away 15 packs and I'm beginning to get feedback from the families about the impact on the children. I am raising money to give away more packs. I think something little like a book won't help much but it might just make a child smile on a sad day and it might just give families a few ideas about what activities might help through the dark days.' The packs contain a soft-toy, memory box with paint and craft materials to decorate and a book. She is aiming to give away 40 packs between now and Christmas. The book she has written is freely available from her website and if you would like to give towards the fundraiser follow the link below:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/i-miss-you-brown-bear-gift-boxes>  
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# Planning Permission Approved for New Durham Bus Station

An outdated County Durham bus station is to be replaced with a brand-new building as part of plans to support the county's economic recovery.

Planning permission has been approved by Durham County Council for preparations to begin in autumn which will see the existing Durham Bus Station, on North Road, demolished and in its place have a modern and spacious transport hub built.

The new bus station has been designed to increase the overall

space for passengers in a light and airy setting. There will also be improved facilities, such as increased toilet provision, including parent and child and a changing facility, as well as increased seating and space in the passenger circulation and waiting areas.

The design will provide increased visibility and safety for buses entering and leaving the station. This includes increasing the reversing area for buses leaving bays and improved visibility when exiting onto North Road.

Investment in the new station is part of the council's plans to support the county in its economic recovery following the impact of the coronavirus outbreak. The bus station has been designed to provide residents with a safe and attractive space while ensuring visitors to the city are welcomed with the best first impression possible.

It will help support businesses in their recovery from the pandemic by improving transport links, attracting visitors to Durham via the station, and increase footfall into the city centre to support the city's independent retailers, hospitality sector, and its indoor and outdoor market.

In advance of the demolition, temporary bus stops will be built on North Road and Milburngate, with the stops being available for passengers to use from early 2021 while work is ongoing. During this period, all bus services will be moved on-street with stop locations and timetables advertised in advance.

Demolition of the building is expected to begin early next year with construction to start in Spring 2021 with the completed building open to the public by Summer 2022.

Cllr Carl Marshall, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "We're delighted to be moving on to the next stage of the regeneration of North Road, with the investment in a brand new, state-of-the-art bus station for our residents, visitors, and businesses.

"The new station has been designed to create a modern transport hub that fits the historic nature of Durham but also is a safe and welcoming space for those who are coming and going from the city. We would like to thank the residents of the city and the surrounding villages who took part in the consultation and helped to inform the design.

"As plans have been approved, we can now all look forward to construction starting which will bring us this new, spacious and accessible station. Our plan for Durham Bus Station is part of a wider vision to improve transport links, which in turn will help boost our economy, and enhance towns and villages across the county. Durham City is very much open for business as usual and we encourage visitors to come and enjoy our excellent facilities and visitor attractions."

More information about Durham Bus Station can be found at [www.durham.gov.uk/durhambusstation](http://www.durham.gov.uk/durhambusstation)



## In Memoriam

### Lee George El-Hakim



11th August 2006

Well my love it's been 14 years on the 11th August since you left your loving family. Time goes by but your memories will never die. I see your picture every day, your smiling face.

You were my man full of grace. A true gentleman through and through. A loving Husband honest and true. A wonderful Father so full of love. That's why God took you high above. A man of principles, a good heart. That's why I loved you from the start. They say time heals . . . but the pain won't go away. I long to hold you every day. A gentle kiss, a warm embrace, oh God I would love to see your face. But that's so hard, as we all know. God took you 13 years ago. At first I was mad and very sad. Why did you leave us, guess I will never know? They say God only takes the best, so now I lay you down to rest. My heart is sad, but this I know, one day I will be with you, the perfect show! So until then sleep my prince, my love, my man. I will love you forever till we join our hands.

Marie El-Hakim  
Georgie and Kay, Michelle and Alister  
Elie Jnr., Solomon and Georgia Grace  
(Grandchildren)

## Obituary

### Mary Hutchinson

Aged 91 years  
Peacefully on 5th August 2020 in Defoe Court Care Home, Newton Aycliffe, formerly of Gainford. Devoted and loving Mam to Diane, Joanna, Antony and John; Mother-in-Law to Ken and Sophie; much loved and proud Grandma to Andrew, Thomas, Guy and Elliot and special Great Grandma to Archie. Sadly missed by all family and friends.

Private Service for family and friends to be held on Friday 21st August, 11am at St. Mary's Church, Gainford, Darlington, followed by private burial.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be given in Church to Defoe Court Care Home and Church Funds.

### June McManus

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully on 10th August, aged 72.

Deeply beloved Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother and Sister.

Due to current restrictions a private family service will take place at Durham Crematorium.

## Births

### Ava Victoria Atkinson



Many Congratulations to Amy (nee Gardner) and Lee on the safe arrival of Ava Victoria, 6th August 2020. A first Grandchild for both families.

Lots of love from two sets of very happy Grandparents and excited Aunts and Uncles and all extended families, both home and overseas. xxxxx



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## Aycliffe Rugby Club Appoint New First Team Captain

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club are pleased to announce that try scoring machine James Thacker has agreed to take on the role of 1st team Captain for the 2020/21 season. After carefully considering an approach from Billingham RUFC, who are a big North East club nestling in the Northern Premier division, James decided to stick with his hometown club. Much to the relief of all his teammates and supporters.

James has been one of the club's star players and has attracted interest for several years from major clubs. His loyalty will certainly boost the team for the coming season. James has played mainly in the centre at 12 or 13 and wing but has occasionally helped out in the forwards featuring in the back - row positions. His prowess as an immensely powerful runner and smart at running angles and often leading from the front, has earned him many tries over recent seasons.

James started his rugby career at Waterhead Warriors ARLFC based in Oldham learning the craft of rugby league. He then switched codes at Oldham rugby club. Eventually his family moved North to Newton Aycliffe and he was soon introducing himself to the club. The rest, as they say, is history. He went on to help claim honours with the club as division champions and cup winners in recent seasons. A big lad with a big heart and extremely popular throughout the club. Aycliffe Rugby are confident they have chosen the right man and wish him and his team the absolute best of luck for the coming season.

James will be leading a squad into uncertain times, as the covid pandemic has interrupted everybody's lives, including live sports. Slowly the government has introduced strict controls to allow live sport at the top level like Premiership football for example to go ahead. Without the supporters of course. As of 1st September, Premiership rugby has been given the green light to start. Grassroots rugby do not have the finance and structures in place to perform regular player testing for covid. Therefore, the RFU have set up a structured timeframe for introducing stages of training before it is safe to do full contact, as demanded by the very nature of the sport. That said, all grassroots clubs in the country adhere to the guidelines in order to protect all players and coaches.

Recent announcements by the RFU have increased the grouping of players training from 6 to 10 and are allowing 'touch rugby' to take place between two teams of 10.

No contact is allowed to take place. In addition, the RFU have suspended the start of grassroots matches until sometime after September. Frustrating as this is, Aycliffe rugby have been slowly building a squad by training regularly. This is mainly fitness and ball handling skills. The introduction of touch rugby will enhance the squads performances even more.

The current timetable has left plenty of time for new experienced players or any males over the age of 17, who wish to try the sport, to come down to Newton Aycliffe Sports Club on Moore Lane and join in. All newcomers will be made most welcome. Training takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings start 7pm and on Saturdays 1pm. For further enquiries please contact head coach Bob Malvern 07398167461.

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