


Friday 21st August 2020

Established 1948

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Magazine

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



UTC South Durham Students Celebrate A-level Results

See page 2 for full story

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UTC South Durham Students Celebrate A-level Results

Sixth Form students at UTC South Durham celebrated their A-level results on Thursday 20th August 2020. All students passed their A-levels and equivalent qualifications, and every student has secured or is in the process of securing employment, an apprenticeship (higher or degree), or a place of university. Principal Tom Dower said: 'We are delighted for all our students and wish to congratulate them on their results. The results are testimony to the hard work of our exceptional students and commitment of our teaching staff.'

This year has been difficult for many of us, but particularly for students in Year 13 who have faced a great deal of uncertainty with regards to their education and future. We are incredibly proud of their academic achievements, but also of them as the confident and driven young professionals we have seen them become.'

A number of students have secured apprenticeships with companies based in the North East, including Joe Allen and Oliver Trowell who are joining civil engineering company Costain, Stephen Henry is now working with BTS Fabrications, and Will Barker has joining Teescraft Engineering as an engineer in quality.

Kirsten Parr, who studied Maths, Further Maths, and Physics, is due to start a degree apprenticeship with accounting firm Ernst Young in Newcastle, and Felicity Nkomo is due to start with international design company Hanson as a degree level design apprentice. Other students have secured employment further afield, including Finn Trewitt who is working as an Installation Engineer in Italy. All students who applied to university were successful and all are going to study



STEM degrees: Jack Clarke is going to study Engineering at York University, Tom Shepherd is heading to Loughborough to study Product Design Engineering, Ben Miller and Sam Hall have secured places at Northumbria to study Mechanical Engineering and Foundation Engineering respectively. This year, as exams were cancelled because of the pandemic, students' grades were based on teacher assessments, supported with evidence of their work which was submitted to the exam boards.

Based in Newton Aycliffe Business Park, UTC South Durham is a STEM focused Sixth Form and school for 14-19 year olds. Sixth Form at UTC offers a range of STEM A-levels and equivalent Level 3 courses, in addition to a pre-apprenticeship Engineering Technician course.

Photo above: UTC student Felicity Nkomo is starting a degree apprenticeship in design with Hanson

Front page: UTC students (from left to right): Stephen Henry, Ben Fidell, Ethan Lawrence, Tom Shepherd, and Kirsten Parr

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Saturday 12th September - "Alcatraz House Band"

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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**



www.clickemart.co.uk

Online Convenience Store Delivery



Gin Bar Supports Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group

All over Lockdown the staff were working non stop, trying to get the bar up and running for the 4th July. Wayne Richardson and Colin Scott started this new venture making their own Gin, then opening a Gin Bar. The Aviator Gin Bar and The Herbal Gin Company live side by side and have been helped massively from the start, by the support of loyal customers in purchasing their gin, without which it would have been difficult to survive the pandemic restrictions. Over the Lockdown they heard that our local cancer support group were struggling after losing so much money, due to cancelled fundraisers. Although Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group are still providing most of their free services, such as patient transport, food hampers, financial help, advice and so on, their patient transport service have seen a huge increase since lockdown started, due to ambulances needing to be elsewhere. The charity was helping out hospitals needing to



get their cancer patients to hospital for life saving treatment including chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Wayne contacted Allison White, who is the chair and founder of the charity, to offer support by organising a fundraising event on The Aviator Gin Bar's official opening day on Saturday 4th July. They sold tickets to their customers for entry to this fantastic new business, along with members of Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group popping along to sell raffle tickets. Both the Charity and The Aviator Gin Bar would like to thank everyone for supporting the event and are pleased to announce that they raised £920 from ticket sales and the raffle raised £539. Opening Times for The Aviator Gin Bar are Thursday & Friday 15:00 until 23:00, Saturday 11am until 23:00 and Sunday 12:00noon until 22:00. <https://www.theaviatorginbar.co.uk> For more information about Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group you can contact them on 07762 258696 or they have a Facebook Page and website. www.greataycliffecancersupportgroup.co.uk

Look After Your Pets

Dear Sir,
I totally agree with the letter on Page 11 of the last edition of the Newton News. I live in Agnew 1 and every day I hear dogs barking between 7.30am on a morning and as late as 8.00pm on a night. I too am fed up of hearing the same dogs day in and day out. It appears that when the weather has stopped raining, the dogs are put out into the garden and left for hours to make a noise. I know that most owners these days don't take their dogs for walks, most animals don't even get past the garden gate. With having to work from home due to the covid-19 lockdown, I open my windows to let in some fresh air, but often have to close them due to the constant barking noise. When I do find out where those dogs do live, I will take the appropriate action of complaining to either Livin or Durham County Council. Yes, I do love dogs as well, but come on, look after your pets more. Name & Address Supplied

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Storymakers Get Creative With Greenfield Arts



Greenfield Arts have been continuing their arts programme and were delighted to venture online to continue their summer season offer with a free family holiday workshop.

Artist Jilly Johnston, inspired all of the family to get involved, creating creatures, characters and artwork from materials that could be found around the home and garden. Families were able to get creative with the help of a guided online video workshop and accompanying creative packs.

The workshop formed part of their Storymakers activity and gave participants the chance to spend creative time with each other and continue to be part of the Greenfield Arts Community. Families were given details and support on how to use the free Greenfield Arts Storymakers App, created by young people during a previous GAMP funded project through Greenfield Arts. Using the app they were able to write their own stories and include the characters they had made in a range of fantastical settings.

It was lovely to be able to see the results and share the creations that have been made. "We enjoyed the family video and enjoyed finding our way around the app" said one participant.

Thank you to all who were able to take part.

Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, won an exciting game at home to second in the table Hartlepool 2nd XI by four wickets in their NYSD second division clash. The visitors were asked to bat first and scored a very challenging 186 for 9 in their allotted 50 overs. George Slatcher (sponsored by Dean and Tina Greaves) was the pick of the Aycliffe bowlers taking 4 for 28 from his marathon 12 over spell. He was given good support from acting captain Michael Howe (2 for 30) and also both James Layfield-Carroll and Matty Greaves, who each chipped in with a wicket.



In reply opener Luke Telford (sponsored by Subhan Christudas) top scored with an impressive 43 from 65 balls and his fellow opener Sam Telford also batted well hitting a typically belligerent 38 from 36 balls as the pair recorded a first wicket partnership of 61 to put Aycliffe firmly in the driving seat. However, the dogged Hartlepool attack chipped away at the Aycliffe batting and took wickets at regular intervals leaving Aycliffe wobbling at 135 for 5. Jack Slatcher (23 runs) batted with energy before he was dismissed with the score at 171 for 6 leaving Chris Palmer to use all his experience to help see his side safely home to their victory target after 46.5 overs, finishing unbeaten with a vital 25 runs from 28 balls faced.

The club's u15's had a terrific result when they beat Richmond for the first time in their history when they came out on top in their home game by 16 runs in the NYACC. After being asked to bat first, Aycliffe totalled an above par 100 for 5 in their allotted 18 overs. Owen Smith continued his excellent form with a superb innings of 42 runs off just 40 balls and he hit five boundaries and opener Leo Mercy also deserves praise for scoring 23 runs, his best score of the season. In reply Richmond were restricted to 84 for 8 from their 18 overs thanks to some brilliant bowling by the talented spin pair Matty Greaves (4 for 4) and Tom Dearden (2 for 26).

Photo: 1st team opening batsman Luke Telford



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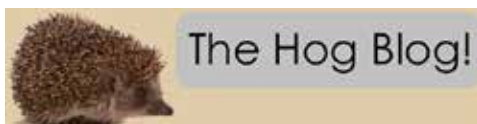
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Village Hall A.G.M.

The committee is delighted to announce that the annual meeting of Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association will take place on Monday, September 14, at 7pm in the village hall. This is the meeting that was postponed in March due to the pandemic. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, safety measures have been put in place, which include attendance being limited to 20 people. Therefore, anyone interested in attending is asked to let the committee know by emailing aycliffevillage@btinternet.com. All attendees will need to wear face coverings during the meeting. This will be a chance for people to catch up on what is planned for the rest of the year in what continue to be challenging times.



Before I start Joan,Viv and I want to thank everyone who has helped us with this rescue with regard to donations of goods, cash and food. When I first started I was totally unaware that fundraising was a necessary part of it which, I admit I was totally unprepared for, you all have been amazing and we are overwhelmed by the number of people who share our love for these beautiful mammals. Firstly, Cynthia of Middridge who rang BHPS (01584 890801) asking for my phone number to see if I would collect some items from her to benefit our Hoggies. Our gratitude to Brian, Community Support Initiative, Karen, Valerie and Tara for being there for us all. I can always count on Tara for a safe release site.

On a more serious note, as rehabbers we see the awful suffering these little ones have to endure but the biggest threats are man made, the rest is nature at its worst, we admit little babies with parasite burdens, upset tummies and a host of other afflictions. I am glad we have a wonderful vet who works with me to pull them through the difficult times because they are a very necessary and welcome addition to our gardens and whoever has hedgehogs are extremely lucky. It's up to us to care for them and help them thrive. Hope the information below is helpful, also the hedgehog street app is there for anyone who needs more information.

Thankyou

We LOVE that people want to help hedgehogs that visit there garden, so here are the key do's and don'ts:

- NO** mealworms
- NO** sunflower hearts
- NO** peanuts
- NO** bread or milk
- ☒ Cat or puppy biscuits
- ☒ Cat or dog tinned food
- ☒ A shallow dish of water
- ☒ Hedgehog food such as brambles, Pet & Wildlife, Spike's Hedgehog Foods or Ark Wildlife Limited

Happy Birthday Seaman Tom



Thomas Robson, born in 1931 in the mining village of Trimdon Grange, County Durham is turning 89 years old this weekend. After a short period at the local coal mine he entered the Royal Navy as a Boy Seaman, at the age of fifteen, and enjoyed a successful career. Having collaborated with Newton Press he published two books "A Lad From Durham" and "Boy Seaman R.N.", Thomas went on to travel the world on cruise ships to deliver his lectures, retelling his story of his own experiences. Thomas made connections with the United States and after travelling to Orlando with his wife Rita, he began talking with some of the US officiate and telling them about his experiences as a young seaman. The officiate from the Recruit Training Command invited the veteran to visit the next day. Thomas was thrilled when, at passing out parade, the senior officers surprised him with a US honour for his service.

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Yappy Dogs

Dear Sir,
Re: Newton News letter.
Dogs bark to communicate, when happy, excited and to warn if there is someone near their property. Dogs can make a lot of noise which can be annoying.
But, would it not be better talking to the owners so they can do something about it? Staying anonymous doesn't help.
If a dog is kept outside or locked up all day, if you think they are badly treated, then please report it. Also some owners prefer to walk dogs early morning and late evening.
I must say it must be good to have a neighbour who must watch over other properties 24 hours a day, no need for security cameras.
Just talk to the owners I am sure they would appreciate it.
M. H. Murphy

Crafter's TV Celebrate First Anniversary

Crafter's TV, the digital channel developed by Crafter's Companion, is celebrating its first-year anniversary.

To mark the occasion, the platform has up to £250,00 worth of products to give away and has planned a series of celebrations throughout the course of a week, including interactive games for viewers. Club Inspire members can also take advantage of double points all week when making a purchase. Since it launched with three shows per week last year, Crafter's TV has increased its schedule to seven days with an average of two live shows per day. To support its craft experts, Crafter's TV has welcomed three lead presenters in the last eight months and as the crafting channel continues to grow, there will also be opportunities to expand the production team.

Sara Davies, founder and creative director of Crafter's Companion, said: "Crafter's TV continues to be a very exciting venture for the company."

"It's grown phenomenally throughout the past year, as people have been turning to the channel for inspiration, education and entertainment. We want to celebrate our first year in style and we have some fantastic things planned throughout the week so I hope that people can tune in and enjoy!" Crafter's TV's Anniversary Week will run from 24th August to 30th August.

Take Part in Vaccine Research

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccine Studies Volunteers Dashboard shows the number of volunteers in the UK who are offering to be contacted for possible recruitment into approved trials to find an effective vaccine for the virus.

The registry dashboard provides an anonymous count of volunteers across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and can be broken down by region and local authority area and by age and gender. The NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry enables people across the UK to sign up to participate in COVID-19 vaccine trials. The service was commissioned by the UK Government's Vaccine Taskforce in partnership with NHS Digital, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Northern Ireland, Scottish and Welsh Governments.

This dashboard shows the number of people who have signed up for the coronavirus vaccine studies volunteer service across the United Kingdom, where they have given permission to be contacted for a vaccine study and have completed the verification process. The information is updated daily.

How to sign up

To find out more visit:

www.nhs.uk/researchcontact.

For general information about taking part in research, including other opportunities to support the fight against COVID-19, go to: www.bepartofresearch.uk

Hippodrome's Spectacular Festive Panto Moved to 2021

You shall go to the ball! But not until 2021 as Darlington Hippodrome along with producers Qdos Entertainment take the decision to move the 2020/2021 pantomime back a year due to COVID-19.

Due to the continuing uncertainty around when theatres will be able to re-open without social distancing, Darlington Hippodrome have taken the decision, alongside their colleagues at Qdos Entertainment, to postpone the 2020/2021 pantomime Cinderella into 2021.

Programming and Development Director, Heather Tarran-Jones, says "Pantomime is one of the most exciting times of year here at the Hippodrome and we'll miss seeing theatregoers of all ages enjoying what is always a highly-entertaining festive treat. But we now look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2021 for what promises to be a spectacular return for our famous panto." Councillor Andy Keir says "Pantomime has been integral part of the Darlington Hippodrome programme since its very early days. It's unfortunate but necessary that it's postponed this year, but we look forward to welcoming it back bigger and better than ever next year".

During the Hippodrome's closure period, Hippodrome staff have greatly appreciated the support and patience displayed by customers as they face a difficult and complex period with a reduced team. Cinderella ticket holders will be contacted as soon as possible with details on how they can move their 2020/2021 tickets into 2021. In the meantime, if customers prefer a full refund, then can contact the theatre on 01325 405 405 (Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm) or email hippodrome.boxoffice@darlington.gov.uk



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NAFC Junior Section Pre-season Friendlies



Under 13s Whites, Division 1 - Friendly on Sunday 16th August
NAFC 5 v Leven 4

Wow, what a game this morning. Both teams playing football the right way, high pressure, tackles flying in and some ridiculous goals scored. It definitely didn't have a friendly feel to it. We dominated the first 15/20 mins of the game and Leven couldn't get out, allowing us to play some lovely football. We scored 2 quick goals 1 through a Niall penalty and the other through a great move and finished off by Jayden with great feet. 2-0. Credit to Leven they showed their quality with 2 quick goals just before half time as their pressure paid off. 2-2.

Leven then scored a 3rd just after half time but our boys didn't drop their heads. Logan drew the game level with a cross / shot going in off the keeper to make it 3-3. We then went 4-3 up from a fantastic move which was finished off by Jayden with a half volley into the top corner. Leven scores straight from kick off to make it 4-4 just before the drinks break. After the drinks break we dominated the game again and could have scored more goals. We scored the winner with 5 minutes to go through another great move with Jayden squaring the ball for Tyler to finish into the corner to make it 5-4 at full time.

The boys were outstanding today against one of the best teams in this area. There were some excellent comments made from the Leven manager and parents saying how fit and intense we were throughout the game allowing us to press high and not let Leven play their usual passing football. The high intense training sessions are really paying off!! Excellent performance boys well done.



Under 11s on Sunday 16th August

Newton Aycliffe was at home again today against Wynyard in our 5th pre-season friendly.

Wynyard turned up with 2 squads, apparently, and unknown to me prior to the game, Wynyard and Darlington Quakers are due to merge. They also turned up in clashing kits which was tricky for us too as Wynyard play in blue normally.

Despite this Aycliffe put in an excellent display, we played really well and had a lot of the ball in the first 20 minutes. However Wynyard scored first and went on to score 3 more during the match.

The last 20 minutes we were by far the better side and had 5/6 shots and were very unlucky not to score 2 or 3 goals, their keeper was on form today but also so was Jack who also pulled off some great saves today too.

We lost George early on due to injury but he came back on later and did really well.

Really proud that we can keep going, kept our heads up and still created chances against a team 2 divisions above us and had a total of 8 subs to our 2.

Well done to JJ who ran his heart out today and I'm very encouraged as we now have 3 friendlies left against teams in our new White division. If we play that well then it's looking like it will be a cracking season!

Final score: Aycliffe 0 v Wynyard 4.

MOTM - JJ

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IS YOUR CHILD ROAD SAFETY AWARE?

Survey of Parents Reveals Road Safety Fears

Most parents do not think their children understand road dangers or concentrate properly when near roads, a new survey reveals as pupils prepare to set off back to school from next week. Safety campaigners have urged parents to help children learn the Green Cross Code "as they would their spellings or times tables".

In a survey by YouGov, commissioned for Injury Prevention Week (17-21 August) almost two-thirds of parents did not think their children had a good understanding of the dangers or concentrate near roads.

"One in eight parents went as far as to say they are very concerned about their children's safety," said Sam Elsby, president of APIL - a not-for-profit group for injured people, which hosts Injury Prevention Week.

"The Highway Code states that children should not be allowed out alone until they can understand and use the Green Cross Code properly. So it is particularly important for those children who may be walking to school without a parent or guardian for the first time this term," said Mr Elsby.

"I urge parents to be proactive this Injury Prevention Week. Support children in their knowledge and understanding as it is their best tool for avoiding harm on the roads," he went on.

"Test your children this week on crossing between parked cars and on bends. And ask them if they know to look out for reverse lights so they know if a car is about to move backwards. Test them in the same way you would test them on their spellings or times tables," said Mr Elsby.

Children aged 15 and under account for around a quarter of pedestrian injuries and deaths on British roads*



STILL TIME TO WIN A BRAND NEW CAR



There is now only one week to go until a local hospice gives away a brand new car in a prize draw which is set to raise £15,000.

The annual car draw in aid of St Teresa's Hospice, Darlington, will take place on Saturday 29 August, after the COVID-19 pandemic forced the original draw date to be postponed.

The deadline for raffle ticket sales was extended to allow more people to take part and to raise vital funds in response to the coronavirus crisis.

Hospice Chief Executive, Jane Bradshaw, said: "Almost all of our fundraising events and appeals have been cancelled this year because of COVID-19, but you can still support your local hospice by entering our car draw."

"We decided to extend the draw to raise as much as possible for St Teresa's Hospice at this difficult time and to give people even more chances to buy tickets. After months of lockdown it would be lovely to win a brand new car, and the odds of winning are better than the National Lottery!"

The grand prize of a brand new Peugeot 108, from long-time supporter of St Teresa's Hospice Sherwoods Motor Group, is one of ten generous prizes. Other prizes include an Iron Man karting session at Teesside Karting for up to ten people and annual membership of Catterick Racecourse for two people.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk/car-draw/> until midday on Friday 28 August. Tickets will be sent in the post along with a photocopy of the completed counterfoils as proof of purchase.

All tickets bought prior to the extension remain valid for the draw.

The draw will be streamed live from the Hospice via its Facebook page facebook.com/stteresashospice. A full list of winning ticket numbers will be published and all winners will be contacted directly. All proceeds from the draw will go towards helping fund the services that have remained operational during the pandemic, including in-patient and community services, as well as counselling support.

Photo: (left to right) Ann Fleming and Narelle Boniface.

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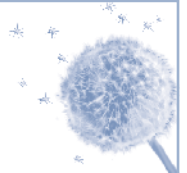
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Businesses Benefit From Innovative Incubation Space

A dynamic pharmaceutical company and a specialist cyber security firm have expanded their business and workforce since moving into new high-tech facilities at the North East Technology Park.

Northumbria Pharma and Tekgem have moved into Discovery iZone, the new incubation space within Discovery 1, at NETPark in Sedgfield, County Durham.

NETPark is managed by Business Durham, the economic development arm of Durham County Council, and is home to some of the world's fastest-growing science, engineering and technology companies.

The Discovery iZone has been created to complement the existing NETPark Plexus facility, and to provide companies with specialist laboratory, clean room and office space so they can develop prototypes, scale-up and manufacture on site.

Following a £394k investment, including a £197k incubation grant from the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) through the Local Growth Fund, Discovery 1, NETPark has increased its capacity with two 600sq ft combined office and laboratory spaces and a 1000sq ft class 10,000 clean room built to ISO7 standards. Northumbria Pharma, a pharmaceutical company specialising in the research, development, manufacture, licensing and marketing of unique and vital pharmaceutical products, has moved quickly to take space at the Discovery iZone together with associated offices and labs totalling 6,500sqft.

Founded in late 2016 by Paul Watson and Dr Samer Taslaq, Northumbria Pharma originally had a small laboratory space at NETPark but has continued to grow ever since, initially expanding within NETPark Plexus followed by their relocation to Discovery 1. Paul Watson, Co-Founder and R&D Director at Northumbria Pharma, said: "We're thrilled to have been able to move into the Discovery iZone as it has enabled us to continue to grow the company, and expand our team. We now employ 24 staff and are able to manufacture the products we develop in-house now that we have access to a specialist clean room, which means we can deliver high quality affordable products that create meaningful benefits to patients and healthcare professionals.

"We're incredibly grateful to Business Durham for its support over the last four years, as it has helped us to grow and made each move to our new facilities really easy. If we had not been able to move to different premises on NETPark we would be in very different position today. Business Durham's advice and support has been instrumental in Northumbria Pharma's success."

Tekgem, an industrial cyber security company, relocated from the Wilton Centre in Redcar to the Discovery iZone in November 2019 and are the first cyber security company to join NETPark. The company, which specialises in securing critical assets and infrastructure for industrial automation and control systems within the engineering and manufacturing sectors, has grown exponentially since moving to NETPark and now has ten permanent members of staff.

Ian Gemski, Founder and Director of Tekgem, said: "NETPark was the perfect location to relocate to for numerous reasons including having fantastic facilities to a very high standard, a campus feel which our young staff base really like and the opportunity to network and collaborate with the other companies at the park.

"Since moving to NETPark, Tekgem has continued to grow and we have doubled in size by employing people from across County Durham. Business Durham has been invaluable in helping us to settle into our new facility and has been incredibly supportive, especially during the COVID-19 challenge. It has helped us navigate the pandemic as we have adapted our ways of working and we really appreciate all its support and guidance."

"Surrounded by like-minded companies, the space provides businesses with innovative services, facilities and flexible lease terms in a supportive environment necessary to create financially stable enterprises.

To find out about locating your business at NETPark or to request a viewing, please contact Janet Todd, NETPark Manager on 01740 625 250 or e-mail enquiries@northeasttechnologypark.com

Wildcats Football Return



Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club, Wildcats finally returned to their development sessions after the enforced lay off. Although the girls had been practicing in their back gardens they were all excited to be back to the open space and pitches of the OakLeaf Sports Complex.

Despite last season's Wildcats sessions being cut short, we still developed a new team to compete in the Russell Foster Youth League at Under 7, starting in September. This team will be one of nine girls teams competing in the leagues this season, all of whom will have the opportunity to move into adult football with our women's team as they get older.

The fifth season of Wildcats at the Football Club will train every Sunday morning 9.30-10.30am at the OakLeaf playing fields. These sessions are aimed at any young girls aged between 4 and 10 years old, wanting to try football in a fun and friendly environment. If you are interested in coming along please ring Berni on 07939 045242.

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U10 Eagles Pre-Season Session



Newton Aycliffe Youth Under 10 Eagles would like to give a massive thank you to All Out Fitness for putting the team through their paces last Saturday as they prepare for the new season post lockdown. The boys were challenged with different exercises, each and every player loved the experience and can't wait for another session next week. The coaches from All Out Fitness were very helpful and the session was put on adhering to covid restrictions. A big thank you to Tez and Vicki for all their help.

Durham Constabulary Staff Member Wins National Award

A woman who started life as a police staff apprentice has seen her career take a phenomenal path culminating in a national award. Sheena Urwin, who heads up the Criminal Justice Department at Durham Constabulary, has been awarded **Police Staff Member of the Year by the British Association for Women in Policing.**

Mrs Urwin has spent her whole career working for the police service and most recently has collaborated with Cambridge

University as part of her most recent studies which concentrated on artificial intelligence within the policing environment.

She concentrated specifically on the independent validation and development of Durham Constabulary's Harm Assessment Risk Tool (HART).

HART is an algorithmic forecast of an offender's potential to offend. The artificial intelligence (AI) approach helps forecast the risk in terms of seriousness and can be used in custody to support the custody sergeant's decision making. This helps ensure that any support or diversionary action is appropriate to the risk the individual poses.

HART has received national and international attention with Mrs Urwin frequently travelling across the globe to share this technology within policing.

Temporary Superintendent, Vicki Martin, of Durham Constabulary, who is also chair of Star – a support network to ensure women in the force reach their potential, said:

"The area of IT and AI is predominantly male. To have a woman working at this level and with such success is exceptional. Sheena is the first to point out she started her journey as an apprentice with limited ambition.

"Her journey has been phenomenal and everyone who knows her is proud of the work she is leading – particularly over the last 12 months where the benefit of this work is really being seen.

"This work is truly ground-breaking, and she deserves formal recognition from her peers."

Mrs Urwin said: "When the organisers got in touch I was thrilled. I really didn't expect it, it's fantastic.

"Police staff play a pivotal role in policing with the work they do, and I am proud to say I have worked in policing for 32 years. To be noticed and recognised by peers makes me very proud indeed."

The award ceremony, which was due to take place in June, has been postponed until November.



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Youth Project Needs Your Votes for a Share of £1Million Fund



The Darlington based In2 Project is on the shortlist to win a share of Persimmon Homes' Building Futures £1million pot supporting under-18s nationwide.

The aims of the In2 Project are to help build confidence, foster aspiration and improve general health and wellbeing by opening up access to cultural and sporting activities for pupils in some of the most deprived wards in the area.

As the home of the In2 Project Darlington Hippodrome has hosted sessions with musicians, circus performers, actors, theatre producers and even inventors over the last year.

Persimmon Homes North East is backing the In2 project to be a prize winner at a gala dinner in October, where cash awards of £100,000, £50,000 or £20,000 will be made to those projects winning the most online votes.

Councillor Andy Keir, representing the In2 Project, said "it is a huge achievement to have been selected as a regional finalist, but now we really need people to get behind us and get voting so that we are in the strongest possible position to earn one of the top three cash awards on the night."

Councillor Keir added "Voting could not be simpler. Just log on to www.persimmonhomes.com/building-futures/ and select the In2 Project and vote for us. We would really appreciate everyone's support."

Building Futures is being delivered through the Persimmon Charitable Foundation. Through the scheme, a total of 128 grants of £1,000 have been awarded to groups supporting sport, education & arts and health across Persimmon's 31 regional businesses and its head office.

Online voting opened on 27 July and will close at midnight on 18 September 2020.

Cyclist Distancing

Dear Sir,
I wish to raise this issue though the Newton News, please. Like everyone else, when out walking, I practice Social Distancing. But, why do the majority of cyclists still insist on riding on pavements, where there is no cycle path, when the roads in Newton Aycliffe are nearly empty for most of the time? I regularly walk down Stephenson Way to the town

and find that the majority of cyclists insist on riding on the pavement, and passing me within inches - so much for the two-metre rule! Come on cyclists get on the road, it is against the law anyway, and as there is hardly any traffic on our roads, and you are grown up enough to cycle on the roads, leave the footpaths to pedestrians.
Name & Address Supplied

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Weekly Programme Schedule

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEWTON AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT

"Aycliffe Town Centre... Shopping for You"



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

Updates from MP Paul Howell at 12noon daily

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

9-10am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	Random Reiki Master	Phil Hawkins
12-2pm	Country & Americana Show	David Ringer
Blues Show Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service		
2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin & Monica
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6-7.30pm	Jazz Time	Mike Dixon
8-10pm	Sean's Sunday Set List	Sean Lawless
10-12am	Paul's Down Time	Paul Kjenstad

MONDAY TO FRIDAY DAILY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop (Mon, Tues & Wed)	Richard Smith
12-1pm	Call Me No 1 (Tues & Thurs)	Richard Smith
1-2pm	Memory Lane	Gary Avery
2-4pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
MONDAY		
6-7pm	60s Show	Karl Simons
7-8pm	70s Show	Peter Rush
8-9pm	80s Show	Gary Avery
9-10pm	90s Show	Paul Baker
10-11pm	00s Show	Producer Dan
11-12am	Teens Show	Andy Fittes

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	28th August - Paul Mac Rare Vinyl Mix (Australia)	Gaz n Alby
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	

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

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Warning Against Phishing Emails

A warning has been issued to County Durham residents following a series of scam emails, trying to obtain personal and financial information.

The trading standards team at Durham County Council is urging residents to be on their guard after it has received reports of hoax emails being sent, claiming to be from the council.

Each email uses a made-up name and claims to be from a council officer, with the letters MBL and a number on the bottom of the text.

The emails contain fake Bacs receipts and encourage the recipients to click through to a fraudulent website, which appears to be of a phishing nature and attempts to take personal and financial information.

One way to identify the hoax is that it isn't sent from a durham.gov.uk email address. Joanne Waller, Durham County Council's head of community protection services, said: "We would like to urge the public to take extra care when they are being contacted by email. We would never ask for personal information or financial information and we would ask that people take the time to check who the email is from, and stop to think before they click on an unknown link in order to protect their information."

"I would also encourage anyone who has received one of these emails, or has any other concerns regarding fraud or scams, to contact us. We will always take this information seriously and investigate the matter."

Details on how to report fraud and help from Durham County Council can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/fraud or residents can call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Details of how to protect yourself and family from frauds and scams can be found at www.friendsagainstsams.org.uk/elearning/durham

Meanwhile, local businesses are also encouraged to sign up to Business Against Scams at www.friendsagainstsams.org.uk/BAS

N.A.F.C. REPORT

Saturday 15 August
Pre Season Friendly
Newton Aycliffe 3 v Abbey Hey 3
Match report by Joe Ramage

Newton Aycliffe surrendered a two goal lead in the final 10 minutes on Saturday as Abbey Hey came from behind to snatch a 3-3 draw at The Beaumont Landscapes Stadium in an entertaining pre-season friendly.

Aycliffe went behind early in the game but captain Aaron Brown's close range equaliser meant the sides were level at the break.

There were a number of changes at half-time and Aycliffe raced out of the traps as Matthew Pennal scored just 23 seconds into the second half to give the hosts the lead before Adam Burnicle looked to have secured the win in the 70th minute.

Aycliffe missed a number of chances to extend their lead and were made to pay as Abbey Hey scored twice in the final 10 minutes to secure a draw.

It was Aycliffe's second pre-season game of the campaign following last week's 5-1 victory over Tow Law Town and Head Coach Colin Stromsoy gave game time to his entire squad once more as players continue to try and impress ahead of the new season.

Arran Wearmouth, who scored twice in that win last week, almost opened the scoring inside four minutes after an inviting cross from Liam Jarvie. But the forward couldn't quite divert it home.

Instead it was visitors Abbey Hey, from the North West Counties Division South, who made the breakthrough in the 12th minute after a stroke of misfortune saw Brown's defensive challenge ricochet off his teammate back into the path of the Abbey striker.

He was able to lift the ball over the on-rushing Connor Phelan and poke the ball beyond Adam Pickford to give the visitors the lead.

Aycliffe threatened an immediate response with Jarvie and Phelan causing problems down the right with Phelan's pullback cleared from the line.

The home side were soon level however as Brown capped off an excellent Aycliffe



attack. Ben Reay picked up the ball just inside the Abbey half and drove towards goal playing a delightful one-two with Ben Dibb-Fuller whose back heel found Reay at the byline.

The midfielder pulled the ball back to Brown, who had stayed forward from an earlier set piece, and the skipper tapped home.

Aycliffe thought they might have had a chance to take the lead from the spot on the half hour mark after Wearmouth was brought down but the referee decided against it. Minutes later Pickford had to be alert as he got down to his right to parry an effort wide. Reay should have given Aycliffe the lead, this time linking up with Wearmouth whose reverse pass found Reay inside the penalty area unmarked but the goalkeeper pushed his effort around the post.

The end of the first half saw a number of meaty challenges as this pre-season friendly became a feisty encounter with the referee diffusing a number of comings together.

The second half saw almost an entirely different Aycliffe XI take to the field and they staked their claim inside just 23 seconds when Ethan Wood's clever through ball found Andrei Ardelean whose cross was misjudged by the keeper and gifted Pennal an easy finish.

There was an improved vigour to Aycliffe in the early stages of the second half and Burnicle would have backed himself to have extended the lead in the 55th minute when he had time and space in the area but his strike was palmed over the bar.

Burnicle again found himself unmarked in the area on the hour mark after Ardelean put it on a plate, but his effort went narrowly wide of the post, much to his frustration. It was a case of 'third time lucky' for Burnicle who finally converted in the 70th minute after yet more smart play from Ardelean. Burnicle, with the more difficult of his three opportunities, slid the ball past the goalkeeper in off the post to give Aycliffe a 3-1 lead.

That should have been enough for the hosts but a long range strike which took a number of deflections to wrong-foot the substitute goalkeeper made for an interesting final 10 minutes.

The decisive moment came just three minutes later from an Abbey corner as a late runner escaped the defence and his diving header found the back of the net to level the scores.

Neither side was able to find a winner in a frantic final five minutes as the referee blew for full time.

It was another good workout for Aycliffe, who continue their preparations next week, again playing behind closed doors due to govt / FA restrictions.

Photo: Skipper Aaron Brown scoring Aycliffe's first goal

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We are now well on the way through recess, Westminster starts to sit again on the 1st of September, but I will also be in London for a couple of days next week to catch up with my London staff. We need to prepare for the bills to be presented in the first week back. Last week ended with a zoom call with ministers to discuss the



problems facing the coach industry, this is an industry that creates a lot of glue in the country in the way that it connects people and places. Due to Covid 19 the industry is effectively mothballed and it is a very difficult time for operators. The zoom discussion with ministers was to lobby for support for them and I believe the ministers on the call fully understood the gravity of the situation and will take the representations to the Chancellor and his team. I also had a visit to Wheatley Hill to meet residents who have some significant challenges with antisocial behaviour and environmental issues, I am working on their behalf with both the police and the council.

A major issue this week has of course been the exam results. This was always going to be a difficult process with students not actually sitting any exams but the failure of the standardisation model has been particularly disappointing as it has made a difficult year for students even harder. The concept of standardising results was laudable and appropriate in my opinion, but the process failed, despite being widely consulted on and having several of the major teaching unions supporting it. The need to change, due to the outcomes for significant minorities, looks correct but it will now introduce many other pressures ranging from over subscribed universities to comparators against future years, these will need to be addressed as we go forward. At a local level I have worked with those students that contacted us to try and get the outcomes they deserve and as I write we appear to have largely succeeded.

On other issues, I have been able to talk with a team based at Durham University who are working on developing the use of heat from underground sources like old mine workings, I have met them before as a Durham Councillor and their efforts continue to make progress and I will look to support their agendas.

I was able to join Simon and Jane at Junction 7 in preparing some packed lunches before I also had the opportunity to visit Sedgefield Community Hospital. There I met Sue Jacques (Chief Executive), Professor Paul Keane OBE (Chairman) and Louise West (Head Matron) as well as other members of the team. This gave me the opportunity to learn more about the structure of their services and see the excellent provision they offer whilst, of course, I was able to thank them for their outstanding efforts through this pandemic.

On a lighter note, during the week I have joined many of you in "eating out to help out" which has another couple of weeks to run yet, so please take the opportunity to support these businesses and get a great value meal.

As always, please remember to continue to respect the virus and not waste all the efforts that have been made, in particular by our key workers.

We need to wash our hands more regularly and robustly; wear face masks whenever necessary and give each other as much space as possible and we will give everyone the best opportunity to head to a more normal environment.

Have a safe week.

Paul Howell, Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

GREENFIELD STUDENTS ARE 'PHENOMENAL'

Greenfield Community College are very proud of the many aspects of student achievement and their positive engagement with a range of learning methods over recent months.

Students have worked hard to embrace the many changes that have been a feature of their recent learning, alongside continual support from tutors and expert teaching.

The school have been recognised for their commitment to studies and their positive use of the range of online resources.

The Director of Improvement in English, confirmed that Greenfield is in the top 7% of all schools who use the GCSEpod learning site and the school have been awarded a shield and £150 in prizes for their outstanding performance. They have watched over 42000 pods and completed 543 assignments. A spokesperson described the school as 'phenomenal' and had 'never seen a school like it'.

Consultant in Teaching and Learning, Mrs McKie, is also thrilled with the achievements in Maths and the remarkable number of questions that have been completed using the Hegarty Maths platform. Recent figures show that since 21st March, top performers include: Year 7 McKenzie, 2080; Karl, 1822 and Logan, 1234, Year 8, Robert 2612, Adam 2576, and Rose 1957 Year 9, Levi 3656, Declan 1385 and Sophie 1334, Year 10 Rhys, 2360 Faith 2182 and Skye 1922.

Well done to all students who have been making the most of this resource. "These figures on the numbers of questions completed are simply phenomenal. Keep being awesome" Mrs McKie.

Students have been working across the curriculum to make progress and continue to achieve as self-led learners, their resilience has been extraordinary. Individuals have taken up reading challenges and groups of students have given their own time to help create and produce valuable resources for students next term.

Staff have been diligent and innovative providing resources, continual support, hosting campaigns and competitions to inspire and encourage learning.

Greenfield Community College are now looking forward to celebrating GCSE results with Year 11 leavers and welcoming the whole school back in September to a safe and secure learning environment. If you would like to know more about Greenfield Community College please visit our school website or email contact@greenfieldschool.net

The POD Games 2020

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR POD GAMES CHAMPIONS!

GCSEPod are proud to present the results of the 2020 Pod Games Grand Finals and Regional Pod Games for March to June!

Engagement has been incredible despite schools facing some of the toughest challenges in teaching and learning during school closures. Well done on finishing during such a testing time, your results are as follows:

League	Place	Name	Your Score
North Heavyweight	1	Greenfield Community College A Specialised Arts and Science School	296.3855

Newton News

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for Sedgefield

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Durham Marketing Campaign to Get Tourism Back on Track

Destination management organisation Visit County Durham has launched a marketing campaign that promotes Durham as being 'Worth the Wait', inspiring visitors from within the region to choose the county for a day visit or staycation. It marks the first stage of activity to get tourism back on track by attracting summer visitors and extending demand into autumn, after the visitor economy was significantly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

As consumer confidence starts to slowly return, and families, friends and couples enjoy spending more time together, the campaign showcases the range of experiences to be found in the county, from family fun and the great outdoors, to coast and countryside getaways, heritage city breaks, fantastic food and drink and unique shopping experiences.

The campaign also provides a free promotional platform for Visit County Durham Partners and visitor economy businesses, with hundreds featured on the dedicated 'Worth the Wait' website.

Michelle Gorman, managing director of Visit County Durham, said: "As people enjoy spending more time with loved ones, we want to encourage them to choose Durham for their next day out or staycation. Research shows that tourism from within our own region will recover first, as consumer confidence starts to build, and residents become comfortable with returning to their favourite places or discovering something new a short journey from home. The 'Worth the Wait' campaign will showcase the county and inspire residents of the North East to choose Durham."

Sarah Price, Head of Locomotion, where the campaign was launched, added: "Since the museum reopened last month it is clear that people have a desire to start exploring and enjoying their own region again. Locomotion, along with attractions across the county, is ready to welcome visitors back, and we are delighted to be part of this campaign which will put Durham at the forefront of people's minds when deciding on a day out or longer stay."

The campaign is seen as key to Durham County Council's commitment to working in collaboration with organisations and communities across the county to overcome the challenges presented by the Coronavirus pandemic; and to provide the support, advice and resources necessary to ensure the county's visitor economy is able to recover and continue to grow in safety, and at a pace that provides confidence and assurance to businesses, visitors and residents alike.

Cllr Joy Allen, the authority's Cabinet member for transformation, culture and tourism, added: "County Durham is home to beautiful countryside, a spectacular coastline, rich heritage and high-quality shops, restaurants and accommodation providers. All these assets will play a crucial role in boosting tourism and in doing so helping ensure the county is on track for economic recovery; and so we are delighted



to support Visit County Durham's Worth the Wait campaign.

"With more of us choosing to enjoy days out and holidays closer to home this year, it is the perfect time to explore or rediscover the treasures the county has to offer. County Durham is just an hour or so away by car or train from other parts of the North East, Cumbria, North Yorkshire and even parts of Scotland, making it an ideal staycation destination."

The website for the campaign is www.thisisdurham.com/WorthTheWait

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Dear Sir,

In response to the reported article in last week's Newton News regarding the Motorcycle Madman. We too, here in the Simpasture / Jowett Way area of Newton Aycliffe, have the same 'madman' who likes to cut through the Nature Trail (old railway line), and tear up the grass fields.

Operation Endurance is in operation in our area to catch these illegal bikers, so let's hope the police get as much information from the public to help stop this . . . along with another idiot on a large quad bike wearing a sky mask (probably because he doesn't want his photo taken, evidence has already been forwarded to the police. These people think it is funny to terrorize walkers, and think they can get away with it . . . Well I have news for you, your actions have, and will be recorded, and forwarded to the police via new trail cams that have been hidden.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask those people who have a so called party in the area of Jowett Way Nature Trail, every Friday night, to think of the people who live nearby, and I mean nearby, 50 yards away. We too like to party at times, will you please stop the noise and stop chopping trees down to burn on your bonfire. Because at 2, 3, 4am in the morning it is not funny and the litter you leave behind has a detrimental effect on others who have to walk in this area with dogs, and have to clean it up. You too will be reported and evidence gathered via trail cams.

It's now time to put a stop to all this in our area.

Signed

Simpasture Residents

Funding for More Affordable Accommodation in County Durham

A charity's funding boost will see more affordable accommodation created across County Durham.

Durham Action on Single Housing (DASH) has received £175,000 from Durham County Council to convert part of its Gilesgate office into self-contained flats.

DASH has provided accommodation and support for homeless people and those at risk of homelessness for a number of years, but having become a Registered Provider of Social Housing in March this year, the charity is now providing affordable homes for local people to rent.

The council awarded the money from its Commuted Sums fund, which it receives from housing developers to help support local communities.

The funding will see DASH convert the first floor and part of the ground floor of its offices, on the ground floor of Hudson House in Gilesgate, into four, one-bedroom self-contained flats which will be let at affordable rent.

The council's housing solutions team will also work alongside DASH in referring local residents to the flats, which are expected to be available from spring next year.

Cllr Kevin Shaw, Cabinet member for strategic housing and assets, said: "We are delighted to further develop our working relationship with DASH and this will provide access for a greater number of our most vulnerable people into affordable accommodation. We know that the part funding we have provided will help to address housing needs within local communities and by working together with our partners, we can continue to ensure that the services offered can be best delivered to those in greatest need.

"The accommodation that will be provided at Hudson House will have a strong emphasis on local connections. I will therefore look forward to the refurbishment being completed so that we can start welcoming local residents to apply for the flats, or use the referral process to support them into housing." Les Puntun, chair of DASH, said: "We are delighted to have secured part funding from Durham County Council and Homes England to develop our headquarters at Hudson House to provide four more self-contained flats which are much needed in the area. We look forward to developing more affordable accommodation in the future."

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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



My dogs and grandkids doing the conga on the fields behind Woodham Academy, by Michelle Mason.

More Yappy Dogs

Dear Sir,
Coincidentally I was in the process of writing a letter to the Newton News, when my weekly copy arrived through my letterbox, carrying the letter from an Ashfield resident, titled "Yappy Dogs Chorus All Day". Almost word for word, it described the same situation I am experiencing here in Woodham.
Not content with just one dog, some owners have two or more. Inevitably, they will be let out into the garden and left to bark at various times during the day. Not one individual culprit, but someone's dog will be barking in the vicinity throughout the day. Collectively it is becoming a real nuisance. I can only appeal to these dog owners to consider their neighbours, who do not have dogs, and respect their desire for a little peace and quiet, particularly during the summer months. Although, we are in a minority, I fear.
Name & Address Supplied

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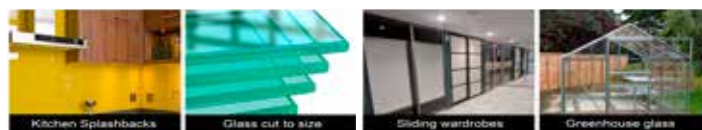
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Dear Sir,
On Friday 14th August, whilst out on a morning stroll, I spotted a rather large clump/nest of honey bees, not too high up in a crab apple tree near the blue bridge on St. Cuthbert's Way. With the nest being so close to housing and a public footpath and was somewhat reachable, I decided that these bees should be taken care of properly and given a home rather than just hang around in a tree.

So, I contacted Darlington Beekeepers Association and sent them a photo of the sheer size of the nest, to which they responded immediately and met up with me at the site and began the process of nest removal - a very patient removal at that. As I was somewhat interested to see how they removed it, I stayed close by, but not too close. It was estimated that there was around 40 thousand bees and even though I kept my distance, a few still landed on me to enquire. Amidst my panic, I was instructed to remain as still as possible as they really don't want to sting me unless they have to, unless I aggravate them into doing it. All in all, it was a very interesting process and quite time consuming as they had to wait for an entire colony of bees to find



and protect the queen inside a box. Whilst waiting, I became educated on the life of honey bees and the voluntary work carried out by the Beekeeping Society in the removal and collection of bees nests around the area, which they've collected quite a lot this year from peoples back gardens due to more people being at home and noticing them.

If anyone should see a clump or a nest of bees, don't panic!

Don't disturb them either, simply contact Darlington Beekeepers Association on 07394 626641 for swarm info and they'll do the rest. For more information visit: www.darlingtonbeekeepersassociation.org.uk
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9	8						1
			2			9	
							5
		7		9	1		
3							
	2	7		3		8	4
				4			3
8	2			5			9
		9		8			7

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Praise for County Durham Students on A Level Results

As young people across the UK receive their A level results, a council has praised students, schools and colleges for their dedication during challenging and unprecedented times.

Durham County Council recognises that

this year's A level results are born out of a unique set of circumstances and many students cannot mark the day as they would have liked.

With students unable to sit their final exams due to the coronavirus pandemic, teachers in England submitted predicted grades to exam boards. The boards then took into account data from previous years to adjust the marks, with the aim of ensuring consistency. However, the process has resulted in some young people not achieving the grades they had hoped for.

In County Durham, A level results are in line with last year, when the average grade was a B minus. Applied General and Tech Level results have improved slightly, with the average grade now a Distinction compared to Distinction minus.

This is encouraging but disguises discrepancies between schools and individual pupils, and the council understands some headteachers will be appealing results on behalf of pupils where there is evidence of their grades being moderated down for no apparent reason. Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for children and young people's services said: "On behalf of the council I would like to let everyone who has received their A level results know how incredibly proud we are of you all."

"Whatever grades you received, please be assured that we are working hard to ensure there are opportunities for you to follow your dreams in County Durham as we recover from the impact of the pandemic."

"Support is available, and I would encourage anyone who is unhappy to seek it out. It is more important than ever that we look after our mental health and wellbeing."

Cllr Gunn also extended her praise and thanks to schools, colleges and sixth form centres across the county, adding: "This has been an immensely challenging time for schools and colleges, which have had to adapt quickly to implement new arrangements."

"This is on top of the pressures of continuing to run schools for the children of key workers and those with additional needs, while supporting the majority of pupils remotely."

"We are so grateful to all education providers for their hard work and commitment to children and young people in County Durham. There are still challenges ahead and we will do everything in our power to support schools and colleges when the new academic year begins."

Those looking for careers advice can find out about the council's apprenticeship programmes and adult learning and employability courses at www.durham.gov.uk/jobsandcareers

The mental health and wellbeing community Kooth is offering support to young people via its website www.kooth.com and social media channels, @KoothUK on Facebook or @Kooth_UK on Instagram.

The charity Student Minds is also offering support and guidance online at www.studentminds.org.uk

Meet the Team



Rotary Newton Aycliffe 'Trish Pemberton'



Every couple of weeks we are hoping to highlight one of our Rotary club members and we begin this new feature with our President, Trish.

My name is Trish Pemberton and I became involved with Rotary because I taught Syd Howarth's granddaughter, Carrie. She wanted to set up an Interact Club at our school and asked me to be the club's mentor. After a presentation from the Howarths, I was hooked and the club we set up about 15 years ago is still going strong – it really fitted with the school's original Quaker ethos. I did not join Rotary until I retired – not because I did not want to, but because, as a teacher, my evenings were not my own. I was also heavily involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme at my school as my other great love is the outdoors and outdoor pursuits.

I retired five years ago, and I have been a member of Rotary ever since. I love the emphasis on community, both at home and internationally, and enjoy taking part in fundraising events like the Santa Sleigh. This year I am President. It is not quite how I imagined it would be because of the pandemic, but we are meeting up online regularly. We usually invite a speaker – I have just invited Chris Lloyd from the Northern Echo to speak at our next meeting, and we are still doing our best to support the community during the pandemic with our recommendations coming from people like local health visitors and funds partly from GAMP. Like everyone else, I am looking forward to a new normality as soon as possible, whatever that normality will be.

Birthday Remembrance

Steve Stewart

Thinking of you on your 59th birthday. Also your dear Sister, Anne, who joined you in Heaven. Lots of love, broken hearted Mam, Audrey

Peter Redden (1971 - 2013)

Memories are our keepsake, treasured all life through. Ours are extra special, because they are of you. Love you loads, from all the family xxxx

Congratulations

Tom Robson



Happy 89th Birthday 22nd August 2020

Wishing you a great day, your family are so proud of your every achievement. Lots of love from all of your family xxxxx

In Memoriam

Audrey Whittleton

In loving memory of Audrey, who sadly passed away two years ago today. There isn't a day that goes by that we don't think about you, you are forever in our hearts. Love, Husband Rich and all the family xxx

Ronny Mayoh

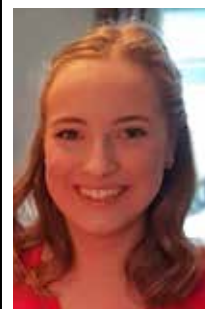
25th August 2012
Eight years now and still missed by everyone. Rose and family

Mark Fletcher



21st August 2012
Can't believe it is eight years. Miss your daft jokes and your crazy smile. Always in my thoughts. Paul, and all at Oswald House.

Jessica Hutton



Congratulations Jessica on your A Level results and securing a place at Teesside University to study Law. You have worked so hard and fully deserve all of your success. Here's to the next chapter in your life. We are all so proud of you and your achievements. Lots of love from Mam, Matthew, Grandma, Grandad, Eddie, Tina and the rest of your family at home and abroad.

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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Aycliffe Angels Girls Football Teams Reach New Heights



Last weekend saw girls from three mini soccer teams at Newton Aycliffe Youth FC celebrate their achievements, despite the premature end to their season. The girls were lucky enough to complete their league games but sadly, due to lockdown, weren't able to receive their league victory or club participation trophies as they usually would. Due to changes in restrictions, these teams finally met to celebrate during their training session, and their smiles say it all. The club and coaches continue to ensure that safety is paramount, coming second to that is definitely fun.

U10 Angels won Division 1 and were promoted.

U11 Angels Blue were runners up in their first premiership season.

U11 Angels Yellow had a successful debut season in Division 1.

Girls from each team received special awards for Top Goalscorer, Most Improved Player, Managers Player and Player of the Year, as well as their Angel Awards. The coaches; Chris, Clare, Sam, Peter and Lee, are super proud of every single player and would like to thank them and their parents for their dedication during an extraordinary season.

The teams are looking to expand their numbers, due to the U11's moving to 9-a-side. Outfield players, with or without

experience, are welcome, as is a Goalkeeper for our U11 Angels Blue. These girls are fab and can offer a friendly team, a great work ethic and lots of fun. All coaches are DBS checked, teams train on Wednesday evenings at The OakLeaf Sports Fields and will play league games on Saturday mornings. If this sounds a fit for someone you know, please get in touch with Clare on 07958 712786 for a chat or visit NAYFC.com
Photo: Lockdown Season 2019/20 celebrated by Aycliffe Angels

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