

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

Rotary Aycliffe Supports Shine Children's Choir



See page 2 for full story

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Watch Your Speed

Dear Sir,
Regarding the article in your 28th August edition, 'DANGEROUS DRIVING AROUND AYCLIFFE', I would also like to voice my support for what was printed, regarding the absolute inconsiderate driving and speeds of the minority of self-centred idiots who drive up and down Pease Way, Barrington Road, etc., as well as the noise.

The other point I would like to mention is, the speed limit on council estates or any other residential estate is 30mph, not as the writing states as 20mph, unless it is signposted, although I would advise caution and drive at 20mph, especially outside schools, play areas, parks, etc. Name and address supplied

A New Future for Fostering in the North East

A new independent fostering agency is coming to Hartlepool/ Teesside/the North East.

Changing Futures Fostering (CFF), which is entirely owned by the Hartlepool based charity Changing Futures North East, is ready to start working to improve the future for children in care in our area. Reflecting the beliefs and values of its parent charity, CFF believes that positive and healthy relationships are essential to growth, development, happiness and effectiveness and that all members of a foster family have a right to be safe and supported.

Sarah Richardson, Fostering Manager, said: "I'm proud to be a part of this new chapter in fostering for our area. We are a community organisation, started by an experienced charity, that really cares about children and young people.

Foster parents who join our agency will be helping to build a new ethical fostering agency that wants to better support children and foster parents.

If anyone is interested in fostering and in helping to improve the lives of children and young people, please get in touch."

Changing Futures Fostering can be contacted by phone on 01429 363127 or email admin@changingfuturesne.co.uk

Rotary Aycliffe Supports Shine Children's Choir

Shine Choir is a children's choir based at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe. Practices normally held every Monday evening 5pm till 6pm, free of charge, are suspended until further notice. However, read on for a different way of rehearsing.

Every year Shine Children's Community Choir puts on two performances which help to build confidence and friendships in even the most timid child. This gives each one of them the opportunity to SHINE whatever their abilities might be.

This year plans have had to change. Helen McCormick, who leads the choir, and Catherine Telford tell us, 'even though we are not able to sing indoors, we would still like our children to perform, just with a different approach. Our plans involve getting small groups of children together, distanced of course, and allowing them to sing and act their part and they will be recorded in the process. When complete, the shots will be edited together to make a film for posting to our Facebook page'.

Helen and Catherine told us that the issue was that they did not have the facility to enable this new way of working. Along with Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership – GAMP, Rotary Newton Aycliffe recognised that providing the necessary equipment would give the children something to aim for and keep their spirits up during this exceedingly difficult time. Trish Pemberton, our Rotary President, went along to see Catherine last week and presented her with a cheque to cover the cost of Bluetooth speakers which would assist in their new venture.

Catherine said, 'we were really thrifty and there was enough left in the donation to also make up activity packs for the children to complete at home. These would be packed, sealed and posted out to each child by age group allowing them to have a fun afternoon making and creating, to at least support them during the tough times we are all experiencing'. The photographs show our President, Trish, handing the funds to Catherine and some of the choir members in past rehearsals.

Anyone wishing to join the choir or perhaps would like further details, please ring Helen McCormick 07716 801262 or search Facebook for their page where you can leave a message.

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Saturday 5th September - "Uncle Gilbert"

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Covering tracks by: Bad Company, Billy Idol, Bon Jovi, Cult, Deep Purple, Garry Moore, Hendrix, Satriani, Pink Floyd, Rory Gallagher, Santana, UFO, ZZ Top and many more.

Saturday 12th September - "Alcatraz House Band"

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UNFAIR LOCAL COUNCIL TAX QUESTIONED BY COUNCILLOR

Lib Dem Cllr, Michael Stead, (Great Aycliffe Town Council) has submitted a motion calling for the County Council to investigate the unfair Council Tax in County Durham. Residents in Newton Aycliffe pay on average £241 more council tax than residents in other parts of County Durham. They pay for their own services and for services elsewhere and then pay again to the Town Council.

This is happening across County Durham. Cllr Stead was elected with 80% of the vote beating Labour and Independent candidates earlier this year for the Woodham Ward of GATC.

He comments, "People voted for me because this issue was my main campaign pledge. It is against natural justice and fair taxation for us to have to pay for our services and pay again for other areas."

Areas like Crook, Consett and Chester-le-Street do not have town or parish councils so Durham County Council does everything.



"In places like Shildon, Spennymoor and Newton Aycliffe residents are paying as much as £275 a year more council tax for town councils do the same but they are also paying for other areas to get those services for free from Durham County Council."

Fellow Lib Dem councillors Dean Ranyard (Spennymoor) and Garry Huntington (Shildon) are also submitting motions to their town councils demanding action. It is expected more will follow.

County Councillor Mark Wilkes submitted a motion to Durham County Council on the issue before lockdown but DCC has yet to hold a full council meeting.

He commented, "Our town and Parish councillors across the County are quite rightly furious that we have such inequality in 2020."

"The only way to change this is to elect more Lib Dem councillors in our County because Labour have failed to fix this injustice for over a decade."

"If you live in County Durham join us and help us get a fairer tax system across our county."

Councillor Stead's motion will be debated on Wednesday 2nd September by Great Aycliffe Town Council.

Photo: Michael Stead on his stunning election night with his Lib Dem colleagues including County Councillor and campaign manager Mark Wilkes and Lib Dem Group Leader Councillor Amanda Hopgood either side of him.

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WATCH OUT FOR LITTER LOOTS



Dear Sir,
The photo was taken of the running track near Woodham Academy and Wolsey Close (off the Burn footpath).

I collected the litter whilst walking my dog with my daughter over the weekend and I plan to write to our MP, Paul Howell, to suggest a bar code track and trace for shop payments so we can trace who has left this unsightly mess.

Data protection may prevent but worth a try as, if a company sets up machinery to do this it could provide jobs in the UK and tax revenue from fines for the govt.

Most people pay by card now, rather than cash. If only police kept names of offenders via bank accounts, then still secure data. I asked Woodham Academy some time ago to set up volunteers to help me litter pick, but they and the council played ping pong over who actually owns the land.

Name and address supplied

Assaults on Police Officers Increased During Lockdown

Assaults on police officers and staff in County Durham and Darlington increased during the lockdown period, figures have revealed.

Durham Constabulary recorded 228 assaults on officers and staff between March and July this year – an increase of 26% when compared with the same period last year, in which 168 assaults were recorded.

A number of these assaults included incidents in which suspects have spat or coughed in officers' faces and claimed they had Coronavirus.

Others include incidents where officers have been punched, kicked, head-butted, scratched, bitten or had glass bottles thrown at them.

The figures come as the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and College of Policing publish their Officer and Staff Safety Review, following the largest ever survey of police workforce.

The urgent review was undertaken following significant concern about assaults against officers and staff, and the severity of them. As a result, a package of 28 recommendations has been approved by chief constables, with the aim of enhancing the safety of frontline officers and staff.

Some of the recommendations include an overhaul of safety training; reviewing the availability of equipment; new technology being trialled and a hard-line approach to the standard of response after an assault.

Chief Constable Jo Farrell, from Durham Constabulary, said: "Attacks on police officers and staff are unacceptable at any time, but they are especially appalling when these officers have worked tirelessly on the frontline to keep people safe during the Coronavirus pandemic."

"Our officers put their own lives on the line for the public every single day and assaults should never be seen as part of the job."

"Police officers are human beings who have every right to return home safely at the end of each shift."

"Attacks on officers not only have physical consequences, but can leave them with long-term psychological damage which is also often felt by their loved ones and colleagues."

She added: "We need to ensure our officers have the very best tools, training and support that they need to protect the public and protect themselves. That is why we have continued to make sure our officers receive vital training throughout the pandemic, all while taking precautions to remain Covid-compliant."

"Policing is a hugely rewarding career, and our officers and staff join knowing that they will have to face some potentially dangerous situations. We welcome and support the recommendations and changes set out in the review, and will be working through them to implement them in County Durham and Darlington."

Ration Challenge Fundraising Effort

Dear Sir,

This year, from 14th to 20th September, I will be living on the same rations as a Syrian refugee, for a week, to raise money for emergency food, hygiene kits and lifesaving support for those who have been hit hardest by the coronavirus pandemic. The fundraising initiative is called the 'Ration Challenge'.

My family and friends have sponsored me to take part in the challenge and the money raised will support refugees in camps, and other vulnerable communities, who desperately need our help right now.

When I first saw the small amount of rations I would be living on, I was shocked to say the least . . . it is truly devastating to think that people live on these rations, day in and day out – and coronavirus means many more now face devastating hunger.

I'd been feeling really down about the situation experienced by refugees overseas for quite some time and had no idea how I could help. When I found out about the 'Ration Challenge' I immediately signed up to take part - finally there was a way to make a real difference!

To donate to Kay's fundraising challenge please visit www.rationchallenge.org.uk/kay-naylor

For more information about the challenge and the charity visit www.rationchallenge.org.uk

Kind regards
Kay Naylor

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Dangerous Driving

Dear Sir,
Where are our Labour/Momentum Councillors when you need them? In last week's Newton News a concerned Newtonian wrote a half page letter complaining about dangerous driving around Aycliffe, and other matters; he blames Boris Johnson!

Would a Labour/Momentum Councillor from the Labour /Momentum ruling Group on Durham County Council properly advise this Newtonian that Durham County Council is the statutory authority with RESPONSIBILITY for Roads, Road Safety, Policing and Social Care. Also, the elected Police and Crimes Commissioner is Labour!

Perhaps, if Cllr. John D. Clare took time out from Championing the Climate in Durham and decrying our current (world leading) economic model, he could pass on this Newtonian's concerns to the relevant responsibility holders in our Momentum/Labour controlled Council. I would point out, however, that Durham Police have been wasting their time, at the behest of Labour/Momentum DCC Councillors, attempting to trace the movements of Dominic Cummings as he went about his lawful business. Policing priorities are set by Labour/Momentum Councillors and the Labour Police and Crimes Commissioner.

Alternatively, "Concerned Newtonian" could write to our brand new Conservative MP, Paul Howells. I have written to him on numerous occasions and received confirmation that he has forwarded my complaint/concern to the relevant Authority. (Note: Paul is still a County Councillor).

Yours Sincerely
Alastair P.G. Welsh

Steam Locomotive Trust Launches 30th Anniversary Fundraising Appeal

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust - the registered charity that built, owns and operates world-famous 100mph new steam locomotive No. 60163 Tornado and is currently building Britain's most powerful steam locomotive No. 2007 Prince of Wales - has launched its 30th Anniversary fundraising appeals to keep Tornado operating on the main line and complete Prince of Wales.

It's now 30 years since The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust was formed to build a new Peppercorn class A1 'Pacific'. The original A1s were built by British Railways in 1948/49, however all were scrapped by 1966. The last survivor No. 60145 Saint Mungo was the subject of a failed preservation attempt which left the final development of East Coast Main Line's famous steam locomotive classes unrepresented in preservation. The formal launch of The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust was held at the Railway Institute in York on 17th November 1990 where it was announced that the 50th Peppercorn class A1 would carry the running number 60163 - the next in the sequence. The organisation was established with a clear mission: "To build and operate a Peppercorn class A1 'Pacific' steam locomotive for main line and preserved railway use."

After 18 years of construction and fundraising - with the support of principal sponsor William Cook Cast Products Ltd - the £3 million locomotive was completed in August 2008. Tornado was named by TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall at York station in February 2009 and in April 2017 became the first British steam locomotive to reach 100mph for 50 years.

Since completion, No. 60163 Tornado has steamed over 100,000 miles the length and breadth of Great Britain. Following her unveiling in works grey, Tornado has worn all of the historic Peppercorn class A1 liveries - apple green, BR locomotive green (with emblem and crest) and BR blue. In celebration of the Trust's 30th Anniversary, Tornado is being temporarily returned to the BR locomotive green livery of No. 60145 Saint Mungo which inspired the organisation's formation.

Following the completion of Tornado, the overhaul & conversion of its support coach E21249 and the repayment of the £1m of loans taken out to speed completion, the Trust launched its project to build a second new main line steam locomotive in 2013. The Gresley class P2 2-8-2 'Mikados' were the most powerful express passenger locomotives to operate in the UK. Sadly, the design was never fully developed, and they were rebuilt as 'Pacifics' in 1943/4 before being scrapped by 1961.

We set ourselves a new challenge: "To develop, build and operate an improved Gresley class P2 'Mikado' steam locomotive for main line and preserved railway use." The project to build the seventh Gresley



class P2 'Mikado' is using the latest computer design and modelling techniques to enable it to deliver its true potential. We estimate that No. 2007 Prince of Wales will cost around £5m to build over a 7-10 year period and with your continued help the locomotive is on track for completion within the next three years.

Steve Davies, Chairman, The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, commented: "We've come a long way since those humble beginnings in York 30 years ago thanks to the generous donations of time and money from our dedicated supporters. We are now seeking to attract new supporters to come on-board and help us with our ambitious development plans."

"With this increased support, the next few years will see the first of the two new boilers delivered and fitted to No. 60163 Tornado during her next overhaul; the acquisition and overhaul of E35457 for use as a support coach for No. 2007 Prince of Wales; the completion, testing and operation of our new Gresley class P2; the relocation of the Trust's operations to a new, larger main line connected site in Darlington where we can build, maintain and operate new steam locomotives; and the start of the construction of our third new ex-LNER steam locomotive, yet-to-be-named Gresley class V4 No. 3403."

"As part of our 30th Anniversary we are asking railway enthusiasts who share our vision to consider the different ways in which they might help us to protect what we have achieved to-date and realise our ambitious plans for the future. We are looking to welcome new 'price of a pint of beer a week' supporters for both No. 60163 Tornado - in particular the very real need to raise funds for her next overhaul - and to complete the build No. 2007 Prince of Wales."

"As an aside I sometimes sense in some quarters a view that once a new steam locomotive is built it requires little further support. Nothing could be further from the truth and both Tornado now, and Prince of Wales in the future, require additional support to remain in traffic. Tornado in particular at the moment as the impact of COVID-19 has significantly impacted on railtour revenue."

For further information on how to support The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's 30th Anniversary Appeals, visit www.a1steam.com, email enquiries@a1steam.com or call 01325 460163.

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Save up to £2,000 with Tax-Free Childcare

As children begin to return to schools across the UK, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is reminding working parents they could save up to £2,000 per child per year to pay towards after-school clubs and other childcare services.

Around 40,000 families in the North East are eligible for Tax-Free Childcare, which can cut thousands of pounds off childcare bills. All families have to do is pay into their Tax-Free Childcare account and for every £8 that they deposit, the UK Government immediately makes a top-up payment of an additional £2. The scheme is open to working parents, including the self-employed, who earn between the minimum wage and £100,000 per year and have children aged 0-11 years old. Families with a disabled child, aged 0-17 years old, can receive up to £4,000 in government support each year.

HMRC has also updated the Childcare Choices website so parents can now get personalised scheme information for each child. Families can choose from childcare providers that have signed up to Tax-Free Childcare, including nannies, nurseries, childminders or after-school clubs.

HMRC's Deputy Chief Executive and Second Permanent Secretary, Angela MacDonald, said: "As more parents across the country return to work and kids head back to school following the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic, there has never been a better time to sign up to Tax-Free Childcare. It takes just minutes to set up an account on our improved and more accessible Childcare Choices website and soon you could be receiving up to £2,000 per child towards the cost of childcare each year."

You can find out more and apply through the Childcare Choices website (www.childcarechoices.gov.uk). It includes a Childcare Calculator (www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator) that compares all the government's childcare offers to check what works best for individual families.

Researchers on the Front Line in Fight Against Covid-19



The work undertaken by the research team at County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, has been recognised with an award by the regional research network.

Around 1,000 patients admitted to Darlington Memorial Hospital and University Hospital of North Durham with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 have been recruited onto COVID-19 trials, contributing to the national and international search for treatments.

James Limb, Director of Research and Innovation, said, "Our research nurses and other members of our teams worked with those caring for patients with COVID-19 across our sites, ensuring patients were asked to participate when it was appropriate, ensuring they had all the information they needed and making participation as easy and straightforward as possible."

"We continue to recruit patients to the RECOVERY trial, the huge national trial which has identified the only drug so far known to improve survival in hospitalised patients – dexamethasone. The trial continues to investigate three possible treatments, including using antibodies from patients who have recovered from COVID-19."

"On top of RECOVERY, we're also part of the ISARIC-CCP trial of all COVID-positive patients admitted to hospital, CA-COVID, which is looking into the common problem of blood clots which we see in the disease, and PAN-COVID, which looks at women who have COVID-19 symptoms in pregnancy."

"Recruiting over 1,000 patients to these trials makes the Trust a significant contributor, which has been recognised by the North East and North Cumbria Local Research Network, which has made the award."

"We're enormously grateful to our patients and their families for supporting this vital research, helping us better understand this new virus and finding ways to combat it."

"As we head into autumn, as part of the Durham Tees Valley Research Alliance – our partnership with North and South Tees NHS Foundation Trusts, we'll be busy working on antibody and vaccine trials."

"I'm proud that our hardworking research team has been recognised by our regional Research Network, we're all excited to be playing such an important part in helping to find the answers to fight this disease."

There are a number of vaccines being identified and safety-tested at the moment, but only large scale studies can give researchers the information needed about how effective they are. The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is working with the NHS to recruit half a million people onto the NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry by October. Those who volunteer and sign up will be contacted by researchers to take part in COVID-19 vaccine research in the coming months.

Researchers are looking for people from all backgrounds, ages and parts of the UK, with or without existing health conditions, to take part in vaccine studies. Without volunteers, we can't find out which vaccines are going to be effective. Our region currently has the lowest rate for signing up for vaccine trials. By taking part, you could help researchers find vaccines to protect us all more quickly - which in turn could help the NHS and save lives. To find out more, or register, go to the following website: <https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/vaccine-studies/>

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- 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 bikers, 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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Naloxone Kits Help Prevent Overdoses and Death

County Durham's drug and alcohol service is helping to raise awareness of how you can help in the event of witnessing an overdose. To mark International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD), which is held globally each year on August 31st, Clare Lynn, Director of Services at the County Durham Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service said: "We want everyone to understand that overdose deaths are preventable." Across the world, IOAD aims to improve understanding of overdose and to encourage changes that help to reduce the harms associated with drug use.

Clare said: "People are at most risk of overdose when they may have had a break from using drugs, or if they have recently left detox/rehab or custody and the variety in purity of street drugs can also pose an overdose risk."

"Naloxone is readily available for free from us. We want everyone to carry a naloxone kit because naloxone saves lives. The safest choice is not to use drugs at all, but if you do use drugs, do not use alone - if you use alone then you're not able to use naloxone. Be sure of the nature of the drugs you're using and if you're not sure of the quality take a small dose, wait and gauge your reaction."

The County Durham Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service is reminding people who seek support to ask about getting a Naloxone kit so they can keep it on hand.

Naloxone is the emergency antidote for overdoses caused by heroin and other opioids. When injected into someone experiencing the effects of opioid overdose, it temporarily reverses the overdose effect, helping the patient to revive. Workers in the hubs will show people who want to take a kit, how to use it.

The last published statistics show there were 4,359 drug related deaths in England and Wales in 2018. This is the highest number of deaths since records began in 1993. Since 2012, rates of drug-related poisonings have generally been on an upward trend.

If you would like to speak to someone in confidence about yours or someone else's drug or alcohol use, then contact the County Durham Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service on 03000 266666.

WETNOSE DAY 2020

Sadly it is extremely difficult for the animal sanctuary owners all over the UK who have dedicated their lives to caring for abused and abandoned animals of all shapes and sizes. With an influx of now unwanted animals, as well as financial difficulties, animal rescue centres and sanctuaries need our support more than ever.

We are encouraging people all over the UK to "pose with a nose" for Wetnose Day on 18th September as well as fundraise if they possibly can. Noses cost just £5 and all funds go to Wetnose Animal Aid to distribute to sanctuaries across the UK.

"Wetnose Day for animal's is a lovely idea, yes we definitely need more help and support with wildlife and hedgehog rescues, so yes I'll support Wetnose Day by wearing a Nose for a Pose" said Chris Packham.

Wetnose Animal Aid distributes funds to amazing sanctuaries, perhaps to pay a vet bill or animal feed bill, and this can take the pressure off the people running the sanctuaries - even for a little while.

This year sees Wetnose Animal Aids 20th anniversary of supporting animals - what a year!

The above photo shows our wonderful supporter Chris Packham - posing with a nose!






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 Refreshments and full bar available; toilets & sanitiser station on site.
 (Do not bring alcohol onto this licensed premises)
 All cars will be socially distanced parked.

Government Accelerating Pothole Mapping Project

A first-of-its-kind audit into the mapping of potholes in England has been launched on Friday 28th August by Transport Secretary Grant Shapps, aided by data from on-road businesses such as Uber and Deliveroo, to better target improvements so that roads are in top condition as people return to work and school.

The Department for Transport will work with Gaist, a highway data and mapping company, businesses such as Deliveroo, Uber, Tesco and Ocado, alongside local highway authorities to identify 'pothole hot-spots'.

Combining collated data on current potholes held by nation-wide businesses, and the most up-to-date bank of roads imagery in the country from Gaist, the Department will be able to paint the most comprehensive picture ever of where funding is most needed to make sure roads are not plagued by potholes – making them as safe as possible as more commuters and students undertake journeys in the coming months. The plan will help cyclists and motorists get back to school and work.

The Government has already committed £2.5bn in funding for pothole repairs in the biggest nationwide programme ever announced. The launch of the review comes as new data reveals that highway maintenance works undertaken in the past months, when roads were quieter during lockdown, has led to 319 miles of resurfacing, making sure that roads are in better condition so that people can get back to work and school safely.

Since 2010 the Government has provided over £1.2 billion solely to help repair potholes on the local highway network – including £500 million from the £2.5 billion announced in the Budget earlier this year. Safe roads have never been more important, with the Government urging commuters, parents and school children to choose to cycle or walk for part or all of their commutes to help ease demand on public transport and travel safely as the country recovers from the pandemic.

Creative Director to Speak at Conference



Katy Milne, Creative Director, is excited to be part of this year's annual CBNE conference 'Imagine If...' The conference, organised by Culture Bridge North East, is held each year and brings together delegates from the education and culture sector to explore key themes. The conference includes invited keynote speakers and workshops that challenge ways of thinking and explore new ideas. The 2020 conference will cover new ground as it moves online, exploring a different approach in delivery as it reflects upon and questions education and culture in the current climate. "Imagine If will explore ways in which creative arts and cultural experiences might support children and young people to process, share their experiences and recover from the impacts of the global COVID-19 crisis, and to move forward into a new normal."

Katy, Creative Director at Greenfield Arts, is working alongside and presenting with Lorraine Coghill, Science Outreach Coordinator at Durham University. Katy and Lorraine share skills that create and develop opportunities for people to explore, enquire and engage others in meaningful learning. Their online session will bring together their joint and separate creative projects to explore new ways to go forward. They will be exploring the importance and new shape of self-led learning, its place in emerging from lockdown and imagining new learning futures.

The conference will, this year, be global in its reach and will be a timely resource for creatives and educators looking forward. To be a delegate at this valuable conference contact Culture Bridge North East by emailing bridge@twmuseums.org.uk

Greenfield Arts are committed to delivering high quality arts opportunities that encourage creativity, curiosity and questioning. Culture Bridge North East is one of Arts Council England's 10 Bridges across England, all of which are tasked with the strategic development of arts and cultural education by, with and for children and young people. Culture Bridge North East is managed by Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums and based at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle. Their vision is that everyone growing up in our region should have a childhood rich with arts and culture.

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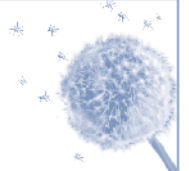


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Reminder to Record Customers' Details in Hospitality Venues

Pubs and restaurants in County Durham are being asked to continue to gather customers' details to help support the NHS Track and Trace system. Durham County Council is calling on hospitality businesses across the county to ensure their customers give their correct contact details when visiting the premises.



This step is incredibly important to help prevent the spread of coronavirus as it allows NHS Track and Trace to quickly contact and advise people who have potentially been exposed to the virus in the event of a cluster of cases or localised outbreak.

Businesses should keep a record of customers and visitors for 21 days and assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed. Doing this could help to contain clusters or outbreaks. Containing outbreaks early is crucial to reduce the spread of coronavirus and will help to avoid the reintroduction of lockdown measures.

By gathering customer details, businesses can play a significant role in helping their staff, customers and visitors play their part in stopping the spread of coronavirus.

The following information should be collected by the venue, where possible:

- The names of staff who work at the premises, dates and times that staff are at work, and a contact phone number for each member of staff.
- The name of the customer or visitor. If there is more than one person, then businesses can record the name of the 'lead member' of the group and the number of people in the group.
- A contact phone number for each customer or visitor, or for the lead member of a group of people, and the date of their visit, arrival time and, where possible, their departure time.
- If a customer will interact with only one member of staff (e.g. a hairdresser), the name of the assigned staff member should be recorded alongside the name of the customer.

Amanda Healy, Durham County Council's director of public health, said: "It is vitally important that businesses play their part in helping to trace and prevent further spread of coronavirus. Their role is a small and simple task which plays an important part in identifying people who may have been exposed to the virus and containing any clusters of cases or local outbreaks. Not only that, they are helping to keep all of their customers safe.

"It is really important that we all do everything we can to reduce further transmission for the benefit of people's health and also the local economy in terms of ensuring residents and businesses do not need to undergo any form of local lockdown."

In addition to maintaining and sharing records where requested, businesses are also being asked to continue to follow other government guidance to minimise the transmission of coronavirus. This includes maintaining a safe working environment and following social distancing guidelines.

Residents are being asked to remember 'Hands, Face, Space' – wash hands often for 20 seconds, covering their face in public buildings and staying two metres apart when possible.

Residents are also reminded that if they have any symptoms of coronavirus, for example a high temperature, a new continuous cough, and a loss or change to your sense of taste or smell, then they should immediately self-isolate and get a test.

Anyone who is asked to self-isolate, who has nobody to help them during that time, can access help on the website or by calling the County Durham Together community hub on 03000 260 260 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

More information about staying safe and getting a test can be found at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus>

TV Presenter and Radio DJ Joins Crafter's TV

Crafter's TV, owned by Crafter's Companion, is welcoming a new lead presenter to its channel.

Ben Moseby will join presenters Joe Remblance and Derek Marks on the crafting platform. His new role will involve working alongside the channel's craft experts, supporting them through the shows, helping to display the products on offer and interacting with viewers through social media.

Ben brings a wealth of experience to his new position. He began a career in radio presenting in 2003 and has since worked as a DJ at various stations across the country. His interviewees include Take That, Hugh Jackman and Darcy Bussell, among many others. Most recently, Ben worked at Create and Craft, as one of the TV shopping channel's lead presenters.

In his spare time, Ben is a keen runner and has participated in the London Marathon for the Make A Wish Foundation. He has also broken a World Record, has performed in eight professional pantomimes and runs a local cricket team.

Ben, who currently lives in Aylesbury with his wife, Laura, and two children, said: "I am delighted to join Crafter's Companion. I had the pleasure of working with Sara and lots of her team at Create and Craft. I always enjoyed the shows, so when Sara asked me if I would like to join the team, I jumped at the chance. Who wouldn't want to have a Dragon as their boss?"

"I'm most looking forward to getting to know the team and our viewers. It's fantastic how interactive the channel is and I'm excited to learn and be inspired by everything the team will be doing during the shows."

"When it comes to craft, I love trying new things. Recently, I have been making cards with my daughter Daisy, who also loves having a go at all things crafty!"

Sara Davies, founder and creative director of Crafter's Companion, said: "Lots of our viewers will be familiar with Ben and those that don't will love getting to know him. He has such an infectious personality, he is a joy to work with and he has so much to bring to the Crafter's TV team. I'm thrilled that he has chosen to join us at such an exciting time!"



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

Email: paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Grant Helps Fund Training for Adult Social Care Providers

Adult social care providers across County Durham will be able to access additional training for their staff thanks to a £44,000 grant. County Durham Care Academy has secured the funding from the Workforce Development Fund to help local care providers cover the cost of upskilling their staff.

Launched by Durham County Council last year, the Care Academy aims to improve skills and resilience within the care sector by offering support across a range of areas including recruitment and retention of staff and managers, training and service delivery. The grant from the Workforce Development Fund, which is administered through Skills for Care and funded by the Department of Health and Social Care, will assist with the academy's training role.

Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for adult and health services, said: "We are delighted to have secured this grant from the Workforce Development Fund. It will help to ensure the continued professional development of staff across the adult social care sector and is part of a broader range of training and development opportunities being rolled out in County Durham.

"Care workers are working so hard to keep vulnerable people safe and well at the moment and we would like to assure them we are doing everything we can to support them."

The funding can be used towards the cost of staff completing a broad range of qualifications, learning programmes and digital skills modules. In order to apply, adult social care providers must first join the Care Academy. To request a membership form, contact careacademy@durham.gov.uk

For more information about the Workforce Development Fund, visit www.durham.gov.uk/wdf

To find out more about County Durham Care Academy, visit www.durham.gov.uk/careacademy

Tough Lake District Challenge Raises Over £7,000 for NHS Charity

A Darlington-based events company have raised over £7,000.00 for patients and staff in County Durham and Darlington. John Beamson and Tom Cockerill, directors of Evolution Tribe, planned a series of tough challenges in the Lake District with participants aiming to complete them all on the same day. The inaugural 'Lakes Monster Challenge' took place at the weekend, in weather



conditions that made it even tougher.

John explains, "Both Tom and I are from Darlington and wanted to raise money for a local charity – supporting our NHS seemed an obvious choice as so many of us benefit from their care and compassion. We chose the Charity at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust before Covid-19 and supporting our local Trust, whose staff have been on the front line, seems even more appropriate now.

"Initially, we considered the Three Peaks Challenge or a trek along the length of Hadrian's Wall, both of which are very difficult to achieve but, in the end decided to create something original. Tom adds, "We came up with the idea of the 'Lakes Monster Challenge' because it's both physically and mentally demanding with the added time pressure of aiming to start and finish on the same day. We were delighted that 12 people signed up for it."

Starting at 6.30am on Saturday 22 August, the challenge began with a climb up Blencathra in the north lakes, followed by a walk across the narrow 'Sharp Edge', which is at 2,848 feet. This was followed by a walk across Infinity Bridge at Honister, Via Ferrata, spanning a gorge at a height of around 2,000 feet. Tom and John added in some hill sprints and finished the challenge off with a far from easy ascent of Scafell Pike – England's highest mountain.

John says, "We're delighted that everyone completed the challenge, though it took till 11.30pm. We completed it in some of the most savage weather conditions we have ever seen, however, all went to plan and the event was exceptional, so much so that we're planning to run it every year.

Commenting, Philippa Parsons, charity support officer, said, "We're enormously grateful to all those who took part and really impressed that they completed all the elements of this difficult challenge in a single day. So far they've raised over £7,000.00 and donations are still coming in. Anyone wishing to donate can do so at: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/LAKESMONSTER>.

"Our Charity raises money to enhance the experiences we give our patients and staff. Much of our fundraising traditionally takes place by holding or attending large scale events, which isn't possible at the moment and, as we really don't know when it may be possible again we're trying to find new ways to fundraise. We're also more dependent than ever on individuals and businesses raising money for us - if you think you can help, we'd love to hear from you."

To contact the Charity Team: Phone: 01325 743781. Email: Cddft.charity@nhs.net

£12.99 - Proceeds to charity
Available from Newton Press reception



NEWTON AYCLIFFE

A Long History of a New Town

Stephen Creaney



Don't Get Corn-ered at New Scare Unveiled for Psycho Path



Horror movie scenes are set to come to life this autumn, with a brand new attraction unveiled for the North's biggest scream park. Psycho Path Presents Fear Ground is returning to Lintz Hall Farm, Burnopfield, to terrify guests every Friday and Saturday throughout October.

And organisers promise this year to be even more shocking than the last, thanks to Corn-ered – a huge corn maze hiding all manner of scares within its walls.

Covering more than 2.5 acres in size, the new attraction is not for the faint-hearted, and makes use of horrifying set pieces, scary sounds and lighting – with organisers currently in the process of recruiting a huge number of scare actors for this year's event.

Christiano Crawford, of 700 Acres Ltd which owns Psycho Path, believes this year's event will be a memorable one.

"Corn-ered gives us the opportunity to deliver a classic scare with a modern Psycho Path edge," said Christiano.

"It's a fully immersive, outdoor experience, set in a maze bigger than a Premier League football pitch, surrounded by spectacular sets and overrun with evil doers and terrifying scares."

Visitor safety is a top priority and Nigel Holliday, of 700 Acres Ltd, said: "Thanks to the huge site we have to work with we've been very lucky to be able to adapt both the indoor and outdoor aspects of our event so it meets social distancing guidelines and we've taken lots of expert advice on how to keep everyone safe during their visit."

This year the site has introduced a scare scale, with each attraction being given a scare score so guests have a taste to expect before they enter.

And the popular bar and entertainment area will return as Stage Fright, featuring a packed line-up of performers and a number of popular North East street food vendors such as Hatch 76, Acropolis, Medhead, Parm-O-Rama and Tango Durham.

Tickets start at £20 and can be purchased at <https://www.psychopath.co.uk/pscho-path-events/>

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



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

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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
"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	BeatRoote	Graeme Roote

FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	11th Sept. - Martin Norris Movin' Melodies	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby

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

Newton Broadcasting Limited (t/a Aycliffe Radio) is a Private Company Limited by Guarantee, registered on 19th February 2018 in England and Wales. Registration number 1121835. Registered office: Aycliffe Radio, c/o Blue Bridge Centre, St. Cuthbert's Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DS. Aycliffe Radio is CIC Registered (No. 11455404). Scheduled shows can be changed/cancelled at any time.



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Radio Shaker - www.radio.net



Lucid Launches App to Help Maintenance Businesses Operate More Efficiently

A North East based IT support provider has launched a new app to enable businesses to track the progress of work as it happens on location, helping them operate more efficiently.

Worktraq has been developed by Lucid Technology Solutions and provides a cost-effective location intelligence solution for companies operating in the maintenance sector.

The mobile app has the capability to map a geographic location such as a delivery route, demolition site or security area, or a heavily guarded site such as a power station. Worktraq shows when an employee has reached the location, tracks the time to do the job and then logs when it's finished. It prompts the employee to capture images at regular intervals to evidence to suppliers and customers that a job is being completed within an agreed timeframe and budget, and signatures can also be captured once a job is done.

Worktraq was initially designed as a solution for one of Lucid's existing clients and is now being rolled out to support businesses operating in logistics, warehousing, gritting, construction, demolition, shipping, chemicals, CCTV and manned guarding. The app features core functionality, however Lucid team of developers can add bespoke modules and functions, depending on a



clients' particular requirements. Cheryl Spears, sales director at Lucid Technology Solutions, which is headquartered in Stockton and has offices in Newton Aycliffe and Team Valley, said: "As a business we pride ourselves on really understanding our clients' needs and developing bespoke solutions to help them operate more effectively.

"Worktraq was originally designed to provide an existing client with a solution to help plan gritting work of private car parks, including real-time weather information from the met office and it has developed from there. The app provides real time information such as when a manned security guard last visited a site or when a car park was last gritted. All of this intelligence can lead to faster and better customer service, helping businesses

achieve a competitive edge."

Lucid Technology Solutions, formerly known as Yarm Computers Ltd, has been operating for over 30 years and offers a full suite of business technology solutions including; IT support, software development, telecoms, CCTV, access control, and security solutions.

For further information about Lucid Technology Solutions contact Tel: 01642 792 567 (Stockton office), 0191 792 567 (Team Valley office) or 01325 792 567 (Newton Aycliffe office), hi@lucidgrp.co.uk or visit the website www.lucidgrp.co.uk



BRIC-A-BRAC APPEAL

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

HOMES FOR CATS AND KITTENS

There are a large number of cats and kittens in need of good homes. If you can help please contact us for more information.

CAT FOOD APPEAL

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

DROP OFF POINTS

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

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Parliament Talk

As I said last week, on Wednesday I went to Wheatley Hill for a walk about with residents and the neighbourhood wardens, police and fire service and local councillors. This provided the opportunity to create some action plans on both anti social behaviour and local environmental concerns which we will be following up robustly. After this I called at Sedgefield to meet with residents concerned about disappearing cycle paths due to poor maintenance and we have passed these concerns back to Durham County Council.

Thursday and Friday last week was extremely busy with visitors to the constituency. On Thursday we had Esther McVey and the Blue Collar Conservatives team here. The Blue Collar Conservatism organisation exists to champion working people and develop a narrative within the party to support communities like ours.

The day started at Ferryhill Station meeting residents and councillors talking particularly about efforts around reinstatement of the railway station and the potential positive impact this would have on our region. We then went to the Ebac facility for a tour and discussed the importance of people supporting "Made in Britain" agendas. This links nicely with the "Shop Local" campaign that I am supporting with the Newton News. We all need to help our local shops as much as possible, internet shopping has many positives but if we want to see our local shops and jobs survive please remember they need our trade.

We then moved on to Finley Structures to support their 20 year celebrations. It's fabulous to see a family firm achieving milestones like this and with some employees who have been there since the start, a huge and well deserved, well done and congratulations to them all. We will have to see whether I take up John's offer re the zip wire though! We then took respite in the Sheraton Bar at The Big Club for a chat with some local members and I was interviewed by the Blue Collar team.

Our last session of the day was at the Aviator Gin Bar where we held a discussion forum with local businesses and politicians. This was hosted by Esther McVey MP, with myself and the Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen, on the panel and other local MP's joined us, including Peter Gibson (Darlington), Richard Holden (North West Durham) and Jacob Young (Redcar) and included representatives from large and small local businesses. The discussion and the rest of the day was recorded and will be edited and presented to Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport, who will reply to the issues raised. Thanks to Wayne and Colin from the Aviator Bar for hosting us, if you haven't yet been please do go. The bar is a brilliant innovative local venture that they have worked hard on and got going right through the middle of this pandemic.

On Friday we then had Liz Truss, Secretary of State for International Trade and Women and Equalities, with us. I first joined them at Nissan before helping to host at Hitachi. Both of these businesses wanted to share their perspectives on the imminent conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement with Japan and both also took the opportunity to discuss Brexit and of course Hitachi raised UK rail infrastructure. It is always good to get our local business leaders able to talk direct to ministers and be able to share their perspectives.

Saturday saw me at ROF 59 supporting the HeroFest that Aycliffe Radio organised. The weather did not cooperate in the afternoon so attendance was disappointing, it was much improved in the evening and those that came had a great time. It was wonderful to see a few smiling faces again. Thanks to Paul and the team for all their efforts. As the evening finished I needed to warm up so popped down to The Big Club to see Alan Watson and Nev Jones singing in the Shallow End, the new format for the main hall. It is good to see the temperature checks and track and trace in place, making everyone feel safe and, of course, some more smiling faces.

Sunday saw me travel to London ready for Westminster opening. To keep you informed, our first week back includes the Fisheries Bill and the Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill, nothing like having variety in your life!

Hope you all had a good Bank Holiday Weekend and the return to school is going well for everyone. Have a good week, remember to wash your hands regularly, wear a mask where necessary and give people social distance when you can.

Best wishes, look after each other and stay safe,
Paul Howell, Member of Parliament for Sedgefield.

Support Scheme Launched for Landlords to Help Avoid Costly Evictions



A new scheme is being launched for County Durham landlords to help them find solutions to tenancy-related issues.

Stop B4 You Serve is a new initiative from Durham County Council which is aimed at private landlords who are considering serving an eviction notice on their tenants.

As the government announced it will lift the ban on evictions this weekend, from Monday the council is anticipating a surge in applications to the courts and wants to prevent unnecessary evictions and resulting homelessness.

The Stop B4 You Serve scheme is a free specialist service for landlords who are considering seeking possession of properties. The service looks to find landlords alternative solutions to tenancy-related issues while helping them avoid the costly and lengthy process of serving an eviction notice.

Stop B4 You Serve may be able to help landlords with:

- Non-payment of rent (coronavirus and non-coronavirus related rent arrears)
- Assistance with benefit applications
- Provide mediation services between landlords and tenants
- Help with other tenancy related issues

The council recognises the importance of early intervention work, with both landlords and tenants, to help avoidance of a section 21 or section 8 notice being issued or assist once this has been served.

The specialist service includes:

- Rent arrears assistance through establishing repayment plans and reviewing benefits available to the tenant
- A financial assessment of tenants to maximise income and reduce debts
- A mediation service between landlord and tenants
- Help and advice on planned moves

Cllr Kevin Shaw, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for strategic housing and assets, said: "We are committed to preventing homelessness in the county and we want to work with landlords to avoid the costly and lengthy process of serving an eviction notice and help find a solution for both parties before it is too late."

"The effects of the coronavirus outbreak have significantly impacted the personal and financial situations of many residents in the county.

As the ban on evictions is expected to be lifted, we want to avoid a surge in potential homelessness as a result of a sudden wave of evictions. We want to work with both landlords and tenants to find a more sustainable solution to any issues, keep eviction notices as a last resort, and prevent any risk of homelessness in the county."

For further information on Stop B4 You Serve, contact the private sector housing team on 03000 268 000, via email at PRSLettings@durham.gov.uk or by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/preventeviction

Newton News

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Family-Run Steel Firm Celebrates 20th Year



A leading politician has praised a family-run County Durham construction company as it celebrated its 20th anniversary. Former Secretary of State and one-time Tory leadership candidate Esther McVey visited Finley Structures in Newton Aycliffe, with local MP Paul Howell, to mark the firm's milestone.

The steel fabrication specialists, who helped to construct the nearby Hitachi Rail factory, was formed by John Finley in August 2000. It has worked on a number of high-profile projects in the North-East and around the UK over the years, including factories for Nissan in Sunderland, Teesside University's award-winning Curve building and the Victoria Gate shopping centre in Leeds. It is also currently helping to construct the huge Riverwalk development in Durham city centre.

Ms McVey, currently the Conservative MP for Tatton and former Housing and Communities Secretary, said: "Finley Structures couldn't have the 20th anniversary celebration they would have liked, but it's all about the people. You don't have a great business without great people and the vision going forward. Celebrating 20 years is fantastic. It shows the resilience of the founder, John Finley, who started out as a steel erector then he had the vision to start this business 20 years ago. Now they're creating jobs for their local community and providing work for future generations – it's a fantastic story."

The Conservative MP for Sedgefield, Mr Howell, added: "Getting round our local companies and seeing what they're doing is wonderful – these businesses are the lifeblood of our economy. We've heard today about the Hitachi factory, which Finley Structures helped construct, but there's also other major projects like Milburngate in Durham and the new Durham County Council head office. All of these big projects are coming out of Aycliffe Business Park, which is brilliant."

The two politicians were given a brief tour of Finley Structures' vast site on Aycliffe Business Park, which was bustling with steelwork running through its factory floor.

Mr Howell added: "We met some of the staff, one of which has been with the company since it started 20 years ago, and many other long-serving employees, which shows to me the quality of a company. They're clearly doing the right thing and I applaud them for their anniversary."

Finley Structures managing director, Julie Raistrick, added: "We're naturally delighted to celebrate our 20th anniversary, it's a milestone we're all incredibly proud of. We've invested heavily in our site, our people and state-of-the-art steel fabrication facilities over the years which saw us through the financial crisis, and we're confident it will stand us in good stead during this current climate. We're grateful to Esther McVey and Paul Howell for coming to celebrate our birthday, which was all done socially distanced, of course – let's hope we can celebrate our 25th anniversary in a bigger way."

Photo: left to right is the firm's managing director Julie Raistrick, Paul Howell MP, John and Valeria Palmer (centre, back), Esther McVey MP and director Gary Finley (Picture by Tom Banks).

COATES TAKES MINI KNOCK

Following on from his debut win in the MINI CHALLENGE UK Max Coates went into the Knockhill round of the championship looking to repeat his Donington Park success.

The Primex Plastics and PLASgran Recycling sponsored driver qualified 7th for the opening race of the weekend, just two tenths behind the pole position lap time. With the field so close, making progress would be difficult around the tight and twisty Scottish venue.

Coates started well, he climbed a position in the opening race and joined in the 4th place battle showing his intentions to rise further towards a podium finish in races two and three.

In race two Coates again battled at the front. Exiting Clark Curve, the JiC Transport car made a move to the left to pass another driver but was pitched into a spin as his opponent swerved left into his path. The high speed 100mph + spin ended with Coates nudging the inside tyre wall. He re-joined in last position with a small amount of damage and set about fighting his way back through the order, knowing his finishing position would be where he would have to start the following race. He passed 6 cars to cross the line 21st, but with lap times good enough for a podium finish.

Coates knew that the final race, shown live on ITV2 on Sunday, had to be good to keep a strong championship position, and the NGK Spark Plugs driver didn't disappoint. He soared through the pack to 11th when an early safety car was brought out on lap 4. With every intention of a solid top 10 result Coates didn't waste time making more progress and ended up 5th entering the final lap. In a last lap battle with series leader Ant Whorton-Eales, Coates was clearly faster and intent on passing. Setting up a switch-back manoeuvre at turn 3 Coates got the run on his rival for the position but the two tangled with Coates remaining 5th at the flag. Coates was later penalised for the contact.

After, he commented, "It's been an up and down weekend. Qualifying and race one went pretty well, then I had a massive moment in race two. It really shook me up and I expected to be collected by the oncoming pack. Fortunately, there wasn't much damage and I could start my come back through the field from there. Race three was great fun overtaking all those cars, the last lap dicing with Ant was so tight. I came close to the pit wall as we entered the last lap and then had contact with him in a straight line as he tried to block me. I set the switch back move up and showed what I was planning to do, I'm really disappointed by the penalty as I feel I was far enough alongside to be given racing room. I was never going to disappear and tried all I could to avoid contact. It's a difficult decision to accept and understand, but I'll move on and come back stronger with the same intent on winning races at Silverstone."

The series now heads to Silverstone for the 3rd round of the season on the 26th and 27th September.

2020 MINI CHALLENGE UK Season Calendar:

1. Donington Park National – 1st & 2nd August
2. Knockhill – 29th & 30th August
3. Silverstone – 26th & 27th September
4. Snetterton – 24th and 25th October
5. Brands Hatch Indy – 14th & 15th November

Photo: Max Coates in action at Knockhill Racing Circuit



Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report



Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, were left with a frustrating away draw after failing to take the last Northallerton 1st team wicket in a terrific game in the NYSD 2nd division.

The home side may well have regretted their decision to ask Aycliffe to bat first as opening batsman Sam Telford smashed their bowling all round the ground, finishing with a season's best 89 from 81 balls and his superb innings included 16 boundaries. When Telford was dismissed Adam Gittins (62 runs) and Adam Randall (59 runs) also batted brilliantly, the pair putting on 115 for the third wicket partnership which helped take Aycliffe to an impregnable total of 277 for 5 from their allotted 50 overs, their best score of the season. In the homesides reply, Michael Howe bowled well taking 3 for 45 and Jack Slatcher and James Layfield-Carroll both chipped in with a couple of wickets each. However, it wasn't quite enough as Northallerton batted out their allotted 50 overs, finishing on 161 for 9 and denying Aycliffe a richly deserved win.

The 2nd team had a thumping 137 run victory at home to Northallerton 2nd XI in the NYSD 4th division. After being asked to bat first, Aycliffe captain Joe Haines (30 runs) and 14 year old Owen Smith (22 runs) got their side off to a solid start and were well placed at 77 for 2. Dan Weldon, batting at number five, then took centre stage with a career best innings of 57 from 63 balls and he smashed ten boundaries as he helped Aycliffe to a match winning total of 206 for 9 from their allotted 40 overs.

In reply Northallerton were bundled out for just 69 after 24.3 overs thanks to career best senior bowling figures of 5 for 26 by leg spinner Thomas Dearden and he was supported well by Joe Teasdale, who also finished with career best figures of 4 for 10.

The u15's finished their season in great style with a 91 run victory away at Barnard Castle. Electing to bat first, Aycliffe piled up the runs scoring 125 for 6 in their allotted 18 overs. Tom Dearden top scored with an eye catching 31 runs from 19 balls and openers Owen Smith and Matty Greaves also batted well scoring 26 and 20 runs respectively. In reply the home side were destroyed by some superb leg spin bowling from Thomas Dearden who took 6 for 8 from just 2.2 overs. Adam Shaw also bowled well chipping in with 2 for 7 and credit must go to wicket keeper Charlie Cayless who claimed four stumpings as Barnard Castle were skittled for just 33 from 8.2 overs.

Photo: Dan Weldon who scored an impressive career best score of 57 in the 2nd team's victory at home to Northallerton.

Gardening Cold Callers

Dear Sir,

In response to the article on Gardening Scams in last week's Newton News I too have fallen victim to a gardening scam in a similar way. I am around 50 years old and should know better but I felt sorry for this young lad who knocked on my door offering gardening services. I thought "good for him, getting up and trying to earn some cash." The problem is that he did a terrible job, he was clearly unskilled, and whilst I paid him something he significantly reduced the price as I stood my ground.

It is very sad that in these days there is no room for the honest young man who wants to work and will work to earn his bread, since I have come to the conclusion that all of the people who knock on your door are scammers and you must always say no. It is also very sad that the Durham Council Registered Trader's Scheme ended in 2016 as you could always trust those tradesmen, but now it seems that we are back to doing it ourselves which does not make life easy, but the only way I can think of for vulnerable people is for their loved ones to ask for recommendations via social media channels.

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		2	1			3		
	1				6			8

September Drive In Events
at ROF59 Activity Centre

Aycliffe Radio and ROF59 Activity Centre in Newton Aycliffe have been organising and presenting sold out "Drive In" events since 3rd July, bringing entertainment such as 90s Classic Dance Anthems, Ibiza House Party, Cheesy Pop Party, Punk Rock All Dayer. As well as a free event for our local key workers which took place on Saturday 29th August.

Before the weather changes for winter and turns cold, our events for September 2020 are as follows:

Saturday 12th September is an 80s Rewind night with two fantastic live acts "The Amazing 80s" and Europe's number one tribute to the "Blues Brothers".

Tickets for this event are priced at £15.00 per CAR (not per person) and are available from skiddle.com - the gates will open at 5.15pm with music from 6.00pm to 10.00pm.

On Saturday 19th September the Venga bus is coming with two live performances from north east super group "3 Steps 2 Venga". This event is priced at £20 per CAR, which are also available from skiddle.com - the event timings will run the same as 80s Rewind, gates open at 5.15pm, show starts from 6.00pm to 10.00pm.

We are also proud to present the annual ROF59 Music Festival. This year with a big difference, on Saturday 26th September the day will be split into two parts with a special "Kids Fest" on the afternoon from 12noon to 4.30pm with afternoon performances from local dance troupe Infinity Dance, Professor Nincompoo, stilt walker, juggler, fire breather, kiddies fairground rides, fire brigade and police, plus winner of Aycliffe's Got Talent 2019, Aimee B.

The evening session will see the atmosphere build as we get serious with more local talent including "The Thieves", "The Happening", "Hollywood Boredom", Harris Tweed and His Rocking Band" plus "Jay Murray", resident singer at the legendary Cavern Club in Liverpool. All the events are held as Drive Ins with a licensed bar, refreshments, sanitiser station and toilets.

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Xcel Church
Drive-In Service

It's been 25 weeks since Xcel Church last met together, physically, at the Xcel Centre. Since the beginning of lockdown, our online service has been available via YouTube every Sunday morning from 10.30am & this will continue for the foreseeable future.

This Sunday, the 6th September, we have the opportunity to gather, respecting the current COVID guidelines, as we host another Drive-In Service at the Xcel Centre. You are welcome to join. The service is taking place between 4pm-5pm. You do need to register, which you can do by visiting xcelchurch.com/events - All the details about the event can be found there too. We would love to see you!!

Birthday Remembrance

Frances Woodhead

9th September
Birthday wishes we
send today, to a star in
the sky, not far away.
Engraved in gold on a
cloud above, just for
you Mum, with all our
love.
From Mandy & John
xxx

Frances Woodhead

9th September
As I opened my eyes
this morning, I looked
to the heavens above.
I whispered 'Happy
Birthday Mum', and
sent you all my love.
From Gary xxx

RUNNING CLUB NEWS



Opportunities to race were few and far between over the last week, as race organisers still get to grips with the new measures introduced to host events in a Covid secure manner.

This resulted in no competitive activity from the members of Aycliffe Running Club, however Club training sessions have restarted over the course of the last month, following the lockdown period, and members have been enjoying a wide range of sessions (sometimes in inclement conditions!), whilst respecting social distancing guidelines and other Covid secure requirements.

If you have any queries about the activities of Aycliffe Running Club, please visit our website www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk, or contact the Club's Secretary, Donna, at ayclifferunningclub@gmail.com



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

Tel: Paul
01325 300212
or paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Congratulations

Vincent Crosby (Vince)



Happy 80th Birthday

2nd September 2020
Lots of love and best wishes from Joan, your loving Wife; Sons Michael and Kevin; Stacey, Daughter-in-Law, Grandchildren Bethany, Lauren and Rachel. xxx
Keep up the workouts and enjoy your day.

Cec Stevens



Happy 80th Birthday

6th September 2020
To a fantastic Husband, Dad, Granda and Gaga. We all love you so much.
Love from Dorothy, Julie, Michael, Daniel, Kelly, Lauren and especially Mila, also woof woof from Indie and Bear xx

Obituary

Dorothy Killip

29th August
Peacefully in Redworth House Care Home, Shildon.
Dorothy, aged 88 years of Newton Aycliffe.
Beloved Wife of the late George William, dearly loved Mam of Lawrence, Lynne and Lee also a much loved Mother-in-Law, Grandma and Great Grandma.
Due to the current circumstances a private funeral will take place in Wear Valley Crematorium on Thursday 10th September. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, may be given directly to Dementia UK.

George Lee of Newton Aycliffe

78 years of age
Husband to the late Mary Lee and brother of Patricia. A loving, caring and true friend to all he knew.
So very much missed.

Tony Dinsley

On 28th August, peacefully, in Lindisfarne Care Home.
Tony, aged 72 years, of Newton Aycliffe.
Dearly loved Husband of Chris; much loved Dad of Sarah and Tracey; dear Father-in-Law of Lee and Chris and a loving Grandad of Leo and George.
Funeral on Thursday 10th September. Service to be held in Wear Valley Crematorium at 1.30pm.

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Situations VACANT

Administrator

Due to a restructure within our team an additional Administrator is required to complement our current staffing.

The post is for variable hours by agreement. Hours of work will be 8am to 6pm.

The work is varied and interesting, involving all aspects of office work, dealing with telephone calls and patients face to face.

Previous surgery experience and IT skills are essential, additional customer services would be an advantage, but full training will be given.

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If you would like to be considered for this vacancy please email: karen.stokoe@nhs.net with your full CV.

Closing date is Friday 11th September 2020.



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Paul Howell

Member of Parliament
for Sedgefield

paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk
Telephone: 020 7219 6385
Mobile: 07464 898442
Aycliffe Office: 01325 790580



N.A.F.C. REPORT

The new football season gets underway this week, a month behind schedule. Newton Aycliffe's first competitive game sees them travel to Guisborough Town in the Extra Preliminary Round of the Emirates FA Cup. The game is to be played on Wednesday 2 September. In an acknowledgement of the tight fixture scheduling, caused by the late season start, the FA has decided that there will be no replays in the qualifying competition and indeed, if the scores are tied after 90 minutes, the match will be decided by penalties with no extra time.

The game will be played in front of a maximum of 300 spectators, that being the govt / FA set limit for crowds at Aycliffe's level, to assist with social distancing at games.

The winners of this game will be at home to Tadcaster Albion in the Preliminary Round on Saturday 12 September.

Aycliffe's Ebac Northern League season starts on Saturday 5 September with a trip to North Shields. Again, this game is all ticket. This is a change to the original fixture schedule as the Newtonians were due to welcome Hebburn to the Beaumont Landscapes Stadium. However, the FA's decision to play the semi-finals of the 19/20 Buildbase FA Vase on that date has meant that Hebburn will be travelling to Kent rather than Aycliffe. The final of the FA Vase is now due to be played on Sunday 27 September at Wembley as one of the govt's spectator pilot events.

Newton Aycliffe's first home fixture is on Tuesday 8 September (ko 7:45pm) with Sunderland RCA the visitors. Newcastle



Benfield will follow on Tuesday 15 September, again at 7:45pm. Neither of these games will be all ticket, but admission on a first come first served basis. Season tickets are on sale which cover all Ebac Northern League games. They can be obtained from the club by emailing info@newtonaycliffe.co.uk. Tickets cost: Adult £100, Concession £60, Junior £30. Accompanied under 12s are admitted free to league games.

Newton Aycliffe completed a good preseason last week. Tuesday saw the visit of National League North side Spennymoor Town. Colin Stromsoy's side gave a good account of themselves against a side three divisions higher in the football pyramid. In the end the Moors won 1-0 thanks to a Glen Taylor second half penalty. The game was the first to be played under new crowd limit rules with only 150 spectators permitted. The Club's volunteers put in a great deal of work to make sure the ground was ready to welcome spectators and it was pleasing to read comments from visitors on social media afterwards complimenting the Club on the efforts that had been put in to ensure Covid compliance.

Two days after the Spennymoor game Aycliffe travelled to Brandon Utd and played the Second Division team in, at times, near torrential conditions. Aycliffe ran out comfortable 5-1 winners with goals from Ryan Redford, Gez Richardson, Ben Reay, Arran Wearmouth & Liam Jarvie (pen). However, the game was marred somewhat by injuries to Ben Reay and Sam Read which are likely to see both miss the opening game of the season.

Photo by Yvonne Wood: Adam Burnicle on the attack against Spennymoor Town

New Development

Dear Sir,

On Monday this week I travelled to Middridge, not having been out because of Lockdown. I was astonished to view the extensive infrastructure development prior, I presume, to housing development behind the Bluebell Car Wash.

How has this happened and is Middridge to be absorbed into Aycliffe or vice versa?

Name and address supplied

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