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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

Road Safety Week

See page 2 for more

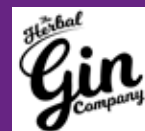


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PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgefield



POLICE ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Officers from the Neighbourhood Police Team at Newton Aycliffe, supported by local councillors and MP Paul Howells office, officers from the Licensing department and parking enforcement at Durham County Council, the Police Road Policing Unit and the Operation Endurance Team (target off road vehicles), held a week long Road Safety Week in Newton Aycliffe from the 14th September 2020. This was primarily to raise awareness around issues that inconsiderate parking and speeding in areas near junior schools cause and the risk posed to pupils and local residents. Officers were present at most junior schools every day to engage and educate drivers, but to also robustly tackle persistent offenders who would not listen to advice. In the main, most drivers were adhering to the yellow lines outside of the schools, but others didn't seem to grasp the importance of why they exist, these drivers were given fixed penalty tickets. Staggered starts to the school day seem to have helped ease traffic flow and school staff have been liaised with to see if this could be continued post-COVID. Whilst the kids were in school, officers looked at other road related issues across the town which have been highlighted in recent iPACT meetings. Community Speedwatch was carried out in multiple areas across the town each day, drivers caught in the main were sent warning/ advisory notices, others driving excessively fast were issued with fixed penalty notices. It was found that those driving over the specified speed limits varied from area to area, ranging from 7-20%. We also targeted the anti-social use of off-road bikes and quads with the assistance of our Off Road bike team (Operation Endurance), a number of warning notices were given out, one warning and the bikes are seized. Working with DCC Licensing we targeted waste and scrap collectors and the Road Policing Unit proactively targeted drivers that were disqualified, driving with no documents, or in

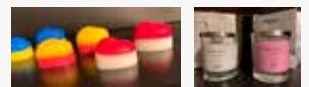


un-roadworthy vehicles.

In a previous Road Safety Week, the schools themselves (including the Mini Police) were heavily involved in promoting and participating in this initiative, however due to COVID restrictions, their involvement this time was more minimal. It was great to see how teachers and heads are promoting safety and social distancing though. On the second day of the Safety Week, due to information from a parent at one of the schools, a male person from the Darlington area was arrested and stolen property recovered. This male was later charged with Burglary (of a shed), Vehicle Interference, Theft of a Pedal Cycle and Criminal Damage, and given bail conditions to stay out of Newton Aycliffe and to observe a curfew. He awaits his day in court. The week was a very positive one, lots of engagement with parents, teachers, and school pupils (at a distance of course). Drivers spoken to, warned and some issued with tickets, riders causing Anti Social Behaviour on bikes and quads were given warning notices, and other drivers were given tickets for speeding and vehicle defects. The fight against ASB in relation to off-road bikes and quads goes on, there are many tactics that we are employing going forward, and we are determined to reduce this issue.

Locomotive Trust's 2020 Convention

In what is The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's 30th Anniversary we had hoped to make this year's Annual Convention a special celebration of what this amazing organisation has achieved. Sadly, the continued impact of COVID-19 scuppered our plans for this year. However, this year's Annual Convention was run as a virtual on The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's YouTube channel and we thought it might be of interest to you. This is the direct link <https://youtu.be/newhzKDf1JU>. It is also available for viewing via www.a1steam.com. As usual, the presentations looked at the Trust's achievements since the last Convention including Tornado's unfortunately limited main line operations and looked forward into the 2021 programme. It also provided a progress update on the construction of Prince of Wales and the opportunity to 'virtually' view the current state-of-play (by way of a fantastic video walkaround the engine and workshops by David Elliott and Daniela Filova) with the locomotive at Darlington Locomotive Works.



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Woodham Academy's New Head Boy and Girl

Woodham Academy would like to congratulate Taylor Jones and Katie-Mae Stabler-Griffith on their appointment as Head boy and Head girl respectively. These two students, both in Year 11, will replace the outgoing Head boy and Head girl Sonny Fielding and Hannah Cox who left the Academy to begin Sixth form last year. As always, the appointments follow a rigorous process where students had to apply in writing and outline their credentials for the position as well as their vision for the role. The candidates were then interviewed by both Andrew Bell, Head teacher and Sarah Dickinson, Deputy head teacher. Both teachers were delighted with the standard of all the applicants which made the selection a very difficult process indeed.

Mr Bell said, "It is always an absolute honour to interview the students who apply for these posts and to spend time discovering just how remarkable our young people are. Although it was a very difficult decision, we are delighted to appoint Taylor and Katie-Mae who were both so articulate in describing their journey through Woodham before now and their aims and intentions for the future. These students absolutely represent the values of the school and have already shown superb qualities of leadership that make them ideal role models for younger students. All the candidates were exceptional and I feel incredibly proud to be the head teacher of a school where the staff and students are united by such mutual respect."

Taylor and Katie-Mae will be supported in their role by Ben Graham and Cassidy Race as Vice Head boy and Vice Head girl



and, collectively, they will lead the team of Y11 student ambassadors who help staff run clubs and activities and offer support to younger students at the school.

Proud Labour Member for Over 47 Years

Dear Editor, and avid readers, Mr Alastair P G Welsh is a member of Momentum, well he must be, isn't he, I'm sure he is? For over 12 months now he has been telling the Newton News, and you, its readers, that he has real insight and information on all Aycliffe Labour Party members and its Councillors, telling you that by not declaring our support we are guilty as charged and must be members of this cancer and evil movement. Yet, throughout this period, he has not provided a single piece of evidence, except to say 'it's in our actions and the ideology' that we support. Well Mr Alastair P G Welsh, you have finally flushed me out of my evil, cancerous coven, I am here to declare, yes I am a member of the Labour Party, I am a proud member of some 47 years with an ideology that supports fairness and equality, social justice and compassion, decency and security for all in our society.

Please do judge me by my actions as I try to make Great Aycliffe great and the best place to grow up in and the best place to grow old in, therefore if that means I'm a follower of little 'ducks', that is Sedgefield Labour Party, then I'm guilty as charged.

So Mr Welsh, you seem to believe that if you continue to tell a lie and state falsehoods often enough you make it the truth, I believe the people of Newton Aycliffe deserve better than you ranting on every week about a non existent Momentum, we are fed up of hearing your negativity, and creating division, what our town needs in this time of crisis is a positive mental attitude, of yes we can get through this, but let's do it together.

Yours sincerely
Labour Cllr Eddy Adam
Aycliffe West

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Golden Charter

Disgraceful Onslaughts

Dear Sir,
I hope I'm not the only person who feels wholly fed up with Alistair P G Welsh's attacks on local Labour Party members and councillors. Setting aside that, his letters lack any coherent narrative, in that one badly made point segues randomly into another, I object to what amounts to his serial attacks on individuals.

I have been an active local Labour Party member for a number of years and have never been prevailed upon to join Momentum or any other faction, nor am I interested in doing so. In fact, Momentum has never been mentioned in any of my conversations with other members. My motivation arises entirely from what I believe to be better ways of bringing about a fairer society. I know that the fellow members slated by Mr Welsh are similarly motivated. It is that motivation which leads people to join Labour, not a desire to follow an authoritarian ideology. If Mr Welsh knew Councillors Beetham and Clare at all well, he would realise they support more, not less, democracy in society.

Mr Welsh disagrees with Councillor Clare on climate change, and probably other issues of the day. Can he not express his views on these matters without the personal attacks? Councillor Clare's contributions to public service are exemplary, which makes it so much more painful to read these disgraceful onslaughts.

Yours faithfully
Eileen Brewis

Loo-dicrous Council Toilet Policy Changed After Lib Dem Councillors Intervene

Durham County Council have asked leisure centre staff to use discretion by offering a lifeline to residents caught short during the pandemic.

The decision follows intervention from Lib Dem councillors.

A 78 year-old Newton Aycliffe resident with "waterworks" problems needed the toilet whilst out shopping. He popped in to the council's leisure facility in Newton Aycliffe town centre only to be refused permission to use a toilet.

Great Aycliffe Town Councillor Michael Stead explains, "When this resident contacted me I was shocked at this loo-dicrous decision. Years ago the local public toilets were closed and people were pointed to the leisure centre.

"To refuse someone elderly, with a health condition, permission to use the loo in an emergency was simply unacceptable" Durham County Council has put in place strict rules to protect people from Covid at its leisure centres.

This includes requiring an appointment to enter the building and setting a maximum number of people allowed at any one time. However, the policy did not have any discretion for those emergency situations when an elderly or vulnerable resident might need the loo.

Michael contacted his Lib Dem colleagues, and after intervention by one of the Council's Lib Dem shadow portfolio holders, the policy has been reviewed for the whole County.

A senior council officer commented, "I can confirm that leisure centre managers will use their discretion in limited emergency situations....".

"All covid-safety rules such as test and trace will still apply. Our leisure centres are only able to stay open thanks to their rigorous approach to safety so I must stress this is not a change in policy to allow general public access to the toilets."

Lib Dem town councillor Michael, supporting the change to a more sensible approach says, "I don't think anyone can underestimate just how uncomfortable it can be for anyone who suddenly gets caught short.

"Most of us can get to the other end of the high street to find an alternative. However, someone who is elderly, disabled or pregnant, would struggle. I'm pleased the council has listened to us and applied some common sense."

The elderly resident who was turned away was helped by a local shop manager on the high street who, following Covid rules, allowed the resident to use their toilet. Cllr Stead adds, "Sometimes it does feel a



bit like the world has gone mad. All credit to the hero who helped out my resident, using common sense and compassion."

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Goodbye Community Spirit, Newton Aycliffe

Dear Sir,

What an amazing 18 months we have had! What originally started out as a 'save Santa' campaign led to a group of people forming Community Spirit Newton Aycliffe. We had a united goal and mission statement, supporting local families, helping those in need, promoting local businesses and bringing our community together. I think we can safely say we achieved our goal. We even won the Syd Howarth community award, what an honour!

We raised our funds by having regular family discos and seasonal craft fairs, all were very well attended and so much fun. The funds raised allowed us to help the community in so many ways. We donated food parcels to those in need, allowed people living on their own to enjoy a Christmas dinner, assisted some members of the community who had been the target of theft.

We were able to work with social services supplying families with white goods, furniture, pushchairs, and anything else they requested. We have helped struggling families carpet their homes, put smiles on children's faces with toys and tricycles. We have helped the young and old alike with health issues that required financial help. All of these things we would not have achieved if it wasn't for the hard work of all Community Spirit members who gave up their free time to help.

A big thank you goes to Professor Nincompoop who always made our discos entertaining. Thanks to Newton Press for all their help with our publicity, and to Shirley at Newton Aycliffe Tesco who has helped us enormously. Thank you to the Newton Aycliffe police for their help at Christmas time, and to Beth and Debbie's decorations, making our grotto the best one ever. A massive thank you to Gary Hepple, Alan Nelson and all the staff at The Big Club Newton Aycliffe, had it not been for their kindness and support and their great venue our events and fundraising would not have taken place. Current times and lockdown has meant that we have not been able to carry out our normal fundraising activities. But we have continued to help the community quietly in the background with the funds we had built up. The pandemic has had an impact on us all and unfortunately our members have to concentrate their time now on other commitments. So the time has come for us to say farewell to Community Spirit Newton Aycliffe. We were hoping to say hello to Christmas Spirit as we still continued our work in December as Mr and Mrs Claus, but at this moment in time this looks uncertain. We would like to wish all of the Aycliffe Charities good luck as they continue to work hard to support the people of Newton Aycliffe during this difficult time. The remainder of our funds will be given to St Clare's Food Bank at Christmas time to help those families in need. We would like to finish on a final Thank You to everyone who embraced our charitable organisation with the kindness and good will that was intended.

Stay strong, stay safe and keep up the Community Spirit.

Joanne Jones
Founder member

Shildon Community Bus

Shildon Community Bus has served the community of Shildon and the surrounding areas, including NEWTON AYCLIFFE for over 30 years. Covid-19 has greatly impacted our ability to provide the community minibus service and we have been closed since March. Many of the affiliated groups using our transport consist of older people with ongoing health conditions, so demand has ceased, and groups have not been meeting or socialising. Our office and driver volunteers are mostly older people too.



The positive bit is that we are still in existence and look forward to restarting our transport service in Spring 2021 if conditions allow.

We will be following the Government's guidelines to ensure the safety of volunteers and passengers. We will also be offering minibus driver training to MIDAS standard, free of charge, for organisations which affiliate with us.

Letters are being sent out to all our affiliated groups and volunteer drivers to inform them of the situation. We are actively seeking the views of anyone who has been involved with the Shildon Community Bus. Is there going to be a demand for our service in the future? Do we need to change what we offer? The team will be contacting drivers and affiliated groups in the next couple of months to gather information so that we can offer an appropriate service to the people of Shildon and the surrounding areas, which will include shopping trips and transport for social outings.

If you have anything you wish to ask or share with us, then we will be pleased to hear it. We look forward to serving the community in 2021.

The Secretary, Clare Midgley, can be contacted on 07515 644194 or email: mail@shildoncombus.plus.com

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Full Weekend of Football for the Youthy F.C.

At last all our leagues are up and running, despite some of our teams being short of some players due to local restrictions in Newton Aycliffe. The Russel Foster Saturday teams, started last weekend with some great performances:

U12 Girls 5 v 2 Washington

The girls were in good spirits despite the cold. With two late drop outs we had only nine players available and no subs. However, Washington found themselves in the same position. We chose to play against the wind first half, meaning second half, with tired legs, we had the advantage. Aycliffe were first to every ball within the first 20 minutes. The girls had to let the ball do the work and read the game well. The girls worked hard and managed to score two great goals within the first 10 minutes. The final 10 minutes of the first half was little more end to end but we got a third in the last 5 minutes, only for Washington to go and score just before half time. Half time 3-1.

In our last league game this was also the score at half time and we came away with a draw. The girls had a lot more grit and determination this week. Washington found the first goal of the second half but the next twenty minutes were spent in and around the Washington box, with only the odd break out, but our defence stood strong. With five minutes to go we had hit the post and managed to score a further two great team goals. Full time 5-2 and the girls definitely deserved the win.

POTM went to Demi Lee this week for her excellent work in midfield, pressing but also there to defend when needed, well done.

Goals: Freya x 2 Polly x 2 and Faith.

Middlesbrough Women U16's 2 v 1 Aycliffe U16's

A trip to Middlesbrough for our second game after restart, against one of the teams that will be in and around top spot at the end of the season. Aycliffe started under the cosh in the first 15 minutes, but grew into the game as it wore on, reducing Middlesbrough to speculative shots from outside of the area. The girls grew in confidence and started making chances of their own. However, we conceded to a fast through ball and a good finish, 0-1, closing stages of the first half and Hattie gets away from her markers but can only find the post. Some great football then finds Kate at the back post but she too finds the woodwork.

Second half and things are looking better, back four competing and midfield dominating more, forwards looking good on the counter. Several more half chances come and go, then, against the run of play, a high shot, buffeted by the strong wind, loops over Lailas head 0-2. The girls did not give up and Hattie gets us back into the game, with a cool finish 1-2, and in the dying minutes we go agonisingly close with Kate & Katie.

Full time 1-2 - doesn't feel like a defeat with some great football, work rate and attitudes. Tough opposition, but we will take points and upset some big teams this year.

Velocity Predators 4 v 2 NAYFC U12's Eagles

Team: Kian, Liam, Zac, Kai, Olly, Harvey, Will, Hamza, Harry and Adam. An early start for a 9am kick off in Sunderland, with problems on the road enroute there was very little time left to warm the boys up. We struggled to find composure when on the ball and weren't passing. Velocity simply passed round us and at half time we found ourselves three goals down. Second half started much better and the boys began working as a team. We were passing the ball and attacking and soon were rewarded when Olly smashed the ball into the back of the net 3-1.

We were awarded a free kick which Liam took perfectly, Will shot but it just went over the bar. Velocity then came at us, all Eagles getting back to defend and somehow managed to give away a penalty. However, despite the best efforts from Kian, they found the back of the net 4-1. The boys kept going, trying to get more goals and were again awarded a free kick. Will stepped up and, with a fantastic effort, caused their keeper to make a great save. A ball over the top found Adam who ran at the keeper, the keeper came out to tackle Adam and took him out, but the ball deflected to Joel who had continued his run forward and slotted it home to get the second for the Eagles. 4-2 Full time.

NAYFC Angels Blue v Hartlepool Pools Youth Blue

After a couple of weeks of internal club friendlies, it was great to be back to competitive football, and this was a great game. Just 9 Angels were available today, so it needed to be a good shift from all of them. It was superb. Sophie started the game as our keeper and did a great job in an uncomfortable position for her. Despite having no subs, being able to unleash Sophie on the game in the second half resulted in an immediate impact. She chased, harried, set up chances and scored our opening goal.

Ella showed great reading of the game and distribution from defence in the first half. Evie asked to play centre back for the whole game. She showed discipline, resilience, great timing and good distribution. Erin grew into the game. At times her touch and passing was first class.

Isobel, our captain for the next few matches, broke up the opposition attacks time after time, distributed brilliantly from midfield - rarely giving the ball away. Hannah made loads of runs with the ball, creating attacks, but also taking much needed pressure off the defence. Unlucky not to score. Heidi, always a great engine, but above all a superb team player. Macie is always an attacking threat, unlucky not to score with a great strike from distance hitting the post. Charli took two great free-kicks. A

sighter with the first one, but was unlucky as the second rattled off the bar. She scored a deserved goal and was equally effective in defensive and attacking positions.

The game itself was influenced by the wind but the girls dominated the second half to ensure they had another positive result.

Darlington FC U10 Girls v NAYFC U10 Angels

Another tough test for the girls today against an experienced Darlington team. The Angels came off the pitch with big smiles and are showing constant improvement in every game. Parents Star Player: Marley, for two well taken goals; Coaches Star Player: Maddy, who did an outstanding job in the right back and central defence positions.

Other Saturday Results

Aycliffe U13 Girls 2 v 5 Leam Rangers Girls

Aycliffe U14 Girls 2 v 6 Stockton Girls

Aycliffe U16 Falcons 0 v 5 Felling Magpies White

TJFA Sunday - Aycliffe U10's Eagles v Hartlepool FC

Team: Charlie, Dylan, Carter, Dan K, Evan, Riley, Lucas, Jayden, Dan C, Brandon, Nathan and Krystian.

The Eagles started well from the kick off, pressing well and not allowing the opposition time on the ball. Within four minutes Carter played a great ball up the right to Nathan who skipped past the defender and used his speed and strength to get a fantastic cross over to Riley who had also made the run forward and he buried the ball into the back of the net. Hartlepool applied pressure wanting to get an equaliser, making Dylan and Carter work very hard, but time and time again they both won the ball and played it out to their team mates. Within another five minutes the Eagles had created a number of chances but it was Nathan who got the second for the team.

Lots of changes of players at half time to give everyone time on the pitch. In the second half, Hartlepool came back onto the pitch and the game was end to end initially, but it was the Eagles who got the third goal of the game from Jayden. The Eagles were dominating again, Jayden hungry for more goals making it difficult for the opposition from the kick off. The ball, out of their keepers hands, fell to Brandon in defence who found that he had loads of space in front of him, encouraged to run with the ball he sped down the wing, took on the defender and with a great shot got his name on the score sheet. Hartlepool, still not giving up, played some passes around the Eagles and their striker grabbed a goal. The Eagles, however, again attacked, Evan managed to get his foot round the ball and get the fifth goal for the team. Great team performance from the Eagles.

Aycliffe Under 11 Eagles v Darlington 21st Allstars Colts

The team were up against it in their first league game at 9-a-side, even before kick off. With four players self-isolating, one ill and another unavailable, Youthy managed to field the nine players they needed, albeit with no substitutes. Both teams started brightly, but Youthy edged the opening encounters and took the lead with Noah scoring. The next 15 minutes saw Allstars create numerous chances, and not only equalised, but deservedly took the lead. Swapping players around at this point did the trick, with Evan scoring quickly. Again Allstars continued to attack and their striker found himself one on one against Harry, who made a fantastic save and resulted in Youthy countering immediately, with Evan scoring again, taking Youthy into half time ahead. The start of the second half saw a more clinical display from the boys, creating numerous chances and keeping Allstars in their own half for long periods. A second goal for Noah, one for both Edward and Posi gave them a healthy advantage. The boys understandably started to tire in the final 10 minutes, but dug deep and despite a well taken free kick to get one back for Allstars, Youthy saw the game out, with many collapsing to the floor at the final whistle - after a mammoth effort from all

Adult Teams

Sunderland West End 2 v 2 Newton Aycliffe Women

Newton Aycliffe made the trip to Sunderland to face a new team in the league but a team with good pedigree as the first team play in the premier league of the northeast regional league.

Unfortunately Newton Aycliffe started slow and Sunderland made the most of their first half advantage, racing to a two goal lead. Newton Aycliffe then woke up, a couple of through balls from Vicky and Annabelle resulted in some good efforts but Sunderland defended well. Newton Aycliffe forced five corners and the fifth corner found the back of the net, Amber floated a perfect ball into the middle of the box, Vicky beat her marker to the ball and calmly guided her header into the corner of the net, 2-1 at half time. Newton Aycliffe started the second half with another cross from Amber, met by Christy in the box, controlled well under pressure and fired home for her first and Newton Aycliffe's second, 2-2. Now Newton Aycliffe were looking for the winner, narrowly missing on a few occasions. Midfield were pushing forward. Sunderland had a few chances but the defence stood strong, Courtney also pulling off some great saves to keep the score level. Full time 2-2.

The women overall deserved more from the game but it wasn't to be, a great performance but a disappointing result. After a slow start to the league the women are starting to play the football we all know they can play and are slowly starting to turn the season around, 1 point this week, let's make it three next week.

Coates Climbs the Order at the Home of UK Motorsport



Max Coates headed Silverstone at the weekend for rounds seven, eight and nine of the MINI CHALLENGE UK hoping to reignite his championship ambitions. Before the event had started the Primex Plastics and JiC Transport sponsored driver gained new partners Cirrus Research, Delta Works, BOSS Fabrication, BTCC Yorkshire Army and TeamKarting.co.uk.

Following a successful test day on the Friday Coates went into the race weekend feeling confident, however he would have to overcome an eight-place grid penalty following an on-track incident at Knockhill. The Elite Motorsport driver posted the sixth fastest time in qualifying but would be relegated to fourteenth on the grid for the opening race of the weekend.

A good start immediately gained him a position at turn one, before a further two places gained at turn two as drivers ran wide. As the race progressed the top twelve drivers formed a long train, all jostling for position. Coates, in the NGK Spark Plugs backed car made up another place at the final corner to take another top ten finish. He then started in tenth for race two and again immediately made up a position before going around the outside of two cars into the famous Brooklands corner. He continued his rise through the pack eventually climbing to fifth and showing as one of the fastest drivers on track.

Then, in the final race of the weekend shown live on ITV2 on Sunday afternoon, Coates lined up fifth on the grid and slotted into position in the early laps. He made a pass for fourth on lap three and immediately closed on the drivers in front battling for the podium positions. Despite his best efforts he couldn't gain any more positions and make his mark on the podium and had to settle for fourth place.

After, he commented, "This weekend was always going to be difficult following the penalty from Knockhill but I think given that we made great progress in races one and two. I was disappointed not to take a podium in the final race as I felt the pace was there to do so, just not the gap to make my way through. I'd like to thank all my partners for making this weekend possible as it hung in the balance last week. Primex Plastics and JiC Transport have been brilliant and it's great to welcome Cirrus Research and our other new partners to the team."

The series now heads to Snetterton for the penultimate round of the season on the 24th and 25th October.

2020 MINI CHALLENGE UK Season Calendar:

1. Snetterton: 24th and 25th October
2. Brands Hatch Indy: 14th & 15th November

Photo: Max Coates leading a pack of MINI CHALLENGE UK racers at Silverstone.

RUNNING CLUB NEWS

Last weekend's action mainly revolved around the track, as more events took place as part of a delayed outdoor track season. On Saturday, 26th September 2020, several Members attended the 'Back to Track II' meeting, hosted by the Darlington Harriers and Athletics Club, at a brutally windy Eastbourne Sports Complex. The meeting offered the opportunity to participate in graded 100m and 800m races, and the Shot Put.

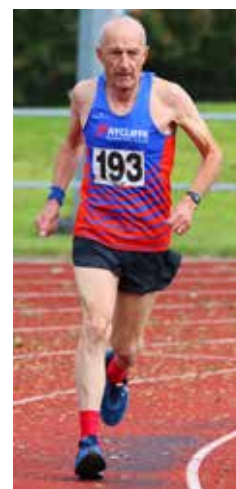
Sticking firmly to something within their comfort zone, our Members opted for the 800m races. First out of the traps for the Club was Alan Wilks, who participated in Race 6 and finished in a time of 3:05.7. Andy Talbot competed in Race 7, and came home in 2:33.2, setting a new Club Record in his Age Category. Second Claim Member, John Firby, ran in Race 8, albeit representing his First Claim Club, and registered a time of 2:24.5. John Surtees continued his recent great form, convincingly winning Race 9 in a time of 2:16.3, and in doing so broke his own Club Record for the distance in the M20-35 Age Category.

There was more action on the track on Sunday, 27th September 2020, as Andy Talbot doubled up, and travelled to Morpeth to take part in the North Eastern Counties Athletics Association Meeting, which also incorporated the North East Masters Athletics Association 3K Championships. Andy recorded a time of 10:53.28 in his 3K race, claiming First Place and the Gold Medal in the V60 Age Category, and also set a new Club Record for the distance in his Age Category. Taking on a challenge of a different kind, Rob Young joined North East Project Run in their attempt to run a 'Coast 2 Coast' Relay. Rob and his team-mates completed the tough 11.5 mile leg between Burn Banks and Orton, mostly in the dark, which may explain some navigational issues.

Due to the current Public Health crisis, the 2020 Race for Life event series was cancelled earlier in the year, however runners and walkers were offered the opportunity to undertake a virtual version, a 'Very 2020 Race for Life', on Saturday, 26th September 2020. Several Members chose to participate, donning some pink attire, and raising some money for a very worthwhile cause.

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

Photographs provided courtesy of Karen Harland.



Newton News

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NHS Trust Seeks Non-Executive Director

The Trust which delivers hospital and community care across County Durham and Darlington is looking to appoint a new non-executive director to its Board.

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust serves around 600,000 people, providing a comprehensive range of services across two acute sites - Darlington Memorial Hospital and University Hospital of North Durham, as well as community hospitals and numerous community bases. Non-executive directors bring their skills, experience and talent to make a positive difference to the lives of people in the local community.

Steve Crosland has been a non-executive with the Trust since 2018, bringing his many years of experience in the private sector, where he worked at director level in human resources and leading strategic change. He said, "At this stage in my life and career I can't think of a better use of my time than serving the community by helping ensure we offer the very best healthcare services for patients."

"In addition to offering support, my role includes constructively challenging senior managers, bringing an independent view to decision making to ensure that as an organisation the Trust is resilient and performs highly. I find the role very fulfilling and would recommend it."

"During the last nine months the Trust has demonstrated its abilities by doing a remarkable job in responding to the unprecedented challenge brought by the Covid-19 pandemic, moving rapidly and being highly adaptable, despite being a large and complex organisation. It has been an honour to be part of this and to see the remarkable speed and willingness with which individual members of staff took on different responsibilities, adapted work areas and formed new teams to rise to the challenge. I've been particularly proud of the way in which the Trust has also prioritised communicating with and caring for its staff. Of course, combining the challenges of Covid-19 while meeting the on-going healthcare needs of our patients continues and the appointee to this role will be at the heart of this."

The role requires a time commitment averaging around 4-5 days per month with a salary of £13,000. Applications should be completed on-line at: www.jobs.nhs.uk using the reference 439-C&G-19. Applicants can also contact Warren Edge, Trust Secretary, for further information at: warren.edge1@nhs.net or by telephone on 07825 865335.

Some Council Tax Questions THE ANSWERS MIGHT SURPRISE YOU

Dear Sir,
The local LibDems are launching their election campaign on: "We Hate Council Tax". (Don't we all!) But what are the truths about Council Tax?

(1) IS 'COUNCIL TAX' A 'COUNCIL' TAX?

No. It is largely a government stealth tax. The government requires Councils to deliver certain statutory services, and then also makes them collect the money to pay for them. It just calls it 'Council' tax so we know who to blame.

(2) DO LABOUR LOVE RAISING COUNCIL TAX?

No. Local Labour Councillors HATE raising Council Tax because it makes them so unpopular. The national Labour Party, also, hates Council Tax because it is massively unfair - it is charged on property rather than on ability-to-pay, and it disproportionately burdens the less-well-off people and the deprived areas least able to afford it. Labour's 2019 manifesto promised to consider a 'land value tax', which would be fairer.

(3) HAS THE LABOUR ADMINISTRATION AT COUNTY HALL CONTINUALLY RAISED OUR COUNCIL TAX?

The DCC element of the bundle of charges which we wrongly call 'council tax' is this year £1,509 on a Band D property. In 2010 it was £1,259. So yes it has gone up (20%) in absolute terms.

But everything has gone up, hasn't it! What will surprise many people is that, because inflation since 2010 has been 35%, our DCC charge has in fact gone up much less (in fact £189 less) than inflation.

(AND ALSO, this, at a time when the council has had to find £250million-worth of savings per year due to government austerity cuts. To give you an idea of the scale of the Labour administration's achievement: if all of those cuts had been transferred onto our council tax, the total charge on a Band D property this year would have been £3,837.)

(4) DO THE TORIES LOVE COUNCIL TAX?

The Tory government LOVES Council Tax because it gives them the chance to devolve all kinds of financial obligations, from the government, onto the Councils.

- One Tory trick is to set up a popular new initiative (e.g. for health or homelessness) and give the councils a grant to run it; after a couple of years they stop the grant, but expect the council to keep providing the service (i.e. out of our council tax).
- In 2016, to meet a shortfall on social care funding, George Osborne paid for it by 'allowing' councils to add a charge for adult social care - i.e. he got us to pay for it on top of our council tax. This has continued and this year on a Band D property we are paying an extra £145 for the government's 'adult social care precept'.
- Since 2013 the Tory government has asked councils to start levying Council Tax on those poorer residents who were previously

exempt. (DCC is one of the very few Councils in the country which has refused to implement this).

(5) WHAT HAVE THE TORIES AND LIBDEMS DONE TO TRY TO CUT OUR COUNCIL TAX?

Nothing. Ever.

This year, for example, on a budget of £430million, the LibDems proposed to SPEND an extra £460k, and the Tories proposed to SPEND an extra £320k. Aycliffe North's own Cllr Scott Durham did propose to abolish the Youth Parliament (but only so he could spend the money saved on something else).

(6) ARE YOU SURPRISED?

We appreciate that it goes against every myth of local government to tell you this, but:

- Our Labour-controlled council has saved money brilliantly;
- Our DCC Council Tax charge has gone up much less than inflation;
- The Tories and LibDems have been arguing to spend MORE.

Sedgefield CLP Campaigns Team.

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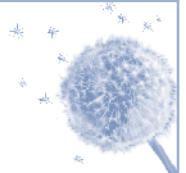


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N.A.F.C. REPORT



Newton Aycliffe Sealed a Remarkable 6-0 Win at Thornaby Thornaby 0-6 Newton Aycliffe

Newton Aycliffe were unplayable at times as they registered their highest ever away win in the Northern League at Thornaby. Five goals inside a 30 minute first half blitz put Aycliffe on course for a win which never looked in doubt before Jake Petitjean added a sixth with his second of the game in the second half. Adam Burnicle also bagged a brace with Liam Jarvie and Ethan Wood completing the rout as Aycliffe moved up to fourth in the table to keep up with the early pace setters. Lucas Pilling replaced the injured Lewis Walton at full back in an otherwise unchanged starting line-up from last weekend's 4-0 win over Barnoldswick Town in the FA Vase. And they picked up where they left off with Jarvie slotting the ball between Dimitrios Konstantopoulos' legs with a little over 60 seconds on the clock after good work by Pilling and Ben Reay. The hosts almost hit back immediately when Dale Hopson forced Pickford into a good save with Aaron Brown on hand to divert the rebound away with what happened next being simply breath taking. Brown and Reay exchanged a neat one-two before Reay teed up Petitjean who fizzed an effort from 20 yards beyond Konstantopoulos into the top corner as Aycliffe moved up through the gears. Two became three in the 12th minute when Reay once more applied pressure to the Thornaby backline with a high press and was able to win the ball and release Wood who stroked the ball into the bottom corner. Jarvie was a whisker away from making it four, minutes later, when his curling effort just went past the far post. But it was Jarvie involved once more five minutes later when he wriggled through the defence into the area and was brought down leaving the referee little option but to point to the spot. Burnicle stepped up to send the keeper the wrong way to open his league account for the season and make it 4-0. The striker doubled his tally in the 28th minute to cap a five star opening half an hour, with arguably the goal of the game, when he bent the ball superbly with the outside of his boot into the top corner of Konstantopoulos' net once more. Aycliffe were in dreamland at the interval with the hosts shell shocked. Ben Dibb-Fuller was introduced for the excellent Reay early in the second half as Aycliffe kept their foot on the pedal. Burnicle was close to completing his hat-trick just after the hour mark when he raced clear of the Thornaby defence but the keeper saved with his legs to deny him. With the game fizzling out and Aycliffe looking to secure a clean sheet, there was still time for that elusive sixth goal as Connor Phelan slid an excellent ball through to Petitjean. With only the goalkeeper to beat, the midfielder elegantly lifted the ball over his head to seal a memorable afternoon for the club.

AYCLIFFE RADIO

LOCAL RADIO brought to you by LOCAL PEOPLE

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	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
12-2pm	Country & Americana Show	David Ringer
Blues Show Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service		
2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin & Monica
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6-7.30pm	Jazz Time	Mike Dixon
8-10pm	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	9th Oct. - Martin Norris Movin' Melodies	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby

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

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Extremist Politics & Covid-19 Life Saving Treatment?

Dear Sir,

I am appalled by AndyMac's description of OUR police as being, "Uniformed thugs with sticks, tasers and the rest of their array of weapons -...." and "The bully boys and their big sticks". I do not recognise these descriptions of our police force and suspect that the vast majority of electors agree with me. Two serving British policemen have recently been killed by suspects resisting arrests. I hope that their widows, friends and colleagues do not get sight of his hateful letter. It may apply to Belarus or Hong Kong or many other Socialist/ Communist states; BUT NOT HERE.

Of course, his letter was probably submitted before the most recent police death. I hope the Editor will publish any apology or retraction forthcoming from AndyMac, in next week's Newton News.

I feel sorry for Labour/Momentum's extremist left wing. They came second in the Referendum and in the last three General Elections. They now have had to resort to being the 'Provisional Wing' of 'Climate Extinction', 'Black Lives Matter' and 'Covid Deniers'. Their Labour, "New Management", has said his Labour Party would not 'play politics' with Covid policy, yet, his Shadow Education Minister sees Covid as an opportunity for political gain. Who is managing? Labour or Momentum?

The Labour/Momentum left and their fellow-travellers have indeed played politics with Covid. They delayed the planned re-opening of schools from a period when new infections were in rapid decline and there were surplus tests available, to a period when infections were on the increase and available tests were at a premium. Nice one! If they think they achieved a political victory in this, they must still think that the electorate are morons!

As for the so called "Cummings Effect"; this was 'investigated' and reported on, by the extremely left-wing London School of Economics. However, the residents of Barnard Castle don't agree with their findings. You would have to be a complete Left-wing looney to allow Dominic Cummings' legal actions to justify your illegal non-adherence to Covid Regulations. Such action could result in the death of your favourite Gran and/or Mother-In-Law! A 'witch-hunt' is a 'witch-hunt' no matter how many times it reappears. The electorate have seen it as such. It is another duck; a dead one!

Alastair P.G. Welsh

Dear Sir,

Some time ago I was diagnosed with very high blood pressure, due to cholesterol building up in my system. This was hereditary through some family member. I am one of many with this issue.

I have seen several Cardiologists over the years, but all doctors are different in their diagnoses. However, I was, and still am, on cholesterol medication, but they were not working as good as the treatment I am on now.

I was asked to go to Bishop Auckland Cardiology Ward to see a specialist doctor in this field, this doctor has made such a huge difference to me with the strangest suggestion. Bearing in mind I was on tablets for this condition, other people may know about it but I can honestly say this has worked for me.

I was averaging a count of 6-8, I am now down to 3, yes 3, since I started this treatment. The treatment suggestion was to eat one (segment) of a garlic clove every day in the morning with water or juice. Chop it up into small pieces, put it in your mouth and swallow in one go, do not chew it (as it tastes awful).

My count, not moving down until I started on this suggestion, I have also lost two stone in weight, and I feel like a new man.

It really did work for me and I do not need a de-coke, this treatment may save lives, if anyone wants any info regarding this great health benefit, they can contact me through Newton News (paul@newtonnews.co.uk)

G Thompson.

Supporting Families Thanks Evie Wood for Donation

Dear Sir,

My six year old Daughter, Evie-Mae Wood, recently had her hair cut so she could donate it to the Little Princess Trust to be made into a wig for a young girl with cancer. Our hairdresser cut her hair free of charge. As a reward her Great Nana Park gave her £5.00 to spend on sweets. However, Evie-Mae wanted to buy some nappies to donate to Supporting Families, I then posted this on my Facebook page and family and friends also donated, she also sold some old toys and used that to buy more items such as baby wipes, nappy sacks, shampoos, creams, etc.

Three weeks later she had raised nearly £200 and has donated 150 new essential baby items to Supporting Families including packs of nappies, wipes, shampoos, etc.

We will carry on for as long as possible and for as long as we receive donations. We understand that a lot of families are struggling in these even harder times at the moment and I have always taught Evie to share and always be kind, so she is really happy with how much she's managed to donate, thanks to friends and family for giving her all this money.

The Supporting Families team would like to say a huge thank you to Evie Wood, age 6, from Darlington, who raised some money recently by getting her hair cut and decided to use the money she raised to help the babies whose mummies and daddies don't have much money to get the things babies need.

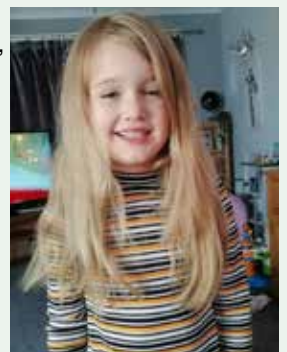
She gave us nappies, baby wipes, baby bath, baby shampoo, talcum powder, baby lotion, baby massage oil, nappy cream, cotton buds, nappy bags and cotton wool balls.

What a lovely thing for a young girl to do and to think of others less fortunate than herself.

Thank you so much Evie and her parents.

The Supporting Families Team

Sheena, Yvonne, Liz, Rachel, and Bob.





NEWTON AYCLIFFE FC

'Junior Section'



PLAYERS WANTED U8'S 2020/21 SEASON

Our U8's for this coming season are looking to add players to their squad following a successful 1st season playing league football. As a club, we have now merged with Newton Aycliffe FC, so there is no better time to come and join this great little team. They have a fantastic coaching set up and parental support. They



play in the TJFA league on Sundays at Woodham Academy and train on Tuesday evening also at Woodham Academy. If you're interested, call Damo on **07825312274 or Michael on **07974362682****



All coaches hold a minimum level 1 FA coaching qualifications and all are fully DBS checked.

Respect

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Meet the Team



My name is David Hogg and I am Junior Vice President of Rotary Newton Aycliffe which means that I will become president on 1st July 2022. I joined Rotary in 2002 when, after moving to School Aycliffe and I was disposing of my Christmas Tree at the Rotary Charity Collection point at Heighington School Car Park, I was approached by a Rotarian and an old friend, Richard Gent. He took my Christmas Tree and simply asked what I was doing there. When I said I had just moved to the area he asked whether I was interested in Rotary and quickly followed it with "I will pick you up at 7 o'clock on Tuesday". The rest is history. I was invited to join and became President for my first time in July 2005.



I am immensely proud of the work Rotary does, not only in our region by helping those in need but also worldwide with the Polio Eradication initiative which is close to eradicating polio from the world. What an achievement that would be! If only we could do the same with Covid-19. Another great initiative is the ShelterBox Scheme, originally created by the Rotary Club of Helston in Cornwall to provide shelter, drinking water, tools and equipment to enable the recipient to cope in times of disaster. It has now developed into a worldwide Charity that has Shelter Boxes situated all over the world ready to be deployed in the event of a flood, hurricane, earthquake, Tsunami or other disaster. There are many more projects that Rotary International have created or support, that the public do not hear about, such as literacy and poverty alleviation, peace scholars, games for the disabled, Rotary Youth leadership award courses and many, many more.

I am a widower currently living at School Aycliffe but will soon be marrying Carol. I have two children and five grandchildren, two stepchildren and three step grandchildren and when Carol and I marry I will inherit a further three stepchildren and six step grandchildren and one step great grandchild. Phew!! I was educated at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Darlington, the son of a farm worker, I have spent my working career of 53 years at Close Thornton Solicitors in Darlington and am currently a semi retired part time consultant solicitor. I now have time to enjoy walking my two dogs Mabel and Bertie, playing golf, and generally enjoying semi-retired life with fiancé Carol.

I do miss the camaraderie of the weekly Rotary meetings which Covid-19 prevents but hopefully we will be back to those next year and able to raise funds again to continue the great work that Rotary does. I am proud to be a Rotarian and even prouder to be a member of Rotary Newton Aycliffe.

N.A.F.C. JUNIORS

This weekend only saw three of our teams in action with new regulations stopping all friendlies and the TJFA league not officially starting till the weekend of 4th October.

Under 8 Whites RYFL Division 5, Saturday 26th September

Newton Aycliffe U8 Whites played against Harton with brilliant work from all the players and a great team effort. Will and Oscar C covering each other well at the back again, William B was excellent in goal and Regan covered every blade of grass with bags of energy. The new players, Ozzie C and Ellis, did really well for their first time and will only get better with each game.

Regan scored both goals.

MOTM was awarded to Oscar C for his great tackles and passing.

Under 9 Blacks RYFL Division 9, Saturday 26th September

Disappointing for the U9 Blacks today, crowded off the ball and not finding the simple pass, a bit like watching bees round a pot of honey sometimes. Aycliffe went behind with one goal being an opportunistic hit that Aycliffe's keeper was unlucky not to save on this occasion. However, the team did not give up and battled back with a goal through Benjamin but could not find another. It was great to see the boys playing and working as a team.

MOTM was awarded to Alfie with some great tackles against a very big (looked like a 14 year old) striker.

Under 9 Whites RYFL Premier Division, Saturday 26th September

Newton Aycliffe U9 Whites played against Spennymoor after a short two week break from the premier division. It was a well matched game with both sides playing to their strengths and neither giving much away. Aycliffe's goal scorer was Tyler.

MOTM was awarded to Sammy and Thomas for their great battling performance.



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After attending Prime Ministers questions last week I voted in some deferred divisions before attending an APPG on Pubs (unfortunately I could only attend virtually!) where I was able to raise the problems pubs etc are facing and question the appropriateness of the table service rule for all venues. I do not think it is the best solution for venues like The Big Club, where different rules could be more appropriate. I then attended the 1922 committee where the main speaker was the Secretary of State for Defence who took questions in anticipation of the Overseas Operations Bill after which I voted for the Bill to save our service personnel from vexatious claims.

Thursday, as normal, saw me virtually attend the BEIS select committee where the focus was on Industrial Strategy in the context of a recovery from Covid 19. I then went to visit a brilliant engineering company in Trimdon, but first attended a virtual briefing with Priti Patel, the Home Secretary, about her current priorities.

Friday started with a call with the Durham County Council team regarding in particular the increased Covid interventions. I understand the desire to keep clear messaging but I am not sure there is a need for all of the County to have the same imposition and believe we need to consider a more regional approach within the County.

After this I then went straight onto a call with The governments Chief Medical Officer for England, Jonathan Van-Tam, on the measures being introduced and was able to question him on both my concerns and other points raised by the DCC team. These included the availability of flu vaccine, I am assured that huge quantities of flu vaccine are being provided and any outages people may hear about, due to an initial spike in demand, but as the flu season does not really start until December there is plenty of time for those that want to be vaccinated but it is also appropriate for those most vulnerable to be prioritised.

I think it was disappointing last week to see a letter with an accusation of me 'breaking the law' from someone who hides behind the cloak of anonymity and won't give their name and address. I am absolutely all for free speech but I do question the motivation of someone writing in this manner, but who is not prepared to put their name behind it. My office deal with approximately 1400 mails per week, on many different subjects that are important to our constituents, including a range of differing opinions on the Internal Markets Bill. All emails from constituents are replied to, plus, in this column last week, I gave my reasons for voting as I did in the Internal Markets Bill and I stand behind them.

This Monday I started my week with a visit to the new Darlington Farmers Auction Market at Humbleton Park, just off the A68 on the stretch between Heighington and Darlington. They opened last week after relocating from their old home near to Bank Top Railway Station in the centre of Darlington. This is a fabulous facility and the location is so much better for farmers, traders and the public, who were their neighbours in Darlington. I was joined by Heather Scott, the leader of Darlington Borough Council and Peter Gibson, MP for Darlington and we were given a really informative tour of the operations by the Chairman, Mark Dent, who also explained to us the Mart's plans for future growth and sustainability. In the afternoon I joined a zoom call with Matt Hancock to discuss the coronavirus measures where again the consideration of interventions being more targeted was discussed. Later, on Monday evening, I travelled to London ready for a busy Tuesday. I had several meetings including with Minister Chris Pincher on planning reforms and Esther McVey following up on the Blue Collar Conservatives visit to Sedgfield last month the output from which was broadcast on Tuesday evening. This included sessions in both Ferryhill and Newton Aycliffe, you can view on this link <https://www.bluecollarconservatism.co.uk/live> - If you are able to view these I would welcome your feedback as these sessions are designed to promote debate on the issues that are important to you.

Unfortunately we are now seeing rising positive test rates for Covid 19 in the North East of England and whether we agree with the increased restrictions or not it is important we follow them. It is not all about what is right for you as an individual, it is also about the risk to those around you, so please be considerate and follow the guidance.

HANDS-FACE-SPACE

Wash your Hands Regularly,

Wear a Mask on your Face where required and,

Give People Space.

Stay safe, look after each other and have a good week.

Paul Howell, MP

Nature Through a Lens at Greenfield Arts



Greenfield Arts are delighted to welcome back professional photographer Elaine Vizor who will be leading a brand-new workshop as part of our autumn programme.

Nature through a Lens will include a relaxed outdoor walk appreciating the environment in Newton Aycliffe; join Elaine and find ways to capture the changing face of the landscape and improve your photography skills. Please bring along your camera or phone. During recent months many of us have begun to notice the beauty around us and this is a lovely opportunity to capture what we love about our environment.

The walk will include a supported visit to the current exhibition in The Greenfield Gallery, Nature and Community by Mike Connell. We will be following social distancing guidelines for your safety and participants should wear warm clothing and comfortable shoes. Just visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk to book your place or contact our friendly team for further information by emailing info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or call 01325 379048.

Newton News

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Greenfield's Virtual Tour A Success

Greenfield Community College are delighted with the response from families and the wider community who have taken part in a virtual tour of the school.

The virtual tour video, still online to access, has attracted over 3,000 hits so far and feedback has been very positive families throughout the region take time to make their choice of secondary school for September 2021.

The virtual tour includes valuable information about each department and an introduction to key members of staff who are able to talk about the many opportunities, the school's vision and the extensive support that is on hand for each and every student.

Greenfield Community College have taken the decision this year to offer this opportunity online to give families a chance to take their time and revisit departments in a safe and thoughtful process. Visit www.greenfieldschool.net to find out more.

Ms. Davis, who heads the transition team at Greenfield, is thrilled with the response from families and the successful transition that Year 7 students have made in the first few weeks of term. "We are very proud of our students and the way they are settling into the Greenfield community, we have so much to offer as they continue their academic journey". Greenfield Community College are committed to supporting young people and providing high quality learning experiences that help students to be the best that they can be. The school will continue to offer its broad and balanced curriculum that gives students opportunities to reach their full potential. Contact the school office by email contact@greenfieldschool.net or by calling 01325 300378 if you would like any further details.



Short Story Book by Tony Ballantyne

About Midway:

Midway was written during the last six months of my father, Henry Ballantyne's life. Driving back and forth between hospitals, I distracted myself by thinking about stories I planned to write. Sitting in waiting rooms, cafes, service stations etc., I began to make notes on my phone. Midway was the result, a set of stories where I began to wonder why I was writing stories in the first place. The book is the answer to the question. More than that, Midway was my way of dealing with those events. This book is for those who have been there . . .

Blurb:

Stories about stories and storytelling. Written on the road between the past and the future, a writer explores his relationship with his dying father. Literature, fantasy and science fiction come together in this unique and very personal piece.

About the Author:

Tony Ballantyne is the author of the acclaimed Penrose hard SF novels, Twisted Metal and Blood and Iron, as well as the ground breaking and surreal fantasy novels Dream London and Dream Paris.

Reviews:

"Sharp, touching, and very original, this collection uses stories of different genres to explore aspects of the same emotional landscape, creating a very personal and very satisfying whole."

Chris Beckett, winner of the Arthur C Clarke Award.



Scant Regard for Anyone

Dear Sir,

I would like to make a comment regarding cyclists on pathways and their total disregard for pedestrians, one of the worst areas is Stephenson Way.

I've seen cyclists riding one handed whilst on a mobile phone, or they ride along with no hands on their handlebars. Many also hurtle along on the pathways, it is a wonder no one has been seriously hurt, especially people who are leaving their homes on the pathway. These mindless idiots show scant regard for anyone, including children.

What does it take for some kind of action to be taken in this matter? After all, these cyclists are breaking the law and I can't remember the last time I saw a policeman, even before the Coronavirus hit us. It does make me wonder what I am paying council tax for. I suppose it will take a serious accident before anything is done over this matter, but to be honest, even then I doubt it.

Name & address supplied

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Aycliffe Office: 01325 790580



Entrepreneurial Spirit Award to Lox of Love Founder

The founder of Lox of Love, Victoria Cartwright, has won the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award for the north east at the Great British Entrepreneur Awards.

Lox of Love is an award-winning hair extension specialist with two salons in County Durham and Leeds. Now in its eighth year, the Great British Entrepreneur Awards, in partnership with Starling Bank, celebrate the hard work and inspiring stories of entrepreneurs in the UK, rather than the business' balance sheet.

Victoria began Lox of Love as a mobile hair extension service in 2012, having written a business plan for the idea whilst studying business at university. The business has grown tremendously since then, and Victoria now has a team of 16 as part of the Lox of Love brand. Lox of Love has won multiple industry awards, most recently being voted Best Salon for Hair Extensions at the Yorkshire Salon Awards 2019.

Victoria adds, "I am incredibly proud to have won the Entrepreneurial



Spirit Award. I lost my sister Anna to a brain tumour four years ago. She was 25. After being given a terminal diagnosis she championed the charity that helped support her treatment, raising £100k before she died. Having been so in awe of her spirit, drive and endless positivity, I promised myself that I would do everything I could to make her proud, continue her fundraising legacy and be a positive role model for my children. This award certainly proves I am heading in the right direction and has made me even more determined to succeed! Thank you to the Great British Entrepreneur Awards for this exciting opportunity. I cannot wait to see what the future holds!"

The Entrepreneurial Spirit Award celebrates entrepreneurs who have overcome hardship, either in their personal lives or business careers, to be the driving force behind their business' growth. With Covid-19 restrictions preventing the regional finals taking place at a live event, Victoria won the award during a virtual award ceremony joined by finalists across every region.

The winners of each category will now go to the National Final of the Great British Entrepreneur Awards, with a date to be announced due to restrictions on large events.

Shouting Up For Sedgefield

A senior Government minister has revealed how a local MP contacts him every day pushing for better infrastructure in the region - as he promised to deliver for people in the North East while speaking at a political conference.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps speaking at the first Blue Collar Conservatism conference hosted by Tatton MP Esther McVey, said Sedgefield MP Paul Howell is relentless in campaigning for improvements and his passion was crucial in driving change. Mr Shapps also urged people to support companies such as Ebac in Newton Aycliffe as part of the levelling up and support goods made in the UK as the economy recovers from the pandemic.

Mr Shapps said: "It is incredibly important as we recover from Covid, many of these big infrastructure projects in the north, many of them now in the blue wall seats, we need to make sure we are building stuff in Britain and buying stuff in Britain, there are brilliant companies like Ebac that make things like white goods that you cannot buy from any other British company in some cases and if we support those companies as we have supported our communities through the Covid and the recovery we are going through that surely is a route through. We can be unashamed about backing our own industry and helping people to work their way out and that is a brilliant way to help build communities and improve people's lives so I think there is a real spirit of that throughout the north."

The BCC conference is a week-long event which travels the country, speaking to local people and businesses, hearing what they want and then taking the message back to the top of Government to be answered by ministers. Sedgefield was featured, covering the issues of transport and levelling up the country with a focus on made in the UK and heard from residents, saying they felt forgotten and expressing the need to raise morale.

Mr Howell, who is part of BCC in Westminster, said: "Taking discussions to the community like this is such a critical part of government. For too long, areas like Sedgefield have not been listened to and when the Blue Collar team and Esther joined me to reach out, the response was fantastic. At very short notice both residents and business leaders stood up and contributed to the debate. I am incredibly proud of them for this and I will do everything I can to ensure Government listens and delivers for them."

Mr Shapps added: "Since I have been Secretary of State and looking after the Northern Powerhouse, I meet people who say they cannot move around the area and reopening things like Ferryhill Station could make a big difference. With a Conservative MP and Conservative Mayor, we really are starting to see a difference on the ground, it is an exciting time and we intend to deliver for them."

"Some of these seats have been promised stuff for so long. Now we have people like Paul Howell, I am hearing from him, I think it is every day, just pushing and pushing and pushing. We are going to make sure things change for people after all these decades."

Mr Shapps said the BCC conference will help with levelling up the country as MPs, such as Mr Howell, were committed to ensuring local voices are heard and policy influenced.

Storage Space To Let



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* Subject to small business relief

Lumiere to Return to Durham in 2021

Lumiere is set to light up the city of Durham next year – and North East businesses can help local children experience the magic.

The festival, produced by Artichoke, has attracted more than a million visitors over the past decade: and now charity grant-maker County Durham Community Foundation is offering a match-funding bonus from a £50,000 pot to businesses who want to support the community projects around it.

For every pound donated, the Foundation will contribute a further 50p, supporting workshops for the region's children and other community groups: all as part of its commitment to helping the county recover from Covid-19.

Claire Linfoot, from Laurel Avenue Community Association, took 12 children along from the Association's centre in Sherburn to play their compositions on the Keys of Light by Mr.Beam artwork last year. In the months leading up to the festival, each child had taken part in keyboard lessons sponsored by believe housing.

The festival is commissioned by Durham County Council and is scheduled to run for four nights in November 2021. To find out more, email sarah.coop@artichoke.uk.com

Have Your Say on Senior School Admission Arrangements

Residents in County Durham can have their say on proposed changes to admission arrangements for secondary schools in the area.

Durham County Council is proposing to change the oversubscription criteria to its community secondary schools, and those academies which use its criteria from 2022/2023, giving priority to those living closest to the nearest school.

Currently, when there are more requests for places than those available, the council follows set criteria to allocate places in order of priority. It considers whether children are looked after, in state care, have any medical reasons relating to their school placement, have sibling links and where a child's nearest school is, ahead of other applicants.

Where the school is oversubscribed within the nearest school criterion, the following tie-breaker is applied:

- For those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address, priority will be given to those who would otherwise have to travel the furthest distance to the next nearest school.

In recent years, this tie-breaker has resulted in some pupils who live closer to their nearest school than others not getting a place at their chosen school, because other pupils would have to travel further to the next nearest school.

In order to avoid this, the council is proposing to give priority to those living closest to the nearest school measured by the shortest walking route.

Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "When the tie-breaker was initially included in the admission criteria, it was done so that pupils living in remote rural areas of the county weren't put at a disadvantage by potentially having to travel a considerable distance if they couldn't get a place at their nearest school. Thankfully, this hasn't happened, and our pupil projections indicate that rural secondary schools will have places available in the future.

"However, in some of our more heavily populated areas, the tie-breaker is resulting in pupils who live closer to their nearest school than others, not getting a place. Giving priority to those living closest to the nearest school by the shortest walking route offers a fairer process and more clearly understood tie-breaker."

The proposed change will have no impact on children with Education Health and Care plans as they are subject to a different admissions process.

Residents have until 18 December to have their say on the proposed changes. They are encouraged to do so by emailing their response to schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk or an online form can be completed at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation

Youthy Under 7 Girls League Debut



Saturday 26th September saw a trip to the Washington Hub Central Venue for our Under 7 Wildcats. This was the long awaited league debut for the newest girls team at Newton Aycliffe Youth FC.

Another team developed from the hugely successful Wildcats FA Initiative, to increase the number of girls participating in football. As the opposition, Boldon Girls, were wearing a blue strip, the girls changed from the club's traditional royal blue strip, to their away yellow strip. Team consisted of Erin, Esme, Brooke, Penny, Georgia and Macy travelling for the 8.45am kick off.

All the girls played their part in a number of different positions and game time was shared evenly between the girls.

First half they started really well and created some early chances, but the Boldon goal keeper was tough to beat, making three great saves but the girls kept pressing and opened the scoring when Brooke scored our first ever league goal.

We defended well with Penny and Georgia clearing any Boldon pressure and Erin picking up some long through balls to keep our clean sheet intact. Macy was causing problems with her skills and dribbling and managed to grab herself two goals before half time. Second half the girls worked extremely hard and Penny, who was having a great game in defence, pushed up field, won the ball and had a cool finish across the keeper to score our 4th. This now allowed Boldon to bring on an extra player, forcing the girls to work even harder. Brooke made a good stop in goal and Esme and Erin were working hard in defence. More changes and Macy came back on to score her third, to complete a superb hat trick.

All the girls did amazingly and the coach was so proud of the effort. MoM was a tough call, as all the girls were superb, but MoM went to Penny. Probably the best she has played, winning tackles, driving forward and getting back into position quickly.

The FA Wildcats development programme at Newton Aycliffe Youth FC is for girls aged 4-8 years old who want to try football in a fun and engaging environment.

Contact Berni for more information 07939 045242.

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Resident Ian Dewar took the above photograph of a Dormouse.

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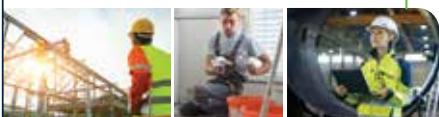
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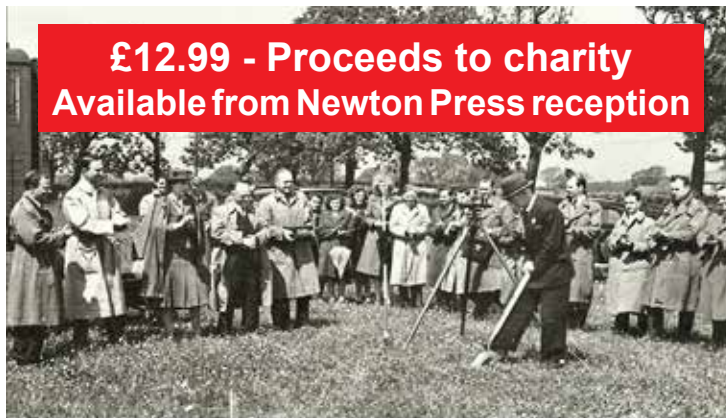
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NEWTON AYCLIFFE

A Long History of a New Town

Stephen Creaney



Sudoku

	2			9		7	6
	7		6	2		8	9
	4	6		8	5		3
	8	2	9			6	
5	6				8	2	
7				6	2	9	8
	5	8	2		6	7	4
	3	4	8		7	5	2
	9	7	5				8

Dogs Trust Issues Firework Advice for Dog Owners

With firework season set to whizz-pop into our lives again with the approach of Halloween, Diwali and Bonfire Night, Dogs Trust is issuing advice to dog owners whose pets are scared of fireworks.

The charity says that the time to prepare your dog is now as leaving it until the night to try and relax your dog is likely to be too late. Jenna Kiddie, Head of Canine Behaviour at Dogs Trust, says: "Dogs have approximately four times more sensitive hearing than humans, so the loud cracks and bangs of fireworks can often be a terrifying experience for them. Fireworks also tend to be sudden, unpredictable and bright. This combination can be distressing and have a lasting impact on dogs.

"There are lots of things dog owners can do to help make fireworks less stressful for their dogs. Simple steps such as providing safe spaces for them to hide or settling them before the fireworks start can make a big difference. We would also urge anyone thinking of putting on their own fireworks display to consider the welfare of their four-legged friends and others in the neighbourhood by following our Firework Dog Code."

Advice for dog owners:

- Walk your dog before dark – make sure your dog is well exercised and has had a toilet break before the fireworks begin.
- Feed your dog before the fireworks begin as they may become unsettled and not want to eat during the fireworks.
- Make sure your house and garden are secure during the fireworks as fear may make your dog try to escape.
- Try to settle your dog before the fireworks start – if your dog is in familiar safe surroundings it will help them cope with the noise.
- Provide a safe hiding place – make sure your dog has somewhere safe in their favourite room, perhaps under a table. Close curtains, turn lights on, and turn up the volume on your TV or radio to drown out firework noises and flashing lights.

Advice for people wishing to host a private display:

- Let your neighbours know well in advance, so they can prepare their dogs.
 - Limit your display to 30 minutes or less.
 - Opt for quieter, lower decibel fireworks.
- For further advice about preventing and dealing with fear of loud noises such as fireworks, please visit www.dogstrust.org.uk/fireworks.



Thank You

Thank You

To my family, friends and neighbours, special thanks to you all for making my 80th birthday so fantastic. Your presents, flowers and cards were all so beautiful. At this time I would like to thank you all again for the love, kindness and support you have all shown to me through this very difficult year. You have all been so wonderful and I am so grateful to all of you. Love and thanks, Margaret xxx

Birthday Remembrance

Mary Borg



2nd October 1926

Thinking of you on your birthday, put your arms around her Lord. Don't leave her on her own, for today it's Mams birthday, her first away from home. Love and miss you every day. Paul, George and Families xxxx

Congratulations

Rob Hind (Robbie)



1st October 2020
Happy 70th Birthday
Hope you enjoy your special day, lots and lots of love, Linda, Sarah & Gary; Paul & Lee; your Granddaughters Christie and Pippa and all your family xxx

Fiona McKenzie Laycock

4th October 1954

We will never get the old days back, when we all met together. But those joyous times and happy years with loving thoughts will surely last forever. For in life we loved you dearly and in your absence we love you still. For in our hearts you filled a space no-one else could ever fill. We send this prayer from those who love you and thought the very world of you. For in our hearts Fiona, you will live forever. With all our loving memories of you. Dad and family

Obituary

Joyce Joy

With great sadness we announce the sudden passing of Joyce, aged 86, at home on the 23rd September 2020.

Joyce was a dearly loved Mam to Susan, David, Barbara and Kevin; a much-loved Gran to Andrew, Michael, Matthew, Tom, Rachel and Fabian; a Great Granny to Jerry and Louie, and Mother-in-law to Paul, Karen, Mike, and Clare.

She was a friend to many across the generations and will be greatly missed by family and friends. Due to Covid-19 restrictions a private funeral will be held at Durham Crematorium on Wednesday 7th October at 1:30pm.

Violet Downton



On 24th September, peacefully at home after a long illness, surrounded by her loving family, aged 75 years of Newton Aycliffe.

Dearly loved Wife of Graham, much loved Mam of Anthony and Wendy, also a devoted Nana of Kieran, Georgia, Daniel and Ryan.

Due to the current circumstances there will be a family Service which will take place at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Friday 9th October.

Reg Williamson

Peacefully on 28th September, aged 88 years.

Dearly loved Husband of Avril; a beloved Dad, Grandad, Great Grandad and a friend to many.

A British Legion stalwart. Private funeral due to current restrictions.

Alan Lunn

of Newton Aycliffe, suddenly on 18th September, aged 95 years.

Dearly beloved Husband of the late Barbara, a much loved Dad of Christine, Stephen, Margaret, Alison and Patricia, a much loved Grandad and Great Grandad. Funeral Service to take place at Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 6th October at 2.30pm. Due to current circumstances a private family funeral will take place.

Patricia Pickering (Pat)

Passed away in hospital on 21st September 2020, aged 65.

Much loved Wife, Mother and Grandmother.

Will be greatly missed by family and friends. Funeral Service at St Clare's Church on Tuesday 6th October at 11.45am. Followed by Interment at West Cemetery, School Aycliffe. Friends meet at Church. Covid rules apply.

In Memoriam

Maria Mears

26th September 2017
Always in our thoughts.

Love from Steve, Andrew, Wayne and Andrea xxxx

Stop Clicking Around

Visit Newton News online for your local DAILY news feed

www.newtonnews.co.uk



Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club Appeal For Assistance



Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club have unveiled ambitious plans to install new changing rooms at their Moore Lane Ground. With the Club's ever increasing junior section and newly formed ladies and girls section the existing changing rooms are no longer fit for purpose with no running water or toilet facilities. In addition the floors in the changing rooms are rotting requiring constant patching and remedial work. However, just as the Club were in a position

to start applying for funding, they have been thwarted by Coronavirus. Chairman Ian Palmer explained "we have been working on getting new changing rooms for approximately two years, looking at build options, sourcing suppliers and getting plans drawn up. Early this year we finalised a price of £90,000, with a specialist supplier, and began to explore funding opportunities. However, when we contacted the larger funding organisations such as Sport England and the Lottery Fund we discovered that they have suspended all applications for funding unless they directly link to Coronavirus. In addition, a potential windfall from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) did not materialise when the new 100 ball competition was postponed due to the virus, meaning that the ECB lost the television revenue, a large amount of which was going to filter down to grassroots cricket. As a result the only help that the ECB can currently offer is in the form of a loan. However, as the Cricket Club have no regular income, other than the money they raise themselves through sponsorship, fundraising and player subscriptions, this is not a feasible option. This has left us having to look at other options to try and raise the money in order to have the changing rooms in place for the start of next season".

The Club have set up a Crowdfunding page with a target of £10,000 but this is just a small percentage of the total needed and they are appealing to local businesses to help out. Ian said "we are providing cricket and training for upwards of 100 males and females from the age of 5 years through to seniors, many of who have family who work on the industrial estate and surrounding businesses. We also make the ground available to the schools who hold annual cricket festivals attracting up to 200 children. The benefits of providing activities to the community are well documented not only in physical health but also in mental wellbeing. We would like 50 businesses to become lifelong partners with the Cricket Club, donating £1,000 each towards the cost of the new changing rooms. I am confident that if we could get 50 companies to sign up to the scheme, even in these difficult times, we should be able to raise the remainder." As part of the scheme the lifelong partners would be included in a commemorative brochure to be issued to coincide with the opening of the changing rooms, would have

the partnership acknowledged in the press and social media and have the partnership detailed on the Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club website with a page dedicated to the partners. The Club would also work with the businesses to promote their company on an ongoing basis. Any business who would be interested in becoming a Cricket Club partner, or would like to discuss it further, should in the first instance contact the Chairman Ian Palmer by email at palmerian1959@gmail.com or by phoning 07812 069943.

Anybody who would like to donate through the Crowdfunding page should go to <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/newtonaycliffe-cricketclub>

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