

Friday 16th October 2020

Established 1948

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Magazine

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



Pemberton Pickers

Read more on page 2

Special thank you to your Newton News Sponsors:

SHAKE 'N' CAKE



PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgefield



Methodist Service

There will be a Service at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Sunday 25th October at 10.30am. The service will be led by Reverend David Payne and socially distanced communion will be served. We look forward to seeing you there. Two Services are planned for November but the dates are to be confirmed.



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Pemberton Pickers “... It's a Load of Rubbish”



From little acorns majestic oak trees grow ...

And so began the birth of Pemberton Pickers by two grumpy golden oldies two years ago who shared the same concerns about the amount of litter in Woodham Village and surrounding woods. Their motto was quite simply “If you're part of the problem you have to be part of the solution” ... and they set to clearing the litter. Their work and commitment did not go unnoticed and they were soon joined by other equally concerned residents.

As the group and needs grew Maureen contacted Durham County Council who immediately responded by supplying bags, bag holders and pickers, for which we are very grateful. We were further supported by Bargain Buys and Wilko who donated wheeled baskets, invaluable for transporting bottles and other heavy objects. This enabled the group to successfully clear larger areas.

We would also like to record our sincere thanks to Councillor Michael Stead who, in collaboration with Mark Wilks from DCC, successfully arranged the clean-up of the fly-tipping around the copse bordering the Huntsman Pub car park, something Maureen had been trying to resolve for months! One of the most positive and exciting outcomes of the above is the active interest shown by our local children who are now enthusiastic participants and valuable members of our group. To quote Prince William and Sir David Attenborough “the children are the future” and we need to give them the support, tools and encouragement to continue this essential environmental work.

With this in mind we are also very grateful to David Sutton-Lloyd, Woodham Community Centre, and I quote ... “We have always considered our centre as a vital part of our local community environment. I have witnessed first-hand the excellent local work on the environmental protection started by Maureen and Denise. Young people are the future. Our committee has agreed to my suggestion that we should make our centre available free to this group”. On the back of this we are now proud to launch our new Facebook group, “Pemberton Pickers”, and actively encourage other volunteers and children to please join and get involved.

Strange Media

Humorous stories reproduced from newspapers from around the world

“HELP”

A caller reported to the police at 7.15pm that someone was on a porch yelling ‘help’, from a residence on Bank Street. Officers responded and learned the person was calling for a cat, that was named “Help”.



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Sabre Rail Celebrates its Long-Standing Employees

Founded in Newton Aycliffe in 1987, Sabre Rail has become a National and International provider of engineering maintenance services for all train-based systems; Mainline, Metro's and Freight. Now with facilities in Newton Aycliffe and Sydney, Australia and over 120 staff, that journey has been made possible by the retention and development of some incredible team members.

During 2020, two more members of staff hit the 25 years' Service milestone taking the number of staff who have 25 years' service to nine, collectively accomplishing over 250 years of service! The idea of a job for life is very much still alive. In order to commemorate such a huge milestone, the company reward each employee with a carefully selected watch to mark their 25th anniversary to act as a keepsake of all that they have accomplished throughout their career at Sabre Rail. Some staff have now passed 30 years' service.

Stephen Thompson, (CEO) said: "We are immensely proud of what we have achieved as a business over the last 33 years, growing from a small company to a global market leader. The challenges faced on that journey were collectively overcome by an incredible team and it's been a privilege to work with the same great people for so many years."

Florence Thompson, (HR Director) said: "As a family run business, we are dedicated to developing our own people, giving them the opportunity to establish successful and fulfilling careers in a supportive environment ensuring that each and every team member feels motivated, valued and safe".

Sabre Rail adopted COVID safe work practices, as it worked through the lockdown to ensure trains were running, delivering



goods and transport services for Keyworkers during the pandemic.

Photo Left to Right: Sabre Team Members achieving 25 years' service: Darren Pratt, Tony Wigglesworth, Neil Hodgson, Tony Whalen, Rob Oxley, John Harker, Michael Griffiths, Peter Bailey and Keith Kitch.

Raising Funds for Charities



Dear Sir,
When Alex's school, Vane Road, closed due to the Coronavirus he decided to keep himself busy by helping the resident's of Rose Lodge and Defoe Court care homes. Alex arranged a raffle and sold the tickets to family, friends and neighbours, raising £320, which was shared between the two homes. Not content with that feat, he moved on to assist St. Teresa's Hospice and on the 19th September completed eight laps of the Woodham running track and raised a fantastic £550 from family, friends and neighbours.

Alex would like to thank all his family, friends and neighbours for their support; Gwen for helping to count the money and to Euan and Amy for their encouragement whilst in training.

Well done Alex, we are so proud of you. Love from Mam, Dad and Grandparents

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Keir Starmer is Providing a Strong Leadership

Dear Sir,

It should be abundantly clear to everyone by now that Boris Johnson tells people what he thinks they want to hear, rather than the facts, and repeatedly fails to deliver on his promises. His Government has made a complete mess of handling the coronavirus crisis. Moreover, judging by their knee-jerk reactions, they have obviously made no plans whatsoever to deal with the long predicted second wave, which is unfortunately now upon us.

We need rid of these incompetents, and the Conservative MPs who support them, as soon as possible. Indeed, there must be many locally who now rue the day that they decided to help elect a Tory to represent us. In the Sedgefield Constituency, I have concluded that Labour are the only realistic alternative to the Tories, particularly now that Keir Starmer is providing such strong leadership. Thus, although I have been a long-standing member of the Liberal Democrats, I have now left them, and joined the Labour Party. Please help us as we work to give the UK the competent Government it deserves.

Alan Jordan,
Middridge

My Double Council Tax Dilemma

Dear Sir,

I have been following the letters concerning the above subject with interest as I am directly affected by Council Tax legislation that is not only 'unfair' but, as a 69 year old pensioner, is financially crippling!

As far as I can gather the term 'Double Council Tax' refers to the extra tax Aycliffe, and indeed all main towns, are being forced to pay for the deficit funding in adjacent smaller towns, villages and hamlets that border the main town.

I read that the extra charges could amount to between £200 to £250? - and that's considered unfair - really?

Let me tell you what IS not only 'unfair' but blatantly extortionate! I bought a property in Aycliffe after a divorce in 2013 - I soon discovered that the area I was living in had a large number of houses owned by 'buy to rent' landlords who took little or no interest in the anti-social behaviour of their tenants. To cut a long story short this anti-social behaviour affected me so badly I decided that if I stood any chance of getting any peace at all I was going to have to move - I found a place in Wingate and spent most of the savings I had to secure it because I didn't want to lose it to another buyer. Before long the inevitable Council Tax arrived and charges demanded for this property which neither I, nor anyone else, was living in.

I called the Tax Dept. at DCC and explained the situation that the house needed electrical and water repairs as well as re-decorating throughout AND that it wasn't occupied. I was then asked if it had any furniture in it, it did - a chair, a fold away bed and a kettle - I was then told that was enough for it to be considered as 'occupied'.

I then argued that because of the electrical and water problems in the property, in my opinion it was 'uninhabitable' and therefore should be rightfully classified as 'unoccupied'. I was then informed that the only situation that the Council would consider a property to be uninhabitable was if 'there were' no windows or roof on the building' (as in being bombed by the Luftwaffe, I imagine!)

OK! . . . So I was forced to pay the unwarranted FULL amount of Council Tax on this unoccupied property with NO single persons discount (25%) as well as paying Tax on my house in Aycliffe.

Double Tax? - Unfair? Yes! Tell me about it! But wait . . . it gets even more obscene! My original intention was to sort the repairs out and move myself and belongings to Wingate, but because of being an insulin dependant diabetic and taking medication for anxiety and depression, my energy and motivation levels have been for some while, zero. I seem to be exhausted most of the time and I have no family or friends to help me.

Because of Corona I have not been able to put either house on the market to date. Now in the second year of ownership of the property in Wingate, I have been sent a Council Tax charge for TWICE the amount of the standard Council Tax on the UNOCCUPIED property - YES you have read correctly! That's what your Councillors

and MPs voted for back in 2012 their mentality being 'If a person owns a property that is unoccupied for two years let's charge them DOUBLE the amount of Tax as well as charge for the property they actually live in, they consider it completely 'fair' that a single pensioner should pay THREE times the amount of Council Tax that a family of two, three, four, five or more pay!

Readers, you should consider! THIS is the mentality of YOUR (as I was smugly informed by a member of DCC staff) elected Labour led Council. But WAIT . . . wasn't I charged the first years FULL Council Tax on the empty property because it was considered OCCUPIED because it had a chair in it?

But now in order to extort double the amount of tax, DCC claim it's been UN-occupied for two years! . . . I don't understand the justification for this double amount of tax - in fact, there is no justification. What am I paying for exactly? - Perhaps it's all the extra services I'm NOT getting?

NO! . . . This charge is purely and simply a financial 'punishment' for daring to own an unoccupied house even though a directive from the Governments own Housing Ministry states that: 'Council Tax is NOT meant to be used as a 'punitive' Tax'. I'd be interested to know from the leader of the Council (Bob Fleming) what part of that directive doesn't he or any Councillor or MP within DCC administration understand? It is within the 'job description' of EVERY Councillor, MP or Minister, to serve the community they are elected to serve to do their best to benefit that community.

Again, I'd like to ask Mr Fleming, 'how does it benefit me when your Council financially cripples me by charging me three times the ordinary amount of Council Tax??'

I'm just amazed at the depths DCC are willing to sink in order to extort money from property/home owners! The irony is that when this particular nasty piece of legislation was approved by Central Government (a Coalition Gov. led by David Cameron), the decision to make this charge was left up to individual County Councils - it WASN'T obligatory - it was discretionary.

Very soon, I will be forced to consider selling to a 'We Buy Any Property' company, one in which I'll be offered about two thirds of the actual market value and all because I wanted some peace and quiet . . . all because DCC did nothing to deal with the anti-social behaviour that I was subjected to. So . . . forgive me if I don't get too annoyed about 'so-called' Double Council Tax charges, previous letters have been alluding to and calling 'unfair' - put yourselves in my place - I am now forced to pay over two thirds of my pension over £400 per month on Council Tax ALONE!! And THAT dear readers, is the truth.

Name & address supplied

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Completed applications should be sent to the above email address. Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered.

Greenfield Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race, marital status or disability. The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment. All posts are subject to a satisfactory DBS clearance.

Closing Date: Friday 23rd October, 12 noon
Interview date to be confirmed.

All appointments are subject to appropriate pre-employment checks

Crafter's Companion Celebrate 15 years



To commemorate the milestone, the craft business has planned a series of celebrations and giveaways on its digital platform, Crafter's TV, in addition to its social channels and UK, EU and US websites. From 20th October, the company is offering exclusive discounts, new products and special birthday treats for customers who place an order.

Crafter's Companion was founded by Sara Davies MBE in 2005, when she was studying for a business degree at York University. Whilst undergoing the placement, Sara spotted a gap in the market for a tool which could create bespoke envelopes for crafters. With this in mind, Sara created The Enveloper and Crafter's Companion was born.

Sara said: "This year has been extremely challenging for many businesses, so to celebrate another anniversary, especially one that represents such a significant milestone, means a great deal to the company. I am immensely proud of what Crafter's Companion has been able to achieve in the last 15 years. We have strived to create innovative products for the crafts industry and our growth has seen us export to more than 40 different countries, outgrow our head offices in the UK and US and has seen us establish our digital platform, Crafter's TV, which is going from strength to strength. This year, we were also awarded a Queen's Award for Enterprise for International Trade, which was a huge accomplishment for the business.

"As well as being a big celebration, our Birthday Week is an opportunity to recognise how far we've come, as we look towards the future. We wouldn't be where we are today without the continued support of our loyal customers and Birthday Week is our way of saying thank you for sticking with us for so long!"

Great Aycliffe
Town Council



Lest We Forget

Remembrance Sunday 8th November

PLEASE 'REMEMBER AT HOME'

Due to Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to hold a Parade or Service at St. Clare's Church this year.

In order to observe social distancing rules, we would encourage you to **'Remember At Home'** by observing the two minutes silence at 11.00am.



Remembrance Sunday – 8th November Please 'REMEMBER AT HOME'

As we are unable to hold the Parade and Church Service due to Covid-19 restrictions and social distancing, we are urging you to observe the two minutes silence at 11.00am from home.

A limited number of wreath's will be laid at St. Clare's War Memorial to mark the day and observe a two minutes silence. This small ceremony will be streamed on the 'Parish of Great Aycliffe' site from 10.45am on Sunday, 8th November.

Organisation and members of the public who usually lay a wreath are urged to do so at their leisure on the afternoon of the 8th, in order that social distancing can be observed.

The Royal British Legion has created a site for 'home tributes' on their website under "virtual field of remembrance".

AYCLIFFE YOUTHFUL FOOTBALL REPORT



Under 12 Eagles



Under 12 Girls

Wear Utd 0 - 3 U12's Eagles

Outstanding team performance from every boy on the pitch, each playing a huge part in the win. From the start the Eagles were straight at Wear, winning balls and playing some fantastic passes. A cross from Joel was buried by Kaiden to get the opening goal. The defence were still being tested but holding firm then Hamza was rewarded for his efforts when a ball came across, again from Joel, and Hamza slammed the ball into the net with an outstanding goal, half time 0-2. Second half and the Eagles dominated having lots of possession, then from a corner the ball came off one of their players and into the net for an own goal, full time 0-3.

MOM this week went to Joel for his battling down the right wing and two assists.

U10's Eagles v Thornaby

From the kick off Thornaby attacked well and caught the lads off guard scoring 2 goals in quick succession. The eagles were soon rewarded when they were given a penalty for a hand ball in the box. Evan was asked to step up and smashed the ball past their keeper. Nathan, who was having a great game working so hard for the team, ran down the right wing and played an inch perfect cross to Dan K at the back post to tap it home for the equaliser. Then a corner from Evan curved over the keeper into the net. Thornaby hit back to equalise and then retook the lead. Then a free kick from Evan would be the last kick of the game, which he buried. Honours even.

MOM went to Evan.

U7 Wildcats vs Darlington Spraire lasses

A tough game was expected against a team who beat us in a friendly a few weeks ago. However, after a few minutes, Brooke opened the scoring with an unstoppable drive in to the bottom corner. Penny won a tackle in defence and took on 3 players only to be tackled on the edge of the box, she bounced straight back to her feet and struck the loose ball into the bottom corner.

Spraire continued to apply pressure and hit the post twice but Macy scored just before half time. The second half continued with Spraire still pushing forward but another two quick goals from Macy to complete her hattrick and the girls were controlling the game. Final six minutes was all Spraire pressure and they managed three quick fire goals that their hard work deserved.

MOM well taken goals and all round hard work it goes to Macy.

U12 Girls Wildcats 7 - 2 Jarrow Lasses

Another cracking team performance in a tight game for most of the first half. Aycliffe scored the first goal of the game, shortly followed by a Jarrow equaliser, half time 1-1. Jarrow were first off the mark in the second half which made the girls work even harder. From then on Aycliffe dominated play and created chance after chance scoring 6 second half goals, full time 7-2. Goals Freya x2 Faith x5.

U11 Angels Blue v Boldon CA Girls All Stars

All 11 Angels were ready for another great game of football. Boldon played a good defensive game with their goalkeeper producing a superb display. The game was packed across the middle of the pitch in the first half, so we asked the girls to try and spread the play, passing through the opposition in the second. Goals mostly

came from close range. Heidi's goal - the final one of the day - was probably the pick of them, with a fine strike into the roof of the net. Erin, Isobel, Faith, Charli, Heidi.

Coaches Star Player: Heidi; Players Star Player: Isobel.

U11 Angels Yellow v Stockton Town

As expected a tough game from a very good Stockton side, however a good defensive display limited the chances for the away team, however, they took hold of the game in the second half.

Coaches Star: Izzy. Lost count as to how many saves our goal keeper made today outstanding.

Players: Gwynneth. Only Gwynneth's second competitive match but a great performance.

Spennymoor Girls U9 vs U9 Girls Wildcats

Another great performance from the team, although all credit to Spennymoor who never give up. The league then recognised the girls being awarded "Team of the Week" for the organisation in these difficult times to conform to Covid-19 guidelines for such a young set of girls

ADULTS

Chester-le Street Amazines 2 v 5 Newton Aycliffe Women

The women were away to unbeaten Chester-le Street and were looking to bounce back from the poor result and performance last week. Aycliffe were on the front foot from the first whistle creating some good chances. However, it was the Amazines that took the lead. Then quick goals from Chrisitie and Amber got the women to half time 1-2. Then, against the run of play, CLS equalised. But Newton Aycliffe stepped it up another gear, Lauren nips in front of the keeper to restore the lead followed by Annabelle getting her first goal for the team. A great volley from Christie and the game was wrapped up, full time 2-5.

Great team performance this week everyone had a great game and put in 110% and we finally got the result we deserve. There's no easy games in this league, three points well deserved.

Pavement Parking is Illegal

Dear Sir,

Pavement parking should not be allowed in any way. Footpaths, what is a "footpath"? It is a way to keep pedestrians safe, as well as other wheelchair bound humans; it is not a replacement for the lazy drivers who park at school gates ten minutes before home time, blocking the traffic, on both sides of the road - these people need to be taught a lesson, by being hit in the pocket for breaking safety laws.

Yes, it is a crime, which is fineable by a fixed penalty, my wish would be to double or treble these fines for breaking health and safety rules and there should be a right to have vehicles moved from private drives and sent to a pound with a huge release fee, it will stop this selfish attitude in its tracks. Look in the highway code under rules 240 to 249, it clearly states that you can be fined for blocking the entrance to a driveway and access to them.

I will back anyone on this particular issue, as I am one who has had this issue for years over parking obstructions.

A Responsible Newtonian

Greenfield Students Appreciate Creative Opportunities

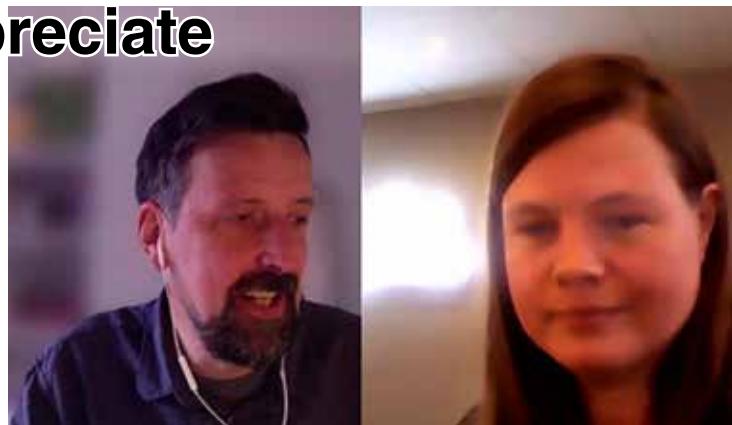
Groups of students from Greenfield Community College are being offered the opportunity to work alongside professional artists in ground-breaking projects.

Creative Director at Greenfield Arts, Katy Milne, will be leading the projects that will allow students to learn new skills and develop learning resources for themselves and others.

Year 9 student Alexandra was thrilled with the chance to make such a difference, "I didn't think when I joined the leadership group that I would have the chance to be part of such amazing things, to design the student journal, be part of a film-making process, to be asked by artists for our ideas and make such positive things happen".

Greenfield Community College received an award during the summer for their commitment to Student Voice and the creative projects will encourage the continuation of the many aspects that they were recognised for.

This week the group had the opportunity to meet with James



Bywood from Penstripe via teams to discuss their contribution to the student learning journal. James is Marketing Manager for Penstripe, a company that produce 750,000 journals for schools, reaching as far as Singapore! James initially approached Katy to find out more about the look and feel of the journal and find out how and why the students developed this everyday tool, as it is now an outstanding student learning journal.

Students are now looking forward to having the opportunity to working with visual artist Bethan Maddocks and collaborative artist Richard Bliss. This will give them an opportunity to express their ideas and to contribute to wider public programmes of arts and creative work, continuing their learning development and achievements and sharing their work with the whole school. Greenfield Community College is a Specialist Arts and Science School and offers extraordinary opportunities, that each and every student can take advantage of to develop fully their potential as ambitious, confident, self-led learners. To find out more visit the website www.greenfieldschool.net

Wrap Up Warm for the Final Drive In Event of the Year



Aycliffe Radio, ROF59 Activity Centre and Shake 'n' Cake are proud to present a 'Family Halloween Drive In Music Festival' at ROF59 rear field on Saturday 31st October between 5.00pm and 9.00pm. The evening will include a live show from fantastic duo "Amazing Live" and music from Aycliffe Radio presenters who will be playing popular Halloween songs as well as music from various genres, all in all, a great show, not to be missed.

The evening will also feature a fancy dress competition for both the children and adults, with various prizes to be won for different age groups and all children (under 16) will receive a 'trick or treat' goody bag as well as a foam glow stick, all courtesy of event sponsors Shake 'n' Cake. Local performer, Rhian, will also be coming along to perform her stilt walking and fire breathing skills.

Limited tickets are available for this event from www.skiddle.com and are priced at £15.00 PER CAR. To follow current government guidelines, all the car occupants must be from the same household. Track and trace will also be in place along with a table (car) service for drinks and refreshments. All cars will be socially distance parked and will be assigned their own area on arrival, face masks must be worn when outside of your car, toilets and sanitiser station on site. This event is licensed with Durham County Council and the police are aware.

The Drive In events this year have all been fantastic, with near sell out crowds helping to add more money to the pot for local charities. The Halloween evening on Saturday 31st October will be our last one for this year, but we do hope to continue these next year with more great acts and performers coming your way.

In the event of adverse weather conditions or tighter lockdown restrictions the event will be postponed to a later date.

Because of the time of year, it is likely to be cold, so please come wrapped up . . . don't forget your thermals!





FAMILY DRIVE IN HALLOWEEN MUSIC FEST

Live Entertainment from "Amazing Live" + Stilt Walker & Fire Breather

CHILDREN AND ADULT FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

'Treat' Goodie Bag and Foam Glow Stick for all Children (under 16s)



ROF59 Rear Field Saturday 31st Oct.

from 5.00pm till 9.00pm (Gates open 4.15pm)

Tickets Available on skiddle.com - £15.00 per CAR (not per person)
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A PARKING AREA/POD WILL BE ASSIGNED ON YOUR ARRIVAL AT THE VENUE
 Refreshments and bar orders delivered to your car/pod area
All cars will be socially distance parked - Toilets & Sanitiser Station on site
 This event is licensed with Durham County Council and the police are aware
 This event will follow all government guidelines as and when they change
 Face masks must be worn when outside of your car
 Car occupants will be asked to complete track and trace.
 In the event of adverse weather conditions or tighter lockdown restrictions the event will be postponed. An email will be sent to all ticket holders if this is the case.



Local NHS Gains National Recognition for Improving Skin Cancer Diagnosis

Health chiefs in the region are celebrating becoming finalists in the national Health Service Journal 'Value Awards' 2020 for an innovative project to improve waiting times for skin cancer diagnosis.

The initiative succeeded in reducing waiting times for skin cancer referrals from two weeks to one working day as GPs can now take photos of patient's skin lesions and sent them directly to a consultant dermatologist.

Dr Stewart Findlay, chief officer for NHS County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) said, "We can now get images from the GP to a consultant dermatologist who can view them and make a decision in one day. The patient can then be told they don't have skin cancer or they can be referred into the appropriate service for further tests. "This hugely reduces the stress for patients waiting for information. This process used to take two weeks and now it can be done in one day, this is a hugely positive step for the NHS and for patients and their health outcomes and we are delighted with the recognition."

The project was a partnership between NHS County Durham CCG, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and Consultant Connect with support from the Northern Cancer Alliance and covers a population of more than one million. The 'Tele-skin Two Week Wait Pathway' was awarded Finalist status in the 'Acute Service Redesign Initiative' category in the virtual awards held on Friday 4th September 2020.

A Worrying White Paper

Dear Sir,
This is a précis of a longer article which you can read here: bit.ly/PFTF20

The government has produced a White Paper on Planning, promising to "scythe through red tape and get things done".

What does it propose? Do we need to worry?

FASTER, CLEARER, BEAUTIFUL

The White Paper says that Local Plans take too long and are "complex", "vague" and "unambitious". They ought to be produced in 30 months, to be digital, and to be a third of the length. Instead of setting planning principles (applied case-by-case) as at present, the government wants clear RULES. Every area of land in the County will be labelled:

- 'Growth' ("suitable for substantial development"),
- 'Renewal' (for smaller scale development) or
- 'Protected' (Green Belt, AONBs, Conservation Areas, recognised 'green space').

All planning applications in Growth Areas, and some in Renewal Areas, as long as they adhere to the clear rules in the Local Plan, will automatically be granted outline planning permission. The government wants to change the method for calculating housing need; it is expected that this will reduce the number of houses required in County Durham.

The White Paper promises "beautiful" new houses and proposes "a fast-track for beauty". To achieve this, it envisages agreed "masterplans" - including 'pattern books' of off-the-hook designs - which will secure automatic approval.

PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS

The big corporate developers like the proposals (in itself deeply worrying). Most other commentators - eg: RTPI, RIBA, CPRE, Shelter ... and Durham County Council's Planning Department - have significant reservations.

1. After nine years preparing the County Durham Plan, we will get 42 months to prepare a new one.
2. Neighbourhood Plans may also need to be changed ... if they are needed at all.
3. The proposals would effectively remove council Planning Committees from the planning process. They also remove the opportunity for the public to object to most planning applications.
4. Planning is about 'the right development in the right place'; surely it needs careful application-specific assessment, not broad-brush permission?
5. Housing needs are the basis of the economic aspirations in a Local Plan - so reducing the housing requirement is to choke growth. The White Paper thus makes a nonsense of the government's promise to 'level up' County Durham ... this would be 'levelling down'.
6. What will happen to agricultural land, and the spaces between settlements, eg: will the fields between Newton Aycliffe and Middridge be declared 'Renewal land' suitable for small-scale development ... or 'Growth land' (and

Middridge will coalesce into Great Aycliffe).

7. In existing residential areas the White Paper will allow 'permitted development' for applications adhering to rules set in the Local Plan ... "enabling increased densities [and the] gentle intensification of our towns and cities". We all know what this means.

8. What is 'beauty'? The drawing illustrating a 'beautiful' off-the-hook house is horrific.



9. In terms of Climate Change, the White Paper sets a deadline date for net zero and promises 75-80% lower CO2 emissions "from 2025". It envisages better walking, cycling & public transport. But when you read that it also wants "simpler" environmental impact surveys, alarm bells start ringing. Most worryingly, from 2025, new houses will merely be 'zero carbon ready', to become "fully zero carbon over time as the electricity grid decarbonises" -- ie: inviting builders simply to shove poor-quality electric heating into new homes, relying on the greening grid to do the rest. Not everything about the White Paper is bad. However, in its attempt to automaticise planning, it threatens to allow a development disaster.

John D Clare



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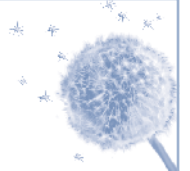


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Great Britain Good Citizen Dog Scheme Award



Right: Naomi Potts and Wilbur From Darlington.
Left: Marianne Brown and Penny from Spennymoor



Left: Katie Blenkinsopp with Elvis from Newton Aycliffe
Right: Olivia Gray with Milo from Newton Aycliffe.

Five puppies and their owners attending K9 Pursuits dog training classes, have successfully achieved their Kennel Club of Great Britain Good Citizen Dog Scheme Award.

The five handlers had to demonstrate their knowledge of responsible dog ownership and put their puppies through a series of tasks over a period of five weeks to gain their rosettes and certificates.

Well done to all.

For more information about classes at K9 Pursuits please call 01325 301177, email k9pursuitsltd@hotmail.co.uk or find us on Facebook

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Natasha Bree and Duke from Darlington.

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Weekly Programme Schedule

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEWTON AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT
"Aycliffe Town Centre... Shopping for You"



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

Updates from MP Paul Howell at 12noon daily

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

9-10am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	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	Paul's Down Time	Paul Kjenstad
10-12am	Sean's Sunday Set List	Sean Lawless

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	23rd Oct. - Pauly Mac Rare Vinyl Mix	(Australia)
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby

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

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Scheduled shows can be changed/cancelled at any time.



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HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

Email: paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Greenfield Arts Wellbeing Workshops



Greenfield Arts are delighted to welcome back wellbeing practitioner Leigh Johnson as part of a phased return at Greenfield Arts. Leigh will be leading two brand new workshops as part of our autumn programme and will be on hand to guide and support you in these mind and body sessions.

The sessions will run on Wednesday 21 October and Wednesday 28 October from 17:45 – 19:15 and form part of a wider programme that brings about positive change and possibilities. The sessions include Yoga for a healthy spine and Yoga to boost your immune system, two relaxing sessions to help you get in touch with your body. Cost is £7 per session.

There are just a few places left as numbers reflect the safe environment on offer, please bring your own mat to the session, cleaning and safety measures are in place. Visit our website to find out more and to book your place or call our friendly team on 01325 379048.

Greenfield Arts are committed to offering activities that allow our community to explore a greater understanding of themselves and are delighted to offer opportunities that can improve wellbeing.

Recovery Funding for Culture

Durham Music Service (DMS) has received £572,956 from the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund, which aims to provide critical financial support to help cultural and creative organisations to overcome the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic.

DMS, which is partly funded by Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Arts Council England, will use the funding to continue to deliver high quality music education in County Durham and Darlington. In addition to this, Durham County Council has been awarded £249,500 to support its arts venues, including Gala Durham, Bishop Auckland Town Hall and Consett Empire.

All three of these venues closed to visitors in March, as a result of Government restrictions to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. A new café at Bishop Auckland Town Hall has since opened with covid-secure measures in place, but the remainder of the venue, along with the Gala and Empire will remain closed until at least the New Year. During this period, the refurbishment of Bishop Auckland Town Hall and the Empire has been completed and scheduled improvements to the Gala have been brought forward to ensure the best and safest possible experience for theatre-goers when the venue reopens.

The Culture Recovery Fund grant, which is being delivered by Arts Council England, will allow the council to build upon this work and secure and reposition the future of its arts venues in the wake of the pandemic. This includes work on business development, programming, marketing and attracting new audiences.

The council and DMS are among a variety of cultural venues and services in the region set to benefit from the fund, with other County Durham recipients including Beamish Museum, Ushaw College, The Witham, National Youth Choirs of Great Britain and Regeneration NE CIC.

DMS has also had to adapt its services due to the pandemic. In normal circumstances, it



provides small group lessons to more than 4,000 primary and secondary school pupils across County Durham and Darlington per week. It also delivers whole school sessions, which see 18,000 young musicians try their hand at everything from brass and woodwind, to singing and the ukulele.

During the lockdown, it used video conferencing technology to move these services online, as well as filming and uploading fun-filled music videos on its YouTube channel. Since children returned to school in September DMS has returned to safe face-to-face teaching, as well as online delivery and developing new initiatives such as the Virtual Music Centre, the 15mins of Music and Bumps to Babies programmes and a new music technology course.

Michael Summers, head of DMS, said: "To be awarded this funding is fantastic news. Everyone in the team has worked incredibly hard, pulling together to ensure that the musical education of young people does not suffer despite the challenges that we all face. We have responded quickly and effectively to the differing needs of the sector and this funding will help to ensure that we can continue to deliver the high-quality education that we pride ourselves on."

For more information about DMS visit www.durhammusic.org.uk

Community Support Initiative Latest

Community Support Initiative is a local charitable organisation who raise funds for local causes by selling furniture and collectibles which are donated by the generous people of Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas.

At the present time we have in stock wall units, tables, beds, sofas, small items of furniture, bric-a-brac and other more unusual items - just ask, you never know.

Since opening in mid-June we have managed to raise over £1000 for local causes such as CREE, Prickly Haven, Northern Citrines, Quinn's Retreat as well as goods donated to Redworth House and Rose Lodge. We have also donated furniture to people in need.

Unfortunately, the new local lockdown is reducing footfall into the shop. We understand times are hard for most at the moment and people are wary of using non-essential shops and other businesses, so we are going to take this lockdown as an opportunity to rearrange the premises and start to look at other ways to raise funds as best we can. We feel it may be better to sell



online and offer a delivery service to alleviate people's understandable apprehension. We will be closing for two weeks from Friday 16th October and will reopen on Monday 2nd November, depending on current restrictions.

We will be holding a 'pop up' stall in the Big Club car park on Saturday 17th October from 11am to raise funds for NASSL and Prickly Haven. As well as a sale, the charities would welcome any donations of blankets or towels to keep rescued animals warm and dry. For any enquiries on furniture or other enquiries please ring Brian on 07951 947993

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NEWTON AYCLIFFE FOOTBALL CLUB LATEST

Newton Aycliffe 2-0 Billingham Synthonia

Newton Aycliffe booked their spot in the Buildbase FA Vase First Round seeing off Billingham Synthonia at the Beaumont Landscapes Stadium on Saturday.

Two early second half goals were enough to ensure Aycliffe progressed to the First Round for the first time in three seasons.

Jake Petitjean put the home side ahead when he converted from the penalty spot a minute after the restart before captain Aaron Brown bundled the ball over the line two minutes later to double Aycliffe's lead.

The home side could have added to their lead later in the second half before Synners' goalkeeper James Dawson was shown a straight red card in stoppage time by referee Guy Campbell for handling outside of the area.

There were three changes to the starting XI from Wednesday night's draw at Guisborough Town with Aidan McGee replacing the cup-tied Callum Munro in the centre of defence and Lewis Walton making his first start since the First Qualifying Round of the FA Vase at left back.

Ben Reay came in for Adam Burnicle who was only fit enough to be named among the substitutes with Arran Wearmouth keeping his place in the line-up.

Kurtis Howes and Daniel Chapman led the line for the away side and it was the Synners' who had the first effort of the game, firing over Adam Pickford's bar inside the opening minute of the game.

Petitjean sent his freekick over the bar in the 17th minute as both sides continued to figure one another out.

Liam Jarvie came close to continuing his impressive run in front of goal of late after the half hour when he nipped past his man but fired into

Dawson's side netting.

Wearmouth's pull back across the six yard box looked destined to be converted but there were no blue shirts to capitalise much to the strikers frustration.

Jarvie came even closer to the scoresheet in stoppage time when his strike was parried onto the post as Aycliffe finished the first half in the ascendancy.

If Head Coach Colin Stromsoy wanted more from his players in the second half he got it inside 60 seconds of the restart when Wearmouth was sent tumbling in the area giving the referee little choice but to point to the penalty spot.

Petitjean was the man tasked with taking the spot kick and the midfielder made no mistake to score his fifth goal of the season – his second in the FA Vase.

Two minutes later and Aycliffe looked to have settled the tie when Brown climbed highest to meet Walton's inviting freekick.

The skippers' header came crashing back off the bar but he was able to react quickest and nudge the rebound over the line to double the lead.

Synthonia captain Foster Garton looked to rally his side and nearly got them back in the game when he found the side netting in the 55th minute.

Jarvie sent his volley wide just after the hour mark before dragging another effort wide minutes later as the scoresheet continued to evade him.

Aycliffe saw the game out against their Ebac Northern League Division Two opponents but there was still time in the 90th minute for Synners' goalkeeper Dawson to receive his marching orders when he handled outside of the penalty area much to his own frustration.

The win ensures Aycliffe will be in the draw for the First Round of the FA Vase and extends their unbeaten run in all competitions to nine.



Our Countryside Needs You!

Dear Sir,
The Discover Brightwater Brigade are preparing for a secret mission to Restore, Reveal and Celebrate life around the River Skerne! Our Wildlife Warriors are ready to defend and protect our landscape and help you explore our wonderful area.

This autumn, they'll be on guard in our parks, nature reserves and museums. Designed by Darlington illustrator and children's author, Liz Millions, some of these characters, although cute, stand up to two metres tall as they seek to take on the litterbugs, protect our wildlife and help you discover some of the hidden gems in Brightwater, and they even stay still to pose for selfies . . .

Are you ready to respond to the call to arms to join the Brightwater Brigade to protect our environment? Then visit our website www.discoverbrightwater.com/wildlifewarriors

There'll be plenty of fun, crafts, competitions and prizes along the way! Even if you can't visit our attractions (through lock-downs or distance) that's no reason to miss out on the fun. So join the Brightwater Brigade online, today!

Our Countryside Needs You!

NOTE: Characters have been installed across six sites/venues:

- Bishops Fen
- Hardwick Park
- Locomotion Railway Museum
- Head of Steam Museum
- Darlington (near the Town Hall)
- Darlington South Park

YOUR COUNTRYSIDE NEEDS YOU!

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Last week started with some meetings around the APPG for left behind communities, which I chair, in which we specifically looked at our forward work plan. This includes sessions on Local Infrastructure, both community and physical; Communities in control (capacity, confidence, cash) and our next session which is focused on Education, Training & Skills. The output from these sessions should be to provide a report from the APPG to government with recommendations of the policy to be implemented. The biggest issues for consideration in Parliament relevant to Sedgfield over the last week have been the Agriculture Bill and the Public Health motions. Both of these generated significant communications into my inbox and I would like to share with you my votes and reasons.

The Agriculture Bill vote were more about a vote on a potential amendment from the Lord's, referred to as Lord Curry's Amendment. This demanded the implementation of a certain standard of food production processes for food to be both produced and imported into our country and superficially seemed a no brainer. After all, the government has promised high standards for all future food stuffs and animal welfare, so why would this not be appropriate? But, as with most amendments, the devil is in the detail. This amendment would have created conditions that do not currently exist under any agreement with either the UK or the EU today and it would be unlikely that the trading partners would agree to them and, for some, it would not even be possible for them to agree. Although demanding that foodstuffs comply with certain rules and conditions would be a fantastic way to ensure a certain standard of food. The bottom line is that making such demands would disrupt and inhibit future, and even some existing, trade agreements with Europe and further afield. The actual adherence to the amendments will be put on our trading partners, the validation process would rely on them cooperating and being responsible for the assessment.

Many countries cannot deliver these procedures and the amendments would stop us trading with them particularly if those trading partners are developing countries who do not have the resources to implement these measures. An easy example is that the UK imports an average of £200 million of black tea per year, of which £140 million was from Kenya, this goes to well-known British tea brands including Taylors of Harrogate etc. We cannot end our tea trading with Kenya just because they do not have the same resources or funds to demonstrate validation of foodstuffs to all our standards. Similar consequences would arise for other sectors including, for example coffee, where non-adherence to our carbon emission targets could be an example of a reason for them being precluded from supply. Clearly these unintended consequences are inappropriate and for this reason I voted against the amendment but for the many positive changes that the Agriculture Bill delivered for our farmers. One of the vocal representations I received on this, is that we can not trust the government to do the right thing in our trade agreements, clearly I disagree with this and do trust that the government will do the right thing in terms of our imports of food and we have legislation in place to deliver such. It is a constant irritation that there are continuing references about chlorinated chicken etc., when all of these are already legislated against in UK law and there is no intention whatsoever to even consider changing these positions, it is purely political posturing.

The Public Health motions debated on Tuesday enabled the implementation of the three tiered approach to determining local interventions. I believe that this approach provides a clarity of engagement with people and I endorse it. The follow up question of course is which tier should each region be given and what is an appropriate definition of a region. As you will be aware Durham is now in tier two, as is Darlington. From a constituency perspective this at least means that everyone is in the same place. Prior to this week that was not the case with the part of the Sedgfield constituency, under Durham County Council, being in intervention measures but the part covered by Darlington Borough Council was not. One of the concerns I share with most of you is that both the rural wards of Darlington and significant parts of County Durham show lower infection rates than the council areas. Whilst I have concerns about how we differentiate borders I do believe that it is important to look for more localised interventions and reflect the significant differences seen in results in areas as large as County Durham. Whilst I support the measures as a package, I do have significant reservations about the implementation of a harsh 10 pm curfew and continue to make representations for a different approach to facilitate a less intense exit from premises but also to enable, particularly our pubs and restaurants with food, to include a second sitting opportunity.

As I have said previously however, whether we agree with all of the rules or not it is important we all follow them as they are implemented with best intent and with the clear objective to minimise the health impact of the virus whilst simultaneously trying to keep the economy going. So please follow the rules as they affect you and in particular the simple overriding actions that we should all take.

HANDS-FACE-SPACE, Wash your Hands regularly, wear a mask on your Face where required and give people Space. Stay safe and have a good week.

Paul Howell, Member of Parliament for Sedgfield

Construction Gets Under Way at £140m Business Park

A new £140 million industrial park is officially open for business following the appointment of a development partner and the sale of its first plot of land.

Forrest Park (Newton Aycliffe) Limited, a joint venture by Durham County Council and



local landowners the Forrest family, has signed an agreement with Richardson Barberry to develop the 110-acre site.

With the signing of this agreement, the park has also announced development work has started on the first plot of land at the site. The roadside retail development by Euro Garages will see a petrol filling station built which will include a convenience store attached to the filling station and a stand-alone KFC drive-through restaurant.

The ambition is that, over the next 10 years, the park will provide 1.8m square feet of industrial space and create over 3,000 jobs, boosting County Durham's economy by almost half a billion pounds. To ensure the park is fully developed, despite any difficult times that may be ahead as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, Richardson Barberry has committed to seeing the project through and has signed a development deal.

The site is an extension of Aycliffe Business Park, making that the largest in the North East. It will accommodate a range of business, industrial, warehouse and trade units, as well as a 60-bed hotel, public house, roadside restaurant and retail space next to the A1(M). The signing of the agreement with Richardson Barberry and the first development by Euro Garages are significant steps in the first stages of the park's progress and demonstrate a continued developer confidence in the county as a place to invest.

The park is part of the council's long-term ambitions to create a thriving environment for businesses and investors to develop and grow while creating and safeguarding more and better jobs. This will also be crucial to the county's economic recovery from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Cllr Carl Marshall, cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "The signing of this development agreement by Richardson Barberry is a significant milestone for Forrest Park, as it declares globally that the park is officially open for business.

"This first sale of land is just the start of what the park has to offer in boosting the county's economy, particularly in its recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, by attracting international investors to the county from across the globe and in turn creating thousands of high-quality jobs for our local residents. We look forward to welcoming more retailers and businesses to the park as its development grows."

Jonathan Robinson, Barberry Industrial director and shareholder, said: "Barberry, and 50/50 joint venture partners Richardson, are excited at the prospect of delivering one of the North East's premier business parks, stimulating economic growth and creating new jobs for the region.

"We have made significant progress over recent months and we are now delighted to be in the position to launch the site to potential occupiers. This is a highly attractive location for a range of major businesses, with units available in a wide range of sizes.

"We can provide building options for smaller occupiers on the trade park and bigger building options of circa 20,000 square feet to one million square feet footprint on the site. Local, regional, national and international occupiers have already expressed interest in this prominent, motorway-connected, serviced and consented site, which is over-ready for development and has access to an excellent, skilled labour demographic."

Neil Findlay, development manager for Euro Garages, said: "Working closely with the Forrest Park (Newton Aycliffe) Limited team, we were delighted to complete the acquisition of this site at Forrest Park. As an organisation we look forward to bringing our first in class roadside retail offer to the park and the wider Newton Aycliffe area."

SEDGEFIELD WATERPOLO CLUB 1 - COVID-19 0

Being an ex-player of Sedgefield Waterpolo Club, I wanted to welcome the club back to training at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. The Club returned back to the pool in mid-August, with members full of enthusiasm and raring to get straight back into their love of the game.

There's no denying the club have had some initial challenges to get the Club up and running again during this unprecedented time of Country/County and Sporting restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid 19. But I had every faith that the Committee Members, Coaches and Members working in partnership would succeed and they didn't disappoint. In a short space of time they have successfully put an action plan in place to be able to adhere to Swim England and Durham County Council Covid 19 guidance and procedures to promote and work to ensure the safety of all Club members.

For those who haven't been aware of the Clubs existence until now, I just wanted to tell you a little about it's background and about the benefits of playing the sport. Sedgefield Waterpolo Club was founded in 1997 with the support of the Swim Club and ran for nearly 20 years by former record breaker Waterpolo player, George Carpenter, who also was Head Coach. The club has produced more than 20 international Waterpolo players since being established and have been 8 times National age group champions. Members have represented the North East region as well as both England and Great Britain. George Carpenter retired and passed over the reins to current Head Coach Adam Woods in 2017. Adam, being a worthy successor, has run the club since with his committed experienced coaches and committee members. Adam is a swimming coach who has played waterpolo for GB Talent Squad, and has also previously scooped a top national prize, being awarded Young Coach of the Year at the UK Coaching Awards in 2014.

The club has been based between Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor Leisure Centres with members aged from 8 years to adult, consisting of both male and female players, despite many people thinking it's a male sport. Despite this unprecedented time we are currently in, the club is still aiming to submit a men's team in the National League

in 2021.

Waterpolo promotes team work, physical fitness and can support well-being as well as many other skills and benefits. Being an ex player myself, I know how grateful I am to the club for the skills and the opportunities I was provided with. These included competing in games regionally, nationally and internationally. These opportunities developed me personally and in my career to date, and I have made some fantastic friends along the way.

But don't just take my word for it, I wanted you to hear from other members too. I spoke to 18 year old Matthew Taylor who has been a member of the club for 8 years. We discussed what the main benefits are to the sport and what doors it can open for the future. Matthew has played for Sedgefield Water Polo Club since he was 10, and trains between 4/5 times per week. He expressed that water polo has taught him how to communicate with all different types of people and provided him with goals to work towards. A regular training session for Matthew would consist of one hours worth of swimming, followed by 20 minutes of leg work, then 20 minutes of passing drills and finally 20 minutes of shooting drills.

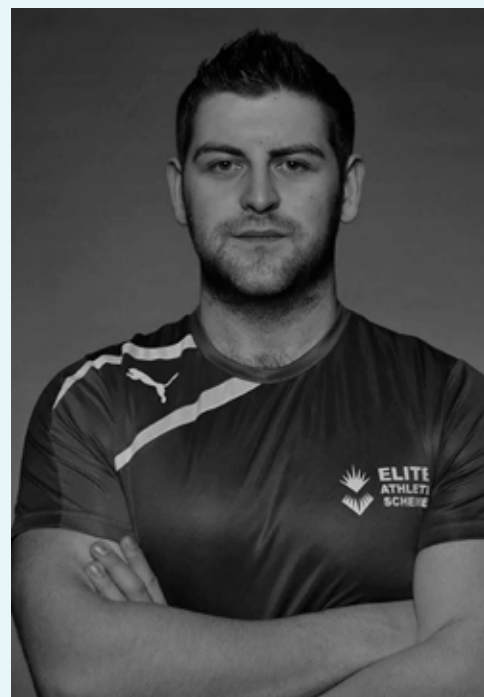
Waterpolo has given Matthew the opportunity to play regionally for the North East in the national waterpolo league, and his ambition is to make it into the 2023 Great Britain squad. I then asked 13 year old Amelia Henderson what she liked about waterpolo and how long she had played for the club. Amelia said she has played waterpolo for about 5 years, and trains 3 times a week. She said she enjoys being able to play with the friends she has made there, as well as staying active at the same time. Amelia also said she likes competing in waterpolo competitions and the thrill it gives her being part of a winning team. Finally I caught up with 10 year old Thomas Forrest. He said he started playing for the club when he was 8 years old. Thomas said he had learnt to swim but said he got bored with just swimming up and down the lanes. He said his brother, who is the Head Coach of the club, had said to give waterpolo a try. Thomas said "I loved it from the start, I had my first competition in 2019 and I scored 2 goals against Sheffield. I was 9 playing in the under 12 age group and I was the youngest on the team. I love playing polo and I will play it for ever". Thomas said that he has learnt all about playing in a team and how important it is to be part of a team. He also said he has become stronger and fitter and that he looks forward to and enjoys every session he goes to, and that he has made lots of friends in the club.

The club is always on the lookout to welcome any new members who are good swimmers and committed and passionate about playing in a team sport alongside some of the best players in the North East.

So if you, or your child, is interested in joining the club, and improving strength and fitness, whilst learning a new sport; then please don't hesitate to email the club at sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com.

Arrangements can then be made for you to come and have a FREE trial session to try out this compelling sport. All we ask is that you can swim at least 25 metres and are confident swimming and treading in deep water. We look forward to seeing you there!

Article written by Jess Webb



Head Coach Adam Woods



Amelia Henderson, 13



Pictured: Matthew Taylor, 18



Thomas Forrest, 10

Fireworks & Dog Waste

Dear Sir,

There are two issues that are currently annoying me intensely. I was going to say that the first matter concerns the Woodham area, however, I am certain that Aycliffe in general is affected. Firstly, fireworks, who are the idiots who are setting off fireworks every night, and have been doing so for the past two weeks? I know there are adults out there with questionable intelligence and morals, but surely the perpetrator/s are kids. Who is selling fireworks to them anyway? And why are they being sold as early as the beginning of October?

It is bad enough that they usually start a week before 5th November and carry on for maybe a week after. It is not only highly annoying, but more pertinently, it is a real issue for pets, in particular dogs. One of my dogs becomes extremely anxious, and judging by other dogs in my immediate area that can be heard barking and howling after a firework is set off, so do other people's. I just hope that whoever wrote into Newton News a few weeks ago, moaning about the amount of dogs barking in the Woodham area doesn't start complaining again. Or at least, if they do, then hopefully their complaint will be aimed at those responsible for upsetting these poor animals and not the dogs themselves.

My other issue centres around the dog waste bins. It could be argued that they are not emptied frequently enough. However, why do people insist on putting their bags of dog waste on top of an already full bin, or underneath it on the ground?

TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU!

As I said above, 'there are people out there with questionable intelligence'. I actually saw one local resident from Brafferton Close on Monday morning leaving his house to take his dog for a walk with what I am quite certain was a bag of dog waste, presumably picked up from his garden. I am pretty sure that he was heading for the nearest dog waste bin to dispose of it there. Why can't people just put it in their own 'outside' waste bin?

I have also witnessed another local resident doing exactly the same on numerous occasions, when going to pick his car up on Woodham Way every morning. This is partly the reason why the bins are filling up as quickly as they are!

I'm not sure what the solution is to either of these issues apart from the second one, which involves adults - hopefully the people concerned will read this, and perhaps think twice in the future, especially as people do take notice and then write letters into their local newspaper!

Name and address supplied.

RUNNING CLUB NEWS

Last weekend saw Members return to the track, as this year's delayed track season continued. On Saturday, 10th October 2020, several Members attended the 'Back to Track III' meeting, which was once again hosted by the Darlington Harriers and Athletics Club at Eastbourne Sports Complex. The meeting offered the opportunity to participate in graded 150m and Mile races, and the Long Jump.

The Mile races proved popular and Alan Wilks was first on track for the Club, participating in Race 5, and finishing in a time of 6:38.77. This race was particularly notable as Ian Barnes, of the Darlington Harriers and Athletics Club, set a new UK Vet 85 Mile record in the race.

Andy Talbot competed in Race 7, and came home in 5:36.16, setting himself a new Personal Best (PB) for the distance, and set a new Club Record in his Age Category. John Surtees once again had a strong run, finishing in a time of 4:39.37 in Race 9, and in doing so broke his own Club Record for the distance in the M20-35 Age Category, and set himself a new PB.

On Sunday, 11th October 2020, David Stothard represented the Club at the Run Durham Dalton Park Oktoberfest 10K, and completed the undulating course at Murton in a time of 54:53.

Second Claim Member, John Firby, was also in action on Sunday, taking part in the Beamish Hall Social Distance Trail 10K, albeit representing his First Claim Club. John was sixth fastest on the day, in a time of 42:42.

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

Photos provided courtesy of Karen Harland.



Greenfield Arts Aim for a 'Climate of Change'

Greenfield Arts are excited to be part of a National initiative 'The Big Draw' and have adopted their campaign to help develop a 'climate of change'. They are busy developing a series of activities and events for young people that will culminate in a collection of campaign artwork and a brand-new online youth exhibition featuring their work.

Artist Paul Murray will be leading the creative campaign beginning with a face-to-face workshop at Greenfield Arts. Paul will be asking the question 'How can I help?' in a hands-on session suitable for young people aged 8+.

Join Paul and Greenfield Arts on Tuesday 27 October from 10:30 – 12:00 and be part of 'The Big Draw' and this exciting campaign for young people. Just visit www.greenfield-arts.co.uk to book your place or call our friendly team to find out more by calling 01325 379048. Watch out for our online exhibition call out where

young people can enter their ideas and artwork to help us develop a community campaign, let's be the change we want to see!

Greenfield Arts are committed to providing stimulating arts and creative activity and encouraging questioning and enquiry. They are exploring ways to contribute creatively to a 'climate of change' and will be working sensitively to consider the environment.



HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

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Hand Washing Stations to Support Safety Measures

Hundreds of hand washing stations will be set up in schools across County Durham as part of measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Durham County Council has made 800 portable hand washing stations available to schools that can be set up in classrooms or outdoor areas to allow pupils to wash their hands regularly. Currently, a large number of schools in the county have insufficient hand washing facilities due to the age or layout of buildings. In some cases, classrooms do not have sinks and pupils can only wash their hands in the schools' toilet blocks. To mitigate the transmission of coronavirus within schools, classes and year groups are currently on staggered break times and social-distancing measures have been put in place to keep pupils safe. Even with these measures, the use of toilet blocks is restricted for safety, making the opportunity for pupils to wash their hands regularly with soap throughout the day difficult.

Many head teachers have also reported that the use of hand sanitisers is not always safe or easy to manage, and overuse is causing adverse skin reactions for some children. As a result of this, the council has been working closely with head teachers to come up with a solution and enable safer hand washing practices

for its pupils.

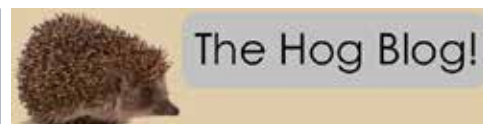
The council has bought hand washing stations in bulk from the company Happy Tap, a social enterprise based in Cambodia and recognised by the World Health Organisation and UNICEF, which creates fun and brightly coloured portable hand washing stations to encourage children to wash their hands regularly in an accessible way.

Happy Tap is a social enterprise with a mission of enabling safe handwashing for 10,000,000 people by 2024. To support this mission, for every ten units sold in the UK one unit will be donated to a school in a low-income country, extending its impact to children who face significant hygiene risks on a daily basis. As a result of the council's commitment to enabling safe handwashing in the county's schools, 80 units will be donated to schools in Vietnam benefitting more than 2,000 children.

The units can be installed in every classroom or outside school buildings, on a table or trestle in the yard, and will allow pupils to wash their hands regularly and safely while coordinating with the other secure measures that are in place.

The council has arranged for the hand washing stations to be shipped to the county at costs which make it possible for schools to buy multiple stations at a fraction of what they could pay for an equivalent product. As a result, especially in buildings that would not otherwise be adaptable, this method provides the means for children to combat coronavirus in the most important way by frequent, thorough handwashing.

The council is the first local authority in the UK to use this method as an accessible and practical way for schools to ensure pupils are safe during the pandemic and its procurement team have worked quickly and efficiently to make this happen in response to the outbreak.



So sorry about our absence over the last two weeks, this was due to poor health and lots of poorly hoggies, thankfully we are all on the mend now.

I would like to thank the following people for donations, these come in the form of cash donations or goods to sell on our car boot stall. Firstly, Karen, for her donation of clothes; Bill, Ann and Connie for items to sell, everyone who also visited our table at the Turbinia last Sunday and also Gary, the landlord, for his £10 donation to our rescue centre.

Myself, Tara and Viv will be doing more fundraising because a lot of the hedgehogs in rescue are very small and will remain here in the warm till spring. Our smallest at the moment is a 200g female called Penny, she is enjoying her new bedroom, which donations have enabled us to buy for her, and of course extra cages so we can take more sick, injured or orphaned hedgehogs in. We also have in rescue the very lovely, Tiffany, who came from our vet. She was taken in by Ian, a very good hoggie friend of ours, and one of our NHS Hero Ambulance Paramedics, she was very poorly with breathing difficulties but making progress here in rescue. She is a wonderful 1000g, and should be OK to go home soon.

Don't forget about us when you see a hedgehog in trouble, we are here for them whatever time of year, we try to help them all and take as many in as possible, especially now it's getting very cold and damp.

Also fireworks are very scary for hedgehogs, bonfire night is near too, please think of these beautiful mammals.

Weekly Tip: If you need any help, advice or information leaflets, please ring The British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801 or come and visit us on our stall, we will be at The Big Club on Saturday 17th October from 11am-2pm.



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"A Lucky Man"

Dear Sir,
I would like write in response to Mr Lowery's letter in last weeks edition of the Newton News.

The Big Club is like any other business, it's struggling at this difficult time, trying to make sure it can stay open. It is doing so because of the hard work of the staff and the committee members who are trying to make the club a safe place to visit. There are dedicated people working tirelessly at the club free of charge in their own spare time making sure temperatures are checked, track and trace is in place, social distancing is adhered to, and the final strain is that of waitress service meaning extra staffing is required.

There has to be some changes, even if it's not ideal, but it may not be viable to keep the club open past 6pm on weekdays when it's at its quietest times, just for a couple of members who would like it to remain open. Covid-19 has had a massive impact on everybody.

People's lives have been cut short, loved ones lost and hearts broken. Some people have worked throughout the whole of the pandemic putting their own lives at risk whilst others were safe in their own homes. Businesses are closing and livelihoods lost. My Gran has just celebrated her 91st birthday in a care home, on her own, having not seen her family since March. People are dying alone in homes and hospitals, relatives not getting to say their last goodbyes. Funerals with small attendances as families are not allowed to give their relatives the send off they deserve. Everyone's lives are put on hold, children missing education, fathers not being able to see their newborns in hospital. The list goes on . . .

So, Mr Lowery, you are very right, I hope your common sense does prevail, because if your pub closing early is the only thing during Covid-19 you have to worry about, then I think, you are a very lucky man! Name and address supplied.

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More than £100 Million Paid to County Durham Businesses

More than £104 million has been paid to more than 9,500 businesses across County Durham to help them deal with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Durham County Council has now processed all of the government's Business Support Grants and the Local Discretionary Grants, to ease the financial burden on businesses, with both schemes now closed.

A total of 8,862 companies were provided with Business Support Grants of either £10,000 or £25,000, in line with the national scheme, with payments totalling just over £99 million. After also widening the eligibility for the Local Discretionary Grants Scheme, the council was able to support hundreds more businesses across the county. Through that

scheme, it awarded just over £5 million to 701 businesses.

The government closed the Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF), Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF) and the Local Discretionary Grants Fund on 28 August with council staff working tirelessly to process all paperwork and money before 28 September to ensure every eligible business received the grant.

Cllr Carl Marshall, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "It was vital to do all we could to help businesses through such a financially difficult time. The survival of our business community is key to supporting the county's economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic."

"Acting quickly, contacting all eligible businesses and ensuring they were aware of the support that was available was vital and I would like to thank our staff for their hard work in doing that during a very challenging period. Their proactive approach has provided a lifeline for many businesses throughout the last six months."

"In the last few weeks the government has announced a further package of support for those businesses which are required to close as part of a local lockdown and I am confident that, should we be told by government we have to close local businesses, we will make every effort to pay these grants as quickly and efficiently as we administered the previous schemes."

"We will also continue to press the government for a better package of support for all businesses affected by the latest restrictions. It is not only businesses which are required to close that are struggling and we are calling on the government to provide wider financial support to all companies in order to protect the economy."

A number of businesses across the county have since praised the council for the way it worked with them to establish simple claims processes and provide quick, efficient support.

Gordon Cracknell, the managing director of Cracknell's Potato Merchants, said: "The grant was extremely helpful. We lost around 80 per cent of our custom in the first few weeks of lockdown, causing a huge loss financially to our business."

"It helped us keep the business afloat and allowed us to continue paying the farmers that were providing us with our stock. As a very small, family run business, with a small number of employees who have worked for us for a long period of time, we're all very grateful for the support."

Road marking and civil engineering firm, Jack Coupe and Sons Ltd, has also been supported by the business grants. Moya McGregor, the company secretary, said: "We weren't expecting to receive a grant so it was a pleasant surprise but will assist with the added and ongoing additional costs for labour and motor costs to enable social distancing, the additional costs of PPE, cleaning and ongoing general costs that coronavirus has impacted on our business."

"We plan on working as hard as we can through 2020 to try and recoup some of the loss and will continue to provide our services as efficiently and effectively as possible despite the hurdles caused by the pandemic." More information on support that is available to businesses can be found on the council's website: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/covid19business>

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

Calling All Sunderland Fans

NEWTON AYCLIFFE BRANCH OF THE SUNDERLAND AFC SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1994, the idea of four Newtonians, two of whom are still Current Members the Branch was formed to provide affordable travel for Sunderland Supporters to all of Sunderland AFC Home Games and suitable Away Games.

Last year was our 25th Anniversary still going strong with the same aims, travelling around, supporting our team and having a good time while doing so. We are a Branch with an excellent reputation within the Sunderland Football Community and we work closely with Officials at Sunderland Football Club to ensure that our Members get exclusive insights, deals and opportunities.

The Branch usually meets every first Thursday of the Month at The Phoenix Club, Newton Aycliffe at 8.00 PM however due to the current situation all Meeting were suspended in March but under review. All Current Members and anyone else expressing an interest are always most welcome.

Membership is £6 for the Season however due to the current situation that we all find ourself in which will not last forever, the Membership Fee together with all Branch Activity including the AGM, has been suspended but will recommence as soon as it is considered safe and viable to do so when all restrictions have been lifted.

Last Season Home bus fares were £10 for adults, £8 for under 18's and £5 for under 5's but are under review.

Members all enjoy discounted fares at the rate of £8 for adults £6 for under 18's with senior citizens (Members who are over 65) receiving a double discounted fare down to £5 and £3 for under 5's.

May we respectfully remind Members that your Current Membership ceased on 31/05/2020 and for those Members who have not re-joined you can still do so by completing this Season's Membership Forms and even if we do not have a proper Season you will still be recorded as a Member of The Branch.

If you are interested in joining, but cannot attend the meetings, please email SAFCNAB@gmail.com or contact us on Facebook (SAFC Supporters - Newton Aycliffe).

As always, thanks for your support. Useful mobile phone numbers are:
Transport: 07515 019047
Membership: 07714 785555
"Onwards and Upwards"



In Memoriam

Tim Leadbitter
14/10/70 - 14/10/19

We think about you every day, why did you have to go away? Today would have been your 50th birthday. You were our star, moon and sun, you were such a loving, caring son. Love you always, Mam and Dad xxxxxx

Harriet Brumwell
18th October 1993

Still missing you every day. God bless. Love from Jeannette, Owen, Carl and Family

Obituary

Raymond Mulhearn
(Ray)

of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully at home on 11th October, aged 76 years. Beloved Husband of Ruby; a devoted Dad of Andrea and Joanne; also a treasured Grandad and Great Grandad. Funeral Service to take place at Wear Valley Crematorium on Thursday 22nd October at 1.30pm. Due to current circumstances a private family service will take place.

Glen Kipling

Aged 52 years of Newton Aycliffe, passed away on 4th October. Much loved Brother of Sandra, Colin, Andrew and Mary also a dearly loved Brother-in-Law and Uncle who will be sadly missed. Due to current restrictions a private family service will take place at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe followed by cremation at Durham.

Congratulations

Matthew Howarth



Happy Birthday
15th October 2020

Lots of love from Mam, Dad and all the family

Birthday Remembrance

Winston Musgrove Warburton
(Tony)



80 Years
18th October 2020

Thinking of you on your 80th birthday. Sadly missed always, much loved Husband, Father, Father-in-Law and Grandpa. Miss you and love you, Felicity, Gail, Graeme, Jack and Oliver xxxxxxxx

Ellis Williams
(Taffy)

Passed away peacefully in his sleep on Thursday 8th October at Defoe Court Residential Care Home. Dearly loved Father of Moira and Father-in-Law of Bob; a treasured Grandfather & Great-Grandfather, a dear friend of Liz and Ian. Private Funeral due to Covid restrictions.

Eric Preston
Newton Aycliffe

Passed away peacefully at Aycliffe Nursing Home, aged 94 on 10th October 2020. Dearly loved Husband of the late Norah; Dad to David and Joan; Brother to George; Grandad to Laura and Dan and a friend to many. Funeral to take place on Thursday 22nd October at Wear Valley Crematorium at 2.30pm, leaving Lyons Walk at 2.15pm.

Keiran Powsey



Happy 18th Birthday
19th October 2020

Wishing you good luck and happiness in the future. Love from Mam, Dad and Nanna xx

Lumley



Congratulations Jo-Anne and Andrew on your Silver Wedding Anniversary on 17th October 2020

Men Talking Together Meet

Men Talking Together meet every Monday at 11.00am in Unit 14A IES Centre, Newton Aycliffe (behind the Blue Bridge and Newton Press).

If you are sat at home lonely or bored why not come and join us? Senior citizens welcome. We organise outings to various places, have a cup of tea and food. If you need advice we will be able to point you in the right direction, contact 308094 or 07967 901477.

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
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Juniors F.C. Section Round Up



Aycliffe U8s Blacks hosted an excellent Whinney Banks side this morning which proved to be a very tough game. Despite the quality of the opposition Aycliffe never gave up and battled their way throughout the match. Aycliffe were rewarded for their hard work and determination in the 2nd half with Regan grabbing a consolation goal, much to the delight of the whole team. It was a really hard day's work for Aycliffe today. A difficult experience but Aycliffe's attitude was first class.

A great result for **Aycliffe U9 Blacks** against Washington Athletic Puma today. In a tight first half, with little between the team, Max gave Aycliffe the lead. A great scrambled save by Jake just before half time and some strong defending kept them ahead. In the second half the opposition tired and after they conceded an own goal Aycliffe took charge and dominated the game till the end. As much as the goals were pleasing, the defensive performance from Alfie Olly, Benjamin and Mathis was as good.

Aycliffe U9 Juniors played away at FC Hartlepool. A tight game throughout, with nothing really between the two teams, with both sets of defenders playing really well but Aycliffe went behind at half time. Early in the second half Hartlepool capitalised on an error to put another one away. Aycliffe kept going and some great link up play between the two midfielders created an opening which Dom converted. Both teams had further chances but no one could convert.

Aycliffe U11s were at home against Boro Rangers Blues. This was Aycliffe's second league match and first home game. Aycliffe started a little on the back foot and it was Rangers who took the lead, however, Aycliffe



soon started playing their game and had several great chances to equalise. A great move starting with Logan, who had an excellent game, playing the ball out to Jamie who took it around the Rangers' player and passed it up to Liam, whose quick pass to Callum set up JJ who slotted it away just before half time. Aycliffe pressed higher up the pitch in the second half and Alex and Theo gave them more width. Callum then put Aycliffe into the lead after great work and determination from Alex who was finding space everywhere. Aycliffe scored another from Thomas with JJ then getting his second. Aycliffe were in full control and could have had two or three more with Thomas hitting the bar but then within five minutes somehow Rangers scored twice from nothing after Aycliffe could not clear the ball quick enough from their box.

Aycliffe U12s White started their league campaign away to Greatham. With no substitutes an hour of football was always going to be tough. Aycliffe were 2-1 down at half time and a draw looked a likely result as Aycliffe were reduced to seven men in the second half because of injuries. With limited numbers they were forced to heavily defend in their own half. Aycliffe did well to limit the score to a 4-1 loss.

Newton News

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