

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



Lest We Forget

Remembrance Day Service Updates on Page 3

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PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgefield



Thank You For Your Support

Dear Sir,
I would like to thank the many people in Newton Aycliffe, along with the thousands of people from all over the UK for the many messages on social media, letters, flowers and gifts sent through the post, thanking me for speaking out at Durham. My phone has never stopped, I am overwhelmed. I had the honour of speaking outside 10 Downing Street last Saturday, in front of the many who agree with me on the current situation we find ourselves in. Thank you all so much, I have had an amazing week. Thanks, once again
Irene Hewitson

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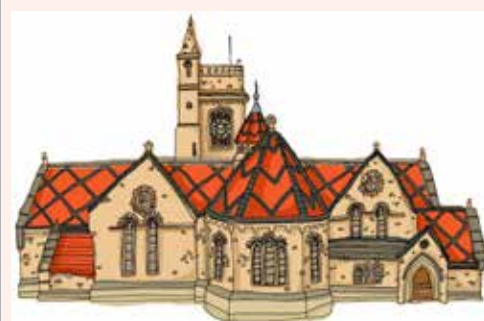
Junction 7 Half Term Food Project



Dear Sir,
Last week Junction 7 were able to give out 798 packed lunches as well as activity bags, cooking your own food bags and pumpkins as well as our daily surplus food project. We held a pumpkin competition, thank you to everyone that entered, thank you to Livin for funding part of this and thank you to GAMP for the funding towards the pumpkins. Thank you to Horndale School for the food collection they delivered and to Morrisons at Morton Park and North Road, Darlington for their donations, including packed lunches, food for the food bank, carrier bags and their continued support. Thank you Mandy from The Bay Horse, Middridge for the homemade food and to everyone who dropped off food and cash donations. Thank you to Netty Nettles for decorating and opening her garden for the Pumpkin Trail, from which money and food was donated for the Junction 7 food bank. A huge thank you to the Junction 7 volunteers who help to put everything together, without the help and support from our communities, we would not be able to do what we do. Every donation goes into helping people, #buildingcommunities



Online Exhibition: 'It's Grim Up North'



Dear Sir,
My name is Lizzie Lovejoy, I have been a resident of Newton Aycliffe for most of my life (other than three years at university in Hartlepool). I have been the Artist in Residence at Durham Sixth Form Centre for the past year and on 12th November they will be hosting my exhibition. Due to the lockdown, this will now be virtual with an online video tour and website with all of the work on the Residency website. This exhibition is themed around the North East, the buildings, people and stories I've learned while researching over the past year. I wanted to celebrate the North, the place I've grown up and the place I've loved. Most of the people I've interviewed live in Newton Aycliffe. As Newton Aycliffe is a growing area for arts and creativity I thought this would be an ideal opportunity to inform your readers of the exhibition and I am really proud to represent my home town. My website is:
www.lizzielovejoyillustration.co.uk
Lizzie Lovejoy

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Remembrance Sunday: Please Remember at Home

St. CLARE'S & St. ANDREW'S

St. Clare's held a meeting with the town council in September, and this is what was decided:

"It was felt that the event this year will need to be greatly reduced to ensure safety of the public and participants. Therefore it has been proposed that the 'March / Parade' be cancelled and only a short outside wreath laying Service take place at the War Memorial outside of St. Clare's Church. It is proposed that wreath laying be limited to keep within the guidelines for safety during the Covid-19 situation.

Other organisations and members of the public, who usually lay a wreath, are encouraged to lay their wreath on the War Memorial at their leisure on the afternoon of Sunday 8th November, thereby allowing for the two metre social distancing to be observed at 11am. The Service will be streamed over the Parish Facebook page." There will also be a short service at St. Andrew's in the afternoon at 3.00pm. As of Thursday 5th November, all services in the church building's, apart from funerals, have been suspended for the period of the lockdown.

NEVILLE PARADE METHODIST

Due to the latest government lock down restrictions we will be cancelling the Remembrance Service at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Sunday 8th November. The church will be closed till further notice. Take care and stay safe.

XCEL CHURCH

The Xcel Church will have an online Service on Sunday morning, going live from 10.30am and observing the two minute silence at 11.00am. The online Service can be watched by logging into xcelchurch.com/live



SMALL GRANTS FUND

Great Aycliffe Town Council is launching a small grants fund aimed at helping organisations within the Great Aycliffe area under two key themes:

- Those organisations that are experiencing funding problems, affecting their organisation in delivering their support services as a consequence of the Coronavirus pandemic and restrictions.
- Organisations that are looking to support vulnerable residents that are struggling to cope during the Christmas period.

A total of £15,000 has been allocated for small grants, each grant being up to a maximum of £1,000.

Closing date for applications is Monday, 23rd November 2020, following which applications will be considered by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on the 2nd December 2020.

Application forms are available from the Council Offices, by telephoning 01325 300700 or are available to download from the Council's Website: great-aycliffe.gov.uk

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Pensioner Pen Pal, a Brilliant Idea

Dear Sir,
In response to 'Pensioner Pen Pal' letter by Pam Lovelass in 30th October edition of the Newton News, I think this is an excellent idea.

When I visited my sister in her care home, prior to this current blight on all our lives, it was evident that some residents had few, if any, regular visitors. As a regular visitor I, and many like me, would not only be watching out for the welfare of our own loved ones but also have a chat, give a hug, to other residents we became fond of. After eight long months of not seeing family, friends or volunteer visitors from the local community, all those living in care must be feeling very frightened and lonely.

This is why I wrote to you several weeks ago about the campaign group, Rights For Residents, <https://www.rightsforresidents.co.uk>

We, as a group and individually, are lobbying the Government, not only on behalf of our own loved ones but for every care home resident throughout the country whose voices can't be heard. The Government claim that visiting restrictions are for the "protection" of residents, but offer no guidelines to protect them from the devastating deterioration in their mental and physical health resulting from this deprivation of liberty.

Those in care homes and other care settings have been denied any meaningful contact with their loved ones since the pandemic struck at the beginning of March 2020. We want the Government to find a more humane and nuanced solution that balances the risk of contracting Covid-19 against the devastating mental and physical deterioration we are witnessing in our loved ones.

As winter is upon us, and with the latest lockdown coming into force, the situation is becoming ever more urgent. The 'Care Home Visiting Pilot Scheme' being mooted by the Government is simply not a solution for those for whom time is already running

out. The government could end this suffering immediately by taking four clear actions:

- 1 - Produce clear guidelines encouraging care homes and local authorities to find safe ways for relatives to visit their loved ones, rather than encourage blanket bans.
- 2 - Grant key worker status to relatives with access to the same testing regime as care staff, in order to facilitate safe indoor visiting. Relatives are not simply 'visitors' they are an integral part in the well-being and support of their relatives who, for various reasons, have to live in care homes.
- 3 - Indemnify care providers against the possibility of being sued if the virus is brought into a care home. Remove the burden of responsibility from individual care home managers to decide on visiting policies as they are frozen rigid by the fear of litigation.
- 4 - Produce a plan that protects people from dying of loneliness and isolation.

I have been in touch with our own MP, Paul Howell, several times over the past few months, both to draw his attention to this campaign and also to highlight to him the particular problems this deprivation is having on the health and well-being of my relative in care.

Mr Howell has responded positively each time offering his support, sadly the same cannot be said of the DCC Director of Health who has failed to respond to any of my correspondence.

So please take up Pam's idea of dropping a note to those who have no family or friends, to think about them during these months of isolation - maybe also consider joining the Right For Residents campaign on their behalf and help restore the basic human rights of those in care to see their friends and family whilst still keeping them safe.

Margaret Davison

For more details about becoming a Pensioner Pen Pal, contact Pam Lovelass:
Email: pamlovelass@gmail.com
Telephone: 01325 316841

"Can't Stand the Heat, Get out of the Kitchen"

Dear Sir,

Last week, I found myself disgusted by our MP and his party's vote to practically starve children over half term. Due to this, I took a peek at Mr Paul Howells Facebook page and was once again disgusted by the explanation given in which Mr Howell blamed Labour for political games and said we should look for other ways to combat child poverty, (tell that to the kids at risk of going hungry over half term). The truth is, during Labours time on government, child poverty was drastically reduced during 1997-2010, it has dramatically risen under the last ten years of Tory government. To point fingers at Labour for bringing this issue to the forefront is an exceptionally shocking action. It's true that there are different ways to tackle child poverty, but in the short term why vote to take food away from children?

I voiced my displeasure with a comment saying he had brought shame on the position he holds and that he and his party should indeed be ashamed. That was subsequently deleted and I was blocked from the page. I later found out that many others had also been blocked.

Why does our MP have a problem with the free speech of his constituents? I understand there is no place for abuse, but many of these comments including mine were nothing of the sort. If our MP can't take the very little heat coming his way, maybe it's time to vacate the kitchen.

Kane Shaw



Rotary e-Club

ROTARY IS CHANGING SO BE PART OF IT.

You are a responsible person in a responsible job and have a busy life. You would also like to give something back to your community but do not have the time. Perhaps Rotary Newton Aycliffe can help.

For years Rotary has supported communities, charities, and individuals with significant challenges of all types. It has gained a huge reputation for linking professional men and women who meet every week to discuss key community issues and consider ways to raise money to help those in most need. This system has prevailed since inception in February 1905 and changed very little, although it now has 1.2 million members worldwide.

Modern life has changed in all aspects, mainly through the advent and strengths of social media and Rotary recognises that change. A new type of club is being formed in the Newton Aycliffe area to run alongside the long established, Rotary Newton Aycliffe.

It is an E-Club. This is a club for those that want to help with and support local and international issues but in a less formal way. The E-Club will meet via Zoom meetings, setting their own agendas and projects. It is not planned to have formal weekly meetings and arrangements will all be online.

If you think this might appeal to you, and you want to learn more, then you are invited to an online Zoom meeting on Thursday, 12th November at 6.30pm. Log in and hear from established E-Clubs and Rotary Members.

Please register your interest by sending an email to rotarynaeclub@gmail.com



Irresponsible Councillor

Dear Sir,
I have just found out on social media that we have an irresponsible attitude from one of our Councillors on Great Aycliffe Town Council, openly refusing to wear a mask, even denying the virus exists in a time of pandemic.
Can I enlighten this Councillor that I have a niece in the city of Manchester who was working on older people in an ICU ward with serious heart and other illnesses, this ward has since been transferred from medical to a Covid-Secure Ward.
As an ICU nurse working on back to back 12 hour shifts, ie: 12 hours on, 12 hours off, 7 days a week - without rest days - she does this because she cares for people.
Perhaps this Councillor needs to go round these hospitals and see the suffering that these patients are going through and explain to the people who have lost family members, then they can ask why she is saying that the virus does not exist, when everyone in the 'sane' world is asking what are we doing to combat this virus.
So what should we do? We must break the cycle of "boom and bust" lockdowns that means working towards a Covid-Secure UK, plan and create an exit strategy that will protect both the health and wealth of the UK. This Covid-Secure UK plan is the only viable proposal to protect both the health and wealth of the UK. Supported by scientists, health professionals and politicians from across the political spectrum. The Covid-Secure UK plan is the exit strategy to avoid continuous lockdowns, school and workplace closures ahead of a vaccine or other protective remedy becoming available. Councillors need to remember that they are an agent of Government and as such recognise that they need to work for the benefit of the whole of the community and not try to make it an issue of a personal campaign to say this virus does not exist, given that people are dying from this virus. I think that this Councillor owes the people of Newton Aycliffe an apology for spreading false information and I would hope that someone in authority gets a grip on this Councillor. People had better believe it, this virus is live and likely to be with us for sometime, because like all viruses they mutate and become stronger. We have not seen one like this for 100 years. One final thought, not only was this her own personal view but it was dangerous and ill advised.
Mr. V. Crosby

N.A.F.C. REPORT



Saturday 31 October Buildbase FA Vase

Lower Breck 3 v Newton Aycliffe 2

It was a Halloween horror for Aycliffe as two own goals contributed to their demise in this season's FA Vase. Even more unfortunately both OG's were scored by the same player, Marc Costello.

Saturday 31st October saw Aycliffe travel to the Anfield Sports Centre, Liverpool, to play Lower Breck of the North West Counties League. As per FA guidance for Tier 3 areas the visitors did not take a ticket allocation for the game. Those who did travel, largely committee members, were somewhat surprised to find that the requirement for spectators to wear face coverings (mandatory in Durham & Northumberland) does not apply on Merseyside.

Aycliffe were without regular goalkeeper Adam Pickford who sustained an injury in the loss at home to Consett on the previous Tuesday night. He was replaced by Adam Cameron, hurriedly signed from Whickham as cover.

The visitors got off to a poor start with a cross on four minutes deflected into his own net by Costello. Aycliffe fought back with Liam Jarvie having a chance which was just wide of the post.

An equaliser came from Ethan Wood on 24 minutes, in typically spectacular, fashion with a shot from outside the box finding the top corner of the net.

However, the home side were able to grab a second soon after and took a 2-1 lead into half time.

The second half saw few real chances for Aycliffe until the 84th minute when Lewis Walton was brought down in the box. The referee pointed to the penalty spot and Jake Petitjean made no mistake, bringing the scores level.

With no extra time or replay in this year's Vase most spectators were expecting a penalty shoot out when the Halloween own goal curse struck again giving Lower Breck the win and a trip to North Ferriby in the next round.

Aycliffe were left to a subdued trip home, not made any cheerier by the news from Downing Street of Lockdown Two. This effectively puts a break in the season with training and matches suspended from 4th November to 2nd December.

Please keep an eye on our website www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk for further details.

Free School Meals?

The standard of political debate on the above matter has been dragged into the gutter by Labour/Momentum's Angela Rayner, who called a Conservative MP, "scum" in the House of Commons. I know that Labour Party members get upset when I refer to Labour/Momentum. However, do you think that calling an opponent "scum" is acceptable language for a Labour or New Labour MP?

In last week's Newton News, Sedgefield CLP Labour (Momentum) Woman's Forum responded to our MP's reasoned argument on this subject by accusing our elected Government and our MP, of a "Political decision to let our children go hungry".

Typical extreme left-wing rhetoric! These haridans went on to cast aspersions on how our MP had made his living, implied that he is devoid of ethics and compassion, and accused him of 'show-boating' when he ate-out and supported a local hostelry. Again, Momentum members playing the man instead of the ball! Indeed, the implication that MP Paul Howell and the Conservative Government is seeking to line the pockets of the rich is objectionable in the extreme and is probably actionable!

Perhaps Sedgefield CLP Labour (Momentum) Women's Forum would be better sticking to sharing their innuendo, extreme rhetoric and hatred on 'Facebook' as their published letter does not show them in a good light when compared with MP Paul Howell's reasoned explanation of the politics of the matter.

Alan Jordan has announced that he has joined Labour. Either, he does not believe that the local CLP is in the thrall of Momentum, or, he supports Momentum! Does he not realise that the local CL(M)P endorsed discredited anti-Semitic Rebecca Long-Bailey for Labour leader instead of his beloved Sir Keir? Further, I hope that he is not thinking of standing as a Labour /Momentum Councillor, as the Labour/ Momentum haridans have got that base covered with, 'Women Only', shortlists! This is democracy Labour/Momentum style. However, if Labour/Momentum had got its way in Parliament, Alan could have, 'self-identified' as a woman and perhaps could have been accepted as a candidate.

Thank God for Boris and the Conservative Party who threw this nonsensical Labour/ Momentum Amendment out! When are the extreme left going learn the 'Facts of Life' and basic biology?

Yours Sincerely,
Alastair P.G. Welsh



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Aycliffe Juniors Football Weekly Round Up

U8s Blacks hosted Darlington Spraire lads this week. Playing into a strong wind in the first half, Aycliffe were up against it from the start and struggled to get their game going. A tough first half found them heading in behind at half time. Despite the score Aycliffe did not let their heads drop and put in a much improved second half performance, finally getting their passing game going and creating chances. Aycliffe managed a consolation goal through Regan. MOTM went to Max.

U9 Whites played against SR Predators. This was a close game throughout. Predators took an early lead when Aycliffe failed to clear their lines but Aycliffe did not panic and pulled a goal back through Dom. Aycliffe had a reshuffle at half time after goalkeeper Jensen was injured following a top class save from a free kick. Daniel took over as keeper. Some great link up play between Tyler, Jonah and a great finish from Jack saw Aycliffe take the lead. Some fantastic defending from Sammy, great saves from Daniel and a goal line clearance from Noah.



Goals came from Dom, Jack and OG.

MOTM went to Sammy and Daniel.

U9s Blacks played Blackhall Monks this week. In very windy conditions Aycliffe played the first half into the wind and it proved to be a tight half. Jake made some great saves to keep Aycliffe level. Second half playing with the wind meant Aycliffe got more of the ball, scoring more goals including a lovely looping shot from just inside the opposition's half. Great display by everyone, Max got all goals but worked well with others and set James up to nearly get his first of the season.

MOTM went to Max.

U10s played away to Wynyard which was their first game of the season. They had a difficult game although they put up a good battling performance with goals from Sam and Archie x2.

MOTM went to Archie.



Aycliffe **U12s Blacks** played away to Oustan Eagles. From the first whistle Aycliffe were bright and confident and managed to get an



early goal. Aycliffe played such a technical game and were rampant in front of goal; they were an absolute joy to watch with their passing, shooting, tackling and positional play. Second half Aycliffe had the wind on their side, using it well to their advantage. Alex won a penalty and dutifully put it away. Despite Aycliffe's excellent display they were still unable to keep a clean sheet with Oustan managing to get a consolation goal. Goals came from Keaton, Alex, Steven and Danny.

MOTM went to Alex.

U13s Whites played Bishop Auckland St. Mary's Kings. Playing against a strong wind in the first half Aycliffe played some excellent football, keeping the ball on the floor and creating lots of opportunities. Aycliffe scored three very well worked goals with some excellent build up play, with Tyler scoring two and Niall scoring the other. Second half Aycliffe started moving the ball quickly again and scored three further goals to move ahead. Tyler completed his hat trick with a finish into the top corner, Niall scored a volley from a corner and Connor beat his man at the front post to score a volley. Bishop added a consolation goal at the end and the game finished 6-2 to record Aycliffe's first win of the season.

U14s entertained Blackwell Rangers at home. Aycliffe broke the deadlock after a tight start with two goals from Travis and one from Jordan, giving Aycliffe a 3-0 lead at half time. It was a strong second half performance in a physical game, three further goals from Travis and a goal each for Alfie and Jake giving the lads an 8-0 win. The result leaves the lads top of the league with a 100% record after 4 games

U15s travelled to play League leaders Hetton Pumas, very much a game of two halves. The first half saw Aycliffe dominate possession, with a well worked goal giving Bo the chance to open the scoring, an excellent header from Bailey restoring the lead after a Hetton equaliser. Despite another outstanding performance in goal from Shae, the elements and lack of subs saw Aycliffe picked off in the second half as they grew tired.

Goals came from Bo and Bailey.

MOTM - Bo.

U16s lost at home 3-4 in an ill-tempered match against Nunthorpe Athletic Yellows. Aycliffe went in 3-0 down at half time but in the second half they managed to claw it back to 3-3, with goals from Brennan x2 and Callum x1. A debatable decision gave Nunthorpe a penalty, their second of the game, which saw them take all three points.



Sketching Opportunities at Greenfield Arts

As part of their autumn programme Greenfield Arts are offering an opportunity to learn or develop your sketching skills. This season they are looking at 'new possibilities' and this is one of the many activities that can inspire you to make a change, learn something new and reflect upon the world around you. The workshops are led by illustrator and artist Graham Stead and will encourage the art of sketching people. To find out more please visit our website where you can keep up to date with further details and sign up to our mailing list. Greenfield Arts are committed to providing high quality stimulating arts and creative activity and encouraging questioning and enquiry. To find out more about our programme and the many exhibitions, projects and activities on offer visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk or email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk



"Waste of Taxpayer's Money"

Dear Sir,

I have to wonder whether John Armstrong lives in the same country as the rest of us?

The Government may have been slow to react initially to Covid-19 because we were prepared for the wrong pandemic, but the necessity to protect the NHS, and our lack of essential PPE, were both due to many years of unnecessary Tory austerity. Moreover, the way in which the vulnerable elderly residents of Care Homes were neglected was positively disgraceful.

Given the situation, the Government were right to order goods and services without waiting for the usual competitive tendering, but why did they award these contracts to companies with no experience, or worse, a proven track record of failure, leading to a great waste of public money? Is it a coincidence that these companies all seem to be Conservative Party and/or 'Vote Leave' supporters?

After the national lockdown, Boris Johnson typically swung to unjustified optimism, saying that we would be 'back to normal by Christmas'. However, allowing people to take holidays abroad, and encouraging them to eat out in pubs and restaurants, and return to their offices, simply helped keep Covid-19 active. Then insisting that university students return to their halls of residence, rather than working from home, inevitably led to a fresh explosion of new cases. And finally, having rejected the earlier scientific advice for a short "circuit-breaker" lockdown, as recommended by Sir Keir Starmer, he has just been forced to introduce a much longer lockdown, but now with Covid-19 completely out of control, and the death toll again rising rapidly.

However, my greatest concern is that worldwide experience shows that the only way to control Covid-19 is with an effective locally-based 'Test, Track & Trace' system, whereas our so-called 'world-beating' nation-wide system has proved to be an expensive failure. Until this is fixed, which requires that the Government drop its ideological obsession that free-enterprise is always best, and instead rely on Local Authorities, I fear that we will be condemned to a never-ending cycle of lockdowns and relaxations.

Since there is no sign of this, 'Keeping Your Faith in the Conservatives', it will continue to be very expensive, both in terms of unnecessary loss of life, and a waste of taxpayer's money!

Alan Jordan
Middridge

RUNNING CLUB NEWS

In a week that may have seen the last races of the year, some of our runners headed North, whilst others headed West, looking for some active competition.

On Sunday, 1st November 2020, two Members took part in the Run Northumberland Castles Half Marathon, a slightly undulating race in beautiful Northumberland countryside, which featured the stunning back drop of Bamburgh Castle. First home for the Club was David Stothard, who completed the Half Marathon in a time of 2:03:25. David was followed in by Carley Gibson, who finished her run in a Personal Best (PB) of 2:05:55.

Slightly further afield on the same day, three Members participated in the Kirkbride Half Marathon, which took place in Wigton, Cumbria. The course was flat, with a few small hills, and John Surtees was first back for the Club, finishing in 8th place overall and recorded a new PB of 1:17:17.

John Firby was next across the line, albeit sporting the colours of his First Claim Club, completing his run in a new PB of 1:21:26. Andy Talbot was the last of the Aycliffe-based trio to complete the race, finishing in 1:26:07, which was good enough for first place in his Age Category (Vet 60) on the day, and represented a new Club Record in that age category.

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
Photographs provided courtesy of Carlos Reina



CSI: Newton Aycliffe

Dear Sir,

Unfortunately due to the lockdown, like all other non-essential business, we have to close until December. However, we hope to still be available to customers through our Facebook page (Community Support Initiative Newton Aycliffe).

Anybody wanting to alleviate the boredom of the lockdown, why not try a spot of up-scaling and help the local community into the bargain?

We have chairs to reupholster, small cabinets and tables to paint as well as china cabinets and corner units to turn into gin bars. So if this sounds like it might appeal to you, check out the photos on our Facebook page to see what is available, then ring us to ask any questions on the item you are viewing. If agreeable, we'll deliver the item to you (cash on delivery) and free delivery in DL5 area.

If you are not on Facebook, no problem, just ring and ask us. If we have what you are looking for, don't be shy, you never know what we might have hiding away.

Remember all money raised goes back into the local community.

CSI:Newton Aycliffe Furniture & Collectables

Raising funds to support local people
Facebook: Community Support Initiative Newton Aycliffe

Brian 07951 947993 - Tom 07512 251275

YOUTHY FOOTBALL CLUB UPDATE

Although we had a week of heavy rain, many of our teams managed to get leagues games played.

Eaglescliffe Elements v U10's Eagles

From the first whistle Aycliffe dominated the game, an early throw in, which Dan K hurled into the box, where Nathan was waiting and he blasted the ball past the keeper, 0-1. A minute later we were awarded a free kick which Nathan stepped up to take and buried it. Aycliffe continued to attack in numbers, with Dan K again playing a fantastic ball into the box for Jayden to finish. Eaglescliffe then attacked, forcing Charlie to make an outstanding double save but the possession remained mainly with the boys in blue. Nathan made a fantastic solo run and found the back of the net for his hat trick. Some changes to players, but the second half was very much like the first. Then Krystian, who was now playing upfront, placed the ball past the keeper for his first of the match. Carter now playing upfront alongside Krystian placed an inch perfect cross into the box for a simple tap in for Krystian's second of the game.

Another outstanding team performance today.

MOM went to Nathan not only for his hat trick but a great overall performance.

U7 Wildcats v Bishop Auckland Girls

Team: Erin, Brooke, Macy, Esme, Ava and Penny.

Bishop started well and applied lots of pressure but the defence held firm. After a tight first five minutes, Brooke pressured a defender and won the ball and fired it into the corner. Not long after Macy added a great solo effort before she grabbed herself a second, and a goal from Ava completed a great first half for the girls. Another great interception from Brooke, driving up field and a great finish.

Macy completed her hat trick before Bishop scored a well deserved goal for their hard work. Penny then scored after winning the ball in defence and beating two defenders and placing a shot into the corner of the goal. Bishop grabbed a late goal to finish the game.

Player of the match: Brooke.

Washington 3 v 1 Under 16 girls

A wet and windy day and heavy pitch would make it hard work for both teams. Aycliffe started really well, playing the game in the opposition half. A great shot from Hattie was fumbled by the keeper but she recovered just in time. Then as Washington started to get into the game a speculative looping shot goes under the bar and we were behind. The girls carried on playing good football and as Hattie turned the full back in the corner, put in a cross that beat all the defenders and Kate was at the back post to volley in the equaliser, half time 1-1. Washington came out better in the second half and had Aycliffe on the back foot, the midfield were tiring despite rotating, and Washington took a grip, and they scored a goal from an impossible angle, still don't know how it went in!

Aycliffe still created chances but the Washington defence were looking secure. A driving run and a cross and Washington found the net to secure the points, full time 3-1.



U11 Angels Blue v Felling Magpies

The first goal came from Sophie blocking a defensive clearance, taking the ball forward and slotting home. Sophie then turned provider for a nice team goal. Faith supplied a cross to Sophie, who played another pass on to Hannah, who finished well from the edge of the area. Sophie then finished her hat trick with assists from Isobel and then Erin. Hannah set up Faith for the next goal, which she blasted home from a tight angle. Charli then won a penalty, which she duly converted. Just before half time Faith scored another. The second half was much tighter playing 9 v 10. Evie scored the final goal of the game with a really well taken shot to the bottom corner.

Coaches star player: Heidi. Players star player: Sophie.

Deerness Valley 1 v 9 U12 Wildcats Girls

Aycliffe controlled the game from the whistle. The Aycliffe girls were dominant all over the pitch, from front to back. First half the girls were hungry for goals and this showed going in at half time 4 - 0 up. Second half the defenders were comfortable on the ball bringing the ball up to support the attack. Some incredible goals today and each one of the girls completed their challenges. Our unbeaten league campaign continues.

Player of the match: Lexie, a real team player, reads the game really well, comfortable on the ball and a great link up player who turns defending into attack.

Goals: Freya x 3, Faith x 3, Ruby, Emily and Tilly.

Under 10 Angels v NSG Panthers

The game started with the Angels looking confident and playing some good football. Unfortunately a drop in concentration and a couple of mistakes allowed the Panthers to go two goals ahead. The next ten minutes saw our Angels keeping possession well and enjoying plenty of time on the ball in the attacking half of the field. Then an Angels corner was cleared from the Panthers goal mouth only to find Yasmin, who promptly fired it into the back of the net from just outside the area. A tough second half for the girls as the Panthers controlled the game.

Coaches Star Player: Yasmin. Players Star Player: Jessica.

ADULTS

As the Under 23's men's fixture programme continues to be disrupted, the women continue to get games played.

Newton Aycliffe Women 4 v 0 Durham United Ladies

With only 11 players available, Aycliffe won the toss and took advantage of the wind, straight from the first whistle Aycliffe were on the front foot, 10 minutes in and Amber broke free from her defender and crosses to Lauren, running in middle of the box finished low and hard to make it 1-0. Again Amber with another perfect cross, Christy received the ball in the 18 yard box, and finished low and hard in the bottom corner, half time 2-0.

After ten minutes of the second half, Jordan picks the ball up wide left, plays a great through ball to Lauren, who controlled well, then struck the ball leaving the keeper no chance, 3-0. A ball breaks free for Christy, she drove down the right wing and managed a cross come shot which was deflected in the back of the net by a Durham Defender, 4-0. Durham never gave up but Aycliffe were too good on the day seeing the game out to get their first clean sheet of the season final score 4-0.

whitehouse
funeral service

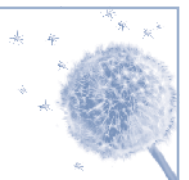


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Interested in Becoming a Town Councillor?

Dear Sir,
In 2017 Labour won 21 seats out of 30 on the Town Council. They had 17 Councillors who were unopposed in 17 seats out of 30. 1 Conservative and 12 Independent candidates stood for election, 9 Independents were elected (5 men and 4 women). If 30 Independents and others had stood, Labour would likely have lost control of the Council.
We were going to run some training courses in 2020 for those who might want to consider standing as a councillor. The next elections for Town Council are on 6th May 2021.

The Courses would have involved:

Who can stand, How to stand, Timetable of Elections, Election Addresses, Leaflets, The Processes, Rules of Debate, Code of Conduct, Declaring Interests, Social Media, Standing Orders, Chaining meetings and so forth - It's not rocket science. The idea is that if you know what is involved you can better decide if it's what you want to do, in plenty of time, then if you stand and get elected you are ready from day one of becoming a councillor to do the job.

Ideally we could do with 15 women and 15 men standing. From all backgrounds, experience and knowledge. We want Independents, Lib Dems, Conservatives as well as Labour. But such that no one political group has overall control of the Council and Councillors have to work together, co-operate for the good of the community. We need to remove the Labour Party's dictatorial control, the one-party state mentality on the Council. Bring common sense, a balanced Council, with open minds, to the issues affecting our residents. What is best for our community without the tribalism that Labour sticks rigidly to.

Councillors have three main components to their work:

Decision making - through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.

Monitoring - Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.

Getting involved locally - as local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their residents. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available, and may include:

- Going to meetings of local organisations such as tenants' associations;
- Going to meetings of bodies affecting the wider community;
- Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public;
- Meeting with individual residents.

Are you interested?

If so, please send your name, address and contact details to:
Cllr Arun M Chandran, 88 Honister Place, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7DN
email: arunmchandran@aol.com
Cllr Ken Robson, 35 Priestman Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4EY
email: kenrobson71@gmail.com
Cllr Arun M Chandran and Cllr Ken Robson
Putting You the Community First

Christmas Day Dinner

Dear Sir,
For the last few years Junction 7 have provided Christmas Dinners at different venues. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we cannot do the same this year. However, we are going to deliver a Christmas Dinner and extras to people who will be facing Christmas alone. This is partially funded by Livin, community donations and through our own fundraising.

If you know someone who will struggle with the cost of Christmas Dinner and is alone please contact us

Email: junc7tion@gmail.com
Tel: 07851 723647 or 07783 539167
Find us on face book: Junction7



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Weekly Programme Schedule

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEWTON AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT

"Aycliffe Town Centre... Shopping for You"



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

Updates from MP Paul Howell at 12noon daily

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

9-10am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	Random Reiki Master	Phil Hawkins
12-2pm	Country & Americana Show	David Ringer
Blues Show Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service		
2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin & Monica
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6-7.30pm	Jazz Time	Mike Dixon
8-10pm	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	BeatRoots	Graeme Roote

FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	13th Nov - 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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Parliament Talk

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Virtual Surgeries

Thursday 12th November - Covid-19 Regulations

Thursday 19th November - Universal Credit & Benefits Advice

Thursday 26th November - Rural Broadband issues

Last week I ended by saying that as we were going into recess for a week, I should have chance to catch my breath. To say that I was overly optimistic was an understatement. Firstly, discussions on the Northern Research Group, NRG, attracted media attention. This was caused by a letter we were sending to the PM being leaked and then spun as if we were rebels. I ended up talking to both newspapers and radio to explain our intentions. What we are trying to do is ensure that amongst all the many issues that the PM is dealing with that he keeps us front and centre in his thoughts. Later in the week I was involved with the Tees Valley MPs and Government in discussions about a possible move to Tier 3 Covid-19 regulations but before this could conclude it became apparent that a more national approach was to be implemented and so this discussion was paused. We then had several discussions around this prospect and many representations were made by me and other colleagues on the specifics. These were largely driven by our in-bound emails and my representations were, therefore, primarily on golf (where I would declare an interest!), gyms and swimming pools (where I am less involved), and church services (where I probably should go more often!), all of these were given the same support.

As you will be aware this is written by Tuesday and we will be debating these proposals on Wednesday so you will know the outcome by now. We are at a critical juncture so, whatever restrictions are determined, please follow them.

On a different note it is an opportune time to reflect on the last year. It is just over a year now since the General Election was called and I was chosen to be the Conservative candidate for Sedgefield. I could not possibly have imagined what the following year would bring. November and early December were of course campaigning months. They started with hope that changed quickly to optimism and then on Thursday 12th December you voted overwhelmingly for a Conservative Government and for me to represent you for the Sedgefield Constituency.

After the initial whirlwind of having the Prime Minister come to Sedgefield, to celebrate the victory, this was rapidly followed by joining my fellow local new Conservative Members of Parliament in our first trip to Westminster on Monday 16th December. Over the next few days we did everything from basic inductions through to attending the Queen's Speech and then voting Brexit through. When I was working to be selected to be the candidate for you I spoke to a sitting MP who said to me that before you are elected no one wants to know you but afterwards everyone does. It is only after being elected that you understand the extent of that statement. My post, both physical and email, was immediately immense. I received communications on just about any subject

you could name and in very significant quantities. This gave me an immediate realisation of the breadth of subjects you become involved with as an MP. The immediate practical realisations are that you need to employ your own staff, set up your own offices and sort accommodation in London. You then start the day job, for which there is no manual or job description. My background in industry and as a local councillor give me particular areas to start to focus in, resulting in me joining the BEIS Select Committee and chairing the APPG for Left Behind communities. Whilst this provides two significant areas of work it does not mitigate you from needing to understand so many other subjects. For instance, subjects like food standards that both residents and local farmers have an obvious interest in, but may have different outcomes in mind. Or, I could also be asked to represent views on a result of some other agenda that constituents have an opinion on, an example could be Military Veterans. This range of things to consider means that as an MP you are rarely an expert, but rather you have the opportunity to make direct contact with those that are. The access we have been given to Ministers and their staff has been incredible and I continue to be amazed by the depth of knowledge I can tap into and their patience in explaining things. This has been particularly relevant as the Coronavirus pandemic hit. This pandemic has clearly made a massive difference in our Government's ability to progress its Manifesto but, it has shown to me the incredible level of work done by Ministers in so many departments to support people like me in trying to respond to their constituents. I certainly understand that there is a hierarchy of knowledge. There are things you know, there are things you know you don't know, but there are also many, many things you don't even know you don't know! As they say, every day is a school day. Whilst I try to consider every vote in the context of what I think the people of Sedgefield would like me to do, it continues to surprise me that some people complain that I am always voting with the government. I am sure that there will, on occasion, be issues that may cause me not to vote with the Government but at the end of the day I was elected on the basis of the Conservative Party manifesto which this Government is trying to deliver, so it is quite appropriate for me to normally vote with the Government. Unfortunately, this pandemic has somewhat scuppered my plans to be as accessible to members of the public at Constituency surgeries and meetings. As the situation appeared to be changing for the better over the summer my office had plans to restart face to face meetings in different locations around the Constituency, but this is obviously now not possible. As an interim measure my office will be holding Virtual Surgeries on Thursday afternoons

at 4pm. We thought that the best way to do this virtually was by subject rather than the traditional constituency geographic location. Therefore, the first three Virtual Surgeries will be as follows:

Thursday 12th November

Covid-19 regulations.

Thursday 19th November

Universal Credit & Benefits Advice.

Thursday 26th November

Rural Broadband issues.

If you would like to book a slot at one of these surgeries please email my office paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk and we will book you a slot and send the necessary Zoom invitation. I will put out continuing dates and subjects each week within this column and on social media to keep residents up to date. Please, if you have an urgent enquiry do contact my office as normal, so that we can assist you. You certainly do not have to wait for a virtual surgery slot.

As I said earlier it is a critical time in the fight against Covid-19 so please remember:

HANDS - FACE - SPACE

Wash your Hands regularly.

Wear a Mask on your Face where required.

Give people Space.

Please follow the new regulations for November that will hopefully put us in a better place for December.

Stay safe and have a good week.

Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

NEWTON NEWS IS HERE FOR YOU

Newton News will continue printing and publishing weekly editions of the Newton News during the November 2020 lockdown restrictions.

Our delivery personnel will be regularly updated with items required to continue distributing the magazines to Newton Aycliffe residents with hand gel, gloves and masks. If you wish to place an advertisement, send a letter to the editor or keep the local residents up to date on your organisation, church activities, please email the editor directly on paul@newtonnews.co.uk Newton Press offices will continue to be open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 5.00pm, to assist with any print orders you may require including all your business printing and advertising requirements, Christmas cards, brochures, leaflets and anything else you need.

Local Business News

Safety First for Local Manufacturer

BTS Facades and Fabrications, which is based in Newton Aycliffe and manufactures metal rainscreens and facades for the construction industry, has launched the Vantage Secret Fix-Full System (SF-FS), a rainscreen wall system that can be used in both new builds and refurbishment projects. The system has been subject to stringent fire safety procedures, and is believed to be the first in the UK to have been tested to the most recent BS 8414 standard.



Mark Wiper, BTS' technical manager, said: "Production on the project was initially launched in April 2020 – just as the coronavirus lockdown was in full force.

"Through the dedication and commitment of our supply chain partners, the system has been delivered to market in record time, allowing us to meet the latest safety test standard."

BS 8414 is British Standard to assess the fire safety of cladding applied to the external face of a building by mimicking a blaze breaking out of a window. It was most recently revised in April 2020, and it is this latest standard that the SF-FS has met.

Mark said: "Our team and our partners worked hard throughout lockdown to make sure the system was ready to be tested as soon as the new regulations came into force, and I'm extremely proud that all the effort has paid off. Our ability to demonstrate compliance with BS 8414 gives us technical credibility that, for some specifiers, can be a pre-requisite for tender opportunities, giving us an important advantage over our competitors."

The testing result is an important boost for BTS, which recorded a 20 per cent increase in turnover in 2019, as the team look to the future after a challenging 2020.

Mark added: "We launched this project during lockdown, and this clearly proves our ambition and desire to be best in our sector.

"Whilst, like most other businesses, we have suffered in a difficult market, we have plans to rebuild and grow from April onwards as we move into our next financial year.

"The development of SF-FS represents a significant investment in time, money and resources and is testament to the directors' vision for the future direction and success of BTS.

"This level of testing gives clients the confidence in our system knowledge - and in our ability to bring projects to market, no matter how difficult the circumstances."

For more information about BTS Facades and Fabrications, visit btsfabrications.co.uk

Photo: (left to right) BTS managing director Phil Atkinson, company secretary Marcia Atkinson and technical manager Mark Wiper.

Council Among Top 100 UK Employers for Apprenticeships



A North East council has been acknowledged as one of the top employers in the country for its apprenticeship opportunities. Durham County Council was awarded a place in the government's Top 100 Apprenticeships Employers list announced last week, joining ten other local authorities who have made the list.

Made up of employers from the public and private sector, the list celebrates outstanding apprenticeship employers in industries such as engineering, banking, healthcare, retailing, local government, accountancy and the charity sector.

The council has ranked 91st in the list in recognition of its work to create apprenticeship opportunities for residents. The council currently has 259 apprentices working in a wide range of roles across its services and schools, including catering, accounting, construction and business administration.

Since the apprenticeship levy was introduced in April 2017, the council has taken on 418 new apprentices and 433 upskilling apprentices across its services and schools, a total of 851 apprenticeship starts in three years.

New in 2020, the Top 100 Apprenticeships Employers list showcases the very best of the UK's large apprenticeship employers who have been recognised for providing some of the most successful apprenticeship programmes over the last 12 months.

The list helps potential apprentices, parents, and careers advisers identify the best apprenticeship opportunities with the highest performing apprentice employers.

Apprenticeships help business of all sizes to grow, giving people of any age or background a chance to learn new skills and get ahead in their chosen career.

The council joins City of Lincoln Council, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Leeds City Council, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Hertfordshire County Council, Medway Council, Chesterfield Borough Council, Rochdale Borough Council, Salford City Council, and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority – making it the only local authority in the North East to have made the Top 100 list.

Find out more about apprenticeship opportunities with the council by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/apprenticeships



Paul Howell

Member of Parliament
for Sedgefield

paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk

Telephone: 020 7219 6385

Mobile: 07464 898442

Aycliffe Office: 01325 790580



NEW APPRENTICESHIP STARTS ARE UP BY 32% AT SWDT

A Newton Aycliffe engineering training provider has announced its new apprenticeship starts are up nearly a third this autumn. The excellent news for South West Durham Training coincides with the launch of a national campaign promoting engineering to young people.



The Royal Academy of Engineering is running the second 'This is Engineering Day' on Wednesday (November 4th), themed 'Be the difference', to encourage more young people from all backgrounds to take up engineering careers. RAE has released figures showing that every year the UK is short of up to 59,000 engineers, while only 12% of the engineering workforce are female and just 9% are from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

The Academy says the narrow image of an engineer is reinforced online by endless pictures of white men in hard hats, deterring the next generation from joining the profession. It has released a number of films focusing on nine real-life engineering heroes whose work helps make a difference in the world. See: [youtube.com/watch?v=OlvmX1KNlw&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlvmX1KNlw&feature=youtu.be) From mitigating flooding and addressing climate change to making farming easier and improving healthcare, they show young people how they can 'Be the difference' if they choose engineering as a career, no matter what subjects they enjoy at school.

South West Durham Training has been training the engineers of the future for more than 50 years from its state-of-the-art training centre in Aycliffe Business Park, and supports a wide range of engineering employers across the region.

Chief Executive Stuart Johnson said: "We are delighted to report that our new apprenticeship starts are up by 32% this autumn, particularly given the difficult current economic conditions. We have seen a combination of existing employers growing their apprenticeship provision and improving their investment with us and new employers taking more apprentices on, which is excellent news given the national shortage of engineers the Academy is highlighting today."

One of SWDT's current apprentices, Steven Lowe-Smith, an Engineering Technician at Mill Masters International in Newton Aycliffe, is also urging other young people interested in engineering to take an apprenticeship.

Steven, 18, of Newton Aycliffe, who is taking an Advanced Apprenticeship in Engineering Technician - Toolmaking and Tool Die Maintenance (Standard), said: "I've done a range of different subjects, including pneumatics, machining, electrical and mechanical maintenance. From working with a range of different tutors I have picked up practical and theory based skills which I can put together to help me in the workplace. I would recommend this apprenticeship due to the massive range of different activities – practical and theory – that we do."

Dr Hayaatun Sillem CBE, Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Engineering, added: "Today we're calling for even more partners to celebrate This is Engineering Day as we continue our work to transform the image of engineering so that many more talented young people from all backgrounds can see a future for themselves in this vital and rewarding profession."

• *South West Durham Training, which has also launched a new website to coincide with 'This is Engineering Day' at swdt.co.uk, is holding a virtual open event from 5pm to 7pm on Thursday 26th November. Register to take part at bacoll.ac.uk/events*

Junction 7 Covid-19 Lockdown Preparations

Dear Sir,

Food Parcels

The last lockdown encountered so many food parcels being prepared . . . this time we believe it will be the same again, people not being able to work, people struggling to buy food. We will be taking referrals through agencies such as Livin, social services, One Point, the Job Centre, Durham Locate and the Police. A self referral will require evidence of need. We will also offer our shopping service to those who cannot get out to shop, but have the finances to buy food.

Take Away Food

We will also continue our take-out food as this also is a service for vulnerable people, this will involve collection or delivery as required (Government guidelines will be followed in these cases).

The surplus food will continue to be collected and we are looking at ways of how we can distribute this fairly and safely.

Volunteers Required

We urgently require more volunteers to deliver foodbank parcels, do shopping for vulnerable people, collect surplus food on the evenings; your own transport is essential. If you would like to volunteer please contact us:

Email: junc7tion@gmail.com

Facebook: Junction 7

Tel: 07783 539167 or 07851 723647

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NEW GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT SAFE CARE HOME VISITS DURING LOCKDOWN

All care home residents in England should be allowed to receive visits from their family and friends in a Covid-secure way – with social distancing and PPE - following new guidance to be used while national restrictions are in place from Thursday 5 November. The guidance will enable care home providers, families and local professionals to work together to find the right balance between the benefits of visiting on wellbeing and quality of life, and the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to social care staff and vulnerable residents.

It will set out clear principles for how visits are conducted – with arrangements to be adapted from home to home, based on the needs of their residents and taking into consideration factors such as layout and facilities - and reiterates the importance of ensuring social distancing and proper PPE use is observed.

Options for safe care home visits in line with the guidance could include:

- Visits using Covid-secure visiting areas/pods with floor to ceiling screens and windows where the visitor and resident enter through different entrances, are separated by screens and visitors do not need to enter or pass through the care home;
- Visits at windows, where the visitor doesn't need to come inside the care home or where the visitor remains in their car, and the resident is socially distanced;
- Outdoor visits with one other person - visitors can meet outside with a loved one, in areas which can be accessed without anyone going through a shared building and;
- Further support for virtual visits, encouraging the use of video calls.

Plans are currently being developed to allow specific family and friends to visit care homes supported by testing. A sector-led group is overseeing the development of these plans with trials set to begin later this month.

A new national programme for weekly testing of professionals who regularly visit care homes, including community nurses and physiotherapists, will also be rolled out in the coming weeks following a successful pilot in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Northamptonshire.

Health and Social Care Secretary, Matt Hancock, said: "I know how heart-breaking and incredibly frustrating it has been for families and friends who haven't been able to see their loved ones during the pandemic.

"Care homes should feel empowered by this new guidance to look at safe options to allow visits to care homes that suit their residents and facilities. We've seen some really innovative solutions used to

help families see each other safely, face-to-face, which has been life-changing for some.

"It is vital high quality, compassionate care and infection control remains at the heart of every single care home to protect staff and resident's lives, but we must allow families to reunite in the safest way possible."

Minister for Care, Helen Whately said: "I know how incredibly hard visiting restrictions have been for families, friends and residents in care homes. There is no escaping the pain and the very real consequences of being separated for such a long period of time. The accounts I have heard personally are truly heart-breaking, especially where care homes have been unable to reopen for visiting during the summer.

"I am determined to bring loved ones back together even during this second wave of the pandemic; that's why I am advising care homes to enable Covid-secure visits across the country.

"We are also working to trial testing for visitors, so that we can reduce the risk of indoor visits and give families more opportunities to spend time with relatives in care homes.

"We must get the balance right between reuniting families and ensuring care staff and residents are safe from COVID-19."

The government is also working with providers to help them communicate to families and help them plan visits in a way that minimises the wider risks – for example, avoiding travelling to and from the home using public transport, or maintaining social distance from other families when they arrive at the home for their visit.

Visits outside of these principles should still be allowed in exceptional circumstances such as end of life.

Care homes should support the NHS Test and Trace system by keeping a temporary record, including address and phone number, of current and previous residents, staff and visitors as well as keeping track of visitor numbers and staff. It is recommended homes have an arrangement to enable bookings or appointments for visitors and ad hoc visits should not be permitted.

Protecting staff and residents has been a priority throughout the pandemic, with 120,000 tests being sent out every day solely for the care sector. The government has provided access to £3.7 billion for local authorities through un-ringfenced grants so they can address the expenditure pressures they are facing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including social care, as well as £1.1 billion provided to support infection control in care homes.

In addition, 11,000 iPad tablets, worth £7.5 million, will soon be distributed to thousands of care homes across England to help residents keep in touch with loved ones.

Greenfield Students Take Up Extra Opportunities

Students at Greenfield Community College have settled well this term in a safe and supportive environment. Learning opportunities have also seen an added dimension through an extensive extra-curricular programme.

Led by Mr Butterworth, Subject Leader for PE, the programme has attracted students from a range of year groups. "We launched the extra-curricular programme three weeks ago and have had an extremely successful uptake so far. Students from Year 7-10 have attended a range of sports that are on offer. We currently have 18 clubs running over the course of the week, a great start to the year" said Mr Butterworth.

There has been a number of challenges in the planning and organisation of the programme, with the current COVID pandemic, but staff have been fully committed to creating an extensive offer for students and have fully followed regulations in place to ensure the students can continue to access activities in an enjoyable and safe way.

The extra-curricular programme has been further supported by the reintroduction of the annual House competition 'Race to Tokyo'. This competition sees students in year 7 and 8 gain mileage for their respective tutor group for every club attended in a race to achieve the mileage from Newton Aycliffe to Tokyo first. Tokyo is the venue of the 2021 Olympic games and this house competition has proved very successful, once again providing additional motivation to attend



extra-curricular clubs. Prizes for most committed pupils are awarded at the annual Sports Presentation Evening. Well done to all involved. Greenfield Community College is a Specialist Arts and Science School and is committed to providing extended opportunities to support students to reach their full potential. Greenfield Community College promotes an inclusive curriculum encouraging students to work together to realise an outstanding learning experience. If you would like to find out more visit www.greenfieldschool.net or contact the school by emailing contact@greenfieldschool.net or by calling 01325 300378.

Supporting Safer Homes Across County Durham

Vulnerable residents across County Durham are being offered support to feel safer in their own homes.

The 3 Towns Partnership, one of Durham County Council's 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs), has awarded just over £5,000 to the Safer Homes project to support residents in the Crook, Tow Law and Willington areas.

Safer Homes is a project run by the council in partnership with Durham Constabulary and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service to help offer a sense of security to victims of crime and vulnerable members of the community.

As well as offering people crime and fire safety advice, Safer Homes offers practical help to make homes safer, by providing items such as light timers, door alarms and shed alarms.

Rather than relying on people to access the service themselves, the project reaches people in their own homes and allows residents an opportunity to meet, speak and engage with their local officers.

Cllr Brian Stephens, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "It is great to see the 3 Towns Partnership supporting the Safer Homes project and helping our isolated and vulnerable residents across Crook, Tow Law and Willington to feel more secure, particularly as we approach the winter months.

"The Safer Homes project also highlights the benefit that partnership work brings to our communities and the difference that can be made when we continue to work together. This partnership work is more important than ever in this challenging environment in order to best support our residents across the county."

Inspector Ed Turner, who runs the local police team, said: "The funding that has been provided by the 3 Towns Partnership to support our ongoing community safety work will really make a difference. The 3 Towns area is already a safe place to live and work but these funds will enable us to make it even safer and help those that are vulnerable or have been a victim of crime by providing them with reassurance, support and advice to make their homes and lives better."

To find out more about the Safer Homes project, or how neighbours or relatives might benefit from home, fire and crime safety advice, email saferhomes@ddfire.gov.uk or call 0191 375 5561.

Residents can also find out more about the work of their local AAP on the council's website: www.durham.gov.uk/AAPs

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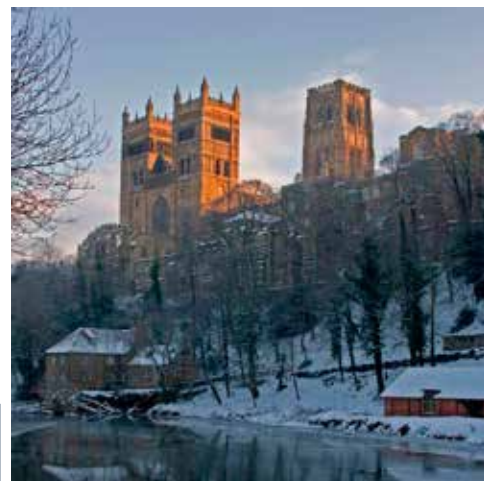
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Joint Christmas Appeal 'Comfort and Joy'

Durham Cathedral and County Durham Community Foundation are coming together to launch 'Comfort and Joy', a joint Christmas appeal, giving members of the public an opportunity to reach out to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the problem of social isolation is now more acute than ever. The aim of this appeal is to share the warmth and friendship of the Christmas season with individuals and families whose lives have been affected.

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Vue Cinema Winner

Congratulations to Sarah-Jane Foster who is the latest winner of tickets for the Vue Cinema in Darlington.

Watch Newton News for more competitions (when restrictions permit).

£7 or £10, it will be possible to send a specially-designed Christmas card, featuring the Cathedral and signed by the Dean, to a stranger or a loved one who may be feeling more isolated than usual.

Proceeds of the appeal will be shared between the two partner organisations, enabling them to continue supporting people across the region during the coming second period of coronavirus restrictions, and beyond.

Cards will be delivered, on behalf of the appeal, by six local charities already making a difference in their communities: PACT House, Women Today NE, Faith in Our Communities, Lifeline Community Action, Handcrafted Projects, and Just for Women. These charities dedicate their time to caring for at-risk and isolated people in the North East, including low-income families, the homeless, and those with mental health conditions.

Michelle Cooper, CEO of the Foundation, said: "This year has been hard on people; especially those close to the headline, so we want to bring a moment of happiness to someone who might benefit from a reminder that people really do care. Funds raised for the Foundation will go towards our Covid-19 Recovery Fund – helping communities to rebuild in the months ahead. It's wonderful to be doing all of this in conjunction with Durham's biggest heritage building – which symbolises hope for so many people." Gaye Kirby, Head of Development and Strategy at the Cathedral, said: "We have hugely admired the work of County Durham Community Foundation during the current pandemic and are delighted to be joining together with them for our 'Comfort and Joy' Christmas appeal. At a time when we are less able to be together in person, finding ways to stay connected and reach out to those who may be more isolated is so important. Donating to the appeal will not only support both the Cathedral and the Foundation, it will also make a valuable connection with those most vulnerable in our region."

For more information or to make a donation to the 'Comfort and Joy' appeal, visit <https://localgiving.org/charity/durhamcathedral/project/Comfort-and-Joy>

Sudoku

5		3		1		6		
	2	9			7	3		
	6				3		5	9
				9	6	2		4
		4	3			5	6	
2			5				9	3
9	4				2			
3				4	5			
	5		9			4		

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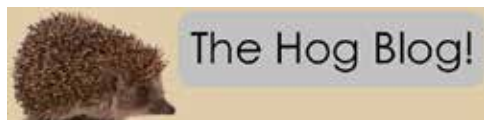
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COUNCILS SEEK ASSURANCE OF FAIR & SUSTAINABLE GOVERNMENT FUNDING

North East councils are calling on the Government for a financial settlement that allows them to continue responding to the

coronavirus pandemic while providing the services people rely upon. Writing on behalf of all 12 local authorities in the region, Cllr. Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council and chair of the Association of North East Councils, is seeking an assurance that resources will be made available in the Local Government Financial Settlement, as local authorities consider their budgets for 2021/22 and medium-term financial plans. In a letter to Robert Jenrick, the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, Cllr. Henig explains that keeping funding at its current levels will simply not cover the shortfalls faced due to ongoing pressures in social care, national living wage increases and other challenges caused by the pandemic. He highlights how councils across the region have been working tirelessly to support communities and businesses during the outbreak, and says it is critical local authorities are not left in the position of having to cut budgets going forward. Cllr. Henig writes: "We need a settlement that does not require us to make cuts to services going forward and which allows us to concentrate on our response, and recovery from, coronavirus." In the letter, Cllr. Henig sets out the key areas in which councils require support from the Government. This includes certainty and the timing of the Local Government Finance Settlement, with leaders urging the minister for a long-term and sustainable package of support and for the details of this to be shared as soon as possible. He ends the letter by emphasising the importance of extending the additional funding to cover the expenditure pressures and income loss caused by the outbreak into the next financial year. Cllr. Henig said: "This letter has been sent because all twelve North East councils agree that these issues need to be resolved

urgently, and by mid-November at the latest, to allow us to plan our budgets. "To do this, we need assurances that our region will receive a fair and sustainable financial settlement that recognises the challenges we face."



This week has been very busy and special in many ways, there are a lot of people out there who have gone to special trouble to help us help our beautiful prickly pals, firstly our friends and neighbours Alison and John, Sonya of Merz Road for donating food, also Mr and Mrs Clayton for their donation of food which I may say Cerys, who Pat rescued, is enjoying.

I also want to express a big thank you to Tara, she has not only helped me with baby hogs but came fundraising with me to Scorton indoor market last Sunday morning which meant leaving town at 5.30am, quite a big ask on a Sunday, turned out OK, giving our funds a much needed boost.

We have to fundraise because we have a lot of babies that will be here till April, maybe about 16 for overwintering and with a lockdown, whilst we are still helping the hoggies fundraising stops, we are caring, feeding and keeping them warm all the time. I have to say all hedgehogs in our care are doing very nicely, still very small but gaining weight every day.

Can I ask everybody to watch out for our wildlife, our hedgehogs face many difficult challenges in the wild but this time of year is particularly harsh, it's also worrying the amount of small hogs we have here that would surely die out in this extreme weather, we try to take them in wherever possible but we aren't without our limitations. All us rescues are not in a position to turn a very small hog away even if it means purchasing more cages.

Weekly Tip: Please visit website Hedgehog Street or The People's Trust for Endangered Species, for ideas on how to help these lovely mammals, they not only need it but deserve our support and help.

BHPS can also advise on 01584 890801.

Birthday Remembrance

Elizabeth Reid
11th November 1932

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All my love Mam
From Carol
and all the family xx

In Memoriam

John O'Kane

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Greatly missed by all the family

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3rd April 1965 -
8th November 2001
We hold you close within our hearts, to walk with us throughout our lives, until we meet again.
Mum, Dad, Sister Helen, Nieces Laura and Millie xxxxxx

Ethel Johnson

22 years ago we lost you. Not a day goes by without thinking of you.
Always in our hearts Mam.
Love from Stephen and Michael xxxx

Acknowledgement

Eric Preston

David and Thelma would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kind thoughts and condolences following Eric's death.

We would also like to thank Aycliffe Care Home for the loving care given to him in his last days.

The Doctors and Nurses of Peaseway Surgery; Louise McGilloway for her support, time and loyalty.

Finally to Gordon Fletcher and Sons, who handled the arrangements sympathetically in these difficult times.

Obituary

John William Twigger



Peacefully on November 1st aged 97 years.

Beloved Husband of the late Connie, sorely missed Dad Of John, Father-in-Law of Bernadette, adored Grandad of Matthew & Natalie and Great Grandad of Rose & George.

Will forever be in our hearts.

Pat Bailey
(Kathleen)

Peacefully on 28th October, aged 91 years.

A beloved Mam, Grandma, Great Grandma and Great Grandma.

Funeral Service and committal to be held at Darlington Crematorium on Monday 16th November at 10.45am.

Private funeral due to the current restrictions.

**For all your print requirements
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Thelma Cowan

11th November 2017
Thinking of our lovely Mam and Grandma today and every day.
We love you and miss you always.
Peter, John, Dawn, Graeme, Debbie, Jill, Tyler, Emily and Aidan xxxxx

Jackie Piggott

16th November 2019
A year has passed without you, my heart aches in sadness.
My silent tears flow, what it meant to lose you Jackie, no one will ever know.
Your loving Wife Norah xxxx

Heighington AFC Juniors

Wear United U9's 2-3 Heighington U9's
Heighington U9's got back to winning ways recently with a fantastic passing display from the whole team. It was one way traffic from the kick off as the new look formation clicked into play nicely at the right time. Matty produced a solid display in his new role as the midfield general and Lucas took to his new role as the teams striker and talisman with two emphatic first half strikes to send Heighington into a commanding two goal lead.

Isaac and Logan produced a defensive master class at the back with the opposition only having one shot in the first half. Jamie produced a great assist and James ran tirelessly up and down the wings creating plenty of chances and helping in defensive duties. As the pressure mounted in the second half Oliver held firm up front with his blistering pace, enabling the team to have an outlet whilst under pressure, narrowly missing the goal on two occasions.

The pivotal moment came in the second half when Mitchell found himself in space just inside his own half and drove a looping



shot over the keeper and into the top corner to make it 3-1 with 10 minutes to go. Wear United scored from a corner with 2 minutes to go, but the defence saw off any threat at the end with the Heighington boys ending the game victorious. The boys gave absolutely everything they had in the tank for these points and played with their hearts on their sleeve.

MOTM = whole team.

Riverside Juniors Whites 3-7 Heighington Whites

Heighington Whites looking to continue their away winning run after a recent win at Bishop St Mary's. First half they started well and had a few chances but unfortunately they didn't go our way, it turned into a scrappy game and the opposition took full advantage of that and went 3-0 up. Our boys didn't stop playing our way and some great defending with Chris Abrams clearing one off the line to keep it 3-0 at half time. Second half and a change in formation for the Whites turned into a smart move. The lads started getting the ball and passing through them like the Riverside Junior's weren't there.

Nathan McKenna got one back quickly followed by a Cruz Denton penalty then with a beautiful through ball by Charlie Murrey to free Nathan McKenna to pull the Whites level. McKenna, again, with a brilliant run after Chris Abrams, (captain for the day) through ball put us 4-3 ahead and completed his first league hat trick for the Whites. Riverside Juniors came back at us but the defence second half was fantastic they gave it everything, well done Cameron, Joseph, Johnson, Cole, Charlie, Oscar, Oliver and Finley. Daniel Bennett-Scott eventually got his first of the season, with a well timed run and finished to make it 5-3 to the Whites. Nathan McKenna again, with his fourth of the game, put us 6-3 up, with another well timed run and finish after a Wilko power kick from their corner. Then my favourite moment of the game Daniel Bennett-Scott won our second penalty of the half and gave the honours to birthday boy Joseph Wilkinson, our super keeper, who stepped up and put the game to bed. Every single one of them were fantastic in the second half and the team spirit was amazing.

MOTM's went to Nathan McKenna and Joseph Wilkinson, but every member of the team showed that they can play football and have all done themselves and the club

proud, well done lads keep it up.

Thank you to everyone for your support it means a lot to me and the boys. Thank you Mark Brown for all your help and support.

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