

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

Roman at Home Support St. Teresa's Hospice

See page 2 for more



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PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgefield



LOCAL COUPLE LAUNCH A UNIQUE BUSINESS

Inside the Box is a mobile bar and catering unit available for both private and commercial hire and it's been built right

Christmas Care Home Competition Count Down

Dear Sir,
Listen up all you Christmas Decorators, remember my challenge for the best photographs of your Nursing Homes. **Well now it is getting SERIOUS.** You only have a short time to send your photos to Newton News for the chance to win a lovely tin of Choccies. Come on now Guys and Dolls, I really thought you would **ALL** get into this challenge, please don't let me down.
I realise how busy you all are, but this is only once a year, if you expect some surprises in your socks or stockings, get going, make me a happy little gnome.
Please send your care home "Christmassy" photos to paul@newtonnews.co.uk
Thank you lots.
Pam Lovelass



here, in Newton Aycliffe. Over the course of 2020, Adam and his wife Sharna have been working with local contractors, supporting them throughout the COVID outbreak and in turn delivering what they believe is the best mobile bar on the market.

"Our vintage horsebox has not just had a paint job and a fridge put in it, it's a state of the art unit with 4G broadband, contactless payments, and draught alcohol systems, not to mention it's full ground-up rebuild thanks to the people of Aycliffe."

They have relied heavily on great contractors and individuals on the town to bring this project together including local body shops, fabricators, plumbers, electricians and even alcohol suppliers.

Adam, who already works in the hospitality industry with his existing business, said; "There is a massive gap in the market that needs filling in the local area, especially due to the events of 2020. People are trying to re-arrange weddings, missed out on important celebrations and are looking for opportunities to meet up with their friends and family in a safe way, once restrictions are lifted, this bar delivers all of that."

Recently completed, it is currently sited at Croft Christmas Trees, near Darlington, for the festive period serving a range of hot drinks and treats and Adam & Sharna invite you along to its first outing.

The unit is available for hire throughout 2021 in a range of configurations but as a starting point, it begins life as Rory's Bar, named after their Red Labrador.

"We wanted to name the configuration with meaning and in a bar that is full of quirks, our crazy lab was the perfect solution to the problem," said Sharna.

So, if you are looking for something different, it can fit in your back garden for a private party, become a bar in a remote location for a wedding or be hired out to other hospitality-related businesses to extend their existing services.

To find out more about Inside the Box, or speak to Adam and Sharna, you can visit the website at www.thinkinsidethebox.uk or follow them on social media.

Roman at Home Support St. Teresa's Hospice

Luxury online homewares retailer, Roman at Home (www.romanathome.com), were delighted to donate an assortment of slate accessories to a local charity, St. Teresa's Hospice, following the enforcement of a second national lockdown which forced charity shops and non-essential businesses to close their doors again.

Darlington based charity, St. Teresa's Hospice, provide amazing end of life care and support to residents of South Durham and North Yorkshire, and their carers. Roman at Home donated slate products to the value of over £1,000 for sale in the hospice's charity shops to help raise much needed funds in a time of uncertainty and difficulty. This included Afternoon Tea Sets; Plaques and Chalkboards; a Variety of Place Mats and Coasters; and Garden Markers. Jane Bradshaw, Chief Executive at St. Teresa's Hospice, commented: "It was wonderful to learn of the team at Roman's very generous gesture. Everyone at St. Teresa's Hospice is incredibly grateful that they have chosen to donate over £1,000 worth of products at such a difficult time. We have enjoyed a close relationship with Roman for over 20 years and they have been committed supporters of the Hospice, raising tens of thousands of pounds over that time, and donating fabulous products for us to raffle at events such as our annual Ball. Like many charities, St. Teresa's survival as a provider of vital services has been severely threatened this year due to the global pandemic, and support such as this is vital to help us raise funds to keep services open for patients needing urgent help and support". "We have always tried to support this really special charity and this is such a difficult time for us all" says Roman's CEO, David Osborne.

Photo: Left to right; Communications and Marketing Manager at St. Teresa's Hospice, John Paul Stabler with Marketing and Communications Manager at Roman, Sophie Stanwix.

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(NEW LANE/TRAVELLERS GREEN, NEWTON AYLCLIFFE) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2020

The Council proposes to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular traffic from proceeding on approx 200m section of New Lane/Travellers Green, Newton Aycliffe from the junction with Gilpin Rd in an easterly direction to enable carriageway resurfacing works to be undertaken. No alternative route will be signposted for this closure. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence from 9am to 3pm daily on 14/12/20 and are anticipated to be completed in 3 days. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly. Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles on an emergency call.

Dated: 27th November 2020



Helen Lynch
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL

Festive Activities at Greenfield Arts

Greenfield Arts are looking forward to their popular free festive craft opportunity. Join artist Dawn Belshaw for our seasonal activity and make something wonderful from materials found at home.

This season we are adopting 'a climate of change' and are celebrating the season with two holiday workshops suitable for age 8+. Sessions will be held on Monday 21st December from 10.30am - 12.00noon (Greenfield Arts) and Tuesday 22nd December from 1.30pm - 3:00pm (Shildon Civic Hall).

This year we will be making crafty Christmas trees that will be lovely to make, decorate and share at home. Please bring an old book with you to the session.

To find out more about our programme or to book a place via our website just visit greenfield-arts.co.uk and use the simple online form to reserve your place. For further details email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or call our friendly team on 01325 379048.



Supporting Families



The Supporting Families team would like to give a huge thank you to Aldi for a supply of nappies during this difficult Covid-19 time. We really appreciate Aldi's help.

We would also like to record our thanks to Rotary Aycliffe for their kind donation which enabled us to get a stock of nappies which in turn helped struggling families. We really appreciate the support.

We also need to thank Lori, Jan, Assunta, Freda and Joyce, from Avon Court, who donated money, toys and clothes to help us. Sheena, Yvonne, Liz, Rachel and Bob.



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Supporting Families have received some For Aisha Baby Food. Mild curried chicken Dhal with lentils (only flavour), expiry date is 8th December 2020. Suitable for stage two, from 7 months old.

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Golden Charter

Wheely Returned

Dear Sir,
Thank you for printing my recent letter about our wheely bin that had been taken. I would like to thank our postman and his dog walking friend, who informed me of a bin that had been left on the old railway lines, just behind Playdays Nursery.
We found the bin dumped alongside a for sale sign that had also been taken the same night. There were also numerous empty bottles and cans.
Could I also thank the lady who kindly offered us her spare wheely bin if ours had not been returned.
Thank you.
Name and address supplied

Contact the Council or Councillors First



Dear Sir,
With reference to the letter in last weeks Newton News, headed: 'Fly Tipping Will Attract Vermin Around Shops'. I would like to thank your correspondent, Mr Bob Forrest of Simpasture Fisheries, for raising this fly tipping issue. However, he stated that there had been 'no response' from the authorities, I would like to point out that this is incorrect on this particular occasion. As with the previous correspondence related to the 'Damaged Sign' in the previous week's edition, I would like to confirm and provide confidence to Mr Forrest, and your readers, that Durham County Council did take prompt action on this fly tipping (see photos).

I reported this on Wednesday 11th November after being contacted by Walkers the Butcher of Simpasture Gate. By Thursday 12th November the Council Warden had carried out an investigation to try and identify the possible culprits and called in at a number of residents homes that live in and around that area, this was to highlight the shopkeepers concerns and raise awareness about the impact of fly tipping and untidy yards on local businesses and the environment. The waste material was subsequently removed and the bins emptied on week beginning Monday 16th November. Once again, I have demonstrated that there is no need to contact Newton News, you will get a quicker response by contacting Durham County Council online at: <https://doitonline.durham.gov.uk>
If you are still not satisfied with the response from this service, please contact your local Councillor, before raising it in the local media.
Kind regards
Cllr Eddy Adam

Power in the Hands of the People

Dear Sir,
I would like to congratulate the Newton News for reporting the range of good work that goes on in our area, ranging from community support groups, schools and employers. I always look forward to reading the good news and like to see readers' letters.
Last Autumn many letters were about Brexit and the General Election, many voters took the opportunity to do what some MPs wouldn't do. Made a decision on Brexit - "leave means leave." The people used their collective power by voting pro-Brexit. Now we are living through a pandemic.
My heart goes out to NHS staff, working with patients infected with a highly contagious killer disease. As they make their way home after an emotionally draining, 12 hour shift, it must be so disheartening to see people who disregard the measures needed to stop the spread of Covid-19.
In the first Coronavirus briefing, back in March, the Prime Minister stated that we were faced with a new virus, no known treatment and no cure. Measures needed to combat the disease would have to be based on scientific and medical evidence.
Responses to advice would be a balance between health and economy, and it was likely things would change as we learn more. It is very negative to label these responses as u-turns.
This is a time when everyone needs to pull together. The Government, scientists and NHS staff can't stop a virus which spreads by person to person contact. WE CAN.
Like Brexit, the power is literally in the hands of the people.
Margaret

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Hog Blog Update

Things are quietening down, but still admitting wherever we can, Tara and myself have twenty little or sick babies that won't be released before spring. Our latest admission is Matty, he is quite poorly with mange, he will take a long time to recover and may even lose his quills, if that happens he has a jumper specially bought for him by Vinny, a lovely red one too.

We also have a new Facebook site, should anyone like to help us or learn how things are going, I always check Facebook, so if anyone has any questions, problems or need help, it is there for you and ourselves, because sometimes we need your help too with bringing in much needed funds.

Donations, either monetary or items to sell on our car boot stall, however small, are greatly appreciated. We will take these little ones into our homes, we care for them in our own time and also attending events like car boot sales, has of course been stopped due to the lockdown. Any help, however small, is greatly appreciated.

Hope to squeeze in another car boot sale before Christmas, fingers crossed. Here is our new Facebook page: Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel and our email address: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com

Finally, another thank you to Jane and Sonya, who regularly donate kitten food for our lovelies, it's gratefully appreciated.

Tip of the week: Hedgehogs that weigh less than 450 grams will not survive the winter, rescue centres will, wherever possible, take them in, especially if found in the daytime, hibernation is not an option so please get help for them.

Sergeant's Blog

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

By Sergeant Andy Boyd



I hope this blog finds everyone well, under the circumstances, and with the Government announcement this week, that you are all looking forward to having a better Christmas than we anticipated a few months ago.

Firstly, I have to apologise for not submitting a blog in a few months now, but the last eight months have been absolutely hectic, trying to deal with our normal business on top of the problems that Covid-19 brings.

In my 25 years of policing, I haven't known a year like it, and hope, with vaccines around the corner, that we don't

have another one like it. Despite criticism from some quarters, I am very proud of how our organisation have adapted to ever changing guidance and law, in a role that is dangerous at normal times, having to maintain a level of service, when many are rightly worried about personal safety and the health of friends, family and colleagues. As you will know, if you read my previous blogs, on the neighbourhood team, we deal with everything from crime to anti-social behaviour and registered sex offenders, to people living in the community with an array of mental health issues and vulnerability. We support our colleagues on response teams that deal with the 24/7 immediate jobs, and CID who look at priority and serious crime to problem solve around repeat callers, locations and offenders. During the first lockdown we saw a decrease in crime and anti-social behaviour. However, when these restrictions were eased, these figures soon returned to normal levels. We also saw rising incidents of ASB, particularly in the Western area of Newton Aycliffe, which we have responded to by increasing foot patrols, carrying out dispersal orders (removing known trouble makers from the area for a limited period), dealing robustly with known causers of ASB, and looking at innovative ways to divert youths from getting involved in such activity. We have also used the Operation Endurance Team to actively target known riders of off-road bikes/quads and the areas they cause issues. Many youths are now engaging with the Youth Offending Team after being dealt with for a variety of offences, and we were successful in obtaining a Criminal Behaviour Order on one youth who is responsible for a large proportion of ASB in the Western area (we are pleased to say that this particular youth appears to want to make amends now for his behaviour and is working with us on a diversionary programme for youths in the area and some restorative measures).

So, despite some opinion from prominent members in the Western area of Newton Aycliffe, we do care, we want to make the area a safer place to reside, and are trying our best to work with partners to reduce problems in this area. The community have been fantastic recently in giving us the evidence we need to effectively do our jobs. We have received photos/videos of off road bikes (many that we could make an identification from), information with regards to vulnerability that we can assist with, and intelligence with regards to the use of drugs. As I write this, we have just executed a Magistrates Search warrant at an address in Newton Aycliffe and recovered drugs. All of this is not possible without your help and I thank you for that. Please keep this coming, please help us to help you.

The winter nights are coming in, please don't make it easy for criminals to target your home, take the steps highlighted in the attached poster to protect your property.

Take care of yourself and your families.

Sergeant Andy Boyd



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Pensioner Pen Pal Appeal

Dear Sir,
This project has really taken off, many thanks to those who have responded.
The Nursing homes really appreciate you showing how much you care for those feeling a little lonely and left out. It does not take much to brighten up someone's life, just write a few sentences about yourself and ask the person if they would not mind you writing to them (usually once a month). Give them your address, please do not pass on your phone number as this intrudes on your privacy. Address it to "A Pen Pal" and whichever Nursing Home you prefer. There are seven in the town and the addresses are below:
Aycliffe Care Home
Burnhope, Horndale, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 7ER
Lindisfarne Care Home
Silverdale Place, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 7DZ
Rose Lodge Care Home
Carers Way, Cobblers Lane, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4SE
Bethany House
Village Close, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4UD
Defoe Court Care Home
30 Defoe Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4JP
St. Clare's Court
Central Avenue, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 5QH
Woodham Grange Voyage Care
Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4PJ
You may like to post it yourself through their letter box, do not stick the envelope down, just tuck it in, as licking it can possibly pass on a virus. You probably will get an answer, please do not be downhearted if you do not, some people like their privacy, just keep trying and try not to be put off.
Many thanks for your kindness in doing this act of caring for others. We still need a lot more people to take part, if you would like to, please just follow the above instructions.
God bless you all.
Pam Lovelass, APA

'Every Day Counts' for Greenfield Students

In a climate where the has been so many challenges and changes for students to overcome it has been brilliant to see the commitment that students have shown in many ways.
The slogan 'Every Day Counts' is often shared throughout the Greenfield community and whether students have been at home or on the school site they have taken their attendance seriously.
Two students who attained the best possible attendance were recognised recently at an online awards ceremony. Lucy Barron and Jack Heywood achieved 100% throughout their time at Greenfield, a fantastic achievement, well done.
Following in their foot-steps students have taken part in a 10 Day 100% Attendance Challenge. "In this very difficult time 539 students rose to the challenge of being in school for two full weeks from 5th until 16th October. This surpassed the previous record of 536 students in February 2020. Each student received 5 house points and a small prize". said Mr Richardson, Assistant Headteacher.
All the winners were put into a draw for prizes. The winners were, Year 7, Maegen Cummins, Year 8, Ella Richardson, Year 9, Mitchell Dobson, Year 10, Farah Mahjoub and Year 11, Yasmin Lau. The overall winner was Alisha Kirby. Well done to all involved and for recognising that every day counts!
Greenfield Community College are proud of the response by their students and are committed to supporting students to reach their full potential. The school 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.



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Weekly Programme Schedule

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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	BeatRoots	Graeme Roote

FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	4th Dec. - Nathan Abbott Dance Classix	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby

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

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Entrepreneurs Response to Covid Opportunities Instils Confidence in the Future

Dragons' Den star Sara Davies has delivered an upbeat assessment on the future for North East entrepreneurs - predicting that 2021 will be the year to build upon the many opportunities that have arisen from the coronavirus pandemic.

The founder and CEO of Newton Aycliffe-based Crafter's Companion, who was chairing an Entrepreneurs' Forum event entitled 'The Future for Entrepreneurship', was supported in her positive views by a panel of business experts.



She told the online event: "I've been hugely encouraged by the way this region's businesses have adapted and pivoted in response to the many challenges and uncertainties of the last eight months..

"Change always generates opportunity, even when forced upon us, and it's the entrepreneurs who possess the right mindset and ability to think outside the box that are best placed to react.

"Given the response of North East business leaders, I have more confidence in the future and believe that 2021 will see a real reboot of the entrepreneurial spirit."

She was joined on the panel by Dean Benson, founder and CEO of Stockton-based e-commerce experts Visualsoft; Richard Lane, co-founder and CEO of Newcastle-based sales consultancy durhamlane, and Dr Tim Hammond, director of commercialisation and economic development at Durham University, and project lead for Northern Accelerator.

Dean Benson, who is also a member of the Forum board, said: "lessons could be learnt from the last recession when those businesses that retained the confidence to invest in sales and marketing had emerged in a much stronger position."

He added: "Entrepreneurs are agile and adaptable and as a result thrive on change. However, one of the biggest challenges is not in starting a business but in scaling it and that's where it's vital to surround yourself with a good team of management and staff.

"Running a business can also be very lonely and it's also important to seek the advice and support of your peers, through an organisation like the Entrepreneurs' Forum."

Richard Lane told the online audience of more than 50 that technological changes, including cloud computing, had made starting a business much more attainable.

He added that this was reflected by a new phenomenon - the 'furloughpreneur', those on furlough who used the time to develop their business ideas.

"My advice to entrepreneurs is that any reduction of sales and marketing creates a void, that can be filled by a competitor. Above all, look after your people, look after yourself, look after your customers and be proactive."

Dr Tim Hammond said that Northern Accelerator - a collaboration between Durham, Newcastle, Northumberland, and Sunderland universities is making a step change in how the Universities commercialise ideas from their research base. This is particularly critical as the Universities account for approximately a third of all research spend in the North East.

"Covid-19 has presented many opportunities which have seen the development of new and responsive business models and innovation," he added. "We are pushing to get these innovative ideas out of the universities and, through Northern Accelerator, are creating collaborative solutions as well as increasing engagement with external organisations."

Lib Dem Calls for Investment to End Council Tax Rises

Lib Dem Cllr, Michael Stead, is calling for a council tax freeze during the town council budget process. Cllr Stead, who was elected with an 80% vote for the Woodham Ward of Great Aycliffe Town Council earlier this year, stood on a policy of fair council tax. Michael comments, "We need to make sure that as much money as possible stays in the pockets of Newton Aycliffe residents this year. It is essential for the town that we do not overburden our residents with council tax hikes. The Town Council now has the highest



reserves it has ever had. I will therefore be calling for a council tax freeze as well as some specific investments and savings in order to make sure that long-term our council tax bills do not rise."

Cllr. Stead is proposing that part of the £1.3m reserves that the town council has is allocated to invest to save projects. He explains, "There have to be ways to bring down the cost of running Great Aycliffe Town Council, whether it is in reducing the £20,000 water bills or moving more of our vehicles over to electric to make long-term savings and protect the environment. I am certain there are dozens of additional options which we can look at."

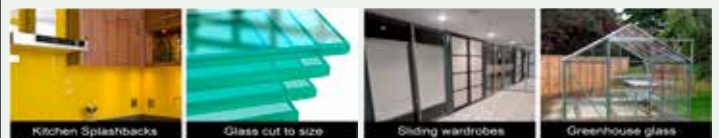
The Lib Dem Councillor suggests that having at least £100,000 allocated towards projects, which save money long-term, would allow a council tax freeze for a number of years, and suggests a council committee be repurposed to do this. Mr Stead also wants a review of all expenditure in all departments to find any possible savings which can be made.

He adds "We need to do this to make sure that those front line services, which residents rely on in Newton Aycliffe, can be protected whilst keeping money in residents pockets. Both can be achieved." Even after freezing council tax and investing to save, the Town Council would still have well over £1million sat in the bank.

Michael, represents the Woodham Ward and will be standing for the Lib Dems in the upcoming County Council elections too. He says his policies will mean that there are more than sufficient reserves to protect the council and keep council tax down.

As a County Councillor he has said he would continue the fight to tackle double taxation which is crippling people in Newton Aycliffe. Residents currently pay both the Labour-run County Council and the Town Council for the same services whilst other parts of the County only pay once as they have no town council.

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100K COV-AID FOR 'SUPPORTIVE' CHARITY

A CHARITY delivering independence and support throughout the North-east is delighted to have secured a £100,000 Covid-19 helping hand from a major community aid programme launched by Barclays. Supportive, based in Ferryhill, County Durham, has been chosen as one of Barclays' UK charity partners to receive cash aimed at those working to support vulnerable people impacted by Covid-19, and to alleviate the associated social and economic hardship caused by the crisis.

Part of the North-east community for 26 years, Supportive has been working on the frontline in the fight against Covid since March and will use the cash to enhance welfare services across its three main areas of operation: homecare, volunteer drivers and patient transport ambulances.

CEO John Davison said: "We are delighted to receive £100k from Barclays and we will use the donation to make a positive contribution to people's lives during the Covid pandemic."

The money is being distributed as part of Barclays' £100m Community Aid Package announced in April, to support charities helping people and communities most impacted by the pandemic. Alongside a colleague-matched fundraising initiative and £10m pledged through their 100x100 Programme, Barclays is donating funds to charity partners across the UK, Americas, Asia and Europe to ensure help reaches those who need it most. In the UK, where the bank has made 100 donations of £100,000, these partners include those who are meeting the immediate needs of low-income families, those facing financial hardship, isolated elderly people, NHS staff and key workers.

Supportive has been chosen for its work across County Durham and the wider North-east, where its services include:

- Homecare, with 12,000 visits a year delivered by 120 care staff, including end of life support;
- Volunteer drivers, with 100,000 journeys covered each year supporting NHS visits and local authority services, and
- Patient transport ambulances, providing more than 17,000 hours of support in the last year.

The Barclays 100x100 UK Covid-19 Community Relief Programme money will be used by Supportive to:

- Enhance welfare services which were established at the start of the pandemic to support customers, volunteers and staff. The additional contact is already having positive results;
- Offer additional support to homecare customers to minimise social isolation. Carers will be able to spend additional time to chat, support with appointments, give additional care, support with shopping and, when permitted, take trips out in the community;
- Continue to support volunteer drivers, who have been provided with Covid safety screens that fit between front and rear seats and safety boxes containing PPE supplies. Volunteers provide a service supporting vital journeys and the charity aims to welcome more fully equipped volunteers to the service;
- Use technology to increase service effectiveness and reduce Covid risk, and
- Enable patient transport teams to provide additional support where wheelchair transport is needed.

Paul Howells MP for Sedgefield said: "Funding like this is so critical for organisations like Supportive that are embedded within and hold our local communities together. Their efforts are largely unseen to many within the community but for those that know them they are a critical lifeline. I am so pleased that Barclays have chosen to support

them."

Andrew Thompson, Barclays business manager, said: "This crisis has had an unprecedented impact across the UK and we know this is an incredibly challenging time for many in the North-east. By reaching those most in need of support, local charities such as Supportive have played a vital role in this crisis to date, and no doubt they will do going forward. As a proud member of our community, we are doing everything we can for our customers, clients and colleagues, and we hope that our partnership with Supportive will allow many others to access the help they need as this crisis develops."

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CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Under 16, why not design a Christmas card?

Two winners will be awarded Lego and your design reproduced into Christmas cards for your use.

Two age categories:

- Up to 8 years old; • Between 9-16 years old.

One design will be picked from each age group as winner.

1. Design an amazing card, anyway you like (draw, colour, paint, collage, sketch), making it as colourful and as unique as you can.
2. Be original - don't copy it from another design, please do not use an image downloaded from the internet or photos.
3. The design should fit onto an A4 sheet (210 x 297mm).
4. Make sure you have parental consent to enter.
5. Hand your design to us before the closing date, Friday 4th December.

How to send:

Entries can be submitted via email to:

paul@newtonnews.co.uk

or post to: Christmas Card Competition, Newton News, Blue Bridge Centre, St. Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DS (can also be handed in at our reception, same address).

Please ensure you enclose your name, address, age and contact details (email and phone).

The closing date for all entries is Friday 4th December 2020 at midnight. Good luck.



Government Statement

A Government spokesperson said:

"The results from the University of Oxford/AstraZeneca are very encouraging. We have already secured early access to 100 million doses of their vaccine for use across the UK if approved – on top of 255 million doses from other vaccine developers.

"The independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency will carry out their crucial work to assess whether the vaccine meets robust standards of safety, effectiveness and quality once it receives the full data from Oxford/AstraZeneca. If authorised, the NHS will begin to roll out more widely, starting with those most at risk, in line with Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation advice, and taking into account logistics and practicality.

"Advances including rapid testing, new treatments and vaccines will help us get back to normal but, until then, we must all continue to take the necessary actions to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe, including following the Hands, Face, Space guidance."

Various Road Work Issues

Dear Sir,
MIDDRIDGE ROAD

Responding to residents' concerns, I have twice emailed Highways Adoption with concerns about the new roundabout being built for the Persimmon development on Middridge Road.

Their reply is that: "the roundabout was designed as a compact roundabout to national design standards (DMRB CD116) and has single lane entries. The vehicle tracking plans demonstrate that a 16.5m articulated vehicle can safely negotiate the roundabout under these conditions. Any relaxation in standards may nullify these constraints and allow excessive vehicle entry speeds or drivers to attempt to enter the roundabout concurrently".

These officers are experts in their field - although they, as much as we, are aware that sometimes things do not turn out in practice as they appeared on the plans. In this respect, they have assured me that there will be a Road Safety Audit after it is built, to check that it is working safely.

With "any" change to a familiar road layout there is a danger that people get 'caught out' and there are accidents until people get used to it. PLEASE, everyone be very careful as you negotiate this new roundabout, and it will do no harm for people's safety if we all share how careful one has to be.

MEADOWFIELD WAY

At this week's GAMP meeting, members approved a scheme - funded by myself and my two councillor colleagues in response to residents' concerns - to add road safety measures to the mini-roundabout at the top of Meadowfield Way, including rumble strips and an enhancement to the roundabout itself. This is a dangerous junction, so please be careful, especially as we make the changes to try to make it safer.

ALSTON CRESCENT

The GAMP meeting also approved a scheme - again, funded by myself and my two councillor colleagues, again as a response to residents' complaints - to add a 7-car parking bay at the top of the northern entrance to Alston Crescent. This road is a bus route, and cars parked along the side of the road at this point cause congestion which, so close to the junction, is certainly inconvenient and could be dangerous.

ELDER GARDENS

I have contacted Planning Enforcement so many times regarding mud on the road at the Elder Gardens (Keepmoat) site that the officer and I are on first name terms. Keepmoat are sweeping the road three times a day, but the road remains a mess in times of inclement weather. Please, if you are dissatisfied with the condition of the road, phone DCC on 03000 260 000 and add your complaints to mine.

Cllr John D. Clare
(Aycliffe North & Middridge)

Happiness Hubs Roll Out Across Durham & Darlington



After an overwhelming response, health and wellbeing charity Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) and County Durham NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are delighted to announce that over £49,000 has been awarded to establish 'Happiness Hubs' across County Durham and Darlington.

Happiness Hubs aim to provide safe spaces for local people to meet, make friends, talk and feel supported. The ultimate goal is to help people to live happier, healthier lives whilst promoting mental health and personal resilience.

Mike Brierley, Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery (Mental Health & Learning Disability), said: "This fund provides vital support at a neighbourhood level for people who might be struggling with their mental health and wellbeing. By routing NHS England's Transformation Funding through the voluntary and community sector we hope to be able to reach out to people and prevent crisis whilst also providing ongoing support."

In addition to the external funding, organisations have committed to match-funding of just under £35,000 and this means that people and communities will benefit from £84,000 of extra support."

PCP Chief Executive, Carol Gaskarth, added, "The quality and diversity of applications was excellent; which made the panel's job incredibly difficult! In this first round we were pleased to support thirteen organisations, many of whom sought funding to extend delivery into evenings and weekends. Incredibly, during 2021 collectively, the Happiness Hubs will engage with over 850 people in County Durham and Darlington and help almost 100 people to volunteer."

Naturally some of the ideas have been amended or slightly postponed due to the pandemic, however the voluntary sector is well-placed to provide support through virtual platforms and organisations have been flexible and creative in their approach. We look forward to seeing them in action, hopefully in the New Year."

The following groups have been supported in round 1:

- Cornerstone Support Housing and Counselling
- Refresh, Rebuild Relate
- East Durham Veterans - EDV Social Inclusion
- Ferryhill Ladder Centre - Connect
- ManHealth - Man Talk
- SHAID Ltd - My Beautiful Mind
- Sunnyside Community Association - Friendly Friday Club
- Teasdale Clubs - Happy Minds
- Teasdale Community Resources Hub - Happiness Café
- The Active Life Foundation - Young at Heart
- Tiny Toes Bumps and Babies C.I.C. - Support Sessions
- Trimdon Grange Community Centre - Community Reconnections
- Willington Methodist Church - Willington Open Door Café

If you would like to know more, or if you run a community space/building and are interested in becoming a Happiness Hub, please contact: 07715 204462 or email Happiness.Hubs@pcp.uk.net

JUNCTION 7 CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

This year we have three projects planned:

1

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Cooked and delivered to your door on Christmas Day. This is for people who will be alone.

2

CHRISTMAS DINNER IN A BOX

This will include all the ingredients and trimmings to cook your own dinner on Christmas Day.

3

TREAT HAMPER

A box of Christmas treats. This is for people who are experiencing financial difficulties.

THERE IS NO COST FOR THESE PROJECTS

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Another week of many meetings, particularly zoom and teams, some of which have been particularly informative. Last Tuesday, along with other local colleagues, I met with Priti Patel, the Home Secretary, where we discussed the agenda to consolidate the custody suites in Co. Durham. The big concern we all have, is the question as to whether a stand-in police and crime commissioner should make decisions of this magnitude so close to an election where he is standing down. We also took the time to remind the Home Secretary of the importance of keeping pressure on antisocial behaviour and county lines drug gangs. Tuesday also saw the meeting of the BEIS select committee, this time our focus was on the impact of Covid-19 on business and workers. Later in the week we separately had a round table with many people from business. This was a private session to allow contributors to speak frankly, it was cross party, with different MPs leading separate breakout groups. This was an enormously informing session and will be repeated over coming weeks. We also had a Zoom call with Eddie Lister, who is the head of staff for the Prime Minister, a very different person to his predecessor. On a lighter note, I was able to have a virtual meeting with some young scouts whose leader I met on Remembrance Sunday, it is always a pleasure to engage with young people. On Friday I had a very interesting discussion on the promotion of the creation of a British development bank, led by Gareth Davies MP and joined by Will Tanner, who is the director of Onward. I look forward to learning more.

On Friday afternoon I had a catch up discussion with Sue Jacques, who is the Chief Executive of County Durham and Darlington Foundation Health Trust, where we were briefed on the latest position in our hospitals. They are managing, but we must help keep Covid-19 pressure off them so they can continue other surgery. As a result of this discussion Peter Gibson and I took the opportunity to join Sue when she visited Darlington and Sedgefield Hospitals on Saturday evening. It was good to see the staff who have been under incredible pressure this year but and they are obviously pleased at the recent progress for vaccines, which gives them some light at the end of this tunnel.

This week I have also had the opportunity to join, virtually, two of the Area Action Partnerships. On Tuesday it was our local Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership and on Monday I was able to join their equivalent for the East Durham Rural Corridor which looks after places like Fishburn and Trimdon. This gives me at least a chance to keep in touch whilst movements are limited.

Continuing what I have said before, I meet so many interesting people and this week one of the highlights has to be a call with the army Sergeant Major, Gavin Paton, he is the senior non-commissioned officer in the army. He talked about many things and was enormously interesting, he left us with the three messages he gives to his soldiers. First, rank is an opportunity to do more for others, not for them to do more for you; second, that soldiers do not make mistakes on purpose, and thirdly, leave a legacy.

These messages could be applied to many people and I would commend them to you.

As you will be aware, the government has confirmed we will come out of lockdown on Wednesday 2nd December, but that we will enter a tiered approach again before getting a little more space at Christmas. In the meantime we get a little more latitude with non-essential retail, Gyms and outdoor sport being more accessible. If we are to work our way down these tiers it is important that everyone follows the guidance, so please everyone, do your bit and remember **HANDS - FACE - SPACE**: Wash your **Hands** regularly, wear a mask on your **Face** where required and give people **Space** - follow the new regulations for the rest of November and 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

Flytippers Risk Being Stripped of Vehicles this Christmas



Enforcement officers are warning flytippers that they risk being stripped of their vehicles this Christmas. The warning comes after a number of vehicles found to have been used in flytipping incidents in County Durham were taken off their owners for good.

Neighbourhood wardens from Durham County Council seized four vehicles as part of Operation Stop It, which aims to educate people on the need to dispose of waste safely and prosecute those responsible for flytipping.

One vehicle, found to have been used in a flytipping incident, was sold at auction while two, which were no longer roadworthy, were crushed. Another vehicle found abandoned and similarly no longer roadworthy was also crushed. The crushing of the vehicles took place at North East Salvage in Peterlee on the council's behalf.

The maximum fine for flytipping can be as much as £50,000.

Ian Hault, the council's neighbourhood protection manager, said: "These vehicles were seized as part of Operation Stop It, an ongoing investigation into flytipping. This is the sort of thing that can happen if you are caught flytipping with your vehicle. We will take them away from you, we will look to seize them and we will look to sell them at auction or, if they are not roadworthy, crush them."

"Operation Stop It has been going for some time now and we have been really pleased, overall, about the reduction in flytipping in County Durham up to April 2020. Our residents tell us on an ongoing basis that it is an issue for their areas and it is really important that we continue to tackle it."

There are currently 45 Operation Stop It investigations into flytipping ongoing and a total of 15 vehicles have been seized as part of investigations since April. In February this year the council invested £500,000 in the recruitment of eleven new wardens as part of efforts to ensure previous reductions in activities like flytipping are built on. The £31million investment in front line services included the biggest ever recruitment drive for wardens the council has seen. Some of those wardens are now able to focus solely on investigating flytipping. Residents are advised not to employ anyone to take unwanted waste away without checking to see a registered waste carrier licence. It is a person's own responsibility to ensure they are disposing of waste properly and there is no excuse not to do so. Waste can be taken to one of Durham County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres free of charge and bulky collections (large items) can be taken away for a fee.

For more information about booking a bulky waste collection go to <https://www.durham.gov.uk/bulkywaste>

Incidents of flytipping can be reported via the council's reporting system which is at www.doitonline@durham.gov.uk

Anyone who witnesses flytipping (and it is safe to do so), should take a note of:

- the vehicle make, model, colour and registration number;
- what was dumped;
- a description of the flytippers.

People are advised not to look for clues in the waste, as there may be harmful items in it.



Paul Howell
Member of Parliament
for Sedgefield

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



Police Break Up House Parties



Eight people have been reported for breaches of Covid-19 legislation after being found at a house party. Officers from Durham Constabulary were called to reports of anti-social behaviour at a property in Eastbourne Road, in Darlington, shortly before 1am on Friday and found eight people from different households all gathered at the same address. All eight, four men and four women aged between 52 and 32 years, were reported by police for breaches of the regulations. The incident was one of a number attended over the last few days by officers from Operation Triton, Durham Constabulary's team dedicated to ensuring compliance with Covid-19 regulations. Responding to calls from the community, these officers attended incidents in Darlington, Durham City, Crook, Shildon and Spennymoor over the weekend. On Saturday night a Fixed Penalty Notice was issued to a man in his early 20s who had invited five people to his Ushaw Moor home for a house party. A spokesman for Durham Constabulary said: "These are challenging times for everyone but, so far, all the evidence seems to suggest that the vast majority of the public are still doing the right thing and are sticking to the regulations. "Our officers will take a reasonable and fair approach to policing the current situation, but make no mistake, Covid-19 remains a potentially deadly threat and we will take action against those who choose to put the lives of others at risk".

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Virtual Recruitment Event at
New College Durham

New College Durham is hosting a Virtual Recruitment Event to enlist lecturers, curriculum support and administration staff to its Supply Pool.

Those interested can log onto the college website on Wednesday 2 December 2020 from 5pm to discover the range of opportunities that are available. Visitors will discover the benefits of joining the Supply Pool and learn about the flexible nature of the assignments on offer. There will be talks by staff from different areas across the college. Elaine Bonham, Director of HR at New College Durham, said: "The Supply Pool is perfect for people who are looking for flexible work that can fit around their current commitments or lifestyle. There are a range of opportunities available with hours varying from a few a week to full time working. Work opportunities can span the full breadth of our services, including administration, curriculum support as well as teaching".

Lauren Patton, who joined the supply pool and is now undertaking a full-time Lecturing role, said "The supply hours I have been participating in since February 2019 have supported me to gain experience in Early Years lecturing alongside studying for my PGCE. Both of which have been very enjoyable. I have now managed to secure a

full-time permanent position as a lecturer and I couldn't be happier."

To secure a place on the Supply Pool Virtual Recruitment Event register today at www.newcollegedurham.ac.uk

Thank You

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank the lady who helped me at Argos recently, whilst I was trying to buy a shopping trolley but was refused as I had not pre-ordered the item.

There must be a lot of older people especially, who could be caught out, when the service Argos offer is for collection only. If Argos has put some thought into their service, I am sure they could have dealt with my request better, instead of me having to rely on a 'stranger' to order the item on their phone and collect immediately.

I am calling you my Coronavirus angel . . . as you wouldn't accept any payment, I am planning to give PCP the money.

A very appreciative person
Name and address supplied

Covid Caution

It's hard not to have a few grumbles, During Covid-19 we've all had our mumbles! Concentrate on the positives that we can still enjoy,

And keep to Social Distancing,
Please don't be coy.

Wear a mask in a public place,
And it's not a rule to sit in front of a bookcase,
When you make a video call,
That really doesn't matter at all!
But please keep in touch with friends who are alone,

A few minutes chat on the telephone.
A couple of tins when you do your shop,
Then into the food bank's trolley
You can them drop.

Just don't go mad when this lockdown ends,
Or there's a danger it will once more extend,
If we all try to help each other out,
We'll soon thump this virus firmly on the snout!
MMK, Nov 2020

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



I took a couple of snaps, whilst out walking my dog in the beautiful sunshine, before I started work. With the world the way it is just now, I think it's so important to find time to enjoy nature and fresh air to keep our spirits up. Vikki Todd

Sudoku

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

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Congratulations

**Bailey Nigel Crossen
Benedict Carter Crossen**



Happy 18th Birthday Brothers
Bailey and Benedict Crossen
Love from Luke, Rochelle, Cameron,
Lucy, Gerard, Hannah and Finlay

Obituary

Ada Lillian Ainsley-Weighell

84 Years Old

11th July 1936 - 15th November 2020

It is with our deepest sorrow that we inform you of the death of our beloved Wife, Mother, Grandma and Great Grandma Ada, who died peacefully at home after a long illness.

A life so beautifully lived, deserves to be beautifully remembered.

Loving Wife of Harry, of 66 years, with 63 years married and a Daughter Penny; Grandsons Daniel, Jason and Samuel and 11 Great Grandchildren; her family meant everything to her. You will always be in our hearts.



Barbara Woolley

Passed away at Aycliffe Care Home on Saturday 14th November.

Beloved Wife of Ron Woolley; Mother of Debbie and Sheana; Gran to Andrew, Samantha and Asti; Grandmother to Ivor, Flynn and Milo; Step Mam to Ian, David and Christopher; Grandmother to Daniel, Rebecca, Harry, Jessica, Emily, Ben, Bethany, Ross and Jason and Great Gran to Ellie-Sarah Louise and Ivor.

Will be forever in our hearts and will be missed dearly xxx
Funeral to take place at Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 1st December at 10.30am.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions family and some friends only.

No flowers please, donations in lieu, if desired to Alzheimers Society at the Crematorium.

Acknowledgement

Aaron Cairns

Heartfelt thanks for the loyal support from his friends following the death of Aaron Cairns.

Gratitude to Dr Tin and his team at James Cook Hospital for the incredible treatment he received which significantly lengthened his life span. Also for the wonderful after care from Professor Fuat and Carmel Surgery. District and Macmillan Nurses for their dedicated home care enabling him to remain at home.

To James and his staff at Seaton Leng for their care of Aaron and attention to detail for safe funeral arrangements.

In Memoriam

Paul Blades

27th November



Happy 18th Birthday
Hope you have the best day ever. Lots of love from Mam, Dad, Jade, Grandad and all the family xxx

Bobby Morrell

26th November 2009
We are sad within our memory, lonely are our hearts today.

For the one we loved so dearly, has forever been called away. We think of him in silence, no eye may see us weep, but many silent tears are shed, when others are asleep.

Lots of love always, your loving Wife Agnes, Thomas & Julie, Roberta & Reggie, David & Jenny, Stephen & Shaun and all the Grandkids and Great Grandkids xxxx

Doris Cassidy

19th October 1932 - 18th November 2020

Peacefully on 18th November, aged 88.

Beloved Wife of the late John (Cass); Sister of the late Rita, Fred and Ann; much loved Mother of Keith, Julie, Fred, Maureen & Debbie. Aunty, Grandmother and Great Grandmother.

To anyone wishing to attend the funeral of Doris Cassidy, please be understanding that there is a limit of 30 people in the church, we have struggled to limit the numbers and have not been able to have all of her friends and family there and deeply hope no one takes offence if they have not been contacted to attend the church Service.

Anyone wishing to come along and pay their respects, outside the church, are more than welcome, the Service will take place on Thursday 3rd December at 1.15pm in St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe, followed by Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium in Coundon at 2.30pm, and again, anyone who has not been contacted are welcome to come along and pay their respects outside.

Family flowers only, by Mam's request. If you would like to make a donation, Doris' chosen charity is the Great North Air Ambulance and this can be achieved by searching Dignity Funerals / Doris Cassidy.



Mary Watson

Newton Aycliffe

Peacefully on 22nd November. Mary aged 86 years.

Dearly loved Wife of the late Eric; much loved Mum to Jill and Neil; dear Mother-in-Law to Darran and beloved Grandma to Jack.

Sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Thursday 3rd December. Due to current circumstances a small gathering for the funeral for family only will take place at Wear Valley Crematorium at 3.30pm.

No flowers please. Donations would be much appreciated in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, 89 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7UQ

George Potts

Alice, Graham and Hilary would like to thank family and friends for their support and messages of condolence.

Thank you also to the many neighbours of Lyon Walk, who paid their respects at the roadside.

Many thanks to Co-op Funeralcare and Reverend Jeff Anderson for a beautiful Service.

Finally, thank you to all the doctors and nurses on the Critical Care Ward at Durham University Hospital.

A donation has been made to the hospital in George's memory.

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- to give information about crime in your area;
- or
- if you would like to speak to your local police officer

William Rowland

(Billy) 73 Years Old

Passed peacefully with his family by his side on Thursday 19th November 2020.

A much loved Husband to the late Denise; a dearly loved Dad to Tracey, Mark and Julie; a treasured Grandad and Great Grandad. Also a dear Father-in-Law, Brother, Uncle and Friend.

Family and friends please meet at St. Clare's Church (restrictions may apply) at 12.45pm on Thursday 10th December. Followed by burial at West Cemetery, School Aycliffe.

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Dental Technician Takes on New Associate

Robert Taylor, now age 76, has been a Dental Technician for 60 years. After a local apprenticeship, he joined the Royal Army Dental Corps in the 1960s and served in Germany, Singapore and Malaya. After leaving the army he set up in business, and for several years had premises in Newton Aycliffe. He moved the business to Chilton 30 years ago. For most of his career the law prevented Dental Technicians from seeing patients and fitting dentures on their own account. Robert's work had to be prescribed and fitted by a dentist. In 2006 a change in British law created a new class of dental professional. It meant that a Dental Technician would be able to take additional qualifications to become a Clinical Dental Technician (CDT for short). A CDT can make and fit dentures to patients, often without the



patient needing to visit a dentist. It had always been Robert's dream to be able to work directly with patients. But it was a while before the first UK training course was set up, and by then he had already reached retirement age. Despite that, he was up for the challenge, and he signed up for the very first English course to train as a CDT. Clearly, you can teach an old dog new tricks, because Robert was the oldest person to complete the three year course and qualify. At 68 years old he added the letters Dip CDT RCS (Eng) after his name and registered with the General Dental Council as a CDT. Robert has since established a successful CDT practice in Chilton. He sees patients three days a week, and the rest of the week is taken up with making the dentures he is going to fit. But now he has reached the grand old age of 76 he knows that he must slow down and perhaps even think about retirement. For some time, he looked for another CDT to work in his practice and share some of his workload. There are only 375 registered CDTs in the whole of the UK, so it was never going to be easy to find the right person.

Happily, André Edmundson expressed an interest and he and Robert soon found that they had a similar approach to their profession. André is now working with Robert as an associate at the practice. André is a fully qualified CDT with over 30 years' experience of denture design.



But no sooner had André started seeing patients, the latest Covid-19 lockdown was announced. Because a lot of denture wearers are in the older age groups, the lockdown has made some of them nervous about being fitted for new dentures. Many people even believe, wrongly, that during this lockdown the practice is not seeing patients. During the first lockdown, the practice had to close. In part, this was because there had not been time to put the necessary precautions in place and partly because the level of risk was not well understood. Understanding of the necessary risks and precautions has

improved and with suitable precautions the practice is able to remain open. The practice has invested in screens, extra disinfection and protective equipment, and staff training. New social distancing measures are in place and the practice has implemented the precautions advised by the College of General Dentistry and Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) 2020. The practice is confident that every possible measure to prevent the spread of the virus is in place, not least because Robert himself, at 76, is in one of the vulnerable groups and needs to stay safe!

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