

Friday 11th December 2020

Established 1948

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Magazine

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



Book Sale Raises £3000 for Local Charity

See page 2 for more

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(Cllr Bowman, in case you don't recognise me)

BOOK SALE RAISES £3000 FOR LOCAL CHARITY

Ex-Newtonian, Stephen Creaney, compiled an interesting and informative book entitled "Newton Aycliffe, A Long History of a New Town". The book took many months of research and records the town from before its inception into the new millennium. Stephen wanted to keep everything as local to Newton Aycliffe as possible and contracted Newton Press to print and sell the books on his behalf. From which the proceeds would all go to a local charity. Stephen was born in 1952 and lived in Clarence Green and later moved to Clarence Chare. He attended Sugar Hill Primary School and then Ferryhill Grammar Technical before Durham and Newcastle Universities.

Stephen was employed in the oil industry, which took him all around the world, but always returning to Newton Aycliffe to visit family.

"I compiled this book as a way of 'giving back' to the town I grew up in and will never forget. I'd like to thank everyone that bought the book and to Rotary Newton Aycliffe for helping those in need at Christmas. I'd also like to thank Newton Press and Mandy Bloom for making the publication happen," said Stephen.

The book demonstrates early maps of the area as well as illustrations, photographs, early records, first residents and businesses on the industrial estate, there is even a record of the 1951 census.

Over the last few months Newton Press have taken on the task of selling the books, as well as posting to different parts of the UK - we are also aware that the book has been sent to ex-Newtonians around the world including Africa, Australia, America, France and Spain.

Rotary President, Trish Pemberton, said "As President of Rotary at a time of crisis, due to Covid-19, we have had to find new ways to raise money as our traditional methods, such as collecting in Tesco and our Santa Sleigh tours, cannot be achieved. So to have a totally unexpected and substantial donation come out of the blue could not be more welcome. We will make sure that every penny goes to helping the people of Newton Aycliffe, coming as it does, from an ex-Newtonian, such as Stephen."

"Our grateful thanks go to Mr Creaney for his very wonderful donation, to Newton Press, a key partner through Syd Howarth (who we will never forget) and his family. Christmas really does bring blessings", said Trish.

Photo: Rotary President, Trish Pemberton, receiving a cheque for £3000 from Paul, Stuart and Christopher Howarth.

George & Dragon

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Support the National Effort

An urgent appeal has been made by local community equipment suppliers Medequip for the return of beds and other items of equipment loaned through Community Equipment Services if they are no longer in use.

Medequip teams, working with local authorities, have noticed a drop in returns of vital community equipment over the past few weeks. It is understandable that consumers may have concerns about contact with people from outside their household under social distancing rules, but it's vital that these items continue to be returned so patients can be discharged from hospital, to be cared for safely in their own homes.

Community equipment provider Medequip understands consumers' concerns. They are using approved infection control procedures and enhanced PPE to protect those whose homes they visit, as well as their employees. Please help facilitate more NHS patient discharges and free up more vital bed spaces. If you no longer need the items you have on loan, contact Medequip so they can be collected and recycled.

Contact details to arrange collection can be found on any paperwork left with you, or on a label on the equipment itself. Additional information is available online at:

<https://www.medequip-uk.com/returning-equipment> - **Thank you for helping Medequip to help the NHS!**



SMALL GRANTS FUND

Great Aycliffe Town Council is continuing to seek applications to its Special Grants Fund, which is aimed at helping organisations within the Great Aycliffe area under the following theme:

- Those organisations that are experiencing funding problems, affecting their organisation in delivering their support services as a consequence of the Coronavirus pandemic and restrictions.

A total of £15,000 was originally allocated to this special Small Grants Fund. Following awards of grants to initial applicants, funds are still available for grants of up to £1,000.

Closing date for applications is Monday, 11th January 2021, following which applications will be considered by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on the 20th January 2021. 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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Christmas Countdown Wishes at Sugar Hill School

The Christmas trees have arrived at Sugar Hill and our official 'Christmas Countdown' has started with the children decorating the trees with their 'Christmas Wishes'. This year the children have spent time discussing with staff and their peers what their wishes would be to make a difference to our world. At the start of every December, we have whole school assemblies where the children share their wishes but this year, due to the pandemic, this has not been possible as we cannot meet in our school hall as a large group. After working in class, the children have put their wishes on to the trees in small groups. In this photograph three Year 4 pupils are placing their wishes on the tree outside Mrs O'Rourke's office. Ollie's wish is for all wars to end. Alara wishes for every virus to end and Betsy wishes all poor people to have a home. The children of Sugar Hill would like to pose a question to all readers of the Newton News. 'If you could have one wish come true this Christmas what would it be?'



Santa Claus Christmas Eve Tour is to go Ahead



Good news! Santa has told us that he will be able to visit the parish of Great Aycliffe on Christmas Eve for his customary tour, which Great Aycliffe Town Council helps him to organise. Unfortunately, this year, there are some restrictions, which even Santa is required by law to adhere to, due to Covid-19 government regulations. To help keep Santa, his volunteer helpers and the public safe, his vehicle will not be able to stop for photo opportunities and he will be unable to hand out sweets to the children or to accept gifts from the public. This is to prevent people from gathering in groups, inadvertently breaking Covid-19 regulations and putting themselves at risk. Santa advises that everyone should stay within the boundary of their homes if possible and he will try his best to wave to everyone. Please listen for his bells, as usual.

Watch out for the Christmas edition of the Newton News on Friday 18th December for the full tour routes.

Santa thanks everyone for their understanding and assistance with his tour this year - without his many volunteers, he would not be able to see so many of you. Merry Christmas, see you on Christmas Eve!

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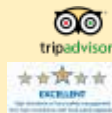
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Town Council Aiming to Freeze the Council Tax Next Year

The Town Council is in the process of developing and setting its Revenue and Capital Budget for the 2021/22 financial year.
The Town Council is very aware that 2020

Toys for Those Less Fortunate



One more week till my Christmas wish is over, as I have been so lucky and you have all been so generous. I am looking for donations of any new and unopened toys to give to children less fortunate than me, as I wish this Christmas to make a child smile. As I have received so many donations, which is amazing, we are also now able to help Junction7, who do amazing work in our local communities. We contacted Jane and she told us who we will be helping with our mission. Junction7 said, "we get referrals from Social Services and other agencies dealing with children, as well as clients that are going through financial issues that cannot afford presents. Domestic abuse is a very high statistic, and we do our best to make sure all the families we help are genuine". Please continue to help those children in need in our area . . . one more week. Contact 07508 800524

has been a difficult year for the community of Great Aycliffe with the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic affecting the lives of us all.

The lockdown periods, social distancing measures and other restrictions have meant the Town Council has not been able to provide some of its services to the usual standards this year and has unfortunately led to the cancellation of a number of much loved community events including the senior citizens' trips, fun in the parks and fireworks display.

The Town Council wishes to recognise the impact of the pandemic on local services and the community of Great Aycliffe in two ways next year.

Firstly, we have prepared our budget for next year on the basis of a freeze in the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax bill. Despite this proposed council tax freeze, thanks to the prudent financial management of the Council over many years and the ongoing identification and delivery of efficiency savings, the proposed 2021/22 Revenue Budget will enable all current Council services, facilities and events to be provided to the usual high standards next year, whilst allowing the Council to continue to make investment in community assets via our Capital Programme Budget, funded from Council reserves.

Secondly, the Council wishes to pass back to the community the savings it has made in the current year as a result of reduced services and cancelled events, by setting up a COVID-19 Recovery Fund and using this to make a number of one-off investments next year to help make 2021 a better year for the Parish.

Initial ideas for investment include the set-up of a community grants fund, additional or improved events and environmental improvements such as tree planting.

Have Your Say

Clearly the budget that we set is important to our local community, both in terms of how our spending plans may impact on the provision of local services and investment in assets for the benefit of the town, and in terms of the level of Council Tax that we need to raise from local taxpayers in order to fund these plans.

The Council would therefore very much welcome the views of the local community on our 2021/22 budget proposals via our recently published Budget Survey which can be accessed electronically via the links on the Council website and social media channels.

There is much more information on the Council's draft 2021/22 budget proposals, should you wish to read this, on the finance section of the Council's website.

New Badminton Club for Children



Dear Sir,

My ambition to start a new badminton club for children in Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas is coming to fruition. With the Covid-19 guidelines in control, activities are being restricted, I am working with Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre to set up, for children, an introduction into Badminton. I am a Badminton Level 3 Coach with 47 years experience and the winner of several awards and believe that it is an ideal time to help children get into sport.

The new club will start, for children aged 6 to 18 years of age, on Monday 11th January at 4.00pm at the Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre (next to Tesco). Booking is required, please email peterwalton1@aol.com

Thank you
Peter Walton



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Sign our Petition to Help the Deaf Community



Dear Sir,

This petition is to enable the deaf community to be heard and not to feel isolated. As my close friends may already know my Mam, Brenda Roberta Johnson, has had a horrendous time from 22nd August to 3rd December 2020, when she sadly passed away.

Within this time she had multiple hospital admissions where communication was a barrier. No hospital staff, excluding one doctor, were able to communicate in BSL (British Sign Language), to put her at ease and to allow my Mam to know what was happening to her. Darlington hospital allowed myself and my family to be by her bedside 24 hours a day to ensure communication needs were met.

Following discharge from hospital my Mam had to go into a care home where, again, no one could communicate to her, she deteriorated greatly within days, which resulted in us caring for her at home.

We are asking for this petition to be signed, we believe all medical and care staff should be trained in basic BSL. The wider deaf community need to be heard. When we reach 10,000 signatures, it will go to government and with 100,000 the government will debate it.

It takes two minutes of your time, but it will make an impact on the deaf community within the UK.

Please go to <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/555301>

Photo of Brenda Roberta Johnson

Drive Thru Santa Lifting the Town's Community Spirit



With the kind permission of the Tesco Store, Community Spirit ran a Drive Thru Santa Event last Sunday to lift the spirits of the towns folk. After an application to the Safety Advisory Group at Durham County Council, their Covid-19 Team gave it the green light to proceed, as long as it was well planned and appropriately marshalled.

What passed off was an amazing evening with young and old enjoying the Christmas spirit. Town Councillor, Michael Stead, organised the smooth running of the flowing traffic, ably assisted by members of Rotary Newton Aycliffe.

The hard work of Gavin, the chief engineer at J&C Coaches, and his staff really paid off, the sleigh being bigger and better than last year. It's unfortunate that Community Spirit couldn't fulfil their usual fundraising duties with Mr & Mrs Claus, but they hope the Drive Thru Event, which runs again on Sunday 13th and 20th December, from 5pm, will be enjoyed by all.

If anyone would like to donate towards feeding the needy then please use the following Bank Account Details:

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Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe Fund 5



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Climb Aboard the Sugar Hill Express



Christmas Countdown Events at Sugar Hill are now well under way much to the excitement of all the children (and staff!)

On Thursday 3rd December children and staff arrived at school in their pyjamas, slippers and dressing gowns to board 'Sugar Hill's Polar Express' armed with hot chocolate, cream, marshmallows and cookies.

Following such a lovely afternoon in school the children all took home their Christmas mug or beaker as a memento of this 'Sugar Hill first!'

Organising events like these in our very large primary is no mean feat but the challenge was warmly embraced by Mrs Atkinson Jones, our Social Learning Mentor, who shopped for all the cups, mugs and treats - we think she would make a fantastic helper for Santa! Special thanks also to Nicola, Jane and Grace who helped school staff to make this event such a success.

It has been a challenging term in school and the children have had to adjust to new routines to keep everyone as safe as we possibly

can throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

This event was a special thank you to all the children from all the staff for the fantastic attitude they have shown since returning to school in September. With more events planned until the end of term there is certainly a buzz in the air at Sugar Hill and in a world of uncertainty all staff at Sugar Hill recognise that it's so important that for all of our children 'Christmas is Christmas!'

Roman Announce Newcastle Falcon's Player Sponsorship

The UK and Europe's leading shower designer and manufacturer, Roman, are delighted to announce their sponsorship of Newcastle Falcon's player, Louis Schreuder. The former Natal Sharks player joined Newcastle Falcons in the summer of 2020.

A vastly-experienced rugby player, Louis made his International debut for South Africa against Wales in 2017, and won the first two of his three Currie Cup Finals with Western Province, going on to captain Natal Sharks to victory during the 2018 final.

Boasting more than a century of Super Rugby appearances for the Sharks, Southern Kings and Stormers, Louis also played for Japanese club Kubota Spears and impressed during a spell at French giants Toulon in 2019.

David Osborne, CEO at Roman: "We are delighted to continue our links with the Falcon's - especially with a player of Louis's calibre. Let's hope we can help them build upon a great start to the season."



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New Headteacher at Aycliffe Village Primary School

We are very pleased to announce that Mrs Lyn Adamson will be taking up the position of Head Teacher of Aycliffe Village Primary School from January 2021. Mrs Adamson has been Head Teacher of Burnhope Primary since September 2014. During her time as Head Teacher she has been praised for her dedication to preparing pupils for the next stage of their education which was noted in the successful school Ofsted report from 2019. She has raised achievement significantly in phonics results, 100% passed the phonics screening check in the latest reportable figures. At Burnhope Mrs Adamson promoted an inclusive curriculum with a particular focus on Outdoor, Play and Learning, achieving the OPAL Gold award – something we are keen to develop at Aycliffe Village. She has been able to visit Aycliffe Village Primary, most recently on 4th December, to meet staff and children. She was able to see the wonderful activities going on in school as the children prepare for Christmas. When she visited the school Mrs Adamson said that she is very much looking forward to becoming part of the Aycliffe community. She has been impressed by the warm and caring atmosphere of our small village primary school and is looking forward to working with the wonderful staff and governors, delightful children and supportive parents to move the school forward, raise standards and keep the school at the heart of the village.



Please find a link to the Christmas video here <https://www.facebook.com/Aycliffe-Village-Primary-School-1218346841653704> If you would like any further information about a school place for your child please contact the school directly on 01325 300227 or email aycliffevillage@durhamlearning.net

Thank You to Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group

Dear Sir,
About two years ago my Mum had a cancerous tumour in her bowel, which was removed and went on to having a three monthly blood test. In January 2020, they came back and weren't right, so from then until July she underwent a CT scan, PET CT and then an MRI.
My husband took her to the RVI, where she was told they had found another tumour, however, an operation would be too dangerous for her so suggested chemotherapy.
In August we saw the chemotherapy specialist who informed us that chemotherapy was too dangerous and suggested she go and live her life. Mum was pleased about this, as she didn't want to have surgery or chemotherapy. However, due to Covid-19, she couldn't really go out, or do anything - so living her life was limited. Through all of this I got in touch with Alison White (Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group), who met Mum, sent flowers, food parcels and even got in touch with Livin to sort out adaptations at Mums home to help her get about.
During Mums illness I decided I would conduct a raffle with family and friends to



help the charity and managed to raise £150. Mum also wanted to contribute, but passed away before she could, she also did not see how much I managed to raise.

I also placed a collection plate at her funeral, where we raised another £80, so I was able to give Alison £230 for the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group. I feel that local charities need local support and the likes of Cancer Research etc., are just such big institutions that £230 is just lost, whereas you can see straight away how this local charity are using their funds. The charity are also continuing to support me and my Dad, so they just don't stop when the family member passes, and I wanted to be able to say thank you to them for the support they give.

Janine Mawson

Photo shows Janine and raffle prize winner Julie Rocket, also a photo of my Mum, Betty Todd.



RUNNING CLUB NEWS

During the latest period of lockdown members have kept active by participating in several club competitions, including an off-road mile event and a team distance challenge, all of which have been held 'virtually' and in accordance with both Government and England Athletics' guidelines.

This week, however, has seen the return of organised sporting activity and two members were quick off the mark when it came to resuming racing.

On Sunday 6th December, David Stothard 'doubled up', taking on two local races in one day. David's day started at the Run Durham Dalton Park Winter 10K, which was a multi-terrain race around the regional shopping outlet. David completed his run in at time of 57:13.

He then headed down the road to Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park, to participate in the Gavin Duffy Memorial 5K Trail Race, an annual event held in remembrance of a popular local runner, who tragically lost his life in 2013, at just 29 years of age. The race featured staggered starts across the day, in order to maintain a Covid-19 secure environment, and David crossed the line in a time of 31:02.

Further South, on Sunday, Matthew Sommerville completed the Running Grand Prix Goodwood Half Marathon, which was held at the classic motor racing circuit in West Sussex. Matthew came home in an official time of 1:45:57, which represented his fastest time over the distance to date. 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

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Eventful Times at Greenfield Arts

Greenfield Arts are making wonderful things happen as we reach the final stages of 2020 - their twentieth birthday year!

We are delighted to announce the launch of an artistic gateway as part of our Shildon in Motion project. The artwork at Shildon Station is now in the final stages and the transformation is a vibrant culmination of an extensive project inspired by the Shildon community. Supported by Northern Heartlands and Bishop Line Community Partnership, Greenfield Arts have been working alongside creatives to realise artwork that will be an inspiration to others and recognises the significant past, present and future of Shildon.

We are also eagerly anticipating an installation at our arts facility. Our recent 'Made at Home' exhibition gave exhibitors the opportunity to express themselves during challenging times. The response was uplifting, with over fifty pieces of work being



displayed. Textile artist, Helen Lane, was given the enviable opportunity to respond to the exhibition with a piece that will reflect a 'moment in time' and the creativity of others. The final artwork is complete and winging its way to Greenfield Arts to be displayed in the new year.

Our offer for students and young people across Greenfield Community College, and our wider community, is continuing in creative ways, with projects, campaigns and activities.

There are still a few places left on our free Festive Workshops led by artist Dawn Belshaw. 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. We are looking forward to 2021 and continuing to encourage and develop creativity throughout the community. Our vision to inspire curiosity and creativity will be realised in Finders, Seekers, the first exhibition in the new year. Innovative visual artist, Bethan Maddocks, is bringing together the many strands of an exciting project that has the community at its core.

To find out more about our full programme or to reserve your place on activities please visit www.greenfield-arts.co.uk Greenfield Arts are committed to providing high quality arts and creative opportunities that encourage creativity, questioning and curiosity.

Feeding Families This Christmas

As part of the school's annual Christmas fundraising programme, students and staff at King James I Academy have been collecting food donations to support the North East based charity, Feeding Families - the charity provides food hampers to families in need across the region.

Launched in Christmas 2016, the aim of Feeding Families is to support those who are struggling to make ends meet. Sadly, due to the pandemic, more families than ever are facing difficult times this year, including many in and around Bishop Auckland, and the gift of a festive hamper can make a real difference.

Students at King James are encouraged to propose and organise fundraising activities and events throughout the academic year to support both local and national causes; they are also free to suggest which charity should benefit from their efforts. The fundraising initiative for Feeding Families was organised by Year 13 student, Jess Baronowski, pictured here with charity representative, Tony Byrne, who came to collect the donation. Jess contacted the organisation to request donation boxes and followed up with an Academy-wide promotion of the scheme. To boost donations, Jess also raised an additional £51 thanks to a 'Name the Bear' competition, with all funds raised used to buy festive treats such as mince pies, biscuits, sweets and chocolates.



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

The Council on 4/12/20 made the above 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: 11th December 2020



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

FESTIVE ISSUES OF NEWTON NEWS

Christmas Edition: - Friday, 18th December
Deadline: Wednesday 16th December, 12noon
No Edition - Friday, 25th December, 2020
or Friday 1st January 2021

BACK TO NORMAL ON
Friday, 8th January, 2021

Deadline: Wednesday 6th January, 12noon

Advertisements are accepted at our reception
or via email to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Office Opening Times

Closing 4.00pm on Wednesday 23rd December.
Skeleton Staff in attendance until re-opening
on Monday 4th January 2021 at 9.00am

The Management
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Newton News would like
to wish all Newtonians a
Merry Christmas and
Happy, Prosperous New Year



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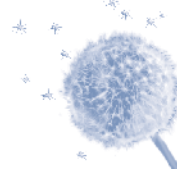


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Sterling Effort from Rotary Newton Aycliffe



This week Rotary Newton Aycliffe handed over to Santa, 40 plus hampers, destined for delivery to food banks throughout the area. Our members and friends have been filling boxes and bags with Christmas goodies after Rotarian Pat Henderson-Pickersgill came up with the idea. The club were delighted to agree to this wonderful initiative.

Many people helped along the way, so here goes with the thanks. Let's hope we do not forget anyone. Firstly, the boxes were kindly donated by Newton Press. The labelling and leaflets were designed and supplied by Digiprint. Margaret Allen gave 100 selection boxes. Lastly, Alan Nelson and The Big Club gave us use of their car park to co-ordinate the handover of the boxes. Grateful thanks to all. A real community effort and we could not have done it without you. *Photos show Rotary President Trish and Paula Nelson from foodbank, Shildon Alive, delivering hampers to Santa and, along with Trish, Rotarians Pat and Jean loading the van for St. Paul's Centre, Spennymoor. Another van is on its way to our Newton Aycliffe foodbank.*



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Weekly Programme Schedule

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

Updates from MP Paul Howell at 12noon daily

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

9-10am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
12-2pm	Country & Americana Show	David Ringer
Blues Show Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service		
2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin & Monica
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6-7.30pm	Jazz Time	Mike Dixon
8-10pm	Paul's Down Time	Paul Kjenstad
10-12am	Sean's Sunday Set List	Sean Lawless

MONDAY TO FRIDAY DAILY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop (Mon, Tues & Wed)	Richard Smith
12-1pm	Call Me No 1 (Tues & Thurs)	Richard Smith
1-2pm	Memory Lane	Gary Avery
2-4pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker

MONDAY

6-7pm	60s Show	Karl Simons
7-8pm	70s Show	Peter Rush
8-9pm	80s Show	Gary Avery
9-10pm	90s Show	Paul Baker
10-11pm	00s Show	Producer Dan
11-12am	Teens Show	Andy Fittes

TUESDAY

6-7pm	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
7.30-9.30pm	Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby

WEDNESDAY

5-6.30pm	Joey's Jukebox	Joey Collins
8-10pm	Alternative Aycliffe	Gaz n Alby

THURSDAY

6-8pm	The List	Colin McNeillie
8-10pm	BeatRoote	Graeme Roote

FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	18th Dec. - Nathan Abbott Classix Dance Show	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby

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

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



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Festive Activity at Greenfield Community College

Students at Greenfield Community College have been continuing to rise to learning challenges throughout the year. Although teaching and learning will continue until the end of the academic term students are also finding time to bring a sense of festivity both to themselves, their peers and the wider community.

Students are busy preparing for a Festive Arts Platform to be shared virtually. We are looking forward to sharing the creativity



and talent of our students and virtually bringing our community together. The school has also had a lovely opportunity to be part of Shildon's online Advent calendar, watch out for Greenfield's contribution on Shildon Town Council's Facebook page.

The Greenfield community have also given their own time, money and energy to once again be part of the wonderful shoe box appeal. The appeal means that more much needed gifts will find their way to young people across the community. Councillor Gerald Lee, who organises the appeal, was delighted with the response and the generosity of spirit from all involved.

There will also be festive activities throughout the school and a wonderful Christmas lunch, provided by our dedicated catering staff and lunchtime team, which is sure to be a big hit with students and staff! The school would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our community a safe, secure and happy Christmas.

Greenfield Community College 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.

Additional Funding for Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Services

In May 2020 the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner received an additional £400,000 from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to help services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence continue to deliver support across County Durham and Darlington through the difficult circumstances created by the COVID 19 pandemic.

Twelve voluntary and community sector organisations who applied and met the specified criteria have benefited from the funding which enabled them to continue their invaluable work until October 2020 by introducing different and innovative ways of working throughout the Covid-19 lockdown period.

An additional £124,000 has now been made available by the MOJ which will enable the Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (ODPCVC) to provide further funding to these 12 services to ensure they can continue to deliver crucial services until March 2021. Services that have already and will continue to benefit from further funding include HALO, Durham Pride UK and Harbour.

In particular, the additional funding helps services to cope with extra demand, address any short-term financial loss due to the inability to maintain income generation and introduce creative ways of delivering support regardless of lockdown and social distancing rules and regulations.

Steve White, Acting Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner, said "We are extremely grateful that these important services have continued to deliver support to some of the most vulnerable members in our community. I am delighted to be able to offer continued financial assistance to assist them through these very trying and uncertain times".

Crafter's Welcome New Recruit to Crafter's TV

Newton Aycliffe-based craft company, Crafter's Companion, is welcoming an experienced TV shopping production expert to support its digital network, Crafter's TV.

Erin Felipe, who has relocated from Florida for the position, has joined the team as Crafter's TV's post production manager.

Prior to her new role with Crafter's Companion, Erin was a prime-time line producer for HSN, one of the largest shopping networks in the USA. Erin has more than 15 years' experience in production, 13 of those with HSN. She worked through a variety of positions, starting with prepping products and writing scripts to managing schedules and budgets, producing shoots and launching a brand-new channel for the broadcaster, HSN2.

In her most recent role as prime-time line producer for HSN, Erin supported the launch of new products and viewer favourites, with hourly goals of more than \$1.5m, and produced complex fixed programming and anniversary shows. As post production manager for Crafter's TV, Erin will manage the producers and mixers, in addition to producing live shows.

Erin has moved to the North East with her husband and dogs. In her spare time, she enjoys watching football and American Football, as well as painting, crocheting and sewing.

She said: "I jumped at the chance to join Crafter's Companion.

It was a combination of wanting to set myself a new challenge, being passionate about crafting and working for Jeni again, on the Crafter's TV team, who I worked closely with at HSN.

"I'm really looking forward to growing the Crafter's TV team, while sharing the insight I've gained in TV shopping throughout the years, in addition to working with the talented, dedicated group of individuals that work tirelessly behind-the-scenes."

Jeni Santillo, manager of the TV division at Crafter's Companion, said: "We are incredibly lucky to welcome Erin to the Crafter's TV team and I am very excited to work alongside her again.

"She has a wealth of knowledge and experience from working for one of the biggest TV shopping channels in the world and having her on board will help us to develop Crafter's TV in a phenomenal way."

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

CONTACT JUNCTION7 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Email: junc7tion@gmail.com

Tel: 07783 539167 or 07851 723647



Last week started with a meeting with the permanent secretary for BEIS (Business Energy and Industrial Strategy) and her team. In this we had a comprehensive briefing to the BEIS select committee by all of the senior officials. As I have said before this department is incredibly diverse in that it covers not only business of all types, not only all aspects of energy and industrial strategy but also has responsibility for leading on climate change and therefore Cop 26. Cop 26 was supposed to take place in Glasgow earlier this year, but, because of Covid-19, has been delayed until November 2021. The full title for Cop 26 is the 26th UN climate change conference of the parties. This is a particularly important year for this conference in that it is five years since the Paris agreement and countries are expected to commit to improving their NDC targets. NDC's are nationally determined contributions and are at the heart of the Paris agreement and the achievement of long-term goals, they embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change.

The BEIS select committee session on Tuesday was a one off session to look at the preparedness of the department for Cop26 and, considering the disruption of Covid-19, things are progressing well. Later we had an MP's briefing with the PM in anticipation of the tier restrictions vote. Last week I also had the pleasure of separate catch ups with the Bishop of Durham and the North of Tyne Mayor. Each had different incites to share and proved again that every day is a school day. Friday saw a virtual catch up with the Dean Bank Regeneration team at Ferryhill and the Chief Executive of the local NHS trust. In the latter we were reassured that trends are positive but of course we need to continue good practice.

The weekend included Small Business Saturday so I went to promote a number around our villages and would remind you all that many of them have had a very challenging year so please support them whenever you can. One of the best local small businesses, is of course our outstanding Newton Press, and like so many small businesses, they are great supporters of our community. Newton Press are also, through the pages of the Newton News, a great source of other local businesses you can support.

Unbelievably it is now a year since I was elected as your MP and I must say that, despite all that this year has thrown at us, I continue to believe I have the best job in the world and remain as proud and delighted to be your representative as I was on election night. The virus has frustrated, in particular, our efforts at direct engagement, but as the vaccine is deployed and the lockdowns get lifted next year we will double down on our efforts and support the Prime Minister as we deliver on levelling up and build back better.

We are seeing infection rates reducing but please continue to respect the rules and we can hope for a reduction to tier 2 at the earliest opportunity.

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 that will hopefully put us in a better place for Christmas and beyond.

Stay safe and have a good week.

Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

Magical Xmas Story Offers Tree-mendous Festive Fun



Families can get into the Christmas spirit by downloading an exciting audio adventure, created by a County Durham theatre, this festive season.

Gala Theatre Durham's production, *The Christmas Tree*, is an immersive digital experience for imaginations both young and old. The story follows the exploits of the lovable Spruce, a small sapling with big ambitions.

In the rich Norwegian soil, up pushes a tiny green tree sprout. When the tiny tree catches sight of the bright lights from the distant town and the sparkle of a sleigh streaking overhead, the hero is sure he has found his true calling.

Audiences are invited to get to know a hilarious cast of characters with Spruce as he journeys to find a sense of purpose and the true spirit of Christmas in this charming tale.

The hilarious exploits of Spruce and his friends will be presented as a digital picture book, featuring original illustrations, alongside the audio version.

An extra magical music-scape will accompany the Gala production, which has been made possible by a range of talented local artists, including several who have worked on former Gala Christmas favourites.

North-east based writer Laura Lindow, whose writing credits include *The Snow Queen* at Northern Stage, wrote and directed the story, whilst award winning songwriter and composer, Katie Doherty, wrote the songs and music. The County Durham-based musician also composed the music for Gala's 2019 Christmas production *One More Sleep*.

Paula Penman, who narrates the story, is also based in the North East and has worked as a performer, director and theatre maker, most notably for Northern Stage and Live Theatre. Durham-based artist James Ellis-Clark, who created the e-book's beautiful illustrations, designed the artwork for numerous previous Gala Christmas shows, including *One More Sleep*, *Once Upon a Christmas* and *Mrs Claus' Kitchen*.

Local dance and performing arts organisation, TIN Arts, also supported the production.

The Christmas Tree is available to listen to for free on the Gala website at www.galadurham.co.uk/the-christmas-tree

Copies of the story are also available on CD and can be ordered

by phone to borrow from your local library. Contact details and opening times for each library can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/pickandcollect

As well as enjoying the audio adventure, families can also catch up with some of their panto favourites despite Gala's much-loved pantomime being unable to take place this year. The first episode of a specially filmed comedy thriller, *Rottenchops Revenge*, will be released on Gala's website at 6pm on Monday 14th December.



Paul Howell
Member of Parliament
for Sedgefield

paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk
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Aycliffe Office: 01325 790580



Relaunch of Creative Couch

An arts-based project to help people with a learning disability or autism stay active and creative throughout the winter has relaunched in County Durham following a successful first launch back in April 2020.

The Creative Couch is a free project for people aged 18 and over with a learning disability or autism living in the County Durham area. Shared fortnightly from 7 December through to April 2021, activities consist of pre-recorded content that people can join in with, such as dance, drama, singing or arts and crafts. All content is made available online or posted to participants via DVD as approximately 20 per cent of people with a learning disability or who are autistic do not have online access. The Creative Couch, created as direct result of the first lockdown and relaunched for lockdown 2.0, is run by TIN Arts which runs various project in the North-East, connecting

people of all ages and backgrounds to the arts to bringing a range of benefits including the physical and mental wellbeing associated with being active and creative.

The Creative Couch 2.0 is being funded by County Durham Community Foundation as part of their Covid-19 Sustainability Fund. Martin Wilson, executive director of TIN Arts, said: "The Creative Couch programme is all about reaching out to some of the most vulnerable members of our community at a very difficult time."

"It's really important we all work together to look after each other and so we are delighted that we are able to continue to offer a chance for people with a learning disability or autism and their families to join with us and be active and creative. The Creative Couch is free for everyone who wants to take part and we encourage anybody with a learning disability or autism to get in touch and sign up now."

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Theatre Staff Exceed Fund Raising Expectations

Members of Darlington Hippodrome staff entered the St Teresa's Hospice Santa Fun Run and exceeded their fundraising target by over 500%.

Several staff members from Darlington Hippodrome, along with their families and some pets, donned full Santa costumes to run in this year's St Teresa's Hospice virtual 5k Santa Fun Run. With an original fundraising target of £250 the team has been overwhelmed with the current amount raised now standing at £1,275 and still rising.

At this time of the year the staff at the theatre would be making preparations to welcome thousands of local families to the annual Darlington Hippodrome festive pantomime during which audiences would be encouraged to drop some loose change into collection buckets to help raise much needed funds to ensure the Hospice can reach their required £1m annual running costs.

Sadly the Hippodrome pantomime had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak so staff at the theatre set up a Just Giving page for people to sponsor the Hippodrome team on their run to make sure the Hospice did not lose out this winter.

Jane Bradshaw, Chief Executive of St Teresa's Hospice said "The Hippodrome team are super expert at running shows



Top left: Julian Cound; middle left: Jonny Lancaster; bottom left: Heather Tarran-Jones; above: Rebecca Howarth; below: Nic Myers



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and amazing productions and now they have shown their expertise at running in a completely different way... dressed up as Santa in aid of St Teresa's Hospice! We are so grateful for their support through all the collections they have made in the theatre in the past and this latest effort is truly wonderful. I can't wait for the time when we're all back in the theatre showing our support for them too!"

Councillor, Andy Keir, said "It was so disappointing to hear that this year's Hippodrome pantomime had to be postponed but I am so thankful to the staff at the theatre."

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Sudoku

	9			4		8		7
3	7		8					9
		4	3			5	6	
9	7		8				1	
	6	3	7			4		
4		8			3			
	4				7		9	
8				6				4
7					8	3		

Thank You Tesco

Dear Sir,
On Monday 30th November, whilst shopping in Tesco, I suffered a seizure. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to those members of Tesco staff who came to my aid, with admirable alacrity, effectively saving my humble life, by way of their collective act of human kindness. Thank you
Name and address supplied

Council Praised for its Climate Action Plan

A North East council has been praised for having one of the top climate change action plans in the country. Durham County Council is among 13 local authorities that have the best climate change action plans for addressing food emissions, according to a new study.

The council has been named following research by Sustain, which looked into 92 local government plans and measures to tackle food-related emissions at the level needed to meet international commitments to keep global warming within 1.5 degrees and achieve net zero.

Sustain's research found that only 13 out of the 92 local authorities which have developed climate action plans had proposals to tackle food emissions at an adequate scale.

After declaring a climate emergency in 2019, Durham County Council pledged to reduce carbon emissions from the council's operations by 80 per cent by 2030, and to take necessary action to make County Durham carbon neutral by 2050.

To ensure this, the council developed its Climate Emergency Action Response Plan (CERP) outlining the measures it will take to meet this pledge, including actions to reduce food-related emissions.

The council has been working with organisations such as Durham Food Group and has been supported by its environment and climate change partnership stakeholder, Durham Community Action, to address carbon-producing factors such as food waste disposal, food sustainability, and agriculture.

By 2030, it aims to improve food sustainability by having significantly increased the proportion of local produce sold and grown in the county. The CERP also aims to reduce food-related emissions by working with local farmers and landowners to promote soil conservation, regenerative farming and agro-ecology.

The plan also seeks to reduce the amount of food waste produced by the county by promoting and encouraging residents to home-compost with carbon management guidance.

Agriculture, fishing, transport, food processing and waste is

responsible for 20 to 30 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions globally.

Cllr. John Clare, Durham County Council's Climate Change Champion, said: "Our Climate Emergency Response Plan identifies significant steps we have pledged to take to help reduce the county's production of carbon and help tackle climate change. Local authorities have the opportunity to radically reduce the impact our food systems have on the climate, and this is something we have pledged to tackle in our plan. We are incredibly pleased that our plan has been acknowledged in this new research and that we are performing as one of the top UK authorities in our steps to address this global issue."

A copy of the council's Climate Emergency Response Plan can be found online at www.durham.gov.uk/climatechange

Replacing EU Funding

Dear Sir,

Last Friday, in my role as Durham County Council Climate Champion, I attended the concluding (virtual) conference of LOCARBO, a high-level EU cooperation initiative for improving low-carbon economy policies, in which DCC has been involved. Three weeks ago, I attended a similar event for an EU buildings efficiency project called REBUS, and these two conferences signal the end of our EU climate collaborations. This is a setback.

UNCERTAIN FUNDING

Even more worryingly also, of course, EU funding will come to an end at the end of this month, and - although we have been promised that its UK successor, the 'Shared Prosperity Fund' (UKSPF), will at least match EU funding - we still have not been told when or how this money will be made available, what exactly it will replace or how it will be distributed.

We DO know that there will be a one-year gap, in 2021, before UKSPF funding becomes operational. So, although the EU has promised that EU money for existing projects will continue until they come to an end, we will therefore have a year when no NEW projects can be bid for.

FUTURE CONCERNS

As a 'transition' area within the EU, County Durham got preferential funding. We were due, in 2021, to be declared a 'less developed' area and get even more. That EU funding has paid, not only for much of the County Council's nationally-applauded Climate Change/Energy Efficiency work, but also for a number of other social and economic projects (for examples, our nationally-recognised DurhamWorks scheme to help young people into employment).

EU rules allowed us to cite deprivation as an argument for funding. By contrast, current UK government funding tends to be competitive, and measured by economic benefit ... and there is a concern that the UKSPF may gravitate to economically-stronger parts of the country.

INTO THE VOID

So we go into the new year financially in the dark. We know that the government has promised £200million for 'pilot' projects during 2021, which might give us some idea of how the UKSPF will be allocated, but currently - again typically - we do not have any idea when or how this pilot money will be made available, what exactly it will address, or how it will be distributed!

All this not only threatens Durham County Council's financial ability to maintain our climate budget, but makes it impossible to plan for whatever future climate budget we may be going to get.

Cllr. John D. Clare

Christmas Greetings

Elle & Les Cairns

Wish all Family and Friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2021

Christmas Blessings

To all those near and far away, may your days be filled with love and laughter, and may 2021 bring hope and thanksgiving for the New Year to come.

Love, Michael, and Pam Lovellass

Congratulations

Brian Raine



Happy 75th Birthday to an absolute legend. A fantastic Husband, Dad and Grandad. Love from all the family

In Memoriam

Trevor Plaskitt

12th December 2010
Dear Lord,
Give Trevor all our love in the garden of gold.
Love Valerie.
Daughters Shirley, Julia, Adam, Loving Grandchildren Jonathan, Maxine, Louis and Mia
Family and Friends
God bless
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Kathleen Savage

10th December 2019
One year ago you passed away, but you are in my memory day after day.
You will never ever be forgotten.
From your loving Husband, Dave

Acknowledgement

Doris Cassidy

18th November 2020
The family of the late Doris Cassidy would like to thank family and friends for their support and messages of condolence.
A special thank you to Maurice Bloomfield for the lovely reading at the Service. Also thank you to the staff at John Meynell Funeral Service, Geradine and Ben for their professional and personal support throughout.
As Doris requested, family flowers only, her chosen charity was for donations to the Great North Air Ambulance Service, in response to this, over £400 was raised. Thank you so much to those who donated.

Obituary

Jean Wilson

on 28th November 2020 in hospital. Jean, aged 86, of Grassholme Place, Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Wife of the late Billy; dearly loved Mam of Billy and Pamela; much loved Grandmother of Paul, Gavin, Lisa and Less; loved Great Grandmother of Chloe, Ewan, Georgia, Harry, Ellie and Bailey; much loved Mother-in-Law to Joyce and Ian - We will miss you trillions.
Funeral at St. Clare's Church on Wednesday 16th December 2020 followed by Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon.

John Cassidy (Cass)

12th December 1987
Remembering you is easy, we do it every day. It's just the thought of losing you, that never goes away. Love from all the family xxxxxxx

Rita Thompson (Auntie Rita)

11th December 2008
Time passes, memories stay, loved and remembered every day. Love from all the family xxxxx

N.A.F.C. REPORT (Seniors and Juniors)



Newton Aycliffe FC's season remains suspended with no games having been played since the end of October. It was initially hoped that Lockdown 2 would be followed by a resumption of fixtures on 5th December. Aycliffe were due to travel to Penrith on that date. However, the new Tier 3 restrictions prevent spectators being allowed to attend matches. As a result the Ebac Northern League decided to delay the resumption of fixtures, initially for two further weeks.

The League intends to look again at the situation when the government reviews the tiers on 16th December. Currently, the next scheduled fixture is away at Sunderland RCA on Saturday 19th December. That will be followed by West Auckland's visit to the Beaumont Landscapes Stadium on Saturday 26th December (12:00pm kick off). If the North East remains in Tier 3 after 16th December it would seem likely that these two games will also be postponed. The decision of the League Management

Committee to suspend fixtures seems to have been the only sensible option when the Tier 3 restrictions were announced. 37 of the 40 clubs in the League are in Tier 3 areas (the exceptions being Northallerton Town, Penrith and Carlisle City).

Newton Aycliffe's Durham Challenge Cup match against Darlington Town has also been postponed. It had been scheduled for next week but advice received by Durham FA stated that clubs below Northern League level could not travel between Tier 3 areas. So, as County Durham and Darlington are in different combined authority areas, Town could not travel to Newton Aycliffe to play. The game will be rescheduled.

At the time that fixtures were suspended Colin Stromsoy's side had played 12 league games and sat fifth in Division One. Now that Lockdown 2 is behind us the squad has been able to resume training. However, whether we will see them play again in 2020 should be decided next week.

Photo: Liam Jarvie in action in Aycliffe's last match before lockdown. A 3-2 loss to Liverpool side Lower Breck in the FA Vase on 31 October.

N.A.F.C. JUNIORS

U8 Whites v Brandon United.

Aycliffe played really well as a team with good energy showing great movement and passing. William and Harry were solid in defence, Oscar was strong up front and Ossie was full of energy all over the pitch. Ellis, the keeper, was outstanding in goal with some incredible goal line clearances. Goals came from Harry who scored from the half way line and Oscar, from a brilliant assist from William. All in all a really good team performance, deservedly MOTM was awarded to Ellis for his heroics in goal.

U9 Blacks were back in action last Saturday against Hilda Park FC. There was some hard football and, consequently, Aycliffe went behind, but kept battling and deservedly came back strong. The keeper, Jake, made some great saves with the defence battling well for every ball. Aycliffe's attacking play was excellent with all goals coming from Max. This was an excellent debut for Charlie and he was deservedly awarded MOTM.

The **Under 9s Whites** played against league champions Pass Soccer Blacks. Unfortunately lockdown looked like it took its toll and Aycliffe did not get going. There were some glimpses in the game of what Aycliffe are capable of, but in the end the opposition were just too strong. Aycliffe still showed great character, they never gave up and will move onto the next game with a smile on their face.

MOTM went to Tyler for his constant battling, **U9 Juniors** were away to Boro Rangers United. A great competitive game throughout with both teams playing really well, despite the month long lay off. First half had some great goal line scrambles with a few near misses. Aycliffe went in behind with their goal coming from some great individual play from Jack. Second half, Aycliffe pulled level with a brilliantly worked free kick, Jack laying the ball off to Jonah at the edge of the box, who finished it beautifully. A close game for the rest, but a couple of mistakes caused Aycliffe to concede again. MOTM went to Marley who had a brilliant game, some great touches with lovely footwork and never stopped running.

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