

# 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

## Shine Choir Children Donate to Ward 10

See page 2 for more



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**SHAKE 'N' CAKE**



PAUL HOWELL  
MP for Sedgefield





## PCVC to Hold First Ever BUS Scrutiny Panel Next Week

A new independent scrutiny panel is being launched next week to ensure members of the public have a voice in analysing police procedures in County Durham and Darlington.

The first ever BUS panel, which stands for BAME Arrest, Use of Force and Stop and Search will be introduced on the 21st January by the Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (ODPCVC).

Every year Durham Constabulary stop and search thousands of individuals and, if required, during arrests, officers may use proportionately applied force.

As such, the ODPCVC has set up their first BUS panel to allow members of the public to independently scrutinise the use of powers applied by officers.

The panel is made up of members of the public who are asked to analyse records and review body worn video to ensure that correct procedure is being followed appropriately by the Force.

The aim is to ensure there is full transparency, improve confidence in policing and encourage best practice.

The panel will be conducted every three months and a representative from the panel will make viable recommendations to the ODPCVC as to how processes are being applied by officers. Steve White, Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, said "I am very pleased to announce the launch of the BUS panel and look forward to seeing how the analysis from independent members will influence policing procedures. The purpose of the panel is so that members of the public can independently scrutinise the police use of powers, ensuring greater transparency and community involvement. Panels like this one will allow for community concerns to be raised, which in turn can influence police actions."

## Shine Choir Children Donate to Ward 10



Dear Sir,  
Shine Choir would normally have held a fundraising Tombola at their Nativity performances, of course, that wasn't to be last year. But, we still had collected a fair few items. After reading the plea from Heather Wilson, requesting toiletries and gifts for Ward 10 (end of life care ward), the team sprung into action and arranged a collection of these gifts for the patients. Part of the mission statement of the choir is that we seek to serve our communities through the way we live our lives - this is why Shine really is such

an apt name - these children are beacons of light!  
Under normal circumstances the children would have presented the gifts, as the gifts come from them, however, the team did so on their behalf!  
Well Done Shine.  
Photo: Gifts were taken to Ward 10 where the staff sent their grateful thanks to the Choir.



## Joy-Marie Hairdressing

*Would like to wish all customers a very Happy New Year and thank you for all the lovely cards and gifts received over the festive season.*

*From Joy-Marie,  
Angela, Sarah and Elise*

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### JANUARY 2021

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Daube of beef in bourguignon sauce, with horseradish mash & baby carrots - £13.00  
Salmon supreme with sweet chili and soy sauce linguine - £13.00  
Chick Pea, Leek & Apricot Tagine with herb cous cous (V) - £9.00  
Red Lentil Dahl, Coriander Rice & Onion Bhaji (GF) (V) - £9.00  
Beer Battered Cod, Triple Cooked Chips and peas - £9.00 (Half £6.50)  
Homemade Steak & Ale Pie, Triple Cooked Chips, Gravy and peas - £9.00 (Half £6.50)  
Sausages in onion gravy, Mash, Peas & Yorkshire Pudding - £8.50 (Half £6.50)  
Deep Fried Scampi, Chips & Peas - £9.50 (Half £7.50)  
Beef or Chicken in a Madras, Balti or Korma Sauce with Pilau Rice or Chips £9.00  
**\*\* CURRY SPECIAL \*\*** - 2 x Curries, 2 x Rice, 2 x Chips, Portion of Onion Bhaji - £20.00  
Dessert  
Warm Chocolate Orange Brownie - £5.00

**Sunday Roast\*** - Choice of meat, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, seasonal veg, mash potato & gravy - 1 Course £9.00 or 2 courses for £11.50 (Sundays only)

### Extra Side Orders

Buttered new potatoes £2.50 | Creamed mash potato £2.50  
Triple cooked chips £2.50 | Garden or mushy peas £1.00 | Onion rings £2  
Chinese Curry Sauce £1.00 | Rice - £1.50 | Onion Bhaji - £1.50  
Bombay New Potatoes - £3.50

GF - Gluten Free alternative available

V - Vegetarian alternative.

### \*\* JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERS - 2 for £15.00 \*\*

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## Becky's Long Service Celebrated

This month Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) acknowledges a key member of the team after a remarkable 20 years' service. Becky Gustard, PCP's longest serving employee, is highly regarded by everyone she works with, staff, volunteers and clients. Becky started her PCP journey as a part time receptionist/administrator and over the years has developed and grown with the organisation, moving through several positions progressing to be a senior administrator, quality administrator and now is the Compliance Co-ordinator responsible for supporting the development of PCP's many quality standards. Becky also supports businesses in the North East, by providing advice and guidance to enable them to achieve the Better Health at Work regional standard. Becky's passion for helping people extends beyond her working role, she supports a number of charities through her love of knitting. Becky has made baby clothes for the Warm Baby Project, Twiddle Muffs to support individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia and made PCP Easter and Christmas gifts to raise money for our hydrotherapy pool refurbishment fund.

Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive, said "Becky is a vital part of the team, she is great to work with and is caring, helpful and cheerful. Becky is passionate about helping people and well-respected by her colleagues. She is central to what we do at PCP and I'm thrilled that she's achieved the milestone of 20 years' service and being PCP's longest service employee. Well done Becky!"



## To All Budding Artists and Writers

Dear Sir,  
Hello to you all, I was hoping you would like to cheer up our elderly residents in our town care and nursing homes. For many months now they have been unable to have many visitors or even get out into the fresh air, in fear they catch the Covid-19 virus still spreading around our country, and many others.

My aim is to try and bring a little brightness into their lives during this depressing time. If you love to draw, paint or write, or do all three of them, why don't you show our residents just what your skills are in any of these genres. Whatever it is I am sure that it will make them feel so happy that someone has thought about them.

Just do what YOU love best, I know it will be superb, and you too will feel happy that you have cheered someone up who might have been feeling so sad and lonely.

There are seven care and nursing homes around Newton Aycliffe and one day care home next to Bethany House in Woodham (Village Close). The others are Bethany House, St. Clare's Court (near the fire station), Rose Lodge (near Cobblers Hall), Aycliffe Care Home (in the Horndale area), Lindisfarne Care Home (near Silverdale Place), Defoe Care Home (near Woodham Academy) and lastly Woodham Lodge (half way down Burn Lane, first bungalow through iron gates on your right).

THANK YOU for doing your best for our elderly people, they were once young and carefree like you. Many helped build up this town and are so proud of it and the people in it. So come on you youngster's, go for this idea with all the determination and care you have.

God bless each and every one of you.  
Pam Lovelass  
Pastoral Assistant of The Parish of Great Aycliffe.

### SIESTA BLINDS

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## Thoughtful Neighbours

Dear Sir,  
My father is nearly 84 and lives in a block of four bungalows on Vane Road. The guy who lives at the back of him has been looking out for the residents in these bungalows since the beginning of the first lock down. He gave them all his number in case they needed anything and lately, when it snowed, he cleared all their paths and the pavement in front of the bungalows as well as putting down salt for the cars coming round the area.

A fantastic neighbourly gesture, for which we thank you.  
Name and address supplied

Dear Sir,  
I would like to thank the wonderful people of this town. I went out on Monday 11th in my electric wheelchair and got stuck on the ice and snow along Woodham Way, a beautiful lady, and her gorgeous dog, attempted to help push me off the ice, when she was unsuccessful she went up to the main road and asked some passers by to help, two wonderful gentlemen came and pushed me back onto the path.

Then, later on, near Burn Lane, I got stuck again and another wonderful gentleman and his partner assisted me.

I want to thank the people of this town, it may not be easy for us right now, but we have a wonderful town and people that we can all be truly proud of.

Thank you so much to you all.  
Michelle Kidd

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# First Kickstart Employees Have Joined the Ranks

Learning Curve Group (LCG) are playing a vital role in supporting young people into roles through the Government's Kickstart scheme. The £2billion Kickstart scheme, announced by the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, as part of his 'Plan for Jobs' enables employers to offer six-month job placements for 16-24-year-olds at risk of long-term unemployment, with their wages paid by Government for up to 25 hours per week.

This year has seen the most people out of work since 1994 and as the pandemic gained momentum, lots of young people saw themselves unemployed, in particular those leaving education. LCG recognised the outstanding opportunity that the scheme presented and have already applied and had approval for 30 and hired 15 individuals through the scheme; helping young people back into the workplace or into their first role.

Not only are LCG utilising this scheme themselves, they are also an approved gateway organisation for businesses that don't meet the government criteria of 30 positions per application. The minimum number of positions per application, as set out by Government, is a barrier for smaller to medium sized enterprises when it comes to taking advantage of the scheme. Government recognise this and to aid in administrative output, select approved Gateway organisations are able to combine positions from multiple organisations to meet the minimum numbers required.

Learning Curve Group apply for placements and funding on behalf of a business, regardless of the number of opportunities they have within their organisation, significantly reducing the administrative pressure on your business, too. Once DWP approves the application, Job Centre Plus (JCP) advertise the placement referring any suitable applicants to LCG to sift. Once the recruitment and interview process has been completed, the business gets to make the final decision – saving essential time.

One of the first applications LCG have submitted, for a business



seeking warehousing and customer service staff in the North West of England, has been approved. They hope this will be the first of many cohorts they wish to recruit, giving unemployed people a fantastic opportunity.

Since receiving gateway approval, LCG has over 40 employers offering a significant amount of roles, with a further 200 employers finalising plans to utilise the scheme to recruit across England and Scotland in roles such as Care, Admin, Warehousing and Teaching Assistant roles.



**Do you want to work with the elderly and vulnerable people in Newton Aycliffe?**

**Do you want to support them and enable them to remain safely in their own homes?**

**Just call us on**

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**and speak to Sophie  
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# New Year, Fresh Start

For the friendship and contact you've all shown this year, It has kept our hearts up and dispelled our fear, Just to know we have a great family and friends, Has let us know that Covid we can contend, And that if we all stick together and support each other, This strange time we can definitely weather, A vaccine is now here to protect all, And soon, God willing, we can call, on each other with a kiss on the cheek, Something we took for granted but do now hopefully seek, may 2021 see us regroup, with family and friends and strengthen our roots. After World War One the Roaring Twenties came next, What can we do to shake off the effect, Of Covid 19 on our great nation? Let's too make 2021 a year of amazing celebration.

MMK December 2020

## Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership Appoints New Chair

A former assistant chief constable has been appointed as the new independent chair and scrutineer of Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP).

David Pickard retired in 2014 after serving with Durham Constabulary and Cleveland Police for 30 years. Since then, he has served as the independent chair of both Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children Boards and, from 2019, the combined Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children Partnership. Mr. Pickard believes strongly in the power of partnership work to make a positive difference to the lives of children and their families, and he brings a wealth of experience to his new role. He has taken over from Michael Banks who was the partnership's independent chair for two years. During this time, Mr Banks oversaw the transition from the Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to DSCP. This is a partnership of key agencies that play a vital role in keeping children safe, including Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary and local clinical commissioning groups.

Mr Pickard said: "It's a great honour to be appointed as the independent chair and scrutineer of DSCP. I am committed to offering the best possible advice, support and challenge to all partners as we work together to protect children and young people in County Durham. I would like to thank Michael for his professionalism and leadership in overseeing the move from Durham LSCB to DSCP. He has left some excellent foundations to be built upon."

Mr Banks said: "It has been a privilege to work in partnership with such committed professionals who are dedicated to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. In County Durham, we have utilised the legislative framework and guidance to transform partnership working through the establishment of DSCP.

"We must be the best we can be for every encounter with every child and I am delighted that Dave has been appointed as Independent Scrutineer, to ensure that the partnership is effective in its work."

In a joint statement, members of DSCP said: "We would like to place on record our immense thanks to Michael. He has, with real integrity, effectively led us through the transition into the new working arrangements, and now over a year on, they are well embedded. He has always had at his heart the desire to keep children safe, so that every child can flourish, achieve their full potential and live life in abundance. Dave has demonstrated equal integrity and determination in Stockton and Hartlepool, and we are looking forward to working with him to ensure the best possible outcomes for all children in County Durham."



## AYCLIFFE RADIO

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### Weekly Programme Schedule

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"Aycliffe Town Centre... Shopping for You"



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

**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
<b>"The Saturday Night Experience" Sponsored by Bengal Lounge Indian Restaurant &amp; Takeaway</b>		
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
<b>Blues Show Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service</b>		
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	Colin McNeillie
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
7.30-11pm	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	22nd Jan - <b>Pauly Mac</b> (Australia) Rare Vinyl Mix	Vinyl Mix
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby
12-2am	Night Club Session	A DJ

**Check our website for full schedule**

**www.ayclifferadio.co.uk**

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# Filtronic Secures £150,000 Capital Grant to Support Expansion Plans

**Filtronic has received a grant of £150,000 to contribute towards its expansion project which will accelerate growth and increase its workforce.**

The firm, which operates from NETPark in Sedgefield, was awarded the capital grant from the County Durham Growth Fund and is using the money to help bolster the company's manufacturing and testing facilities as well as create up to 36 new jobs.

Filtronic, which designs and manufactures advanced RF products and solutions for critical communications markets, has invested £1m in its expansion project. The investment, supported by the County Durham Growth Fund, will allow the company to increase its capacity significantly and win contracts with other customers, leading to accelerated growth.

Filtronic Chief Financial Officer, Michael Tyerman, said: "The way we communicate is changing dramatically and with the increased growth in traffic expected from 5G, network capacity has to be improved. In order to address this challenge, we have invested significant R&D activity in developing a number of E-band products which can deliver high performance at a competitive cost, which have understandably attracted interest from a number of potential new customers."

"Now, thanks to our own capital investment and the fantastic support we've had from the County Durham Growth Fund, we have been able to expand our manufacturing and testing facilities, allowing us to produce in larger quantities which will enable us to win work with other companies, accelerating our plans for growth."

The County Durham Growth Fund, overseen by Business Durham, the economic development arm of Durham County Council, is a £8.9m investment scheme providing funding to small and medium sized businesses in County Durham to accelerate their growth.

Sarah Slaven, Interim Managing Director of Business Durham, said: "The support we have given to Filtronic has not only led to the creation of new jobs and significant expansion at the company's NETPark facility, but also demonstrates the diversity of the fund to support companies across a broad range of sectors in our area."

Cllr. Carl Marshall, Durham County Council's cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "We are pleased to be able to support Filtronic in expanding its enterprises, allowing it to accelerate its plans for growth, keep business in County Durham, and create new jobs for the region's people. This investment also supports our long-term ambition as a council, which is to preserve a thriving environment for businesses to grow while creating and safeguarding more and better jobs."

The fund is being delivered in partnership with UMi, which has a dedicated team of advisors ready to help with initial eligibility checks and funding applications. All successful grants applications are appraised by UNW LLP, an independent firm of chartered accountants and business advisers. The funding has been secured from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020.

Simon Allen, Investment Centre Director at UMi, said: "Filtronic is a fast-growing, hugely ambitious company which, thanks to the investment committed by the County Durham Growth Fund, has been able to roll out expansion plans which will cement its continued growth in County Durham for many years to come."

John Healey, Corporate Finance Partner at UNW LLP, said: "It is encouraging to see an innovative technology company be supported by the County Durham Growth Fund to create new jobs and increase its capacity."

# Sign up for 2021 Garden Waste Collections



Residents in County Durham can now sign up for the Garden Waste Collection scheme for 2021.

The first collection from the Durham County Council service takes place in late March or early April, followed by fortnightly collections until November when the season ends.

Those who sign up before Sunday 14 February will receive all 17 collections during the year, dependent on Government advice on coronavirus.

Residents can sign up for a fee of £35. Those who subscribed to the scheme in 2020 will be charged £30.90 per existing bin subscription for 2021 due to coronavirus causing a late start in 2020.

Collection calendars and stickers will be provided to residents in advance of the scheme starting following subscription. Once the scheme has started, residents who sign up to the service will receive the remaining collections before the season ends.

John Shannon, Durham County Council's strategic waste manager, said: "We would like to take this opportunity to thank customers who signed up to the 2020 scheme for their patience as there were interruptions to the service due to the ongoing pandemic."

"Over 65,000 residents signed up to the 2020 service which resulted in us collecting over 16,000 tonnes of garden waste".

To sign up to the service or find out if a property is eligible, call 03000 260 000 or visit [www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

When residents subscribe to the service they are reminded to fix their bin sticker to the garden waste bin and put the bin out for collection by 7am on their allocated collection day.

Collection information will be available before the scheme starts and can be found by visiting [www.durham.gov.uk/MyDurham](http://www.durham.gov.uk/MyDurham) and entering the postcode and property number.

Residents are reminded that the following items can go in the garden waste bin for composting and should not be used for any other waste:

- Grass cuttings
- Leaves
- Flowers and bedding plants
- Prunings
- Shrubs
- Weeds
- Hedge clippings
- Small branches

Durham County Council provides garden waste collections to eligible properties in County Durham.

For residents in the Teesdale area, garden waste collections are carried out by Rotters, working in partnership with the county council. Residents in this area should call 01833 690 022 or visit [www.rotters.org](http://www.rotters.org)

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## Council Set to Invest £5m to Aid Business Recovery



Durham County Council looks set to roll out a grant scheme which would provide up to £40,000 in financial assistance to companies, to help them implement recovery plans to overcome the impacts of the virus. The Durham Business Recovery Grant Scheme would support more than 880 firms and have the potential to safeguard over 1,760 jobs, across the county. The scheme went before the council's Cabinet for approval last week.

A report to the meeting on Wednesday 13th January set out how £3 million would come from the council's own General Fund resources, with £2 million being made available from the authority's allocation from the government's Additional Restrictions Support Grant. The grant scheme would be open to companies across County Durham, in all sectors and varying in size from micro-businesses to those employing up to 250 people in the county.

It would aim to provide financial support for the implementation of business recovery plans; helping firms that have a credible plan to adapt and recover but require additional financial support to be able to implement it. The scheme would offer grants from £1,000 up to a maximum of £40,000 and would contribute 75 per cent towards the recovery plan costs, with the business expected to meet a quarter of the project cost. It is estimated that the £5 million budget would allow at least 880 businesses to be supported.

Cabinet is also being asked to note support already being offered to micro businesses (those employing less than 10 people) in the county through the Durham Business Opportunities Programme. Launched in October, this involves businesses being given one-to-one marketing support to help them increase their sales post-COVID and grants of up to £500 to help implement advice received. The programme aims to support 110 businesses, with a grant pot of £55,000 which is being met from the reserve of Business Durham, the council's economic development arm.

Cabinet is also being asked to note that a review is being carried out of funding available to support business start-up in the county. Members will be told that subject to the outcome, council may need to consider additional funding support for start-ups in the form of a grant or voucher scheme. A further report will be brought to Cabinet once the review has been completed.

Cabinet will also be told of further efforts by the council to support the county's economy and its recovery from coronavirus, through the Social Value and Local Wealth Building (The County Durham Pound) project. Members will receive an update on the project which sees the council working with developers and suppliers to identify social value and wealth building opportunities. It also looks to ensure that social value and community wealth building are part of both the council's response to Covid-19, and the delivery of the four priorities within the Council Plan 2020 – 2023.

## Consultation Open for your View on Police Budget

Residents of County Durham and Darlington are being asked how much they are willing to pay for policing in their council tax.

The government has recently confirmed that Police and Crime Commissioners can increase the precept by £15 annually.

The Office of Durham Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner is recommending the precept (council tax) is increased by the maximum amount of £15 per year in Band D properties.

In County Durham and Darlington such increase will help deliver the policing uplift to enable more police officers on the streets and in the communities, provide support to those suffering mental health crises in order to keep them and our communities safe, as well as ensuring the force control room is sufficiently resourced to meet demand from 999 and 101 calls.

The increase in precept will also enable the force to invest in technology infrastructure, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of police procedures so that officers can continue to deliver support to communities and businesses.

The Force will also benefit from precept funding, using its resources to work on crime issues such as county lines in partnership with neighbouring forces to ensure they try and interrupt organised crime and drug gangs.

The force would like to continue to invest and educate residents regarding the emerging and growing types of crime, including cyber-crime which is becoming more prevalent.

Over recent years the precept has been increased to help continue to invest in victim support services, such as to victims who need assistance to recover from domestic and/or sexual abuse, and ensure the force are able to maintain a strong PCSO presence within the community.

Steve White, Acting Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, said, "Durham Constabulary is one of the most efficient police forces in the country according to HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services. That's a consequence of the force's commitment to innovation and making the very best use of the money available."

"I recognise how tough this year has been on everyone within the community and how difficult individuals' financial circumstances have become, however policing is an essential service that will help us keep our communities safe."

"Our police force has faced their own challenges and worked extremely hard to set new regulations this year in order to keep people safe during the pandemic."

"The proposed increase will help meet the rising demand from people who suffer from mental health crisis in our communities, in order to keep them and the public safe. An increase will also mean we can continue to deliver an effective and efficient police force and maintain the highest standard of policing with more officers on the streets protecting the community".

Residents will be asked what services they think would benefit from extra investment including victim support, rural crime and anti-social behaviour.

Last year's precept increase of £10 per Band D household helped support the employment of over 68 additional police officers plus additional police staff to support these officers, to Durham Police during 2020/21.

Durham Constabulary has recently submitted a planning application to build a £21m centralised custody facility, these funds have come from reserves and will not be funded from a rise in the precept.

Steve White, Acting Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner will make a precept recommendation to Durham Police and Crime Panel in the New Year, once the consultation has ended.

The survey for residents of County Durham and Darlington will be open until 31st January 2021.

Link to Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/967C3F9>

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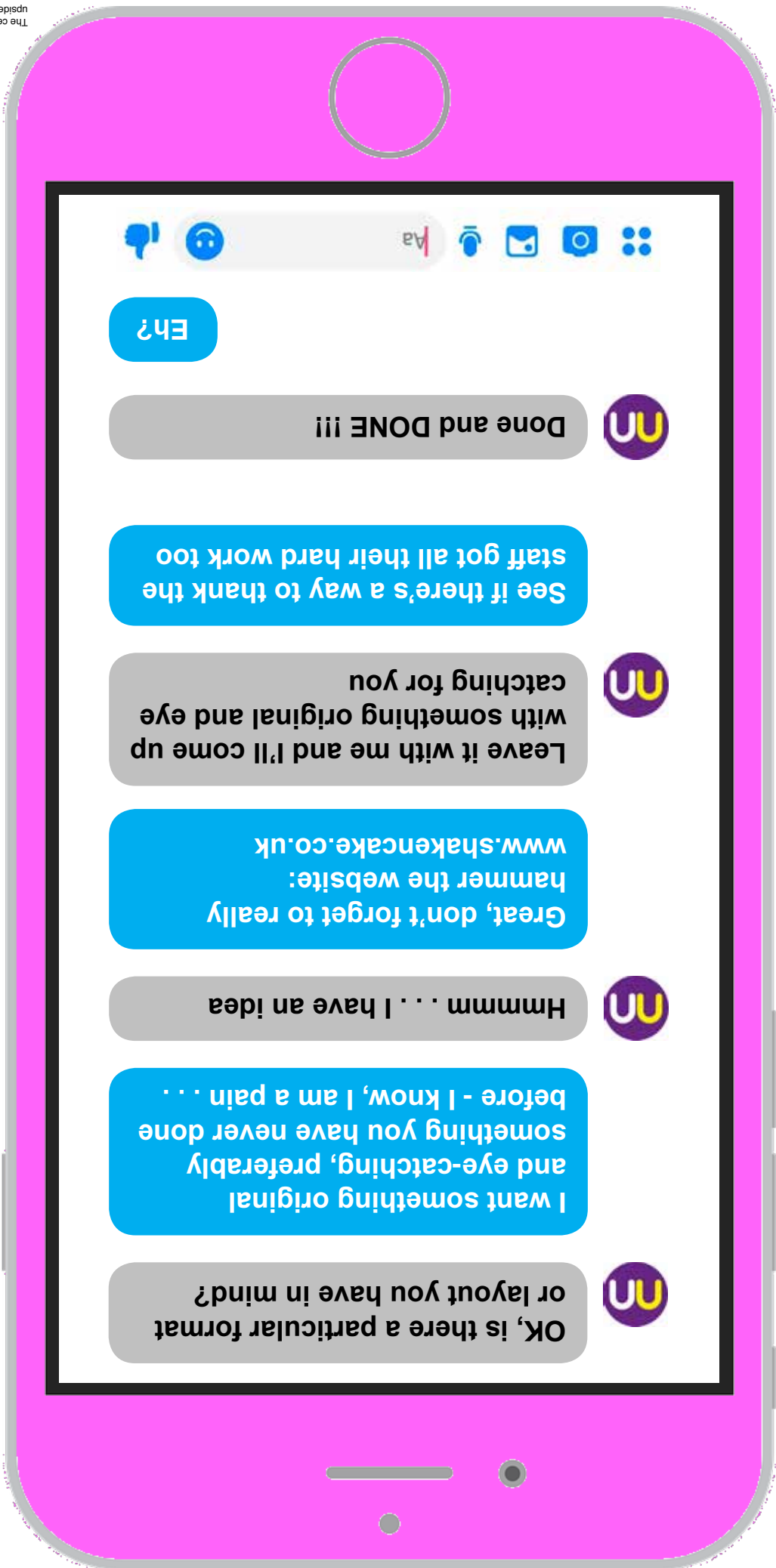
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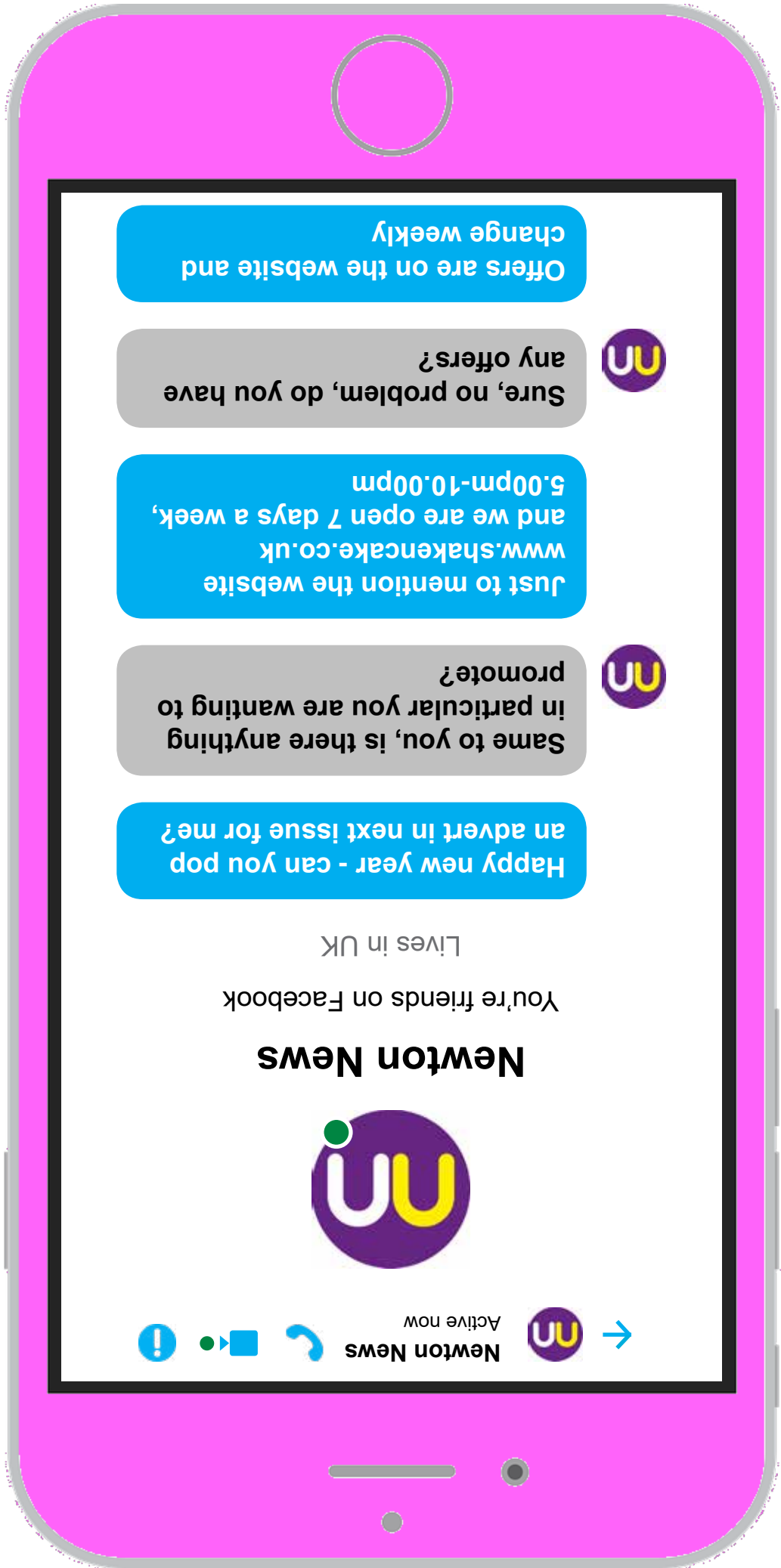
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## Newton News

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# Record Number of Nursing Students

The latest data on university admissions published by UCAS shows record numbers of students accepted places to study nursing and midwifery in England this year.

The final figures from this year's admission cycle show there were 29,740 acceptances to nursing and midwifery courses in England, 6,110 more than last year and an increase of over a quarter (26%). This year, 23% (6,770) of acceptances were from students aged 35 years and older, a 43% increase on last year.

The number of new nursing applicants to English providers between 15 January and 30 June was 68% (4,600) higher than the same period last year. The lockdown period (23 March – 30 June deadline) itself saw nearly double the number of applications to nursing relative to the same period in the year previously. In September the Government introduced training grants for eligible nursing, midwifery and many allied health profession students of at least £5,000 a year, which does not need to be paid back. Additional payments of up to £3,000 will be available for specialists struggling to recruit including learning disability and mental health nursing and to help students cover childcare costs. Figures to the end of August show the number of nurses in the NHS in England increased by 14,813 compared to last year.

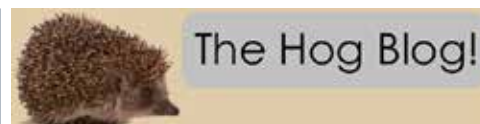


## Rotary Newton Aycliffe - featured this week is our Treasurer, Barry Hutchinson.

It must be at least 15 years since colleague and friend, John Ledger persuaded me to visit Rotary Newton Aycliffe, with a view to joining. Don Walker (Walkers Butchers) was in the Chair, so you can imagine it was an interesting night. A few weeks after the visit I was hooked and became a Rotarian. A few years later I was asked to become President, then following that, I was appointed Treasurer, so it has been a busy time.

Most of my working life has been spent in the NHS, until I took early retirement from my position as Head of Finance for South Durham NHS Trust.

My grandfather introduced me to sport, and I spent many happy years involved with football, cricket, tennis, badminton and squash, until a squash injury meant I was helped off the court, never to play again. In the early days, I was an avid follower of football and thought that referees were rubbish, and I could do better. So, I qualified as a junior referee and soon found it far more difficult than I could have ever believed. I lost count of the number of times I walked into the house, threw my dirty kit in the corner and said, "Never again, that's it". However, I did persevere, and I made it to what was then called first class status. Looking back, I never thought that I would be involved in a game that had such playing legends as Jack Charlton and Graeme Souness, even if it was a testimonial match, in front of 6000 fans. A number of years ago I was asked to go to a rehearsal for a part with an amateur drama group. I thought that it would be for just a few weeks, but 25 years later I was still involved and received an award from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association for long service to the theatre. It has been hard work, but the buzz of performing in front of 250 people when the show is going well made it all worthwhile. Being a Rotarian is very much a similar role, helping others to achieve their best and the buzz our members get from being able to assist in our community is priceless!



Despite it being the time of year when most hedgehogs are in hibernation we are still finding hedgehogs in need of help and support, admissions are slowing down and those that are with us are here till the weather changes again, maybe April/May time, so we have 22 hungry mouths to feed and care for.

Myself and Tara want to thank Marlene for her very generous donation of £20 and Sonia for regularly supplying us with lovely food for them. They are all doing very nicely and are keeping very healthy, comfy and warm including our latest admission Georgie, he came in on Monday afternoon after being found outside Greenfield School by Bev and because of his age, and the time of year, it will be irresponsible to send him back out so he is here with the other prickly pals. He is eating well and rested after having a bath to see if he was hiding any other problems or injuries which he isn't thankfully, he feels a million dollars though being nice and clean. Can we remind readers that whilst many people feed the birds, squirrels, etc, a lot of their food is extremely dangerous for our hoggies, bread, nuts, milk, mealworms, to name but a few, have been known to kill these precious mammals at any age and we get them in to rescue centres and are powerless to save them. Every rehabber takes each and every loss badly. Stay safe everyone, this lockdown will take some time but it's business as usual for myself and Tara.

*Tip of the week, British Hedgehog Preservation Society number is 01584 890801, the Hedgehog Street app or our own Facebook page Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel, should you want to have a look at our hogspital or post news etc for us.*



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**Parliament  
Talk**

Tel: 01325 790580 - Email: paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk

We are all doing our best to adapt to another lockdown, albeit one that this time has a light at the end of it. How bright that light shines and how quickly we get back to daylight depends on us all. The roll out of vaccines is critical but it is our actions in the meantime that will also be critical. We need to follow the spirit of the rules as well as the letter. There has been some debate this week about what is local and whether specific distances should be given. I can't see how that would work, for me this is about following the spirit of the law and taking personal responsibility for our actions. For most of us in our area there is little need to travel to exercise as we are blessed with a green town but for some it is appropriate. All I would say is if you do need to travel for exercise, if, when you get there, it's busy, go somewhere else.

This is all about stopping transmission between households. When I talk to the Police about where they see problems their biggest concern is those inviting friends or family into their houses. This is the biggest risk of transmission and I fully support the Police in giving little latitude to these people and progressing fines, etc, as robustly as they can. These idiots are putting themselves and the rest of us at risk. As a Conservative politician I am all for personal freedoms but in the current environment I have no time for those denying the existence of the virus and propagating ridiculous conspiracy theories. I have been to our local hospitals and these people only undermine the efforts of our fabulous NHS teams. I can assure you that as soon as it is safe to do so I will be wanting our freedoms back, but only when it is safe to do so.

Anyway, as regards what I have been doing this week, like a lot of people I have largely been working from home. Also, like many, I am going zoom or teams crazy with days where it is one virtual meeting after another

so the occasional need to meet a constituent is a real treat.

I have had virtual meetings on many subjects including vaccinations, with minister Zahawi who is leading the roll out, and I have been very impressed by him. I am sure his background in logistics will help enormously. I have had updates with Durham County Council (DCC) and the MP for Bishop Auckland, Dehenna Davison, on Greenfield School; also with DCC on selective licensing; I also had several conversations with both ministers and local MP's (Red and Blue) about Ferryhill Station and the Leamside line proposals. I was also able to actually visit one of the nursery providers to discuss their concerns around remaining open when schools are closed to all but essential workers and I am writing to the minister to share their concerns.

The select committee work on BEIS continues and this week it was all about the energy white paper where it was good to see organisations like the Climate Change Committee and the Renewable Energy Association welcoming it. There is work to do on delivery but they were happy with the white paper. Next week we are due to discuss COP26 which, as I have mentioned before, is the big Climate Change conference taking place in Glasgow later this year. Other interesting meetings during the week included the PM coming to the 1922 committee and a briefing with the new Press Secretary for No 10, Allegra Stratton, as well as a meeting of the Northern Research Group of MP's whose focus is to shout up for the North. I was also able to speak in a debate virtually, for the first time. I spoke in the Global Britain debate on Monday about the need to invest in the North East so we can grow our businesses and start to build back better. It is strange speaking in a debate to a laptop screen when no-one can intervene or question you, more like a short speech really.

A final comment on vaccinations, the roll out has a number of approaches to it. These range from the large vaccination centres like the Centre For Life at Newcastle to local pharmacies. These are being developed in parallel with each other and everyone will soon have an option for one within 10 miles of where they live. You may get the option to go to one of the bigger centres and feel free to take this if you wish but if it is too far to travel you can wait and you will get a more local option.

For now though, please follow the rules, Stay Home, Save Lives and Protect our NHS  
**Paul Howell**  
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

# Commissioner Visits Aycliffe

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of visiting Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team this month and found out how they have been tackling anti-social behaviour in the area. I met with Inspector Sarah Honeyman and Sergeant Andy Boyd who showed me the hotspot areas for anti-social behaviour around the town and how they are looking at measures to prevent this behaviour. New initiatives are being explored in Newton Aycliffe in collaboration with the council and local services. Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team are working to establish a community hub like PACT House, Stanley, which would become a safe space for local people looking for practical and emotional support, all in a relaxed café-type environment.

I also had the pleasure of meeting PC Mike Welch who has been in the police force for over fourteen years. It was great to see the relationships he has built within the community and listening to those who need help or have concerns. He has a strong passion for policing and delivers an exceptional level of service for Durham Police. I learned about other initiatives that have been on-going over recent months to tackle anti-social behaviour including officers spending time with young people who have previously caused anti-social behaviour, who are now working on projects giving back to the community. A young person who previously caused anti-social behaviour in the community led a project to create Christmas wreaths to give to families, vulnerable persons and nursing homes within the Western Area. Over 50 wreaths were created and delivered to families within the community in partnership with the local garden centre and funding from the Western Partnership. The local McDonald's has also partnered with the neighbourhood policing team to award young people that have shown fantastic community spirit in Newton Aycliffe through the ACE programme, as well as looking at ways to further support teenagers in the future through work experience and mentoring.

Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team has also been supported by partners in obtaining funding to assist in the safer homes initiative whereby victims of crime will be offered additional security measures free of charge. It was great to meet more of the Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team this month and discuss ways they are preventing anti-social behaviour and working with young people. Anti-social behaviour is a blight for many, and I have seen first-hand the comprehensive response which Durham police are driving. Policing has no magic wand to stop anti-social behaviour, but they do have the innovation, ideas and partnerships to make long term sustainable changes to prevent rather than react to the behaviour. Well done Newton Aycliffe.

Steve White, Acting Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

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**Telephone: 020 7219 6385**  
**Mobile: 07464 898442**  
**Aycliffe Office: 01325 790580**



# We Need You Again . . .

Dear Sir,  
Once again I find myself writing this article to all of you good people from Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas. I do not need to tell you that we are once again in a total lockdown of our area. This means that no families or visitors at all are allowed into our care homes in the coming weeks.  
Your help with this appeal, last time this happened, was simply wonderful, and so, I am asking again for your help. Please if you could write a card or letter to any resident in our town care homes, I know they will be gratefully received.  
The same Covid-19 protection procedures as before please.  
Leave your letter/card for 72 hours after writing it, do NOT seal it.  
Take or post it to any care home near you, you can place it in a plastic folder if possible for extra protection for the receiver.  
Write anything at all, who you are, what your likes or dislikes are, just general news about yourself, always asking the person you are writing to for their name, their family and life story. Put your address on the letter/card, as they may wish to write back to you.  
A very big THANK YOU for thinking about doing this again, it brings such a lot of pleasure to those who receive them.  
May God bless you for your thoughtfulness and kindness.  
Pam Lovelass (Pastoral Assistant in The Parish of Great Aycliffe).

*Humorous stories reproduced from newspapers from around the world*

## Divorce

The first divorce directly related to the September 11th terrorist attacks was filed in New York.  
It appears a guy with an office on the 103rd floor of the World Trade Centre spent the morning at his girlfriend's apartment with his phone turned off. He wasn't watching TV either!  
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to the applicant at  
the address given at  
the top of this notice.  
A Guide to Making  
Representations is  
available from the Traffic  
Commissioner's  
Office.

15-01-2021

# Cree Men in Creative Projects at Greenfield



The Greenfield Arts Men's Cree group, who are supported by County Durham Public Health, have been participating in a valuable project learning new skills and exploring ways to be positive. They have recently been making their own journals and memory boxes with guidance from artist Dawn Belshaw. The activity has given a chance to be hands-on, not only creating useful materials and objects, but also creating somewhere to record the positive experiences and creative journeys they have taken whilst meeting together through this process.

This is just one of many opportunities the Cree have enjoyed over the past few months, working alongside artists and practitioners to explore the world around them and what might be possible in the future. Their work will also be part of a new exhibition at Greenfield Arts, Finders, Seekers, which will be shared with our community and the wider public online with new creative activities and opportunities too.

The Greenfield Arts Cree is a wellbeing group that enables members to explore ideas, express themselves and give to the community to support wellbeing and their own positive mental health. The Cree includes men of different ages, skills and experiences and are very welcoming to new men. The group have embarked on many projects that have benefitted the wider public that have been appreciated and benefitted many. If you think you would like to join, contact our team to find out more by emailing [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk)

## Invisible

Hi folks, I am an invisible germ,  
I am spreading all over your land.  
And every minute of every day you help me,  
by spreading me with your hands.  
Every time you cough or sneeze,  
I'm floating through the air.  
I know you are trying to get rid of me,  
But do you think, I really care.  
I've got friends all over the world,  
Ready to take my place.  
And you just can't be bothered,  
to put a mask upon your face.  
If you can't be bothered to follow the rules,  
simple as they may be.  
You will never ever get rid of me,  
Your rules are 1 2 3.  
Wash your hands, wear your mask, social distance,  
Then follow the two metre rule.  
And, so what, you are all missing loved ones,  
But remember, I'm no fool.  
I don't have a heart, or feel emotions, so,  
Do I care if you end up dead.  
At the end of the day, it's all up to you,  
Just remember, I'm invisible so take note of what I've said.

A Moment of Reflection by Ellen Cairns

## Sudoku

	7		1	8				2
		9		6	7			3
		1		2		7	8	
	2		7				9	1
7			2		8		4	
	4			1		2		8
8	9	7		4				
1		2			8			
6					2			7



# Greenfield Students Return to Learning

Students at Greenfield Community College are returning to their online classrooms this term with the opportunity to take advantage of a range of learning resources and high quality teaching. Although physical face-to-face learning is presently on hold teaching and support staff are on hand with a full timetable of lessons and support to create the best learning experience possible for the students.

Resources are available so that students can access learning to suit their needs. A full time-table of curriculum subjects will continue and also daily T4S (Time for Success) lessons which will support students to meet with their form tutors; develop

reading skills and share one-to-one time with teaching staff to help them progress and maintain positive wellbeing. Information about online learning is available via the school website where online resources can be found in 'student home access' and specialist support is also available from the Progress and Guidance team. Limited staffing in school is also enabling children of keyworkers to learn onsite.

In addition the school have invested in a new online learning platform. The Senaca system will add an extra dimension to learning and will be a positive addition to the existing resources. Senaca is an excellent revision tool which will support students to reflect and encourage a deeper knowledge to enhance their learning. Greenfield Arts are also continuing ways to support students with projects encouraging student voice and creative ways to promote wellbeing amongst our greenfield community.



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 further information visit [www.greenfieldschool.net](http://www.greenfieldschool.net) or contact the school by emailing [contact@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:contact@greenfieldschool.net) or by calling 01325 300378.

## Climate Crisis?

Dear Sir,  
I take exception to Cllr. J. D. Clare repeatedly referring to normal periodic climate change, as being an 'Extinction Event' or a 'Crisis'. Neither is true. It is fear mongering! The fact of the matter is that a true 'Extinction Event' can happen at any time, without the help of humanity. It will be my bad luck if it happens during my lifetime. It's as simple as that.

Compare Cllr. Clare's letter with our MP Paul Howell's letter in the same edition. Paul Howell promised to get Brexit done. DONE! He also promised to follow sensible 'green' policies and to 'level up'. Being done! Despite Covid, the Conservatives have saved Teesside Airport, secured a development for Carbon Capture and another for Battery Production. Why would anybody, locally, vote for Momentum/Labour or 'the Greens'? The Conservatives are achieving their manifesto promises and 'saving the planet' at the same time. Not that I think it needs saving, but inward investment is only good and jobs are jobs! Phil Wilson did not want to save our Airport and did not want Brexit!

Cllr. Clare refers to the socio-economic systems that need to be changed. He actually means political, socio-economic systems. He has advocated doing away with the Capitalist system and replacing it with a Socialist/Communist system. He also advocates that we eat substantially less meat!

In my lifetime two countries that have experimented with Cllr. Clare's preferred political, socio-economic systems; Venezuela and North Korea. Their outcomes have been so chaotic, that in both, the only meat available to eat is the family dog! I'll stick to cow, pig and lamb, thank you.

I agree that everyone should register to vote. However, the majority Momentum faction in the national Labour Party is advocating that we re-join the E.U. and we all know that Momentum still has influence in the Sedgfield Labour Party. Given that Cllr. Clare has been appointed 'DCC Climate Champion' and is a member of 'Climate Extinction' we can readily assume that his extreme left-wing views are shared by his fellow Councillors and supporters. Vote for a 'Climate Warrior' and you are voting for communism and anarchy.

Yours Sincerely,  
Alastair P.G. Welsh

### Obituary

#### Evelyn Puttick

Died on 1st January 2021, aged 92 years, in Sunderland Royal Hospital after a short illness.

Wife of the late Vernon; Mother to Angela and Owena; Nanny to five and Great-Nanna to eleven.

Due to current restrictions a private funeral will take place on Wednesday 20th January at Wear Valley Crematorium.

Thank you to the District Nurses Team who looked after Evelyn for years and to staff at St. Clare's Court where Evelyn lived for her last three years.

#### John Pyle

Passed away peacefully, aged 86 years on 20th December 2020.

Beloved Husband of the late Sheila; a much loved Dad of Carole, David, Janet, Linda, Stephen, Julie and Kevin; a dear Grandad, Great Grandad, Uncle, Brother-in-Law and Father-in-Law.

A small family funeral was held on Wednesday 13th January 2021 at Wear Valley Crematorium.

The family would like to thank all involved in John's care over the last five years, in particular, Sophie J, Sophie W, Carol, Chantelle and Kath from Comfort Call.

Also Peace Way Medical Centre and all the staff from Bethany House Care Home.

John will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by all family and friends.

#### John Balmer-Howieson

Passed away peacefully on 10th January 2021, aged 85 years.

Sadly missed by his loving Wife Beryl and family.

Funeral to take place on Tuesday 26th January at 10.30am at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon.

No flowers, donations in lieu to Alzheimers Society.

Family and friends please meet at the Crematorium.

### In Memoriam

#### David Barkley

1946 - 2011

A loving thought, a silent tear.  
A constant wish that you were here.  
It's been 10 long years without you.  
Gone are the days we used to share,  
But in my heart you are always there.  
Loved and remembered always.  
Until we meet again.  
Your loving Wife, Pauline xxxxxxxx

### Acknowledgement

#### Alan Brown

Carol and family would like to thank all friends, relatives and neighbours for their kind thoughts and wishes for Alan who will be sadly missed at this time.

Thanks also go to Tamara Bibby for her comforting Service and to Seaton Leng Funeral Directors, for their help and guidance in these unusual times.

#### Marjorie Local 27th June 1943

Died  
15th January 2015

Will never forget  
you pet.  
Husband John.  
Love and kisses  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

#### Rita Watson 17th January 2020

Always in our  
thoughts, sadly  
missed and never  
forgotten  
Dennis, Lesley,  
Jacqueline, all of the  
children in Australia  
and Sheffield and all  
who knew her.

#### Mary Young

Sweet is your  
memory. Precious  
your name. Deep in  
our hearts, you will  
always remain.  
Michael, June and all  
the family xxx

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# READERS' WINTER PHOTOGRAPHS



A photo of the little robin that lives in my garden, Jessica Murtagh.



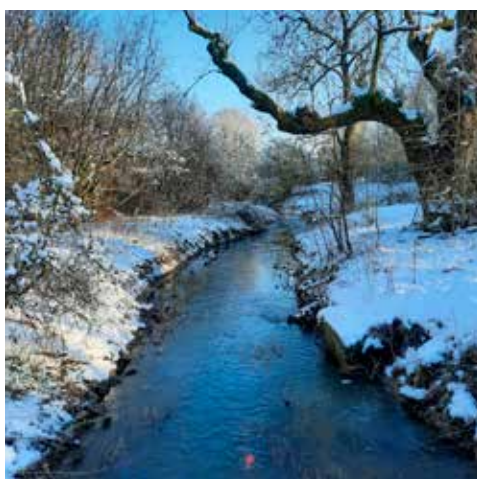
Bit cold on the feet by Peter Russell.



Just thought your readers might like to see the great snowman we met whilst out walking our dog. He was up by St. Oswalds Court on Central Avenue. Really cheered us up and made us smile. Thank you to whoever made it, you made our day. Janice Sinclair.



The snow fall on 8th January prompted me to capture Aycliffe in its wintry covering. Hope readers enjoy them. Happy New Year. Darran Weston.



Please find a photo from my exercise today, Yvonne Wood.

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