

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



PCP Gold Start to 2021

See page 2 for more

Special thank you to your Newton News Sponsors:

SHAKE 'N' CAKE



PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgefield



Big Butterwick Build

Dear Sir,
We have just launched a fantastic new virtual event aimed at families as a fun lockdown activity, but also as a way of raising much needed funds for the Hospice.

The BIG Butterwick Build involves children creating an original big build, all based around the theme of 'Care'. The last year has reinforced just how important care is, whether that's the care we give to each other, ourselves or the care that Butterwick Hospice Care provides to people within our local community.

Are you a budding builder or an enthusiastic engineer? Then this is for you!

We want you to create an original BIG build, based around the theme 'Care'. You can use anything available to you to create your build including building blocks, old boxes, toilet rolls and so on. Entry fee is £2.00 per entry. All money raised is in aid of Butterwick Hospice Care. You have until 31st March 2021 to submit your entries!

With categories for infants, juniors, seniors and adults this competition has something for everyone and the winner will receive a special prize.

To sign up visit: <https://www.butterwick.org.uk/.../butterwick-big-build>
Alternatively you can call the Business Development Team on 01642 628930 or email fundraising@butterwick.org.uk
Get Ready, Get Set, BUILD!!



Gold Start to 2021 at PCP

Despite the many difficulties facing organisations and the voluntary sector during 2020 local charity, the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) was determined to start the New Year with positivity and lots to look forward to and what better way to begin than celebrating Investors in People success! PCP was assessed against standard and was thrilled with the outcome, achieving GOLD accreditation!! PCP's Investors in People report outlines, "There is a clear plan for the future based around delivering the mission and purpose of the charity. Your ambition is supported by formal planning processes and clear and concise impact plans for all areas, with effective governance from the board. As leaders, you clearly articulated a desire to build on the successes you have experienced and employees feel the charity remains a great place to work. Your people provided many examples to confirm this belief which was underpinned by a feeling of trust, transparency and empowerment." PCP Chief Executive, Carol Gaskarth, said, "Internationally over 50,000 organisations are accredited by Investors in People with only 17% of them achieving GOLD status so this is something to be really proud of. Most of us spend around 80,000 hours at work in our lifetime and it is important for employers and employees to work together to make sure the workplace is healthy, happy, positive and productive.

"Here at PCP we're committed to ensuring our working practices are excellent by working with our teams to develop and encourage ideas. Our open, transparent and inclusive style, coupled with strong health and wellbeing support for staff helps to make PCP a great place to work. The Assessor recognised the outstanding impact we achieve across the North East and for me Investors in People provides an opportunity for the 100+ workforce to share with us, anonymously, what they really think of PCP as an organisation. The feedback is excellent and we are delighted with the outcome. This is a journey for us and we will continue to develop and improve with the support of our skilled, experienced and dedicated team."



The County Take Away Menu

Our delicious food in the comfort of your own home!

FEBRUARY 2021

- (Starter) Salt & pepper ribs in tempura batter - £4.50
Homemade Quorn lasagne with garlic bread - £10.50
Salmon supreme with a paella style risotto - £13.00
Cajun spiced chicken supreme, stir fried veg, egg noodles in soy sauce - £13.00
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 / Pork / Chicken in a Chinese curry sauce with plain/ fried rice or chips £9.00
**** CURRY SPECIAL **** - 2x Curries, 2x Rice, 2x Chips, portion of prawn crackers - £20.00
Desserts (all £5.00)

Warm chocolate orange brownie | Sticky toffee pudding, custard & candied nuts |
Lemon posset tart, sweet vanilla cream & raspberry compote

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 | Prawn Crackers £1.50
GF - Gluten Free alternative available V - Vegetarian alternative.

** SPECIAL OFFERS - 2 for £15.00 **

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Use Common Sense when Parking

Dear Sir,
I would like to respond to the person commenting on the pavement parking issue. While it is written in law, pavement parking is not legal, however, some authorities do not penalize pavement parking, which is not acceptable by any means.

I have a large vehicle (car) in my garage, it is 15' 9" long, my garage door is an up and over outward door, which means it takes up 50 percent + 4 feet of the adopted highway, (extra) land outside of my garage, if people park opposite my garage it is dangerous for me to remove my vehicle from the garage. I also own a 21' motor home which is parked on my drive, it can only be removed if the pavement opposite is not obstructed, even if it is partial.

We have a lot of pensioners, including myself, (74), who have to go onto the grass to get past these cars, some get stuck in the mud, it is horrendous to witness and people should have more common sense with their parking. Unfortunately, not a lot do have any common sense, it is an offence to park on paths, so stop it now.

Remember, you will be old one day, then you will see what we are trying to stop. Please think before parking.

Thank you

Name and address supplied

65th Wedding Anniversary Celebration at Bethany House

Mr & Mrs Simpson will celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 11th February 2021. However, due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, they will be separated by a glass partition. Kathleen, a resident of Bethany House care home, will get to see her husband David, who still lives at their family home in Chilton.

The couple first met at the Eden Arms Hotel, Rushford where Kathleen worked as a chambermaid and David was a regular visitor.

David, a former coal miner, has lived in Chilton all his life and also worked at Shragus Factory, Carmichaels Motorway Maintenance, Parnaby Builders and Metal Drum, whilst Kathleen, formerly of Coundon Grange, was previously employed at Eden Arms Hotel, Woolworths and Parnaby Builders.

The couple were married on 11th February 1956 at the Wesleyan Chapel in Coundon Grange, where the bride wore a pink 2 piece from C&A and walked down the aisle carrying a bouquet of pink roses and her bible. They were joined on the happy day by Bridesmaid Betty and Best Man Eric, with a small reception held in the family home with eight guests.

David is a keen gardener and enjoys growing vegetables and plants, he also spends his spare time Fair-Isle knitting. Kathleen's hobbies include reading and dominoes and they love Blackpool as their favourite holiday destination.

Mr & Mrs Simpson have three children, Michael (deceased), Susan and Debra, as well as five grandchildren, Johnathon (deceased), Nicola, David, Sophie and Nathan.



Buckingham Palace have sent the couple a congratulatory letter and the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, on behalf of the Town Council, will be sending a bouquet flowers. The residents and staff of Bethany House are to celebrate this wonderful occasion with afternoon tea and Champagne. Whilst the couple get to see each other through the glass partition at the Bethany House care home.



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Thanks Don

Dear Sir,
There is a local Aycliffe man, called Don Hallimond, who has been noticed and recognised for going above and beyond for the residents of Newton Aycliffe. Don delivers medication for Neville Pharmacy, keeping people safe at home during these difficult times as well as for those who are vulnerable. Some have commented on Don as "the lovely tablet man", while others describe him as "a lovely gentleman", other words used to describe him were, "an absolute gentleman, always polite and friendly", and "our lockdown hero" over 100 comments on a local Facebook page congratulating him for just simply being his amazing self. Name and address supplied

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**. . . AND ANYTHING ELSE
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A Fair Challenge

Dear Sir,

When I became a town councillor in 1995, budget meetings consisted of powerful councillors trying to bully the Council to allocate money to the things they favoured. Meetings ran into the night, with bitter arguments over (e.g.) the 'right' price for a bowls session.

About 20 years ago, therefore, instead of the yearly wrangle, we instituted a system of Medium Term Financial Plans (MTFP) predicting spending and income over the coming four years, which allocated our spending according to our underlying principles, not personal politics. In 2007 we recruited Dan Austin as Finance Manager, who has steadily brought the Town Council's finances under expert control.

HOW TOWN COUNCIL FINANCES WORK

Now, section managers determine how much they will need for the next four years and justify its place in the MTFP; we can tell you, reasonably accurately, what the budget will look like in 2025.

There is continuous pressure for savings, accuracy and probity.

We have an internal auditor (who looks for discrepancies and unnecessary spending), and an external audit far more thorough than that required by the government; for democratic accountability, an Audit Committee of councillors scrutinises that work.

Officers have predicted the maintenance and replacement needs of every building and item of machinery for the next 15 years; an Asset Management Group of councillors meets regularly to scrutinise their schedule.

Meanwhile, a Service Review Committee systematically examines each service area to see if our provision is appropriate, necessary, and value for money.

Each year the public is consulted for its views; every few months the MTFP is brought to the councillors for comment and update.

And Town Council finance officers check every item of spending as it happens seeking savings ... EVERY YEAR they bring back savings to carry forward to reduce next year's council tax (e.g., last year, £187,500 genuine efficiency savings and increased income on the planned budget).

THIS YEAR'S BUDGET MEETING

On 27 January, the 2021-22 budget was brought to Full Council ... after three Council budget meetings (i.e. for Environment/ Recreation/ Policy & Resources) to consider the proposed final figures.

The only councillor who spoke on 27 January was Cllr Michael Stead. He (falsely) claimed credit for the decision to freeze Council Tax, (groundlessly) asserted there were savings to be made, and proposed setting up a council committee to wage a 'war on waste'. WHAT 'WASTE'!! We already have a slew of measures routinely seeking every possible saving, and such content-free allegations are a mendacious insult, not just to our hard-working finance department, but to the other opposition councillors – who had scrutinised the budget and declared it fit for task.

Cllr Stead had not spoken a word the week before, when we had actually discussed the proposed budget. And his suggested savings were: (1) cut the councillors' diary; (2) stop paying £20 a month on councillors' meeting papers. What would be at most £350-worth of suggestions would save just 5p A YEAR on your Council Tax (and, if he had asked, he would have known that when we looked at going paper-free we found it might cost the Council MORE).

A DANGEROUS FAILURE

Last March Cllr Stead was elected on a landslide, promising to cut council tax. Since then, he has failed to suggest one meaningful saving. I know 'every little helps', but the gross annual Town Council budget is about £3 million. And how much more paltry will that £350 look if he gets to County Hall, with its gross annual budget of £1.3 BILLION? I set Cllr Stead a fair challenge: to move past the sound bites and tell us HOW he would reduce Council Tax.

But it is worse than that. His demand for a councillors' 'Savings Committee' threatens to take us back to the dark days when Councillors dominated Council finances, e.g. telling grounds staff what kind of mower they needed, and office staff what kind of shredder they should buy. PLEASE let's not return ill-informed political meddling to replace the objective, expert-led, democratically-monitored SYSTEMS which Labour has put in place over the past 20 years to guide Town Council finances.

Cllr. John D. Clare

A Different Perspective on the Towns Parking Problems

Dear Sir

I think it's fair to say there is a parking problem in the town, or, more to the point, some motorists have a problem parking their cars, which then has a knock on effect for the rest of the community. Cars parked on pavements and grassed areas churned up to such an extent they are both unsightly and dangerous should anyone have the misfortune to slip on the mud smeared pavements and roads. It's also fair to say it's a community based problem, so common sense should tell us it requires a community based solution, which requires people in the community to take personal responsibility for the current situation.

Are some of the parking issues created by inconsiderate and lazy drivers? Yes, without doubt, but the real problem is you have more cars than you have parking places. If people can't park outside of their own home they will park in the nearest available space, regardless of whether it's a vacant piece of grass, the curbside or pavement. Factor into the mix households with more than one car and the situation is exacerbated even further. Young people have a tendency to see owning their own car as a sign of their independence, so the problem is only going to get worse with more cars on the roads and looking for a place to park. Everyone has the right to own their own car but with every right comes an underpinning responsibility in the way we exercise those rights.

Some would say it's the councils responsibility to sort the problem out, but the council don't own the cars, we do, and it's we who are causing the problem in the way we are parking our cars without thought or consideration to pedestrians or other road users.

Even if we chopped down every tree in the town and turned every piece of grassed area into parking spaces you would still have lazy and inconsiderate drivers causing problems. This drastic measure would still only temporarily alleviate the problem as the increase in cars would eventually surpass the parking spaces available, and who would pay for such drastic, if unacceptable, measures, everyone or just those with cars, and the more cars you have the more you have to pay? There are no easy solutions or quick fixes to this situation, but I think part of the problem lies in the unwillingness of some people in the community to hold themselves accountable for their actions. It's not my problem, is used as an excuse for what is, in effect, destructive anti-social behaviour. If teenagers caused the same kind of damage to grassed areas and caused the same level of disruption and obstruction there would be outrage, but because it's people and their cars causing the damage, we treat it as an acceptable and unavoidable fact of life. But as long as we see it as someone else's problem we will never be able to achieve a community based solution. Name and address supplied.

We'll Defeat It

There's so much pain in our planet,
Covid's here and how can it,
Cause such hurt and fear?
People dying, so many tears.
Families unable to meet,
We keep our distance in the street,
When we go for our daily walk.
Wave to our neighbour but can only talk,
If we keep them at a distance,
Until we've found a strong resistance,
To this virus that has ravaged,
With a stealth that is so savage.

But we will not be ground down,
Soon hospitals won't be filled with caring
nurses in PPE gowns,
We will rise up and overcome,
Though so much damage has been done.
We've found a vaccine
So pray that our earth will soon be clean,
Of this scourge,
That we must purge.
Our thanks will never be enough to key
workers,
Among them there are no shirkers.
Every one deserved applause,
When on Thursdays we made a noise,
And now please pay nurses a decent wage,
They've battled so hard as Covid raged.
But we'll have it on the run,
Covid-19, don't think you've won!

MMK, January 2021

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Keep to Lockdown Rules

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the letter from Alan Jordan, who, in his opinion, tells us that J.D. Clare has done more for this town than our MP, Paul Howell. I personally disagree with his statement. Our MP listened to what the people wanted, Brexit, and voted for it, and through your paper keeps in contact with us. Mr Clare works for DCC and does not listen to the public, but instead preaches to us, and if you read his letters, he is more trying to boost his own ego and keep his standing on the council.

As Brexit was mentioned and we know both are ardent retainers; Europeans, I wonder what their comments would be now on the EU stance, that we should not have any more vaccine from Europe and we must supply them from our own factories. This is because we are leading the way in getting the vaccine out and the people in Europe are furious with so called leaders of the EU, that they are so far behind us. One statement in the media quoted 'this is because of Brexit'. Mr Jordan told us we would suffer on vaccine supply, because we had left the EU, another wrong assumption. On the more positive side, let us all help and keep to the lockdown rules.

John Armstrong
Newton Aycliffe

As Dangerous as Driving Drunk



Would you put yourself at risk by getting behind the wheel drunk? No? Then why would anyone consider using a mobile phone whilst driving is OK?

The distraction caused by even looking at your phone whilst driving can cause similar risks to driving drunk and that's including the hands free!

It has been recognised for some time as a contributory factor in collisions and one of the Fatal 4 which can have devastating consequences.

Drivers are four times more likely to be involved in a collision as you are less likely to notice and react to hazards if distracted. Smart phones can increase the temptation to make and answer calls but also to select music or respond to social media alerts. Don't make that 'quick' glance the last thing you ever do!

From 8th February, Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit (CDSOU) will be taking part in a two-week national campaign to make drivers aware of the dangers and help people make a change that could save a life.

Did you know:

It's illegal to hold a phone or sat nav while driving even when you're stopped at lights or stuck in traffic.

You must be in full control of your vehicle at all times. You can be stopped by officers and prosecuted if they think you're not in control and are distracted and face six penalty points and a £200 fine.

Be aware, there are other means of being caught and dealt with. More people than ever have dashcams fitted in their vehicles and are using the online reporting option to let police know about offences committed!

You can avoid these risks by simply putting your phone out of sight such as in the glove box or turning on an app which will block any calls or notifications for your journey. It will even send the person trying to get in touch a handy message to let them know you're on the road and will reply when it's safe.

Inspector Ian Leach, from CDSOU, said: "We cannot stress enough how serious an offence this is. It only takes seconds of being distracted at the wheel to have a serious collision which can have catastrophic consequences. Be in no doubt, you can kill someone. Our message is simple – put the phone away while driving!"

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Roman Launch More Fluted Glass Options to Range



The UK and Europe's leading shower designer and manufacturer, Roman, has unveiled more stunning fluted glass options on its Liberty Wetroom Panels, Liberty Sliding Door and Liberty Hinged Door with In-Line Panel.

The Liberty Sliding Door and Hinged Door with In-Line Panel are now available in five colour finishes - Silver Chrome, Matt Black, Brushed Nickel, Polished Nickel, and Brushed Brass - these on-trend products coordinate with brassware across bathroom spaces. These new styles offer several design options to suit every style and shape bathroom including a choice of left or right handing. The Liberty Fluted Glass Sliding Door and Hinged Door with In-Line Panel can be installed on Roman's Anti-Slip Trays, Infinity Trays, and also the Low Level Trays to eliminate the step into the shower. They are all manufactured in 8mm toughened safety glass.

All of Roman's Liberty Wetroom Panels are now available in six colour finishes - Matt White is the latest extension to our colour collection alongside Silver Chrome, Matt Black, Brushed Nickel, Polished Nickel and Brushed Brass.

"The glass texture distorts light and offers a degree of obscurity without reducing the light in the showering area, but it is the panels' finished look that demands attention and adds value. Fluted glass has been really popular in the international hotel sector for the last few years, but there has been a growing clamour from Designers to bring more options into the retail sector - and now we can," says Managing Director David Osborne.

Photo: Liberty Sliding Door with Fluted Glass for Corner fitting - Polished Nickel finish

Noisy Factories

Dear Sir,

In response to the letter in last week's edition of Newton News, re: noise. The noise in question is horrendous, we live on the Oakfield estate, near to the factories of Ineos and the other chemical factory, about a third of a mile from me, called Lucite, it also has a loud noise. On Thursdays both these factories set off test alarms to ensure they are working, the Ineos alarm sounds at 10.45am for about four minutes with a fading phase; the Lucite alarm sounds at 11.00am, but, it also blows off at intermittent times without warning, even at night! I would like to know why, wouldn't you?

DCC should have the answer to this, it is an horrendous hissing sound and as we live very close to these factories we can hear it.

Name and address supplied

First Homes Constructed on Second Phase of Heighington Development

Work is progressing well on the next phase of a new housing development in Heighington, as the first row of homes has now been built. The first eight homes have been constructed within the second phase of Bellway's Meadow Rise development, off Walworth Lane in the village.

House-hunters are eager to live in Heighington - which was named 'the perfect village' by a BBC TV series of the same name in 2006 - with the first phase of 25 homes at Meadow Rise already sold out and the first three plots already reserved in phase two. The second phase of homes at Meadow Rise comprises 50 three and four-bedroom detached houses with prices currently starting from £244,995.

Sales manager for Bellway Durham, Darren Pelusi, said: "With the first phase of homes at Meadow Rise selling so well, it is clear to see that house-hunters are seeing the benefits of living in Heighington, a picturesque village surrounded by a range of amenities and great transport links. Meadow Rise is close to a variety of pubs and restaurants, several highly regarded schools and the A1, making the development ideal for both families and professionals who commute to work. Bellway's Express Mover scheme has been a great success at Meadow Rise, with many buyers taking advantage of the incentive to sell their old home and move into their new one as soon as possible. We even pay the estate agents' fees!"

Under Bellway's Express Mover scheme, the developer will work with a recommended local agent to market the customer's home. The customer agrees on the selling price on their existing home, and Bellway will chase the agent on a regular basis to encourage them to find a buyer as quickly as possible.

Those considering a move to Meadow Rise can make an appointment to view the Lilac house type - a four-bedroom property which features an en-suite shower room to the master bedroom, an open-plan kitchen and dining room, a separate living room and a study - and get a glimpse of what their life could be like if they were to buy a home at the development. For more information, visit bellway.co.uk or call the sales advisors on 01325 271965.



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Updates from MP Paul Howell at 12noon weekdays

SATURDAY

9-10am	Eurovision Show	Simon Harding
10-12am	Moderation	Jack & Garvey
"Kitchen Floorfillers" Sponsored by The Cleaning Group		
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	Jim James
8-9pm	Rock the House	Carl Booth
9-10pm	Retro Trance Mix	DZ-DJ
10-12am	Street 'n' Drum 'n' Bass	MC Supa
12-1am	Night Club Session	A DJ

SUNDAY

9-10am	Church Service	Xcell 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	Collin & Monica
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6.30-8pm	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	Collin McNeillie
2-4pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker

MONDAY

5-6pm	Euro Chart Show	Dave Graham
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
7.30-10pm	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	Collin McNeillie
8-10pm	BeatRoute	Graeme Roote

FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	12th Feb - Martin Norris Movin' Melodies	Gaz n Alby
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	A DJ
12-1am	Night Club Session	

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

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Neighbourhood Policing

By PC Abi Hill

PACT Meeting: 10th February, 6pm, on Police Facebook page



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Hello to the residents of Newton Aycliffe, PCSO Abi Hill here, with your weekly update.

Firstly, I hope you are all staying safe in these very uncertain times. Please remember to follow the current government rules and guidelines and only leave home for essential purposes, such as work or essential food shopping. On the whole everyone is doing their bit to help stop the spread of the virus, but we have had some individuals who think it's okay not to follow the rules. When this happens we are engaging and explaining, but will not hesitate to take robust action against those who repeatedly put others at risk. If you have kids, please take some responsibility for their welfare and others they may come into contact with, they should only be leaving home for essential purposes. They should not be mixing in groups and causing Anti-Social Behaviour at any time, but even more so through a lockdown period.

Secondly, have you heard of our online messaging service 'Keep in the Know'? By signing up to this service, for free, you can find out what's really happening in your local area - receive regular crime updates, information on road closures and learn about what your local neighbourhood policing team is doing. You can decide what agencies you wish to receive messages from when you sign up to the service. Head over to www.keepintheknow.co.uk and click 'Sign up'. It won't take long and you will be kept up to date with many different things.

Finally, do you have an outstanding youth in your local area who deserves to be recognised for their good work in the community? If so please message our Newton Aycliffe Police Facebook page to nominate them. They may receive an ACE certificate where they will be rewarded by McDonalds and be recognised on our Facebook page as a thank you for all their brilliant work.

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A Year Like This

A year like this we've never known,
We've never been so much alone.
A year of loss, of heartache, pain,
For many, life won't be the same.
A year like this we've never had,
It quickly went from good to bad.
A dreaded virus came to stay,
And refuses still, to go away.
A year like this has changed the world,
Normality has been unfurled.
With many people all alone,
As not through choice, they stay at home.
A year of new and menial tasks,
Like sanitising, wearing masks.
No hugs or kisses, shaking hands,
And cancelling of all our plans.
A Christmas like we've never known,
With people made to stay at home.
A minimum of Christmas cheer,
Then followed by a bleak new year.
Another lockdown, helped by those,
Who flaunt the rules and break the laws.
Refuse to help the situation,
To aid the damage limitation.
Unless we all do what we can,
Obey the rules, stick to the plan.
It's looking like the outcome is -
We'll have ANOTHER year like this.

Irene Wilkinson 2021

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



I'd like to submit the above photo, which I took recently, of the beautiful Mandarin Duck who has taken up residence on the boating lake, checking out his reflection.
Michelle Mason, Woodham Village.



Two images of the Nature Park and a sunset over Aycliffe. Yvonne Wood.



A photo taken of a winter bird, enjoying breakfast in our garden, Ian Dewar.



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OFSTED quote: "Playday Nursery offers an outstanding provision with high quality teaching provided by highly qualified staff."

New Business Growth Despite Pandemic

Latest figures show that Durham saw a substantial increase in the number of new company formations during 2020 – despite the considerable economic challenges posed by the Coronavirus pandemic.

The county registered 5,083 new businesses compared to 4,623 during 2019, representing an increase of 10%.

This brings the total number of companies in Durham to 31,943, up from 29,218 at the end of 2019, which equates to 9.3% growth.

The statistics are taken from the Inform Direct Review of Company Formations using data from Companies House and the Office for National Statistics.

County Durham formed the highest number of new businesses (2,902), followed by Stockton-on-Tees (909) and Darlington (737). John Korchak, Operations Director at Inform Direct said: "It is excellent news to see that Durham has achieved a successful year for new company formations during 2020 despite the unprecedented uncertainties brought by COVID-19."

"Many of the new company formations are in the retail sector, with a large number of new businesses set up to sell goods online or locally, thereby taking advantage of customers' changing shopping habits. Secondly, the effect of the pandemic and national lockdowns means that sadly some existing businesses have folded and employees made redundant, and we see many of those people setting up new ventures on their own as an alternative way to earn a living."

"2020 was a year like no other for UK businesses. Although we can look forward to a brighter future with the vaccination programme, there remain unknown factors such as how quickly the economy will recover and of course the impact of Brexit."

Alongside Durham's achievement, the UK as a whole saw a record-breaking

780,766 new businesses formed, compared to 690,763 in 2019.

The overall number of UK companies also continued to grow to 4,837,426, an 8.2% increase on the total of 4,471,008 at the end of 2019.

The number of company dissolutions across the UK - 418,427 during 2020 - was the lowest since 2015. It remains open to debate

whether this positive trend will last, especially when Government support for businesses is withdrawn. New enterprises set up during the pandemic might also be short-lived, as people return to full-time employment or struggle to take the business to the next level.

To see a more detailed picture of company formations in Durham - including a full local breakdown, visit:

<https://www.informdirect.co.uk/company-formations-2020/durham/>

Thank You Brian Wilson



Local charity the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) began when a few local people had the foresight to recognise the need for health and social care to come together in a 'one stop shop' environment, the charity was born and these local people became trustees.

The founding trustees oversaw the development of the Pioneering Care Centre and their dream became a reality when the doors opened to the public in 1999. Fast forward to 2021 and it is with a great deal of respect and thanks, we bid a fond farewell to Brian Wilson. After being part of the organisation from the start, and with almost 22 years' service under his belt, Brian has decided it's time to take a break from volunteering and step down from his role as trustee.

Brian's experience of working in the armed forces, and his personal challenges with ongoing back pain, have proved valuable as the organisation grew and developed. As a potential service user Brian has provided guidance to assist with project and service development and he also fulfilled the role of treasurer for a number of years.

Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive, said, "Brian has been hugely helpful in setting the tone of the organisation and particularly enjoyed supporting business development and strategic planning sessions. PCP has evolved, and Brian's knowledge of our history ensured that the origin and ethos has been maintained. We will miss his anecdotes at the Board meetings, but we know he will keep in touch and continue to be an avid supporter of our work. We look forward to welcoming Brian and his wife, Liz, to future events once we are able to fully open again for the community."

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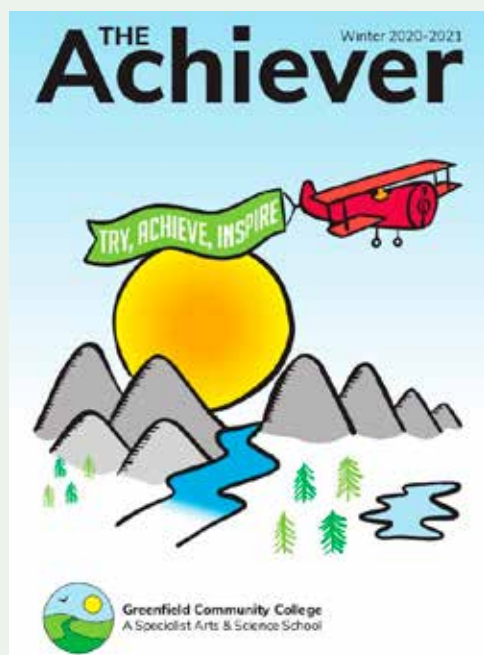


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Recognition for Greenfield Students



Students and staff from Greenfield Community College have been adjusting well to their learning and are accumulating many reasons to be recognised for their achievements. The latest edition of The Achiever school newsletter showcased the many positive learning experiences and individual achievements over recent times. Released to staff, students, and local primary schools, the termly editions offer a chance to celebrate the progress and aspirations of our students. Visit the school website where you can access the digital Achiever newsletters via the front page. Recognition events are also now an established item in the school calendar and this year will be no exception. The forthcoming recognition event will be celebrated through the effective online assemblies that have a regular slot in the student's weekly timetable. The assemblies have ensured students are still coming together as a group for a shared purpose and reinforcing positive attitudes and a continued sense of community spirit. Staff are currently celebrating individual achievement through a new star student scheme that will recognise the many 'superstar' students on a weekly basis. A big well done to all of our students who are working so hard to achieve their goals. 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 or contact the school by emailing contact@greenfieldschool.net or by calling 01325 300378.



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

It was so sad to hear that Captain Sir Tom Moore passed away this week. He is someone who showed how doing something relatively small and simple can explode and make such a real difference to his and so many peoples lives. He had started wanting to raise £1000, which his family thought a stretch, but ended up raising over £32 million and inspiring many others with his positivity, it must have been an incredibly fulfilling last year. RIP Sir Tom.

I also had a good personal friend succumb to Covid this week. However stark the numbers are nationally it always strikes harder when it is someone you know, as a close friend or relative, and particularly when they are younger than you. So I reiterate once more my thanks to all of the key workers helping us through this and repeat my contempt for those denying Covid or not treating others with respect.

Again, another interesting week. I had a couple of opportunities to speak in Parliament this week and thought it would be worth explaining the process we go through for this to happen.

There are essentially only two ways to speak in Parliament whilst we are working remotely. These are to ask a question to a minister or to contribute to a debate.

For questions, everyone is aware of Prime Ministers questions, but there is a rolling sequence of other ministers with one at the despatch box each day. For each of these, if you want to ask a question you submit it into a ballot which is drawn a few days before the event. There are two types of question, one where you submit the specific question and one called a topical, where you do not need to decide your question until the day. If you are successful you will be told and, if you had submitted a specific question, then you can also prepare a supplementary question. The Speaker will usually put around 35 specific and 20 topicals on the call list. Normally only around 25 and 15 respectively are actually asked, but if questions and answers are short then more get asked. Typically these are significantly oversubscribed and you are lucky to get a question every couple of weeks or so.

For contributing to a debate, the process is much the same, in that you put your name into a ballot. The difference is that you do not need to give any details of what you are going to say. In times when the house is sitting normally you would be subject to interventions whilst speaking, as it is, part of a debate and your points are subject to robust challenges. In the virtual chamber this is not possible, so we are in effect providing a short speech and the only retort comes

when the minister sums up at the end. A further challenge here though is that the deadline for submitting to speak is normally the day before the debate, and again you are subject to a ballot. Whilst your chances of speaking are higher than for a question, because you don't know until the night before whether you have been selected, you have the choice of preparing a speech that may not be used or creating one at pace, once you know. The other dimension to consider is how long a speech. Again you do not know until very late how long you will be allowed, as the Speaker is at liberty to put a time limit on back bench contributions. This can mean that if you have prepared a six minute speech and a three minute limit is applied then some serious editing needs to be done if your key points are all to be made. So, this week I was drawn in two debates, I contributed to the opposition day debate re protecting tenants and leaseholders from unsafe cladding where I talked about the importance of building products standards being enforced, this was heavily oversubscribed meaning our contributions were restricted to three minutes. Later in the week I spoke in the air traffic management and unmanned aircraft bill - this was not as popular and as a result I could drone on a bit, speaking for around six minutes, and particularly referring to consideration of regional airports like Teesside.

Back to our local priorities and we continue to see good progress on vaccine roll outs and a number of the key metrics seem to be trending the right way. This hopefully means that we should start to see plans being made to consider how we relax some restrictions. Clearly we can expect this to be a slow and controlled process but whilst we wait for this it remains important that we all continue to follow the rules so please:

Stay Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives Stay safe.

Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield



NASSL have a number of adult cats ready for their new home, after a bad start in life. It has taken some time to help and support the cats to trust people again, so, if you have a warm, loving home and could give a cat a second chance in life, please contact Pauline on 01325 321855. Help us to help the animals in need of a new home, please.



Paul Howell

Member of Parliament
for Sedgefield

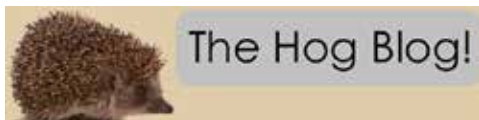
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It's all quiet on the hedgehog front, a lot will be hibernating but they may periodically wake for food then go back to sleep till spring hopefully. Myself and Tara make a habit of keeping our eyes peeled when we are out on our travels, always having a pet carrier with us just in case we spot a hog in trouble, some of our friends and rehabbers are still bringing little ones in, it's just too cold for them, they need rescuing, especially if found during the day which all of ours were and with different health problems too.

They are all making great progress, Robyn, who Brenda found, is a lovely girl, very happy and settled and gaining weight. We have met some lovely people who have helped us with either cash or food donations and customers who have purchased items from Facebook to help us keep the pennies rolling in.

Firstly, Sonia, always donating nice food for our hoggies, Pattie, bless her, enjoys all her food, Julie who has purchased little animal treats that June and Will made also Pat, who found Matty, has also purchased some.

Thank you all for your support.

Tip of the week: Please continue to put food out in feeding stations, if you have one, they need this food all year round. For help/advice we have a Facebook page Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel or BHPS, 01584 890801.

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

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 the address given at
 the top of this notice.
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 representations is
 available from the
 Traffic Commissioner's
 Office.

05-02-2021

Stiller Recruitment Drive

Stiller Warehousing and Distribution, based on Aycliffe Business Park in Newton Aycliffe, is creating 25 new positions which it aims to fill by the end of March. Positions include HGV drivers, fork lift drivers, administrative roles in transport operations and customer service representatives.

The raft of new roles, which would boost Stiller's staff numbers to 180, come after the firm's sales grew to £16.1m last year, up from £15.2m in 2019. Stiller has leased two warehouses in Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor, totalling 122,000 sq ft, to capitalise on the surge in demand for its services.

Managing director, Matthew Stiller, said: "Our increase in sales is down to the two additional warehouses and an upturn in our transport business. We have taken on new work for ecommerce packaging suppliers and additional transport business for clients that e-retail bulky products that require a full UK delivery service. We're forecasting the full-year effect of that increased activity to be £16.5m for 2021."

Stiller saw an initial drop in sales during the first lockdown, but saw a significant bounceback in the second half of the year. "We've had big operational challenges just like all businesses have had in 2020," added Matthew. "Dealing with a huge drop in work levels in April during the first lockdown, followed by a corresponding rebound, was challenging to manage. I also cannot overstate the huge influence Amazon's ecommerce market share has had on the third-party logistics sector. In most weeks, deliveries to their fulfilment centres is eclipsing all supermarket distribution centres combined."

Matthew added: "This latest recruitment campaign will help us to not only maintain our service standards but also to further improve on them. It's a somewhat challenging environment to be recruiting in at the moment, but it's very positive that we're increasing the size of our team and we expect to see further growth in 2021."

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 For more information on how to protect
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Obituary

Happy 25th Birthday
Happy birthday. Love
from SJ, Craig and
Macca xxx

Steven and Lara would like to thank Bryan Shepherd and his colleagues for taking care of our Dad. We would also like to thank family and friends for all the support and love shown, cards and flowers - they are really appreciated. Dad is now with our Mam, Carol and our Sister, Julie. Thank you.

2nd February 1928
Donald, it would
have been your 93rd
birthday, if not for your
sudden departure.
Love from your Son-
in-Law, Dave, your
late Daughter, Fiona.
Your Grandchildren,
Ian, Leanne and Kelly.
Your Great
Grandchildren, Aimee,
Katy, James, Aiden
and baby Fiona Rose.
No more pain now,
happy birthday and
rest in peace.
God Bless xxxx

You were like a Dad to me and will be missed greatly, forever in my heart. Claire.

1/11/43 - 7/2/20
hold you close within
my heart and there you
will remain, to walk
with me throughout
my life, until we meet
again.
Yours forever,
Loving Husband
Brian

Peacefully on 24th January. Rita, (nee Kell), aged 78 years, formerly of Coundon. Dearly loved Mam of Ian, Stephen and Jacqueline; loving Grandma to Stephen, Michael and Naomi and Great-Grandma to Tyler. Sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Tuesday 9th February. Due to current restrictions a small gathering for family and friends will take place at Wear Valley Crematorium at 11.30am.

The family of Norman Watson announce, with sadness, that after a short illness, he fell asleep on 25th January 2021, leaving a huge hole in the hearts of his family. He was a dearly devoted Husband of Wife Jane; a much loved Dad to Amanda, Diane and Malcolm; a loving and fantastic Grandfather to his only Grandchild Demi. You will be forever missed Norman.

**NEWTON
PRESS
300212**
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11th February
Thinking of you Mam
and Nana on your 80th
birthday.
Love and miss you
every single day.
All our love.
Helen, Sandy, Ben
and Sam xxxxx

1/11/43 - 7/2/20
It's been a year since you left us, but what a year it has been. We know you would have hated what's gone on, a world changed by a pandemic. It's reassuring to know you are somewhere safe, despite our grieving loss. If ever you get the chance to lend a soothing hand a laugh or smile. Do so, we would love to feel your presence as we do in fond remembrance. Your loving family and friends.

The family of Harry Moses are sad to inform you of the sad death of Harry, so soon after the death of his wife Audrey. Harry and Audrey came to Newton Aycliffe 65 years ago and Harry started teaching 55 years ago, becoming eventually the headmaster of Aycliffe Village School. Harry has also written several books on the Durham Light Infantry, and with his wife, a member of the Historical Society. He passed peacefully after a long illness just over a month after his Wife, Audrey. The family would like to thank carers, district nurses, Marie Curie nurse and Defoe residential home, who looked after Harry and Audrey so well, alleviating their condition so well.

Beloved Wife of the late William (Billy), loving Mother to Lyn and Robert, Mother in-Law to Dave and June, cherished Nanna to Norman, Gareth and Kella. Asleep in the arms of her mother.
Due to current restrictions a private family Service will take place in Neville Parade Methodist Chapel on Monday 15th February at 12.30pm, to be followed by interment in Stephenson Way Cemetery.

Passed away peacefully on 27th January. Jim was a beloved Husband of the late Cathy, dearly loved Dad of Iain and Elaine and recently passed Jim. He was a much loved Grandad to Chris, Ashley, Sophie, Ethan and Lynsey and Great Grandad to Jacob, Alana, Frankie, Nancy, Bertie and Nora. Due to current circumstances a small gathering for friends and family will take place at Wear Valley Crematorium at 9.30am on Tuesday 9th February.

3/2/39 - 7/2/18
A lovely lady, true
friend, always in our
thoughts.
Loved and missed.
Maureen, Marie,
family and friends.

6/2/43 - 7/6/10
Allan, wherever I
go, whatever I do,
memories keep me
near to you.
Love always,
Maureen, family
and friends

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Greenfield Gallery Continues to Inspire

Greenfield Arts are continuing to find ways to reach people and inspire creativity. The new programme will continue in ways that can adapt to the current climate, offering safe and positive ways to engage in creativity. The Greenfield Gallery is presently sharing an exhibition that has been inspired by a collection of creative conversations led by Greenfield Arts throughout 2020. Artist Bethan Maddocks has been working alongside students from Greenfield Community College and community groups to explore possibilities and challenge perspectives - the results are simply beautiful.

Artist Bethan describes her response to the conversations in her statement, "I created an eco-system, a collection of artworks that interlink with each other. The exhibition invites the viewer to enter a child-like world, a paper-made forest full of metaphor, imaginations and elevation." The exhibition will run until March and will run alongside a series of creative prompts inspired by the artwork. If you are interested



in getting involved or want to know more simply follow us on social media or contact our friendly team by emailing: info@greenfield-arts.co.uk.

Visit our website for more information about the exhibition Finders Seekers where you can see more online. Although our arts facility is currently closed Greenfield Arts are continually working to reaching our community. Greenfield Arts are committed to providing high quality arts and creative opportunities that encourage creativity, questioning and curiosity.



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Laptop Appeal

Dear Sir,

In last week's Newton News an appeal was made for laptops and tablets for our young learners stuck at home, I am pleased that this was an initiative from a local Labour Councillor and received the full support of members of the Sedgefield Constituency Labour Party.

I am sure that there are lots of laptops no longer used in the community, and I would urge people to search in cupboards for those unused items. I found three that I had kept, following upgrades. So, if you have any please contact your Labour Councillor - Congratulations to Cllr. Jed Hillary, for the dedication on collecting these goods.

Vince Crosby

ED: Vane Road school received 20 pieces of IT equipment this week, another 15 are ready to go, plus some other items which require upgrading or updating. If you have an old laptop or tablet which can be used by a Newton Aycliffe student, please contact Cllr Jed Hillary on 07552 758148 or email jed.hillary@btinternet.com to arrange collection.

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