

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



Defibrillator Update

See page 7, 8
& 9 for more

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SHAKE 'N' CAKE



PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgefield



Litter Everywhere

Dear Sir,

Since lockdown and the closure of our leisure centre and gyms many of us have had to look at alternative ways to seek exercise, so I took to walking and we have some good walks on our doorstep, like the Great Aycliffe Way (maps are available on the GATC's website). The disappointing point on these walks is the amount of litter left in the hedgerows.

I have been reading much on social media lately about litter on the town and from that decided to do something about it, so I teamed up with Councillor Ian Gray and, in partnership with Great Aycliffe Town Council, we have decided to form litter pick groups. The area I have been working on is the Cobblers Hall area around Burn Lane, we have other volunteers that cover other parts of the town.

The aim is to "Stop the Drop" because dropping litter is a major form of anti-social behaviour, something that people are against and we must work together to stamp it out. The campaign to stop the drop was an initiative of the Campaign for Rural England.

An indescribable heap of filthy paper, empty fruit tins, broken bottles, cigarette and chocolate wrappers, matchboxes, cigarette ends and other litter, including alcohol cans and bottles, that people are oblivious or indifferent to their own part in despoiling and polluting the town. Reading the comments on social media some people seem to think it is the Councils responsibility but the truth of the matter is, it belongs to every one of us to protect our town. It not only will make the town look like a place you are proud to bring people to and makes it a good place to live, but helps in protecting the environment, this in turns helps towards our climate change initiative.

If readers are interested, and who can spare a couple of hours a week, get in touch with Councillor Ian Gray on ian.gray38@btinternet.com or Steve Cooper at GATC. To sum up, litter spoils our enjoyment of the countryside and can be harmful for wildlife and people. I am working towards a litter-free countryside for everyone. The aim is to run projects, activities and campaigns in partnership with others from across the town to reduce litter, working with local partners and empowering communities to clean and celebrate their much-loved landscapes. Join us in making our countryside healthy, clean and tranquil. So, please, drop your local Councillor an email to say you are prepared to help.

DCC are coming in to help with this important issue, because certain parts can't be done with GATC alone, like the issue of getting through the edges which belongs to DCC.

Mr. V. Crosby

Building Our Future

Dear Sir,

In a recent post to the Newton News, I alluded to changing times and changing faces. Change is inevitable and necessary including within my own Party. I just wanted to relay a few points regarding one of our new recruits whom I am very excited to welcome into the team.

Before that, I would just like to say that it hasn't been easy. The requirements for selection as a Labour candidate have been stepped up and for me it meant a tough but successful scrutinised testimony from my Whip, plus an onerous probing application pack from the selection panel, which took me 10 hours to complete. Then, a long arduous search campaigning to win a selection vote, and to top all that, a further security and diversity probe from the General Secretary. This was my experience and it applied to all of the County candidates.

These exacting requirements ensure thorough vetting, due diligence, prior to becoming a candidate and I am pleased at this point to mention a gentleman who was successful in becoming a candidate for Neville ward in the Town Council elections. Simon Hocking is a bright young family man, Aycliffe born, reared on local stories and educated to Greenfield College excellence. The things that make him stand out in a crowd are his passion for his home town and how much he wants to serve and contribute into his community. He is a project manager with a firm on the Town and has already built up a strong network of connections. Having attended meetings and watched others perform as councillors for eight years, it is clear to me that Simon is an asset with many attributes I am more than happy to endorse.

The campaign will be ramping up soon so can I just say to voters happy hunting, you have not let the town down in the past and the information, as usual, is there to help with your decision. It will all be over soon along with, we hope, the pandemic. Let's stick in, keep safe and take the Town and County forward together.

Cllr Jim Atkinson

Town and County Councillor

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Strange Headlines

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Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over

British Left Waffles on Falkland Islands

Teacher Strikes Idle Kids

Clinton Wins Budget; More Lies Ahead

Plane Too Close to Ground, Crash Probe Told

Miners Refuse to Work After Death

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

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Bishop of Durham Partners with Christian Aid

The Diocese of Durham has partnered with aid and development charity Christian Aid to give people an opportunity to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccine and help others in crisis across the world.

Recognising the deep sense of relief and gratitude experienced by many people after being vaccinated, the two organisations have come together to enable people to pass the blessing on by making a donation to Christian Aid's Coronavirus Appeal.

Funds from the appeal are helping vulnerable communities around the world access soap, water, food and vital health information in the face of the pandemic. Many communities around the world face an uncertain wait for a vaccine as questions remain around the cost and timing of a global vaccine programme.

The Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham, who received his first vaccination at the newly opened centre in Durham said: "The vaccine is bringing with it a deep sense of relief and hope for families across the UK and increasingly we see that many people want to express their gratitude by reaching out to others. While the pandemic affects all of us, it has highlighted the deep disparities in how communities and families are able to protect themselves both within our country and around the world.

"My hope is that people will give generously to the work of Christian Aid from a place of thanksgiving and a desire to see all people being able to live safely. Whether people can give just a few pounds or a much larger sum, it will be an opportunity to share hope and love with our brothers and sisters across the world who do not have the benefits we have."

Christian Aid partners have so far directly helped over half a million people in 27 countries including distributing food packages to nearly 60,000 people struggling to feed their families after losing work during the lockdown and the economic downturn. Going forwards, Christian Aid will support vaccination programmes in communities by providing data on hard-to-reach populations to local health services and by working with trusted community figures to challenge misleading information about the virus and vaccination as well as any stigma faced by those who contract Covid-19.

Christian Aid's Head of Community Fundraising and Public Engagement, Chine McDonald, said: "The coronavirus pandemic has shown us that none of us is safe until all of us are safe. It has been amazing to see the speed at which the vaccines have been rolled out in the UK - every jab in someone's arm brings us closer to the end of Covid-19. But the reality is that richer countries like ours are getting more access to vaccines, while the poorer countries in which Christian Aid works are left at the back of the queue. As a Christian organisation, we believe that every person is equal in the sight of God and worthy of living lives with dignity, equality and justice.

"We're delighted to work together with the Diocese of Durham to give people an opportunity to say thanks and help protect our global neighbours while the vaccine is



out of reach."

The appeal launch comes after nearly two-thirds of people asked in a UK poll agreed that a global Covid-19 vaccine programme should be created which does not prioritise richer countries over poorer ones. 63% of respondents to the survey commissioned by Christian Aid said they wanted to see countries working together to create a global Covid-19 vaccine programme that would not prioritise developed countries over developing countries, only 11% disagreed.

You can donate to the Diocese of Durham's appeal by visiting <https://events.tapsimple.org/page/christian-aid/giving-thanks-for-our-vaccines-in-the-diocese-of-durham>



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Young Rider Encourages Others to go Outdoors

Dear Sir,
My name is Cheryl Lynch, and I would like you to introduce you to my 2 years, 10 month old son, Finley Atkinson. I have two reasons for doing this:

1 - For such a young person, Finley has progressed and achieved so much, He has never used stabilisers.

2 - To raise awareness and get our younger generations outside and off the computer!

3 - To encourage children to learn to ride early - I am willing to recommend places that we have received safety accessories, as well as how to help children learn to ride.

Finley started his bike journey at the age of 1 year 7 months and is already on a pedal bike and bikes at Woodham Pump Track. He rides a Revvi, a starter electric motorbike and he has been entered into the Malverns Downhill Championships and is working towards downhill riding - he is amazing! Finley will obviously choose his own path in time, but for now he is having fun and learning.

My main aim from this article is to try and get a bigger Pump Track, maybe at Woodham, and to set up a GoFundMe page to pay for the track. Obviously Pump Tracks are used for both bikes and scooters, so, maybe, we could hold mini races there or another such similar regular event.

The benefits for children being outside is huge and it gives them the encouragement to stay fit. As lockdown is, hopefully, coming to an end, what a way to get children in that fresh air!

Name and address supplied



Council Candidates Claims and Promises

Dear Sir,

As I write this letter, Spring is in the air, snowdrops and crocuses are in bloom - Reading recent editions of the Newton News, so are local elections.

Please make every effort to vote in these elections - you will be voting for the future of our town. When you vote, think carefully of the claims and promises being made by candidates. Beware of those making impossible claims.

In 2007, certain Independent candidates claimed that they would reduce Council Tax by 50%. This was impossible, but 15 Independents were elected to the Town Council and over the four following years contributed nothing of note to either the Medium-Term Financial Plan or the four successive budgets.

One candidate, this year is claiming he will reduce the number of councillors on the Town Council from 30 to 22. He cannot do that! The number of members who serve on the Town Council is decided by the Boundary Commission, who meet infrequently.

Some candidates will be promising to do things which they know full well are projects in hand. I will give you two examples:

- i) Clean the West Park lakes. In the Town Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan, the lakes are due to be cleaned in September to October 2022. There will be complaints expressed by the public over the disruption to wildlife. There will be a very obnoxious smell (the silt in the lake has come from open drains in the Beechfield/Elmfield area and from waterfowl droppings over a period of at least 17 years). The cost of the cleaning and repairs will be horrendous.
- ii) Elmfield School Site - the Council has been in negotiation with Durham County Council for about four years over the possible transfer of part of the site (this is the part which is subject to flooding). At the moment, the site is out to tender. Before the pandemic, Councillor Malcolm Iveson and myself met with interested developers to visit the site. I must say, the potential developers were not impressed. The access to the site is difficult and is very like an urban Hampton Court Maze. The site is surrounded by a high metal fence, nevertheless, the area has been subject to extensive vandalism. The outlook over the lakes could be a real selling point, apart from the local convenience store, which is so highly barricaded that it would not look out of place in Iraq or Beirut.

We are already seeing candidates exaggerating their input to improvements which have taken place. Recently it was claimed that three County Councillors in the past had obtained £150,000 to develop the Cobblers Hall Play Area. The facts behind the improvement of the area are worth mentioning.

- On the demise of Sedgefield Borough Council, Durham County Council received approximately £95 million more assets than liabilities on the transfer. Most of this was in the form of cash in bank. The largest proportion of the money had been raised from the sale of the land in the northern area of Newton Aycliffe. For example, plot J in the Cobblers Hall area (J being the tenth letter in the alphabet) was sold for £12.6 million.
- Cobblers Hall Play Area was part of the liabilities transferred to Durham County Council.
- The site was totally neglected, equipment was broken, the site was overgrown and heavily littered. It was a total disgrace and unfit for purpose.
- Local councillors, including one County Councillor, contacted the Town Council to see if we would take over the site. The County Council would pay £75,000 and the Town Council £75,000. The Town Council agreed to the proposal because we believe that every area in our town should have a park or suitable play area near at hand.

Cllr. Bob Fleming

Situations VACANT



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Emergency 999 call dispatcher Angela Walton leapt into action last week when she apprehended a shoplifter in Newton Aycliffe. Angela had just escorted her 81-year-old mum to the opticians when the pair decided to nip into one of her favourite shops.

"It was the first time mam had been out in nearly a year because of Covid so she was really excited," Angela said. "We decided to pop into her favourite shop to get a few bits."

But as the pair perused through the biscuit aisle, Angela noticed a man acting suspiciously. He went on to take dozens of packets of Kit Kats off the shelf and stuff them into carrier bags before doing the same with meat from the store's fridges.

Suspecting the man would try to steal the goods, Angela made her way to the front of the store and blocked the exit.

"I stood at the doors and closed them and he looked at me and bolted to the other side of the shop," she said. "I shouted to the cashier but he was already through the till so I just instinctively ran after him."

"I grabbed hold of him and he kept trying to pull away, saying I was just making my job harder but then he threw the bags down so I picked them up and took them back to the shop."

The suspect has now been reported to the police and enquiries are ongoing.

Despite her brave actions, Angela said she did not think twice when she realised what was happening.

The 51-year-old, who works in the control room at HQ, said: "I love being a dispatcher and although instinct just kicked in, I won't be making a habit of chasing after suspects. I'll leave that to our dedicated cops."

"It's actually funny because when I went back to my mam she was still looking at the biscuits and didn't seem to bat an eyelid."

Force Incident Manager, Dave Clarke, praised Angela for the actions and has nominated her for a staff WOW award which recognises employees who have gone above and beyond to serve the public.

"We are really proud of Angela and her actions show how integrated the force's vision and values are into every single one of our staff members who always go above and beyond to protect the public, both on and off duty."

"People sometimes think it's only cops who work for the police but we have a wide range of people in different roles who have that strong sense of right and wrong and moral values. Well done Angela!"



Situations VACANT



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Paul Howell, MP, is seeking a hardworking, focused, and enthusiastic individual to take on a caseworker role in his team.

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- Liaising with government departments, local councils and third party organisations;
- Attending surgeries, and writing up action points.

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Start date: As soon as possible.

Applicants should send their CVs, with a short covering letter outlining how they meet the criteria, and their salary expectations to: megs.jacobs@parliament.uk - Please direct any queries to this address.

For postal applications, please forward to Unit 2 Sydney House, Ricknall Avenue, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6AD.



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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	Motown, Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby
"The Saturday Night Experience" Sponsored by Bengal Lounge Indian Restaurant & Takeaway		
6-8pm	Evening Session	Jimjams
8-9pm	Rock the House	Carl Booth
9-10pm	Retro Trance Mix	OZ-DJ
10-12am	Drum 'n' Bass Show	MC Supa
12-1am	Night Club Session	A DJ

SUNDAY

9-10am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	Random Reiki Master	Phil Hawkins
12-2pm	Dave's Sunday Brunch	David Ringer
"Blues Show" Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service		
2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin & Monica
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6-8pm	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	Colin McNeillie
2-4pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker

MONDAY

5-6pm	Euro Chart Show	Dave Graham
"Through the Decades" Sponsored by McDonalds Newton Park		
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
7-12am	Motown, Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby

WEDNESDAY

5-7pm	Joey's Jukebox	Joey Collins
8-10pm	Alternative Aycliffe	Gaz n Alby

THURSDAY

6-8pm	The List	Colin McNeillie
8-10pm	BeatRoute	Graeme Roote
10-12am	Rock Night	Jonny Goldsmith

FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	12th Mar - 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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Know Who You Are Voting For in May!

Dear Sir,
Brexit is done. But, the new Labour leader, Sir Kier Starmer, who designed Labour's unpopular 'Remain' policy, is now too embarrassed to oppose Brexit after the Evil Empire tried to ignore the Agreement and steal our Vaccines! Only now, and too late, is the Labour party seeing the EU for what they are. Newton Aycliffe voters were ahead of the game!

Remember, Kier Starmer, like Cherie Blair before, made a fortune out of the Human Rights and Equality legislation which, in their case, meant ignoring the rights of victims and promoting the rights of terrorists. All paid for by the true victims; you the taxpayers.

The Labour Party is not the party of Kier Starmer or even Tony Blair. It's now a concatenation of ultra-left campaign groups; Momentum, Ban the Bomb, Ban the War, LBGTQ++ activist, Extinction Rebellion and BLM (Black Liberation Movement). Indeed, Sir Kier couldn't wait for a 'photo opp. to 'virtue signal' his support for BLM and their insulation that, if you are white, you are racist!

Locally, our Independent Councillors have been encouraging residents to stand for the Town or County Council. Like the Independents, I believe that there should be no place for Party politics on the Town Council. This is especially the case as some of

your Labour Councillors, with seats on both Councils, subject the needs of the Town's electorate (double taxation) to the wishes of the Labour Party on the County Council.

I understand that the separate Labour Party Ward branches have amalgamated into one branch. This grouping is increasing under the control of members who are, or were, supporters of Momentum and 'Corbynistas'. I also understand that a lot of the 'Old Labour', or 'Blairite' Councillors are not seeking re-election. This, to make way for the promotion of an ultra-left Councillor who, before first being elected, called everyone who voted Brexit, (expletive) morons and hoped they all would be gassed first. Indeed, Extinction Rebellion's Cllr. J.D. Clare penned a few letters to the local press in her support! I would suggest that our Labour controlled County Council is not worthy of your support for the following reasons:

- 1) They have, historically, levied one of the highest levels of Local Taxation in England.
- 2) They sold off Windlestone Hall, at a huge loss, to an alleged fraudster.
- 3) They are spending £50m on an unnecessary new HQ. More money is being spent on a new Police Custody Suite on the suggestion of an unelected (Labour appointed) Commissioner.
- 4) They were obliged to turn a loan of circa £3.4 to Durham County Cricket Club into shares in the failing club. This, to let the London based Cricketing authorities out of their financial commitments.

Yours Sincerely,
Alastair P.G. Welsh

Nomination Deadline Looms for Elections

Prospective candidates wishing to stand in County Durham elections as a county councillor, a parish or town councillor or for the role of Police and Crime Commissioner on Thursday 6 May 2021 have until Thursday 8 April to submit their nomination.

Anyone considering standing for election can request a nomination pack from Durham County Council's electoral services team by calling 03000 261 212. Downloadable packs can be printed from www.durham.gov.uk/elections2021

Due to legislative changes to the number of electors needed to subscribe to the County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner election nomination papers, the nomination packs for these will be available once the new legislation has been finalised. Prospective parish and town council candidates can also request nomination packs via the parish clerk of the parish or town council which they wish to stand for.

Online briefing sessions will be held via Microsoft Teams for prospective candidates on the following dates:

Durham County Council

- Tuesday 9th March at 4pm
- Monday 15th March at 12pm

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

- Wednesday 10th March at 11.30am

Parish and Town Councils

- Monday 15th March at 1pm
- Friday 19th March at 3pm

To book onto a session go to <http://www.durham.gov.uk/nominationpacks> - The deadline for nominations is 4pm on Thursday 8th April 2021. Anyone unable to download a nomination pack should contact Durham County Council's electoral services team on 03000 261 212 or email electoralservices@durham.gov.uk to arrange for a pack to be posted. Further information for prospective candidates can also be found on the Electoral Commission website at www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Those who would like to vote by post in this year's elections can request an application form by going to www.durham.gov.uk/postalvote - Alternatively, call the electoral services team on 03000 261 212.

Greenfield Students Inspired by Artists

Students at Greenfield Community College are taking advantage of creative opportunities as part of their learning experience.

Supported by Greenfield Arts, a group of Year 7 students have been inspired in a project partnered with The Bowes Museum to learn more about representation and identity. The students enjoyed the opportunity to create their own artwork working alongside school staff, artist Mel Kyles and staff from The Bowes Museum to explore The Bowes Museum collection from the Workshop of Dieric Bouts, "St Luke Drawing the Virgin and Child."

These online creative sessions led to exciting ideas and images created by the students that represented aspects of their own identity. The work will be shared in an online public exhibition at The Bowes Museum, an exciting prospect for the students who found the experience positive and creative.

This is just one of the many opportunities available to students to support learning creatively. Greenfield Community are committed to supporting students to reach their full potential and develop the attributes to be creative, collaborative, responsible, reflective and resilient learners. 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.



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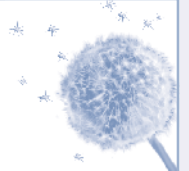


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Update on Newton Aycliffe Defibrillators Units

Dear Sir,
When I first started this project to provide potential life saving Defibrillator equipment into our community I realised that I needed to make people aware of:-

Why they were needed:

Each year hundreds of thousand cardiac arrests and over half are fatal.

What they do:

Early access could dramatically increase survival rates from 5% to nearly 70%.

When:

Public access 24 hours a day via 999 system.

Where:

A wide network positioned throughout our community.

How:

Provide basic CPR and Defibrillator awareness talks and training to assist funding.

The initial response, especially from the public at Woodham Village, Middridge and Greenfield, was fantastic, with over £3,000 being raised within weeks. This was swiftly followed by backing from our GAMP Area Action Partnership, GATC, Middridge Parish Council, Alisdair and Louise McConnel from the Village Pharmacy. As did the first five unit venues at Woodham Community Centre, PCP Centre, Middridge Bay Horse, Greenfield Shop and Woodham College.

This start was built on, and awareness and training in the community was used to promote and raise more funding to extend the project further.

At the start we did not have any 24 hour public access units anywhere in our Aycliffe area. We now have Woodham Community Centre, PCP, Bay Horse, Navy Club, Silverdale Place, School Aycliffe Community Centre, OakLeaf sports field, Aycliffe Village Community Centre, Simpature Court, Neville Community Centre, St Clare's, St Mary's, 75 Washington Crescent.

A new unit slap bang in the middle of the Town Centre shopping precinct was fitted last week. When we add in the numerous defib units that are also now available only during venue opening times, and the nearly 600 people who have completed the awareness course, it is not a bad result so far.

We are not finished, three areas have gaps, but plans and negotiation are already well advanced in two of them. I have again worked with Newton News so that they can print in this week's issue a local map showing the position of all units. I would like to mention particularly all the Community Centre and Residents Committees.

A personal thanks especially to Phil Clark who has supported me from the very start, and our equipment suppliers Martek Lifecare for their continued support.

Whilst Covid-19 has slowed us down, we still achieved a lot in the last year, particularly satisfying to me, is the level of commitment from Livin Housing and individuals such as Stephen Patterson and the anonymous donor at School Aycliffe, who both fully funded public units.



This community spirit is clearly shown again by the support for the latest unit now in the shopping precinct.

Landlords Daejan (Durham) Ltd who will now also maintain the defibrillator, our MP Paul Howell, the Taylor family, in memory of Daughter Seonaid Taylor-Hill, GATC Youth Committee, and residents of Newton Aycliffe, have all contributed including many friends and recipients of donations from 'Honest John' Hilton, who sadly passed away on 28th February 2020. These included the Rugby Club, Boxing Club, Acorn and Horndale Residents Groups, MAD Community Choir, Roger Pounder and Valerie Wright. I had decided on the location of the new Town Centre unit simply by its need to be central and link up with the chain of existing units. However, it was pointed out to me by Paul Thompson, of Acorn Residents, that it was the exact place where 'Honest John' Hilton had his original market stall.

This becomes more poignant when you understand we had already decided to recognise the value of all grass roots community support, by dedicating it with a simple message, the new Town Centre unit in recognition of John's unique fundraising commitment to his community.

The Town Centre unit was fitted outside the Salvation Army shop on Thursday 25th February and will be registered on to the 999 Emergency call system.

With lockdown restrictions hopefully easing, I hope to be able to restart CPR and Defibrillator demonstration again soon in the Town Centre, watch Newton News for future announcements.

Our project got a mention in Parliament recently, Jim Shannon, DUP, MP, had a successful Private Members Bill first reading with the aim to make it a Law for all Public buildings, Sporting facilities and Schools to have a defibrillator (fantastic). After a prior conversation with Paul Howell MP, he mentioned us in his Motion, citing it as a great achievement but suggesting that it should not be left up to individuals to provide this vital potential lifesaving equipment.

Again a wonderful example of Newton Aycliffe leading the way! A big thanks also to the support by our dedicated NHS Ambulance Service. They are using our network of units and even deploying them early if they consider a medical situation could quickly lead to a possible cardiac arrest.

If such an occasion happens, it means a defibrillator is instantly available to give the best possible odds of recovery.

All of this is down to our community working together to move forward to which I am totally committed.

David Sutton-Lloyd.

ED: See centre pages for your pull out map of defibrillator locations in Newton Aycliffe.



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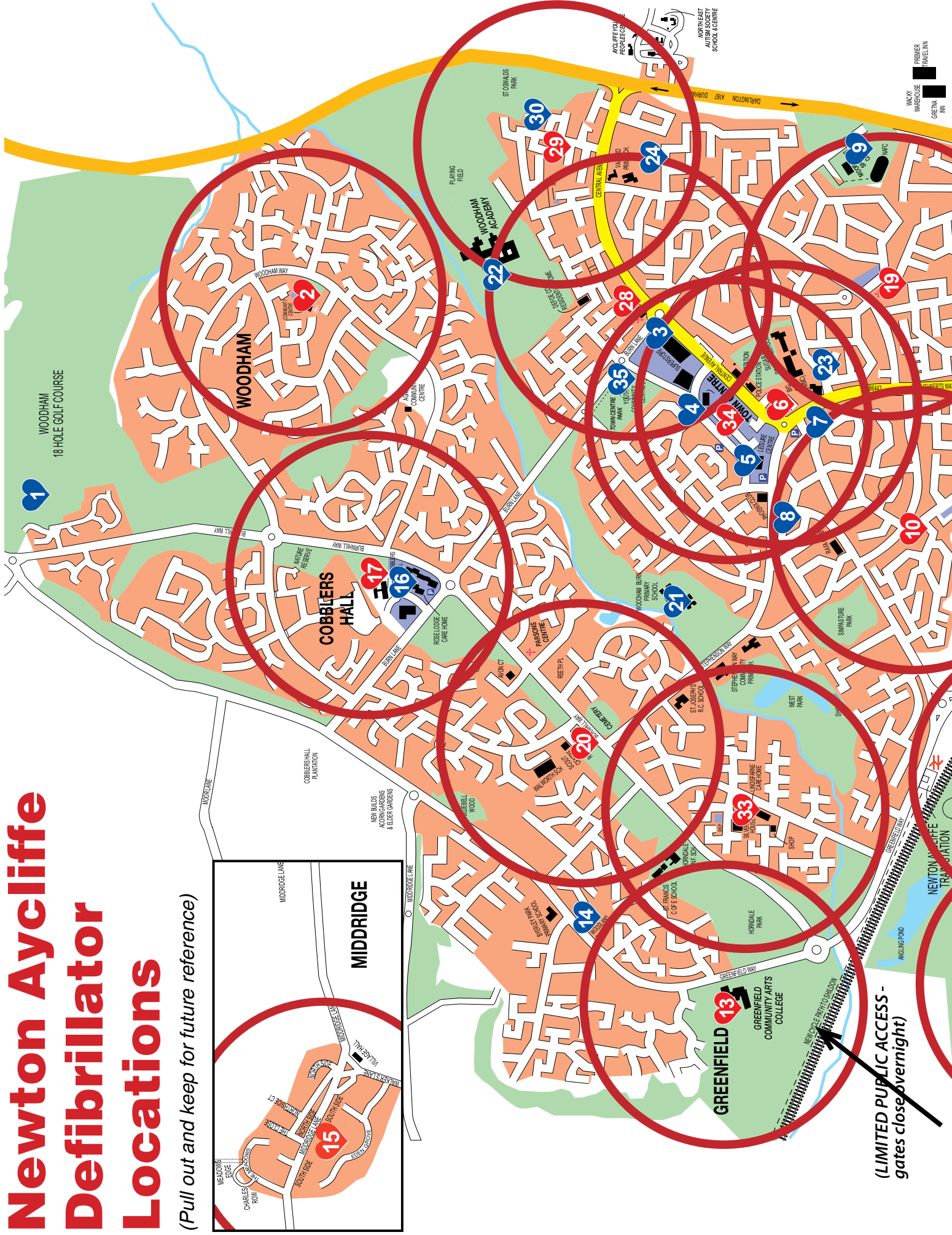
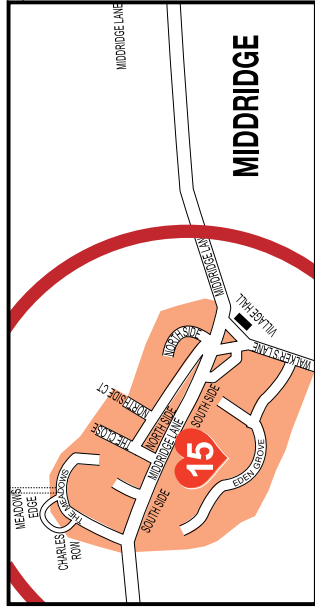
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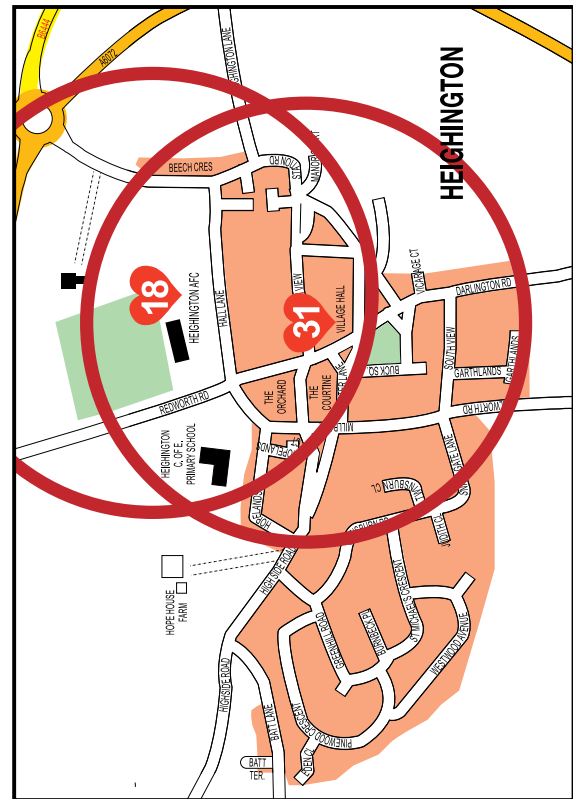
Newton Aycliffe Defibrillator Locations

(Pull out and keep for future reference)





Defibrillator Locations	
1 Woodham Golf Club - Pro Shop	DL5 4EX
2 Tesco	DL5 4AX
3 Woodham Village Community Centre	DL5 5NU
4 Tesco	DL5 5RH
5 Aycliffe Dental Practice	DL5 6DF 24hrs
6 Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre	DL5 6DF 24hrs
7 St Clare's Church	DL5 6LG 24hrs
8 Bewick Crescent Surgery	DL5 4HT 24hrs
9 Pease Way Surgery	DL5 4BE 24hrs
10 Moore Lane Sports Club	DL5 4BO
11 Simpson Care Home	DL5 8FE 24hrs
12 Newton Aycliffe Town Council Offices	DL5 6DX
13 Oak Leaf Sports Complex	DL5 7DZ 24hrs
14 Greenfield Community College	DL5 4DS 24hrs
*Limited public access - gates close overnight	DL5 4HT
14 Greenfield Convenience Store	
15 Bay Horse Public House, Midridge	
16 Jubilee Medical Group, Cobblers Hall Surgery	
17 Pioneering Care Centre (PCC)	
18 Heighington AFC	
19 Neville Parade Community Centre	
20 The Navy Club	
21 Woodham Burn Primary School	
22 Woodham Academy	
23 The Big Club	
24 Vane Road Primary School	
25 Oakleaf Sports Pitch	
26 School Aycliffe Community Centre	
27 Aycliffe Village Community Centre	
28 St Mary's RC Church	
29 75 Washington Crescent	
30 Oswald House	
31 Heighington Village Hall (Toilet Block)	
32 Sydney House (The Hall - Unit 7)	
33 Silverdale House	
34 Town Centre	
35 Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre	



Waste of Money

Dear Sir,

Isn't it considerate of Durham County Council to modify the road layout at the junction between School Aycliffe Lane and Horndale Avenue?

In particular, whose brilliant idea was it to spend taxpayers revenue by constructing three central refuges and severely restricting manoeuvrability?

In my opinion the authorities have created a solution to a problem that never existed.

Perhaps I'm being cynical, but is it just a coincidence that we are nearing the end of the financial tax year and reserves need to be spent in order to justify future funding claims and council tax increases?

Possibly, the council's reasoning is to provide additional employment and opportunities for local garages and groundwork contractors, in that how many drivers are now liable to damage their car alloys attempting to negotiate the high concrete kerbs (with consequential repair costs), not to mention the juggernauts which use this junction on a regular basis and will almost certainly damage and/or destroy the 'keep left bollards' along with adjacent road signage.

'Que Será, Será', as no doubt the future repair requirements will give DCC (Highways Department) a consistent source of employment by constantly having to organise remedial works.

Derreck Pinkney, School Aycliffe

Students STEAM Ahead

Students at Greenfield Community College are being given opportunities to learn through an exciting STEAM programme of events and activities. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) involves a method of inquiry based interdisciplinary learning that aligns with real life experience, encouraging awareness and a practical sense of how Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics can impact upon our learning and our lives.



STEAM has played an important part throughout the global pandemic – from the role of Science, Technology and Engineering in analysing the virus and its mechanisms and subsequently developing a number of vaccines as well as the Mathematicians and Statisticians who analyse all of the data relating to the pandemic, right through to the roles of the Arts in helping us to explore ideas, reflect, be creative, entertain and stay connected with each other. One aspect of the STEAM programme is the Future Medics project. Recently a group of Year 10 Future Medics students took part in two socially distanced lunchtime workshops where they learned hands-on skills. They were shown and then carried out their own heart dissections; they familiarised themselves with the major structures of the heart and the blood vessels leading to and away from the heart. Then in the second workshop, the group were introduced to the importance of vital signs as well as how to look for and measure them. Once they were aware of body temperature (and its normal range), pulse rate, rate of breathing and blood pressure, our students were given the opportunity to correctly use stethoscopes, thermometers, sphygmomanometers, as well as being shown how to calculate BMI. A valuable experience that gave an insight into the work of medics as students make their career choices.

The school are now looking forward to extended learning opportunities through STEAM as they celebrate British Science Week (05.03.2021 – 14.03.2021). This year's theme focuses upon 'innovating the future' and celebrating the amazing diversity we see across the world. Staff and students are looking forward to sharing the quality resources available that can bring Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics to life in the classroom. 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.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Newton Aycliffe Covid-19 Statistics & Advice

Area	7 day Cases	7 day rate per 100k	Weekly % Change	Change Direction
NA North	3	34.6	-72.7	Down
NA West	4	69.4	100	Up
NA East	3	54.5	50	Up
NA South	3	42.1	-57.1	Down

Correct at 2nd March 2021

If you don't have anyone to pick up medication, please contact your community pharmacy. If you are unable to access support for help with essentials such as food supplies, or someone who can listen and support you, please contact Durham County Council:

Email: communityhub@durham.gov.uk

fill in the Covid-19 Help form at www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help

or call 03000 260 260 and they will connect you to the help you need.

Want to join Durham County Councils' community hub?

If you are a local voluntary group, local business or other agency offering help in the community, why not join their community hub to help people find support in this time of crisis.

It's free, just fill in the form at www.durham.gov.uk/covid19volunteer or call 03000 260 260. You will receive a call to verify your details and your service added to Locate.

- 03000 260 260 is the number if you are struggling financially.
- PCP Befriending number 01325 329934 if you are feeling lonely.
- 03000 261 111 is One Point (for advice and practical support).
- 0800 3047039 (Freephone) HealthWatch County Durham
- In danger of losing your home? DCC Housing Solutions: 03000 268 000

If you require a test for Covid-19 ring 119

Durham County Council Coronavirus Helpline: 03000 260 260

HealthWatch County Durham: 0800 304 7039

Source: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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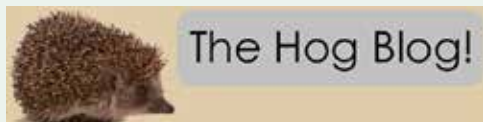
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Tara and I are amazed at the kindness of the people who take the time to read this article and bring donations, either food or monetary, to our rescue, because we are still feeding and caring for hedgehogs that we keep warm indoors due to health difficulties, hibernation is not an option. Firstly, June and Sonia who never stop helping us, Katie's finders, Clive and Valentine, came to visit her at the weekend to see her happy and left getting better left a £10 donation to help us help her, thank you both, she will be here for a while. Mary for her donation of £10 and some lovely clothes off Bev.

However, we need to ask everyone to please read this from Chris Packham, we need everyone's cooperation, reasons being, a very nice young couple and their son Joe did a spot of cleaning in their garden on Sunday and a garden rake disturbed a hibernating hoggie, they stopped at nothing to get help for this hog because his nest was destroyed, in the process leaving him nowhere to go, he is safe and warm indoors for the foreseeable and Tara will keep a close eye on him and make sure he stays healthy.

For our tip of the week, check before you use any gardening equipment or better still wait. For further info either visit Hedgehog Street or ring BHPS on 01584 890801 they can supply help and information leaflets



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

Sorry to be boring but it's the same opening message again that if you get the opportunity for a vaccine please take it. If for whatever reason you have missed your initial invite remember that invitation remains open and I would encourage you to make contact and catch up. If you need help please let us know and we will try to help. The take up rate of the vaccine continues to be exceptional and I hope to get mine soon too. At the time of writing we had just passed 20,000,000 doses and the latest mass vaccination centre opened in Darlington this week. Many thanks to both the workers and volunteers making this happen. Vaccine availability slowed a little nationally in late February but is now back to higher levels and I am told that as we go through March the rate of acceleration will be significant. This combines with information confirming that there is a positive link between hospitalisation, death rates and the vaccine and we are seeing an acceleration in the fall of death rates and particularly in the over 80's who of course have been vaccinated longer. These together are fantastic news and give us real hope the end is in sight.

It is really important to remember though that vaccination takes a couple of weeks to become really effective and that even then you still need to continue to follow the rules as you may still be a carrier and transmit the virus to others. We start to see the release of this lockdown with the schools back next week, which will start to relieve some of the pressures on parents. From the messages I get, anyone who has had to do home schooling will appreciate even more the value of our teachers. I must also thank all teachers for the effort they have put in simultaneously teaching those at school and those at home, I am sure they are all really ready for the Easter break when it comes.

The week has had a number of really interesting sessions, unfortunately all virtual. These included time with businesses like Ebac, 3M and Hitachi, as well as discussions with Anne Marie Trevelyan, the Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth, we talked about renewable energy sources. I also took part in a forum hosted by the TUC for key workers to listen to their concerns and share my perspectives. I also spoke to some local school leaders and engaged further in the efforts to reopen the Leamside rail line and was able to facilitate a meeting between the Air Minister, Robert Courts, and Teesside

Airport. I took the time to join Middridge Parish Council on Monday for part of their meeting, as I have said before local councils are a very important part of local democracy.

The challenge in writing this column this week is that the big news of the week will happen after this goes to print but before you read it. I am referring to the Budget which the Chancellor will have delivered on Wednesday. This will have many important issues to cover, ranging from the immediate to those to support the longer term. In the short term I hope and expect him to extend some of the Covid support ranging from the £20 UC uplift through to Business Rates etc., but I am also very interested in some, potentially, very significant announcements for our area. Particularly significant amongst these are the possibility of a Freeport for Teesside and the creation of a Treasury North being based in Darlington. Either, or both, could be a major benefit to the economy of the North East but the Treasury would also be a step change on different agendas. Moving the Treasury decision makers into a town like Darlington means that on the one hand we have good jobs that can help keep our young people in the North East but also if the decision makers are based outside of metropolitan centres then they should be more aware of life outside city centres. I will not speculate further on these but rather will save that for next week.

For now though, please continue to respect the virus, say thank you to all our key workers and have as good a week as you can. **Stay Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives - Stay Safe.**

Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield



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Paul Howell
 Member of Parliament
 for Sedgefield

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



Polluted Burn



Dear Sir,
I am writing about pollution in the Burn and bringing this issue to your readers attention. The pollution of the Burn is happening on a regular basis and this filthy foam can be found near Burn Way bridge and has been recurring over the last few months. It seems to be happening most days and the water is so filthy. I have contacted Great Aycliffe Town Council and they informed me that there had been a problem, which they thought was resolved - clearly not! I would encourage anyone who is concerned to contact our MP, the County Council, Environment Agency, River Watch and Northumbria Water so this matter can be dealt with once and for all. Obviously we need to be aware and observant to stop these people from polluting our area.
Michelle
Name and address supplied

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50 Miles in March Fundraiser

Dear Sir,

For those who know me, I love my exercise, I love a good challenge and I also love to help people! So, this month I am going to do them all . . . I'm going to run 50 miles in March, in aid of our lovely residents at St. Helens Care Home!

I started working there in May 2020 and I absolutely love it! I love making our residents smile everyday, I love making their time in the home more enjoyable and love spending time with them!

I am hoping to raise £1000 for our home! This will help so much with the level of activities in the home such as sensory equipment, payment for entertainers, singers, trips out for our residents (obviously once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted).

It's through your donations that we are able to make a difference to our residents' lives!

I will keep you updated with how my runs are going, countdowns and donation updates.

Please dig deep and help me reach my target - Let's do this.

Please visit the JustGiving page at:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sthelensfundraiser?utm_medium=email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20210224_

Thank you

Jules Baxter



Learning Curve Group Continues Growth Plans



Training and education specialists, Learning Curve Group (LCG), have completed the acquisition of Antrec Limited, solidifying their position as one of the UK's largest training providers; supporting over 160,000 learners each year.

Antrec, established in 2011, deliver a range of funded and commercial adult learning courses in such areas as construction and health and social care as well as being the leading provider of high quality Taxi Driver Preparation courses in Liverpool City Region.

Headquartered in County Durham, Learning Curve Group delivers education and training courses nationally, supporting over 4,500 businesses with workplace training and in excess of 160,000 learners to gain nationally recognised qualifications each year.

Brenda McLeish, Chief Executive Officer at Learning Curve Group, said: "We are delighted that Antrec Limited will become part of Learning Curve Group as we continue to grow as one of the UK's biggest training providers and expand our reach into Liverpool. The acquisition supports our growth strategy and presents new, exciting opportunities to our learners and employer partners, adding to our combined breadth of provision.

All colleagues from Antrec Limited will continue their employment with Learning Curve Group resulting in the expansion of their existing headcount of over 500 staff. The acquisition forms part of Learning Curve Group's ambitious strategic growth plans, which also included the acquisition of the London Hairdressing Apprenticeship Academy and its counterpart London Beauty Training Academy earlier last year and Acorn Training last autumn.

Sudoku

2	1		5		4		
7		9		1		3	
			2	4	1		9
8	9				2	3	
	1	5	4			2	
4			1			5	7
5				1			4
	7		3		2		
	2	4	8		7		

9 Year Old Taking on New Class of Racing - Micromax

**Seb is KNE Junior Champion - 2020
Vice Champion Honda Cadet 200 - 2020
Vice Micromax Champion, Hooton PK - 2020**

Seb, who lives in Newton Aycliffe, is a 9 year old who loves his racing. His first race was in the Honda Cadet last year, and gave him his first win at Warden Law and was interviewed by Joe Bradley after the final race. He was so excited and one of the youngest on track (aged 8 at the time).

We decided to move to Micromax Racing as this was new and exciting, as well as a lot faster!

Sebs first race in Micromax was filmed by TDI Media, it was an exciting time and nail biting for us, footage can be found on YouTube (TDI Media Channel) entitled 'Low Cost Karting Gets Underway'. Seb has some amazing footage and is the lap record holder - give it a watch, it's exciting viewing.

Seb has raced at Rowrah, Hooton and Warden Law during 2020. This year we are spreading our wings by racing with Hunter Motorsport, based at Warden Law run by Rhys Hunter, who is an amazing Rotax driver himself, winning championship after championship and an amazing role model for Seb. We look forward to racing with him. We are also entering in the first Micromax Championship, which will see us racing at various tracks including Warden Law, Rowrah, Hooton Park and Fulbeck to name a few.

A massive thank you to Craig at Be Inspired Gym, for helping Seb maintain his fitness and continuing to help and support him moving forward (covid restrictions apply). Seb is a massive fan of Sebastian Vettel,



other fans of his will notice that Sebs helmet design is a nod to his idol. If you are interested in sponsoring Seb, please get in touch with his mother, Mandy Littler, via email: mandylittler520@gmail.com



Congratulations

Irene Wormald



HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY
9th March 2021

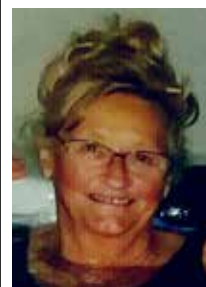
On such a grand occasion, good wishes come your way. To a very special person on this very special day. Happy 80th birthday Mam. Love from Paul, Beverley, John-Paul, Lisa, Carrie, Matthew and all your Grandchildren.

Happy 80th birthday Mam. Hope you have a great day. Love from Stuart, Joanne, Adam, Alex, Ellen, Charlotte and Lemmy.

Happy 80th birthday Mam. All our love Chris and Michelle xx

Happy birthday Grandma, lots of love, Jack and Joe xx

Lynn Dunn



Happy 70th Birthday
9th March

Hope you have a lovely day.

Love from Lisa & Mark, Abbie & Amy, Sean, Jussy, Layton and Boys

Obituary

Sybil Young

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully on 21st February, aged 86 years.

Dearly loved Wife of the late Alec, beloved Mother of Kevin and Melvin and Mother-in-Law of Heather and Cathy, much loved Nanna to William, Edward, Beth, Grace and Eve and Great Nanna to Oscar.

In line with current restrictions there will be a family, invitation-only, funeral at Darlington Crematorium on 12th March.

Many thanks to the staff at Lindisfarne Care Home in Newton Aycliffe for all their wonderful care. Family flowers only please. Donations, in lieu, to The Alzheimer's Society.

**Place your Mothers' Day (14th March)
Greeting in your community
magazine, the "Newton News"**

Elizabeth Bowes
Happy Mothers' Day.
Lots of love from
Charles, Camilla and
your Grandchildren



Ma Baker

To a Mam in a Million!
Happy Mothers' Day.
Lots of love, Herman,
Lloyd & Willmer xxx

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07931 701444

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Wednesday, 10th March
proofs will be provided

Greetings will be printed in
Friday 12th March edition.

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Mothers' Day Service

Neville Parade Methodist Church have arranged a socially distanced Service, for Mothering Sunday. The service will start at 10.30am on Sunday 14th March 2021 at Neville Parade Methodist Church.

Birthday Remembrance

Fred Kipling

Thinking of you
Fred, on your 100th
Birthday.

Hope you are having a
Kipling Party up there.
Wish we could
celebrate with you.
With love, Wendy,
niece Julie and
families.

facebook 
NEWTON NEWS

In Memoriam

Gladys Harbottle

Died 7th March 2012
A dear Mother who
is sadly missed and
we cherish our lovely
memories.
Vera, Lavinia & Andy
xxx

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New Friends, New Places

The Big Club, Newton Aycliffe for the start of our meetings, date to be confirmed, possibly around 18th May, repeat 18th May, hopefully! We welcome all members old and new to come and join our group. We started as a group in October 2008, with just a few members, we now have a membership of 60, most of them attended every week before the lockdown.

The meeting will be held at The Big Club every Tuesday from 2.00pm until 4.30pm. There will be line dancing, armchair aerobics, bus trips to places of interest, Bingo, entertainers and much more.

Please come along and join us.

Over the past 12 years that people have been attending, many lasting friendships have been made, loneliness and isolation is a thing of the past for many of our members.

Short Break, travel included, £193, from 10th September until 13th September a small group will be visiting Blackpool. We usually take this break three or four times a year, and have a wonderful time. A coach picks us up in Newton Aycliffe and remains with us, there are some spare places available.

For more details contact Dorothy Bowman on 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

Wonderful Postman

Dear Sir,

As a resident of Aycliffe Village I would like to say, on behalf of most people, and myself in the Village, that we are very lucky to have our lovely, caring, kind Postman, Tony.

He always has a smile and a kind word for everyone, as well as giving a helping hand if needed.

He is also known for noticing if someone may need help and asks their neighbour if they have seen them recently, so they can check to see if they are all right.

He has such a lovely community spirit, and it is a pleasure to have him around.

Name and address supplied.

Appeal for Raffle Prizes

Dear Sir,

My name is Michelle Dodds and I am organising a fundraiser for a local family. My family actually, who have recently been given the devastating news that my Stepmam has cancer, and within a week of that diagnosis we were told it is terminal.

I'm hoping to organise a raffle to raise funds to help alleviate the financial burden, now she's unable to work. But also help my Sister and God-Daughter, who are trying to organise a space in the garden for their Mam, Julie Bennett, to rest after her chemotherapy. She loves the sunshine and being outside and will be able to enjoy spending time with her family over the summer.

Julie really deserves this; she is a beautiful woman and everyone who knows her will agree. As a nurse she has worked in care for her entire career and worked through the pandemic on the front-line, holding the hands of those who needed it, when their own families couldn't, without knowing she had cancer herself, so was at massive risk. We were beyond relieved that she never caught Covid herself!

Julie is a wonderful Mam and Granny to her "munchkins".

I would like to organise a raffle, I know how much everyone loves a good raffle and I've seen how amazing our community can be when there's a family worth helping.

So, firstly, I would like to ask if any local business would be in a position to donate something, no matter how small - whether it be a prize for the raffle, or materials, flowers, pots or ornaments, for the garden. I appreciate any help.

Secondly, raffle tickets can be purchased from either myself, Julie's daughters, Sarah and Rachel Bennett, as well as Donna Coulthard.



Cash donations can be made via our GoFundMe page at:

<https://gofund.me/75d2f528>

Michelle Dodds

07932 764248 or email chellebennett19@aol.com

- contact can also be made via Facebook.

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