

Friday 12th March 2021

Established 1948

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Magazine

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



Hitachi Investment News Welcomed

See page 2 for more

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SHAKE 'N' CAKE



PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgfield



Vane Road School to be used as Polling Station

Dear Sir,

I am a Governor at Vane Road Primary School and I want to use the medium of the Newton News to highlight what I believe to be a really poor decision made by the Council.

Despite the strenuous rejection by the school of a request from the Council to use the school on 6th May for the Elections, we have now received a letter from them stating that there is no alternative. You and I will both know that there are many alternatives but it appears that the Council simply aren't prepared to consider them.

Whilst the school is, as you know, a new build and it was designed to enable it to be used as a Polling Station, without having to close the school, I feel that the fact that there will still be significant restrictions on society at that time, shows that the Government believe that the risk of the Covid-19 virus being transmitted in the community will still be high. For this reason, if we have to hold the Elections in school, I don't believe that it would be safe to keep the children in school at the same time.

I feel that this is wholly unacceptable and the school has written to the Head of Education, Richard Crane, and the Local MP, Paul Howell, to raise our serious concerns. I believe that there was an agreement by Government, that if the elections were to take place in May, that schools would not be used as they have been disrupted enough this year. This however seems to have been ignored, particularly in so far as Vane Road is concerned.

The children have lost so much education over the last year that my view is that the children need to be in school, but more importantly, they (and staff) need to be kept safe and having voters on school site during this time would compromise this. I would ask that any reader of this article use any influence that they might have to try and get this absurd decision overturned.

David Knight
(Governor, Vane Road Primary School).

Hitachi Investment News Welcomed

A major investment by train builder Hitachi in its County Durham plant has been welcomed by council leaders.

Hitachi Rails announcement of a further investment in its state-of-art factory in Newton Aycliffe will



not only see the creation of additional jobs, it will also benefit the wider business community.

The move will see the launch of new welding and painting facilities at the site, allowing the company to manufacture its signature high-tech aluminium carriage shells on site rather than importing them from overseas.

It means the facility, which has the contract to build the next generation of intercity trains for East Midlands Railway and Avanti West Coast, will be able to manufacture trains in their entirety.

The latest news means that company has now invested a total of £110 million into the site, meaning the addition of around 40 additional roles.

Hitachi Rail's continued commitment to its employees, including extensive training programmes and further training to obtain specialist welding qualifications, is also being welcomed.

The Newton Aycliffe site's new manufacturing capabilities will allow Hitachi Rail to further expand its north east supply chain, deepening its relationship with suppliers such as Dyer Engineering and Hydram Engineering.

Cllr. Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, said: "The news that Hitachi is making another substantial investment in Newton Aycliffe demonstrates its commitment to County Durham, its workforce, and the future of its site here.

"The latest announcement, which signals a total £110 million investment in the county by the company, is a significant milestone for the business and for the county. It's a great boost for our local economy at a time when our focus is very much on economic recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

"As well as providing employment for hundreds of local people, the plant supports many more through the 130 businesses that make up its local supply chain."

Cllr. Carl Marshall, Durham County Council's cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "We worked hard to attract Hitachi to County Durham against fierce competition from around the country. Happily, Hitachi able were to see the vision we had and the fantastic opportunities we are able to offer businesses looking to relocate to the region.

"We have a long and proud tradition of manufacturing and as pioneers of the railway industry, having brand new intercity trains made in County Durham is a fitting reference to the past. It also illustrates that we embrace the opportunity to innovate and as a county we have so much to offer."

Amy Harhoff, Durham County Council's corporate director of regeneration, economy and growth, said: "Hitachi chose to come to County Durham because we were able to offer a well-connected location and a skilled and highly motivated workforce who are willing to learn, develop and work hard.

"Since their move here, we have supported the business in achieving its ambitions.

"We are rightly proud that Hitachi continues to give our county a vote of confidence with this latest investment in its state-of-the-art facility. It shows that we can attract global businesses, that we have much to offer them and, most importantly of all, that we can work with them to support their ambitions to grow and succeed."

Ross Nagle, COO Rolling Stock UK, said: "This investment in Newton Aycliffe increases our capabilities at the site, meaning we can manufacture a range of trains, from metros to high speed, from start to finish. The whole team has worked incredibly hard over the last year, in challenging circumstances, to deliver for our customers and this investment is testament to them."

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Thank You

Dear Sir,

Residents living in Bethany House would like to thank the following, Matt and Layla, pupils from Byerley Park Primary School, Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe for their Pen Pal letters to our residents.

The recipients really enjoy reading them and appreciate the children taking time to write to us.

Thanks also to "The Parish of Great Aycliffe", for our homemade hearts and messages. Thank you to Pam Lovelass for her care and concern for all the people in Newton Aycliffe.

Thanks to Aycliffe Radio for the Memory Lane show, which our residents enjoy listening to.

Thanks as well to the Newton News for all their help and support with our articles.

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Put Up or Shut Up Location Agreement Reached for Locomotion No.1

Dear Sir,

I would like to reply to the letter by Alastair Welsh which was full of inaccuracies, in last week's Newton News, 5th February, although many people say don't bother, nobody takes any notice of him. Brexit was delivered on a lie, but only time will tell, we are where we are.

Let's move on to the next issue, the election of Independents in my ward of Byerley Park, Horndale and Cobblers Hall. We have two Independent Councillors who live in the Aycliffe West Ward and have done nothing in this ward and don't show their face or even come to events in the ward. One of them is a self-certified Covid-19 denier, the other is only an Independent due to the fact that she stood against an official Labour Candidate who had served on the late Sedgfield Borough Council and Durham County Council as a Labour Councillor.

Mr Welsh is to my mind an out and out Tory, but in fact, to me he is right wing and yet Tory Ministers have signed off a £340,000 payment to a civil servant who blew the whistle on the Home Secretary Priti Patel, in the bullying scandal to save the embarrassment of an employment tribunal. Now we find that £37 billion has been paid to the ministers 'mates' for a failed track and trace system, yet can only offer £3.50 weekly to pay for our heroic nurses during the Covid Pandemic, it comes as no surprise to me. Now who is wasting tax payers money? I could never understand why Mr Welsh, a regular correspondent in the Newton News, has never stood for the Council - so I would conclude with, put up or shut up.

Vince Crosby

The Science Museum Group (SMG) and Darlington Borough Council (DBC) have reached an agreement that will see the historic engine Locomotion No.1 move to Locomotion in Shildon in March, with a 6-month return to Head of Steam in the first half of 2025 - the bicentenary year for the iconic Stockton & Darlington Railway. The agreement also allows for two further loans of Locomotion No.1 to Darlington (totalling 12 months) between 2026 and 2030. It has also been agreed that both DBC and SMG will actively seek opportunities for Locomotion No.1 to go on loan to the council beyond 2030 - for up to two periods of 12 months, or one period of 24 months, in each five-year period.

Signalling the determination of both organisations to work together for the best possible outcome for the region, SMG will renew 28 other loans to Head of Steam from the National Collection. These include the tremendously important Derwent, the oldest surviving locomotive built in Darlington, NER Tennant, NER Raven T3 and a number of smaller items which help to illustrate the incredibly rich and significant railway history of the town.

The announcement is part of a Memorandum of Understanding agreed by SMG (owners of Locomotion No.1) and DBC that covers the period until 2030. Both Locomotion and Head of Steam have ambitious plans to redevelop and grow their museums over the next five years, culminating in the 200th anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 2025.



steam locomotives by A1 Steam Locomotive Trust with public viewing facilities and interpretation, and the 1861 Building, a facility for the repair, maintenance, storage and display of locomotives and associated rail artifacts.

The 1861 Building will be occupied and operated by two separate organisations, the North Eastern Locomotive Preservation Group (NELPG) and Darlington Railway Preservation Society (DRPS).

At Locomotion, this includes a £4.5m project to construct a brand-new collections building that will significantly increase the amount of covered space available to visitors and house around 40 rail vehicles from the National Collection.

Recent developments at Locomotion have seen the repair and rejuvenation of Locomotion's historic buildings - a collection of unique Grade II-listed buildings including the former home of Timothy Hackworth (the first locomotive superintendent of the Stockton & Darlington Railway), as well as workers' cottages and Soho Shed - the earliest surviving industrial building in Shildon, and arguably the oldest goods handling rail building in the world.

Darlington Borough Council, working in partnership with Tees Valley Combined Authority, plans to create a major new £25million visitor destination and museum around the North Road Station site, opening in 2024. This free-to-enter tourist attraction will be a central part of the bi-centenary celebrations of the Stockton & Darlington Railway (S&DR) in 2025.

Locomotion No.1 will be part of that celebration at the Head of Steam. The development will combine multiple listed buildings into a unique visitor experience including major exhibition and interpretation space, café, archive, study area, and function spaces.

Also on the site will be a purpose-built facility for the creation and maintenance of

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Lib Dem Councillor on a Money Saving Expedition

Dear Sir,
Liberal Democrat Town Councillor, Michael Stead (Woodham Ward), who is also standing for the County Council in May's elections wants to consult on cutting councillor numbers from 30 to 23.

Cllr. Stead commented, "So many people are saying we do not need 30 town councillors. I totally agree with them. The National Association of Councils recommends that a town of our size should have around 23 councillors."

Councillor Stead says this would save money and allow for a review of boundaries to make the council more democratic. After consulting with Durham County Council he has discovered that this is done through them and not the Boundary Commission, which had been suggested by others last week. In addition, he says, the council is undemocratic. Michael explains, "Not only do we have too many councillors but in some areas there is one councillor per 500 residents whilst in another area it's one councillor for nearly 900. This is completely undemocratic. By coincidence, I think it probably favours the Labour Party."

Cllr Stead's motion is being debated this week and would see a review to cut councillor numbers and reorganise town council wards so they are fair. Stead also sees this as one of many ways to cut costs at the Town Council.

Cllr Stead adds, "Every week I see another opportunity to do things more efficiently. More and more ways to save money. I'm seeing this, and so are residents. My campaign over the last 18 months has already seen our first Town Council tax freeze for what seems like forever. We now need to have passion for every penny and a war on waste. This will protect services and keep council tax down."

"I am also still determined to end the injustice which sees us pay hundreds of pounds more council tax than residents in Crook, Consett and Chester-le-Street. Tackling this is essential. It seems that both the Tories and Labour are not interested in tackling the unfairness of double taxation, so it's left to the rest of us to keep the pressure on."

Cllr Michael Stead



Taxpayers Money Wasted

Dear Sir,

I agree with Derreck Pinkney in feeling taxpayers' money spent on 'improving' the approaches to the mini roundabout at the junction of School Aycliffe Lane and Horndale Way was wasted, but he is wrong to suspect the purpose of this was to protect DCC employees by 'constantly having to organise remedial works'.

This cannot be the case, as DCC doesn't do remedial works any time soon! Aside from looking at the state of our roads, I know this because back in 2015 I notified the Council and my local Councillors of issues with badly damaged pinch point bollards on Pease Way and Stephenson Way and, despite a follow up reminder in 2019, and a supporting email to the relevant Council officer from Councillor Eddy Adam, with the possible exception of one set, they still haven't been repaired!

Several of the bollards marking the pinch points still show obvious signs of severe impact damage, one being totally sheared off, and several others have reflectors which are missing. I have witnessed numerous near-misses where there has nearly been a head-on collision, and some drivers probably avoided a collision by steering into the columns.

I hate speed bumps with a passion, but I hate pinch points even more! They stop rather than slow traffic and put cars on a collision path. The one on Stephenson Way near the bus stop causes gridlock at times, with nobody able to go anywhere due to the intersection of two other roads.

I'd prefer the pinch points to be removed altogether, but, failing this, DCC should at least ensure the bollards are fit for purpose and not the eyesore they are now.

Back in 2019, the guide price was £21,000 for each chicane and £14,000 for each speed cushion, I have no figures, but expect the pinch points would cost about the same as chicanes, so I appreciate why the Council would be reluctant to replace what is already there, and rue the taxpayers' money spent in putting them there in the first place. I hope they don't build any more!

I was also advised that in the five years prior to the introduction of the traffic calming there had been no accidents on Pease Way and only one 'rear end shunt' on Stephenson Way, which further begs the question as to whether it was worth the cost of installing the scheme in the first place.

If there has to be traffic calming, I favour chicanes as the least bad option. At least they facilitate safe crossing, though swerving erodes tyres and braking and accelerating uses fuel. Speed bumps damage cars and cause erratic driving, braking and accelerating uses more energy, causes tyre erosion and damages suspension. My late father hated them because they made him wince with pain (he had a spinal problem).

On the subject of spinal problems, I have noticed that many of the roads in and around town are now breaking up, with numerous pot holes developing, and what have been repaired have only been repaired temporarily and often unevenly. I realise this is a costly problem, but the taxpayers' money wasted on unnecessary junction 'improvements' and unpopular and potentially fatal traffic calming measures would surely have been more wisely used on such necessary repairs. I hope they have retained enough of our money to carry out these repairs, and properly.

John Snowball

Situations VACANT



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Newton News

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Thursday 1st April - Easter Edition

Deadline: 12noon Tuesday 30th March

Friday 9th April - Back to Normal

Deadline: 12noon Wednesday 7th April

Please be aware of our opening times below and deadline times above to ensure your advert is placed on time and in the correct edition

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Open until Thursday 1st April at 4.00pm
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RMHC House-to-House Cycling Challenge Europe



Over the next twelve weeks, from 1st March, Jason Watson and Jonny Nassau will be completing the RMHC House-to-House Cycling Challenge Europe. The challenge will entail virtually visiting six Ronald McDonald Houses across the UK and Europe, this exciting route includes Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, London, Dublin and Edinburgh, covering a total distance of 2,632.5km by bicycle.

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Ronald McDonald House Charities UK, provides free accommodation and support for families with children in hospital. They are providing help for families, even amidst a global pandemic, childhood illnesses and accidents haven't stopped. Having a child in hospital is a frightening time for families. Now, more than ever, they need our support. Just £25 can help us support a family for one night. Your fundraising can make the world of difference to families in need.

We have asked Newton News to distribute half of the total raised to local charities around Newton Aycliffe to carry on the restaurants support within the local community.

To donate to this fantastic appeal, please visit:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-rmhc-and-newton-aycliffe-community-charities?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer

Nuisance Bikers on Pavements

Dear Sir,

I was walking back from the town centre, along Stephenson Way with my Husband on Thursday 4th March, when coming towards us, and travelling at great speed, was a youth on a bike. He very nearly ran into my husband.

On passing him, my husband, who is 80 years old with a heart condition, was greatly agitated and called after the youth "you stupid idiot, you nearly hit me."

The youth called back with some expletives.

My husband turned quickly to face the youth, who, by this time, was some distance away. My husband, at the time, had a heavy bag on his shoulder, lost his balance and fell to the pavement, badly gashing the side of his head. Two young women came to help me get my husband back to his feet, for which I thank them so much. My husband had to attend A&E in Darlington Hospital where he had staples put in the side of his head.

This problem with bikes on pavements is getting worse. I am sure the police should be dealing with this as many people are experiencing this issue.

Mrs J McNeal

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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
6:30-8pm	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	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	19th Mar - Nathan Abbott - Dance Classix	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby
12-1am	Night Club Session	A DJ

Check our website for full schedule

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

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Parking Danger at School Time

Dear Sir,

This week the schools opened with a sigh of relief from most parents and a lot of the children. However, the driving standards in the mornings for the start of the school day, and when schools are letting the children out, haven't improved at all, in fact it's probably got worse. Parents parking where they like, in front of drives, on pavements, corner of junction and keep clean lines, just to save them walking a few extra steps. Then there are the late comers who drop their children off on the yellow zig-zag lines or just literally stop anywhere. Do these individuals not realise the dangers they are putting other children and parents in, as well as their own children? I would also like to make a comment regarding the installation of the traffic islands at the mini roundabout at the bottom of School Aycliffe Lane, which one of your readers complained about. I personally don't see how they cause a problem for any drivers, in fact they improve the situation as they stop drivers going over or diagonally cutting the roundabout, which of course drivers shouldn't be doing anyway. Name and address supplied.

Danger, Urgent Action Required

Dear Sir,

A dangerous situation exists in the Moor area of the town. This area is situated close to the roundabout into Woodham.

The land was originally declared unstable by Sedgefield Borough Council and unfit for housing or recreational purposes (I will return to this in future letters).

The land was given over to nature and Great Aycliffe Town Council agreed to maintain the area.

When the development of housing on the Cobbler's Hall site took place, Durham County Council promised to develop the area into a Nature Park/Reserve. The area would have ponds, viewing platforms and be planted up with appropriate marshland plants.

On viewing the plans, the Town Council realised that the ponds were nothing more than deep, steep-sided, clay-lined sumps. We immediately objected to them on safety grounds and tore up our agreement to maintain the site.

The engineer who was tasked with drawing up the plans for the pond informed the Town Council that his brief was not to build nature ponds but to put a surface drainage system into that area.

In my experience, such systems are expensive as underground cisterns have to be installed. These cisterns gradually hold back water and feed it slowly into approved water courses.

During construction, lifebuoys were installed to ensure the safety of the workforce. On completion of the work, the lifebuoys were removed.

Other promised work on the site never came to fruition, apart from a cheap, inadequate chestnut paling fence.

At a meeting between the Deputy Leader of Durham County Council and the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services at Durham County Council, the Town Clerk and myself were offered that the ownership of the land could be transferred to the Town Council. We pointed out most firmly that we would not accept the area, that it was a very real risk to life and that Durham County Council should address the situation immediately.

In recent times, Durham County Council have replaced paddling pools at the Riverside Park in Chester-le-Street at considerable capital and revenue cost. It appears to me that nothing is too good for those who live north of Durham Gate and anything is good enough for people such as those in Aycliffe who live south of it. This is a case where there is a potential danger to children's lives and saving money on such a scheme is totally unacceptable. At the very least, the ponds should be capped and a high metal security fence placed around them.

Finally, this should be done immediately.
Councillor Bob Fleming

Heighington Matters

Dear Sir,

First a warm welcome to all residents living in Meadow Rise, the Oaklands and Heighington Meadows.

Monthly Litter Pick to start on April 10th

Well done to Cllr. Crosby for setting up litter pick groups in Newton Aycliffe. Newton Aycliffe is generally a clean town and residents should be proud of it, but there are areas that Cllr. Crosby has identified which do need cleaning up to 'Stop the Drop' - a phrase that described the initiative created by Bill Bryson and adopted by LitterFreeDurham 15 years ago and not the Campaign for Rural England - a small but important point.

It is good to see Councillors picking up the litter gauntlet and leading from the front as opposed to talking about it and blaming the Local Authority. More Councillors should support Cllrs Crosby and Gray.

LitterFreeDurham has been campaigning and raising awareness about the consequences of dropping litter for a long time and this included Kit Bartram, who is sadly no longer joining me to visit AAP's, Aycliffe Youth Council, Parish Councils, Community Groups, LA Scrutiny Committees, Agricultural Shows, talking to over 16,500 pupils of all ages and organising the 'Big Spring Clean' which, with the support for Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council, motivated 4500 volunteers to clean up their own communities, and yet, despite the tremendous efforts of thousands of people the litter problem persists, so we all must continue to encourage people to stop littering and until they do so we must go that extra mile by supporting our LA's by cleaning up our own communities.

In Heighington litter picking started 15 years ago and thanks to the Chair, Peter Smyth, and lots of volunteers, we still continue to meet to keep our roads clean. Recently, after years of dedication, Peter has retired and Judith King has stepped up to take over the chair. However, because of Covid-19, we have not been able to meet as a group over the last year, but our road verges have kept relatively clean because of the wonderful efforts of individuals who have picked up litter when out walking.

Now, thanks to our wonderful NHS and local doctors practices, the Covid-19 vaccine roll out has been extremely successful so we are planning to hold the first Heighington Litter Pick on 10th April, meeting outside of the village hall at 10am - why not join us? All will be welcomed and it would be particularly good to see any residents from the new housing estates. Litter picking equipment is provided and those with litter picking equipment please bring it with you.

Judith and I look forward to welcoming everyone to the first Parish Litter Pick since last March - please join us!

Cllr. Gerald Lee.

Heighington & Coniscliffe Ward and Chair of LitterFreeDurham

Respected Cllr Stands Down

Dear Sir,

It is with great regret, that I would like to inform all concerned, that I shall not be standing for re-election as a Great Aycliffe Town Councillor this year. Unfortunately, due to health and mobility issues, I feel I am no longer able to give the good people of Aycliffe Village the representation they deserve.

May I take this opportunity to convey my thanks to the residents of Aycliffe Village, my long suffering fellow Councillors, Great Aycliffe Town Council employees and Mayors for their support over the last 30 odd years.

I would like to add that Carl Robinson will be standing. In my opinion he is exactly the type of candidate I would wish to replace me.

Carl is enthusiastic, intelligent, experienced and, most importantly, passionate, regarding the Village community. He has my best wishes, support and, hopefully, yours too.

Cllr. Billy Blenkinsopp, Aycliffe Village

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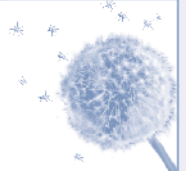


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Greenfield Arts are 'Shouting about Shildon'

Greenfield Arts are delighted to be working with partners, Shildon Town Council, to develop a project that helps us celebrate community spirit across Shildon and its history, past, present and future.

Artist Paul Theo Murray has been commissioned to design and create inspiring boxes, gifted to 100 people

across Shildon. The contents inspire people to recall memories of people and places that reflect acts of kindness and community spirit throughout their lives and recent times. The contents include inspirational cards, a crafted hand-made journal and prompts to help tease out wonderful stories.

This National Heritage Lottery Funded project has enabled creative boxes of material to make their way to community groups, young people, care homes and individuals around the Shildon area and responses will inform artwork that will be created around Shildon as a result. This work will be a celebration, in May, that acknowledges the resilient and vibrant community spirit there is in Shildon and the celebration will mark the anniversary of VE Day and the spirit shown throughout Shildon's history.

"This is a great partnership project with Shildon Town Council and community partners that recognises and highlights the fantastic people that make the community of Shildon. The project is inspired by Shildon's heritage and the towns positive approach. We look forward to sharing the artwork that will emerge as a result of the creative conversations and input from across the community." said Katy Milne, Creative Director at Greenfield Arts.

Thank you to all involved for your inspiration, we are excited to hear about the many positive experiences and personal memories. Greenfield Arts are committed to providing high quality arts and creative opportunities that encourage creativity, questioning and curiosity. To find out more about us please visit www.greenfield-arts.co.uk



International Women's Day

Dear Sir,

In the week we celebrate International Women's Day, we are still reeling from the news that NHS workers will only be receiving a 1% pay rise, the equivalent of the cost of one sandwich a week. Why are these linked? Well, 77% of workers in the NHS are women.

Indeed, the majority of workers in front-line services are women. Women are also the majority when it comes to zero-hour contracts and insecure work, which have been hit hardest during the pandemic and women have suffered the biggest drop in earnings.

Most childcare responsibilities still falling on the shoulders of women, who have been expected to continue working from home, while also home educating their children. Yet it is known that future economic growth will depend on access to high quality, affordable childcare, which is still lacking.

A recent report by the Commons Women and Inequalities Committee stated that the economic fall out from Covid is having a worse impact on women, and covid support policies are 'skewed toward men' worsening inequality. It warns that any advances made in economic equality are rapidly going backwards. This is on top of ten years of Tory austerity policies and huge benefit cuts, which also mostly impacted women. Given the lack of concern by this government about the impact of its policies on 50% of our nations population, who is best placed to speak up for women? The answer to that is women themselves.

We need more women speaking out to ensure women's voices and their perspective is considered throughout our political system. This not only benefits women, but studies also show when women benefit from political decisions, men do to.

It's not easy for women to have a voice, surveys show women in the political sphere receive the most abuse and are attacked for things their male counterparts are praised for, but, together we can stand up to this behaviour.

We need more women's voices in politics, especially local politics, and in County Durham the Labour Party has a long history of local women speaking out on things that affect them and fighting the injustices they face, demanding change. Join us, vote for us, and together we will all be heard.

Sedgefield Labour Woman's Forum.



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Experienced Councillor Looking for Re-Election

Dear Sir,

Would you be so kind as to let me use the Newton News to inform the people of Newton Aycliffe and The West Ward that, after careful consideration I have decided to stand as an Independent for both Town Councillor for the West Ward of Newton Aycliffe and for the County Council.

I have now sent for the appropriate forms and will be submitting my application forthwith.

Having been an experienced Town Councillor for 30 years, since 31st Jan 1990. I am happy to serve again, if elected, and continue to deliver the wealth of experience I have gleaned for the benefit of all within Aycliffe itself and the West Ward.

We are looking for Independent candidates to run for council, if you feel that you may enjoy helping your town, have any kind of issue that you feel is needing to be addressed, or just want to help your community and the area in which you live, then please get in touch. The process is simple and I would be happy to assist anyone who wished to stand, by way of a comparison, I was indeed myself co-opted onto the council having attended many meetings as an observer, and was asked to become a Councillor when one of the Labour Councillors had failed to attend one meeting in a six month period and was therefore removed I have been a Town Councillor ever since and have found the task truly rewarding as it has allowed me to sincerely help people from my local community!

I have also served on the Sedgfield Borough Council for 14 years and this was where I received my title of Alderman, and served four years as a County Councillor, and would like to continue to use my experience for the good of my local area and community. I will not be canvassing or knocking on doors, due to the current situation with Covid-19, and ask anyone that wishes to see me re-elected to the Town and elected to the County Council, to please vote for me at the upcoming elections, if they want a voice for their local area to be heard at the Town Council and County Hall.

Sincerely

Alderman George C Gray
West Ward Councillor



Yes You Can . . .

Dear Sir,

When I was young, I watched the Wizard of Oz, and wondered how someone could talk if they didn't have a brain. Then I got elected in 1983 to the Town Council aged 24 and found out (just joking, honest)! The Brexit referendum detribalized politics. The Parties were not standing at the referendum so people were liberated from their tribes. In 2019 people voted in droves for a Government that would deliver Brexit, and prevent Corbyn becoming Prime Minister. Many Labour voters were detached from their tribe and having been detached it turned out not that easy to go back to it. Over 10,000 Labour voters in Sedgfield Constituency switched giving Newton Aycliffe a Tory MP for the first time in generations.

On Thursday 6th May, please vote for Independent candidates. We have some really good quality individuals whose only objective is to serve the public interest, not a Party, not self. We are not contesting every seat, we do not believe in just putting up anyone for the numbers. We need more women candidates, you still have time to consider standing. It really is easy, so please do. Quality counts more than numbers.

Some moderate Labour Councillors are stepping down, and to keep control of the Town Council Labour are putting forward every member they can, predominantly Corbyn supporters. Labour abolished the Great Aycliffe Show, they tried to cancel the Fireworks Display, tried to change the Santa Tours, we stopped that nonsense with the support of some brave Labour Councillors, and you, the public.

Let's have a balanced Council where no one party/group has overall control, no Labour only Mayors serving for the 5th and 6th time. No Tribalism. Vote for Independents, first, then Tory, Lib Dem and then Labour. But, for County Council . . . only vote for Candidates who live in your town, not out of town. Check their address on the ballot paper. We, as Independents, have worked positively and constructively with Labour over the last four years. We have stood up and been counted and supported the budgets. Let Labour prove otherwise. If we disagree with Labour then we agree to disagree without being disagreeable. Serving the public interest. Cllr. Ken Robson and Cllr. Arun Chandran got the Town Council to seek getting part of the Elmfield site to extend West Park (Minute .90 Recreation Committee, 22nd February 2017). We persuaded the Town Council to get an increase flow into the Lakes, removing the algae and weed problem, to regularly clean the Lakes, which saved money to boot. We persuaded the Council to set aside a large sum in the Medium Term Financial Plan for deep cleaning and huge improvement to the lakes due in 2022. The Independents standing do not make false promises, nor claim to do the impossible. We condemned the Independents who stood in 2007, and Bob Fleming, who has worked very closely with us, knows that full well which is why I am surprised and dismayed that Bob attacks us. We have worked with Labour, not against. Attack your enemies not your friends!

This May, the power is in your hands. The pages of history turn on small hinges, you have the power to change the future: End Tribalism once and for all and create balance. You know you can make the difference. Vote wisely and selectively. We exist to serve you, the residents, we represent you on the Council, not the Council against you, not a Party . . . or ideology, quality individuals working together, putting you the community FIRST.

Cllr. Arun M. Chandran and Cllr. Ken Robson
Independent

Final Chance to Enter North East Artist of the Year

Budding artists across Newton Aycliffe only have a few weeks left to enter a competition that gives them the chance to be crowned the North East Artist of the Year 2021.

The awards, launched by leading build-to-rent developers, Placefirst, at its new Hetton-le-Hole development, offers artists of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to enter their artwork for a chance to win the prestigious title, in addition, up to £100 in art vouchers for the three age category winners. Entrants are invited to upload a photo of their favourite artistic creation at <https://placefirst.co.uk/north-east-artist-of-the-year-2021/>, whether that be traditional paintings, photography, sketches or digital art.

The three winners and age group finalists will also have their artwork showcased at the brand-new Scholars View show home in Hetton-le-Hole from April 2021, where members of the public will be invited to attend, with the opportunity to sell their pieces. The competition will be judged by a panel of North-East art experts and will be open to the public vote to help crown their winner of the three age groups – Primary School (5-10), Secondary School (11-15) and over 16's.

To enter, submit your artwork here <https://placefirst.co.uk/north-east-artist-of-the-year-2021/> before 11:59PM on 31st March 2021 with the winner announced in April 2021.

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or email: stu@newtonpress.net

Great Response Greenfield Students Return to Site

Dear Sir,
Last week's edition of Newton News, updating the Defibrillator project has resulted in some very exciting positive responses from the public, a local business and two local community charities.
I am confident I will be able to update with further good news in next week's edition, after further discussion with all. For further information about this project please contact David Sutton-Lloyd
Tel: 01325 316144
Email: d.suttonlloyd@btinternet.com

Popular Local to Stand in Elections

Dear Sir,
I would like your readers to know that I am standing as an Independent candidate for the Town Council, Woodham Ward and Durham County Council, Aycliffe North and Middlesbrough. I have lived in Woodham for thirty five years since taking up the post of part time Chief Coach for Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club. I worked for thirty years for Durham County Council in the Architects Department as Senior Engineer Mech. Services. I took voluntary redundancy and, as self-employed, worked for Sedgefield Borough Council, Teasdale Council, the PCC and Woodham Academy. I still coach Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club. Recent events that have taken place have not been dealt with in a satisfactory matter. It is my strongly held view that public interest should always be the number one priority. These events, linked with a genuine desire to serve the community in which I live, are the reason I'm standing for election. The events of the past year have resulted in more people than ever cycling, walking and running and this has highlighted the need for more preventative maintenance to be carried out on our roads, paths and bridleways. I'm sure that you all will be able to add to this list. I have a lot of good friends on the council and know that I could work with them to achieve the results that we all would like to see. Sincere good wishes to you all,
John Moore, Independent Candidate



Students from Greenfield Community College have been returning to site this week, with guidelines in place to ensure a safe and positive learning experience. The resilience and commitment shown by students has been exceptional with valuable support from expert staff, families and carers. Measures are in place for a comprehensive testing policy that will allow face-to-face learning. Students have been quick to ensure this a smooth process allowing maximum time for teaching and learning. Staff are thrilled to be able to see their students back on site and to continue a curriculum that includes blended learning to maximise the positive gains and student experience that have contributed to their recent achievements. Staff are trained and experienced at responding to student needs and will continue to support students in their learning through the adjustment of returning to the building for many. Expert teaching and support staff will continue to provide engaging learning opportunities and making this face-to-face learning a strong and positive experience through strong relationships and positive well-being; developing resilience, creativity, responsibility, reflection and collaboration through this exciting opportunity to be together in the school building space. 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.

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is special in many a way, For the woman who cared from our very first day.
Who gave us hugs and wiped our tears,
Helped dispel our childhood fears.
Welcomed friends to share a meal,
Cared when teenage doubts we did feel.
Gave us confidence when times were hard,
And so today, a gift and a card,
Are the least we can do,
To thank the woman who saw us through,
So many of life's good times and bad,
This year has lost so many mums - (and dads.)
Please pray today for those who feel sad.
Give thanks if your Mum you soon can meet.
Face to face, won't that be a treat?
Lockdown has shown us how much we value our mum.
Even if her home-schooling wasn't much fun!
MMK March 2021

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Closing date: 9am, 20th March 2021.

All applications to be returned to:
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Free Digital Courses for North East Residents

North East residents can improve their IT skills with a range of free courses from New College Durham.

The free digital training is available to anyone who is employed and lives in the North East. This fantastic opportunity is also available to people that are accessing the Government's furlough scheme.

The courses will be delivered on-line or at home using a workbook, with support from professionally trained tutors. There are a range of short and longer courses on offer including ECDL, Microsoft Office Specialist and Smart Digital.

Peter Morrison, Head of School for Tourism, Digital and Creative Industries, said: "New College Durham is keen to support the North East workforce to develop digital skills. The COVID pandemic has shown how vital digital skills have become, both in the workplace and in everyday life. Our courses offer everyone the chance to improve their skills, whether they are beginners looking for an introduction to IT or a more experienced user seeking a recognised qualification."

Prospective students can find out more about the courses on offer and enrol at one of the college's virtual information events. The events take place each week on a Thursday between 4-6pm. To register go to www.newdur.ac.uk. Registration closes at 9am the Tuesday before each event. If you have any issues registering, please contact New College Durham on 0191 375 4000.

It's All About The Jobs !!

Do you remember how, in 2015, Planning Inspector Harold Stephens said that County Durham should plan for economic decline, not growth? Currently, County Durham Labour is publishing the economic highlights of its '120 THINGS LABOUR HAS DONE FOR DURHAM', and they show how Durham County Council has proved Mr Stephens to have been VERY wrong:

- The business parks at Integra 61 (Bowburn) and Jade (Hawthorn) are thriving and there is major regeneration at Merrington Lane and Peterlee.
- DCC's Ayckley Heads site in Durham – the home of Atom Bank and Salvus House – was recently named in the Kinsella report as one of the UK's top ten 'fintech clusters'.
- NETPark (Sedgefield) is doubling in size; and last year Business Durham (DCC's economic development arm) was reconfirmed as lead of the North East Satellite Applications Centre of Excellence, one of just five regional centres supported by the UK Space Agency.
- Business Durham has secured £18 million funding in the last three years for programmes which have helped 1,300+ County Durham businesses.
- The Council's Business Energy Efficiency Project has to date helped 353 smaller local firms (SMEs).

AND AT AYCLIFFE?

- We can SEE the developments at Forrest Park – which is being exhibited all over the world by the Department of Trade and Industry as a flagship north-east development.
- Hitachi have committed to Aycliffe Business Park with recent investment. And Tekmar, Stiller, Finlay Structures, Razorblue, Excelpoint, Howdens and ALM Engineering are amongst many firms to have announced recent successes ... even in the midst of the pandemic.
- Meanwhile, Business Durham has continued its cooperation with the wonderful Aycliffe Business Park Community to provide webinars and networking events.

ALL THIS MEANS JOBS

- Durham Employment and Skills have announced employability support to 1,500+ people, plus 2,500 registrations on community employment programmes over the last three years.
- The £29 million Durham Works youth employment initiative has supported 7,500 16-24-year-olds.

So well done to Paul Howell MP for bringing the Treasury to Darlington, with its 750 jobs, in the recent government Budget. However, I cannot but point out that DCC's Budget last month plans for 30,000 jobs. So well done Teesside! And thank you our Labour County Council, as we work together to help our County grow into a wealthier community.

Cllr John D Clare
(DCC Cabinet Support for Economic Regeneration, 'Aycliffe Ambassador' for Aycliffe Business Park)

COVID-19 UPDATE

Newton Aycliffe Covid-19 Statistics & Advice

Area	7 day Cases	7 day rate per 100k	Weekly % Change	Change Direction
NA North	4	46.1	22.2	Up
NA West	4	69.4	100	Up
NA East	3	54.5	50	Up
NA South	3	42.1	-57.1	Down

Correct at 9th 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>

Have a Say on Local Issues

Residents in Great Aycliffe & Middridge can find out how local issues are being tackled when the local area action partnership holds their next virtual board meeting.

The Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership board will be meeting virtually on Tuesday 23 March 2021, between 2pm and 4pm via Microsoft Teams, and members of the public are invited to observe proceedings.

Board members will be receiving a presentation from County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service in relation to their Community Risk Management Plan at the meeting.

Anyone who would like to attend the virtual meeting should register in advance by emailing: gampaap@durham.gov.uk so that we can forward a link to join the meeting.

Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership is one of 14 Area Action Partnerships set up by Durham County Council in 2009.



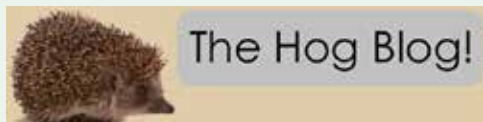
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This week's blog focuses on thanking everyone who helps this rescue out with donations of goods, crafts, food and monetary assistance and you will all see regular people being mentioned Sonia, June, Pat and her husband, also Sheila. We are going to tell all our Newtonians why our fundraising is important.



All over the United Kingdom there are just under 1000 rescue centres, that are being ran from our homes. We are not only responsible for feeding, cleaning, diagnosing and treating these very vulnerable mammals we are also self funded which is why we do car boot sales when we can. Every hog that comes in gets assessed, weighed and cared for as appropriate to their medical needs. Indoors, not outside in a shed, where they can be watched and they need warmth too. Hoglets need either a vivarium or an incubator, feeding around the clock and specialist foods. Also the greatest reason we take these beautiful cute mammals into our homes is really because they we are very fond of them, just because they are classed as wild animals it doesn't mean they don't feel pain, cold or sadness. Us rehabbers see all of this which is why we want the species to survive, they are a protected species which are also endangered. They don't have fleas and if they do the fleas are Hedgehog specific, rescue centres can sort fly strike, maggots, fleas and ticks, there are many things we are called upon to do to save their precious lives. We need finders to recognise that they are also nocturnal so if one is seen out in daytime looking lethargic or at risk from cars or predators they need to be picked up, placed in a high sided box with a heat source, maybe a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel, and a rescue centre informed or a vet, vets don't charge finders because they have a relationship with rescue centres and can pass a hoggie to a rescue centre to follow up treatment, rehab and release.

A lovely lady called Margaret of Bewick Crescent was in that situation on Monday night, poorly hog on her back doorstep, within half an hour we brought him in, warmed him through, doing really nicely and seems to appreciate getting the help he needs, Oscar is his name after her new baby grandson, she saved him, she names him, lovely isn't it.

Tip of the week: Either ring British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801 or get in touch with a local vet and I hope you all know which one we use or visit our Facebook page Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel.



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

As I said last week, the hope was for a budget for the north, well I was absolutely delighted with the huge announcements made. Foremost upon these for us was the Treasury to lead an Economic campus to be based in Darlington, to have this complemented by the Freeport for Teesside and the Offshore wind infrastructure at Port of Tees was just outstanding. There were many other positive announcements, but these were the stand outs for me. I will take time in future columns to explain the benefits of a Freeport but today will focus on the Treasury. From what I have heard so far, the intent will be to move around 750 jobs to this campus. The important word here is jobs, not people. It will probably only see around 100-150 people relocate. When I spoke to the Chancellor, at the 1922 committee, he assured me that the jobs on the campus will include real decision makers and that he himself expects to spend several days a week there. Another point to note is that it is an Economic Campus, not just the Treasury but Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; International Trade and Local Government will also be residents. This is fantastic for job and career opportunities but in my time in the local councils one of the regular complaints was that these departments didn't understand our region when making decisions and having these jobs based in our patch should be transformative in this understanding.

Normally with a budget there is some point of detail that opposition politicians find that can be misinterpreted for their political advantage, it's a shame that this time they are again politicising our fantastic front line NHS workers by claiming they have been offered a 1% rise. My understanding is that in the budget Government set aside the money for the NHS pay rise, that money equates to a 1% pay rise across all grades - but that isn't necessarily what DHSC want or that the Independent Pay Review Body will recommend. That could translate into a 2% pay rise for nurses, 1% for healthcare workers and no rise for doctors, or whatever scenario the review body propose, but it's for the Independent Body to make their recommendations.

One of my great pleasures this week was a call with the team at Job Centre Plus, whilst clearly they are seeing more demand, they are also seeing significant numbers of new positions being filled. The team were fabulous to talk to, they are so positive and enthusiastic in their work and doing all

they can to match people to the different opportunities arising. I also had discussions with Tom Dower, the head of the UTC, and Lord Baker who was one of the primary motivators for its founding. It was great to hear their future plans but also that every one of the students leaving them went on to either employment, education or training. The primary companies supporting the UTC are Gestamp and Hitachi.

On Friday I was able to visit Hitachi to see what normally would have been my highlight of the week. I met with their UK lead, Jim Brewin, who showed me their latest investment in welding and paint facilities. This is such a powerful and fundamental step forward for the site, it changes them from being primarily an assembly operation to being a manufacturer. This adds so many more skill sets to their outstanding employee base and increases the range of their capabilities when bidding for contracts. It has also been an important week for the Restoring Your Railways agendas, I will go into more details another time but the detail work plan on the Ferryhill Station bid evaluation has been agreed and the Leamside and Weardale bids have been submitted. I also met the team at Teesside Airport to see the way the Airport is being reconfigured to deal with the increased business. They are creating separate check in desks for the new Ryan Air flights as well as new scheduled check in desks. Let's hope we get the opportunity to use them sooner rather than later.

I also popped in to see the vaccination team at Cobbler's Hall and found yet another group of people so enthusiastic about their work. They are delivering an outstanding roll out and I can only thank them for all they are doing. I am scheduled for my first jab on Friday 12th, I can't wait. I join the team in being intensely irritated by those continuing to deny Covid, in particular a local councillor whose nonsense is not helpful.

This week will have seen the schools open and us all thinking about the next steps. It will not be long before we will see the opportunity for pubs with outdoor spaces to open and I hope the local councils do everything they can to support them, should planning permissions be needed, as I am sure demand will be high. Please continue to follow the rules, we are making fantastic progress.

For now, Stay Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives - Stay Safe.

Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield



Paul Howell
Member of Parliament
for Sedgefield

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



Charity Donates Large Veg Boxes for Busy Hospital Staff

NHS staff on the front line caring for patients, including those with Covid-19, at Darlington Memorial Hospital, are benefiting from home grown organic produce, thanks to the skills and generosity of young people and volunteers at the Outdoor Learning Centre in Croft-on-Tees, run by Clervaux Trust.

Clervaux Trust decided to use an award of £2,000 from The Hadrian Trust - specifically to support key workers during the current crisis - to give the hospital ten large vegetable boxes a week, for twelve weeks. Each box is packed with top quality fresh fruit, preserves and eggs, as well as vegetables, most of which are grown in polytunnels at Clervaux's 100-

acre farm site. The produce is intended for staff to take home or have as a snack during a busy shift.

Bethan Davies, fundraiser at Clervaux Trust, commented, "We have a mix of children and adults with Special Educational Needs, aged from ten, placed with us on residential and day programmes at our Outdoor Learning Centre. They're supported by staff and volunteers to grow a wide range of organic produce. During this time of crisis, they wanted to do something to show their support for key NHS workers as well as bringing communities together - we've been able to achieve this thanks to the money given to us by The Hadrian Trust. As a result of their hard work with us, our children and adults gain therapeutic benefits and life skills from learning to care for animals and growing plants."

Commenting, Philippa Parsons, charity support officer at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, said, "We're incredibly grateful and humbled by this kindness and generosity which will help support the health and wellbeing of



our staff. We've been lucky enough to receive many food donations in the last year for which we're enormously grateful as it gives our staff a huge boost. The fact much of this food has been grown and tended with the loving care of the fabulous Clervaux team, makes it even more special."

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		3	7		4		6	
1		2					4	3
	1					6		2
		4			6	7		
		6		3	1			

Work Begins on Landmark Industrial Development

The latest phase of a major County Durham scheme is now underway with the development of a range of industrial units at Station Place in Newton Aycliffe. Station Place, which is now under construction, is part of the wider £90m Merchant Park industrial scheme in Newton Aycliffe - a 65-acre development at Aycliffe Business Park off J59 of the A1(M) and home to Hitachi Rail.

The new £4.8 million scheme on Site 2 at Merchant Park is set to provide 50,333 sq ft of new industrial space to support new and expanding businesses in Newton Aycliffe. Work will start on Station Place this month after planning permission was granted in December 2020.

The scheme is due to complete in early 2022 and will deliver a total of ten new industrial units ranging in size from 5,000 sq ft for start-up and growing businesses and creating 130 jobs.

Durham County Council is supporting the development of the industrial units, after agreeing to a 35-year-lease at Station Place in September 2019.

The units will be managed by Business Durham, the economic development arm of the council. The development is being delivered in partnership with Merchant Anglo and Rokeby Developments.

Station Place is part of Aycliffe Business Park, which is the largest Business Park in the North East, home to a wide range of well-established businesses and next to Hitachi Rail Europe.

Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, said: "Supporting the development of strategic employment sites is a main priority for the council and we recognise the importance of meeting companies' needs by offering high quality and flexible industrial



units at key locations throughout the county. "As the economy moves into the recovery phase it is important we continue to support businesses to thrive and grow, as well as help create high-quality jobs, and generate investment opportunities to boost the economic growth of the county." Geoff Hunton, Director of Merchant Anglo, said: "We are seeking to address the shortfall of modern fit for purpose units in Newton Aycliffe to support new and growing business in conjunction with our partners Business Durham. We are delighted that we are one significant step closer to starting on site. Despite all the challenges of the last two years, we are now receiving real enquiries from local businesses and we are making this phase our priority to get going early this year."

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Newton News

Mother's Day Remembrance

Rita Smith

Happy Mother's Day Mam. The first one you are not here with us. They tell me it gets easier - it doesn't. Love always, Ian.

Rita Smith

Happy Mother's Day from Ian, Stephen and Jacqueline. Take care Mam.

Jenny Tarvit

Mam, in my heart are many memories of the loving things you've done and today I want to tell you that I am thankful for each one. There is a special memory I'd like to mention too. Ever since I can remember, I remember loving you. Happy Mother's Day to my special Mam. Love always, from Kathy, Martin and family xxx

Barbara Sutton

On Mother's Day, we all remember our Mother and Nana. Loved then and still now. Forever in our hearts. Never forgotten. All the family.

Patricia Fisk

Missing you on this Mothering Sunday and every day Mam. Loved always, Susan and Michael xxx

Eleanor Featherstone

Loved and missed always, Happy Mother's Day. Tony xx

Debbie Livermore

Happy Mother's Day Mam. Love always, Curt and Cloe xx

Mother's Day Greetings

Irene Wormald

Happy Mother's Day Mam. Love from Paul, Beverley, John-Paul, Carrie, Matthew and Grandchildren.

Irene Wormald

Have a great day Mam. Lots of love from Stuart, Joanne, Adam, Alex, Ellen, Charlotte and Lemmy.

Irene Wormald

Happy Mother's Day Mam. Lots of love from Christopher, Michelle, Jack and Joe.

Carrie Howarth

Happy Mother's Day Mammy. Lots of love from Sebastian xxx

Heather Merchant

Happy Mother's Day
To a wonderful Mam, Grandma and Great Grandma.
Have a lovely day.
Lots of love from all of the family
xxxxx

Audrey Pratt



Happy Mother's Day
Lots of love from Husband Ken, David and Joy in California and the rest of the family here.

Police Cadets

Durham Constabulary are looking to recruit young people aged 11 to 18 years over the school summer term, to join the Police Cadets in September 2021.

Police Cadets are a uniformed youth group for 11 to 18 year olds that take part in many activities and also have the opportunity to complete the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Award. For more information:

<http://www.daac.org.uk/>

In Memoriam

Greta Cason

Died 12th March 20

Our Mother's hands were gentle. They're missed so very much. We'd give the world to feel once more their warm and tender touch.
Av, Geoff, Lue, Anth, Val, Duane, Jim, Daska.
Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren xxx

Carol Reed

4/8/1946-13/3/2015
If roses grow in Heaven Lord, please pick a rose for us. Please place them in our Mam's arms and tell her they're from us. Tell her that we love and miss her. And when she turns and smiles, place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while. Because remembering her is easy, we do it everyday. But there's an ache within our hearts, that will never go away.
Also remembering our Dad who passed on 12.1.2021
Love, Steven, Lara and Families x

Maureen Holland



11th March 2018

Well Maureen, it's been three years since you left us so unexpectedly. You are missed more with each passing day, the hurt does not go away. We cherish all of our happy memories together.
With love from Nick, Chris, Richard, Megan, Lily and all family and friends
xxxx

Gladys Harbottle

Died 7th March 2013
A dear Mother who is sadly missed and we cherish our lovely memories.
Vera, Lavinia & Andy
xxx

Apologies to the Harbottle family for the error in last week's edition

Birthday Remembrance

Audrey Cullerton

8th March
You are remembered and missed every day, but especially today on your birthday.
Love from Glynis, Wayne, Gemma, David, Katie, Samantha, Nicky and all the Great Grandchildren xXx

Marion Race

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully on 9th March, aged 81. Dearly loved Mother of Christopher; Sister to Enid and the late Rita; loving Aunt and friend to many. Funeral at Darlington Crematorium on Monday 22nd March at 2.15pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to Diabetes UK.

Congratulations

Jessica Beenham
17th March
Happy 18th Birthday
From a Cutie



To a Beauty



Love always,
Grantie Shelagh and Gruncle Brian xx

Kilburn - Robinson



Happy 50th Birthday
18th March 1971

Happy birthday Tracey (Tee). Love you loads, as always.
Dave, Tyler and Millie
xxxxxx

Obituary

Nancy Temple (nee Booth)

Of Newton Aycliffe, formerly Ferryhill, passed away peacefully in hospital on 26th February, aged 92. Dearly beloved Wife of the late Arthur; loving Mother of Brian, Barry, David and Stephen; much loved Mother-in-Law of Christine, Shirley and Brenda; adored Nana of Julie, Leah, Ruth, Donna, Kirsty, Michael and the late Sarah and proud Great Nana of Alexa, Aria, Alyssa, Joseph and Flynn; beloved Sister of Olive, Enid and Tony; loving Sister-in-Law, Aunt and friend to many. Nancy will be leaving Lee Green, one last time, at 11.10am on Friday 19th March, before a private Funeral at Wear Valley Crematorium. Family flowers only please.

Gwendoline Lilian Fisher (Wendy, nee Angell)

Of Berwick-upon-Tweed, formerly of Chilton and School Aycliffe, passed away peacefully, but unexpectedly, in Cramlington Hospital on 3rd March 2021, aged 83 years. Much loved Wife of the late Douglas Fisher; cherished Mother to Joey (Nigel) and Daughter-in-Law Heather; adored Mum of Noah the dog; adored Grandma to Katie, Emma, Janina, Harrie, and Jess; much loved Sister of Patricia and Lesley and their families. Cremation Service at The Borders Crematorium on Tuesday 23rd March 2021, by invitation.

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F.A. "Curtails" The Ebac Northern League Season

Newton Aycliffe captain Aaron Brown has spoken to the club website following the FA's decision to curtail the 2020-21 season at Steps 3 to 6 including Ebac Northern League Division One.

The Northern League season has been suspended since the beginning of November following the Government's imposed lockdown and has yet to resume as Coronavirus cases continued to increase across the country during the winter months, resulting in an extension of the nationwide lockdown into the New Year.

Following the Prime Minister's recent national public address outlining the roadmap out of lockdown, the decision has finally been made by the FA to cease the 2020-21 season with immediate effect "no further league matches taking place this season," with clubs yet to reach the half way stage of the campaign. In a statement published on Wednesday, February 24, the FA said: "The FA's Alliance and League Committees have now considered the large amount of data and information submitted by clubs across the National League System Steps 3-6.

"The results of the survey showed that over 76% of all clubs across Steps 3-6 indicated a preference to curtail the 2020-21 league season if it could not be restarted with limited spectator numbers and hospitality by April 1, 2021.

"Taking into account the survey results and the ongoing impact of COVID-19, which continues to adversely affect incomes

for clubs, due to restrictions on both spectators and hospitality, the FA's Alliance and League Committees have reached a consensus that subject to the approval of FA Council, the 2020-21 league season for Steps 3-6 of the NLS should be curtailed with immediate effect." Speaking of the decision, club captain Brown said: "It's frustrating more than anything because we've just been waiting for the inevitable I suppose, but the decision is not surprising - there weren't many alternatives, especially at our level."

While clubs at Steps 1 and 2 of the non-league football pyramid had been granted permission to continue due to their elite status, they too have found it difficult to continue their season with the National League North and South at Step 2 recently voting to declare their season null and void. "I think once you saw the likes of Spennymoor and Darlington have their season's stopped there was only going to be one outcome for us," said Brown. "Again it's just frustrating because we've been trying to keep spirits up in our group chats and keep on top of our fitness in the unlikely event we could come back and now we just have to wait to see if we can start the new season in August."

The decision means it is the second successive season the Northern League has failed to reach its conclusion following the null and void outcome of the 2019-20 campaign in March last year after the Covid-19 outbreak first began in the UK.

At that stage Aycliffe had played 30 of their 38 Ebac Northern League Division One fixtures whereas at the suspension of play this time Colin Stromsoy's side had played just 12 league fixtures.

"It makes more sense this time with us having played less than half the season," explains Brown. "I think last year there were alternatives where the likes of Stockton in our division or South Shields, higher up the leagues, would not have felt as aggrieved. This time, with so much of the season still to go, it's not as clear cut for teams at the top. I suppose you can look at Hebburn and say they looked good to have a successful season but behind them, there were six or seven teams - including ourselves - who will all feel they could have had a good crack at promotion this season."

It means Aycliffe will finish the season fifth in the table with 22 points from their 12 games including six wins, four draws and two defeats.

Aycliffe began the season unbeaten in their first nine games; a run which saw them win 6-0 away to Thornaby, 7-1 away to Northallerton Town and claim dramatic come-from-behind wins against Newcastle Benfield and West Auckland Town.

"We made a really solid start to the season," said Brown. "There were some really good results in those first few weeks of the season and even though we had a bit of a bad week before the season stopped I think we all thought we were in a good place and could have a good go this season. We've got a young squad but there are a lot of good



players and you just have to look at some of our results, not just this season, but over the last year or so, and I think we're giving a good account of ourselves."

Attention will now turn to the summer and whether football can return for the 2021-22 season, hopefully with spectators once again being allowed in to stadiums and clubhouses open to help with club revenues throughout the league.

The Ebac Northern League is consulting clubs in both divisions on whether they would wish to compete in an improvised league cup competition during the months of April and May, should the opportunity present itself. Currently, it is not known when spectators will be allowed to attend games and as such, the competition would not involve mandatory participation and clubs would be able to opt-out. The deadline for clubs to declare their interest was Friday 5th March.

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THERMALLY INSULATED ELECTRIC GARAGE DOORS

Garolla can save a lot of space inside your garage. Rolls up vertically into a box. Takes only 8 inches of headroom! Opens vertically so you can park up close to the door. Remotely open/close the garage even from inside your car.

Acoustic & Thermal Insulation
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Pay on Completion
Two Remote Controls
18 Colours Available

Great For:
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Kerb Appeal
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(Offer valid for openings up to 8.0m wide & 2.5m high. 2 Remote Keys, 10mm white steel, Electrical manual override.)

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6 St Elizabeth's Close, Woodham Village, DL5 4UE

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