

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

Brainy Bunch Winner



Page 2 for more

Special thank you to your Newton News Sponsors:

SHAKE 'N' CAKE



PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgfield



Vote for a Great Aycliffe

Dear Sir,
I have been honoured to serve you on Great Aycliffe Town Council for the previous four years and look forward to serving again should West Ward residents choose to re-elect me. I have met many great people and have helped solve many of your problems which has given me a sense of pride. I have written letters, filled in passport application forms, and given references for local people to gain employment, all of which has not been a duty but a real pleasure.



Aside from Council duties, I have been involved with ACORN Community Association planning coach trips, pantomime visits and events situated in our local Leisure Centre which have attracted hundreds of families. In conjunction with volunteers, I have sought to improve my area by planting daffodils, crocus and even fruit trees, for the benefit of local people.

As an Independent I believe my focus should be directed towards and centred on Newton Aycliffe, without the constraints levied by a political party, and my only objective is serving the public who elect us. Newton Aycliffe is one of the most beautiful towns in the United Kingdom, I challenge anyone to name a town which provides free coach trips for the elderly, a free fireworks display, free Santa tours and even free doggy poo bags. Lovely parks and walks have been used during the recent lockdown for the benefit of our mental health and it is gratifying to see families making use of the facilities which our town provides.

Of course, not everything is perfect, and our town centre could do with a boost, we need youth facilities, but we have a secret weapon, our Business Park is a real jewel, offering a future for our young people to look forward to and thanks to efforts by our Independent councillors', affordable homes to buy or rent.

Our Town Council needs Independent minds concentrating on what Newton Aycliffe wants, not Labour, not Tory and not Lib Dem. Vote Ken Robson, Vote Independent, Vote for a Great Aycliffe.

Aycliffe Village Pupil A 'Brainy Bunch' Competition Winner

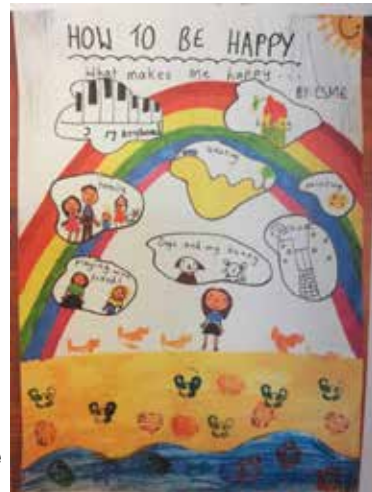
Esme Kavanagh, a pupil at Aycliffe Village Primary School, has won a prize in a well-being competition organised for children.

During lockdown Hannah Bell, creator of The Brainy Bunch, Go Well, provider of wellbeing and fitness programmes in schools, and illustrator Liz Million all got together to run the competition. The aim of the competition was to encourage children to design a poster to show what makes them happy. By doing this Hannah hoped that it would help children improve their own wellbeing and if they shared their poster with others it would help to improve their wellbeing too.

Esme was a winner in the 8-11 year old category. She is pictured with her poster which is now displayed in her Year 5 classroom at Aycliffe Village Primary School and is helping to give ideas to other children about what they can do to keep themselves happy.

Her prize included a copy of the Brainy Bunch book written to help children understand how their brain works and help them to control their emotions.

"I was very happy that I won the competition. I worked really hard. There were a lot of entries and I am pleased that Liz Million chose mine."



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Thank You

Dear Sir,
I would like to thank the girls who helped me, and the man who lifted me up out of the way of traffic and the person gave me a lift home after my fall.

I don't know what I would have done without these people. Thank you.
Carol

Palm Sunday Service

Neville Parade Methodist Church will be holding a socially distanced Service for Palm Sunday. The Service will be held on Sunday 28th March at 10.30am and will be led by the Rev John Purdy.

The County Take Away Menu

Restaurant with Rooms

Our delicious food in the comfort of your own home!

Starters (all £5.00)

Salt & pepper calamari with tartar sauce
Chicken Caesar salad, crispy croutons & parmesan shavings
Crispy camembert, homemade gooseberry chutney & Rocket & poppy seed dressing.

Mains

Homemade Quorn lasagne with chips & garlic bread (V) - £10.50
Homemade Fish Pie, white wine & leek cream sauce topped with cheddar cheese mash with garden peas - £13.00
Pan fried herb breast of chicken, boulangere potatoes, chantenay carrots & red wine jus - £13.00
Red lentil dahl, coriander rice & onion bhaji (GF) (V) - £9.00
Beer battered cod, homemade chips and peas - £9.00 (Half £6.50)
Homemade steak & ale pie, homemade chips, gravy and peas (V) - £9.00 (Half £6.50)
Sausages in onion gravy, mash, Peas & Yorkshire pudding - £8.50 (Half £6.50)
Deep fried scampi, chips & peas - £9.50 (Half £7.50)
Beef / Pork / Chicken in a Chinese curry sauce with plain/ fried rice or chips - £9.00
** CURRY SPECIAL ** - 2x Curries, 2x Rice, 2x Chips, portion of prawn crackers - £20.00

Desserts (all £5.00)

Profiteroles, praline cream, milk & white chocolate dipping sauce | Vanilla panacotta with poached strawberry's | Chocolate & toffee cheesecake with sweet vanilla cream.
Sunday Roast* - Choice of meat, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, seasonal veg, mash potato & gravy - 1 Course £9.00 or 2 courses for £11.50 (Sundays only)

Extra Side Orders - Buttered new potatoes £2.50 | Creamed mash potato £2.50
homemade chips £2.50 | Garden or mushy peas £1.00 | Onion rings £2 | Chinese Curry Sauce £1.00 | Rice - £1.50 Prawn Crackers £1.50
GF - Gluten Free alternative available V - Vegetarian alternative.

** SPECIAL OFFERS - 2 for £15.00 (Ends 26th March) **

FRIDAY - 2 x BEER BATTERED COD & CHIPS WITH MUSHY OR GARDEN PEAS
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Further Fantastic Public Support for Defibrillator Project

Following our recent annual Newton News update on the current 24-hour Public Access Defibrillator Project for Aycliffe, I am yet again delighted with the responses.



Firstly, David and Julie Morton contacted me. David, a local businessman, has heart problems and was considering buying a defibrillator for his own use.

However, as he said to me "it's not going to be much help to anyone else if it's in a cupboard under my stairs".

They have donated a substantial sum to purchase and install, for public availability, an outdoor cabinet on their home at Foxton Close. We will equip this box with our spare defibrillator which will be available via a 999 call.

Situated at the entrance to Foxton Close from Woodham Way it is the ideal location, and bridges the gap between the units at the PCP and Woodham Community Centre. A public campaign is now underway to raise a further £1,200 to purchase a new spare unit, which backs up all the existing units. David and Julie are raising funds locally, and donations can also be made by contacting me or by:

Internet: www.localgiving.org

Search Woodham Village Community Association,

Follow instructions to make donation, Make reference Defibrillator donation.

Secondly, Philip Clark contacted me on behalf of Horndale Community Committee. The Committee were one of the very first

to help start the project several years ago. They will be funding the fitting and support, for another outdoor unit on Greenway Convenience store. The shop owners, the Singh family, will maintain the unit using the funds donated by the Residents Community and accounted for by Woodham Village Community Association.

These two units provide further links to the chain of potential lifesaving equipment. The few remaining gaps of coverage are rapidly being filled. Our aim is that by the end of this year we could have most residents within a radius of 500 yards of a defibrillator.

This highlights again what I have said so many times, Newton Aycliffe is a wonderful place to live, full of incredibly good people who care about their community. As Covid lockdown eases we will restart the free CPR and Defibrillator use courses so watch Newton News for details.

David Sutton-Lloyd

Vesting Trustee & Treasurer,

Woodham Village Community Association.

Email: woodham.community@gmail.com

Telephone: 01325 316144



Light Up The Streets

Dear Sir,

Following the recent murder of Sarah Everard, I have felt compelled to write to you regarding the street light situation between the golf club and Woodham on Burnhill Way. The street lights were removed a number of years ago, having only just been replaced a few weeks before. There are a number of houses near the golf club on both sides of the road which are now isolated unless you walk during daylight hours or have a car. The stretch of road without lighting is very dark and there are woods on both sides of the road, it is not a pleasant walk in the dark, indeed it is frightening. The bus stop is also situated in the middle of this dark stretch of road. Children have to use that bus stop to get to and from school and I am aware the light nights are coming, but it is still a risk. So, I ask you, in light of Sarah's murder and the growing movement to light our streets and keep people safe, do you feel it is now time to review these lights as a matter of urgency to keep all people who walk that stretch of road safe?

Emma Olivier

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Aycliffe Village are Looking Forward

Dear Sir,

For the past four years, as the County Councillor for Aycliffe East, it has been my pleasure to engage with the residents of Aycliffe Village. I have done this by meeting people with problems, liaising with groups, the Scout community, the school, the Village Hall Community and the Residents Association - a particular favourite of mine, was the Saturday Morning Breakfast Club, which I attended monthly and looked upon as a Ward Surgery. This provided me with the opportunity to tick a number of boxes, including talking with residents on village issues, discussing possible and actual funding projects, and keeping abreast of Village Hall meetings and events.

A major draw, of course, was the bacon, sausage and egg sandwiches, dutifully served up by willing volunteer tea and butty experts ... not just delicious but a great fundraiser. Unfortunately, the breakfast club had to be suspended because of Covid-19, and I miss the engagement since the lockdown.

I sincerely look forward to the next breakfast club morning in the village and chatting again with the regulars who always made me welcome! See you all soon and until then please stay safe.

Cllr Jim Atkinson GATC/DCC

Award Success for Children's Services

A North East council has won a national award for its work to support children and families across County Durham.

Durham County Council's youth justice service has enjoyed success at the Children and Young People Now Awards, with its Parenting Support Group winning the Family Justice Award.

Despite the pressures of responding to the pandemic, there were more 600 entries into this year's awards, which have become the gold standard for everyone working with children, young people and families.

The council's Parenting Support Group (PSG) was established in 2016 to support the parents of young people who offend and who are at risk of offending.

Since then, it has helped more than 70 parents and carers, with sessions focusing on a number of topics including adolescence and the teenage brain, communication and self-care.

The group has also continued to support parents and carers throughout the lockdown, delivering sessions virtually.

Every parent involved with the support group has said it has helped them learn new skills and 100 per cent of parents would also recommend the group to other parents in a similar situation.

The service was also highly commended in the Youth Justice Award, for its work with The Skill Mill. The Skill Mill is a social enterprise business which directly employ young people who have previously offended, for six months, helping to reduce reoffending and support young people into further longer-term employment.

Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "This is a fantastic achievement for everyone involved in our youth justice service. These awards highlight the very best practice in working with children, young people and families, so to win one award and be highly commended in another is outstanding. "Providing much needed support to parents is crucial in helping our children and young people to lead happy, healthy and safe lives and it is wonderful to hear how much of a difference that our Parenting Support Group makes to both parents and their children.

"The fact that these awards are judged by an expert panel and a panel of young people only further highlights the wonderful work of all those involved who are striving to improve the lives of others. I hope that our staff members, volunteers and parents all feel a great sense of pride for all they are doing to improve the outcomes of our young people."



Junction 7 Covid-19 Community Support

Thanks to funding secured through Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership, Junction 7 in Newton Aycliffe have successfully supported families across the area during the Covid-19 pandemic. Junction 7 were successful in applying for and securing two grants through the GAMP Covid-19 Area Budget fund, to help them provide much-needed food, essentials, and support to families across Newton Aycliffe.

Simon Day from Junction 7 said: "We received a huge increase in demand for our service since the outbreak, receiving more referrals each week. The funding received helped us greatly in supporting those additional families, that found themselves in need during this difficult time. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the numerous volunteers who gave their time each week to help support the scheme, without this support we would have struggled to cope with the demand."

Since the beginning of the pandemic Junction 7 have operated a referral system for food packages out of their base in The ARK at Silverdale Place, where a team of volunteers put packs together and organise their safe distribution and collection.

Brian Riley, Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership Coordinator, said, "Junction 7 have provided an invaluable service to local Newton Aycliffe residents during the pandemic crisis. Simon and Jane, and all volunteers connected to Junction 7, have been faultless in their dedication to helping our community's most vulnerable residents, and their efforts are greatly appreciated by the Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership Board."

For further information on support available in the area please check www.durhamlocate.org.uk or call 03000 260 260

Litter Picking Update

Dear Sir,

Further to Vince Crosby's letter in 5th March edition of the Newton News, volunteer litter pickers have now met twice.

I thought readers may be interested to see photos of some of the rubbish collected recently (in a little over an hour), in the area from Horndale Park, under the subway and to the fields at the back of Eskdale. We even found a crisp packet discarded in 2007 - with even earlier dates found. A stark reminder that litter doesn't just disappear!

If anyone would like more information, they could contact Ian Gray at ian.gray38@btinternet.com

Julie Dudley



Further Improvements to an Expanding Woodham Academy



Woodham Academy continues to invest in the fabric of the school, with another brand-new science laboratory and fully refurbished music room now open. The school now has 6 new science classrooms, with an investment of over £200,000 in these areas alone. Mr Jenkins, Head of Science, commented "It is important that our students have the best possible facilities, particularly in specialist subjects like Science. This allows all of the teachers in the department to deliver the highest quality lessons in each of the three science disciplines." Each room is equipped with an interactive smartboard, large working spaces and excellent viewing areas for experiments.

The fully refurbished music room now features 30 new keyboards, all linked to a PC, allowing students' creativity to flourish. Mrs Godfrey, Head of Music at Woodham. "Many of the old keyboards were functional, but with this new model, we can develop students' musical ability far more. The students are loving their lessons and the teachers are excited about the range of new possibilities" Woodham Academy has seen a significant increase in student numbers in the last 4 years, which is something that Head Teacher Mr Bell is very much aware of. "When students choose to come to Woodham, it is vital that we invest in the school, as they deserve the very best we can offer. We have invested almost £1,000,000 in the last 4 years and we have a range of further improvements to be completed by September, to welcome our biggest year 7 in recent times. When it becomes possible, I'm very much looking forward to inviting families into the school, particularly those who came here as students, as I'm sure they will appreciate the significance of the improvements."



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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	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
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	BeatRoote	Graeme Roote
10-12am	Rock Night	Jonny Goldsmith

FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	19th Mar - Pauly Mac - Electric Soup (Australia)	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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Lifeline Community Action Support

Thanks to funding secured through Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership, Lifeline Community Action have successfully supported families across Newton Aycliffe during the Covid-19 pandemic. The organisation was successful in applying for and securing two grants through the GAMP Covid-19 Area Budget fund, to help them provide much-needed essentials and support to families across Newton Aycliffe.

Since the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic LCA have been providing cleaning packs and baby packs to individuals and families who were experiencing financial difficulties and struggling to purchase the cleaning and personal products they needed to keep themselves, their belongings and their homes virus free.

Pauline Chambers from Lifeline Community Action said:

"The demand across the area for our service dramatically increased when the outbreak took hold, with more families and individuals requiring our support. The funding received helped us greatly in the ability to support those additional families, that found themselves in need during this difficult time.

We have supported a total of 231 people with the funding received which is slightly more than we expected, but we were only too happy to be able to help where we could".

The organisation initially concentrated efforts on helping care workers working in care homes but the need for the support proved much wider so support was offered much wider with schools and the general community targeted.

Brian Riley, Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership Coordinator, said, "Lifeline Community Action have provided an invaluable service to local Newton Aycliffe residents during the pandemic crisis and their efforts are greatly appreciated by the Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership Board."

For further information on support available in the area please check www.durhamlocate.org.uk or call 03000 260 260

Time for New Blood

Dear Sir,

With the local and county elections fast approaching, we are being bombarded with news articles, letters, social media posts and leaflets from the respective parties, all battling for seats on the town and county council.

People like myself are confused as to what's going on, we are asking ourselves who to vote for and why.

I say now is the time for change!

As in the last general election and indeed in the local election for my ward last year, Labour were trounced at the polls. I was shocked and as a Labour voter and member, I had to ask myself why. The reason I believe is the people the Labour Party have chosen to represent us, either at local level or national level, are not good enough, they are not people orientated, they have what some call a 'God like complex' and believe they are never wrong, can do no wrong, and everyone else is wrong. They forget that to represent people is a privilege and not a right.

Some of the Labour representatives of this town no longer represent the town, or the people, they are so far detached from reality that they forget their position, which to all intents and purposes, is to do what we ask.

Coupled with the fact that some of them have said some very unsavoury things about residents of Aycliffe, and some of them believe that because they have served on the council for years, they have the right to belittle you. I think now is the time to give the Labour Party a bloody nose, vote for alternative candidates, that will listen to you - vote for people who are new and enthusiastic and want to help. Vote what is right for Newton Aycliffe, forgetting your political allegiances. It's high time we have new blood on the council, and this is the time to do it!

Michael Murphy

Neighbourhood Policing

By PCSO Sarah Button

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



Hello, I am PCSO Sarah Button from the Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Following on from reports of an on-going issue with anti-social behaviour, we have recently carried out an operation to tackle this problem in the Western Area of town.

The operation worked successfully and resulted in: 2 off road bikes seized, 5 fixed penalty notices have been issued to parents for those kids who have had 2 warnings in relation to breach of Covid-19 regulations, 1 car seized, 1 person arrested for drug driving, 14 home visits conducted by the team to speak with the problem youths (during these visits some were issued with warnings some were issued with FPN), high levels of foot patrols carried out throughout the area, home visits conducted to reassure concerned members of the community.

This work will continue, as we are fully committed in ensuring that your concerns are addressed.

We have finally been given some details from the Government mapping our way out of Covid-19 restrictions, there is a light at the end of the tunnel! To support this happening, we all need to keep doing our best to ensure we are following the regulations set out to us by the Government and keep everybody as safe as possible. We would also like to encourage residents to sign up to "Keep in the Know" full details below.

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

Thank you,

PCSO Sarah Button

Litter Picking

Dear Sir,

Following on from my last letter in the Newton News, the result was shown as a good return. On Wednesday 10th local people turned out to cover the area opposite Greenfield School, known as Horndale Park.

There are of course more people willing to turn out to clean but would like to do it on a weekend. Walking around we have found that Byerley Park seems to be the cleanest area. What we found in the Horndale Park, apart from the usual cans, was parts of a car from the pipes including the car battery. At the end of the litter pick Cllr. Ian Gray thanked the volunteers, saying he was proud of them all, they are a credit to Newton Aycliffe.

Whilst this work goes on, the next thing we need to do is to 'stop the drop', my aim is to ensure that people, not only children, but adults, also stop dropping litter and fly tipping to ensure that the local councils exercise their powers and bring action on these people caught fly tipping and dropping litter.

If people know of any hot spots for littering, please let us know and make contact with Cllr Ian Gray at ian.gray38@btinternet.com Vince Crosby

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Put Up or Shut Up?

Dear Sir,
Vince Crosby challenges me to put up or shut up! That is, either I stand for election to the Council, or stop writing letters exposing the hypocrisy of our local Labour/Momentum party.

I'm sorry Vince, but I consider myself to be too old to stand, but old and experienced enough to expose the machinations of the extreme left.

We learned from Cllr. Jim Atkinson that Labour candidates are vetted; the final arbiter in the selection process being the local Labour/Momentum Party Whip. Labour/Momentum selected Cllr. Beetham as a candidate despite her post-referendum Facebook post calling more than half of referendum voters, "Morons, who should all be gassed" [paraphrased with expletive deleted]. I'm surprised at any decent, left-of-centre Councillor being willing to share a platform with a candidate or Councillor capable of such hateful bile. I also question whether the Whip 'liked' Cllr. Beetham's post and whether the Whip is a current/or past member or supporter of the Momentum. When you get a Labour Candidate's leaflet through the door be aware of who has vetted the Candidate and who the candidate is willing to be associated with.

Both our Town and County Council have been Labour (Whip) controlled for as long as I can remember. This is why we have one of the highest rates of local taxation in the entire country! Also, D.C.C. paid £3m + for shares in, failing Durham County Cricket Club (more correctly, DCC converted a loan into shares, which will now have much

less value, and are much less likely to be redeemed).

Labour controlled DCC have appointed in Cllr. J.D. Clare, as Climate Champion and he supports Climate Extinction. However, neither J.D. Clare nor Greta Thunberg can explain why the world is currently cooling. Also, the rise in CO2 has resulted in plant growth and the planet being 'greener'. This has enabled the world population to almost double since the late 1960's.

Since I don't believe in Climate Extinction, I don't see the need for the political culling of humankind which is the aim of Marxist Climate Extinction: with them setting the policies and being in control of who lives and who dies!

Yours Sincerely,
Alastair P.G. Welsh

Labour For Aycliffe West



Dear Sir,
Kate Hopper and Eddy Adam are standing as moderate, progressive Labour Party candidates in the May 2021 Local Elections. Currently representing Aycliffe West at Durham County Council, both have lived in the area they serve for more than three decades.

Putting the community first, Eddy and Kate work diligently as a team, responding to individual resident concerns, actively supporting Aycliffe West based groups and regularly attending local PACT meetings - alongside positive partnership engagement with external organisations such as livin and the police to tackle neighbourhood issues highlighted by residents.

They have funded over 140 local projects, putting in the region of £90,000 into the community and helped to deliver significant environmental and infrastructure improvements, including a soon to be completed 20mph school zone speed limit on Stephenson Way.

They offer the Aycliffe West electorate integrity, professionalism and an unyielding commitment to make Aycliffe West, Newton Aycliffe and County Durham a great place to grow up in and a great place to grow old in.

Kate Hopper & Eddy Adam
Labour Party Candidates for Aycliffe West
Follow our local campaign on Facebook:
Labour For Aycliffe West
www.facebook.com/100787151931663/posts/141385064538538/

Use Your Vote Wisely

I am standing for re-election in the West Ward, having served 22 years as your local Councillor. As usual, I will be putting out detailed leaflets, so I will just say this, this election is about you. The Independents



who are standing are amongst the best quality ever to stand in Great Aycliffe. We work together as a team for the good of the community, but we retain the right to obey our conscience, do what is right and put you, the community, first, not a Party whip or Party ideology. We believe in infinite diversity in infinite combination. Vote Independent first and foremost, only vote for other parties if you feel you must, but remember, you do not have to use all your votes. Don't vote for anyone who does not live in Newton Aycliffe.

Fortune favours those who use their judgement. Together we can break the one-party state mentality. Use your vote wisely.
Cllr Arun M Chandran
Independent, West Ward

Students are Future Focused



Students from Greenfield Community College are returning to school with a positive outlook with eyes to the future. Supported by expert staff and a safe environment, students are able to focus upon their learning and thoughts of a 'Future Me'.

This week Year 10 students are meeting with staff from local colleges as they decide upon their learning journey. Each student is given their own space and time to sit down face-to-face and talk about their future, learning more about college life and their academic options.

Careers lead, Mr Tait has been consistently supporting students whilst working from home with a comprehensive bespoke programme of careers advice and guidance. There has also been inspiring initiatives that have sought to support the programme and help young people make decisions that nurture ambition and aspiration in the current climate.

Students have been given the opportunity to access online 'Push talks' where they have benefitted from the experience of innovative and inspiring speakers. Recent talks have included sessions with actor/comedian Moj Taylor and screenwriter Aron Tennant. These sessions were focused on current worries students experience (Covid-19, the impact of remote learning), the motivations students have for school and life after school and student wellbeing, both physical and mental.

Students have also recently been involved in an Arts Council England funded partnership project that has been supporting students to explore their aspirations for the future and their ambitions and opportunities to use their skills in the local area.

Looking further ahead to their academic journey, Year 10 students had the opportunity to take part in a virtual university talk. The session was a great way of helping students make choices now to help them reach their future goals.

Greenfield Community College 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.

"I'm a Man of My Word" Critical for Climate

Dear Sir,
Politics and life have a great deal in common, both are defined by character and personal values and a willingness to accept responsibility for your actions. You may have no interest in politics, but the reality is every part of your life is either controlled or influenced by politics in general and specifically by the decisions made by those elected to serve in public office. The quality of those decisions is often defined by the people who make them.



As a very famous and successful politician once said "Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety and prosperity and happiness not for profit, honour or private interest of any one man, family, political party or class of men". So ideally those who seek to enter the political arena do so because they believe they have the necessary character and life experience to make a difference.

My decision to stand for election as an Independent Candidate in the Neville Ward comes out of a desire to work alongside like minded individuals and make a real difference in the community. My semi retirement has provided an opportunity and the freedom necessary to commit my time and energy to dealing with the challenges ahead for us all. Both life and career experience, along with extensive vocational and academic qualifications gained over many years, have provided me with a solid foundation and the necessary management and interpersonal skills and abilities to fulfil the role of councillor. The only platform and promise I will ever make are the two things I can guarantee to keep, regardless. My platform is service to the electorate and the best interests of the community as a whole. My one and only promise to you is to always work to the best of my ability when dealing with the issues at hand.

With raised expectations comes the responsibility to step up and deliver on the promises made. I have made you one promise and I'm asking you to trust me, and give me the opportunity to prove I'm a man of my word.

Phillip Hawkins

Independent Candidate Neville Ward

Dear Sir,

Last week was critical for Durham County Council's Climate initiative.

GREEN INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

TUESDAY morning, I met with DCC Climate officers and Business Durham to be briefed on the 'green industrial revolution' in County Durham. I wanted to ask them HOW climate change could bring economic growth. A recent study showed that DCC is one of few councils which regards Climate Change as an opportunity for economic regeneration; we must turn that intention into jobs.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Next, on WEDNESDAY morning, the DCC Cabinet met to review and confirm the Council's Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP) after its first year. It is a programme for two years only and – with 111 actions to complete (each one costed and budgeted and, crucially, a named person's responsibility) – the pace of action has been breathless. The Plan has been financed by a £3 million revenue budget, expected to draw in capital totalling some £50 million. Cabinet heard how progress has continued throughout the pandemic, with only a handful of projects delayed (mostly, those that relied on face-to-face meetings), and just three cancelled (one because the government redirected the funding to the pandemic). Indeed, far from stalling through the pandemic, the programme has grown – it now numbers nearer 140 actions, including new major initiatives such as an £8 million Zero-Carbon Depot (powered by its own solar farm) and a scheme to site 160 EV chargepoints in less-commercially-favourable locations in the county.

The Council's Climate action has earned a string of accolades. One study declared County Durham "the UK's greenest city". Another found the CERP one of only 13 Plans in the country to have an adequate Food Policy. The Council's Business Energy Efficiency team was praised at two prestigious European conferences, and is so highly regarded that, despite Brexit, it has been invited to join an EU 'SME-Power' collaboration. Finally, in December, our CERP won the APSE award for best national climate initiative – the 'Oscars' of UK public service and a stunning achievement considering the amazing work of councils all over the country.

Wednesday's Cabinet report also signalled where we intend to go. Of all the report, Paragraph 53 is *my* paragraph – it outlines the principles that I, as Climate Champion, have been seeking to imprint onto the Council's developing strategy: a green new deal; more work on adaptation; a just transition; embedding; engagement.

EMBEDDING

I have urged officers to build climate progress into the automatic, everyday functioning of the Council. We now have:

- a Corporate Director of 'Neighbourhoods and Climate Change' at the top table;
- a oversight 'Net Zero Carbon Board' at senior-officer level;
- a 'Climate requirement' inserted into every job description;
- a 'Climate Change' assessment in the 'Implications' appendix of every decision;
- the Low Carbon Team asked to comment on every relevant planning application;
- the opportunity to add climate requirements to the Council's procurement process.

The aim is to become, not a Council which does climate actions, but a climate-focussed Council.

ENGAGEMENT

THURSDAY morning saw another milestone. To better engage about Climate Change, we have set up a 'Climate Emergency Strategic Board' of key stakeholders. DCC cannot decarbonise the County alone, so the Board will enlist big local players to help address some of the huge county-wide climate problems. A second body will engage with residents, especially climate action groups; we want people to hold the council to account, and to help create policy.

SCRUTINY

Finally, on FRIDAY morning Cllr Eddy Adams' Environment Scrutiny Committee, too, assessed the CERP – watch on: https://youtu.be/0VX2FAz_utc

So last year not only achieved great things but, hopefully, set up next year to do even better.

Cllr John D Clare

(Cllr Clare is Durham County Council's 'Climate Champion')




Did you realise that when you buy from Amazon, you can support Rotary Newton Aycliffe at no cost to you?

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Two Great Young People

Dear Sir,
Can I offer a huge thank you to Ben and Jodie who came to our rescue when my husband had a fall in Woodham Burn last Sunday morning.
They called an ambulance and stayed with us until it arrived, two great young people. My husband is recovering now, cuts and bruises, but OK.
Thank you again.
From Ann and Malcolm

Cree to Share Boxes of Inspiration

The Men's Cree group at Greenfield Arts are busy preparing to share creative boxes with the community that will inspire hope and inspiration. Although the Arts Centre facility is closed at present, the group are keeping in touch and have just received a creative pack through their letterbox with materials to start making and creating.
The group are putting together a selection of items and are even testing their origami skills in a bid to share kindness and inspiration with others. Greenfield Arts are looking forward to a time in the near future when they can meet face-to-face.
There is a full programme of activity for the spring and summer planned for the Cree group which includes working alongside artists and practitioners to capture everyday moments and imagine new futures. Professional photographer Elaine Vior will be supporting and inspiring the group to capture moments through photography and artist Dawn Belshaw

will be sharing her recycling artistry to suggest ways to use everyday objects to get creative. The summer will also bring the chance to get lyrical as songwriter and musician John Melvin teases out some happy moments to bring together in song. An exciting opportunity - we are looking forward to being able to share the final song with the Cree group and the wider community.
The Greenfield Arts Cree is a wellbeing group that enables members to explore ideas, express themselves and give to the community to support wellbeing and their own positive mental health. The Cree includes men of different ages, skills and experiences and are very welcoming to new men. The group have embarked on many projects that have benefited the wider public that have been appreciated and benefited many. If you think you would like to join, contact our team to find out more by emailing info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

Situations VACANT

Great Aycliffe Town Council



Appointment of Accountancy Assistant

Grade 2(i) Salary Scale Point 7
£20,092 per annum
(£15,748 pro-rata to part time hours)
29 Hours per Week (Flexible)

The Town Council is seeking to recruit an Accountancy Assistant to work within our small finance team and applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced candidates. The successful candidate will be responsible for the payment of invoices and maintenance of the Council's purchase ledger, and the collection, banking, and reconciliation of golf complex income, as well as providing cover and support in other areas including payroll, sales ledger, and cashbook. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 5 GCSE's, including English and Mathematics, together with experience within a finance setting, preferably with responsibility for accounts payable and income collection processes. Experience of using computerised financial management systems would also be desirable. An accountancy related qualification such as AAT would be helpful, although this post would also be ideal for a candidate wishing to undertake this qualification via day release training. A full driving licence or the ability to travel independently is required. For further details or an informal discussion about the post, please contact the Finance Manager Dan Austin on 01325 300700 or by email at Daniel.Austin@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Closing Date for Applications is 12pm on Thursday 1st April 2021.
Interviews will be held on Wednesday 14th April 2021.

Application packs can be obtained by telephoning 01325 300700, e-mailing: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk, or from the Council website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk. CV's are not accepted.



Carl Standing for Aycliffe Village

Dear Sir,
My name is Carl Robinson, I am standing as an Independent Councillor in the upcoming Town Council elections to represent Aycliffe Village.
I am involved in activities in the village as Chair of the Aycliffe Village Residents Association (AVRA), a trustee on the Aycliffe Village Hall committee and a public representative on Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership (GAMP), our local Area Action Partnership (AAP) supporting Great Aycliffe. I believe that we should work together to improve Aycliffe Village and support its residents as much as possible and would like to do this on GATC on your behalf. I would like to thank Councillor Billy Blenkinsopp for his endorsement of me and also thank him for the 30+ years that he has worked relentlessly to represent Aycliffe Village and its residents. Due to the current Covid restrictions I do not believe that it would right for me to call at peoples doors in the village to request your support - so if anyone would like to discuss anything related to the upcoming election, please contact me on 07928 336263. I hope that you feel you can support me on 6th May - Election Day.
Thank You
Carl Robinson



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The Show Went On(Line)

Moving forward, looking back: a year of ingenuity for Darlington Hippodrome.

On Monday 16th March 2020, Darlington Hippodrome temporarily closed its doors following official government guidance that advised people should avoid public buildings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's been a demanding and unpredictable year since then, but thanks to the theatre's dedicated staff and, most importantly, their loyal customers, there has been plenty to smile about and take part in over the last year.

The regular online Hippodrome Pub Quiz (without the pub!) has been the smash hit of the year. Marketing Officer Julian Cound has excelled as the genial host of the regular brain workouts. Julian has helped 67 trivia streams which have seen over 4200 quizzers take part!

It's been a challenge to keep active whilst we've been in lockdown but with the help of dance partners The D Project, the theatre has put on over 50 dance fitness sessions for adults. The Monday Movers session for the over 65s has proven particularly popular. The kids have been alright too with 130 youth theatre and dance sessions taking place onstage (when restrictions allowed) and online.

Senior House Manager Andy Hutchinson-Clish took us on a virtual tour around the Hippodrome's usually off-limits backstage areas and led viewers on a virtual ghost tour (the theatre has so many ghosts this required two videos!). These videos have racked up over 10,400 views.

The Hippodrome's two charities of the year, St Teresa's Hospice and Darlington Samaritans, have been the recipients of the continued generosity of the theatre's following. Over the last year, participants in our Hippodrome Pub Quiz have donated £315 to Darlington Samaritans. In early December 2020, a group of staff (and a few dogs) ran the St Teresa's Hospice Santa Fun Run dressed as Santas, raising an incredible £1290 to help the hospice continue the vital work they do.

And it's not just external charities that have experienced the kindness of the theatre-going public - a staggering £20,000 has been donated to the theatre by customers.

People have also been able to enjoy classic cinema screenings, book clubs, artist masterclasses, literary livestreams, a digital careers fair, and life drawing sessions.

There is hope on the horizon for the return of live events and the Hippodrome team are working hard to continue their innovative programme of online events whilst planning an exciting programme of public events both inside and outside the theatre.

Councillor Andy Keir, Darlington Borough Council's cabinet member for local services, said "The theatre has faced a tough year but managed to keep the public engaged with an exciting and regular programme of events and activities. The generosity of the public towards the theatre's chosen charities and the theatre itself has been heart-warming and commendable. There is some light at the end of the tunnel and I'm sure we all can't wait until we're able to enjoy the Hippodrome again in person."

Keep up to date with what's going on at the theatre by following them on social media:

Facebook: [DarlingtonHippodrome](#)

Twitter: [@DarlingtonHipp](#)

Instagram: [@DarlingtonHippodrome](#)

Find out what's on: www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk/whats-on

Crafty Christmas Decoration Raises Over £5,000

Crafter's Companion is celebrating the success of its first charity Christmas decoration campaign with a £5,428 donation to the Bradley Lowery Foundation.

The purple stocking decoration, which was branded with Crafter's Companion's logo and filled with crafty tools and essentials, went on sale in November last year. For every decoration sold, £1.75 of the £5.99 retail price was donated to the children's charity.

In addition to selling the decoration across its multiple ecommerce platforms, Crafter's Companion organised a charity raffle to encourage further fundraising.

Since it was established, the Bradley Lowery Foundation has raised more than £3million for dozens of poorly children across the UK; established a dedicated support line for the families of children with cancer; donated over £200k to researching childhood cancers and campaigned for new drugs to be introduced in the UK. It is currently developing plans to build a holiday home for poorly children and their families in Scarborough.

Sara Davies MBE, a patron of the Bradley Lowery Foundation, said: "Last year, we had a lot of fundraisers planned for the foundation that weren't able to go ahead because of the pandemic. We were thrilled that we were still able to release our first-ever charity decoration and I am so grateful to everyone who supported the campaign. The help that the Bradley Lowery Foundation offers to poorly children and their families is priceless, and Gemma continues to amaze me for the work she does in Bradley's memory." Gemma Lowery, CEO and founder of the Bradley Lowery Foundation, said: "We are so grateful to Sara and the team at Crafter's Companion for their hard work and ongoing support. The past twelve months have been tough for charities everywhere, with the pandemic causing widespread cancellation of events, so this contribution is even more important in ensuring we can continue our work supporting families nationwide."



Newton Aycliffe Play Café Funding

Thanks to funding secured through the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership, Newton Aycliffe Play Café provided vital support to families across the area during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Play Café were successful in applying for and securing funding to help them provide the much-needed food and household essential parcels to families across Aycliffe.

Alison Firby, Play Café Trustee, said: "We were faced with an unprecedented increase in demand for our service during the outbreak, receiving more referrals week on week. The funding received helped us greatly in supporting those additional families, that found themselves in need during this difficult time."

I would like to thank the fantastic support from Newton Aycliffe Workingmen's Club for the free use of their concert room, where we are able to prepare all packs safely, adhering to government guidelines."

The Play Café have, without doubt, provided an essential service to the community throughout the pandemic and continue to operate their wonderful service to those who require support.

For further information on support in the area please check www.durhamlocate.org.uk or call 03000 260 260.

Newton News

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National Day of Reflection

Bishop of Durham, the Rt. Rev'd Paul Butler writes: "March 23rd will be one year since we first experienced going into a National Lockdown. Do you remember the feelings and the thoughts? Did we really imagine that a year later we would be in another lockdown? Or that so many people would have died from Covid? Did we anticipate that this new virus would impact so many lives in other life-changing ways, like long Covid, businesses folding, or online church emerging? For most of us it has been a long year of the unexpected, and much of it very tough in a wide variety of ways.

A year on is a good point to pause and reflect. In reflecting we take time to pay attention to what has happened and to what has been said and done. We will do well to ponder where the places of pain and loss have been; and the points of joy and laughter, even though they may be few. What have we learned about ourselves? One another? Our communities? Our church? Our nation? Our world?"

In response, and in partnership with the Marie Curie charity, the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Great Aycliffe would like to invite the people of our caring community minded town to come along to reflect at:

St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village, any time between 10am and 3pm, and/or

St. Clare's Church, St. Cuthbert's Way, any time between 3pm and 8pm

Come for as long or as little, we will be Covid-19 secure, let us bring some good out of what has been a horrible year.

Much love to all,

Reverend Ann Anderson

All We Want . . .

All she wanted to do, was to walk home.

All women want, is not to be harassed and discriminated against.

All transgender women and men want to do is live their lives authentically.

All same sex couples want, is to love each other.

All people of colour want, is to be treated equally.

All young people want, is a planet that will sustain them.

All children want, is food in their bellies.

All immigrants want, is to have a safe place to build a life for their families.

All homeless people want, is a home.

All workers want, is a fair wage for their work.

All anyone wants, is a just, caring and equal society to live in.

These are not impossible dreams; these are simply political choices.

None of the above is a threat to our country, culture or incomes, although there are those who would have you believe it.

All 'lefties' want, is a chance to make those choices and build that society where EVERYONE will benefit.

I have been accused of being a 'lefty', 'Corbynist' etc. by an individual in this paper many times. Well, I say to him, yes, I am. I believe in the principles of democratic socialism, in a vision of a fair and just society that creates the conditions where everyone can achieve their full potential, and all are cared for. Where we can stop blaming the powerless for our own lack of power, replace hate with hope and create a better world.

I wear my 'lefty' credentials with pride, so call me 'lefty' and other such things if you will, it's something I am proud of being, if we can dream it, making it happen is simply a choice, one we can all make together.

Cllr Kathy Beetham.



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

Last week I was pleased to get my vaccine jab at one of our local pharmacies, of which there are over 400 nationwide now participating. I also called in to see the team at Cobblers Hall on Sunday, and they alone had delivered over 15,000 jabs by last weekend. It is fabulous that we have now vaccinated more than 23,000,000 people and that we are on target to offer vaccinations to all adults by the end of July. Indeed, I have heard that there is even optimistic forecasts that it might be achieved in June.

A key announcement in the recent budget was the Levelling Up Fund, which has three primary targets for funding. These are transport investments; regeneration and town centre investment and cultural investment. This funding is to be led by local authorities with the support of an MP and each authority can place as many bids as it has MP's. My primary focus on this is going to be the town centre in Newton Aycliffe and I look forward to both working with Durham County Council and all other interested parties. This looks like a fantastic opportunity to re-shape what we have into something better and I will keep you informed of progress.

As usual, I had a number of interesting zoom calls this week including on offshore wind, the kickstart scheme, the levelling up fund and sustainable farming, as well as parish council meetings with Bishop Middleham and Fishburn.

The most significant Bill in the House this week was the Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Bill which contains much that will lengthen jail time for serious sexual offenders by increasing the minimum term in prison to be served before parole for those under life sentences imposed for rape and the most serious assaults. It delivers tougher sentences for child murderers, killer drivers, and those attacking emergency workers. It also includes an important law, Kay's Law, which is being introduced after a woman died at her ex partner's hands while he was released under investigation. In addition it stops extreme protests like those performed by Extinction Rebellion who stopped trains and buses running and blocked roads, even for emergency vehicles. I would like to assure you that it does not stop reasonable peaceful protest. It will keep us safe while also safeguarding our rights to free speech and free protest, which are such a large part of our British freedoms.

The actual debate on this bill was impacted by the events at the vigil on Clapham Common. For the avoidance of doubt, I absolutely believe that women need to feel, and be, safe walking home but I don't think this vigil was helpful. We need to remember that the rules around restricting the vigil were the temporary Covid restrictions. Where this bill looks at the rules around protests it is a more normal world perspective. The outcome of this vigil, while concerning, is not entirely relevant when looking ahead at situations when national health emergency measures will no longer be in place. The events as reported in the press did not look good for the Met, but I do not see how the people turning up can be absolved from some responsibility, unfortunately whenever well-meaning people take part in an event like this they attract the rent-a-crowd who are just looking to promote their own agenda. It is what can be referred to as the law of unintended consequences.

On another issue, I have talked with teachers about the use of schools as polling stations for the forthcoming elections, and I have made representations to Durham County Council that other options would be better, as it would be best to keep school disruption to a minimum once they are reopened.

Once again, I will sign off with the same message and I really look forward to the day when it is redundant.

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



How Vulnerable People Can Vote in Elections

Voters in Co. Durham area will go to the polls for the county council, Police & Crime Commissioner and parish council elections on Thursday 6th May. These elections will take place at a time when coronavirus continues to present risks to public health.

Those electors that have previously been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable, and therefore advised to take precautionary shielding measures, will shortly receive a letter informing them of the voting options available and aims to support them making the right decision about how to cast their vote. There are three ways that voters can cast their vote at the elections: by visiting a polling station, registering for postal vote or by proxy. Polling stations will be open on 6th May and will have safety measures in place. Voters

will be encouraged to keep themselves and others safe at the polling station by:

- Wearing a face covering,
- Bringing their own pen or pencil,
- Cleaning their hands when entering and leaving the polling station,
- Keeping a safe distance.

Voters should not attend the polling station if they have symptoms of coronavirus, or if they have been asked to self-isolate. There will be provisions in place to apply for an emergency proxy vote if required due to health circumstances.

Voters wishing to vote by post should apply now by completing a postal vote application form. A form can be requested by calling 03000 261212 or downloaded from www.durham.gov.uk/postalvote - Postal application forms must be returned to Electoral Services, Durham County Council, Room 1/104-115, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL.

The deadline for completed postal vote application is 5pm on Tuesday 20 April.

Voters who are not able to vote in person can ask someone they trust to cast their vote for them. The person can either go

to the elector's polling station to cast the vote or apply to vote by post. To apply for a proxy vote, contact the electoral services team on 03000 261212. A form can also be downloaded from

www.durham.gov.uk/elections

Those wishing to vote at a polling station, by post, or by proxy must first be registered to vote - www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

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Newton News Hog Blog Update

The good news is that spring is just around the corner and our hedgehogs are starting to wake up, more sightings are possible. Tara and I will be contacting various people so they can have their hoggies back into their gardens, but we will hold out till after the Easter Holidays. The weather has to be a certain night time temperature and hopefully wild food in abundance with nesting material available too. Can we ask everybody to be mindful when they do their gardening, please check before strimming, grass cutting and raking leaves, these mammals do not run when in danger, they curl up tightly, we have had injured hedgehogs here before and it's quite distressing, a vets intervention is always necessary and it takes a long time to help them recover. Another good reason to watch before you trim is, it is nearly baby season, hoglets can't see or hear for the first 3 weeks of life, when mum gets scared she abandons her babies and we are required to step in and hand rear them till they can manage themselves, which also takes time. All rescue centres have the equipment, food, time and expertise to take in hoglets and provide the critical care they need, they need more warmth because they have no underbelly fur, but the one thing they do have is cuteness, lots of it. Tara is going to be attempting to rear babies for the very first time and she will love it, as I do. They flourish as they get older and, of course, it's very rewarding to watch them as we have to let them go back where they belong. It's never easy, especially when we have fed them, toileted them and cared for them and 24/7, because we bond with them.

The problems they face in the wild are man made, cars, dogs and also when people try to kill slugs etc in the garden - slug dies because it's been poisoned, hedgehog dies too because it eats the poisoned slug. Please save your money, don't buy anything that can harm wildlife, our prickly pals are much better at killing your garden pests when you are asleep in bed.

We will be selling some lovely handmade items, complete with chocolate treats inside, we have June and Val to thank because they are making knitted bunnies, penguins and, of course, hedgehogs. If anyone would like to support us and purchase any please email us on pricklyhaven@yahoo.com - Sonia deserves our thanks too, for food donation, also Angie and Sheila for their support. Thank you.

Tip of the Week: Don't feed hedgehogs milk, nuts, mealworms or bread, for further information visit Hedgehog Street, or ring BHPS on 01584 890801.



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Congratulations

Sonia Steele



Happy 50th Birthday
20th March 1971

Happy birthday to a very special friend! We hope you enjoy your BIG day! Still looking FAB! Love you lots from All the Girls xxxxxxxxx

Edward and Carol Forster



40th Wedding Anniversary
21st March 2021

Lots of love from Mam, all your family and friends xxx

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In Memoriam

Douglas John Horton



24th March 2020

A loving Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather, sadly missed by all the family.

Norman Henry Saunders



Two years have passed since you left us, but the hurt is still there every day. We can't begin to say how much we miss you, but deep in our hearts you will stay, until the day we are all together again. We love you.

May the winds of Heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear, how much we love and miss you and wish that you were here. Your loving Wife Margaret, Sons Graham, Shaun, Adrian, Craig Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

Emily Cook

Fell asleep 4 years today, 21st March 2017

Emily - our special memories of you always bring a smile. If only we could have you back for a little while. The fact that you are no longer here will always cause us pain. But you are forever in our hearts, until we meet again. "Good night, God bless, we love you more than last night". Love and miss you always, Mam, Wayne, Holly and Morgan xxxx

Emily - although you sleep in Heaven now, you are not that far away. Our hearts are full of memories and you are with us every day. You lived your short life with meaning - had a smile upon your face. A world that was full of happiness is now an empty space. We know you are at peace now, a place where you are free. So good night, God bless our beautiful Emily. We will be together again one day. Love from Nanna and Grandad xxxx

Emily - This sad day returns once more. Silently opening memory's door. Your parting came and my heart was broken. Our loved one went with words unspoken. Forgive me Lord if I still weep, for my beautiful Niece, I wanted to keep. Love, Nicola and Bella xx

Emily - They say it's a beautiful journey, from the old world to the new. Some day we'll make that journey, which will lead us back to you. And when we reach the garden, in which there is no pain, we'll put our arms around you and never part again. Love and miss you Em, from Auntie Caroline and Uncle Michael xx

Emily - Our beautiful Cousin Emily - we close our eyes and see your face, looking at us from a beautiful place. You



tell us you are not far away and we will be together one day. We ask you if you could stay with us a while, we miss your laugh and that beautiful smile. Then you whisper sweetly, I will never leave you all, I am always here. Shine high beautiful star. Love, Thomas, Michael and Matthew xxx

Emily - We think about you angel as this day returns again. Goodbye is not forever, goodbye is not the end. It simply means we will miss you, until we meet again. Love from Auntie Lesley and Uncle Brian xx

Emily - We can't have the old days back, when we were all together. But when the nights are cold and the stars are few, we close our eyes and think of you. A silent hope, a silent tear, a silent wish that you were here. Rest with the angels our Emily. Love, Uncle Howard, Auntie Eleanor and David xxx

Emily - It broke our hearts the day you went away. Heaven needed a beautiful angel, so the one they picked was you. God may have you in his keeping, but you are forever in our hearts. Sadly missed, Auntie Vicki, Uncle Dave and all your friends at the Hub xxx

Emily - In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. We hold a place within our hearts, that only you can fill. Love, Uncle Chris and Auntie Hayley xx

"Cherish her Lord, in your garden of rest, for while on Earth she was one of the best"

Strange Headlines

Stolen Painting Found by Tree

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If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last a While

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New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Space

Obituary

Ken Chambers

15th March

Peacefully, aged 63 years of Newton Aycliffe.

Loving Husband of Lynn; dearly loved Dad of Sarah, Neil and Helen; dear Father-in-Law of Shauna; treasured Brother of Colleen and David; much loved Brother-in-Law of Paul, Elaine and Catherine; beloved Uncle; also a sadly missed Son-in-law of Bill.

Private Service to take place.

Birthday Remembrance

Amanda Susan Renwick

24th March 1979

We think about you always, we talk about you still. You have never been forgotten and you never will.

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Love you always, Mam, Dad and family

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Austrian Ironman Challenge in aid of Hospice

A window cleaner has developed a clear vision of how he can help a struggling hospice by employing his triathlon skills to raise vital funds.

Stuart Rimmer is in training for the Austrian Ironman event - a gruelling 2.4 mile open water swim, 112 mile bike ride, topped off with a 26.2 mile marathon - which he hopes to complete in to raise as much money as possible for St Teresa's Hospice.

Covid-19 is playing havoc with the date of the Klagenfurt event and hence Stuart's training programme - it is scheduled for July but might have to be postponed until September.

"You train for 30 weeks in the run up to the event for at least 10 hours a week," said Stuart, 57, of Newton Aycliffe. "At the moment I'm out at 5.45am for a run before work and a cycle after. But I haven't been able to swim for four months and should be doing 2.5 hours a week. At the start there will be 3,500 athletes in the water - it's like being in a washing machine and you get kicked and punched. You just have to look for a gap. I'm preparing for July but to be honest September would be better as it would be cooler."

"If the water is above 25 degrees you can't wear a wetsuit in the swim and, because this makes you less buoyant, you have to



use your legs more - so you have less left in them for the cycle and the run. Also, the run is really tough if it is red hot. It's difficult to train at the moment because you don't want to peak too early."

Darlington-born Stuart became a triathlete when he met his wife Tracey, 50, eight years ago. "It was the only way I was going to see anything of her, but we both love it," he said. "She works for John Meynell Funeral Directors and I have lost a lot of customers over the years to cancer, which really opens your eyes, so we wanted to do something for the hospice movement. She'll be running for Alice House, Hartlepool, and I'll be competing for St. Teresa's."

St. Teresa's Hospice needs to raise £3m a year to provide free in-patient and community care for people living with life-limiting illnesses and their families in Darlington, South Durham and North

Yorkshire.

An emergency appeal, launched at the start of the pandemic, is still running and donations can be made at www.justgiving.com/campaign/hugstotts.

Chief executive, Jane Bradshaw, said: "Never have we been so reliant on the ingenuity and generosity of the public, with our charity shops closed for so long and fundraising events decimated by the pandemic. I'm in awe of anyone who can successfully complete an ironman competition and we are incredibly grateful to Stuart for his efforts."

Anyone wishing to support Stuart can visit <https://www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk/event/stuart-rimmer-austrian-ironman/> for more information.

Photo: Triathlete Stuart Rimmer, who is competing in aid of St. Teresa's Hospice, with his wife Tracey.

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Police Cadet Scheme

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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 about the Cadet Scheme, follow the below link to the DAAC Website (Durham Agency Against Crime) <http://www.daac.org.uk/>

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