

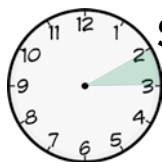
Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Magazine

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

National Day of Reflection at Sugar Hill Primary

See page 2 for more



Spring Forward

Don't forget to set
clocks ahead 1 hour
at 2.00am Sunday

Special thank you to your Newton News Sponsors:

SHAKE 'N' CAKE



PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgfield



Well Done Woodham

Dear Sir,

This week I was very impressed by the presence of Woodham Academy staff, who were patrolling the nearby streets at the end of the school day, particularly outside McColls shop.

I regularly walk this way to collect my child from St. Mary's school, and unfortunately the older students can be a little intimidating for my son when they are being so loud, and the language has been so bad at times, which I do wish my child didn't have to hear.

But this week has been so different, the Woodham students just seem so much calmer, maybe because of the staff watching them, I just hope this is going to be a regular event, as I am sure people living in this area would appreciate it also.

Name and address supplied.

National Day of Reflection at Sugar Hill Primary

Tuesday 23rd March marked the first anniversary of the first UK lockdown. At Sugar Hill Primary School children wore bright clothes and the staff wore rainbow ribbons, as activities were completed that helped everyone reflect on the last year in their own way.

When arriving at school the children were greeted with showers of bubbles and it was so lovely to see the children of all ages trying to capture a bubble! It was a temptation some parents and carers could not resist and it certainly led to a positive start for the day when adults joined in the fun capturing bubbles! Lots of giggles and cheers!

Throughout the day classroom staff had planned a range of activities that provided opportunities for all children to pause and reflect on the last year. The whole school fell silent at 12 noon as we thought of all the people across the world who have lost their lives through Covid-19. Senior leaders spent the day visiting classrooms talking with children about their memories of the last year. Although the children can identify the things they have missed this year like seeing family and friends, no birthday parties, no holidays (to name a few of their endless lists of things they have not been able to do) they also recognise that they have had other opportunities to spend more time with their parents and carers and siblings at home.

Many children have reflected on the things they have been doing that they enjoyed. Some have started new hobbies and some have been involved in helping family and friends by delivering shopping, writing cards and letters and baking cakes! The acts of kindness are endless!

One activity that all the children were involved in was blowing bubbles. Yes, even our oldest Year 6 children had their very own pot of bubbles and had great fun blowing their bubbles at their friends. The children have been taught in their 'bubbles' following the first lockdown and with separate lunchtimes and break times school is now



living a 'new normal' as we do all we can to keep everyone as safe as we can.

It was heartening to receive an e mail from a parent who drove past school at the time the children were outdoors blowing their bubbles who said, 'I think by the activities you have organised, you've marked a very traumatic year with positivity, hope and appreciation for everything we hold dear. The things we took for granted just over a year ago'.

Support from parents and carers, as we have navigated through the last year and faced challenges none of us would ever have anticipated, has been recognised by Senior Leaders, Governing Body and the whole school staff. This day in school was a time to talk with the children about the importance of still following the rules and doing all we can to stay safe.

It was a focussed time that allowed staff, children and our wider community to pause and reflect. Staff recognise that the last year has impacted on families in different ways and that moving forward there is much work to be done in supporting each other as we tentatively follow the road map to easing restrictions. Our school gardener, Gail, has planted an 'Ascot Rainbow' at the front of school - a symbol of hope for the future and a timely reminder that it has been an incredibly tough year - a year like no other.

As always, we want to ensure that parents and carers know that Sugar Hill staff will do all we can to support our families. We recognise that although there is hope for brighter days ahead with the vaccination programme, that for many personal challenges on top of Covid19 mean difficult days too.

For our children we know that special days in school, where everyone is involved, help them remember key messages and events. We are incredibly proud of the resilience shown by all our children and sincerely hope they remember the activities they completed on this first anniversary when they are adults, so they have good memories too.



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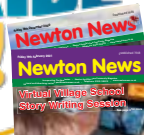
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Neighbourhood Policing

By PC Holly McCabe

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



This week has had seen some lovely weather, and this will hopefully continue as the clocks go forward on this weekend - Summer is definitely on its way.

The Neighbourhood team have been busy this week and have given out three fines in relation to people not complying with the government restrictions with regards to Covid-19. The team have been out on patrol on mountain bikes this week, which has allowed further engagement with the community by different means and allowing police access to routes that our vehicles can't access which will assist us in various incidents in the future.

On Sunday an off-road quad was seized, that was causing a nuisance to the community, and the rider will appear in court soon for driving offences. An incentive has been agreed which will be offered through Crimestoppers for information leading to the seizure of off-road bikes, and/or apprehension of the rider, where criminal damage has been caused - having been ridden whilst the rider was under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or there has been driving offences. The appeal for information must be specific, relating to a certain bike in a certain area at a certain time and is not an appeal for general info regarding off road bikes. If this information proves to be beneficial to the police and results in seizures, the public will receive a small monetary award.

We are working with partner agencies, to secure funding and are always looking at new and innovative ways to tackle the problem. 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 from when you sign up to the service. Head over to www.keepintheknow.co.uk and click 'Sign up'. It doesn't take long and you can be kept up to date with many different things.

Have a lovely Easter but please continue to follow the government guidelines.

PC Holly McCabe

Local Charity Takes Time to Reflect on the Pandemic

Tuesday 23rd March marked a National Day of Reflection, as it has been one year since the start of the first Covid-19 lockdown in the UK. Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), a leading health and wellbeing charity followed in the footsteps of Marie Curie by joining in a minute silence taking place nationally at 12 noon on the day and displaying bright yellow flowers throughout the centre in Newton Aycliffe, to honour those who have died during the pandemic and those who have been bereaved.

Carol Gaskarth, Chief Executive of PCP, said: "It's been a difficult year for so many people, not least for those who have lost loved ones. It was good to pause and timely come together one year on from the first lockdown to reflect and remember. We were still and silent at 12 noon and hold people in our thoughts."

The PCP team showed their support across their social media channels, as many were working virtually in line with Government guidance. The National Day of Reflection offered an opportunity to remember those who have sadly lost their lives through the pandemic, as well as a chance to come together virtually to hope for a brighter future.

The Houses of Parliament joined in, with a minute silence to show solidarity to those who have lost their lives and those who have lost family and friends. Many other landmarks and buildings across the UK illuminated yellow on the evening to show their support to the challenging year we have all faced.

If you would like to find out more about PCP generally or to support our work please contact: Jenny Lee, Senior Marketing & Media Officer: jenny.lee@pcp.uk.net



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Looking the Other Way

Dear Sir,

Violence against women exists because a minority think it's acceptable and a majority who think it's none of their business. Violence destroys lives and you don't need to be an expert to know the effects can be catastrophic and create a culture where the use of violence is not only acceptable but also expected and a legitimate means of dealing with any situation. Regardless of the circumstances, if abuse goes unchallenged we are condoning it and in effect saying it's okay, in doing so we condemn generations to come through our legacy of apathy and indifference.

My own grandfather was a brutal man who used his size and strength to beat men, women and children in equal measure. He would beat his own mother to such an extent she would be unable to see for days because her face was so battered and bruised she was unable to open her eyes. My grandmother, a tiny woman, fared no better, and even when they were both elderly he would still beat her on a regular basis. My mother, witnessing such brutality on a regular basis, became conditioned and desensitised to this brutality and developed a violent personality of her own and found expression through the manic depression and personality disorder that went with it. Her own violent personality towards her own children became an open family secret and simply accepted as a fact of life.

A different time with different attitudes and different values we today would find difficult if not impossible to accept, but apathy and indifference can destroy lives and if allowed to go unchallenged are condoned and approved by our silence and willingness to look the other way, a legacy of complicity for generations to come. The violence I witnessed and experienced robbed me of my childhood but taught me a very hard lesson in life, silence and indifference will always favour and support the abuser, never their victim. In many ways I was one of the lucky ones I survived and was able to turn my life experience into a life purpose helping others deal with their own trauma and abuse.

Abuse ends and scars heal but mental and emotional pain can last a lifetime. Personally the deepest hurt came not from the abuse itself, but from the knowledge those who should have cared simply looked the other way.

Phillip Hawkins

It's Election Time Again!

Dear Sir,

Well it's election time again and all those non Labour candidates claiming they are working for you and are the voice of the people, are, in effect, working as a political group against the controlling group. Whilst I accept that there are a couple of Independent councillors who make valuable contributions and have worked closely with Labour on the Town Council, actually in the past four years I struggle to recall any other 'Independent' councillor speaking out against Labour, raise questions or put forward proposals on behalf of their residents to improve our town.

In truth, it was your Labour councillors that proposed freezing council tax, it was Labour councillors that listened to the public and continued to provide the Fireworks display and Santa tours, it is your Labour councillors that have managed to improve and maintain the good level of service that this town enjoys, it is your Labour councillors, supported by its officers, who have effectively managed council finances as confirmed by independent professional auditors. We also have Lib Dems' claiming to be the towns saviour and 'money saving expert', they added in an earlier edition of Newton News, that 'every week' they see ways to save money and to reduce council tax bills. It is now over 14 months since the Lib Dems' were elected, in this time there has been two council tax setting processes, four rounds of council meetings, which has given them a clear opportunity to propose savings however, like the Independent councillors, they have failed to live up to their election promises and failed the electorate, when in fact your Labour councillors made the savings and froze your council tax.

And the Lib Dems' latest attack on local democracy, claiming we have too many councillors, failed because they did not consult as required and used incorrect information at Full Council. Newton News readers were also misinformed, as no wards in the town suffer 'electoral inequality' or 'favour Labour'.

So, do not be fooled by the Emperors' new clothes, otherwise you may be left with a chill.

Vote for your Labour Party candidates on the 6th May.

Cllr Eddy Adam, Aycliffe West



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Challenged to Follow Captain Tom Moore



During one of her recent online assemblies, Mrs Adamson, Head Teacher at Aycliffe Village Primary School, challenged her pupils to follow in the footsteps of Captain Sir Tom Moore. She had read the children his story '100 Steps'. Their challenge was to do something 100 times or complete a challenge in 100 minutes. There were many different challenges completed. Brother and sister, Max and Ruby Cornes, decided that they would collect 100 pieces of litter. They walked all around their local area looking for litter and cleared it up.



Ruby said, "I think it is important to pick up rubbish because it could harm animals. I was pleased to be helping animals and stopping the environment looking dirty."

Some children focused upon improving their mental health and well being. Another brother and sister pair, Scarlet and Harrison, did 100 swings on their swing in the garden! While in Year 2 Marnie Swainston got carried away with keeping fit. She did 100 star jumps, 100 jumping jacks and 100 throws and catches of her favourite teddy. She also tried stacking 100 dominoes but her dog knocked them over when she got to 72! Heath, in Year 3, spent 100 minutes building a mansion in his favourite game. Ollie-James, also in Year 3, made 100 cupcakes! They all agreed that doing this was great fun.

The whole of Year 6 took up the challenge and before the end of the school year they want to plant and grow 100 plants. This will involve planting vegetables in the vegetable plot and trees around the grounds.

Mrs Adamson was really impressed with the ideas that the children came up with. She, of course, had to take up the challenge too – she challenged herself and her daughter to complete a 100 piece jigsaw in 100 minutes!

Photos: top: Year 6 preparing to plant, bottom: Ruby and Max litter picking

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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	BeatRoote	Graeme Roote
10-12am	Rock Night	Jonny Goldsmith

FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	2nd Apr - 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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Vote for Experience

Dear Sir,

I am very pleased to hear that Councillor Bob Fleming is standing as an Independent candidate in the County Council elections for the area which includes Aycliffe Village on 6th May.

I have worked closely with Bob over the last 30 years and during that time I have found him to have experience, knowledge and determination and the ability to get jobs done. He is a Councillor who I would contact whenever I needed help with any issue involving the village and behind the scenes would always provide effective support and assistance to reach a successful outcome.

When the Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan was being developed, he insisted that a large green belt should separate any future housing development close to the village and I am sure he will oppose any move to infringe on this issue.

Last year he supported the application from The County to use the village green during the period of Covid-19 restrictions. Recently, he proposed and strongly supported the petition from many of the villagers to allow the village green to be used once again.

Bob was unanimously awarded the honour of Freeman of Great Aycliffe Parish for his outstanding achievements for the town and people of the parish.

If you want a Councillor who is experienced, knowledgeable, dedicated and gets things done, you should vote for Bob Fleming.
W. M. Blenkinsopp

Pedestrians Fear Walking in the Dark

Dear Sir,

The lady writing in last weeks Newton News about lack of lighting on Burnhill Way is a topical subject. As the former Vice Chair of Great Aycliffe Residents Association working alongside Syd Howarth it fell to me to voice public opinion about Durham County Council removing lighting to save money.

Syd and I travelled to Durham and I read out a statement, penned by myself and Syd, which put forward arguments about the proposed lack of lighting which in our view and that of many residents of Newton Aycliffe, the move would result in road accidents, anti-social behaviour and would promote a sense of nervousness amongst people walking around at night. Of course, the Labour controlled council replied with an offhand statement which left us in no doubt that saving money was a higher priority.

As has been reported in the media in previous days, women are nervous about walking after dark and there are many dark areas of our town. Hooligans feel brave enough to throw stones at vehicles knowing they can melt away into the darkness. This at a time when we have a female home secretary and a female chief constable. Throughout the last few years Durham Councillors have complained bitterly about the shortage of funding from Whitehall whilst planning projects on which to spend money such as moving the Council headquarters from Aykley Heads to the centre of Durham adding to an already congested city, building a new bus station, Lumiere, and oh yes siting a custody suite at Spennymoor costing £21million (paid for from reserves). Many of these things may be deemed as necessary but when asking for an increase in rates how can we have millions in reserve then ask the poor taxpayer for more?

When we talk about double taxation this is a prime example of how the good people of Newton Aycliffe are forced to pay for lighting when we already pay County Council rates. Of course, our County Councillors point out that they do distribute money into our town but ask yourself whose money is it really. I have no real objection to raising rates as long as the money is allocated wisely.

The speech I made to County Council will be on record as it was published in the Newton News at the time, but the shocking thing was that a member of the public had to bring up this issue whilst elected Labour councillors remained silent.

Ken Robson

Meet the Artist at Greenfield Arts

Greenfield Arts

were delighted

to host their first

online 'meet the

artist' event this

week as part of

their exhibition

programme.

Hosted by

Greenfield Arts,

Bill Hindmarsh

was invited to

share his work and

experience and talk

about his current

exhibition People and Places.

Bill's exhibition is an eclectic mix of previously unseen work and work that has drawn upon his experiences in mining. The collection draws upon his experience of People and Places within the North East and reflects some of the rich and vibrant culture and heritage from the area and the wider world. Bill has been a professional artist for twenty years and was thrilled to celebrate this through his exhibition and programme at Greenfield Arts and through the online programme.

Bill was inspirational, approachable and his humour was infectious.

The floor was opened for questions from an enthusiastic audience

who were keen to find out more about his techniques and

inspiration, a lovely experience for all.

The exhibition runs until Wednesday 5 May, you can see Bill's work

via our website or contact our team if you would like to visit the

exhibition in The Greenfield Gallery by appointment.

Greenfield Arts are committed to providing high quality arts and creative opportunities that encourage creativity, questioning and curiosity. To find out more about us and to see Bill's exhibition

please visit www.greenfield-arts.co.uk



An Independent Voice for Woodham

My name is Sandra Haigh, I am currently the town councillor for Woodham.

I am writing to the people of the town to let them know that they still have an alternative voice to the main parties. I have enjoyed helping those within my ward with anything that I can.

I have also served on the Sedgfield Borough Council for six years.

I have also served the people of the Woodham area for 14 years.

Newton Aycliffe needs to have an Independent voice away from the damaging main stream parties.

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.

Sandra Haigh

Your Independent Councillor



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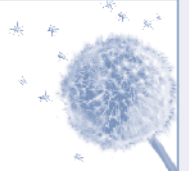


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Liberal Democrat Candidates Nev & Tony

Official Lib Dem Election Address

Local businessman and charity leader Nev Jones is standing on a platform of cutting council tax and making sure local people have someone standing up for them. His colleague Tony Armstrong is backing the campaign to regenerate the local



area including tackling the serious problem of empty businesses in Great Aycliffe Town Centre. Between them they hope to bring together the community and move the whole town forward as we come out of Covid.

Tony Armstrong comments, "I can't think of anybody better to be standing alongside than Nev Jones. He has been an inspirational leader for many years in the town and his charity work is unrivalled. "We are really concerned that parts of the East of Aycliffe have been ignored for years by Labour and there is so much to do.

"People are paying through the roof for their council tax and not getting back, in return, anywhere near what they deserve.

Tony, a teacher, has lived in the area for nearly 20 years. He has been a regular civic pride volunteer and a champion of neighbourhood watch. Tony has also been a volunteer driver taking elderly and disabled residents to hospitals, doctors surgeries and day centres.

He explains the reason for standing, "For years our Estates have been deteriorating with parking problems, antisocial behaviour, potholes and dangerous pavements, and a complete lack of regular updates from local councillors."

Nev Jones adds, "We've had dozens of people respond to us already agreeing that we must change our area for the better. I'm delighted to be standing with Tony Armstrong. Together we will be the team to fix our area. It's completely unacceptable that people are paying hundreds of pounds more in council tax than other parts of the County Durham but getting nothing in return for this.

"This doesn't just affect those paying the highest council tax. It filters down to everyone meaning that the average person has less money to spend on getting work done whether it be plumbing, gardening or even having money to go out for a coffee in the town when we are out of lockdown. Everyone in Newton Aycliffe is suffering because the Labour Party is over taxing us and wasting our money.

"The last straw for me was the £50 million they are wasting on their palace HQ in Durham and the astonishing £1.2 million spent on having people sat in vans outside our waste sites for the last 12 months instead of simply putting in a booking system. I really do not believe that Newton Aycliffe can move forward whilst we still have Labour councillors.

"I also fully support my colleague Michael Stead in his campaign to cut the number of town councillors and make the town council more efficient."

Candidate Nev Jones adds "This town does not need 30 councillors on the payroll. What it needs is regeneration, a passion for every penny and an end to Labour waste."

Tony and Nev are standing in Aycliffe East where they both live with their families.

They are urging residents to tell them they support them by emailing them at nev4aycliffe@gmail.com or texting them to 07966 898322.

Councillor Standing Down

Dear Sir,

I wish to inform the residents of Aycliffe Central that I will be standing down for this year's Town/Parish election. I have had the privilege to represent you for the past twenty years and have had the honour to serve two terms as your Mayor. I heartfully thank you all for your support and wish you well for the future.

Val Raw

100 Years Old . . . Still Going Strong

Dear Sir,

My neighbour, Eileen Sparkes, will be 100 years old on Sunday 28th March 2021.

Eileen served as an Operations Controller with Bomber Command and was, (I think), stationed at HQ 1 Group. Eileen met husband Ron at RAF Ludford Magna during WWII. Wing Commander Ronald G Sparkes DFC, MBE had volunteered for Air Crew duties with the Royal Air Force in 1940, trained in America and Canada and served on an Intruder Squadron before moving to Heavy Bombers. He completed 37 bombing raids over Germany with 101 Squadron, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

An accident in May 1945 (trialling a Lincoln Bomber) saw him spend 2½ years at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead where he became a member of the Guinea Pig Club - and (in his own words), went through 26 operations on the slab - one of Macindoe's army.

In 1960, he was made a Member of the British Empire (Military Division). Ron spent most of his remaining career in the fighter and air defence environment and he eventually retired in 1977 with the rank of Wing Commander.

Eileen and Ron married in 1945 and had one son, David, who sadly died of a brain tumour in 2003, aged 57 years.

Eileen still manages to live independently, is bright as a button, albeit now suffering from a failing memory. Sadly, there are no immediate family members nearby so friends and neighbours will be gathering (safely distanced) on her drive at midday to raise a glass and sing Happy Birthday!



WOODHAM ACADEMY

Washington Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4AX

Telephone: 01325 300328

Email: info@woodham.org.uk Website: www.woodham.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr. A. Bell

Assistant Catering Manager

Support Staff Salary Spine NJC Grade 4, points 5-8 – c£17,379 - £18,442
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We are looking for an enthusiastic and professional assistant manager to support the Catering Manager in our award winning catering facility. Woodham Academy is proud to run its own in-house service providing nutritional lunch and break time meals to students. The service also offers a morning breakfast club and occasional after school facilities for students, staff and visitors.

The successful candidate will ideally hold NVQ Level 3 in a relevant discipline and be required to develop menus, undertake stock checks, place orders, manage kitchen staff and produce meals in accordance with current and future legislative requirements.

Woodham is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to enhanced disclosure; the successful applicants will be subject to relevant vetting checks before an offer of appointment is made

Woodham Academy is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We want to develop a more diverse workforce and we positively welcome applications from all sections of the community. Applicants with disabilities will be invited for interview if the essential job criteria are met.

An application form, job description and person specification can be downloaded from the school website at <https://woodham.org.uk/> or please contact the reception desk.

Closing Date 5pm Friday 23rd April 2021.
Interviews shortly thereafter.

Job Opportunities for Passionate People!

An award-winning supported housing charity in Newton Aycliffe is looking for support workers who have a passion to help others succeed in life.

ROC Solid, based at Hope House in Burnhope, helps a range of vulnerable people including care leavers, people with complex needs, young parents and babies, families at risk and people recovering from life controlling habits.

"It's really rewarding work and we're a really supportive team," said service manager Mandy Shaw.

The charity was founded in 2007 and has around 70 units of accommodation. It operates two centres staffed 24/7 in Newton Aycliffe and Billingham and supports people living in ROC Solid houses in local communities. It has gained several awards and its work with women at its Billingham project has been cited as an example of national good practice by the Prison Reform Trust.

"We help people learn independent living skills and we can go with them to various appointments to give them support," said Mandy.

"Some clients have been with us for several years because they're too vulnerable to be without ongoing support."

Experience is preferred but not essential. "We do ongoing training, all staff have personal development plans and regular supervisions and we also have a health care scheme for everyone," said Mandy.

"We work in partnership with a lot of other professionals and keeping people safe is our top priority."

"It's a 40-hour week sessional contract and you have to be able to work on a rota that includes days, weekends and some sleepovers in Hope House," said Mandy.

"You also need transport and a driving licence - a level 3 qualification in a relevant subject would be good but some of our staff achieve the qualification once in post." All employees are subject to Disclosure and Barring (DBS) checks.

Members of the team have varied past working experiences - the manager at Newton Aycliffe, for example, was a factory worker who wanted a new career in a health and social care setting. He started as a support worker and grew into his current role - he now has a raft of qualifications to his name.

Support workers are paid £9.50 per hour plus £50 sleepover allowance. If you're interested, call HR manager Elicia Crane on 07540 640586 or email her on elicia.crane@rocgroup.org.uk

Building Back Caring and Fairer

Dear Sir,

Labour leader of Durham County Council Simon Henig recently published a list of 120 Things Labour Has Done For County Durham in the last four years.

PROTECTING LOCAL SERVICES

Few people will read the whole list, but we have done so, and one thing that immediately becomes clear is that, despite £1¼billion per year cuts in government funding, Durham County Council has maintained a good standard of public services ... which contrasts markedly with the national news of government cronyism and wasted multi-billion contracts.

And, whilst government insists on a centralised one-size-fits-all model of levelling up which is delivering mainly for Tory MPs' constituencies and has so far failed to deliver ANYTHING for Sedgefield area, our Labour County Council has managed to find from its constrained finances a £25million regeneration scheme which is being implemented across the whole county in discussion with the local communities involved.

Nowhere do we see the Tories' out-of-touch Westminster focus more clearly than in planning, where their Planning for the Future white paper is proposing to set up 'Growth Areas' where planning consent is automatically assumed, and where developers will bypass planning committees and public objections. (This must be opposed.)

PROTECTING PEOPLE

By contrast to a Tory government which seeks to abandon residents to big business, the mission of the County Council for the past decade has been to protect the people of County Durham - and particularly the vulnerable members of our society.

DCC is one of only a few councils in England which still exempts its poorest residents from paying Council Tax and, during the pandemic, DCC used the Hardship Fund to provide up to £300 additional council tax relief to thousands of households. The Council allocated £3million for support to vulnerable people; and when the Tories refused to do so, stepped in and provided free holiday meals to 10,000 children. Meanwhile, our 'one-stop shop' Coronavirus Hub (03000 260 260) advised and helped 75,000 residents who had a Coronavirus-related problem during the pandemic.

Central to this determination to protect have been County Durham Labour's extensive and highly successful environmental and climate policies. And - where DCC recently won the national accolade of 'best climate initiative' - we note that a recent UN report recorded that the Tory government is failing to live up to its climate rhetoric.

BUILDING BACK AFTER THE PANDEMIC

Coronavirus has shown us what matters most. As we emerge from the crisis, we need more investment to secure much-needed services, and we need to build a future society which is more caring, green, equal and fair.

#BuildBackLabour

Sedgefield CLP Campaigns team




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Contact Stu on: 01325 300212
or email: stu@newtonpress.net

Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right

Dear Sir,
I have noticed that there seems to be an ongoing issue frequently highlighted in the Newton News, an issue involving cyclists and pedestrians. I am both a cyclist and a pedestrian, and reading these articles I feel that I can relate to both sides, yes both sides. As there are two sides to this coin, although only one side is being viewed at present . . . pedestrians. I completely empathise with some of the issues raised regarding cyclists but, only to a certain extent, as I feel that the world we are living in right now, some people seem to have nothing better to do than to complain. It is not an easy world to live in at present and, for a vast amount of us, all we can do is make the most of the environment around us in whatever capacity we choose. I have personally noticed that since lockdown began that there has been a rapid increase in people

getting out and about, which is great! Especially as our town has so many paths to follow with such nice scenery, we should think ourselves lucky?

I have walked so many paths around our town and yes, there is the 'odd' occasion when a cyclist shows a lack of respect for pedestrians, usually from the younger ones, but that's just kids for you! But, more often than not, a cyclist will generally slow down and navigate past with a "thank you" and no issues.

However, when I'm cycling, I generally use the 'dedicated' cycle paths around our town, but there are times I may need to veer onto footpaths depending on my route. Like with the vast majority of cyclists, I ride with the utmost respect for pedestrians and duly give way, slow down and pass by politely, which never raises an issue, and it's been like this for as long as I can remember.

I do occasionally come across one or two pedestrians who are nothing less than stubborn and rude and make passing very awkward, and I bet these are the ones complaining all the time? There are certain laws regarding cyclists, but there are laws for so many things in life, which just can't be policed, it's only when something happens that the laws take full effect and come into question, but until that day arrives, it is up to us to be civil and respectful of each other and learn to co-exist in this world. Which brings me to the part that, 'Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right', as recently on a number of occasions I have encountered pedestrians blatantly walking on the 'dedicated' cycle paths, which boils my blood when I inform them that they are on a cycle path and tell them to get off the path, for their own safety of course, and I receive nothing but verbal abuse. So when I read these articles of pedestrians complaining about cyclists, I find the hypocrisy mesmerising when I see pedestrians walking on 'dedicated' cycle paths that are VERY clearly marked and identifiable. It works both ways in my opinion, we are all in the wrong. Perhaps it's time that we STOP being disrespectful to each other. Perhaps it's time we learn to live with each other and share our environment. Perhaps it's time we were more forgiving and understanding and NOT be abusive or complaining when there are more serious things in the world to worry about right now. The bottom line is this, before you put pen to paper, 'Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right', it's that simple. There really is no argument. The only issue is our behaviour and mindset.

Be kind to each other.

A pedestrian and cyclist.



Build Back Lasting

Dear Sir,
This week the DCC Economy Scrutiny Committee considered EU Funding, which has previously provided invaluable support to the county (as a 'Transition Region', County Durham's allocation was £155 million – which had been expected to double over the next few years). EU grants were targeted at deprivation and decarbonisation. In County Durham, they funded such as the DurhamWorks programme (which has supported more than five thousand 16-24-year-olds into work); the Business Energy Efficiency Programme (which has saved money for hundreds of small businesses); a 'County Durham Growth Fund'; housing retrofit schemes; and many more.

LOSING EU FUNDING

The government promised that, after Brexit, it would replace this EU funding; what that promise means, this year, is a pilot 'Community Renewal Fund', which asks DCC to collect, shortlist and submit (by 18 June) competitive bids to a maximum of £3 million for the County as a whole.

Entirely separately, addressing its promise also to tackle regional inequalities, the government has announced a 'Levelling Up Fund', by which County Durham will be able to make six competitive bids for up to £20 million each for transport and regeneration.

There is no guarantee that the County's bids will succeed. And it is worth noting that, even if County Durham is successful in achieving the maximum from all these funding pots, at £123 million it will still fall well short of our previous EU funding.

Unfortunately also, the levelling-up scheme is attracting criticism for political partiality – Rishi Sunak's seat of Richmond, the 83rd/533 richest constituency in the country, is included in the scheme, and an analysis of the chosen constituencies has found that they are overwhelmingly Tory.

TARGETING THE FUNDING

Paul Howell MP graciously made it clear in the Newton News last week that this is not his money to spend. He then went on to say that he intends to focus it on the town centre.

Apart from 'immediately-shovelling-money-into-private-business-pockets' being wearisomely Tory, it will be difficult to work up from nothing a successful £20 million bid by the government's deadline for 'priority-schemes' of 18 June.

And I would wonder whether we might not consider other targets for a £20 million fund aimed at transport and regeneration? The obvious 'shovel-ready' scheme would be the South-West Durham tourism/ economic/ community regeneration programme developing around the Stockton & Darlington Railway Bicentenary, which is part of my Cabinet Support Economic Regeneration brief.

Or – if instead we waited until the government's 2024/25 final deadline "for larger schemes" – why not try for the Rail Freight Interchange at Forrest Park and/or an upgrade to the C35, as an enabling transport package for Aycliffe Business Park?

I would urge all parties to use this opportunity to build a lasting economic infrastructure for the benefit of local business.

John D Clare

Newton News

EASTER DEADLINE 2021

Thursday 1st April - Easter Edition

Deadline: 12noon Tuesday 30th March

Friday 9th April - Back to Normal

Deadline: 12noon Wednesday 7th April

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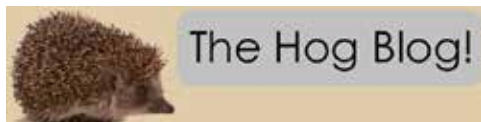
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Firstly, Tara and I express our thanks again to June and Val for making some beautiful Easter Treats, Rabbits, Hoggies and Penguins all with sweets inside, Grannies Choice has also helped us with supplies to finish these little gifts. All proceeds go to our rescue which is constantly busy with sick or injured hedgehogs, from orphaned babies to adult hogs, and we try to never turn a poorly hog away, if we do I always know who can help if we can't. Don't hesitate to seek help wherever possible, there are 24 hour vets in Darlington and Bishop Auckland if you can't get hold of a Hedgehog Rescue Centre and Sore Paws on Saturday mornings have my number too.

We will be releasing overwintered hedgehogs when the night time weather is kinder but we will send them back to gardens with supported feeding because they were not only very small but very poorly too. First, this weekend, we have two very vulnerable adult hogs, Katie who has been badly bitten and Sid who is blind, they will be cared for by Clive and Valentine on a permanent basis because they will certainly die in the wild, Tara and I will be there to support them too. We will also be pairing up, wherever possible, to hope these mammals numbers climb because they are vulnerable to extinction, we don't want this to happen not only because they are very good for our gardens, they are cute too. Please watch out for them and be mindful when you use power tools etc. Check beforehand, it only takes a short time.

All in rescue are doing well, thankfully they can be returned very soon.

Tip of the week: BHPS can be contacted on 01584 890801 during office hours.

Facebook or our email address is: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com or a vet.

Brian Haigh Independent

I am Brian Haigh, your Independent Candidate for Shafto and St Mary's Ward. I have lived in Newton Aycliffe since 1969, all within the St. Mary's Ward, I have lived and worked in Newton Aycliffe and also have raised my family here. I am immensely proud of our town and how it has evolved into a pleasant place to live. I am standing as an alternative to the party system. I have been a town councillor as Independent, I have also served on the Sedgfield Borough Council for six years. If I am elected, I will do my best to help everyone within my Ward and within Newton Aycliffe.

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 elected to the Town and elected to the County Council, to please vote for me at the upcoming elections.

Brian Haigh

Your Independent Candidate for St Mary's and Shafto Ward.



Attention Care Homes

As you all know every Easter The Pastoral Team of The Parish of Great Aycliffe come into all homes on our town to bring an Easter Service to all Residents and Staff.

Because of the current circumstances we are unable to come and visit you all at present. But please try not to worry, **INSTEAD** we are going to live stream an Easter message and short service for YOU ALL.

This will be on The Parish of Great Aycliffe Facebook page, the week beginning March 29th through to April 1st. All Care Homes can access this video on our Facebook page at anytime. You can also use Tablets to access this Easter Greeting which will have messages from our clergy, our Pastoral team members and myself. There will be a couple of your favourite hymns and prayers including The Lords Prayer. It would be great if your Care Home can organise you to view this short service. It can be seen over 4 days so plenty of time for you to see it. In the meantime, take care and God bless you all. Love and blessings.

Pam Lovelass

Authorised Pastoral Assistant

Zero Carbon World

Dear Sir,

Although I don't disagree totally that humans have not helped the planet with burning gas, coal or oil, but we are not totally responsible for global warming as some would lead us to believe.

The planet, as we are all aware, has gone through change constantly during its millions of years of evolution. From multiple ice ages, rewarming, natural disasters, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, etc. As with various animals, insects, birds, fish, becoming extinct, yes humans are to blame for some, by over fishing, hunting and changing habitats, etc., but not all is the fault of humans. Just look at the extinction of Dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals that died out before humans inhabited the planet. Regarding killer diseases such as The Black Death, Asian Flu, Spanish Flu, Swine Flu, plus various other Flu/Influenzas and now Covid-19. Who's to blame for these, I believe the planet, as it tries to cull the population to try and stop the planet being over populated. Then there's the question regarding the use of Petrol/Diesel Cars, Diesel LGVs, Buses, Coaches, Trains, Ships, the list goes on. First the government in its wisdom, some years ago, told us all to buy Diesel cars. Then a few years later they then tell us Diesel cars are more harmful than Petrol cars, so what about all other types of transport that use Diesel? The Government, then bans the sale of all new Petrol and Diesel cars from 2040, then move it forward to 2030! The Government, as far as I understand, haven't put a date on the ban of Fossil Fuelled LGVs, Buses, Ships, Agricultural Machinery, Aircraft, etc. Yet all these forms of transport are just as much responsible!

The Government and most of the world are wanting us to have a Zero Carbon World, that is totally impossible. To manufacture electric cars creates carbon, so does manufacturing anything for renewable energy, wind farms, hydro, solar panels, etc., even growing food, should we all become Vegetarian or Vegan, food still has to be produced and who will be then to blame for reduction of domesticated animals and some breeds could become extinct.

I have probably put the cat among the pigeons and I hope it gets others to express their opinion and start talking about the subject as we hear very little from people who are on the opposite side of the fence to Extinction Rebellion, Climate Action Groups or Friends of the Earth, or you may be on their side of the fence, let us know!

Name and address supplied

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A Club for the Lonely

Dear Sir,

If you are feeling lonely I would like to invite you to join any or all of the three clubs which are enjoyed by many older people.

"New Friends New Places" meet every Tuesday at our new venue, The Big Club, from 2pm until 4.30pm. This group was formed in 2008 and has a membership of over 50 older ladies. We do now have several gentlemen and would like to see this increase. We enjoy bus trips, line dancing, armchair aerobics, various speakers and entertainers as well as Bingo.

"Men Talking Together" This group of gentleman meet twice a week, Monday 12 until 2.30pm for talking together and enjoying a bacon sandwich; Friday 12.30 until 2.30pm, when we have fish and chips delivered. This is all held at the I.E.S. Centre, in a small private unit, in a well laid out building near to the Blue Bridge and behind Newton Press offices.

There are plenty of parking spaces and the no. 7 and no. 5 bus drops you off at the Blue Bridge - 5 minutes walk away. This group started in October 2019, but when the pandemic started the numbers dropped from 20 gentlemen, to 4, which was understandable.

We will be returning to our trips out, meals out and visiting places of interest. Both groups will be well advertised in the Newton News, when the pandemic allows us to start again.

"New Pathways Together" is a group which commenced in 2015 for people with dementia, long term illnesses or just lonely. To begin with we will be operating from The Ark, Silverdale Place, but would like to possibly hold a weekly meeting in different town wards. We can help you help with advice and initially provide you with transport. **Ring 01325 308094 or 07967 901477** if you would like to talk to me about any community problems or receive any information about the clubs or just want a chat over a cup of tea (after restrictions are lifted) please ring me.

Dorothy Bowman 07967 901477 or 01325 308094

(I answer all calls when I return home between 5-7pm)

Many a Slip!

Dear Sir,

Back in October 2020, just before the 2nd Lockdown due to the Coronavirus outbreak, three AFWC (Aycliffe Fell Walking Club) members were enjoying a socially-distanced walk out together, when a small wooden footbridge, covered in unseen ice, led to one of the three falling badly and sustaining a severely injured and bloodied knee, leaving the walker with extensive bruising and a painful limp for the next 8 weeks.

The bridge sits across a small stream at Lyar Dene near Rowley on the A68 south of Castleside. Fortunately, amongst the group of three was Mr Andrew Jakob, current Chairman of AFWC. Following the mishap, Andy wasted no time in reporting the hazardous state of the bridge to Aycliffe Councillor Mr Eddy Adam, who promised immediate action.

Move forward to Wednesday 17th March this year and two of the three walkers were walking in the same area again and, on approaching the same footbridge, could see that the hoped-for remedial work had been carried out. In fact, every inch of the wooden bridge has now been covered in wire mesh. The result is a bridge that walkers can use with confidence, without fear of slipping and possible injury! The previously injured walker is so impressed with the work. A first-class job had been carried out and the result is truly excellent!

Well done and thank you to Eddy Adam and Aycliffe District Council for taking the report seriously and for reacting so promptly and professionally in addressing the issue!

Alan Holmes (*The injured walker!*)



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

The progress on vaccines continues to be amazing, as a country we have now vaccinated over half the adult population and in Newton Aycliffe over 20,000 people have been vaccinated by the Jubilee Medical Practice team at Cobblers Hall. I would like to thank and applaud this team, led by Gill Johnson, the team of admin and clinicians, Janet, Dr Winny Jose, Jennifer, Kennedy, Kath, Hayley, along with ANP's and paramedics Tony, Belinda, Susan, Lisa, Ali, Julie, Bev, Joanne, Shirley, Chris, Kev, Leean, Viv, Margaret, Denise, Christopher and Alan along with several volunteers to marshal that include Greg, Chris, Mike, Thomas and Jackson who have braved some very bad weather to help guide patients to the right place. They have all been outstanding. Please remember though it takes a couple of weeks for a jab to be fully effective and also that you still have to follow the rules.

I have spent time this week encouraging the team at Durham County Council that we should be compiling a bid to the Levelling Up Fund urgently with a view to hitting the first deadline and I will continue to pursue this.

I have also had some very interesting sessions including on ARIA (Advanced Research and Invention Agency) which has the potential to drive dramatic innovation from which some of our local businesses can potentially profit and I will speak in the House in its support. This is a fund being introduced that will facilitate high risk and high reward transformational research. I also will be speaking in debates on Trade and Hospitality in the next week as well as asking a question to the Minister for Women and Equalities about young women studying STEM subjects. I had the pleasure of meeting the Head of Woodham School to catch up on a number of points and was delighted to hear how well their testing had gone, but also that, so far, they had not had a single positive test. On Friday I also joined the CAMRA Durham team to discuss their requests for support and will write to the Chancellor as a result. I also spoke in the House on the trade bill amendment being referred to as the genocide amendment. I absolutely supported the need for Parliament to have a vote on any new trade deals and I would not support any with countries with credible concerns of genocide. Next week sees the first stage point in lockdown lifting on 29 March, but please could I ask you to see these changes as options and not to try and stretch interpretations to the limit. It is all about lifting the restrictions in a slow and controlled way, as the Prime Minister has said, we want this to be irreversible.

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

Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

Easter Service

A socially distanced Easter Sunday Communion Service will be held at Neville Parade Methodist Church on 4th April at 3pm. Please note the change of time. The Service will be led by Rev David Payne.

Got Symptoms? Get Tested

Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms
Together we can keep our communities safe



www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus



Paul Howell
Member of Parliament
for Sedgefield

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



Roman's Lumin8 Range, Now Haven8

The UK and Europe's leading shower designer and manufacturer, Roman, has repositioned the Lumin8 range to become Haven8.

Roman's Haven8 collection encompasses an array of One Door Quadrants; Two Door Quadrants; Bi-Fold Doors; Pivot Doors; Sliding Doors; Level Access Sliding Doors; a selection of Side Panels and In-Line Panels; and stylish Bath Screens, with 8mm toughened glass thickness, 1950mm in height and bright silver framing, which effortlessly and seamlessly complement all bathroom shapes and styles.

The move to Haven8 means the range will be nett priced with no RRP's. As a result, the actual purchasing prices available will



show a reduction of around 30% to most customers.

Lumin8 still stays as a range within Roman's main showroom guide but it is now focused on specialist doors and panels - including Inswing Doors and a large selection of curved walk-in wetroom panel options.

Roman have also added 3 key volume Bath Screens to the Haven range which further strengthens the leading shower manufacturer's Power Showerproof Bath

Screen offering, with no change to the excellent specification of the products. David Osborne, CEO at Roman: "I know our customers really appreciate the fact that we have held prices since July 2019 in a time of such uncertainty and also reduced prices by repositioning our Lumin8 range to Haven8. Our commitment to Made in Britain certainly resonates more positively than ever before".

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Labour Candidate Peter Bergg

Dear Sir,
I am once again privileged to have been selected to represent the Labour Party in the forthcoming election for Great Aycliffe Town Council's Byerley Park, Horndale and Cobbler's Hall Ward on Thursday 6th May 2021.



I have served as a Councillor representing this ward for the last six years and previously for twelve years on Great Aycliffe Town Council and for eight years on Sedgfield District Council. I look forward, with your help, to being able to represent you once again.

After service, in the Royal Air Force, I gained a five subject Bachelor of Arts degree from York University, which included Politics, Economics and Statistics, all of which gave me a good background for being a Councillor. Since that time, when working for the County Council, I also gained a Master of Science degree in Computer Science with distinction, a management diploma and teaching qualifications.

During my forty one years living on the town I have been involved in several of the town's voluntary organisations and for thirty of those years I was heavily involved with Greenfield School, from leading the fight against the second proposed closure, being a Trustee on the committee, enabling the school to become a community arts facility and being a founder member of the trust which was set up to facilitate co-operation between Greenfield, Woodham and Sunnydale Secondary schools in post 14 education. I retired from the schools Governing Body in 2013, after being Chair of Governors for many years, to allow a new and forward thinking governing body to be set up for the amalgamation of Greenfield School with the Shildon Campus.

I believe I have the ability, the intelligence and the integrity to once again serve the ward and the town as a whole and my excellent attendance record in the past shows my commitment. I hope that you will vote for me, so that once again I will be able to fully represent you on the Town Council. I am available if you have any questions or concerns, where you think I may help by telephone, mobile 07432 070717 or at my home address, which is: 20 Lascelles Avenue, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7HP.
Thank you
Peter John Bergg

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5				1	6		2
		7	2			8	3
	6	1	3		5		
			8	4	3	2	
1				3		7	
3	2			6		1	
	3		6			5	
8		2		3		6	
6			1		3		

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Lovely photo of an early flowering Daffodil by Ian Dewar

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Litter Picking



Nine litter pickers, organised by Ian Gray and Vince Crosby, met on 24th March for an hour to clear the wild flower meadow area between the railway line and Greenfield Way.

Photograph shows the amount collected. For information on future picks, please contact Ian Gray at Ian.gray38@btinternet.com

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Obituary

Dorothy Howard

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully at home on 16th March 2021, aged 76.

Dorothy was a much loved Wife of Jimmy and cherished Mother of Lesley and Lee; adored Gran to Leanne, Jemma, Curtis and Rebecca and proud Great-Gran of Aaliyah, Leo and soon to be little baby Lowes.

Dorothy was a dearly loved Sister to Sue and Joan and treasured Auntie to Paul, Joanne, Mark and Michelle. Dorothy was also a cherished Mother-in-Law, Great Auntie and friend to many.

Funeral is taking place at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Tuesday 30th March at 10.30am. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we regret that this is invitation only, however anyone who wishes to pay their respects, are welcome to attend outside of the crematorium.

Elizabeth Clark (Betty)

Passed away peacefully on Thursday 18th March. Much loved Mam, Mother-in-law, Nana and Great Nana. Funeral to be held on Wednesday 31st March, 10.30am at Durham Crematorium.

In Memoriam

Enid Dawes 29th March 2020 Mam

There is nothing in this world that could have prepared me for losing you. You were a strong lady, who did not deserve what you went through.

I can't believe it's a year since we last saw you. You are greatly missed every day.

You and Dad gave me the best gifts that any child could have ever wished for. You truly loved me, taught me and most importantly believed in me. We have lots of lovely memories, which we will treasure always. Love and miss you every single day. Jackie and Lee

Nanna

If we could have a single wish, we'd visit heaven up above. To see our Nanna, whom we love so very much. Love and miss you. Shaun, Daniel and Nikki xxx

Enid Dawes Nana



I can't believe it has been a year since we said goodbye. You are in our thoughts every day and in our hearts forever.

I love you to the moon and back and always will. Louise, Anth, Daniel and Ryan x

Peter Woodhead 31st March

Just like that Dad, you were gone. It's so hard to believe. I didn't get the chance, before you had to leave. To tell you that I love you, and to hold your hand and say. Just how much you meant to me, in each and every way. All our love always, Mandy & John xxx

Peter Woodhead 31st March

If I could write a story, it would be the greatest ever told. Of a kind and loving Father, who had a heart of gold. I could write a million pages, but still be unable to say, just how much I love you every single day. I will remember all you taught me, I'm hurt but won't be sad. Because you will send me down the answers, and you will always be my Dad. Love you always, Gary xxxxxxxx

Enid Dawes 10th January 1937 - 29th March 2020



We still can't believe its been a year since we said our sad goodbyes, you were such a big part of our lives every day, but even though we can no longer see you, the memories will remain forever in our hearts and we will always treasure the amazing times with you and Dad forever.

We will love and miss you always Mam, all our love Martin, Jane and family xxxx

David Wood (Woody)

28th March 2020
No longer in our lives to share, but in our hearts you are always there. Love, Joyce and family

Tracey Savage (nee Reay)



1st April 2017

You were my favourite hello and hardest goodbye. No longer by my side, but forever in my heart. Love always, Jason xx

Congratulations

Brian & Joyce Raine

Happy 55th Wedding Anniversary
26th March 2021

Love from
all the family

Birthday Remembrance

Grant Edgar

On your birthday, 27th March 1968. Still loved, still missed, a dear Son.

Your birthday is here, But you aren't, I'd send a gift, But I know I can't So I'll make a wish, Upon a star, To carry my love, To where you are. Love always, Mam, Paul, Lee and Andy xxx

Patricia Fisk (Pat)

24/3/1936 - 7/7/2000

In loving memory of our dear Pat, on this your birthday. Taken to soon. Loved and cherished always, Tony, Susan, Michael & family xxxx

Susanne Charlton



Congratulations on your new job.

I wish you luck and happiness. Thank you for being my rock throughout our time together. Love you Schatzty Tim xxxxx

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Five Year Old Raising Funds to Help Homeless

Dear Sir,
I am wondering if the residents of Newton Aycliffe could take some time to read this and assist my daughter in her quest?
A few days ago, Ava, who is five years old, said out the blue that she wanted to use her



pocket money to buy a blanket for people who live on the street, as they might be cold. As you can imagine that made me quite emotional and so proud of her to even want to do this. Then the same the day she came running out of school with a bigger idea. She explained that she wanted to raise money, or for people to donate, to purchase food/blankets and pillows. She finds it so sad that people are living on the streets and wants to do as much as she can to help. If anyone can help donate anything, I am more than happy to collect, or you can drop requested items with us (Covid-19 safe, of course), and I can take it to our chosen charity, Junction7.

Ava also wanted me to make videos to document this and to show people on the streets, but then understood they wouldn't have devices to watch them on, so she asked me to upload it to Facebook. If donors prefer to keep their distance due to Covid-19, I will be setting up a Facebook page to donate money instead. Ava and I will then purchase blankets/food/toiletries etc to go to the charity. Facebook page for more information is: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Aogowling?utm_term=erGnWwX6g
Thank you
Emily Gowling

Good Reasons to Vote Labour

Dear Sir,
Independent councillor Ken Robson is perhaps being a little over-exuberant when he states that "Newton Aycliffe is one of the most beautiful towns in the United Kingdom" - Newton News 19 March 2021. He says that not many councils provide free coach trips for the elderly, a fireworks display and Santa tours but I do admire his obvious enthusiasm and love for our town. He is correct in what he says. Cynics may point out that these events only happen once a year but they do bring our community together. Ken also correctly points out the lovely parks and walks like the Great Aycliffe Way. These are available all year round. Ken clearly knows what he is talking about but it needs to be made clear that these amenities have been provided for many years by a Labour run Town Council - I will repeat this for effect - a Labour run Town Council.

Many people do not take much interest in local government politics. If people are satisfied with the services that they are receiving they tend to just get on enjoying them without even thinking about it. It is only when these services are taken away that people suddenly realise that something that they used to enjoy is no longer available. By then it's too late.

So, to the Liberal Democrats ideas for how our town should be ran. Reducing the number of representatives on the council, engaging in a war on waste and reducing the council tax whilst at the same time maintaining services at the same level - NN 12 March 2021. Really?! No outline yet of where this waste has been identified and no transparency on how these savings will effect services. When the Liberal Democrats talk about savings, they actually mean cuts. Of course, they have a lot of experience in making cuts. Let's remember their time in the Coalition government when they were willing partners to a massive programme of cuts to local government. These cuts led to local authorities taking actions that have already forced them to cut to the bone. The exercise in waste reduction has already been taken. The Liberal Democrats need to come clean with the electorate and explain where these cuts will be made.
Stephen Braithwaite

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