

Friday 9th April 2021

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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



The Copter Has Landed

See page 3 for full story

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PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgfield



Quick Guide to Your Election Candidates

Dear Sir,

Labour: A vote for Labour is a vote for Labour policies written by Sir Keir Starmer, Jeremy Corbyn, Diane Abbott and Co. Not the person standing, as they will not be able to alter or appeal policies. They will be expected to follow policies as dictated by Durham Cabinet or face recriminations.

Liberal Democrats: Will also have to follow the dictates of their party that is called a party whip. Those of us old enough to remember will recall the Lib Lab coalition and the condemn coalition which sold out students in return for a few gongs and knighthoods. Poor students after being told that their fees were fair then had their fees tripled putting many in debt for years to come. Police numbers were cut, lights disappeared, all in the name of austerity. Michael Stead is an accountant and landlord whose only concern seems to be the saving of tax on his big house. I believe if the Lib Dems get control of our council they will not be happy with penny pinching but may move on to other items such as pensioners outings, firework display and, yes, even Santa's tour. A vote for Lib Dems could condemn all off us to a local austerity. Nationally they have vowed to take us back into Europe.

Conservatives: Have not announced any candidates as yet, nor any policies, but riding on a wave of support after the last election could be fielding candidates from beyond the area who aren't familiar with Newton Aycliffe.

Independents: Have been joined by dissatisfied members of the Labour party, unhappy with the potential takeover by the left wing. A vote for your Independent candidate is a vote for a local person who cares deeply about, and is committed to, Newton Aycliffe. Many of the Independent candidates are highly experienced and at least three are active in the community outside of council. Judge us on our results for the people of our town and place your cross for Independents.

David Elliot

Proud to be your Independent Candidate for Shafto / St Mary's

What Price Party Politics?

Dear Sir,

The letter by Cllr. Bob Fleming in last week's Newton News is astounding. Labour County Councillors are concealing information detrimental to the residents of Newton Aycliffe.

Recently we have seen a refusal by Labour County Councillors to engage in debate on double taxation in Newton Aycliffe Council chamber, claiming they are paid by Durham County Council, DCC (thus employees) even though they are also claiming allowances from great Aycliffe Council and were elected not appointed. We should not be surprised by this, previously they signed non-disclosure documents with Livin over their plan to demolish social homes in West Ward to make way for development of the prime land adjacent to a train station and golf course. We now hear that DCC's plan is to develop School playing fields in flagrant disregard of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan which was adopted by all Aycliffe Councillors.

When we, the public, vote for candidates at an election we assume that those elected are fighting for our interests. Who can remember the closure of the DLI museum at Aykley Heads and the disgust displayed by our military veterans or the valiant fight by teaching assistants who didn't feel valued? How about the fight to replace Whinlatter Bridge, which only came about after a petition was taken in the area forcing the Labour Councillors to have it repaired?

The list goes on, but much of this would not have been exposed if it were not for the efforts of Cllr. Bob Fleming, who has joined the ranks of the Independents, to be allowed to speak out on behalf of this town which he loves and has spent a large proportion of his life defending.

Much of this controversy is caused by Labour Candidates having to follow policies from Keir 'Afterthought' Starmer, Jeremy 'On The Fence' Corbyn and of course that great mathematician Diane Abbott. Never again should we allow political parties to disregard our town and people by blindly adhering to national political parties such as Labour, Lib Dem or Tory. We need people with the freedom to speak up on our behalf.

Name and address supplied.

Correction

Dear Sir,
I regret to have to correct false information put out by the Labour party spokesman, Mr Vince Crosby, he stated last week that "shortly we will have no Councillors, only prospective candidates."

He is totally, legally, and absolutely wrong.

The law states the terms of all the existing Councillors end on the fourth day after the day of the election, at which time the newly elected Councillors succeed them (provided they have made declarations of acceptance of office). Local Government Act 1972 Section 16(3). This is not disputable, it is the Law, since 1972. Cllr Arun M Chandran Independent

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The Copter has Landed

Herbal Gin Bar based in Northfield Way, Aycliffe Business Park is flying high after the new feature, a helicopter, was put in place. Colin Scott and Wayne Richardson have again gone to the extreme, after installing a Eurocopter in the Bar.

The huge copter, originally cost £4m, which was exchanged for six bottles of gin, had been retired after 30 years in service and, after months planning, the helicopter was given a new lease of life as it was carefully manoeuvred into pride of place above the bar.

Wayne said: "We've been hoping to develop the bar, so when you sit down you've got somewhere swish to sit - we wanted to make it a really unusual experience. It was fairly straightforward to install, if you can assemble the right team, you can do anything and that's what we did. I'm led to believe it's the only bar in the country with a helicopter by several different aviation enthusiasts."

The popular bar has its quirkiness with special features, tables, chairs and the bar itself, from salvaged holiday jets. The latest addition took around eight hours to install. Opening in July 2020, the bar has only traded for four out of twelve months due to Covid-19 restrictions imposed throughout the year.



Mary Retires

Dear Sir,
I wish to inform the residents of Woodham Ward, that I will be standing down for this year's Town Council elections, as I will be 96 in June and after over 18 years I would like to put my feet up! Thank you all for always voting for me and supporting me when I was Mayor. Thank you all and keep safe.
Mary Dalton



3M Donate Easter Packs to Play Café



3Mers made a great contribution towards helping Play Café provide Easter themed Activity Packs this school holiday. Employees at the 3M manufacturing site on the Industrial Estate donated Easter eggs and treats and some super craft materials and jigsaws for families in Newton Aycliffe. Thanks go especially to Claire Bateman, who spotted Play Café's appeal for eggs and organised the collection. Play Café provided Healthy Breakfast Foods, ensuring a meal suitable for morning and before bed. This holiday most families have received vouchers to buy food to replace Free School Meals. Activity Packs distributed with the Easter Goodies make the days at home more interesting, and help families play and learn together. There was an Easter egg for every family member! Volunteers worked throughout lockdowns, to pack and deliver from The Big Club, where Alan, Gary and the committee give us tremendous support. Thanks go to them all, and to Shirley, Tesco Community Champion, who make our efforts possible. The families were delighted with their packs. Grateful thanks to everyone who donated this Easter holiday, Play Café Trustees and volunteers.
Photo: Claire Bateman of 3M and Alison Firby, Play Café volunteer

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Labour Candidate Brian Hall

Easter Holiday Litter Pick

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 to represent the ward of Byerley Park, Horndale and Cobblers Hall on Thursday 6th May 2021.



I have served this ward as a Councillor on both Great Aycliffe Town Council for some 20 years and Sedgfield Borough for the last 8 years, before the closure in 2008. I have also served on Middridge Parish Council. As a former businessman I used those roles to ensure that the Council is professionally managed and run. In 2008 I was elected as the Mayor of the Town then elected as the Chairman of Recreation Committee which covered the following areas of responsibility including parks and other areas of recreation. I believe I have the knowledge and ability, along with intelligence, to once again serve the people of the ward and the town, my record of the past shows my commitment. Therefore, I would ask for your vote so that once again I will be able to fully represent you on Great Aycliffe Town Council. Due to Covid 19 restrictions it has become impossible to campaign in the usual manner but I can be contacted via telephone on 01325 314105 or mobile 07899 721573. Brian Hall

Dear Sir,
On Wednesday 31 March, 14 volunteers (including two very enthusiastic children on their Easter holiday) litter picked for an hour along the wooded walk between Gunn Lane and Moore Lane. It's always unpleasant to discover just how much rubbish there is, but one nice surprise today was a love heart pebble nestled at the base of one of the trees.

Please contact Ian Gray at:
ian.gray38@btinternet.com
for information on future litter picks.
Julie Dudley



Litter Picking

Dear Sir,
Our litter picking duties continue with still much litter, now with volunteers, going it alone this week, we covered the area from the Eco Centre and Sports Club down Gunn Lane towards Travellers Green. When you go out as a team you are able to collect much more in a shorter time. The team collected enough waste to fill a Town Council flat back truck. The disappointing thing we collected was two full unopened packs of the Newton News which were obviously not delivered by whoever, just dumped in the wood by the rear of Travellers Green. However, the team have agreed to carry on regardless and the team leader is determined not to let things like this stop us, it is a long programme that we are involved in to conquer, with reports like mine, but the team leader is our Labour Candidate Ian Gray. We have volunteers on a regular basis picking up in West Park and surrounding areas. Ian can be contacted by email at ian.gray38@btinternet.com Vince Crosby

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Neighbourhood Policing

By PC Michael Welch



Hello everybody, hope you and your families are well and you have not over indulged in Easter eggs. This week has been a very busy week, in terms of us working over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend. Again we continue to see an increase in calls around the misuse of off road bikes at various locations across the town. I would encourage residents to report any information you have about these bikes to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. If your information leads to bikes being recovered that have been involved in crime then you may be eligible for a cash reward. I would like to reassure all residents that we take all complaints around off road bikes seriously. Also over the past couple of weeks we have seen an increase in damage being caused to vehicles by unknown persons scratching cars. Again, I would like to encourage residents to report any damage to the police, as well as checking any private CCTV cameras and sending the details into the team. Stay safe. Police Constable 2696, Mike Welch

Trust Experience

Dear Sir,
Some people are nervous about vaccination, but no one can disagree that - in overseeing its spectacular roll-out to millions of people - our NHS has given us hope we did not have before. Never has there been a more important election, as we begin to restore social interactions put on hold, business and industry held in abeyance, and mental health stress tested to breaking point by lockdown. Coronavirus has shown us what matters most. As we emerge from the crisis, we need to go back to those feelings of safety and belonging which we took for granted.

REBUILDING WHAT MATTERS
The government is talking about making the public pay for the lockdown and, as usual, it is the middling-to-lower sort who are going to be asked to fork out. People have noticed that the Tories are gradually moving the burden from central government onto Council Tax ... and it has also been noted that this year, for the first time, the County Council refused the government's recommended 5% increase in Council Tax, setting a lower figure of 2.99%. Whoever would have thought that a Labour Council would be protecting us from a Conservative government Council Tax hike ... but it is true. The County Council has provided strong leadership to keep its finances under control, and is NOT one of those many councils now on the verge of bankruptcy.

Indeed it is comforting to know that, in its build-back Budget this year, Labour-led Durham County Council found extra money for highway maintenance, for street lighting, for 'Find and Fix' neighbourhood improvements, and for additional wardens. There is extra money too, for initiatives to improve public safety so people feel secure. And Great Aycliffe & Middlesbrough Partnership is to receive extra funding for local regeneration schemes (for local residents to decide).

STICK WITH SUCCESS
And what will happen to our core services to older residents if/when the Tories return to slashing grants to councils? It is a reassurance to know that DCC Extra Care Services were judged 'safe, responsive, well led, effective and caring' at their last Ofsted; that County Durham Care Academy was launched in August 2019 to train carers; and that Durham now has 19 Dementia Friendly Communities across the county. The County Council has an 11-year history of maintaining frontline services despite brutal government cuts. Whatever they have criticised Labour for, people in County Durham have always trusted Labour to care for them!

But local government is more than just about caring! Durham County Council has a turnover of more than £1billion. Its revenue budget is £400million, with a projected capital investment of £484million 2021-25. The senior Labour councillors who have steered the County Council safely through the past decade of cuts are immensely skilled and experienced, and we need to think very carefully before we vote to replace them with candidates, some of whom have no experience whatsoever of being on a council at any level.

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**** Updates from MP Paul Howell at 12noon weekdays ****

SATURDAY

9-10am	Eurovision Show	Simon Harding
10-12am	Moderation	Jack & Garvey
"Kitchen Floorfillers" Sponsored by The Cleaning Group		
12-2pm	Kitchen Floorfillers	Caz Bojangles
2-4pm	Weekly Edition	Paul Baker
4-6pm	Motown, Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby
"The Saturday Night Experience" Sponsored by Bengal Lounge Indian Restaurant & Takeaway		
6-8pm	Evening Session	Jimjams
8-9pm	Rock the House	Carl Booth
9-10pm	Retro Trance Mix	OZ-DJ
10-12am	Drum 'n' Bass Show	MC Supa
12-1am	Night Club Session	A DJ

SUNDAY

9-10am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	Random Reiki Master	Phil Hawkins
12-2pm	Dave's Sunday Brunch	David Ringer
"Blues Show" Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service		
2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin & Monica
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6:30-8pm	Jazz Time	Mike Dixon
8-10pm	Paul's Down Time	Paul Kjenstad
10-12am	Sean's Sunday Set List	Sean Lawless

* MONDAY to FRIDAY DAILY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop (Mon, Tues & Wed)	Richard Smith
12-1pm	Call Me No 1 (Tues & Thurs)	Richard Smith
1-2pm	Memory Lane	Colin McNeillie
2-4pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker

MONDAY

5-6pm	Euro Chart Show	Dave Graham
"Through the Decades" Sponsored by McDonalds Newton Park		
6-7pm	60s Show	Karl Simons
7-8pm	70s Show	Peter Rush
8-9pm	80s Show	Gary Avery
9-10pm	90s Show	Paul Baker
10-11pm	00s Show	Producer Dan
11-12am	Teens Show	Andy Fittes

TUESDAY

6-7pm	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
7-12am	Motown, Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	16th 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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Longer Opening Hours for County Recycling Centres



Recycling centres across County Durham will be open for longer as part of a move to summer opening hours. Durham County Council-run household waste recycling centres will be open from 9am to 6pm, although times at some sites may vary. The council has created a new online interactive map which members of the public can use to get an indication of whether or not their local site is busy. A green light indicates there is no queue at a particular centre, whereas a red one means visitors are more likely to face a queue. The map is updated once every hour at www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc. As the country eases out of the Government's lockdown restrictions,

members of the public are advised to only visit the recycling centres if necessary and that some sites may be busy. Residents are also being reminded that they can book a bulky waste collection for larger items if they need to by going to www.durham.gov.uk/bulkywaste.

Oliver Sherratt, Durham County Council's head of environment, said: "Our household waste recycling centres being open for a longer period each day will give people across the county more opportunities to dispose of unwanted waste safely and securely. "We'd advise anyone planning a trip to a recycling centre to check the interactive map on our website before setting off and as far as possible avoid visiting at a time when queues are likely. Current coronavirus social distancing measures remain in place at all of our sites in line with Government guidance."

For full details on recycling centres in County Durham go to www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc

Labour Candidate James Atkinson

Dear Sir,

It was really special to be elected in 2013 to GATC, especially to have my endeavour in the first term rewarded by topping the poll at the following elections for Town and County Councils in 2017.

It's about giving back so following the example set for us by Mrs Hamilton's strenuous inspection back in the 1950/60's, I learned from that generation.

I've always been involved with the youth of the Town through football and sports; I mention this as a qualification when I report how superbly well the current generation of young parents has nurtured, developed and educated their children. My work as a County Councillor has shown that we can be proud of what we are doing in Newton Aycliffe and the people are the proof.

I've enjoyed the work and am keen to carry on from the foundation I've built, on Great Aycliffe and Durham County Council. I offer my loyalty, integrity and honesty as bi-words for my success. I aim to concentrate further on major issues, street parking, roads, industry and jobs, events and fun stuff, whilst prioritising community engagement, with the possibility of devaluation becoming an issue as well.

I've focussed on earning your vote not just asking for it.

It is the residents in Aycliffe that put the Great into the Council's title and have fulfilled the promise written in the Coat of Arms:

"Non-Minima Sed Maxima Petimus - Not the Least but the Greatest We Seek"

Cllr Jim Atkinson



BBC Presenter Talks Space



Mark Thompson, who has worked on BBC's Stargazing Live, recently delivered a fascinating talk on space and our stars, to students at Vane Road and Byerley Park.

As part of Woodham Academy's increasing provision of Science education to the primary schools in Newton Aycliffe, and its surrounding areas, Mark Thompson's interactive online session inspired all of the Year 5 students who were involved. This was the first example of a range of activities planned for the coming months. Mrs Nichola Jenkins, Head of Cross Phase Science at Woodham Academy, explains, "Within the last year, the education system has developed leaps and bounds in its integration of online teaching, so much so that we can now use experts in fields to develop curriculums and engage and enthuse students. Woodham Academy's aim to improve Science education in the wider community means that we can bring renowned scientists to the classroom far more easily. This will be, without doubt, the first of many opportunities that the students within Newton Aycliffe have to engage with scientific professionals. We are very much looking forward to future events."

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End of a Fifty-Year Era!

Members and staff of Great Aycliffe Town Council this week marked the retirement of long-standing member of staff, Christine Ryder. Christine has worked for the Council for a remarkable fifty years, filling a number of administrative roles, including Mayor's Secretary, and retires as Senior Administrative Officer. Christine is well known to many residents of the parish through her involvement in the organisation of many of the Council's functions and events. She has been an invaluable asset to the Council over many years and will be missed by all her friends and colleagues. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.



Thousands Donated to North East Covid Hit Charities

Around £25,000 has been donated to help Covid hit organisations and charities in the region by Rotary North East in the year since the first lockdown.

The regional body advanced £10,350 in April and May last year to North East Rotary clubs - including Rotary Newton Aycliffe - as the pandemic started to bite, which was match funded by the clubs and distributed to local charities and good causes. This was followed by a further £14,300 in the last month and with more likely to be paid out shortly.

Rotary North East Governor, Barbara Broadbelt, said, "The money the regional body has given to our 50 plus clubs supplements the work they have done this year and the many thousands they have also given away in their own communities."

She said that "Rotary North East had funds which it was not spending on its usual and varied events and meetings over the year, so rather than it sitting in an account, it was decided to distribute it among the clubs. They applied for the money and had to tell us what they were going to do with it, and all has gone to help their communities across the North East."

She said she was 'incredibly proud' of the way Rotary clubs have responded to the needs in their areas. "Clubs have supported food banks, volunteered at vaccination centres, held virtual fundraisers and events to raise more money, among other things."

Information about the work which local clubs have undertaken can be found by accessing Facebook Rotary North East, Twitter @Rotarynortheast or through the website.



Spring

The snow has gone and the sun is out,
Spring is chasing winter, there is no doubt.
Snowdrops came first and now the daffodils.
In most gardens and along hedgerows they fill,
Everywhere with a splash of bright yellow,
Nearby the crocus is a welcome bedfellow.
The warmth of the sun and some beauty in the garden,
Help loosen the soil that the frosts did harden.
Gardeners appear from their locked down homes,
Preparing the beds for what's to be grown.
Spring always heralds new beginnings,
This year especially we can't help grinning,
For at last life can soon be lived fully again,
And we can look forward to seeing our family and friends.

MMK, February 2021

A Global Community Solution Begins with Personal Responsibility

Dear Sir,

Whether we like it or not we must accept personal responsibility for the state of the world we are now living in. A global responsibility equating to social awareness and ultimately a personal responsibility to bring about the changes necessary to guarantee a world fit for future generations. Packing our bags and moving away from the problem isn't an option, and if the time ever came when a space age Ark 2 became a possibility, places would be allocated based on position, power and status. Premier VIP class would be the order of the day, and everyone else written off as expendable and left to fend for themselves.

If you feel this kind of decision would never happen simply open your eyes and you will see these judgement calls being made every single day nationally and on a global scale. Life has become a very cheap commodity unless you have power, wealth and prosperity to protect you from the realities of life in the 21st century. Politicians, world leaders and financial brokers make short term decisions to generate further wealth and prosperity for themselves; decisions having long term negative effects on generations to come.

We live in a large global village that is shrinking by the day; information takes longer to type than it does to travel around the globe. Yet, politics, religion and wealth are the great dividers used to segregate and alienate. Unfortunately once we buy into this belief it becomes easy to convince us we have something to fear from those who appear different from us or have different views or values. Stereotypes used to reinforce the belief we have nothing in common with the people we share our community with.

Each one of us has the power to make a difference; education and personal responsibility are the keys to change and create people able to think for themselves. You are only powerless as long as you believe yourself to be, and each one can bring about change in our own lives which must impact on the lives of those around us and in our community.

The issue is not about having different views; that is what freedom and democracy is all about, the issue is with those who would rather you didn't think for yourself and simply accept what you are told to believe.

Phillip Hawkins
Independent Candidate

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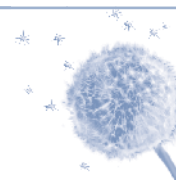


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Lib Dems Responsible for your Council Tax Increases

Dear Sir,

We have now sunk to a depth at which the restatement of the obvious is the first duty of intelligent people. Durham County Council (DCC) is the 48th most deprived council in the country, and has greater-than-average deprivation needs to address. This used to be covered, yes, even by Margaret Thatcher's government, by a grant settlement which took account of need, and gave larger grants to deprived councils like Durham. It was the Lib Dems in Tory Coalition government which said that this was not fair, and that the government should move towards distributing grants strictly on a per head of population basis, not needs. The consequent reduction of grants has meant that DCC's funding of statutory services has shifted from 40% council-tax-funded in 2010 to 60% council-tax-funded today.

The cost of those services rises every year, but over the past decade the government has cut grant-funding by £250 million per year. The money has to come from somewhere.

The rise in Council Tax is part of a government strategy to move the cost of local services from central government grant-funding to people's Council Tax.

This was started by the Lib Dems and Tory coalition in 2010. It was the Lib Dems in government who forced your Council Taxes to have to rise year after year, after year. The Lib Dems changed the way Councils are funded. They deliberately brought this about, by choice. This year, to "help" Councils make up the shortfall of government funding, the government 'allowed' Councils to raise Council Tax, 'if they wished', by 5%. But that 5% increase was built into the government's settlement figures - in effect, the government expected that 5% increase to be part of Councils' balancing their budgets. Conservative-controlled Darlington Borough Council have raised their Council Tax by 4.99%.

The Lib Dems deliberately facilitated this. The Tories could not have done it without their support. They cut the Police by 21,000, closed Police Stations and trebled student tuition fees.

No ifs, no buts, the Lib Dems say one thing before an election, then do differently once they have power. With the government cutting funding every year, Councils having to increase Council Tax every year just to try and maintain facilities and services; DCC will lose £250 million each year, but the Lib Dems say they will cut your Council Tax, how? Their sums don't add up. Just ask the Lib Dems this simple question: ... What will you cut ...?

If you are a student you know who to thank, re: tuition fees; if you are a resident suffering anti-social behaviour, you know who to thank for cutting the police and police stations.

At this local election you will have from 2 to 6 votes on the ballot paper for Town Council and 2 to 3 votes for County, depending on which Ward you live in. It's not a lottery ticket, you do not have to use all your votes. Vote only for Independents, vote selectively and wisely, you've proved you can twice already.

The Lib Dems think people have forgotten their record in office, they haven't. The Independents provide a balanced and experienced team who will confidently and calmly lead, free and open minded, we aim to preserve and protect and improve your services and facilities sustainably, whilst always looking to be cost effective and provide value for money. Putting you, the local community, first.

Being fooled once is a mistake, being fooled twice is a choice.

Councillor Arun M Chandran and Councillor Ken Robson
Independents

Greenfield PE Dept. Gain Quality Mark with Distinction



Greenfield Community College PE department are delighted to announce that they have recently been awarded the Association for Physical Education (afPE) Quality Mark with Distinction for PE and School Sport, the highest accolade possible. This prestigious award is a powerful way of celebrating the success of the department. The afPE Quality Mark recognises, through a thorough self-review and evaluation process, the strength and quality of physical education and sport in the school. It raises the profile of the subject and the school, both locally and nationally, and promotes the high-quality work that is being undertaken on a day-to-day basis.

At Greenfield, we are fully aware that all young people are entitled to benefit from a high-quality physical education and there is significant evidence to show this supports other learning right across the curriculum. It also contributes to healthy and active lifestyles, improves emotional well-being, reduces poor behaviour, increases attendance and develops key skills such as leadership, confidence and social skills. High quality physical education and all the additional benefits are a great cause of celebration and the afPE Quality Mark with Distinction has provided the independent endorsement of this at Greenfield Community College.

Schools across the UK are invited to apply for the afPE Quality Mark which has become the benchmark and industry standard for high quality. Greenfield Community College PE Department now joins only 7 other schools in the North East to have held the highest accolade of Distinction status since the programme started in 2012. It builds on the afPE Quality Mark award received by the department in 2017 and clearly demonstrates the commitment that the department show to continuing to evolve staying at the forefront of high-quality PE and school sport.

The PE department will receive a certificate, an engraved plaque, with the school to be listed on the afPE Quality Mark webpage. Martin Butterworth, Subject Leader for PE, who was responsible for coordinating the application, commented, "I am delighted to be able to receive this award on behalf of the department. It is particularly pleasing to achieve the distinction status which pays tribute to all the hard work of our PE staff on a day-to-day basis, but also acknowledges our outstanding commitment to ensuring that students receive high quality PE and school sport provision. I am very fortunate to lead a fantastic PE team and would like to thank them for all that they do for our pupils. This includes Barbara Davis, a PE teacher of 37 years at Greenfield, who recently retired at the end of the last academic year. She was an inspirational teacher who made a significant difference to thousands of pupils during this time and was an absolute pleasure to work alongside. Thank you, Barbara, and happy retirement".

Greenfield Community College are committed to supporting students to reach their full potential. The school promotes an inclusive curriculum encouraging students to work together to realise an outstanding learning experience. If you would like further information visit www.greenfieldschool.net or contact the school by emailing contact@greenfieldschool.net or by calling 01325 300378.

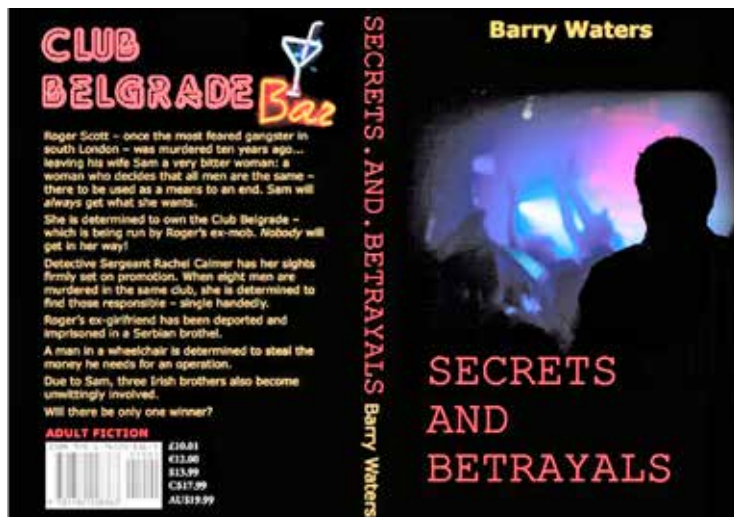
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Secrets and Betrayals



Secrets and Betrayals is the latest novel from ex-pat, Newtonian - Barry Waters.

Following hot on the heels of the best selling "Destined for the Top" and "Because of One Man" it is the third in the Roger Scott series. A fast moving story of betrayal and revenge, that goes from South to West London, to Serbia and back again. The main protagonist, Sam Scott, will stop at nothing to get what she wants, but will she succeed? Now available from Amazon, and most good book shops.

An Environmentally Aware Community

Dear Sir,
Many good things come out of the heightened political awareness that accompanies an election - recently:

(1) LITTER-PICKING

First, may I pay my respects to all those many people who are telling me or Facebook that they are going out picking litter. There seems to have been a post-lockdown wave of littering, and we should be hugely grateful to those people whose reaction has been to go out with bags and pick it up.

If you want to do something more than just fill a bin-bag to put in your own wheely bin, and to organise a formal litter-pick, I would advise you to phone the Town Council on 01325 300700, or email litterfreedurham@durham.gov.uk for advice and the special blue bags.

(2) WILDING GARDENS

Thank you to those people who are writing to me telling me that they are rewilding their garden. This is vital as we seek to improve the natural local biodiversity. One way to measure the ecological health of a plot is by judging the size of animal that could pass through it unnoticed, and I would appeal to all gardeners to set aside at least part of their garden where they mow the grass less frequently (once every four or five weeks creates a mini-meadow) on a longer cut.

(3) SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING DECISIONS

Finally, may I commend the lady who wrote to me advocating sustainable purchasing - where consumers make personal purchasing decisions so as to minimise waste and damage to the climate and environment. She said she was moved to write by the sight of the queues at the tip!

DCC has a corporate sustainable procurement strategy but this is a brilliant idea also for willing individuals, which I shall ask to be incorporated into our Climate Plan.

John D Clare

Newton News

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Neil Standing for Woodham

Dear Sir,

After much deliberation and thought, I would like to announce my intention to stand as a candidate in the Woodham Ward of Great Aycliffe Town Council.

I am a retired Health Care Worker who worked for decades in our local N.H.S. Trust, although now retired, I continue to do some voluntary work within our two local N.H.S. Trusts providing support and information for Health Care Workers.



I am extremely proud of our N.H.S. to the point that a few years ago I volunteered and joined "The Peoples March For The N.H.S.", walking the 300 miles from Jarrow to London, following in the footsteps of the original Jarrow Marchers, to highlight the many issues outstanding within our N.H.S. and hopefully raised awareness of our great institution, which provides health care from cradle to grave to all, free, at the point of service.

I have lived in Woodham since 1993 and I am very proud of being a Trustee and Management Committee member for the last eight years at our very own and excellent Woodham Community Centre, which supports many local community schemes including the excellent Defibrillator scheme around our town.

I will not make any false or inaccurate statements, which I can not deliver, such as promising to cut double taxation or reducing our town council tax by very large percentages. Woodham and Newton Aycliffe are great places to live in and enjoy the many facilities available and I would concentrate my efforts and responsibilities to benefit our ward and town.

I will be standing as an official Labour candidate, but would like to add that I am not a member of Momentum, nor have I ever been.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I would be very grateful for your support in this election. Please use your vote and let's look to a bright future for our great town.

Neil Collinson

Labour candidate Woodham Ward

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Time to Fix Our Parking Problems and Sort Out Our Ruined Grass

Dear Sir,
The number of areas where the grass is being driven over, or parked on, is beyond a joke. It's time we found a solution to this problem and I think I have it.

Great Aycliffe Town Council has over £1 million in reserves. County councillors get £20,000 a year in neighbourhood budget, there is an AAP budget of over £100,000 and an extra £300,000 will be sitting there in April.

With some of this money I'm sure we could get a programme of new parking bays installed.

A councillor in another part of County Durham commented to me recently that he'd asked for a quote some years ago for some parking bays. One firm, approved by the council, quoted just over £13,000 another £16,000 and the county council quote was over £24,000.

The work was done for less than £24,000 after the councillor played merry hell, but councillors are forced to use the county council when it's county council funding. Crazy Labour policies, wasting our money!

So here's the solution: Our Town Council reviews the areas in our town where we have the worst parking problems.

Then we do a procurement exercise, getting the required number of quotes for a big block of the most essential work, including offering local firms the chance to bid.

In one year we can fix loads of problems and improve road safety too.

Whatever the most appropriate and, importantly, most cost-effective solution, that's what we do.

In some areas this could be block paving, in some areas it could be tarmac, in others it could be verge hardening.

Whatever the solution, what is absolutely clear is that this is not going to happen with Labour county councillors because they just don't have the imagination, pay inflated County Council prices, and, after decades, haven't done it.

The second solution is that we repair and replace rotting fencing. A minority of antisocial residents, who couldn't care less, are ruining our local estates. If extra low level fencing is needed, to stop cars damaging grass, we put it in, again after getting proper quotes, so more can be done.

If anyone persists in damaging the grass and parking on it, we repair it and send the culprits a bill.

Lib Dem councillors at County Hall tried to get a proper policy to address parking on grass a few years ago but Labour councillors refused to act.

If you elect Tony Armstrong and I, we will do everything we can so that our local estates start to look as nice as they should do.

Take care and stay safe.

Nev Jones

Lib Dem candidate for Aycliffe East County Council Division and GATC Neville Ward



National Insurance Scam

A warning has been issued to everyone with a National Insurance number after a surge in calls were reported trying to falsely steal information. Everyone in the UK is sent a National Insurance number before their sixteenth birthday - this helps with applying for jobs, and identifies you with HMRC and the DWP.

More than 1,000 complaints have been made to Action Fraud, with victims reporting they have received an automated telephone call, during which they are told their "National Insurance number has been compromised".

They are then instructed to "press 1 on their handset to be connected to the caller" in order to supposedly fix the issue and get a new National Insurance number. Once connected to the "caller", victims are pressured into handing over personal details - which scammers claim is to enable them to receive a new National Insurance number.

However, giving the criminals your personal details will enable them to commit fraud using your credentials and information. If you receive an unexpected phone call, text message or email that asks for your personal or financial details, remember to be Scam Aware

- **STOP** - Don't give out any personal or financial information by phone, text or email unless you are absolutely certain of who you are talking to

- **CHALLENGE** - could it be a scam? It's perfectly acceptable to reject, refuse or ignore requests for personal or financial details.

- **PROTECT** - contact your bank immediately if you think you may have fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or call the Action Fraud team on 0300 123 2040. Please note this number will be charged at your normal network rate.

Sara Davies in 'Top 10'

Sara Davies MBE has been named as one of the '10 Most Admired Businesswomen to watch in 2021' in an international publication.

The entrepreneur and Dragon investor featured on the front cover of US-based CIO Views magazine to celebrate 10 businesswomen to watch throughout the year. Sara was the only UK-born leader to be included among nine other businesswomen operating in a multitude of industries including childcare, security, communications and PR, retail, technology and finance.

CIO Views magazine keeps its readers up to date with informative insights on business, technology and innovation. The publication referred to Sara as a "multifaceted leader who inspires the generation with her creative ideas".

In addition to her childhood and entrepreneurial beginnings, the piece focused on how Sara has revamped the art and craft industry with innovation and community, in addition to her definition of success and the future of Crafter's Companion.

Sara said: "I am honoured to be included in CIO Views' 10 Most Admired Businesswomen to watch in 2021. It was great to discuss the evolution of the company and my journey as an entrepreneur with an international publication."



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Parliament Talk

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

Parliament has a two-week recess over Easter, where MPs don't go into Westminster. This provides time for more constituency focus, as MPs don't have to be thinking about Westminster meetings or votes. I will therefore take the opportunity to talk about the Levelling Up Fund, why it is important to us, how it could help Aycliffe Town Centre and important considerations if we are to take the maximum advantage from it locally.

First though, a short round up of recent meetings. A highlight of the week was being able to join the fabulous Play Café team to pack and distribute some Easter treats. I was also able to catch up with Bewick Crescent Surgery where we discussed the amazing performance of the vaccine roll out in Aycliffe, amongst other things. I met virtually with Barclays about the closure of the Aycliffe branch and expressed my disappointment at their actions, but the decision is taken due to a very low footfall, even before the pandemic. I have more meetings planned with Barclays and having walked past and seen the queue outside on Wednesday, I will be challenging this further. They have assured me they will reach out and help all of their customers who need in-branch services which, they assure me, can all be covered via the Post Office. If Barclays closes it of course does not help the town centre, and its amenities, and means we only have the TSB and Halifax banks left. On a more positive note I had another meeting with the DCC officers about the Town Centre and the Levelling Up Fund.

What is the Levelling Up Fund? What could we create? How does it work? Who makes decisions? How do we influence it?

What is it? The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) is a fund of £4.8b announced by the Chancellor in his budget to focus on the highest priority local projects. It is a cross department fund, focusing on the needs of places rather than narrowly defined pots. It is open to every local area, it has local stakeholder support, including the MP, at the heart of its mission and it sits alongside a number of other interventions all designed to support levelling up.

What could we do? I would like to see how we could use this opportunity to reimagine our Town Centre. I believe it could be remodelled to be more of a heart to the town. I would propose structural changes to make it more welcoming combined with a changed usage. I believe we have the opportunity to create a community led space which would work for a day and night-time economy with

hospitality complemented by local shops. I would suggest that we could encourage a community hub and maybe more bars and sit-in food places, and possibly a small cinema or theatre could be the anchor to support these? They are my thoughts and I welcome other ideas.

How does it work? A local authority, in our case Durham County Council, can make a number of bids. The number is determined by the number of MP's they have, and each MP can only have one bid that they nominate as a priority. There are further considerations where, like for me in Sedgefield, a constituency crosses local authority boundaries. The fund will invest in projects that require up to £20m of funding or, by exception, up to £50m for transport projects. This is a competitive fund and whilst my initial thought is for Aycliffe Town Centre, I fully expect to get other considerations from elsewhere in my patch and it will be about delivery as well as need. If we end up with DCC and I pulling in different directions (I am concerned we have already had a Labour Councillor saying we should not use this fund on the Town Centre), then it is possible my support will be more effective elsewhere in my constituency. I want to put my support somewhere where I believe it will most likely be a successful bid and make a tangible difference to my constituents.

Who decides? The local authority decides what bid (or bids) it wants to submit. It is more likely to be favourably considered with more stakeholder support, particularly the MP, but DCC will decide what to submit. In the case of a bid to help the Town Centre it would also be helped by local public and councillor support. A successful bid will therefore be more likely where the local authority and MP are committed to a project backed by the local community.

How do we influence it? I have made initial proposals to DCC that I believe Aycliffe Town Centre could be a prime target for this fund. The officers at DCC are working on this and other considerations both around Aycliffe and elsewhere in my constituency and we will discuss options soon. There is also a clear need to ensure that any proposal is developed in conjunction with the owners of the Town Centre and that any application of public funding delivers value for residents. Decisions cannot be finally made whilst the County Councillor elections are in place, but options can be scoped out for consideration after May 5th. The bids from DCC will, of course, be influenced by whoever our County Councillors are and

who controls the Council and whether they are interested in Aycliffe Town Centre. I will produce a questionnaire in the next few weeks to see what people think, as, after all, this opportunity is for all of us and we need everyone's views.

The vaccine roll out continues at pace with £31.6m people having had their first vaccination and we remain on track for all over 18's to have had a first dose offered by the end of July. The take up rate of vaccines offered remains very high and is a key critical platform for opening up to continue, so please when you are offered your jab make sure you accept it. This also applies to your second jab, which is an important booster. We are seeing very good news in terms of reducing hospitalisations and death rates and it is important that as we reach the younger adults, they also take up the vaccinations as, whilst they are likely to be less affected by the virus, they can still spread it to their older friends and relatives. We have had the latest announcements confirming that on 12 April indoor leisure, libraries and community centres will open for individual or household groups and personal care, all retail and outdoor attractions can open. You can also stay away overnight in the UK in self contained accommodation but international holidays are not yet allowed. We also need to remember the rule of six continues and we should still be following the Hands, Face, Space rules.

Stay Safe

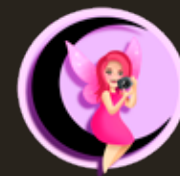
Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield



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Bishop Auckland Music Society 2021 Concerts

BAMS is delighted to announce its 2021 season which now launches on Friday, 11th June with pianist Florian Mitrea. Florian gave his debut recital at the Bozar Centre in Brussels in 2020 together with his first solo tour with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. His June concert includes work by Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt. On Friday, 16th July Jamal Alijev (cello) and Maksim Stsura (piano) are guaranteed to delight whilst performing work by Tchaikovsky and Cesar Franck. Katherine Bryer (oboe) and Irena Radic (piano) entertain on Friday, 20th August in a concert which includes work by Schumann and Rachmaninoff. After studying at the Royal Academy of Music,

Katherine appeared with many orchestras including BBC Symphony and the Philharmonia and London Orchestras. Trio Anima will perform work by Faure, Telemann and Debussy amongst others on Friday, 3rd September. The Trio, which formed at the Guildhall School of Music, have been delighting audiences for over a decade with their distinctive combination of harp, flute and viola.

The series culminates with The Meraki Duo on Friday, 22nd October. Formed in 2013, the Duo enjoys exploring the diversity of repertoire available to the flute-guitar pairing while contributing arrangements of their own. Both share a passion for chamber music that extends to jazz, Latin American and European folk music. All concerts are held in the warmth and comfort of Bishop Auckland Methodist Church (DL14 6EN - opposite BA Hospital). Non-alcoholic light refreshments are available to purchase during the interval. Season Tickets (£58), which include all five concerts for approximately the cost of four, together with individual concert tickets are available from Treasurer, Brian Varley

(01388 606075). In addition, individual concert tickets - £14 in advance, £16 on the door - are also available from Brotherton's Music (opposite Morrison's car park). (Concert goers may apply to have ticket costs refunded should concerts have to be cancelled because of the Covid epidemic. See BAMS website for details).

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Time to Announce!



Dear Sir,
 I can confirm that I am a candidate in the forthcoming Durham County Council Election. Standing in the Aycliffe North and Middridge Ward as a Conservative.
 Post Covid local recovery is our priority and will require a wide selection of views and new ideas. I consider it vital that this is best done by local people and community organisations being funded and allowed to take actions needed in their area. Nationally the Government has promised levelling up, we also need this to happen locally. Local people, local problems, local solutions.
 David Sutton-Lloyd

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1			6			7	4	
	8		9				1	6
6	2				7	1		
	4	7		6		8		
9	1				2			7
7		4	1				6	
		2	7	4				
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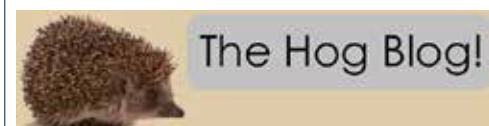
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We hope everyone enjoyed the bank holiday weekend, it's been busy here with selling bunnies, and hoggie admissions. Thank you everyone who has supported us with fundraising, firstly June and Valerie, who have made lovely bunnies for us to sell. Could we also thank Jack, Lucy and Will for kindly donating toys, Lorraine Elliott for purchasing bunnies and her donation of items for the car boot sale and finally Michael, Wendy, Sonya and Marlene for purchasing bunnies, all proceeds raised go to helping our prickly pals.

We have had some admissions, we can't thank our finders enough because they have certainly given us rescuers a better chance of saving these precious lives, Penny, Sundip and Amar.

They did everything necessary to get these hogs the help they need. The quicker these hogs get help the better the outcome. We are waiting for better weather conditions to send our hedgehogs home to safe support fed, gardens, we have plans, hopefully, for next week, weather permitting. Oscar and his sister Holly will be going home too.

Your West Ward Labour Candidate Eddy Adam



Dear Sir,
My previous introduction offered you my commitment to make County Durham and Aycliffe West one of the best places to grow up in and the best place to grow old in. So, what have I done over the past four years, and have I made a difference in Aycliffe West? It has been extremely challenging, not withstanding the ongoing restrictions due to Covid-19 and that Councils have lost a substantial amount of their spending power because of cuts to Local Authority Funding. As a Labour controlled Council we have tried to maintain and improve essential front line services, invested heavily in more and better jobs, supported businesses and our communities through grant aid, helped our most vulnerable residents with reduced council tax and have provided opportunities for new housing and committed to a sustainable green future for all. My performance at Town and County Council has been exemplary, making valuable contributions on behalf of Aycliffe residents in a range of roles. I am current Chairman of the Environment & Sustainable Communities O&S Committee; a former Chairman and current GAMP Board member, and a Governor of Woodham Burn Community Primary School. I play a significant and active role in community groups in the Aycliffe West area. Working in close partnership with my colleague, Kate Hopper, and other Aycliffe Councillors (regardless of political views), liaising with residents, the Town Council, Livin, and the Police, to reduce the nuisance of quad bikes and other unacceptable ASB to make Aycliffe West the best place it can be. A lot of Councillor work goes unseen. I believe I have worked diligently seven

days a week, providing residents relevant support and guidance, regularly reporting and resolving many general and confidential issues. By working as a team, Kate and I, have secured substantial funding that has supported local resident groups and charities like Junction7, Hub of Wishes, ACORN, Western area, School Aycliffe Community Centre, Rotary Newton Aycliffe, Aycliffe Cancer Support Group, Play Café, Gymnastic Club, the Youth & Community Centre, the ARK and many other local charities and food banks. We have improved the community infrastructure by funding environmental improvements, alleviated parking problems, improved roads and pavements, installed dropped kerbs and bus shelters, we are introducing a 20mph speed limit at the Schools on Stephenson Way and secured the future of the three bridges in West Park area and much more. Most of all, I take personal pride in responding quickly to, and supporting you, our residents, through tough times by getting things done, working with Junction7 delivering food parcels to our most vulnerable, being there offering my time, knowledge and experience all day and every day. Therefore, I offer to you my continued commitment, energy and enthusiasm in serving and pledging to make a difference to the environment and to your lives. I hope this statement provides you with confidence to vote for me, as I humbly ask for your support at the Local Council Elections on Thursday 6th May. Eddy Adam, Labour Party Candidate

Obituary

Peter Beadle
31st March 2021
Peacefully at home, with his family beside him. Much loved Husband, Father, Father-in-Law, Brother-in-Law, Grandad, Uncle and Friend.

Tony Pollock
27th March, aged 58 years of Newton Aycliffe.
A much loved Son, Brother and Uncle. A private family Service will take place.

Jean Somerset
(nee Stephenson)
Of Newton Aycliffe, peacefully on 2nd April, aged 88 years. Dearly beloved Wife of the late Gordon; a much loved Mam to Lynn, Gary and the late Lesley; a wonderful Gran, Granny, Mother-in-Law, Sister and Friend. Funeral Service to take place at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Monday 19th April at 10.45am. Due to current circumstances, a private family Service will take place.

Birthday Remembrance

Ronny Mayoh
Happy 86th Birthday on 28th March. Love from Rose, Maria, Christine, Ian, Anita and Granddaughter Kimberley xxxxx

In Memoriam

Ann McLuckie
10th April
A big 60 this year Babe, bet you had a great party in Heaven. We want to tell you something, so there won't be any doubt, you are so wonderful to think of, but very hard to live without. Love and hugs, Mam, Tony and family

Acknowledgement

Ken Chambers
Lynn and the family of the late Ken would like to thank most sincerely, friends and neighbours for the kindness, sympathy cards and flowers received during their recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to the District Nurses and especially Daniel McCann for their help looking after Ken.

Congratulations

Dave Robinson

Happy 60th Birthday
9th April 2021
Happy 60th Birthday Dave, of Dave Robinson Decorators. Have a Fab weekend. We love you lots, Tee, Tyler & Millie. For all your Decorating needs . . . LOL!

Welcome Return for NAFC Juniors

Aycliffe U8s Whites played away to Harton and Westoe Avengers. Aycliffe started the game well but looked very rusty and need some extra training but saying that Aycliffe's goals were excellent from goal scorers William and Oscar. MOTM was awarded to Oscar. It was a fantastic return to football for the Aycliffe U9 Blacks against Brandon. While the result was great the determination and work rate was equally pleasing to watch. First half Aycliffe took the game straight to Brandon with a goal for Rhys but then Brandon conceding an own goal. Aycliffe came out in the second half with their heads up and went on to dominate with further goals from Charlie and Benjamin. Chances after chances for all the players today and they were unlucky not to add to the tally. All round great performance and a very well deserved clean sheet. MOTM went to Rhys, though it was tough to choose as all the team played superbly. Aycliffe U9s Whites played against

Darlington Allstars. Aycliffe were a bit rusty in spots and their fitness level showed, they still managed to play as a unit putting in an impressive display together with a brilliant result. Goals from Jonah, Jack, James and Dom, MOTM was awarded to Dom. Aycliffe U11s played Stranton FC. Aycliffe needed a good run out and today's opposition, who are in the division above them, were up for it. Aycliffe gave it their best and had a few chances but overall Stranton AFC was just too good. There were some positives from Aycliffe that they can work on. Aycliffe U12s Blacks played at home to Farringdon Detached Red. Aycliffe started slow and looked really rusty. They conceded an early goal but kept their heads up and equalised with Alex scoring. Farringdon then controlled play to go back in front; first half Aycliffe went in 2-1 down. The Aycliffe manager must have given his team a good team talk as they came out to score four more goals in the second half

with goals from Keaton, Joe, Alex and Danny making sure Aycliffe finished up winners. Final score was 5-2. MOTM was awarded jointly to Alex and Steven, the captain. Aycliffe U12 Whites started their return to football with an impressive 5-0 win over Linthorpe. Goal scorers were Jack twice, Oliver, Ethan and Jake all on the score sheet. Ellis had a quiet match in goal but did well when called upon. Every player showed improvement from before lockdown and their attitude to passing more and using their team mates was evident and allowed Aycliffe to apply a lot of pressure. Man of the match was awarded to Jack. Aycliffe U13s Whites drew 3-3 away at Pools Youth. Scorers were: Niall, Connor & Aidan. Great run out for their first game back. Aycliffe U14s won a scrappy game 2-1 against Seaton Carew, from a division above them, after falling behind to an early penalty late goals for Reece and Jake give them victory.

Aycliffe Youth Football Return to Action

The lockdown eased on 29th March, meaning our Russell Foster teams had only one training session to prepare, but the anticipation and enthusiasm from players was there for all to see.

Our TJFA teams restart 11th April.

U10 Angels v Hartlepool Pools Youth.

A tight first half with both teams having an equal time in possession and creating opportunities on goal. Our Angels were unlucky not to score when Lyra's free kick was kept out by their keeper. HT arrived all square. The second half saw the Angels growing in confidence, moving the ball well through midfield, which was our focus for the game. However we conceded two scrappy goals before the end. This was the strongest performance seen from this developing team.

Coaches Star Player: Annabelle

Players Star Player: Lyra

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U16 Girls v Shincliffe Girls.

The match was evenly balanced



throughout, then from a corner Shincliffe took the lead, but the girls continued to play football. Then in a great 3 minutes, Gracie puts a through ball to Hattie who was jostled by both centre backs but stayed on her feet and blasted past the keeper. Then Olivia, similar ball, same result, as Hattie finds the corner. Several chances for both sides before a cross ball finds a Shincliffe player to tuck away. HT 2-2. With only one sub available the girls needed to dig deep. A surging run gets Jess into the box and she puts it away. Aycliffe seemed to find a second wind. A loose ball finds Morgan on the edge of the box, and she buries it, 4-2. We now needed to control the game, but Shincliffe were not giving up as a long range shot dipped under the bar 4-3. But the back 4 of Alex, Kate, Macy, Lilli kept their composure and dealt with several attacks with well timed tackles and positive clearances. FT 4-3

Consett 5 v U12's Eagles 0

First half was tough and we found ourselves under pressure constantly, unable to get the ball up the pitch. Kian made some fantastic saves but we left him exposed at the back. We went in at half time 2-0 down. Second half was more positive and Aycliffe started to pass and look for each other, attacking in numbers. We had chances in front of goal. Liam, Adam, Will and Hamza all having shots but just couldn't find the net. Being out of football for so long took its toll on the players and Consett scored another 3 goals. MOM Kian,

U11 Angels Yellows v Spraire Lassies.

After a bright start and opportunities to score it was Spraire with two quick goals against the run of play. The Angels got a goal before HT from a Holly corner that Daisy side footed home. The second half started slowly for the Angels who were another couple of goals down before they could catch their breath, however, the girls heads did not drop and the space was there for them to exploit to set up a fantastic finish. A great one two resulted in the ball falling to Amy, who smashed it into the back of the net. Amy then went on a solo run to score again to set up a nervy finale. Spraire held on, despite more chances for our girls. Players: Amy

Coaches: Hannah

Aycliffe Women 0 v Gateshead Ladies 5

A tough restart for the women, playing unbeaten Gateshead who sit top of the Development League.

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