

Friday 16th April 2021

Established 1948

# Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Magazine

Editorial and Advertising contact: [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk) - Telephone: 01325 300212 - [www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk)

## Wellbeing Time for Staff



See page 2 for full story

Special thank you to your Newton News Sponsors:

**SHAKE 'N' CAKE**



PAUL HOWELL  
MP for Sedgfield



## Disgusted!

Dear Sir,

In reference to the article written by Nev Jones in this week's Newton News about major damage to the grass verges on our town.

The photograph shown was damage done on Shafto Way, close to the bus stop. My wife took some photographs of this damage and forwarded them to Durham County Council along with information as to who had done the damage some six weeks ago. She is still waiting for a reply from our esteemed council, despite their obligation to do so within a certain length of time.

It would seem that the council are not interested in such trivial matters as these and are prepared to ignore them, possibly because they don't happen where they live, but it is OK for us to have to live with this mindless vandalism, caused by visitors. Disgusted resident!

Name and address supplied

## Wellbeing Time for Staff to Boost Mental Health

Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), a leading health and wellbeing charity, have given their staff the opportunity to take a two-hour session out of their working week for activities to improve their overall mental health and wellbeing.

Staff are free to use their wellbeing session on activities that help them relax and unwind, which is especially important during these challenging times.

Carol Gaskarth, Chief Executive of PCP, said: "Supporting staff mental health is important to us and especially now with the impact of Covid-19 changing our usual routine and affecting many of us differently. Wellbeing time has been part of our offer for a number of years and we actively encourage staff to take time out and step away from work."

"PCP recently increased this to two-hours a week, recognising people are spending far more time at their computer than usual. Feedback from staff has been great and they use it in so many ways, whatever suits them, whether it's taking the dog for a walk, spending time with family or going for a run. "It really is an individual choice and ultimately we hope to help staff build their own personal resilience and wellbeing."

Despite many of PCP's team working from home, the wellbeing time offers staff the chance to come together to socialise across the organisation. The PCP team host a variety of virtual events for staff to join as part of their wellbeing time, including the most recent Easter Egg Decorating session. The Easter themed session united staff across PCP's North East projects to come together virtually and see who could get creative and decorate the best Easter egg.



The winner, Debbie Fox, was chosen by Options, a PCP project that supports adults with a range of learning and physical disabilities.

Visit PCP's social media channels:

Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/PCPAndCentre](http://www.facebook.com/PCPAndCentre)

PCP's Twitter / Instagram @PioneeringCare  
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](mailto:jenny.lee@pcp.uk.net)

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## Right to Reply

Dear Sir,

In response to a letter published in the Newton News in regards to face coverings and social distancing from an anonymous author.

At John's Mini Mart we display more signs than most shops around the above issues. For a small shop we have three sanitising stations in clear view and free for all customers.

Face coverings are advised by the signage, but it is illegal to ask or force a customer to wear a face mask. Both Asda and Tesco have received fines after being taken to court for illegally forcing customers to wear a face mask. It is against human rights and the law to enforce this, which is why we don't in our shop.

Social distancing is better in our shop, through our one way system, than 90% of shops. Most, including Tesco, control at the door, then think a face mask makes you invincible inside.

Above all, we care about each and every customer and appreciate you every single day, so thank you for your loyalty.

John's Mini Mart, Neville Parade.

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# Local Election Candidates for Great Aycliffe area, May 2021

## Durham County Council, 7 Seats

### Aycliffe East - 2 Seats

Tony Armstrong	LIB DEM
Jim Atkinson	LABOUR
Bob Fleming	INDEPENDENT
John Grant	REFORM
Brian Haigh	INDEPENDENT
Wendy Hilary	LABOUR
Neville Jones	LIB DEM
Martin Peeke	CONSERVATIVE

### Aycliffe North & Middridge - 3 Seats

Kathryn Beetham	LABOUR
Dorothy Bowman	INDEPENDENT
John Clare	LABOUR
Sandra Haigh	INDEPENDENT
Jed Hilary	LABOUR
Andrea Miller	LIB DEM
John Moore	INDEPENDENT
Maureen Shelton	LIB DEM
Michael Stead	LIB DEM
Tony Stubbs	CONSERVATIVE
David Sutton-Lloyd	CONSERVATIVE

### Aycliffe West - 2 Seats

Eddy Adam	LABOUR
Michaela Banthorpe	FREEDOM ALL
George Gray	INDEPENDENT
Kate Hopper	LABOUR
Elizabeth Maw	CONSERVATIVE
Ken Robson	INDEPENDENT
James Walsh	LIB DEM
Paul Whiting	LIB DEM

## Great Aycliffe Town Council, 30 Seats

### Aycliffe Central - 3 Seats

Jim Atkinson	LABOUR
Kath Beetham	LABOUR
Jed Hilary	LABOUR
Joanne Jones	LIB DEM

## Aycliffe Village - 1 Seat

### (Elected unopposed)

Carl Robinson

INDEPENDENT

### Byerley Park, Horndale & Cobblers Hall

#### - 6 Seats

Peter Bergg	LABOUR
Dorothy Bowman	INDEPENDENT
John Clare	LABOUR
Ian Gray	LABOUR
Brian Hall	LABOUR
Andrea Miller	LIB DEM
Kane Shaw	LABOUR

### Neville - 2 Seats

Phill Hawkins	INDEPENDENT
Simon Hocking	LABOUR
Neville Jones	LIB DEM

### Shafto St Mary's - 4 Seats

Tony Armstrong	LIB DEM
David Elliott	INDEPENDENT
Bob Fleming	INDEPENDENT
Brian Haigh	INDEPENDENT
Wendy Hilary	LABOUR

### Simpasture - 2 Seats

John Clark	LABOUR
David Hardaker	LABOUR
Paul Whiting	LIB DEM

### West Ward - 6 Seats

Eddy Adam	LABOUR
Martin Ashcroft	INDEPENDENT
Arun Chandran	INDEPENDENT
George Gray	INDEPENDENT
Kate Hopper	LABOUR
Ken Robson	INDEPENDENT
James Walsh	LIB DEM
Neil Whittaker	LABOUR

### Woodham Ward - 6 Seats

#### (All are elected unopposed)

Barbara Clare	LABOUR
Neil Collinson	LABOUR
Sandra Haigh	INDEPENDENT
John Moore	INDEPENDENT
Maureen Shelton	LIB DEM
Michael Stead	LIB DEM

List compiled by Cllr Arun Chandran

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## Funds Available to all Councillors

Dear Sir,  
I read with interest the pre-election flyers included in the 9th April issue of the Newton News and in particular the comment on the flyer for Mr John Clare re: supporting community projects to the tune of £42,000 over the last four years.  
I stand to be corrected, but my understanding is that all Durham County Councillors are allocated funds from the County Council for use on projects local to their area.  
In essence, does this not mean that any funding of local projects comes from the public purse?  
May we now be advised what projects other Councillors have supported over the last four years, and to what cost to the taxpayer?  
Notwithstanding my comments, I am sure that the funding of the projects is fully justified.  
Keith Bell

# Candidate Postcard with Handy Numbers

Independent candidate Ken Robson has been posting useful contact numbers on the reverse of his election calling cards. The postcard sized cards were printed in Newton Aycliffe by local business Newton Press. Ken says he likes to keep contracts local to benefit local people and sees the cards as not only a way to promote his election campaign but also a way to store useful telephone numbers which include Doctors Surgeries, Chemists, Police, Livin and Durham County Council.

Ken is standing in West Ward as an Independent candidate for both Great Aycliffe Parish Council and Durham County Council.

I urge residents to ask candidates where they live and if they would turn their backs on Newton Aycliffe if there were a conflict of interest between the two authorities, as happened recently when Labour County Councillors, who are also Aycliffe Town Councillors, left a debate on double taxation to the detriment of Newton Aycliffe Residents.

Regardless of politics, please go out and vote for whoever appeals, it is your right and your moral duty.

## Please Re-Elect John D Clare

Dear Sir,

As a child, I was inspired by Martin Luther King's 'I have a Dream' speech. And, whilst I realised I could never change the world as he did, I grew up believing that - if I did a million smaller good deeds - perhaps they would add up in total to enough at least to leave the world a better place than I found it.

My choice of a career in teaching and, lately, as your councillor have both given me a humbling chance to pursue that intention.

### TRYING TO DO GOOD

If you have been following my facebook blog, you will have seen my videos explaining the contribution I have been able to make to some local developments - such as the Great Aycliffe Way, the Cobblers Hall Nature Reserve, and Forrest Park.

My position as a County Councillor has not only allowed me to submit literally hundreds of residents' service requests to Durham County Council and livin, but has also provided opportunities to help the local economy (in my role as Cabinet Support for Economic Regeneration), and to promote biodiversity and climate action on a national and even European stage as DCC's Climate Champion.

### THE MOTIVATION BEHIND IT ALL

Throughout my life, my aspiration has been a fair community in which power, wealth and opportunity are in the hands of the many not the few, and where people live together in a spirit of tolerance and respect (as it says on my Labour Party membership card).

I found the perfect home in Newton Aycliffe - the flagship settlement of Beveridge's Welfare State, which declared war on the five 'giants' which still oppress society (poverty, homelessness, lack of educational opportunity, ill-health, and unemployment).

And I am proud to be a member of a Labour County Council which has adopted as its Vision For 2035 a growing economy which works for all, and a county where residents can enjoy long and independent lives in caring and welcoming communities.

There is nothing 'extremist' about these goals - wanting a society where foodbanks are not needed, where everybody is warm in their own front room, and where Nature is enabled to flourish around us. It strikes me rather that they are a minimum for the kind of world we would wish for our children and grandchildren.

### WHAT IS THE POINT OF POLITICS, IF NOT TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

I am told in the Letters column of the Newton News that mine is a naïve - even dangerous - dream. And of course none of these things will be accomplished easily, if at all, in our lifetimes.

But I reject a view which sees politics only in terms of complaining, opposing development, and rehearsing the negatives. Of course we have to address the potholes and dogdirt at our feet, but we also need to have an eye on the horizon ... on a better future.

A Dream has an intrinsic value of its own. If we do not have a Dream - an aspirational end-goal - how can we, as a society or as individuals, know in which direction to travel?

Cllr John D Clare

# New Labour Candidate

Dear Sir,

I'm very happy to be standing for the Labour Party in the upcoming Great Aycliffe Town Council election in the Byerley Park, Horndale and Cobblers Hall Ward.

I have lived here for all 24 years of my existence and have grown to appreciate how much of a welcoming town Newton Aycliffe is. I currently work at a cinema in Darlington, but prior to this. I worked in our town centre and it was a great experience to meet some of the wonderful people of the town. I have a keen interest in politics and believe, when done right it can benefit many and I believe the Labour Party has put that into practice and as a result our town is enriched from it. It is my hope that if I should have the privilege of being elected, I could help make sure the good work carries on.

I shall not lie, I am inexperienced, but I can promise to you that if I should be so lucky as to be elected, I will strive for the best outcomes for the people of this town to make sure Aycliffe remains such a great town to live in!

If you would like to get in touch, my mobile number is 07557 365872 and my email is: kaneshaw597@yahoo.com

It would be lovely to hear from you.

Kane Shaw



## Perplexing Claims

Dear Sir,

I'm perplexed by the headline-grabbing claims of the Lib Dem candidates in the lead up to the forthcoming elections.

They claim that they will reduce the council tax precept, but don't say how they intend to do so. Each year, Great Aycliffe Town Council undertakes a comprehensive budget review. This process takes approximately three months to undertake and all budget lines are looked at and trimmed wherever possible. The Lib Dems somehow feel there are great savings to be made. I can only assume they propose to reduce services that the council provides, perhaps the OAP trips, Fun in the Parks, Santa Tours and/or the firework display; perhaps grass cutting and/or the wonderful floral beds around the town; perhaps the Oakleaf Complex and/or the golf course and putting green; perhaps the allotments and/or the cemeteries. You can't make significant budget cuts by reducing the amount of photocopying paper used each year. Nor can this be done by not purchasing leather-bound pocket diaries (I have to point out here that the much quoted pocket diaries given to Councillors to keep track of Council meetings, cost £2.83 each. They have a pvc cover and are certainly not leather bound). It is worthy of note that budgetary overview and review requires an eye for detail.

They claim they will organise a community governance review into the number of Councillors representing the people of Aycliffe. The number of Councillors sitting on our Council were recommended by the Boundary Commission, not by the Council or the Councillors. Our town is growing exponentially and at some point, new Wards may be created, especially on the far side of the A167. I would point out that the last time the Lib Dems arranged a community governance review, it was to call for re-establishing the Durham City Council. The cost of setting up the new council, which ran into tens of thousands of pounds, was borne by the council tax payers of County Durham, including residents of Aycliffe. The people of Durham City may have gained a parish Council, but they now have to pay for two Councils in their council tax bill. Durham City Council is a toothless entity with DCC still bearing the cost of Britain in Bloom flower displays in the City, upkeep of parks, Lumierre, Durham Brass and so on. Perhaps the Lib Dems can explain how this great venture of theirs saved people money.

They also claim they will reinvigorate the Town Centre. This is something that everyone in the Town, I among them, would like to happen. Sadly the high rent yields of the retail units discourage potential businesses moving into the town. Daejan (Durham) Ltd., the current owners, do not appear to be in a hurry to reduce their rents any time soon. I'd be interested to hear how the Lib Dems plan to progress this election promise and would happily work alongside anyone interested in bringing a vibrant heart back to the town centre.

Cllr Jed Hillary

# Labour, caring for your town

## Your candidates for County Council

### Aycliffe East



James Atkinson	X
Wendy Hillary	X

### Aycliffe North & Middridge



Kathryn Beetham	X
John D Clare	X
Jed Hillary	X

### Aycliffe West



Eddy Adam	X
Kate Hopper	X

## Providing Opportunity !

As Labour, we believe that the best way to improve people's lives is to provide the opportunities they need, **not just to get along, but to succeed.**

It is not enough that we have a pleasant place to live – our town needs to be a place to prosper. That is why Labour:

- will protect and preserve our **green spaces.**
- are creating **30,000 new jobs across the county, more than 3,000 in Newton Aycliffe,** because that will give people the chance to prosper.
- will support local businesses throughout and after Covid, because **it will be local businesses who will play the crucial role in our recovery.**

## Your Great Aycliffe Town Council Candidates

#### Byerley Park, Horndale & Cobblers Hall

Peter Bergg  
John D Clare  
Ian Gray  
Brian Hall  
Kane Shaw

#### Simpasture

John Clark  
Dave Hardaker

#### Shafto St Mary's

Wendy Hillary

#### West Ward

Eddy Adam  
Kate Hopper  
Neil Whittaker

#### Woodham

Barbara A Clare  
Neil Collinson

#### Neville

Simon Hocking

#### Central

James Atkinson  
Kathryn Beetham  
Jed Hillary

# Vote Labour

## May 6th, 2021

Promoted by Stephen Braithwaite & Simon Hocking on behalf of all candidates above at Labour North, Kings Manor, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 6PA



# Students are Leading the Way at Greenfield

Students at Greenfield Community College are investing their time to contribute to a better learning experience for themselves and their peers. Already this year student leaders have been working alongside artists and facilitators to find out more about ambition and aspirations and how they can impact upon creative learning across the school community.

Last week students gave up their own time during school holidays to work alongside theatre worker and Director Ruth Johnson and Greenfield Arts to help make a difference. Students are addressing issues and asking "how do we encourage space for creative learning?" and "how do we make the best use of arts and culture across the curriculum?". These are big questions but this is an area that they can draw upon their previous achievements; having helped design the current student learning journal, facilitated 'Make it Matter' a youth voice conference and instigated an online creative space platform for the school.

The students were brilliant and were able to articulate ways to move



forward and impact upon the school in future projects, identifying ways they have made a difference. They were thrilled with the chance to work with Creative Director Katy Milne and professional practitioner Ruth Johnson and report their findings to Clare Elliott via zoom, a representative from Culture Bridge North East, who is hoping to work alongside the group in a wider reaching project influencing schools across the region.

The sessions reinforced and clarified the ambitions and goals of the students and created a space to express how they value creative learning and how they can engage with others to develop the culture in school and beyond. Ruth was able to engage and inspire the students, building confidence and creating tasks and critical thinking challenges.

The students will now take their campaign forward, they are looking forward to working alongside a professional filmmaker to share and support learning within the school. They will also have the chance to get involved with staff training and whole school assemblies to encourage student learning with a new creative student leader manifesto.

Greenfield Arts and Greenfield Community College are collaborating to ensure students are able to work together to realise an outstanding learning experience. If you would like further information visit [www.greenfieldschool.net](http://www.greenfieldschool.net) or contact the school by emailing [contact@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:contact@greenfieldschool.net) or by calling 01325 300378.

## 500 Miles in 50 Days

Dear Sir,  
At the start of March, I decided I needed to do something to help with my own fitness but also something to motivate me to succeed. So I decided I would try to raise money for a local charity by riding my mountain bike 500 miles in 50 days. The reason for the timeline and number of miles was due to the fact that it is my sisters 50th Birthday in May - so it kind of all added up nicely for a challenge.

Cancer is something that will affect us all in some form during our lives, either directly or indirectly with loved ones. I lost my Dad 12 years ago to cancer and have lost other family members and friends to this disease, so Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group was the charity of choice. I had heard of their work in the community and had previously donated to them via the Sunday morning football team I am associated with. I could have chosen a specific cancer charity, but thought it would be better to try and raise funds for a local group who support people suffering from all types of cancer in our own community.

The target was always £500 and I set the Just Giving page up to see if I could hit that target. Due to the generosity of my family, friends and Aycliffe residents, I had raised over £1300 before I even started. So I wanted to thank these people by dedicating rides/days to any of them who had loved ones who had either passed as a result of the disease or who were currently fighting it - or in the best cases, fought and won the battle. So I came up with the idea of "50 Reasons Why..." which was to basically commemorate a ride each day for a loved one.

My challenge was due to start on 1st April, but I had to complete an isolation period before I could commence with the challenge, so I started the challenge on 6th April and hope to complete by 22nd May. I have a number of dedications arranged and will be publicising this daily on social media forums - but there's room for so many more.

So, if you would like to make any dedications, please get in touch via my Facebook page (Paul Eales) or alternatively, if you can spare a small amount as a donation - please go to my Just Giving page and pledge as much as you can - every penny counts and will be much appreciated from myself and the charity.

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stephen-paul-eales](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stephen-paul-eales)



## YEAR 10 OPEN EVENING

Thursday 22nd April 2021

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# Arun's Correction

Dear Sir,  
I refer to the recent remarks by Arun Chandran, I was simply making the point, as shown on the website of the electoral commission, that a Councillor, once the election is called, then any Councillor becomes a Candidate seeking re-election. As stated on DCC's website "statement of nominated persons", it does not mention Councillor but Candidate.  
The purpose of my original letter to the Newton News was from our litter picking group under the support of Great Aycliffe Town Council with Ian Gray leading on this, as a Town Councillor. I have not yet seen any Independent Councillor come forward to help keep the town clean and free from litter. We travel all over the town and a variety of hotspots, which can be in any of the eight ward areas. I will not get in the long drawn out debate on this issue, also it should be noted that I am not the spokesperson for the Labour Party just a member and give support to all of the members who stand. Remember he once stood under a Labour banner it now seems that more people are standing as Independent than ever.  
I say, let the people decide.  
Vince Crosby

# Your Local Labour Candidate

Wendy Hillary - Your local Labour Candidate  
I am a married mother of five adult children and grandmother to nine grandchildren. I have been a lifelong Labour voter, selected as a moderate and progressive candidate, leading an active role in the Aycliffe East Branch of the Labour Party and have experience as a union representative with the Public and Commercial Services Union in the Civil Service.  
I have served the residents of Shafto / St. Mary's Ward since April 2012, when I gave a commitment to attend meetings. I have fulfilled that promise, sitting on committees for Policy and Resources, Environment and Recreation, as well as several sub committees.  
I have twice been honoured to be elected as Mayor of Great Aycliffe and Chair of Great Aycliffe Town Council. During the recent pandemic, due to shielding restrictions, I have been undertaking the role of Chair of the Town Council.  
I have a track record of achievement in supporting constituents and resolving issues. Some of the issues I've successfully addressed have included, tackling anti social behaviour, reporting uneven pavements and grass cutting issues and having dog bins installed. During the recent lockdown, my husband and I ran a highly successful project to equip local school children with much needed laptops and tablets.  
With your mandate and support, I will continue to ensure that your views and neighbourhood voice will be heard at Town Council meetings. I will also continue to provide prompt and detailed responses to any individual concerns that may be raised with me. As a resident I strongly support measures that enable the Town Council to continue delivering high quality, value for money, efficient services to the area, while at the same time enhancing the town and community in which we all live.  
I am standing for re-election for the Shafto / St. Mary's Ward in the Town Council election and also standing for Aycliffe East Division in the Durham County Council election.  
If you place your trust in me I will continue to provide a strong voice on Great Aycliffe Town Council. I will also be able to capitalise on the experience I have gained as Town Councillor and bring this to use as an effective County Councillor, as your representative at Durham County Council.



# What is a Vote Worth?



Dear Sir,  
It is becoming clear that we've reached that time again, when all our local councillors bombard our community magazine, your publication, with their pleas and promises of what they can bring to our area in hope that they can either maintain their current position or, take over from those whom have failed. In my opinion, they have all failed, as I'm sure many would agree, that this town is going nowhere fast! I am a true resident of this town, born and bred, and as I have grown, my world and life has changed around me. I have lived, studied and worked for a number of years in a major city. My current work takes me to every corner of the country, from Plymouth to Aberdeen but, my home and heart is here, the town I grew up in. I think a lot of people don't realise just how nice and well laid out this town is, how different it is from many other towns across the country, we're lucky, it could be worse. Yes, a lot of people have their issues with this town, and find a lot to moan about but, in the grand scheme of things, it's a safe heaven, it's unlike anywhere else I've ever been. However, it is also a town with no identity, a town of monotony, a town that is simply drifting with no sense of direction. A town that is missing something, missing a lot! I am well educated on our town's history, and the fact that it was designed to have a whole lot more than it does now. It was to be a town 'Where ideas grow', but it has stopped growing, it is clueless. Where are the councillors who are striving to push this sleepy town forward? Where are the councillors who are wanting real progress, real development that we are all craving for? Where are the ideas to wake this town up; we don't even have a town hall that would function as a real community theatre/cinema etc? We don't have a lot of what we used to have, even when I was a kid!  
Over the years, all I've ever seen is reasons why to take everything away from us; health & safety nonsense, "it cost too much". When I was a kid, I spent many long hot summers playing at the boating lake, which many places still have, but NOT Aycliffe! We used to have a proper annual carnival, a 'Great Aycliffe Show' and bonfire night with a really big fire; which is not an issue for many other places in this country, just Aycliffe. We used to have a thriving shopping centre, which despite putting paint on a rusty nail, it's still a rusty nail. We've lost so much over the years and gained so little in return, yet they still want our votes, but I ask you, 'what is a vote worth' when no one is truly offering anything substantial to the plate, and the plate being that of the future of our town, a town 'where ideas (once) grew'. Newton Aycliffe is no longer a 'New' town, there are generations growing up here with a want to achieve, aspire, a want to be proud to say that this great town is their home, but they can't, we are all being held back by apathy. What have we got to show for ourselves, really? Any councillor or councillors that show real leadership, real ideas and a real interest in the future of our town will almost certainly get my vote, and I'm sure I'm not alone with that either. But until then, what are we voting for...more of the same? Come on councillors or prospective councillors, it's time to up your game and take this town on a new journey, you owe it to us if you really want our votes. If you want this town to be better, be a true councillor with ideas that can grow.  
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# N.A.F.C. Juniors Football Roundup

**Aycliffe U8 Whites** played against Silksworth and Hall. A frustrating game for Aycliffe who scored early on then Silksworth responded with a goal followed by another for Aycliffe. A good end to end match though and it was good to see Aycliffe passing the ball around. Goals from William and Oscar.

**Aycliffe U8 Blacks** began their Spring league campaign away to a very good Leven Juniors side. Leven's passing game was too much for Aycliffe and goals flowed quickly. A spirited second half performance saw Aycliffe play themselves more into the game but could not find a goal.

**Aycliffe U9 Juniors** started their mini league season away to Bishop St Mary's Aces. A brilliant evenly matched game throughout with both teams creating chances and defending really well resulting in an even par first half. Bishop came out quicker in the second half but Aycliffe dug in and some great attacking play saw Jack scoring.

**Aycliffe U9 Blacks** were against Chester-le-Street Wolves. Alfie hit a great goal from a distance in the first half and that helped Aycliffe take control of the game. 2nd half started well and Rhys scored another long shot and soon after he added another.

**Aycliffe U11s** played against Saxons. Aycliffe started the game brightly and when Callum was fouled in the box an early penalty was awarded. Aycliffe worked hard in the second half and had a few chances near the end with Alex hitting the post and Thomas giving his all to try and get Aycliffe something from the game.

**Aycliffe U12 Blacks** away to Peterlee. Aycliffe started slow and conceded three goals in the first half. There were some good runs from Aycliffe but Peterlee's defence was too strong. Second half saw Aycliffe get two good goals with some fancy footwork from Alex. Harry the keeper was excellent. Final score was 3-2 to Peterlee.

**Aycliffe U12 Whites** picked up their first points of the league season with a dominant performance against Eaglescliffe Elementis Yellows. Aycliffe were 1-0 up at half time with a goal from Jack. Second half Aycliffe come out strong with Jack scoring a second. Goals from Henry x2, Jake, Jack and James. 7-1 the final score.

**Aycliffe U13s Whites** 2 v Whinny Banks 3. Aycliffe played some excellent passing football and created some good chances with their keeper pulling off 3 really good saves. The second half Aycliffe were



awarded a penalty which Niall scored and they scored a second from Ollie.

**Aycliffe U15s** were against Ashington United, Aycliffe won 14-0 at Woodham. Goals by Bo x3, Alex x3, Anthony x2, Finn x2, Kamil x2 and Oliver x2.

**Aycliffe U16s** played Seaton Carew at home. Aycliffe went in at half time 3-1 up with two good finishes from Jack C and one from Brennan F. Second half was more of the same with possession being dominated by Aycliffe with Jack C grabbing his third. Full time was NAFC 4 - Seaton Carew 2.

## No Non Disclosure

Dear Sir,

The claim made by the anonymous contributor (Newton News 9th April) that local Labour councillors 'signed a non disclosure document' with Livin is baseless and needs to be retracted forthwith. Further claims in the letter are misleading and a distortion of the truth and is no way to conduct an honest political campaign. Cllr Eddy Adam & Cllr Kate Hopper (Aycliffe West)

### Newton Aycliffe FC Development Team

Our development sessions run EVERY THURSDAY  
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nafcjuniors@gmail.com



#Weonlydopositive



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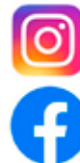
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## Back Nev Jones

Dear Sir,

I insert this notification and recommendation to the town's folk for my good friend Neville Jones, he is worthy of praise from me, as, if not for him, I would not be as well off as I am today, in fact I have to also include his lovely father John, Johnny Jones, as some knew him, he was a kind man and kind enough to allow me to use one of his buses to take my PSV test, which I passed first time.

However, back to Neville, he is a curious man to say the least, he is hard to work out, but he is harmless and a true professional in his work ethic; he is the man we should be backing for the election in Newton Aycliffe.

My vote is yours Nev, as is my wife Jeanette's - do it for the town, we will back you. Good luck.

George & Jeanette

## Youthy Football News



### Seaton United Phoenix 2 v Aycliffe U12 Eagles 3

Seaton took an early lead from a bullet of a shot which found the top corner. Adam went through on goal, beat the keeper but his left footed shot was cleared off the line. The game was end to end and the Eagles were playing some great football. A shot from their striker bounced up in front of Kian and found the back of the net. The boys were encouraged to keep going. The whole team passing the ball around the park which led to our first goal when Kaiden smashed the ball into the net. Again the Eagles came at Seaton and the equaliser from Olly whistled past the Seaton keeper. A soft penalty was awarded to Seaton but Kian managed to do enough to put the player off and he hit the cross bar. HT 2-2. Our defence was brilliant. Zac, Liam, Kai and Olly all having great games and stepping up when it was needed most. With 10 minutes to go Olly fired a shot from distance and the power made their keeper drop the ball and it rolled into the goal. FT 2-3.

### Aycliffe U9 Wildcats v CLS Diablos

Aycliffe scored on first attack. Ava ran onto a pass and drove it into the far corner. Within 10 mins it was Mia and Skye who worked the ball to Ava on the left, her solo run and scored The third came from good work from Phoebe and Lucy on the right getting the ball out to Ava for a great finish again. Then a penalty, when Phoebe was brought down in the box, which Ava struck well, however the keeper got a strong hand behind it to keep it out. The Diablos started getting back into the game when they scored 2 goals in 5 mins, both from corners. It was getting a bit tense. With a few mins to go Ava went on a solo run and finished. Again we had great blocks from Mia and Skye to see out the game for a deserved win.

### U10's Eagles v Redcar

The Eagles started well and were dominating possession, Daniel K having a great shot but just wide, then Danny C smashing the ball off the crossbar. However, Redcar scored the first goal. The Eagles continued to battle but no reward before HT. Second half more of the same as Krystian, in front of goal, fired a shot but the Redcar keeper made a great save but the ball fell to Riley, who hits the equaliser. Redcar played some good football which resulted in them scoring a further 2 goals. With loads of time left to play the Eagles didn't give up. Danny C had a great shot that was saved by the keeper but the power of the shot bounced off him straight to Krystian who scores. Then the Eagles were awarded a penalty. Brandon stepped up and smashed it past the keeper for the game to finish all square. Other results:

### Hartlepool 2 v U16 Girls 5

### U13 Girls 5 v Harton & Westoe 0

### U16 Falcons 1 v Sunderland WE 1

### U14 Eagles 7 v Bedale 0

### Whitby 1 v U15 Boys 3

### South Moor 3 v Aycliffe Women 1

## Utter Disgrace and Insulting

Dear Sir,

The Conservatives are putting 3 people forward, for County Council in Newton Aycliffe, who don't live anywhere near the town. Apparently one appears to live in Sedgfield, another in Billingham and yet another in Redcar (they deliberately hide this by putting 'address in County Durham' on the ballot paper.) Even more insulting, the Lib Dems are putting 2 people forward for the Town Council, one who lives in Brafferton Village, Darlington and the other in Heighington Parish. This may be legal ie; because they live, work or own a property anywhere in County Durham, but it is an utter disgrace and an insult to the residents of Great Aycliffe.

Do you really want 3 Conservative County Councillors representing you at County Council who have nothing to do with Newton Aycliffe, don't pay Council Tax in Great Aycliffe, having a say on your interests and representing you?

Look what happened last time.

Do you really want Lib Dems from Brafferton Village and Heighington Parish sitting on your Town Council representing you, whose only interest is cutting your services and facilities? These parties are an utter disgrace to democracy, and local accountability. None of them live or even pay Council Tax in Newton Aycliffe.

They insult your intelligence, relying on you only to vote on a Party Label, without knowing where they live. Do not vote Conservative or Lib Dem, they will only laugh at you whilst lining their pockets at your expense.

Cllr Arun M Chandran

Independent



## Community Hub Vision Forges on Despite Pandemic

Although the Club has been closed for almost five months, and for the second time in a year, our efforts to support local organisations has continued throughout these difficult times.

As we prepare, in earnest, to reopen on Monday 17th May we'd like to publicly say "Thank You" to some key people and organisations.

- For their continual support in helping to deliver our vision, huge thanks to our local councillors **Jim Atkinson** and **Sarah Iveson**.

- **Groundworks NE** and **Cumbria**, for choosing to utilise the Club, over the past few weeks, to pack and distribute 750 food and activity parcels locally.

- **Play Café**, who have been weekly residents throughout lockdown, also packing and delivering food and activity parcels to numerous local families.

- Finally, **our members** who have remained patient throughout the many months of closure. We will be ready to welcome you all back into the Club from Monday 17th May.

# Town & County Council Election Candidate

Jed Hillary is standing in the forthcoming local elections for Great Aycliffe Town Council in the Aycliffe Central Ward and for Durham County Council in the Aycliffe North and Middridge Division.

Working for County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, he has over 35 years management experience gained during his military career and afterwards, in engineering manufacturing, retail, utilities and the NHS. He studied at the University of Sunderland and Northumbria University, gaining a Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resources Management. He is able to bring his life skills and management experience to effective use as a Councillor and is passionate about improving Newton Aycliffe now and for the future.

A hands-on person, Jed is willing to muck in and do his bit. He can be found on the Town Council Santa tours on Christmas Eve and is an active School Governor. His successes as a Councillor include securing funding to create the Multi Use Games Area at Moore Lane; the long overdue re-vamp of Baliol Green play area; championing the re-build of Vane Road School (what was then, the last remaining Avon Class asbestos built school in the UK); winning a landmark planning decision protecting our green open spaces from future development; provision of additional speed visors around the town to reduce traffic speed; off road parking schemes; and creation of dropped kerbs. During the recent lock-down he and his wife launched a very successful campaign to provide laptops and tablets for our local primary school children.

Behind the scenes he has liaised with the police and registered social landlords to facilitate the re-housing of a victim of ongoing anti-social behaviour; gone out in a storm at midnight to assess a fallen tree across a road and waited until the emergency response team arrived on-site; had litter bins, salt silos and dog bins sited on the town; had potholes repaired and roads re-surfaced; had remedial action taken on uneven footpaths; cleared the pavements of snow in his local area; resolved countless constituent issues in a timely manner and undertaken charity fund raising activities.

These achievements have been accomplished by working in partnership with fellow Councillors, 3rd party organisations and the Officers of Durham County Council and Great Aycliffe Town Council. Funding has been secured, budgets allocated and schemes developed. These activities take time. Time to research, time to plan, time to consult, time to liaise with people, time to prepare and develop proposals, time to follow-up issues that arise and time to



make a difference for you, the Townspeople of Aycliffe.

If you put your trust in Jed, he will be your voice on the Great Aycliffe Town Council and Durham County Council. He will seek to further improve youth activities; promote a partnership approach to tackling anti social behaviour; promote and support local businesses; listen to residents and consult on any future Council developments and proposals; promote environmental, climate, wellbeing and mental health issues; and continue his efforts to help the people of Newton Aycliffe.

## Seeking Your Support

I am seeking your support in both the Town (Central Ward) and County (Aycliffe North and Middridge) council elections.

In my time on our Town Council, I initiated beekeeping on the allotments, and I am happy to see we now have a thriving bee keeping community with expanding training facilities.

I successfully pushed for a review of the council's use of single use plastics and raised awareness of gender inequality, resulting in three female councillors being made deputy chairs of sub-committees, the first in a very long time, and I tenaciously fought for the rainbow flag to be flown on Pride Day.

I am proud to have been part of the Labour led Town Council team that has one of the best financial management records in the country.

If elected again, I intend to explore the possibility of having special educational needs equipment in our play parks and secure fenced areas where pet owners can feel safe to allow their dogs off lead. I would also like to see ideas I have mooted previously at the council, such as a food festival event and open-air cinema, be followed through on.

With my background in mental health support, bereavement counselling, multi-agency working in domestic abuse, and along with my four year 'apprenticeship' at parish level, learning the ropes and contributing to debates, responding to constituents' requests, and raising important issues, I have gained the experience needed to step up to County Council.

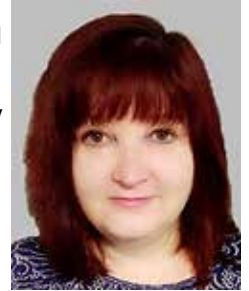
If I am elected to County, I would like to focus on wellbeing and the environment. Covid has highlighted how important our green spaces are for emotional and mental wellbeing. Having a background in counselling, I would like to see more resources put into this area, especially for our young people. I would like to see our green space utilised more in eco-therapeutic ways, with more projects, like the forest schools, being made available for our youth. I'd like to see innovative ways to combat loneliness post Covid.

As a democratic socialist, I would like to see people engaged in local democracy and decision making. I would like to organise democracy workshops where local people can work together to identify their main priorities and identify the solutions they would like to see for their ward, and I would take those outcomes forward to the council.

I am not going to tell you that I can end the unfair council tax system, or that I can stop double taxation, or make our town centre thrive again, because those things are national issues in the hands of central government or private companies. Of course, we all want those things, and I shall campaign for changes to be made on those issues, as I have actively campaigned on many national issues, such as to end the bedroom tax, to combat climate change, and to make food a basic right.

I cannot promise you the earth, but I can promise that, if you vote for me, I will fight your corner and make a difference.

Your Labour Town and County candidate, Kathryn Beetham.



## Positive Debate

Dear Sir,

We have to expect in the run-up to an election that there will be plenty of back-and-forth, it's part of a positive political debate.

However, does this have to descend to the nasty levels being seen by some in our town?

Just because some people don't believe it's fair for us to pay more council tax than other parts of the county, does not mean that we, and the residents supporting this view, should be treated like dirt.

I hope for the sake of our town that when residents vote with their postal vote this week or on 6th May that they consider what is best for our town and perhaps that it really is time for a positive change.

Neville Jones, Lib Dem



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## Parliament Talk

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

This week it was very sad to hear that the Duke of Edinburgh has passed on, he was very much his own man whilst still managing to give his complete allegiance to the Queen. He will be remembered by many people for different reasons, ranging from the occasional controversial comments, through to the passion he had for good causes. Most notably of course is the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme that he established in 1956 and he was a founding member of the World Wildlife Fund. He formed an extraordinary partnership with our Queen in a marriage that lasted nearly 74 years and covered 14 prime ministers. Like many, I think first of our Queen and the personal loss she will be feeling, and I have posted condolences in the book of condolence on behalf of the people of Sedgefield.

This meant that political activities were rightly suspended with the major parties refraining from any campaigning for the forthcoming elections over last weekend and again on Saturday 17th, when the funeral takes place.

As I said last week, we are on recess so there has not been as much Westminster activity to update you on but I have at least been able to have some socially distant and/or virtual meetings with locals. I have joined virtual Parish Council meetings with Fishburn, Wheatley Hill and Hutton Henry & Station Town. I have also been able to catch up with the Newton Aycliffe neighbourhood Police team physically. They are a great team that are absolutely committed to doing all they can to make our town safer and I would encourage you all to report incidents when they occur and not just post on Facebook or other media. There were incidents last week that were high profile on Facebook but nobody had taken the time to actually report them to the Police! Please do not assume they know, just because you have seen it posted, they would rather get numerous reports on the same incident than none.

On Monday I had the pleasure of visiting a couple of businesses in Ferryhill who had had to delay their opening due to

covid but were finally able to start trading. One was a travel agent and the other an Italian restaurant, I wish them, and all other businesses that are reopening success and that their customers act responsibly to help this be the last lockdown. Westminster opened on Monday afternoon to allow tributes to the Duke of Edinburgh before normal business resumed on Tuesday. Like many others I had a pint sitting outside in the cold on Monday night, just because I could. It really felt like a step towards normality but I really hope that, whilst this opportunity to socialise again is fabulous that everyone remembers to be sensible, so we don't slide back. Tuesday saw me at the BEIS select committee where we raised the Mineworkers Pension Scheme with Minister Anne Marie Trevelyan and I specifically asked about the fairness of the initial negotiations. Both the miners and the Government have done well from this pension plan and this is probably a function of the guarantee the Government facilitated but the Government have seen proportionally better benefits and we were requesting a retrospective reconsideration. The Minister has offered to meet with the Trustees to discuss further. We then discussed the business of the BEIS department with Secretary of State Kwasi Kwarteng and I specifically asked about the considerations surrounding the Cumbrian mine proposal and potential offshore drilling licences for offshore oil and gas. I had further meetings with Durham County Council around local services and the Levelling Up fund work and met with Barclays about the closure of the bank in the town centre. They remain committed to their decision to close but we also discussed future opportunities. I questioned whether there were opportunities for a different way of working in future with some form of shared facility, they said these are the sort of options being considered but current banking legislation made it difficult. We agreed to revisit this when the legislation evolved and if any changes to the Town Centre delivered opportunities we will talk further. In the meantime, I have further meetings scheduled with the local team to understand how they are supporting their customers. On vaccinations it is great to see that we have now passed 40 million vaccinations with close to 8 million people having had two doses. We remain on track to offer vaccinations to all over 18's by the end of July. As I have said before please take up the offer when you get the chance and continue to follow the rules and the Hands, Face Space guidelines. Stay safe.

Paul Howell  
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

## Bethany House Easter

Residents living in Bethany House would like to thank everyone in our community for the kind donations we received during the Easter period, including palms, Easter cards, chocolate eggs, text messages, gifts and prayers.

Special thanks to the Pupils at Wingate Primary School and Acre Rigg Academy for the handmade Easter cards and the many gift boxes from "BeePositive" East Durham Creates.

Thank you for your kindness.  
Debbie

## Bringing Back Respect

Dear Sir

I would like to say to all the residents in Aycliffe North and Middridge, to all the residents in Cobblers, Horndale and Byerley Park, please vote for me to enable me to become your Councillor for both County and Aycliffe Town Council.



I am not going to boast or brag about my past achievements, of which I have many, including Mayor of Great Aycliffe 2010/2011. Throughout the Pandemic I have collected surplus food three nights a week from Tesco and five nights a week from Greggs and delivered it personally to the people who needed it across our town, usually finishing about 9.30pm, regardless of the weather conditions.

But I promise to serve you all to the best of my ability, to genuinely vote for the good of the residents, make sure that any complaints that you give me will be addressed to the best of my ability, both in time and result with no delays in contacting you with whatever the outcome.

My priorities will be older people, domestic violence, mental health and young children. I will not tolerate anti-social behaviour, because I believe every person is entitled to a peaceful life 24 hours a day, which is not happening at the moment.

I do not expect the Police Commissioner to be a person who allows leniency to be given to the perpetrators and residents petitions to be ignored, as the petition I handed in to the present acting commissioner was, and I was forbidden from having his reply published. I did help and set up a petition with a young lady, who gathered over 1000 signatures, to have Whinlatter Bridge kept open and we succeeded at the time, possibly just before, or as the streets reverted back to West Ward. I would like, with the residents, help to bring RESPECT back into the communities and schools, a very hard but worthwhile task I am sure we can achieve with intergenerational work.

PLEASE VOTE FOR ME.

Dorothy Bowman, Independent.

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**Paul Howell**  
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

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

# It Was a Privilege and a Pleasure

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Aycliffe North and Middridge for electing me as their County Councillor four years ago. It was the first time I had been elected and has been an absolute privilege and a pleasure. After a lifetime working in private business, engaging in the council chamber and scrutiny meetings was an education. I spent time on both the Environment and Economy scrutiny committees as well as the Combined Fire Authority, barely missing a meeting until I was elected in 2019 as your Member of Parliament. I was delighted to engage with people like the Horndale Residents group; Middridge Parish Council, Woodham Community Centre; with David Sutton Lloyd and his work on getting defibrillators throughout the town and the PCP and Play Café amongst others, who were all fabulous to work with. I also applaud the support of the team at GAMP, led by Brian Riley, who focus on making sure the funds delivered to the town through the Council are delivered with speed and integrity. Thanks to each and every one of the people involved, they

are a credit to Newton Aycliffe. As your MP I am continuing to link with these and other amazing groups to get the best for our town. The next elections are now only a few weeks away and I would ask you to think about last weeks contribution by the Labour campaign team. They ask for experience rather than new Councillors and claim the Labour Council 'found' money to deliver more highway maintenance, street lighting, etc. This would be the same experienced team of councillors that removed street lights between Burn Lane and Woodham Golf Club and are building a new County Hall on a flood plain! Not experiences that I would want to repeat. Can I also say that finding money is a strange statement. Did they lose it? Was it hidden? Or did the Conservative Government provide it but they don't want to acknowledge that? I would suggest that new Councillors might just take a look in the sweetie jars (or Reserves as they will call them) and see the truth. It is notable that in Westminster, or even next door in Darlington, some scrutiny committees are chaired by opposition members but this does not happen in Durham, even the vice chairs are totally controlled by Labour. Whilst they have absolute control they will take the opportunity to retain as much management of their own scrutiny as possible. It will only take a net loss of 6 of the 126 Council seats for a loss of this absolute control, let's make it happen. Thanks again for your votes in the last elections, please vote Conservative in May and let's have a County Council that has to listen to all its residents.

Paul Howell  
Councillor for Aycliffe North and Middridge  
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

## Young Scientists are Inspired

Students at Greenfield Community College were inspired by Science recently as they experimented as part of British Science Week.

Staff and students showed amazing innovation as they took part in home 'experiments' for STEAM Scientist of the week (Science, Technology Engineering, Arts and Mathematics).

Each day an experiment was posted on our school Facebook page, @Greenfield, which could be carried out at home using 'kitchen chemistry' or craft materials. These included making hot ice, investigating Epsom salts, making a water-wheel and even braving science to ferment food substances! The students found out so much more about science as part of a 'hands-on' and valuable learning experience.

Students were enthusiastic and submitted their photos to staff to be part of the competition. The brilliant STEAM Scientist of the week was Callum who won a Science Museum Rocket Kit. Well done to everyone who has taken part and to families for their support, it has made science at Greenfield such a positive experience.

STEAM Club started again at Greenfield Community College, on Tuesday 13th April. Year 7 students can meet on a Tuesday in SC6 and can find out more information from Science teachers at school.

Greenfield Community College are committed to developing skills that raise aspirations and support future learning and career choices. 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](http://www.greenfieldschool.net) or contact the school by emailing: [contact@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:contact@greenfieldschool.net) or by calling 01325 300378.

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# Aycliffe Running Club News



As the latest set of lockdown restrictions start to ease, we have seen a return of organised sporting activity, and several Members have taken the opportunity to test their fitness at a number of races.

On Saturday, 3 April 2021, John Surtees travelled down to Bingley to take on a half marathon organised by the running company, 'It's Grim Up North'. John came home in second place overall, in a time of 1:19:39. As a Bank Holiday Monday treat, David Stothard took on the Run Durham Dalton Park Easter 10K on 5 April 2021, completing the race in 1:00:29.

Paul Dalton returned to action on Saturday, 10th April 2021, taking part in the Lambton Castle X-Trail 10K, which provided a rare opportunity to run around the grounds of the estate. Paul finished the race in 41:05, which was good enough for fourth place overall on the day and for first place in his Age Category (Vet Male 40).

Later that same day, the Club were represented at the NECAA XC Relays, which took place at Thornley Hall Farm, Peterlee. The Club fielded a team in the Men's Masters race, which comprised three legs of 3K. Shaun Dodd completed the first leg in 14:32, with David Stothard on the second leg (16:22), and Andy Talbot on the anchor leg, coming home in 13:15.

On Sunday, 11 April 2021, Richard Holland participated in Saturn Running's 'The Lost Runs' event, which started from Durham Amateur Rowing Club, and which invited runners to complete as many laps as possible of a 3.28-mile looped course along the banks of the River Wear within a seven-hour time limit. Richard successfully completed six loops for a total of 19.7 miles in a time of 2:48:34. Later that afternoon, three Members travelled to Middlesbrough to participate in the Endeavour 5K Graded Races. John Surtees was first to run for the Club, taking part in Race 2, and came home in a time of 16:29, which set a new Club Record in his Age Category (Vet Male 35).

John Firby continued his improvement since joining the Club, registering a new Personal Best of 17:00 in Race 3. Andy Talbot completed a busy weekend for him, running in Race 4, and coming home in 19:30, registering the fastest V60 time of the day. Our Junior Section have also returned to training as the national lockdown has eased, with sessions now taking place in their new home at Stadium 2000. Our Junior Section have made great strides in recent months, and we would like to express our gratitude to GAMP (Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership) who have awarded us funding to help our Junior Section. Funding awarded will help purchase equipment for the team to aid our children in their sporting development, along with funding coaching courses.

If you have any queries about the activities of Aycliffe Running Club, please visit our website [www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk](http://www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk), or contact the Club's Secretary, Donna, at [ayclifferunningclub@gmail.com](mailto:ayclifferunningclub@gmail.com)

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## Sponsored Walk



On Saturday 1st May, Rev's Ann, Jeff and Daniel will walk from Newton Aycliffe to Durham Cathedral. The project is to help fund the removal of asbestos from the church hall.

They will do this with a spring in their step, if you could sponsor them it would be appreciated:

**To help and donate online:**

"Asbestos Fund"

Parish of Great Aycliffe

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Sort: 20-09-04



# Simon Hocking – Election Address

Dear Sir,  
I would like to announce that I will be standing as the Labour candidate for Neville Ward for Great Aycliffe Town Council in the upcoming elections on May 6th.  
This is my first time standing and I would like to say it has been both an exhausting but gratifying experience to do so. With usual campaigning not happening this time around we have not been able to knock doors or

interact in the same way, but I have been out walking the Ward with my County Council counterpart and I would like to say one thing, it has been great fun. I have enjoyed every second speaking to every single person who has stopped and taken time to talk to us, to show support and hopefully they will place their faith in me on May 6th.



There have been calls for new blood on the town council throughout this election, for people to do things differently, fresh faces and new ideas. I would hope those qualities are recognised in me.

I will not be commenting on what my opposition are saying as I want to present my own vision to you, I want you to look at what I have to offer and decide for yourselves if you feel that is something you share for our town. There are three areas I want to focus on if I make the cut on May 6th, those are: opportunities for all regardless of where they started; mentoring the towns youth and working with the multitude of excellent businesses and schools on the town to ensure we provide those opportunities and the guidance for our people.

I have lived in Newton Aycliffe my entire life, it is an amazing town and we can make it better, together. Good luck to everyone standing and to those who get elected, there is a huge responsibility on your shoulders to deliver. It would be an honour to be one of the ones who help lighten the load.

I would love to hear from everyone on the town about what you think we can do together to achieve this, please feel free to contact me either on 07961 709093 or email at: [simonhocking4neville@gmail.com](mailto:simonhocking4neville@gmail.com)  
Simon Hocking

## At Your Service

Dear Sir,  
It gives me great pleasure to announce that I shall be standing as an Independent candidate for Shafto / St. Mary's in the upcoming local election. I chose to relocate to Newton Aycliffe over forty years ago and have worked at Tallents and Union Carbide whilst raising my family in this lovely town. Previously I have served on both Great Aycliffe Town Council and Sedgfield District Council taking pride in my achievements during those terms. Much of a Councillors work in those days was spent in representing those who elected me, ensuring repairs were made to council housing stock. I was at the forefront of a campaign to save the Avenue school, sadly Labour got their way and the school was closed.



Unlike some, I always spoke up for those people who elected me, and those who didn't, without favour. I come out of retirement once again to serve the people of my area and my town as more and more residents are unhappy with the representation offered by Labour Councillors. I strongly believe that as a town we deserve better than we have had in recent years.

Who of us remembers the outrage of our service veterans at the closure and demolition of the DLI museum and the off-hand way in which our Durham Councillors treated them or indeed the disgraceful way that Teaching Assistants were treated? If in doubt, request a copy of the vote count on the closure and you won't be surprised to see that all of our Labour County Councillors voted for the closure. As a town and community, we appear to be paying more than our fair share of taxes to Durham for little return to our residents. Potholes are prevalent on our roads; People are complaining about the rise in Anti-Social Behaviour plaguing our neighbourhoods and we would like to see a return of some of the events held dearly by us such as the Great Aycliffe Show.

I note that we have an array of parties and personalities standing in this year's elections from Lib Dems, Reform, Conservatives and, of course, Independents, some of whom don't even live in Newton Aycliffe. Please consider, when you vote, who would be best for our town, it is not a beauty contest nor are you voting for parliament. If we are to make a difference this time, please, please turn out and vote, let them hear your voice through the ballot box. Please elect me to your local Council as I want the best for Newton Aycliffe. David Elliot, Independent - At Your Service.

### Obituary

### In Memoriam

#### Eddie Leadbitter



Peacefully on 7th April, of Aycliffe Village, Eddie, aged 82 years.  
Dearly loved Husband of Mary; loving Dad to the late Tim and Tracey; dear Father-in-Law to Martyn; devoted Grandfather to Abigail, Leah, Sophie and Katie.  
He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.  
Due to current restrictions a small gathering of family and friends will be held for the Funeral Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Monday 19th April for 1.30pm.

#### Maureen Young

18/1/1951-20/4/2003  
In loving memory of my darling Wife, who died 18 years ago. Sadly missed by Mark, Paul, Claire and all the family.  
All my love, from your loving Husband, Paul  
xxxxxxxxx

In loving memory of our Son  
**Stephen P. Ibinson**  
16th April 2009



Gone are the days we used to share, but in our hearts you are always there.  
The gates of memories will never close, we miss you more than anyone knows.  
We love and miss you so much every day, till we meet again, always and forever.  
We love you Son.  
Mam, Dad and family here and in Northern Ireland.

#### Doug Ellis

Passed away on 3rd April 2021, aged 75 years.  
Beloved Husband of Brenda for 55 years; much loved Dad of Bryan and Kevin; loving Father-in-Law, Grandad and Great Grandad, also a dear Brother. Very sadly missed by all.  
Funeral Service to take place at Wear Valley Crematorium Chapel on Wednesday 21st April at 1.30pm.  
Family flowers only, donations to Parkinsons UK

**Joan Nicholson**  
16th April

Our hearts still ache with sadness and many tears still flow. What it meant to lose you, no one will ever know.  
We hold you close within our hearts and there you will remain. To walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again.  
Also remembering your birthday on 22nd April.  
Love from Derek and all of your family

### Birthday Remembrance

#### Ada & Dick Hutson

Mam 4th April  
Dad 19th April  
Forever in our hearts you will stay, we will love you both and remember you every single day.  
From your loving Family xxxxxxxx

### Acknowledgement

#### Tom Stevens

Joyce and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness, cards and flowers received after the sad loss of Tom.  
A special thank you to Tracy Jefferies for the lovely and uplifting Service and to Tracey Rimmer and all the staff at John Meynell Funeral Directors for all the help and support they gave us at this difficult time, also thank you for the donations that were kindly given for Alzheimer's Research in memory of Tom.

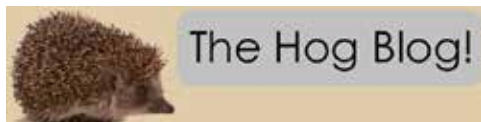
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### HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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It's been an eventful week for Tara and myself, the good news is lots of support from June and Valerie, they have been making some lovely rabbits and penguins for us to sell, also a special thank you to Will for an amazing donation of toys and finally Sonia for some lovely food for our poorly hogs. We have to mention finders for the speed they have got poorly hogs to us. Firstly, Lindsay who brought a lovely hog to us on Friday night after finding him in her dogs mouth, she has named her hedgehog Sonic, recovering nicely, also Mike and Julie for discovering a lovely little 2 month old girl, out in the day and suffering from an upset tummy, they have named her Hazel. When we admit poorly hedgehogs we always make sure that they are warmed through, given a soft warm bed and food also, more importantly, time to adapt to captivity. Stress is a killer for these mammals if they aren't handled correctly on admission.

We are finding things difficult at the moment because we are continuing to admit hoggies before we can release the healthy, over wintered, ones, every Rescue is working hard to accommodate the best they can, we work together to make sure every hog gets the help they need and richly deserve. All we are waiting for is nice night time weather for them. Tara and I are hoping to release about 23 into the wild, which is very fulfilling, it's also up to us to keep them safe, everyone's cooperation is greatly appreciated, they need all the help they can get. Lots of information is available on the People's Trust for Endangered Species website.

**Weekly Tip:** For any help or advice The British Hedgehog Preservation Society are reachable on 01584 890801, our Facebook page Prickly Haven Hedgehog Rescue and Hedgehog Street have lots of help and advice for anyone who needs it, if all else fails our local vets.

## Heighington A.F.C. Update

### East Durham U9 3 v Heighington FC U9 4

It was a successful return to football today for the Heighington boys after a long lockdown period. After numerous zoom fitness sessions, and some recent high tempo training, the boys were looking sharp after Mitchel fired us into an early lead from close range. The first half was one way traffic, the boys were creating chances for fun and were unlucky to go into half time with just a 1 goal lead. They showed the same attitude coming out for the second half and quickly found themselves 4-1 up after a second from an ion form Mitchell, 1 from our fantastic new signing Will and a clinical spot kick from Isaac. Some great moves from the opposition and some lost concentration cost us towards the end of the game, but some stout defending and clever goalkeeping managed to secure the points. All the boys gave 100% today, one proud coach. MOM: Will Farrow, a spectacular debut and ran the midfield, a solid performance topped with a goal. A great addition to our squad.

### Heighington U11s RFYL.

#### Match 1 - Heighington AFC 3 v Shincliffe Juniors Blues 3.

The Mighty Red and Blacks were finally back in league action today. We played against a strong Shincliffe team. After a very slow start the lads found themselves 3 nil down. The fight and determination to get back in the game was amazing. Chance after chance came and went. But goals from Luca, Jack (a goal in his league debut) and the equalizing goal from Coleby in the dying stages of the match.

With a full squad available, every player helped push us on to the equaliser. It was a great match to watch for the neutrals. Well done everyone.

MOM went to Coleby for his tireless work



rate, at one stage holding off 5 players and finding a pass. He then found his composure in the box to find the top corner for the equaliser.

### Match 2 - Heighington AFC U11s v Felling Magpies Black U11s.

Coming up against top of the league, after a long day back at school. Every single player ran their heart out to help the team win 2-0. They battled hard and continued to try playing their brilliant passing game throughout.

Goals scored by Jack and Oliver C.

MOM went to Jack for his non stop running and continuous efforts to start attack after attack. 4 goals in 3 matches now, great start. Massive well done to the Mighty Red and Blacks.

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