

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

Another Community Legacy



See page 2 for full story

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SHAKE 'N' CAKE



PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgfield



Yorkshire 3 Peaks for Charity

Local music teacher, Andy Jakob, a keen hill walker and Chairman of Aycliffe Fell Walking Club, is looking forward to taking on the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge to raise funds and awareness for the Alzheimer's Society. Andy will be joined by younger brother, Pete from Hampshire, and together they aim to complete the 25-mile circular walk and climb the three mountains Pen-y-ghent (694m), Wharfedale (736m) and Ingleborough (724m) in under 12 hours. Their mother is herself diagnosed with Dementia so they are motivated to raise funds so that one day a cure will be found. "Alzheimer's Society is transforming the landscape of dementia forever. Until the day we find a cure, we will create a society where those affected by Dementia are supported and accepted, able to live in their country without fear or prejudice." The walk will be attempted on 18th June, starting at Horton in Ribblesdale. A Just Giving page has been set up for anyone who wishes to support the cause. Donations have already reached over £200. [justgiving.com/fundraising/andyjakobandpetejakobstrideoutfordementia](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andyjakobandpetejakobstrideoutfordementia)



Horndale Community Association Bows Out with Another Community Legacy

Our group was formed in October 2012 as a "one off" project to build a much needed children's Multi Use Games Area 'the MUGA'. Given little hope initially we persevered raising £40,000 and the support of Great Aycliffe Town Council and many more, the pitch has become a great asset to our community and is well used. One thing led to another and we evolved into a very active and well recognised local charity. Our range of events and activities were all planned with social activity for all as a priority. Trips out to the Seaside, Afternoon Teas, Dog Racing, Theme Parks and many more, these cheap trips were very successful and always full. However, our annual Free Summer Fun Day proved very popular. Our last one beat all our previous records with over 1,500 people attending. We also planted thousands of Crocus and Mini Daffodils with local school pupils to enhance the area and carried out regular litter picks. Working with other Community groups and agencies has helped us improve the lives of many people. So many people and different organisations over the years have helped produce this success, too many to mention here, so I am writing to them individually to thank them all personally. I must, however, add a personal thanks to

the Martin, Ann, Alan and Margaret who have been a great team to work with. Our 'one off' project has lasted 9 years and we have raised over £140,000, all spent on making our communities a better place to live, now the time has come for us to pass things on to a new generation. Our Committee have unanimously decided that the balance of funds we hold should go to another Community project that has a lasting legacy for the future. We were involved in the early stages of the 24 hour Aycliffe Defibrillator project started at Woodham Community Centre by David Sutton-Lloyd. The AED unit which we provided 3 years ago and which is held inside Greenfield Store is to be fitted outside and accessible 24 hours a day via a "999" call. The Singh family will maintain the unit and David will cover costs. This unit will be the 17th and will provide potential life saving equipment for many years. All of the AED venues are being asked to make a donation to provide an emergency unit and back up pads. We have agreed to contribute. As we bow out, just one more point, thanks for being a great community. Philip Clark
Chair on behalf of
Horndale Community Association

No Council

Dear Sir,
Whilst the national parties have agreed to suspend electioneering until the funeral of Prince Philip, our locals are hard at it with a bun fight in the Newton News and stuffing their election info through our doors. One current sitting councillor wants the number of Councillors reduced and our taxes brought down to the level of Crook, Consett and Chester-le-Street who appear to be governed by DCC direct. If they have no local council, I presume they have no local Councillors, just the county ones. Were we to opt to be controlled by DCC, our current sitting Councillor would achieve his objective. No local council, and no local Councillors, thus a saving there and hopefully the same council tax as those other towns. Is this the way to go? Peter Hardy

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Congratulations Jane and Simon

Simon and Jane Day would like to thank everyone that contributed to their wedding on Monday 19th April 2021.

Due to Covid restrictions we decided to only have two witnesses. When restrictions are lifted we will be having a big celebration where all our friends can join us at The Steam Machine.

We would like to thank everyone for the beautiful gifts, money and cards. A big thank you for all the uplifting comments on social media.

We would like to thank Alan and Toni Fraser, our Pastors of Embrace Church Darlington, for being our witnesses at the ceremony.

Thank you to Bev Sear of Sear Floristry for the beautiful flowers, and decorations.

Thank you Nick from The Steam Machine for opening up on his day off, holding a reception for six of us, with beautiful vegan food.

Thank you to Saffron from Love Thy Cupcake for the amazing vegan wedding cake and desserts.

Thank you Michael and Charlotte Harnett for taking the photos and to Stephen Patterson for arranging our beautiful honeymoon.

We would also like to thank our volunteers



at Junction 7 for their support in making sure Junction 7 can continue to provide our services while we are away.

The biggest thank you goes to God for putting us on the right path together and the beautiful sunshine. Simon and I were so overwhelmed by everyone and their generosity, we feel truly blessed.

Once again thank you.

Simon and Jane Day

Move Forward Together

Dear Residents,

Wow! Clearly the Independent (ex-Labour) and Labour councillors are getting the same message as us, that people are sick and tired of all their negative nonsense.

Residents simply want people to be our councillors, people who will work hard, improve the town and sort out our unfair council tax.

Some Independents think it's 'disgusting' that someone who lives in School Aycliffe can stand for election here. School Aycliffe is part of our community. It's so sad to hear their negativity. Surely everyone who lives in our community and feels passionate about it should be respected?

What the negative, frequently plain wrong or actual lies really show is: that Labour, whether those who are Labour or those who pretend not to be (Independents), have nothing positive to say about how to improve our town.

A vote for me and my Lib Dem colleagues is a vote for one thing and one thing only, people who are passionate about our town and want to improve it, people who will work together for everyone's benefit.

You will decide, and perhaps our town will finally turn a corner and we can move forwards together.

Take care.

Nev Jones
Liberal Democrat Candidate
Aycliffe East County Division



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RUNNING CLUB NEWS



We start this week's report with a look back at the Kieran Maxwell Memorial Open, which took place on Sunday 11th April 2021 at the Eastbourne Sports Complex in Darlington. Two Members of the Club's Junior Section participated in the 100m Sprint.

Both running in Heat 5, Elizabeth Clay came home in third place in a time of 14:37, and in doing so recorded the sixth fastest time of the day overall. Megan Thom was not far behind, completing her run in 16:34.

The event was the first time either athlete had competed in a single discipline event and it provided both with great experience. On Sunday 18th April 2021, the Senior Section's Bev Phillipo headed just up the road to take part in the Wild Deer Events' Raby Castle Trail Run. Selecting the 5 Mile option, Bev came home in a time of 48:24. Also on the same day, several Members participated in the TriHard Yorkshire Duathlon, albeit representing the Aycliffe Tri Club. The event, comprising both cycling and running, took place at Croft Motor Racing Circuit near Dalton-on-Tees.

Over the Sprint Distance, Alan Kellett recorded a time of 1:22.36, with Kevin Greenall just behind him in a time of 1:26.35. Anne Kellett followed them home in a very respectable 1:40.11.

Over the Standard Distance, which took place later in the day, Trevor Dixon posted a very creditable time of 2:06.12, and he was followed in by Graham Atkins in 2:21.28. If you have any queries about the activities of Aycliffe Running Club, please visit our website www.ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk, or contact the Club's Secretary, Donna, at ayclifferrunningclub@gmail.com

Photo: Elizabeth Clay and Megan Thom - Kieran Maxwell Memorial Open

A Huge Dog's Loo

Once this town was clean and new,
It's now become a huge dog's loo.
Everywhere you step with care,
To dodge the pile laid everywhere.
On the paths and now the road,
There's nowhere sacred from the deadly load.

AR

Paul Harris Fellow Awards & Certificates of Appreciation

A Paul Harris Fellow is a prestigious Rotary award, the highest accolade that Rotary can present to an individual. After an extremely challenging year, Rotary Newton Aycliffe wished to honour, with a Paul Harris Fellowship, those local people it deems to have given outstanding service to the community. Although the award is for individual service, Rotary Newton Aycliffe also wished to honour two organisations it considers have gone above and beyond the call of duty within their communities.

Therefore, both organisations will be awarded a Certificate of Appreciation. For exceptional dedication to Newton Aycliffe and the wider area, the list as per the photograph bottom left and clockwise, of recipients of the Paul Harris Fellow and Certificates of Appreciation are as follows: Rtn Jean Thompson presenting to Rtn Pat Pickersgill.

President Trish presenting awards to:- Alison Firby and Kathleen Pinner of the Play Café and Rtn Geoff Batchelor.

Noel Scanlon, Executive Director of Nursing.

Allison White from Great Aycliffe Cancer Support.

Rtn Brian Winwood.

Pastoral Assistant Pam Lovelass.

Tesco Manager Darren Pickering and their Community Champion Shirley Cormack.

A book on the History of Rotary was also gifted to the individuals.

Alison from Play Café was overwhelmed and with her interpretation of a quotation from the Rotary book said "The children of Newton Aycliffe, and the adults who are also at risk, belong to all of us. Their problems are our problems, and we must work together to solve them. And because I cannot do everything, I will do what I can. It really does not matter who said those things or how long ago, it is true for me, and obviously for Rotarians." Alison's colleague, Kath told us "I love what we do at Play Café and it is so rewarding helping families in need. I never imagined that our work would be recognised. It is just us doing our bit." Allison White from Great Aycliffe Cancer Support was stunned and remarked, "This means such a lot to me and the other volunteers that we have been recognised in this way." Geoff Batchelor was equally surprised when Trish presented him with his award. This is Geoff's second Paul Harris Fellow which means he now has a bar with a sapphire blue gemstone.

A Certificate of Appreciation has been awarded to Tesco Newton Aycliffe, with our grateful thanks, for their commitment and continuing assistance to Rotary Newton Aycliffe and the community in general. A Certificate of Appreciation has been awarded to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust for their outstanding contribution and service to the public during the challenging circumstances of the past year. The Trust's Executive Director of Nursing, Noel Scanlon, said, "We are incredibly grateful to be recognised in this way and are lucky to enjoy a close



relationship with our local Rotary Clubs. Their support means a great deal to our staff and benefits our patients enormously." The awards were presented by Rotary Newton Aycliffe President Trish Pemberton and Rtn Jean Thompson, with a surprise visit and in an outside space at the charity/organisation venue. In emotional presentations across the area, President Trish praised the work of these people and their charitable causes saying "without the hard work and dedication of individuals and organisations like yourselves, our communities would be a poorer place. Because of you, we have a town and a region to be proud of and we need to celebrate our volunteers and community champions, which is what a Paul Harris Fellow is all about. On behalf of Rotary, thank you each and every one of you for your service". All recipients have been invited to the next Rotary Zoom meeting to tell members about their work.

Aycliffe Village Hall A.G.M.

The committee is delighted to announce that the annual meeting of Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association will take place on Monday, May 17, at 7pm in the Village Hall. This meeting was postponed due to the pandemic and will be subject to Government restrictions in place at the time.

This will be a chance for people to catch up on what is planned for the rest of the year in what continue to be challenging times.

ROF59 Re-Opening



In light of the recent updates from the government regarding the 'road map' to returning to normal, we aim to open all of our activities on 17th May.

We are also taking pre-bookings for parties, very soon, for dates past 21st June.

Facilities available now:

- Adventure Walls
- Battlefield Laser Combat

Don't be disappointed:

- Online bookings only
- Waiver must be completed online prior to arrival for all attendees including spectators
- Book in advance as we have restricted our numbers
- Arrive 15 minutes prior to your booking
- Remember to add your socks to your booking if required
- Ensure all attendees who are not taking part in a session are booked in as a spectator and complete a waiver
- All visitors to the centre must wear a face mask unless they are taking part in an activity. Visitors may remove their mask to eat and drink within the designated seating areas.

Please adhere to social distancing and the other measures we have put into place, ie: the one-way system and hand sanitising stations, as we want to ensure you and our team members safety.

Councillors-Elect

Dear Sir,
We expected to be going into the election asking you to lend us your vote to become both town and county councillors.

However, due to there being so few people standing for election in the Woodham ward, we will be automatically elected to the town council.

We reaffirm our commitment to residents, not just in Woodham, but across Newton Aycliffe, to work hard for positive change in our town.

Work which will perhaps start to change the negative politics that we have seen for so long in Newton Aycliffe.

We hope you will now support us both, and our colleague Andrea Miller, for the county council, and for Andrea's town council election to the Byerley and Cobbler's Hall Ward.

Together we can build a better town, fix our unfair council tax situation and make the position of councillor in our town something we can all be proud of once again.

With thanks.

Councillors-elect

Michael Stead and Maureen Shelton



Time for Change?

Dear Sir,

As a senior member of the Conservative Party Local Election team, I wish to outline our ambitions and commitment to you for a better future.

We will work together as a team and make sure that the voice of Newton Aycliffe is heard at County Hall. Many of the people we speak to have told us Durham County Council does not listen to them. Other parties promise what they have always promised then follow the party line and fail to deliver. Meanwhile, we are in the top ten Councils in the whole Country for charges.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

We must encourage active partnerships to further stimulate economic and social recovery post Covid, and we also see our role as holding the Government to account, (through our MP Paul Howell), and Durham County Council, (through local Councillors), making sure promises are kept.

We must also start to tackle the cause of anti-social behaviour, not the effect. We will work together with the police, community groups, and schools, to educate all on the consequences of anti-social behaviour. However, we must also find new and effective ways to punish serial offenders and/or their parents - after all, what we have been doing so far has not been working. Seeing so many young children litter picking and learning about the environment is wonderful, but heart breaking to find the next day they are having to start cleaning up all over again.

The Town Centre and other retail outlets in our area remain a major concern for all residents, highlighted by the recent announcements of local closures such as Barclays Bank and Argos. South Durham under Labour has suffered badly from a long history of poor retail planning, this despite Newton Aycliffe being the major town in the area. It is another unique opportunity for all progressive parties to unite and develop a radical, sustainable, new solution. We must decide the type of retail outlets, social and entertainment facilities that will be sustainable, while considering the ever-changing habits of society. Sticky tape and a coat or two of paint on existing facilities will not do. Substantial capital investment is needed and our role as local Councillors will be to campaign vigorously for levelling up funds to be used for major projects like this that will benefit all residents. Look at what is being achieved in new Conservative controlled areas next to us!

Local consultations with families, young and older residents is vital, and we must follow this up with local action to support solutions, especially in the 'voluntary sector' It is at local level where funding is most effective. The range of support and activities has been evolving over the last few years, sustained by individuals and dedicated teams who require a constant flow of funds to enable them to plan long term sustainable projects. One-off funding does not achieve this.

However, the Covid recovery gives us an opportunity to actively target and support local activities, especially those concerned with new technology, social isolation, health, and education priorities. This last horrendous year has helped us all to focus on what is really important in our lives.

Between us, we offer a comprehensive range of experience, local knowledge and personal skills and believe our wonderful community can work together to achieve a better future for all, so NOW IS THE TIME FOR CHANGE.

David Sutton-Lloyd

Conservative candidate for Aycliffe North and Middridge



Irene Moves On The Choice is Yours . . .

Dear Sir,
I would like to thank all the people who voted for me to represent them for the last 14 years as an Independent Councillor at Great Aycliffe Town Council, and as a Sedgfield Borough Councillor, before, sadly it was disbanded.

I am not standing in the elections this time as my family and I are relocating to live near the sea, a lifelong ambition of ours.

I would like to thank the current Town Clerk, Andrew Bailey and all his staff, for the friendship, love and support that they always gave me. I wish Andrew and Christine a long and happy retirement, also our lovely Mayor, Mary Dalton, such a lovely lady that she is.

I'd like to wish Dan Austin good luck in his new role as Town Clerk. I am sure he will serve the town well, if his work doing all the accounts if anything to go by. He always presented his hard work in a way that we could understand and appreciate.

Another great man, who it has been a pleasure to know and work alongside as an Independent Councillor.

I'd like to think I got along with all Councillors from different parties, for the good of the town and the residents.

A special mention to Jed and Wendy Hillary, Martin Ashcroft and Bob Fleming - kind, caring, hard working, honest Councillors, you never read Wendy, Jed or Martin bad mouthing other Councillors, they just work for us all to the best of their ability.

I must also mention Eddy Adam, he always returns calls and gets the job done. It seems Bob and Martin are standing as Independents, whatever they stand as, I wish them good luck; Bob has so much experience and knowledge, I have so much love and respect for him.

Please, when you place your X to vote, vote for the people with experience, not vote just because someone is popular - knowledge and experience is what we need.

Once again, thank you for the support I have received over the years and good luck to all candidates, hopefully the best will be successful.

Yours sincerely
Irene Hewitson

Dear Sir,
I have said many times before that double taxation is unfair and on this issue I agree with both the Liberal Democrats and Durham County Council (DCC) who also agree that double taxation is unfair. Where I disagree with the Liberal Democrats is that they are concerned with the 20p a week extra on their County Council tax (which perhaps would only enable them to buy a carrier bag). I do agree with DCC who in 2009 agreed that double taxation is unfair and awarded us an annual grant of £38,500. In 2012 DCC stopped the grant owing to the Conservative/ Liberal Coalition Government's austerity measures. Although attempts have been requested that DCC reviews the situation, these requests have been refused point blank. This has cost you, the rate payers, over £400,000 since 2012.

I was totally surprised on reading the article, by Liberal Democrats candidates on the coming elections, who propose that the Town Council takes on responsibilities for Highway Maintenance using the Council's balances. This is extremely financially irresponsible.

- DCC is the Highways Authority who receives funds, from Central Government, to maintain our highways.
- It is beyond belief that candidates, seeking to reduce double taxation, want you to vote for triple taxation by taking on some of DCC's statutory duties.
- Anyone who knows the financial regulations, of local authority finances, should know that our Town Council is not allowed to support any other council's revenue expenditure.

In the letter the candidates propose that the Town Council become involved in the provision of lay-bys and fences.

The land, in the estates concerned, are owned by DCC and Livin. The Town Council cannot carry out any work on their land. This would be like putting a public car park on the Liberal Democrat candidates' front gardens. In order to pay for these proposals the Liberal Democrats wish to raid our Town Council's reserves. This money has been set aside against our medium-term financial plan. We normally spend approximately £250,000 a year on maintenance and improvements including play areas, parks,

open spaces and our properties plus the purchasing of new vehicles, machinery and roofing works.

The medium-term financial plan identifies that we need to spend approximately 2 million pounds over the next few years and at the moment we have just over one million pound in reserves. Therefore, it would be totally foolish and financially irresponsible to raid our financial reserves as this would make us unable to meet our financial responsibilities.

We must consider that we will soon need to drain and clean out West Park lakes and restore the underwater structure. We can't obtain any estimates for the cost of this work until the water has been drained. What we do know is that this will be extremely expensive. The choice is yours on Thursday 6th May.

• Either you want an efficient, responsible Council or you can put the Liberal Democrats in charge of your money.

Bob Fleming
Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee.



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Does it Really Matter?

There are other questions that need answering. I don't know the workings of our council but I am led to believe we pay council tax to three different organisations for our visible services. Durham CC, Sedgfield Council and Great Aycliffe Town Council. I may well be wrong but when I see the grass on one side of a path being cut by one organisation and the other side by another, I question if our money is being spent wisely. Why do we pay 2 organisations when we could probably get

a better deal with one. Likewise, when the chap comes round picking up litter I once said to him what about the litter on the other side of the path. He replied that it belonged to Livin and was not down to him. It is beyond belief. I have no doubt that there are many other areas where our money is being spent unwisely. So what I say is, if the Councillors who live in the area can't sort out our spending problems then why not let someone else have a go?

Mik Wild

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Dear Sir,
My name is
Joanne Jones and
I am standing as
a candidate in the
Newton Aycliffe Central
Ward Town Council
elections.



I am a married 41 year old, my husband and I have 4 children, 3 cats and 2 dogs. Life is crazy! We love our life in Newton Aycliffe and we want everyone else who lives here to love it too.

I am Aycliffe born and bred and spent 12 years of my childhood as part of the Horndale Stars Jazzband, entertaining the townsfolk as part of the Aycliffe Carnival. Summer days were spent at Simpature Park, playing sports, on the go-karts, having a picnic and buying 10p mix-ups from the park sweet shop. I miss those days and so do a lot of people.

I work as a Practice Nurse at Bewick Crescent Surgery and help support the local Covid-19 vaccination centre. On weekends I spend some of my time as a personal assistant for a young girl with cerebral palsy. Over the years my husband and I have helped raise funds for lots of worthy causes, one being Katelyn's New Wheels, which raised enough money to buy two tricycles, for two Aycliffe girls with Cerebral Palsy. We also helped raise money for the local victims of the Manchester bombing and helped form a charity organisation called 'Community Spirit' and raised funds to help the local community by organising discos and craft fairs. We even supported other charities such as Junction 7 and Rotary Newton Aycliffe, raising money as Mr and Mrs Claus, working closely with Newton Aycliffe Police organising seasonal events. Last year during lockdown I arranged the drive through Santa event in Tesco car park as I wanted to put smiles on faces and hope in our hearts.

In 2019 Nev and I won the first Syd Howarth Community Award - the award was such an honour and we donated the prize money to other local charities!

I want to continue helping the people of Newton Aycliffe, build a stronger community after lockdown, starting with the basics, like fly tipping, parking and anti-social behaviour. We need to fight for more investment in our area, rather than the Councillors fighting each other - we need to work together, plan things for young and old alike, make life fun, and put the great back into Aycliffe again.

Joanne Jones

Lib Dem Candidate for Central Ward

Greenfield Arts are delighted to be part of a creative project that is reaching out to the residents of Shildon to celebrate their town and community spirit. Shout About Shildon is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the project benefits from a valuable partnership with Shildon Town Council to celebrate and be informed by the people of Shildon.

Artist Paul Theo Murray was commissioned by Greenfield Arts to design and create inspiring boxes, gifted to 100 people across Shildon, with contents that inspired people to recall memories of people and places and reflected acts of kindness and community spirit.

The results have been inspiring, it has been lovely to receive such positive messages from the people of Shildon who were thrilled to receive their boxes that included inspirational cards, a crafted hand-made journal and creative prompts.

The contributions received included positive responses about the unsung heroes of Shildon that will form new artwork within the town. Residents recalled people who have had a positive impact on their lives and the town and embody community spirit, such as teachers, employers and people that reflect the spirit and kindness shown in challenging times, "People in Shildon are always there to help you out" and "I remember the most amazing teacher at school who always helped me to be my best", highlight just a



few memories.

Thank you to everyone involved for their thoughtful contributions, the results will also form a pop-up art event on 8 May to commemorate the spirit of VE Day and will be shown online by Shildon Town Council. We are very much looking forward to sharing the outcome that celebrates the people and place and is inspired by the community spirit of VE Day.

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Town or County Councillor?

I would like to remind everyone to think about what you are voting for in the forthcoming elections. There are distinct votes taking place for Town Council and County Council.

Your representatives on the Town Council only work in the context of the Town Councils remit, which is totally Aycliffe. Your County Council representatives have to work with consideration for all of County Durham.

Be aware that all the Labour County Councillors also currently sit on the Town Council and are paid by both Councils. This can cause conflict, with, on at least one occasion, these Councillors leaving a Town Council meeting claiming a 'conflict of interest'. They need to decide which side of this 'conflict of interest' they sit on and not undermine the opportunity for challenge between the Town and County agendas, but I see many of them are again wanting to ride both horses.

Your County Councillors, in my view, have two distinct roles, different to the Town Councillors. They have the responsibility for neighbourhood budgets and they need to shout up for Aycliffe in the committees and meetings in Durham. The best way to optimise neighbourhood budgets for the Town is for the 7 councillors to work together. This is why you will see many projects with cross party budgets being used. Scott and I frequently worked with Labour on either Ward or Town specific projects. Conversely at County Hall cooperation is less likely as your Labour Councillors, to my recollection, without exception, follow the party whip and do not vote against anything their cabinet decide.

This is why you need different voices in County Hall. Labour leaders have taken many initiatives across the County but little for Aycliffe Town Centre. The investment in the Industrial Park is fantastic but that is seen as a County asset, generating income and jobs beyond Aycliffe itself. Your Labour Councillors, instead, support initiatives like moving County Hall into Durham centre, justifying it by the creation of an employment park that has most of its jobs forecast many years into the future, well after all of them will have left their roles.

It is imperative we have a voice to challenge the Labour dominance of the County and deliver fair investment in our town. We have 5 Labour County Councillors, if they lost their seats the entire balance of power in Durham changes. You have a real opportunity to deliver a change, please do so and vote Conservative.

Paul Howell

Aycliffe Youth Football News



Aycliffe U7 Eagles v Seaton Carew Warriors

Debut for our newest boys team following their successful progression from our Little Eagles Development section. An exciting game for all the players parents and coaches against a more experienced Seaton Carew. The boys grew in confidence as the game progressed and will enjoy the rest of this short spring season.

Photo Aycliffe U7 Eagles

Washington 1 v Aycliffe U12 Wildcats 1

First game back since early December. The score line suggests a very tight game but in fact Aycliffe controlled the game from the start but struggled to put the ball into the net. Lots to work on going forward. Goal, Safiye - POTM, Evie

Thornaby v Aycliffe U10's Eagles

End to end from start to finish with both teams having plenty shots on goal. Thornaby opened the scoring but Cole levelled before half time. Then Riley found great space and got his name on the score sheet and the boys controlled the rest of the game.

Hartlepool Pools Youth Blue v Aycliffe U11 Angels Blue

An exciting game against a good Pools side. The Angels took an early lead to calm the nerves, taking control of the first half with goals from Erin, Sophie and 2 from Faith.

Pools pulled one back before half time. The Angels extended their lead in the second half with a goal from Macie, before Pools pulled back 2 more goals to leave an exciting finish.

The Angels held on for a good win.

Aycliffe U11 Angels Yellows v Foundation of Light Girls

Great start for the girls but it was the away team who scored first. Despite a second half goal from Daisy, the win went to the visitors. Players: Niamh, Coaches: Holly

Aycliffe U7 Wildcats v Spraire Lassies

A real tight and exciting game played at the Oakleaf. Goals from Brooke 2 and Macy, and the game was even going into the final minutes but Penny hits a left foot shot that finds the corner to seal the win.

Newton Aycliffe Women 3 v Lumley Ladies 4

Progression to the womens team for 3 of our U16 girls with debuts for Hattie, Macy and Jess. A close first half but it was Lumley who scored the opener. HT 0-1. However, a second half hat trick from Hattie, with 2 assists from Annabelle and one from Amber, wasn't enough as Lumley edged the game.

Other results:

Felling Magpies 1 v U16 Falcons 2

U16 Girls 2 v Billingham 7

Leam Rangers 3 v Aycliffe U13 Girls 2

U12's Eagles 2 v Shincliffe Juniors Blue 2

U14 Eagles 2 v Leven Whites 6

Thornaby 3 v U15 Boys 4

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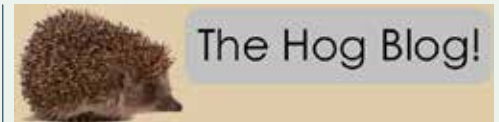


Parliament Talk

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

First week back after recess has seen Parliament continue to take some steps back towards normality. Whilst most people are familiar with Prime Ministers Questions and the main Chamber of the House of Commons, many don't appreciate some of the other normal processes or how the current ones are peculiar due to Covid. As regards the main chamber we continue to have questions to the Prime Minister and indeed to the various Secretaries of State but these are hybrid with many of the questions asked via video link. The chamber also holds many debates on everything from Bills to Urgent Questions to Ministers but these are also hybrid and are incredibly limited by Covid regulations. Normally a debate involves exchanges between Members with contrasting views and opinions with the opportunity for interventions and challenges, but under current operations we essentially offer a short speech giving our views without a real challenge. Whilst this is better than nothing it clearly limits the robustness of events and is one of the reasons that I look forward to a more normal Parliament developing. Many people are less aware of Westminster Hall debates which take place in a room just off Westminster Hall itself. These are an important opportunity for many other debates to take place at the initiation of Members of Parliament from all sides of the House. These were suspended for a long time but have now been restarted, again though these are also currently hybrid so real debate is limited. To give you examples this week, in Westminster Hall there were debates on an e-petition relating to trespass; on line abuse of elected women; waiting lists for elective surgical operations; the scope of the proposed Turing scheme; the arms trade and Yemen; the UK's accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership; health inequalities and the Covid-19 outbreak in West Yorkshire; support for children with SEND; promotion of electric vehicle usage; the National Stroke Programme and aftercare and rehabilitation services for stroke patients; land rights for religious minorities including Baha'is in Iran; Social care and the Covid-19 outbreak. This illustrates for you both the importance of these debates returning to a real debate and not just a series of speeches that a minister responds to, as they are now, and also the variety of debates that take place. I had the opportunity to guest on the Science and Technology around the potential role

of hydrogen in achieving Net Zero as a representative of the BEIS committee and I joined part of the sessions of the Durham Energy Institute Joint Conference with North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers. It was good to hear some students with very interesting ideas for future Net Zero supporting initiatives. I had the privilege to represent you at a Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the life of His Royal Highness Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh on Tuesday at Durham Cathedral, a very moving experience. Locally, I was also able to join the minister for Farming, Fisheries and Food, Victoria Prentis, on a farm visit and spoke with the NFU on rural crime and made a visit to a local wind farm. I took a walk around the Town Centre this week and it's good to see more shops open and people out in the sunshine seeing friends. It is so important we do everything we can to try and reinvigorate this as the heart of our town. I called in to the British Heart Foundation shop and spoke with Clive, he tells me that they have lots of stock due to people donating but they have not been able to sell products due to being closed so if you get chance please support them. I am sure other charities are the same as we have all had lots of time to have a clear out. Charities depend on the funds they can raise from shops like these so your support is invaluable. We continue with the vaccination programme and many of us will have taken the opportunity to meet friends outside for a drink or two, which is a fabulous step forward. It is important we're all sensible about this though and meet in small groups and not take liberties so we can continue the route out of lockdown. We all want the next steps of the route to be confirmed but that can only happen if the data continues to be positive, so please enjoy the increased freedom we all crave but be sensible at the same time. Even if you have been vaccinated, think of others who you could transmit to and if you have not yet been fully vaccinated please take the opportunity when it is offered. Please continue to respect our key workers, from shop workers to NHS to Council workers to the emergency services, they all continue to do a fabulous job for us. We can best support them by following the rules and remembering Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air. Stay safe. Paul Howell
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield



Tara and myself have had a very busy weekend. To start with, we would like to share some news, on Friday morning last week Sid, our rescue hog, escaped from an escape proof garden, surprisingly, every effort was made to try and find him because he was one of the most vulnerable hoggies we have had in Rescue, we were out Sunday night looking for him but without success. On the Monday morning a lady called Susan rang a vet to get some help for a hog she rescued Sunday afternoon, she was given Darlington Rescues number who couldn't help but we could. From her description of the circumstances it sounded too much of a coincidence but sounded like Sid, Tara went to see this one eyed blind hog and sure enough it was. We were starting to think something really bad had happened, but whilst we were out in the woods looking for him he was safe in Susan's home, being fed and kept comfortable until we collected him. A debt of gratitude to Susan for her actions she has made a lot of people very happy! We take hedgehog rescue very seriously, it's only when we take these poor creatures into our homes, to hopefully help them and make them well again, it hits home at the troubles they face and how vulnerable they are, they are very important to the environment not to mention the most adorable creatures. Most hazards are man made, ponds, nets, pesticides and more seriously Rat Poison! Lesley and Steve brought little Willow in on Sunday afternoon, quite poorly, but from what I could see every chance of a complete recovery, what I didn't see coming was she died of Rat Poisoning which kills non targeted species, specifically hedgehogs, we ask all our readers to stop putting anything down which threatens these precious little lives, they are protected, endangered and at risk of extinction! It's painful for me because I have to witness their suffering then tell finders. Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has donated money to the rescue, Mike and Julie, Lesley and Steve and Margaret, June and Valerie for the bunnies and tooth fairy purses and Emma for her donation of clothes for the car boot sales. These kind people make it possible for us to purchase items, medicines, etc to save more hedgehogs.



Paul Howell
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

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

Tony Stubbs - Conservative

Dear Sir,
My name is Tony Stubbs, a Conservative Party candidate standing for the Aycliffe North and Middridge division in the Durham County Local Elections. I'm an Industrial Water Treatment Consultant, working for a Global Water Technologies company. I was born and raised in County Durham and I am passionate about the area I live in and the wider North East.



A lot has been said recently about the fact that I live in Sedgefield, and not in the division that I want to represent. In reality it takes me the same time to get to Woodham as it does for someone to get from Middridge to the town centre! We all have the same Member of Parliament, we all pay Council Tax to the same County Council and, as a full time working person with a family, I feel I am very representative of the majority of people I am volunteering to represent. I have been an active volunteer in my community for many years. I was a school governor at a local primary school, I coached and managed grassroots football teams for over 15 years, I have been a treasurer of a local football club and I am currently a volunteer board member of Northern League club, Durham City AFC. I have the passion and the ability to become a champion for youth services in the area. The recent pandemic and lockdowns have highlighted some local issues such as littering and anti-social behaviour, however, and more importantly, it has highlighted the importance of a strong local community and local services. Becoming a Councillor will allow me, with the help of the local community, to develop solutions to fix the issues and further improve the local services. Newton Aycliffe is the second largest town in

the County, and I will campaign for greater investment in its town centre. I will work hard with fellow Councillors, the local MP and the local community to enable continuation of the Government levelling up agenda for the benefit of all. Please vote for me and the other Conservative candidates on 6th May. Many thanks
Tony Stubbs

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Fresh Ideas and Leadership

Dear Sirs,
As an active member of South Durham
Conservatives, I worked closely with Paul
Howell MP during the 2019 General Election
campaign and remember having a number of
conversations with other members and party
staff, trying to convince them that the political
situation had changed and that we really
could win in Sedgefield if we just got out
there and connected with people. So, when
the results came in, I wasn't as surprised as
many outside observers.
Eighteen months on and I still hold the
view that the political earthquake, which
is sweeping through our region, has not
come to an end. I remain sure that if the
Conservatives remain true to the vision
of levelling up, delivering common sense
policies and listening to our communities,
we will finally break Labour's century long
dominance of County Durham.

At its core, this election is about what kind of
place we want County Durham to be, not just
for the next five years but for the next fifty.
Do we want to continue to elect the same old
Labour Councillors, people who don't listen,
who don't care and who fundamentally take
the voters for granted then promise they are
going to change the world at election time, or
do we want to finally say enough is enough?
Electing a strong Conservative team,
that will cooperate with our newly elected
Conservative MPs across the County, will
ensure a team who will look to the future,
will promote our region, and will deliver a
transparent, common sense Council. This is
not just a once in a generation opportunity,
but once in a century, to finally show Labour
that enough is enough, that we won't let
them continue with business as usual.
I have no doubt there are many hard
working Councillors who do care about their
communities and want to affect change,
but any political environment where elected
representatives don't have to worry about
the outcome of the choices they make
because of a lack of political competition is
unhealthy and ultimately detrimental to the
general public.
You can vote for the Conservatives in every

division - and none of them have been
shipped in from Billingham or Redcar, as
alleged by other parties:
Martin Peeke in Aycliffe East;
Tony Stubbs and David Sutton-Lloyd in
Aycliffe North & Middridge;
Elizabeth Maw in Aycliffe West.
So, on the 6th May, it's time to make a
change, it's time for fresh ideas and fresh
leadership, it's time to choose Councillors
who will work together for the good
of Newton Aycliffe, so it's time to vote
Conservative.
Jack Sowerby
Deputy Chairman (Political)
South Durham Conservatives

Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team,
sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store,
began the new cricket season with a
heavy nine wicket defeat away at a much
strengthened Blackhall 1st XI in the NYSD
2nd division. After losing the toss, Aycliffe
batted first and were dismissed for just 127
after 43.5 overs. Jack Slatcher (sponsored
by Dean and Tina Greaves) batted with
steely determination to top score with a
patient 32 from 99 balls faced and he was
supported well by Matty Greaves (24 runs),
Joe Haines (18 runs) and James Layfield-
Carroll (16 not out).
In reply, Blackhall coasted to their victory
target, scoring 131 after only 24.3 overs with
George Slatcher (1 for 35) taking the only
homeside wicket to fall.
The second team also played their first
match of the new season at home to
Billingham Synthonia 2nds and used the
opportunity to field seven junior players in
their side and they did superbly well to come
away with a hard fought draw in their NYSD
4th division clash.
The visitors were asked to bat first and
racked up an imposing 199 for 8 from their
allotted 40 overs. New Aycliffe captain Joe
Teasdale led the attack, taking 4 for 59
and was supported well by 15 year old Leo
Mercy (2 for 31) and 13 year old Harrison
Pearson (1 for 19).
In reply, Aycliffe got off to a poor start and
were struggling at 20 for 3 despite 16 runs
from opener Joe Teasdale. Sean Morgan
(sponsored by Unison) and vice captain
Dan Weldon steadied the innings with a
decent partnership of 42 before Weldon was
dismissed for 15 runs. 14 year old Thomas
Dearden then joined Morgan at the crease
and the pair batted superbly, adding 64
runs for the 5th wicket before the youngster
was bowled for a career best senior score
of 21. Morgan was eventually dismissed
for a career best score of 71 from 102 balls
and his match saving innings contained ten
boundaries. Leo Mercy (17 not out from 13
balls) and Harrison Pearson (0 not out off 11
balls) safely saw off the visitors attack in a
tense finale as the Aycliffe youngsters held
out for a morale boosting draw with the score
at stumps on 152 for 8 from 40 overs.

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N.A.F.C. JUNIORS



U8 Blacks played against Darlington Spraire Lads. Aycliffe were outstanding from the kick off and headed into half time with smiles on their faces thanks to a first half hat trick from Regan and a goal from Fin. Darlington got a quick goal after the break to pull it back but Aycliffe showed great attitude with further goals from Regan and Fin.

U9 Blacks played against Shincliffe. Aycliffe got off to a quick start with a goal for Benjamin and Alfie. Alfie followed up with a great free kick before Benjamin scored again after a quick break. Aycliffe never gave up and Benjamin got a deserved hat trick. Great effort all round with Mathis and Olly working hard at the back, Charlie, James and Charlie running their legs off.

U9 Juniors played against Thornaby. A very slow start for Aycliffe saw Thornaby score goals. Aycliffe responded with some brilliant football. Aycliffe pulled a goal back before half time. In the second half a lovely pass out from Mason to Jonah who drove into the space and crossed it in for Tyler to finish it to pull one back.

U9 Whites played against Hurworth. It was a game of two halves. Aycliffe's first 15 minutes were just too slow, conceding too many goals early on, they won the second half but the goal difference was just too much. Overall a better display than last week and the boys deserve some credit for their second half performance.

The **U11s** (pictured) played against Felling Magpies. Aycliffe played brilliant from start to finish and everyone played well, with both Celina and Keighton both making their debuts. Excellent goals, outstanding saves and fantastic quick passing. Goal scorers were Callum, Thomas, James and Keighton.

U12 Whites played against Brompton. Brompton scored after 5 minutes. The second half and Aycliffe was awarded a penalty and Jake scored. A free kick and Jack scored, game on at 3-2. Jake scored two more. A great battling effort but Brompton won 6-4.

U12 Blacks played Ouston. It was not a good day for Aycliffe; they only had 9 players due to injuries and players missing. MOTM went to goal scorer Alex.

U13 Whites played against Tibbs. Aycliffe won the game 1-0 in a scrappy affair. All the players battled extremely well. Aycliffe scored with 10 minutes to go and held on to an excellent win. Tyler R was the scorer.

Aycliffe U14's played against Darlington RA. Aycliffe started strongly, bursting into a 3 goal lead within 15 minutes, 2 goals from Travis and 1 from Sam. Travis completed his hat-trick to give Aycliffe a 4-1 half time lead. Reece scored in the second half to give Aycliffe a 5-1 win.

U15's hosted Plains Farm Blues at Woodham, securing a deserved 1-1 draw after going a goal behind early in the game. Shae was excellent in goal, with some very good saves, Charlie scoring the equaliser.

In Memoriam

Ann Batchelor

26 years without you.

You touched so many lives!

Loved and supported your friends and family and we treasure the memories.

Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.
Geoff, Amanda and Leslea

Kim Fowler

20th May 1957 - 25th April 2009

God called you Kim so gently, that only you could hear. No one heard the footsteps of the angel drawing near. Softly from the shadows there came a gentle call, you closed your eyes and went to sleep. You quietly left us all.
(One wish is all we need)
We love and miss you every day Kim.
Mam Tessa and Dad Ian xxxx

"Gone too soon". To a Sister in the sky, not far away. Engraved in gold on a cloud above, just for you Kim, with all our love.
God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts.
Your Brothers, Craig and Martin xxxx

Andrea Kelly

Peacefully on 8th April 2021, Andrea, aged 47 years.

Adored and much loved Mother of Henry, a loving and caring Daughter of Michael and Doris, a dearly loved Sister of Joanne, Beverly, Gail and Michael, also a doting Auntie of her Nephew and all her Nieces.

Funeral Service to take place in Wear Valley Crematorium Chapel on Friday 23rd April. Family flowers only please, by request. Donations in lieu, if so desired, to Macmillan Nurses.

Any enquiries to John Meynell Funeral Directors. Tel: 01325 301405.

Maureen Kavanagh

Passed away on 15th April 2021, aged 86 years.

Beloved Mother to Elaine, Peter, Fiona and Mandy; Grandmother and Great Grandmother, greatly loved and missed by all.

Family Funeral Service to take place at Wear Valley Crematorium Chapel at 12.30pm on Thursday 29th April. Family flowers only, donations to PDSA.

Mary McArthur (nee Milner)

Aged 73 years. Much loved Wife of Alan, loving Mother of Jason and Grandma of Ellie, Tyler and Mia.

A private Funeral Service will take place at Wear Valley Crematorium. Mary will be leaving Ryder Court, Newton Aycliffe for her final journey on Monday April 26 at 2.10pm.

Tony Anderson of Newton Aycliffe

Suddenly on 8th April, aged 55 years.

A much loved Dad to Danielle and Gillian, Son of Sheila and the late Thomas and Brother of Karen, also a much loved Uncle of Steven.

Funeral Service to take place at Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 4th May at 11.30 am.

Due to the current circumstances a private Service will take place.

In Memoriam

Barbara Greenwood



23rd April 2020

There is not a day goes by when we don't think of you and miss you. Deep in our hearts you will always be here with us.

Greatly missed by all of your family and friends.
Love always, Harry, Paul, Caroline, Ellie, Charley and Katie xxx

Barbara Greenwood

23rd April 2020

In loving memory of a special friend. You always had a smile to share, time to give and time to care.

A wonderful nature, warm and true, you were my special friend and I really do miss you.

Love from all your friends, Agnes, Lynne, Janice and Linda xxx

Obituary

Congratulations

Golden Wedding

Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary to my Wife, Ann. Thank you for putting up with me for 50 years.
All my love, Tommy

Elizabeth Jones

Happy 50th Birthday
To my daughter, Elizabeth on Saturday 24 April 2021. Hope you have a lovely day.
Lots of love from Dad xxx

Birthday Remembrance

Rita Smith

Happy Birthday Mam Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.
Missing you loads, Ian

Rita Smith

22nd April
Happy birthday Mam, from Ian, Stephen, Jacqueline, grandchildren Stephen, Michael, Naomi and Great Grandchildren xxx

Lily Phillips

23rd April 1940

We're sending a dove up to Heaven with a parcel on it's wings. Be careful when you open it, it's full of beautiful things.

Inside are a million kisses wrapped up in a million hugs, to say how much we miss you and to send you all our love.

We hold you close within our hearts and there you will remain, to walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again.
Happy Birthday Mam. All our love today and always from Lynn, Julie, Jan and families.

Raymond Cartlidge

Of Newton Aycliffe, peacefully at home on April 16th, aged 78 years.

A much loved husband to Susan, a dear brother in law, uncle and great uncle.

Funeral service to take place at Durham Crematorium. Raymond will be sadly missed.

HEIGHINGTON AFC

Heighington AFC U7s TJFA

Heighington U6's 2 - Stockton Town U7's 2
Stadium: The Fortress, Attendance: 78
Heighington AFC U6's entered the TJFA U7's league to get themselves prepared for the new season in September. So, playing a year up was always going to be a tough workout for the kids. The first game at home vs Stockton Town was definitely something to remember as the Red & Blacks claimed a point with minutes to spare.
All the kids battled away throughout the 40 minutes and deserve the credit for battling back from 1-0 down at half time and started the second half on the front foot. The 2 Heighington goals coming from MOM Isaac Turnbull. Throughout the game Stockton were kept at bay with Jackson Whiting coming to Heighington's rescue with some top saves.
Fantastic to see the little kids faces, being able to run about and play the sport they love.
Heighington AFC U6's would like to thank our wonderful sponsors, Anderson Upholstery & Anderson Embroidery, for

providing us with our new training kits that the kids wore in our first ever match.

Heighington AFC U9's

Heighington FC U9 6 - Coxhoe Utd U9 0
The Heighington boys were in no mood to give up on their winning streak today with their most prolific win this season. Right from the off the boys pressed the opposition and quickly found themselves 1 nil up with a great strike from close range by Lucas. This only lit the torch paper as the boys pressed on and found themselves 2 nil up with another great strike from Lucas which left the opposition keeper no chance. An in form Mitchell entered the fray after 10 minutes from the subs bench only to fire the boys into a 3 nil lead going into half time.
With our new defensive tactics in place I asked the boys for a clean sheet at half time which they delivered accordingly but they also delivered more goals thanks to Lucas getting his hat trick to make it 4 nil.
A spectacular solo run and finish from our newest signing Will made it 5 nil and he narrowly missed a long range free kick which was thundered against the crossbar.
A fantastic show of sportsmanship by the boys, allowed the opposition to field their subs in addition to the starting 7, so it was 7 v 9 for the last 10 minutes. However, this was not enough to stop young Tyler getting his first competitive goal for the club with a delicate bottom corner finish late on.
Every one of the boys gave 100% today and MOTM is becoming a real tough choice as so many great performances. Absolutely proud as punch.
MOTM: Logan Marshall (*We've been working on a particular pass and role with this kid in training, he pulled it off perfectly today with a masterclass in defending to back it up.*)

Seb Dominates

Seb had his first race of 2021 at Warden Law (KNE), racing for Hunter Motorsport.

His drive was faultless, putting his kart on pole position in qualifying:

Heat 1 starts on pole, finishing first with a lead of 11.5 seconds.

Heat 2 starts on pole, finished first with a lead of 17.2 seconds.

Pre Final starts on pole, wins by 10.2 seconds.

Final starts on pole again, what a drive to come home in first place with a lead of 13.5 seconds.

Seb set the fastest lap of the day and a personal best time of 55.80 seconds, he now holds the lap record at Hooton Park and Warden Law, setting these records with two different karts.

We would like to thank Rhys Hunter, Team Manager at Hunter Motorsport, as well as Louis Large, Jack McConnell and Kai Hunter for their support at the weekend. Craig at Be Inspired Gym for Seb's one to one training sessions.

Going into this weekend will see us racing at Teesside in the first Micromax UK championship race with Team Hunter Motorsport. The race will be live streamed on The TDI Media Channel, with the biggest coverage in karting history.
Good luck Seb.

If you would like to support Seb on his journey and achieve his goals, please get in touch for further information.



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