

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

Donation for Air Ambulance



Harry and Jack West last weekend presented our Great North Air Ambulance Service with a cheque for £550.00 after completing their Mountain Biking Challenge in March. The boys, who attend Woodham Burn Community Primary School, had set a target to ride 50 miles each to complete the challenge, but smashed that and completed a total of 200 miles during the month of March between them.

They were presented with their medals and certificates from Helen who works as the GNAAS Fundraising Coordinator. Harry and Jack have been invited to visit the Air Ambulance base and headquarters, once Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed and visiting is permitted. Thank you to all the family, friends and teachers that supported them and for the donations received.

Special thank you to your Newton News Sponsors:

SHAKE 'N' CAKE



PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgfield



No Good Moaning Later

Dear Sir,
Next week residents of Great Aycliffe will be able to choose who we want to sit on our local and Durham Council. I think the time has come for changes of power in both. For too long we have not been listened to by the complacent, out of date, Labour party, who are accountable to themselves and not the people who voted for them.
We now need Councillors who will listen to the people and use their own personal voice,

rather than follow the whip of the Labour party.

The big change must be in Durham Council, and now is the right time for a change in leadership and cabinet who have now been there for 11 years and think they run the council and can make the major decisions without consultation.

A few years ago if you asked most people who they were going to vote for in the elections, the answer would be, "it's pointless voting, as Labour always wins". People are now more aware of what is going and we saw this at the general election. One thing that did come to our attention was when a proposal was put to the local council about double taxation by a councillor, which he promised his electors he would do, five Labour dual councillors, led by John Clare, walked out of the meeting - he told us he had talked to Durham County Council legal department and they said it would be the right thing to do. In a statement in Newton News he stated it would be a conflict of interest, he thinks he works for them, as they pay his £16000 expenses! It was later confirmed they could have voted to represent the people, if they had really wanted.

So bear in mind when you vote for a Councillor who stands for both councils, will they represent you on both or work for the DCC? It is up to the individual who you vote for, but think and look carefully before you make your decision and most of all use your vote, because if you don't it's no good moaning later.

John Armstrong
Newton Aycliffe

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Well Done Pam



On Thursday 18th April, the Parish of Great Aycliffe's Pastoral Assistant, Pam Lovelass, was presented with The Rotary Foundation's Paul Harris Fellow Award - the highest award the Foundation bestows - in recognition of her many years of hard work across our community. The presentation was all very top secret - Pam thought she was coming along to a church planning meeting!

Many congratulations Pam. Well deserved! Photo was taken outside St. Clare's, with Pam receiving the award from Trish Pemberton, President of the Rotary Newton Aycliffe, along with the Revd. Ann Anderson, Team Rector of Great Aycliffe Parish.

Vote for Jim

Dear Sir,

I am going to vote for Jim Atkinson for re-election to Aycliffe East and Durham County Council. I know if I ever have an issue, I can go to Jim and he will do all he can to fix it! Jim is a problem solver, he has a wide knowledge of the issues facing the Town and County and experience in the areas of work required of the position.

His action on matters of importance to residents of Newton Aycliffe and the Village show us that he puts community interests over special interests. He does not engage those who choose to glean support by deriding other candidates. His focus is helping residents, as well as looking after and improving our area (I was genuinely impressed at how quickly the potholes in my street and surrounding streets got fixed after the snow earlier this year!)

I know Jim has an enviable work ethic and excellent track record. He is also loyal. I have no doubt that Jim will continue to be an outstanding member of the County Council because he genuinely cares about our community and knows how to bring people together to solve problems. Join me and Vote for Jim Atkinson on May 6th!
Hannah Siddle



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Target Smashed - £1072 Raised

A care worker has smashed her target to raise money for her care home. Jules Baxter, from Newton Aycliffe, decided that she would spend her March raising money for the care home she worked in. She set herself the target to run a total of 50 miles over the course of the month. Jules said: "I found the running really easy, I run anyway but each run I knew I was helping raise much needed funds for the residents. I kept everyone up-to-date with Facebook lives and pictures. I'm very proud to say I smashed through my £1000 target and raised £1072." The money has been used to purchase two



new hi-fi's and two sound bars for the TVs, a karaoke machine and CDs, kinetic sand for activities with dementia residents, colour changing lights and more. Jules added: "I can't thank everyone enough for helping me make it all possible. All of the above are going to make a big difference to the residents lives at St. Helens. It was also sad to say that it was also my parting gift - as I left St. Helens a few days later to venture into pastures new. It was a hard decision, and I will miss everyone loads but I won't be a stranger - I'll be back to visit."

John Grant - Reform Candidate

Dear Sir,
I am standing as your local Reform UK candidate for Aycliffe East at this years' local elections for Durham County Council. I believe that a Councillor's role should reflect the needs and provide the essential services for local people's benefit. Working locally, and having lived on the ward all my life, I have a good understanding of what goes on in our community. These elections must be about electing the right people who are dedicated to serving the needs of local people. Youth services must be prioritised with the emphasis being on what the youth requires (I hope to introduce the possibility of a questionnaire to establish just what it is that the youth of the area want e.g: play areas, cycle/quad bike parks). With the continuing lockdown restrictions, I am very concerned for people's mental health with cases soaring across the country. If elected, with support, I will encourage and organise walking groups and community gardens for young and old where they can learn about vegetable growing and gardening. I will also support measures that are put in place for the elderly and are tailored to support each individual in their own homes. Above all, listening to the people about what they think our community needs which will be a benefit to all.
John Grant, Reform UK, Election Candidate



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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

* MONDAY to FRIDAY DAILY

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

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

6-7pm	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
7-10pm	Motown, Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	7th May - Nathan Abbott Dance Classix	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby
12-1am	Night Club Session	A DJ

Check our website for full schedule
www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

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World Book Night

Greenfield Arts were delighted to be part of World Book Night on Friday 23rd April to celebrate creativity and inspire a love of reading. World Book Night is an annual celebration of books and reading that brings people from all backgrounds together to inspire others to read more. This year the organisation is celebrating its 10th anniversary and allocated copies of a special publication 'Stories to Make You Smile' to bring happiness and inspiration to others. The book is a collection of warm



hearted and funny stories from many well-known comedians and writers such as Jenny Eclair, Mark Watson and Richard Madeley. Greenfield Arts were able to secure eighty copies of this lovely book and have been busy sharing the joy of reading by gifting copies across the community. 'Stories to Make You Smile' is a timely celebration of the small moments and personal stories that can put a smile on our face. Greenfield Arts are delighted to be part of this wider campaign and work with World Book Night to involve our community in such a positive way and we are looking forward to hearing some inspiring reviews! World Book Night was hosted by Sandi Toksvig and was presented by The Reading Agency in conjunction with Specsavers. Greenfield Arts are committed to finding ways to share inspiration and positivity through other projects across their programme including recent examples such as Boxes of Inspiration, and Creativity for the Soul and How Can I Help? Sharing creative resources and working with partners to reach our community. Greenfield Arts promote curiosity, creativity and questioning through a range of arts and creative projects, activities and events. Find out more by visiting our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk or contacting our friendly team by emailing info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

Littering 'Stop the Drop'

Dear Sir,

Our litter picking group is growing from strength to strength and we are now getting noticed from other organisations, one in particular is the CPRE the Countryside charity, who have sent a congratulations to the group that was initially my own initiative, but, with the help of Great Aycliffe Town Council also several Councillors support. Cllr. Ian Gray, Vice Chair of the Environment Committee.

We now have individuals, that because of other commitments, go out litter picking on their own. As a group we meet as planned, usually in high risk areas and have been in the area around St. Oswald's Park down to the Woodham Burn and Wolsey Close. We have been in the area for the last three weeks in the hope that we can 'stop the drop'.

Our countryside is littered with discarded, single-use drinks bottles and cans. Other items that we find are discarded prams and other fly tipped products, these harm wildlife, pollute our waterways and spoil the beauty of nature.

And it's completely unnecessary.

The CPRE have been calling for a solution for over ten years. A simple system that prevents littering of drinks containers and ensures the recycling rates of over 90%: an all-in Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) [1]

In May 2018, the Government finally committed to putting a DRS in place. But almost three years later, the message seems to have been forgotten.

So now I am joining up to send a message in a bottle, signed by thousands of concerned people directly to the Prime Minister. An all-in DRS would see drinks producers paying for the collection and recycling of all the containers they make and sell. Even big drinks producers like Coca-Cola now agree it's the answer to our litter problem.

But now the Government has released another worrying consultation. Not only are they delaying the scheme until the end of 2024 at the earliest, but they are also considering a made-up design that will set the system up to fail. Under pressure from big business and trade bodies it is doomed to fail, however, if readers wish to get involved they can contact the CPRE at: campaigns@cpre.org.uk Vince Crosby

Are Lib Dems Preparing to Abolish the Town Council?

Dear Sir,
'Double Taxation' is the money we pay out of our County Council Tax to provide parish-level services in the unparished areas of the County ... on top of the Town Council Tax we pay to provide those parish-level services in Great Aycliffe.

It is an emotive issue of principle, and the LibDems' latest leaflet decries "Aycliffe's Council Tax Scandal" - that "residents in Aycliffe pay up to £400 more in Council Tax than other places in County Durham".

How much does Double Taxation actually cost us?

We can estimate how much we pay for that 'double taxation'. Approximately a fifth of the county is unparished so - if those areas are typical of the rest of the county - the gross cost will be roughly £2.8 million ... i.e. £7.50 to each D-band council tax payer in the county. So it is an issue which needs resolving, but financially a relatively minor element within the £2,291 I am paying this year for my DCC, GATC, Fire and Police services.

So how might the LibDems save us £400?

The cost of the 'double taxation' is only £7.50. The £400 they mention is the whole cost of our Town Council Tax! So the only way the LibDems could save that kind of sum, would be by abolishing the Town Council altogether and becoming an unparished area ... so that we would not have to pay any Parish Council Tax at all.

And even that would save £400 only for G-band householders. Since Council Tax bands are graded, it would only save £250 for a D-band house; just £166 for an A-Band house ... and nothing at all for people on relevant benefits who do not pay Council Tax at all.

What would we lose if we abolished the Town Council?

'Double Taxation' is not an evil County Council plot to steal your money! It is the money the Town Council charges to allow it to provide better-quality services. If we were to become an unparished area, spending on parish-level services in Great Aycliffe would halve, because DCC would treat us like every other unparished area in the county. We would certainly lose the Santa Tours, the Fireworks Display, the Senior Citizens' trips and half our play areas. The LibDems never told you that, did they?

Are the LibDems "REALLY" preparing to abolish the Town Council? It seems an amazing suggestion, doesn't it, especially when the LibDems are not saying so explicitly. But they are caught in their own trap - that abolishing the Town Council is the only way they could save us anything near the sum of £400 they are touting.

The other explanation would be that they are scamming us - mentioning "£400" just to win votes, in the full knowledge that the very best they can give us without abolishing the Town Council is £7.50 ... but that is an explanation which I have to trust is not true.

They still have a week, of course, to clarify whether they intend to abolish the Town Council, or whether they are never going to be able to deliver anywhere near £400 in savings ... though all this is too late for most postal voters (which I hope is also not intentional).

John D Clare

Junior Badminton



Be Happy, Have Fun, Play Junior Badminton.

Look out for the banner for our new Junior Badminton Club in Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre on Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe. Sessions on Mondays at 4.00pm. Let me know if you can come, email: peterwalton1@aol.com - Bring a friend!

Vote Labour

For Aycliffe, Thursday May 6th



Together we have achieved a lot for our Town.

Your vote will elect proactive councillors who:

- Have **experience** in local government and **will fight for your issues**
- Have an **excellent record** managing council finances
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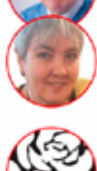
And **your** Labour Party team has new candidates with:

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- **Passion for positive change**
- **New Ideas**



But we all want to do more and, working together, we will:

- Protect our green spaces
- Ensure Newton Aycliffe prospers for all
- Make our Town a place to be proud of
- Be available, approachable and active



Do Not Put into Print What You Cannot Achieve

Dear Sir,
I read with interest the Newton News of Friday 16th April 2021.
Yes, I am standing for re-election, but the people of Newton Aycliffe are totally fed up of candidates slugging each other off and parties doing the same. This is the reason that I am an Independent candidate, the people of Newton Aycliffe will vote for the person that they have the most faith in and will do the job best.
There are two letters in the Newton News that sum it all up and I totally agree with 'What is a Vote Worth'. Yes, we all want what this letter says! Sadly, to get them all back will take a long time.
Regarding 'Utter Disgrace and Insulting', I must agree with all the facts in the letter and I only hope everyone in Newton Aycliffe has received the Newton News to read these letters, both letters are what the voters of Newton Aycliffe want!
When Thursday 6th May comes and the candidates are in place, I only hope that there will be a return to unity and that this will deliver what the Aycliffe residents are asking for.
I have also been reading some of candidates leaflets and I remember when I first became elected, a long serving Councillor said to me "do not put into print what you cannot achieve yourself". In addition, reading one leaflet that shows the two Lib Dem candidates from Darlington leaning on some lamp posts in School Aycliffe at the traffic lights, these traffic lights were installed following my election to the County Council in May 2005. As one of my first tasks we installed a crossing to allow the general public and disabled access to the other side of the road, having listened to the needs expressed by the residents of this area. I then had to liaise with Jerry Lee, Councillor for Heighington, who managed to get this into the Darlington Council agenda and for that I was very grateful. I then attended the meeting as a member of the public representing School Aycliffe.
I also fought in the West Ward for the introduction of 14 off street parking bays and 34 drop kerbs for the disabled and wheelchair users. I have recently campaigned and successfully managed to get funding for the installation of seating within the two bus stops on Stephenson Way via the Town Council. This, to me, is the primary function of a local Councillor, to listen to their constituents needs within their wards and work with the council to deliver them, if reasonable and achievable. As a long-standing Councillor on the town, and having served at the County and Sedgfield, I can assure everyone that I will continue to dispense my duty as Councillor and represent the needs of the West Ward and the town to the best of my ability and with public need as my focus.
Alderman George Coulson Gray

Community Spirit

Dear Fellow Residents,
Every week at churches and in other community venues in our town I talk to people about how difficult the last 12 months have been. For some people it's the loss of a relative and struggling to grieve. For others it's the loneliness, and for many it's the financial impact. I'm standing in Aycliffe West where I spend so much of my time talking to fellow residents of our area because I believe in our community's spirit.
There's so much we can achieve in our town to make things better for everybody.
So many of our older residents have been stuck inside worried about their health and their family.
Our teenagers have missed out on what we enjoyed at their age for over a year now.
I am confident we can find the resources to put some smiles back on peoples faces and arrange the events and facilities that young and old have been missing out on.
It's great when you see somebody else smiling. It's wonderful when somebody tells you they've secured a new job.
We can make sure that everybody sees that smile in our town centre as we find ways to bring businesses back into the town and give it real purpose as we come out of lockdown.
There are so many things to fix in our town like our unfair council tax and the lack of real democracy.
I will work hard to resolve this, but just as importantly I want us all to wake up in the morning after the election knowing that we have a team of people representing us who will make us feel better, look after our town, get things done, be nice and honourable to each other and be worthy of the name councillor.
I trust you will vote for Paul Whiting and I in these local elections, and I, with your backing, look forward to talking to and helping you as your County and Town Councillor.
Take care.
James Walsh
Liberal Democrat Candidate, Aycliffe West

A Commitment to You

Dear Sir,
It is the final week of the election campaign, Kate Hopper and Eddy Adam, your Labour Party candidates, would like to thank the people we have met during our walkabouts and those individuals who continue to support us during these challenging times. So it is now up to you, the voters, to decide on who will represent you over the next four years on Durham County Council and Great Aycliffe Town Council.
Both Kate and Eddy have lived in Aycliffe West ward for over 30 years and as councillors work hard to put the community first, working diligently as a team, responding to individual resident concerns and actively supporting Aycliffe West community groups, they are councillors that just get on and do.
What you have told us during this election campaign will be our top priorities for the next four years, to PROTECT you into the future:

- Providing effective support and guidance to individual residents
- Retaining and improving our built and green environment
- Offering our experience and knowledge to resolve local issues
- Tackling anti-social behaviour through partnership working
- Encourage resident participation with community groups
- Combating parking problems within local streets
- Training and education opportunities to improve job prospects

Kate and Eddy's vision is for Aycliffe to have:

- A growing economy that works for all in our community;
- An area where residents can enjoy long and independent lives;
- A caring and welcoming community.

This is their aspiration and commitment to you, vote Labour if you wish to be part of it.
Vote Kate Hopper and Eddy Adam
Your Labour Party Candidates

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Dear Voters,
I can honestly say that in 16 years in Shafto / St. Mary's and 2 years in Bluebell, that I have never once had a Councillor knock on my door to see what local residents want or need. I will try to turn this negative into a positive. What has driven me to stand for my ward and county is my strong belief that Councillors should be visible and pro-active in their town. I promise to be visible and walk the streets to meet people, not just cynically every four years, a few weeks before an election, but regularly, and local residents will know where I live and feel welcome to knock on my door. I will work with anyone who respects the town and its people for the common good, and will work with Labour, Independents and Conservatives to get things done for the town. I just want to improve the town, to leave a positive legacy for your children and mine, and will seek to liaise with the police to make this a better place to live where ASBO neighbours, boy racers and litter on the streets are not tolerated. I am not seeking election for fame and fortune, or an ego trip. It's not about us and them, it's about the town's people. Hitachi aren't opening restaurants and theatres in Newton Aycliffe so, while business growth is important, we don't want the new employees and managers spending their money outside of Newton Aycliffe, because we only have golf courses and a leisure centre.



When was the last time Great Aycliffe Town Council asked you what you want them to provide in the town? It's no good them saying Durham controls everything and has all the budgets. Aycliffe has seven County Councillors. Why are they not asking you, the people, what you want them to do with the £20,000 they get each every year? Do they think they know better than you? It is not their pocket money to spend on vanity projects to make them look good, it's your money.

Please reflect for a moment that Councillors are not there to do you a favour and be available when they feel like it. They are public servants, there to listen to you. Tell them what you need, don't just let them go off doing pet projects to satisfy their personal interests, they are accountable to you.

Being a Councillor is not just a part time hobby to put on your CV. Demand more from your Councillors and don't let them get complacent. If they haven't got time to do it they shouldn't seek election.

Whether you vote for me or not, please make sure you do vote, because if you get someone you don't like, you can't complain if you didn't vote. Best Wishes Dear Friends, and I hope we have a clean and fair contest.

Tony Armstrong

Your Liberal Democrat candidate for Great Aycliffe Town Council, St Mary's & Shafto Ward; Durham County Council, Aycliffe East

PS: Do you realise only 26% of people vote in Newton Aycliffe? YOU MUST VOTE!

Silence Always Favours the Person with the Loudest Voice

Dear Sir,
Everyone is calling for a change prior to the forthcoming elections and I'm all for change, but instead of changing the Councillors how about we change the current system that believes personal abuse and attacks on a person's character is acceptable. Behaviour that would never be tolerated in a working professional environment is allowed to go unchecked and unchallenged for no other reason than it is politics and, so, acceptable behaviour.

It's not acceptable and never can be. Abuse, in whatever form it takes, has to be challenged and held accountable because if we fail to do so we are simply giving it our approval and sending out a message that such behaviour is OK. It's not and never can be. Politics should be about character and personal values of those who stand for public office and their actions should be about raising the expectations of the voters not lowering the standards to such an extent people in the community feel they are all the same and no longer worth voting for.

Apathy and dissatisfaction in a community don't just happen, and often it can be traced back to broken promises, empty words and raised expectations that were never fulfilled. It's easy to blame the voters for their disinterest, or even a system that doesn't work, but when the system appears to be working in the way it is set up, changing a few Councillors isn't going to create the change and development the community needs. Silence always favours the abuser or the person with the loudest voice and as long as we remain silent we have simply become part of the problem and not the solution, and you will end up getting exactly what you deserve.

Phillip Hawkins
Independent Candidate

Dear Sir,
With Polling Day just around the corner, we'd like to take this opportunity to reach out to you all one last time.

Obviously there's been a lot written in these pages over the last month or so, possibly too much, and we are both very pleased that these elections only come round every four years.

What we would like to do is reassure the townsfolk that we have no plans at

all to cut services or events. The Santa Tours will not only continue but they will be supplemented by extra events such as the well supported and very popular 'Santa Drive Thru' that my wife and I ran in Tesco car park last year and the amazing Grotto that we organised in the Police Shop in 2019.

The OAP's Coach Trips will also continue as will the annual Firework Display and we intend to bring back some old favourites like the summer Carnival, and, if possible, will have boats back on the Boating Lake, as well as new attractions, working with local organisations, like 'a Music Festival' an outdoor event to rival the ones at Hardwick and Shildon.

Don't fall for the lies, we give you our personal assurances that we intend to make this Town great again and restore the faith you've lost in Councillors who only pop up at election time.

Neville & Joanne Jones (AKA Mr & Mrs Claus)



Don't Fall For The Lies

whitehouse
funeral service

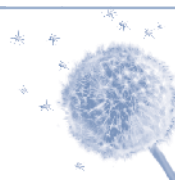


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Greenfield Offers a Choice Curriculum

Year 8 students at Greenfield Community College are currently choosing their GCSE options and next path of learning as they are offered a broad selection of opportunities. Subject leaders are currently talking to students and families to help support their choices to offer a bespoke learning experience. The school promote a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 3 and 4 and are committed to enabling students to choose a learning programme which best suits them.



This week subject departments have been sharing helpful and informative videos via social media to support those who may need support, showing the breadth of choice on offer. Students are able to choose from a range of subjects from engineering and business to drama, sports studies and dance, to name a few; opportunities that will sit alongside core subjects to be studied over their final years at Greenfield. If you would like to find out more visit the school Facebook page or contact the school to seek further information.

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

Weekly Hog Blog

Tara and I would like to thank everyone who enquired about Sid when he went missing recently, he is back home safe and sound and enjoying being pampered by Tara, Gary and Tyra. For anyone who doesn't know Sid has an eye missing and is blind in the other one which caused us a lot of worry, he is doing fine, we would like to thank Susan yet again for picking him up and getting him help via Sandra at Darlington Rescue Centre.



We have had a lot of problems with hedgehogs coming into rescue that have been attacked by dogs, little ones too, even when the owners have been present, this is cruelty in the rawest form. May I remind readers that they are a protected species at risk of extinction, BHPS are also seeking to prosecute anyone who is cruel to these beautiful mammals. Rat poison can kill hedgehogs too, if a rat can get in a rat box so can a hedgehog, it takes a week of agony for a hedgehog to die of these poisons. We have met some really lovely people recently, Margaret and another Margaret for donating bric-a-brac for our car boot sales. Also Gemma, she is a homeopathic therapist, who has kindly stepped in to assist us with calming a stressed Hedgehog out and also implementing alternative therapies.

Weekly Tip: The British Hedgehog Preservation Society have a list of all Rehabbers local to you, they can be reached on 01584 890801, Hedgehog Street, or email us on pricklyhaven@yahoo.com

Extreme Beekeeping



Dear Sir,
Getting stung occasionally by a bee is usually the extent of the hazards beekeepers expect to face. Last week builders working in Shildon encountered a large colony of bees nesting in the top of a chimney. The builders were tasked with removing the chimney but clearly didn't want to get too close and didn't want to kill the bees either. They called the local pest control officer who in turn called Aycliffe Beekeepers Association. Working on scaffolding, beekeepers Roger Chappel, Stuart Fawcett and Steve Jenkins found that the colony was indeed extremely large, well established and had probably been there for some time. After some effort the concrete cap of the chimney and four or five courses of bricks were removed exposing the top part of the colony. Large lengths of comb with bees were carefully removed and placed in three cardboard boxes. The following day the bees and their comb were transferred to a wooden, purpose built, hive. We hope the colony will become part of our apiary and have a healthy future.

Aycliffe Beekeepers Association have found the pandemic a challenge but have adopted technology such as Zoom to get us through. Our meetings have all been on-line and we have just completed our first training course via the internet. As social distancing rules relax we will be able to start practical training in our apiary at St Oswald's.

At this time of year beekeepers are getting ready for the new season. The bees, who have been relatively dormant over the winter, have started foraging for nectar and pollen. Soon we will be inspecting our hives and helping our bees build up and ready themselves for the new season. During the cold winter months we feed the bees with fondant (where necessary) and the association has been fortunate to receive a helpful supply of sugar from Tesco and Aldi.

Around May/June honey bees have a tendency to swarm. This is part of their natural reproduction cycle - about half of the bees in the hive leave with the Queen bee and look for a new place to colonise. This is probably how the bees in Shildon ended up in the chimney. As an Association one of the services we offer to the public is to collect swarms. A swarm of bees may contain tens of thousands of bees and can be quite an alarming sight but we don't want the bees killed or harmed so we are happy to save them and try and turn them into a productive colony. If you see a swarm this summer, which may have settled nearby, typically on the branch of a small tree and the size of a small rugby ball, please contact us.

Contact: Secretary, Steve Jenkins
Email: secretary.aycliffebka@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.aycliffebees.com>

"I'm missing £200 per month waiting for my telephone assessment"

Some people should be getting more Universal Credit due to their care and support needs, but are struggling to get by while they wait for an assessment.

Call us on 0808 278 7821 for help and advice if this is affecting you



Horrendous Conditions It's Your Choice Now

Dear Sir,
I was deeply saddened and upset to see the state that some parts of our town are in during the many hours I have spent delivering leaflets and talking to residents.

One particular property in Arncliffe Place left me, and my colleagues, speechless. For this property to still be in such an horrendous state, after residents have repeatedly reported it, is simply unacceptable. I wouldn't want my children to have to play outside next to this and we shouldn't expect any child to be in that situation.

During lockdown it's been so difficult for people and the one thing that they should have is to be able to look out the window and not feel physically sick at the view. We have elevated this issue with the County Council and we are reassured that they will now deal with it.

However, what really surprises me is that a sitting Labour councillor can actually see this property from their house. I give my word that I will not allow empty properties to be left for month after month after month in an horrendous condition, no matter where they are in our area. There is just no excuse. If you know of any other properties blighting our town please contact us.

When Labour Councillors can't even fix this when they can see it out of their own window, the only option is to vote them out. I'm sure the view out of my, and your windows is better than that in this picture.

Let's make sure all our children can live in a clean and pleasant environment. Together we can turn around our town.

Please support my colleagues and I next week.

James Walsh

Liberal Democrat Candidate



Dear Sir,

As the election campaigning draws to a close and the frenzy of letters or electioneering leaflets are posted into recycling bins, we should be in a position to decide which of the parties to lend our vote to.

These are local elections and candidates should be judged by character, experience and past actions, or vote for a particular party, which your Dad or Mam supported. Times change and people change with the times.

Newton Aycliffe is typical of much of the north with new dwellings springing up in virtually every space, with the only safeguard being our Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan which offers some protection for our beloved green areas. Many private landlords have descended onto Newton Aycliffe offering an alternative rental market to our local social housing provider livin.

Some candidates are from outside of our town boundaries and it begs the question why an outsider would wish to be involved in the politics of Newton Aycliffe. I would like to quash the idea that party politics plays a big part in the running of our council, apart from election time, councillors work together to get the best decision for this town that we all love. I would urge voters to scan leaflets for where candidates come from and act accordingly.

Labour have become too comfortable with the reins of power and have become complacent. Working for the party machine not those people who elected them.

Class used to be a big draw for the party but nowadays many residents are white collar, office or managerial. The confrontation with teaching assistants and the closing of the Durham Light Infantry Museum showed a side of Labour which left a bad taste in the mouth of County Durham residents.

Labour Councillors, now calling themselves Democratic Socialists, have become so arrogant that they refuse to discuss issues which concern Newtonians, i.e: double taxation, which genuinely worry some. Refusing to listen to local people and community associations when reducing lighting, which made some in our female population nervous when traversing our town footpaths.

We hear lots from Labour Councillors about how anti-social behaviour is being addressed by Councillors and partners, yet we have suffered an explosion in such behaviour over the previous two Labour administrations.

Residents now understand that Labour Councillors were in talks with Livin to develop the six streets of Williamfield Way leading to the compulsory purchase of hard worked for homes and the removal of 123 social homes. Only action by Independent Councillors in petitioning the residents saved the estate.

Much advertised, on Labour leaflets, are pictures of Labour Councillors who wish to take credit for the reinstalling of Whinlatter Bridge which, along with others, was gifted to Durham County Council from Sedgefield Borough Council along with millions of pounds for their upkeep and other assets. For many years, no maintenance was seen on the bridges with the obvious conclusion. Surprisingly only a petition taken by residents persuaded the Councillors to replace the bridge.

No doubt Labour Councillors mean well, but?

Liberal leaflets wish to persuade you that we in Aycliffe are highly taxed and this is a very populist idea designed to incense residents to rise and demand lower taxes for well heeled private landlords and the like. This appears to be their only policy. They claim to be local, yet do not put their contact details in their pamphlets. Nothing is known about most of them. Indeed two of them don't even live in the Town.

Liberal Democrats make much of the fact that many Independents were previously Labour, but fail to acknowledge that these are people of principle who left their party because they couldn't be gagged by a party whip, which is the situation Liberal Councillors will find themselves in if elected.

Conservatives are also putting people up from outside our town, with the exception of David Sutton Lloyd.

Independents believe in open speech, uncontrolled by political parties, seeking consensus on both Great Aycliffe and at County. Independents are people of values, community leaders who have done much for our town and experienced politicians who are hoping to be able to run our lovely town for the benefit not just of the rich, but for everyone.

Logic and reason are only the beginning of wisdom, you must have faith that the universe will unfold as it was intended, but it helps if you vote wisely as well.

Ken Robson

01325 321471

Fresh Ideas and Leadership

Dear Sir,

As the Chairman of South Durham Conservatives, which covers the constituencies of Darlington and Sedgefield, I am in a privileged position of having two MPs in my Association, Peter Gibson in Darlington, and Paul Howell in Sedgefield, both having taken their seats from Labour in 2019.

A Conservative-led council in Darlington, supported by Conservative Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen and Conservative MP Peter Gibson, has been able to attract jobs and investment that would never have been seen north of Watford Gap when the Labour party were in control, despite one of their Prime Ministers living in Sedgefield! Boris Johnson promised that levelling up is a priority and moving part of the Treasury to Darlington was a key step to redressing the balance.

Contrast that with Labour-run Durham Council. Paul Howell has an uphill struggle because the Labour party at County Hall are entrenched in their idiosyncrasies, ideologies, and ideas. They hold millions of your hard-earned cash in reserves then put up the council tax again. They are wasting further millions on a new County Hall in the centre of Durham, despite there being other, more suitable locations that won't flood every time it rains.

The unelected Police and Crime Commissioner has driven through plans to build a new custody suite, despite protests from all sides, and only Conservative Police and Crime Commissioners can be trusted to keep our communities and streets safe. While we are backing our police, Labour voted against measures to deliver tougher sentences for offenders, get knives off our streets and ensure dangerous criminals spend more time behind bars. Our Candidate, George Jabbour, promises More Police, Safer Streets.

With just a few days until the election, the choice for the people of County Durham is clear. Our candidates in Aycliffe offer a first class alternative to the tired old Labour councillors who take your votes for granted and continue to make bad decisions at County Hall. They will work as a team to deliver the services that are so desperately needed. Martin Peeke in Aycliffe East

Tony Stubbs & David Sutton-Lloyd in Aycliffe North and Middridge Elizabeth Maw in Aycliffe West

So, on the 6th May, it's time for 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.

Pauline Culley

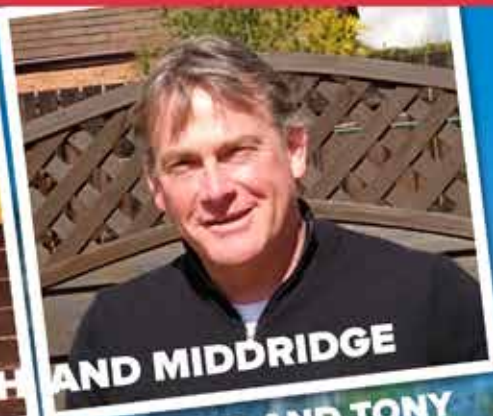
Chairman, South Durham Conservatives



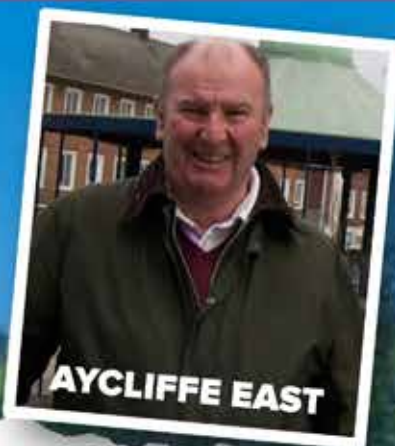
YOUR CONSERVATIVE TEAM FOR AYCLIFFE



AYCLIFFE NORTH AND MIDDRIDGE



YOU CAN VOTE FOR BOTH DAVID AND TONY



AYCLIFFE EAST



We will work together as a team and make sure that the voice of Newton Aycliffe is heard loud and clear at County Hall!

- We offer real leadership, real ideas and a real interest in the future of this town.
- We will hold the Government to account through our local MP and the County Council to account through local councillors, to ensure promises are kept.
- We will make sure that the cause of antisocial behaviour is tackled, not the effect, and will work to ensure that serial offenders and/or their parents are punished.
- We will co-operate with other parties to develop a radical, sustainable, new solution to tackle high streets that are failing due to a long history of poor retail planning, as well as our ever-changing shopping habits.
- We will campaign vigorously for substantial capital investment and for levelling up funds to be used on major projects across Newton Aycliffe.
- We will actively target and support local activities, especially those with a focus on new technology, social isolation, health and education and lobby for a constant flow of funds to be allocated to the dedicated individuals and teams in the voluntary sector.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR CHANGE. NOW IS THE TIME TO VOTE CONSERVATIVE

Promoted by Neville Lishman on behalf of South Durham Conservatives, 30b Larchfield St, Darlington, DL3 7TE.
Printed by Newton Press, Blue Bridge Centre, St Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6DS

**Let's make County Durham an even better place to live.
Vote Conservative on Thursday 6th May.**



Conservatives

1 Introduce Free Parking

Labour's partial U-turn (free after 2pm, reviewing every 3 months until end of December) doesn't go nearly far enough. We will introduce free parking in Durham County Council car parks.

This measure will give our high streets a much-needed boost. Re-energising town centres as we come out of Covid restrictions is vital.

Nearby local authorities such as Darlington Council have taken this positive step. If we take control of the council this May, we will help our traders in the same way.



2 Stop Labour Waste

Labour continues to pursue a new County Hall, costing more than £50 million. We will stop this.

Yet another appalling decision made by the Labour group: a 'vanity project', building on a flood-prone, hard to access site at The Sands, and ignoring near-total public opposition.



3 Restore LOCAL decision making

We will ensure that Area Planning Committees are made up of actual local Councillors.

We don't think it's right that a Councillor from one end of the county should be deciding applications at the other end.



4 Keep Council Tax increases down

Under Labour, a higher than inflation increase in your Council Tax has been an annual occurrence.

They waste your money and keep asking for more. We will make the council look for internal savings, including how much directors and executive officers are paid.



5 Work with government to achieve more investment

We welcome the award of £19.9 million for investment into Bishop Auckland town centre from government's Future High Streets Fund.

We will engage positively with the government to try and bring even more money into the county to help with the post-covid recovery.



6 To do more than Labour about potholes

We understand your frustration with crumbling roads and care about seeing more done.

A Conservative Council will spend an extra £5 million on 'real' road repairs, not the cheap, short term patches that are a waste of money.



RUNNING CLUB NEWS

A busy week of racing started on Wednesday, 21st April 2021, as several Members travelled to the Croft Motor Circuit to participate in a pair of races hosted by the Darlington Harriers and Athletics Club. In the Croft 5K, Rob Nicholson's recent hard work paid off as he completed the race in 29:58.

In the Pitstop 10K, John Firby continued his recent good form finishing in a new Personal Best of 35:31. He was followed home for the Club by Andy Talbot, who crossed the line in 39:55. Andy finished first in his Age Category, and in doing so, set a new Club Record for the 10K distance in the VM60 Age Category.

Robert Young was the next runner home for the Club, and Robert also beat his previous best for the distance, crossing the line in 40:18. In a good showing, following several injuries, Stuart Joyce wasn't far behind in a time of 41:36.

Julie Nisbet was our first lady home, recording a huge personal best of 46:52. Angela Sutherland came in next in a time of 48:31, with Sandra RUDD completing the course in a time of 1:09.24, finishing first in her Age Category.

Three Members travelled to Flatts Lane Woodland Country Park on Thursday, 22nd April 2021 to participate in the Pine Forest 5K. David Stothard was first home for the Club in a time of 31:01, followed by Bev Phillip in 32:02, and Kelly Dickinson in 32:19.

On Saturday, 24th April 2021, Second Claim Member Paul Rands completed the Run Tatton 10K in a new personal best of 44:15. Paul Dalton headed to Matfen on Sunday, 25th April 2021, to participate in the undulating Run Northumberland BIG 10 Miler and completed the race in 63:22. At the same time, Carley Cooper was taking part in the Washington Trail 10K, hosted by the Trail Outlaws. Carley completed the race in 1:04.48.

That afternoon saw several Members participate in the Shildon Open Track Meeting at Stadium 2000. Our Junior Section were out in force, and an outstanding performance from Hannah Brischuk saw her winning Heat 1 in the 600m (U11) in a time of 2:11.50. Hannah was followed home by Ruby Ferguson (2:38:10), Rose Taylor (2:47:70) and Elijah McLuckie (3:00:80).

Ruby, Rose and Elijah also participated in Heat 1 of the 75m Sprint, and posted times of 14:70, 15:40 and 16:10 respectively.

In the 100m, Elizabeth Clay completed her run in 14:90, finishing second in her Age Category, with Courtney Bowes just behind in 15:50.

In the Long Jump, Elizabeth Clay posted a distance of 3.23m, and she was followed by Courtney Bowes (3.09m), Hannah Brischuk (1.94m), Rose Taylor (1.59m) and Elijah McLuckie (1.48m), with Elizabeth and Courtney finishing second and third in their Age Category.

Not to be outdone, the Senior Section had three Members participating in the Mile event.

In Heat 2, Andy Talbot completed his run in 5:47.6, recording the fastest time in his Age Category (VM60) on the day. At the time of going to print, this is also the leading time over the Mile in the UK for a VM60 in 2021.

Stuart Joyce ran in Heat 3, coming home in a time of 5:54.2, and Julie Nisbet ran in Heat 4, finishing in a time of 6:35.9, setting a new Club Record for her Age Category.

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



Logico Logistics on the Road to Success

North East based transport and logistics consultants, Logico, are celebrating once again following their win at the prestigious 2021 UK Transport Awards in the Transport Consultancy Business of the Year category.

The awards recognise the hard working individuals and companies working in the demanding transport sector for their innovation and excellence in their business practice as well as their outstanding overall performance.

The recent win comes hot on the heels of success at the 2020 North England Prestige Awards, where Logico were successful in being crowned Logistics Consultant of the Year.

Based in Newton Aycliffe, the business is owned by experienced transport manager Lisa Fleming and has enjoyed significant growth and success since it began trading in June 2019.

As compliance and management consultants, who aim to protect transport operator license holders, Logico offer bespoke compliance and management solutions and HR support to businesses across the UK, they are DVSA approved auditors and have had success in gaining contracts with large-scale companies and a valuable partnership with a major law firm.

By developing trustworthy relationships with its clients, understanding their business objectives and creating mutual goals, Logico provide technical and personal support that allows their clients to feel safe and allows their business to flourish.

Commercial Director, Stephen Gosnay, commented, "We are delighted to have won this prestigious award, it not only proves how we are pushing the boundaries within our sector and providing first-class support and service to our clients but also how hard the whole Logico team have worked."

As a relatively new business, we have experienced rapid growth and are continuing to push forward with our plans for the future. In what has been a difficult year for many businesses, the transport and logistics sector has been recognised as being a crucial link in the UK supply chain and we have been proud to play our part in ensuring businesses remain compliant and their staff remain safe and cared for. We have a fantastic, dedicated and experienced team who are helping to drive our continuing success and we look forward to what the future holds."

To find out more about Logico and to view their website, please visit: www.teamlogico.co.uk

Photo: Left to right: Stephen Gosnay (Commercial Director), Lisa Fleming (Managing Director), Samantha Williams (Training Manager)



Losing Control?

Dear Sir,

The Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership (GAMP) is responsible for spending a lot of County Council money on projects in this area. It is run by a Board comprising our local County Councillors, representatives from Partner Organisations (such as the local Police, NHS, Fire and Rescue Service, Livin and businesses), and volunteer Public Representatives. Local organisations apply for funding for projects to meet locally determined priorities, and the Board decides which to support. In addition, each County Councillor controls a budget to fund projects in their Ward, again subject to GAMP Board approval. As a result, over the years, a lot of public money has been spent on projects locally determined to best meet the local community's needs.

I may be wrong, but if Labour were to lose control of the County Council, I fear that GAMP funding may be cut in the interest of reducing the Council Tax paid by the better off. Moreover, given the Government's clear preference for central control, if the Tories win control of the County Council, I foresee decision-making being removed from local hands, and returned to Durham. Electors may care to consider this when deciding how to vote on 6th May.

Alan Jordan,

Extended Learning Opportunities at Greenfield

Students at Greenfield Community College have settled well upon their return to the school site and have followed guidelines effectively to help support and create a safe environment for learning. Staff, families and students have worked together to continue learning in a range of valuable ways and online learning platforms have been utilised brilliantly, as well, as a digital dimension both at school and at home. Students have benefited from expert teaching at Greenfield in a safe and secure environment for learning that encourages students to ask questions, discuss, explore their understanding to develop the skills and knowledge they need for their future choices. Additionally, to further support, students have been provided with extensive resources which are being made available to enhance their learning experience and target areas of development. Greenfield have secured additional external support/teaching staff through the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) to add a further dimension and support to students at this time. NTP state that "tutoring is designed to provide additional support to the high-quality classroom teaching that is the most powerful way to support children" and Greenfield would like to welcome NTP staff who will work alongside our expert teaching staff at this time. Greenfield Community College are committed to developing skills that raise aspirations and support learning. The school promotes an inclusive curriculum, encouraging students to work together to realise an outstanding learning experience. If you would like further information visit www.greenfieldschool.net or contact the school by emailing contact@greenfieldschool.net or by calling 01325 300378.

harvest foods

Administration Clerk

Part Time, Permanent, £9 per hour

We are a ready meals manufacturer and require an Administration Clerk in our busy office to cover 1.5 days a week, comprising Wednesdays and a flexible half day to suit. Also to cover holidays during school holiday times.

Duties will include answering the phone and dealing with emails, booking transport and inputting invoices, ordering, filing and general office duties.

Applicants should be experienced in Microsoft Office and Outlook. Knowledge of inputting basic data to Sage 50 Accounts desirable, but not essential, as training will be given.

To apply, please send a CV for the attention of Gillian Sayer to accounts@harvestfoods.co.uk or by post to Harvest Foods, Whinfield Drive, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6AU.

Closing Date 24/5/21. No Agencies.

Bee Bombing Event This Weekend

Dear Sir,
In recent decades the world bee population has declined drastically. This may sound like a good thing to some who fear their sting, or are allergic to it, but in reality it is far from being good. Bees and other pollinators such as birds, bats and insects affect 35% of the world's crop production, increasing outputs in 87 of the leading food crops and plant derived medicines. (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN). This decline has come about for various reasons including the use of pesticides and fungicides, climate change and loss of habitat. We need to act now in any way we can to halt this decline and ensure our own future by helping them. Ways that we can help are by cutting the use of chemicals, buying local honey, building a bee box and planting bee friendly flowers and shrubs. This Bank Holiday Monday, May 3rd, we will be holding a Bee Bombing fun event for children in Woodham Park, 10.00am-1.00pm, to improve the wildlife habitat and encourage pollinators in our area. Please come along and have some fun whilst helping us to help the environment. A few

minutes of your time could make a significant, permanent difference, to our wildlife and ecology!
This event is free of charge and will follow government guidelines for social distancing. Hosted by Stephanie Heselton and the Pemberton Pickers.

Firsts All Round



Sunday 25th April saw the first round of the Micromax Championship race at Teesside for Seb. This time there was no qualifying, it was random grids, so it was luck of the draw.
Heat 1: Seb started 8th - finished 1st
Heat 2: Seb started 3rd - finished 1st
Heat 3: Seb started 6th - finished 1st
Final: He started on pole - finished the race in 1st.

What a weekend for Seb, again he was placed 1st in the main race, 1st for U10s, and also winning a trophy for the fastest lap, taking his fastest lap record to 3 tracks now, Warden Law, Hooton and Teesside. We were supported by his Team Manager at Hunter Motorsport, Rhys Hunter, thank you for all your support with Seb. Footage of Seb is available on YouTube (Teesside Round 1, 25th April 2021). There is also dedicated footage of the Micromax Championship on TDI Media on YouTube. Sebs next race takes us to Wombwell on 8/9th May, a track he has never been to previously. If you would like to support Seb on his journey, please get in touch. We're still looking for sponsors to support him on his journey.

Aycliffe Based Rock Band New Single

We are Alex James, a wheelchair-fronted alternative indie rock band with a unique story (of a front man living with an incurable life-limiting condition). We wanted to let your readers know that our second single, 'I said that you looked fine', will be released on all platforms, including Apple Music and Spotify, on the 30th April. Our music is heavily influenced by the likes of Royal Blood, The Pale White, Oasis, Sam Fender and Foo Fighters. The aim of my band is to raise awareness of disabilities, highlight the importance of accessibility within the music scene and continue the long rock tradition of challenging pre-conceptions through live music and being in a wheelchair.

Music has really helped me to live with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy . . . I create music for fun, to help others and to leave behind a legacy for those I will eventually leave behind.



Bee Powerful - Come and Plant Some Seeds



**Monday 3rd May 10.00am to 1.00pm
Woodham Park**

Bee Bombing Fun

Many hands make light work so . . .
Please come along with your children and help us 'bomb' the park with native wild flower seeds which will grow into a beautiful meadow to feed our diminishing bee population.

Your Planet Needs You!!

'Why Me?'

Dear Sir,
It is sadly that time for local people to cast their votes for who they would like to represent them in local elections. Why do I say "sadly"? Well, all we see is each candidate writing in the local press simply condemning their opponents and not talking about what they plan to achieve for the local population. I have lived in Aycliffe for 30 years and nothing has changed when it comes to how some of these candidates behave.

I laugh when I read their 'Why Me?' summaries. Most state that they have lived on the town for many years, and some still are or have been Councillors. They seem to believe that because they have been Councillors for years, that we should vote for them. In reality this is a reason why not to vote for them. They have had their chance to show the people of Aycliffe what they can do and I think it is time to vote for candidates who have not had the opportunity.

Local elections are not like National elections and people should vote for whom they feel will help the people of this Town and not simply vote for their Political party. I ask people to ask themselves, what has this candidate achieved for the people of this Town and vote accordingly?

Richard Day

Litter Pickers



Around 10 volunteers met at the playing fields off Wolsey Close. This was the third week running at this location, and a large amount was collected in just over an hour, with glass bottles being a particular problem. Unfortunately, a lot of rubbish and bottles remain, so, Ian Gray will be coordinating further visits here. As always, he can be contacted at: Ian.Gray38@btinternet.com for further information.
Julie Dudley

Are Lib Dems Telling the Truth?

1 - In the Aycliffe West Ward, Lib Dem Candidate for County Council James Walsh, (who lives in Brafferton, Darlington not Newton Aycliffe), states they got the Town Council to freeze its Council Tax, this is totally untrue.

2 - Lib Dem leaflet states 'Cllr. Michael Stead has only been a Councillor for a year and he has already secured a town council tax freeze', totally untrue.

3 - Lib Dem leaflet says 'it's time we had local Councillors', yet they are putting up a person who lives in Brafferton, Darlington and another who lives in Heighington Parish, Darlington. They do not live in the Town - hardly local!

Neville Jones, Lib Dem Candidate, asked:

"does this have to descend to the nasty levels being seen by some in our Town?"

Well Neville, I had hoped for better, but deceiving the electorate about your candidates being local, when two blatantly

live outside the Town Council boundary, is not right. Claiming your one Lib Dem Councillor, out of 30 Councillors, froze the Council Tax, is unacceptable.

Don't trust what the Lib Dems say.

David Elliot

Independent Candidate

Acle Scouts Receive Rotary Donation



Rotary Newton Aycliffe has recently presented Acle Scouts with a donation to help them cope with the effects of lockdown on their fundraising etc.

Acle Scout Troop Leader, Margaret Lenahan, sent us the following report.

Firstly, a great big thank you for your support. I thought I would tell you a little about Acle. In February and March 2020, Acle Scout Group brought together not only its members, but also the extended families, and we hosted gang shows and family camps. At that time we had more than 100 members, then Covid appeared. The leaders and families were brilliant, we all adapted, and Acle continued by meeting on Zoom every week with 5 sessions a week. We soon realised not everyone could handle being on Zoom, so we adapted again and created Colour Wars which gave opportunities for families to do fun, creative and physical activities whilst sharing the results on What's App. We carried on delivering this activity up until November, then along came Jingle games. We involved the whole community at a time when we were heading into the 2nd Lockdown. After Christmas attendees on Zoom dropped, so when we announced that we were going back to face-to-face scouting and the requests to attend came in, we were delighted to see we had 90 people still keen to be involved. However, without fundraising opportunities and subs not being paid, we have seen our finances rapidly disappear on running costs which is why we are so thankful to have Rotary Newton Aycliffe step in. The donation enables us to continue to offer scouting in our community which we believe is so important for our young people.

The Best Interests of the Town

Dear Sir,

I am writing with concern over candidates for the town elections next week. It has been noted that there are candidates running for town council election who do not live within the wards of the town.

How can those who do not have any personal and emotional investment in the town, work for the good of the people? They will not be able to quickly attend to any issues that may arise.

Aycliffe, as a town, has a very proud group of people who work very hard to get the best they can for those who live around them in their wards, they work tirelessly to help those who need help, I feel that allowing non-residents to represent Aycliffe will not be in the best interest for the town.

Mr Brian Haigh

Independent Candidate

HAMSTERLEY ROAD, NEWTON AYCLIFFE (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2021

The Council proposes to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular traffic from proceeding on 20m of road at 7 - 9 (front) Hamsterley Rd, Newton Aycliffe to enable manhole frame and lid replacement works to be undertaken. No alt route available to vehicular traffic during the works period. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence from 8am to 4pm on 20/5/21 and are anticipated to be completed in 1 day. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

Dated: 30th April 2021



Helen Lynch
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL



Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk

Telephone: 020 7219 6385

Aycliffe Office: 01325 790580



Parliament Talk

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

Another week of working from home with on-line Select Committees etc. I, like many of you, look forward to a more normal workplace. Whilst there have been some good points about virtual meetings, there are many more values to actual engagement with people and whether this is in Westminster or the constituency, I can't wait.

Parliament runs in legislative sessions, and this one will have ended when you read this. Parliament will be prorogued on Thursday 29 April and reconvenes with the Queen's Speech on Tuesday 11 May. Prorogation is the term used to refer to when Parliament is suspended between sessions without being dissolved to cause an election. When I was elected in December 2019 there was a Queen's Speech in the first week to set out the Government's agenda for that session, on that occasion MPs were all crammed into the Chamber to be summoned to the Lords to hear the Queen. This time there will be a ballot to see which MPs can be present due to Covid restrictions, I await the result to see whether I will be able to be present.

Last week saw me at the BEIS select committee again, this time we were back in the discussions around decarbonising heat in homes. You'll see much more communication on this subject as the race to Net Zero continues. Everybody is aware of the changes to electric vehicles and the desire to get petrol and diesel cars off our roads, but we also need to decarbonise the way we heat our homes. This will involve either different technologies, like heat pumps, or different fuels, like hydrogen, or a combination of these. 95% of houses will need to decarbonise their heating system to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050.

I also jointly chaired a 'Big Tent' session led by Local Trust who are the secretariat for the Left Behind Communities APPG. This was entitled "Levelling Up 'left behind' Britain - the importance of a hyper local focus". This was a very interesting session with some very inspiring speakers. Like many politicians I have also spent time out leafleting and talking to people about the forthcoming elections. As part of this I met the Rail Minister, Chris Heaton-Harris, at Ferryhill Station to show him the potential offered by the proposals to reopen the station. I continue to be encouraged by the engagement by ministers in listening to me and my colleagues on agendas we see as important.

When it comes to important agendas for Newton Aycliffe my current focus is on attempting to apply the Levelling Up Fund opportunity on Aycliffe Town Centre. I'm working with Durham County Council who would have to submit the actual bid, with my support. They are looking at the technical opportunities given that the Town Centre was sold to a private business several years ago. Despite what you may have heard from other nay saying local Councillors it is certainly possible that a plan can be created. Before going much further though I want to be sure that I understand what the people of Aycliffe actually want. That's why I am delighted to work with the Newton News, who are also encouraging residents to 'Shop Local', on a questionnaire to help me get the right priorities. I would appreciate as many people as possible responding to help us get the best understanding. I have also started talking directly with a number of shopkeepers and will move forward with this over the coming weeks. As we continue to lift restrictions, and non-essential shopping is again available to us, please focus your support on local shops, they need, and will appreciate, your support.

Last month, the Government released details of the new Levelling Up Fund. The £4.8 billion fund will support town centre and high street regeneration, local transport projects, cultural and heritage assets. I believe that the Levelling Up Fund gives us an excellent opportunity to accelerate discussions around what developments are needed in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre.

To start these discussions, here is a short survey that gives you an opportunity to let me know what changes and developments you would prefer to see in the Town Centre, if we are able. If you get an opportunity, please do complete the survey, preferably on-line, but if not, physically, as it will really help us formulate a plan for how we could potentially use the Levelling Up Fund and regenerate the Town Centre. The number of vaccinations continues at an incredible rate and take up continues to be amazing with over 95% of those offered the 2nd jab turning up. This is so important as I understand that whilst the first jab is indicated to give 60/70% protection the 2nd increases this to 80/90%. I am also told that the Novavax vaccine, manufactured in Billingham and filled in Barnard Castle, has had the first production level to be made and these are being evaluated. Please take up your offer of vaccination when you get it and remember, even then, you need to follow all the guidelines.

In particular Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air. Stay Safe.

Paul Howell MP

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

Town Centre Development

Are you familiar with the Newton Aycliffe Town Centre Partnership?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Do you agree with their view that the town centre requires significant regeneration and development?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If yes, what developments / improvements do you think would be most beneficial to the town centre?

- ☐ Cafes / Restaurants
☐ Pubs / Bars
☐ Entertainment Venues (Cinema / Bowling Alley)
☐ More green spaces
☐ Other:

If you selected 'Other' to the previous question, please specify what developments / improvements you would like to see.

.....

There are a number of empty units on the high street. What kind of shops would you like to see occupy them?

.....

Why would you like to see the developments / improvements made and what benefits do you think they would have?

.....

Would the town centre benefit from the return of a market?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unsure

What kind of market would you like to see (food / clothes etc)?

.....

Would you use a new market?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Why?

The local Police Force are currently developing plans to open a 'community hub' in the town centre, where both children and adults can go to socialise, learn and seek support. Do you think this will benefit the town and the local community?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Why?

Which council ward do you live in?

- ☐ Aycliffe East
☐ Aycliffe North and Middridge
☐ Aycliffe West
☐ School Aycliffe

Do you own a business in the town centre?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If you would like updates or further communication from me on this topic, please leave your email address below.

.....

Hand your form in at Newton Press, The Vape Shop (High Street), Select, Aycliffe Framers or MP office.

Why not take the survey online: www.tinyurl.com/uaxy6sbn



Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report



Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, lost a thrilling game at home to Norton 1st XI by just two wickets in the NYSD 2nd division.

After being asked to bat first Aycliffe piled up the runs scoring a very respectable 209 for 7 in their allotted 50 overs. Chris Palmer top scored in the innings with a belligerent 59 off just 50 balls including 11 boundaries and a huge six. Jack Slatcher (sponsored by Dean and Tina Greaves) followed up last week's excellent batting with an unbeaten 50 off 71 balls, his first half century for four seasons and opener Luke Telford also deserves praise, scoring 34 from 42 balls with eight boundaries.

In reply, Norton got off to a solid start and looked well set at 114 for 2, despite some tight bowling from all rounder Jack Slatcher (2 for 19). However, the introduction of leg spin bowler Patrick Howe (3 for 21), who was playing his first game for two seasons, soon put Aycliffe back in the game leaving the visitors stumbling on 122 for 5. The Norton middle and late order fought back well and despite some late intervention from Luke Telford (2 for 15), they reached their victory target with 16 balls and two wickets in hand. This match was sponsored by J&C Coaches. The 2nd team set a new club record when they took to the field with the youngest ever team in the history of the club, with an average age of just 17 years per player, when they travelled to promotion favourites Stockton 2nd XI in the NYSD 4th division. Captain Dan Weldon won the toss and chose to bat first and his inexperienced team performed well to score 73 all out in 28.2 overs. 14 year old Thomas Dearden (sponsored by Kevin Burton) batted effortlessly before he was dismissed for his senior career best score of 34 and he was supported well by Sean Morgan (10 runs) and Jai Sander (7 runs). In reply, the visitors fielded superbly making Stockton fight for every run, but they were unable to stop them reaching their victory target after 18.1 overs. 15 year old Leo Mercy finished with one wicket for 20 runs and 12 year old debutant Will Dearden capped a memorable day for himself when he took the only other Stockton wicket to fall, finishing with one wicket for six runs.



Photo: Second team captain Dan Weldon presenting a club cap to debutant Will Dearden, who at 12 years and 26 days of age, became the youngest player to play senior cricket for Aycliffe since Dan himself made his senior debut as an 11 year old, back in 2006.

Seed Swap at Mount Grace Priory

In celebration of National Gardening Week (26th April – 2nd May 2021) English Heritage gardeners are inviting members of the public to participate in a seed swap on the 1st and 2nd May. Visitors to Mount Grace Priory, near Thirsk, are encouraged to bring their own seeds along to exchange for rare varieties which have been donated by Garden Organic's Heritage Seed Library. These include an array of heritage seeds like the Dwarf French Bean and the 'Avon Early' Beetroot. Mount Grace is open 10am to 5pm and tickets need to be booked in advance. For more information visit: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/mount-grace-priory>

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An Open Campaign

Dear Sir,
Last week's Newton News threw up some interesting facts: Dorothy Bowman is standing for both Aycliffe North for Durham County Council, and Byerley Park, Horndale & Cobblers Hall Ward for the Town Council. Now her claim to what she has done is all about the Whinlatter Bridge, an area of the West Ward, which is being addressed by Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper, although sitting Councillors in the area and are seeking re-election. Dorothy Bowman lives in the West Ward and has no links with Byerley Park, The Chase, Greenfield and Horndale, let alone Cobblers Hall. We have enough problems with people coming from other areas seeking election without Dorothy coming in the hope of being re-elected, she represented this ward on the Town but did nothing in this area of the Town. She demands respect against Anti-Social behaviour, yet does not even mention by name the Police & Crime Commissioner standing for County Durham and Darlington. Candidates are Joy Allen, Labour; Anne-Marie Curry, Lib Dem and George Jabbour, Conservative. The most experienced of the three is, without doubt, Joy Allen. I have not yet seen any information from the Lib Dems, and the Conservative candidate could not write his own letter to constituents, but used our MP, Paul Howell, to send it out. The leaflet did not address the issues that are relevant to us, like Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, it does however mention Ben Houchen, the Tees Valley Mayor, who is opposed to the police and makes no secret of that fact.

Yet, it was the Conservative Government, under David Cameron, with the support of the Lib Dems, during the time of the coalition government, who introduced elected Police & Crime Commissioners.

Now, I don't know what the qualifications of the other candidates are, but if they can't put these out, then they do not deserve to represent us as the Police & Crime Commissioner. However, on the other hand, we have Joy Allen with BA Hons in Management & Administration, an MSc in Security & Crime Risk Management and an MBA from Durham University Business School.

The lockdown caused by Covid-19 has made the campaign open and allowed the people to analyse the election promises made by others, like the Lib Dems, with the main issue being Council Tax. I must congratulate Jed Hillary on the report he made in a recent edition of Newton News 'Perplexing Claims', this is exactly what people are saying, they know that they have to pay Council Tax to pay for services, but what do people expect the Council to cut? Without repeating Jed Hillary's comments. I visit the gym or other areas in the community that I go to, the comments are the same from the people, not the promises made by the opposition.

Over the last four years Durham County Council have made significant cuts, they made all the Youth workers redundant and closed down the centres or it was transferred under Community Asset Transfer.
Vince Crosby

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Neighbourhood Policing

By PC Bram Booth

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



It's been a busy and productive week for officers on the Neighbourhood Policing Team at Newton Aycliffe. Residents may have noticed us out on our newly acquired e-Bikes, which were kindly funded by the Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership (GAMP). The bikes are allowing us to cover greater distances and we are finding that we are coming across incidents before they are reported. Whilst on bike patrols, Officers seized an illegal quad being driven along The Burn and then came across a 10 year old boy crossing the railway lines near to Middridge. The boy had got his bike stuck and was helped on to the right side of the lines by officers just minutes before a train passed.

In response to the spate of vehicles being damaged, we have been carrying out late night / early morning patrols on our bikes, hoping to deter and identify those responsible. I would like to appeal to residents for information on suspected drug activity in Newton Aycliffe. Information can be given confidentially to Police via Crimestoppers, either online or by telephone. The more current and specific information we get, the faster we can act on it. We would, however, encourage people to report ongoing incidents in the usual way to ensure appropriate resources are deployed.

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

DURHAM CONSTABULARY: Protecting Neighbourhoods, Tackling Criminals, Solving Problems ... Around the Clock
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING: Use your postcode to get access to local news and events from your Neighbourhood Policing Team, at https://www.durham.police.uk

Election Role Out

Dear Sir,
It's funny how all Councillors only seem to communicate with the public when they want something from you. Yes, it's 'I want your vote again' time. Then goodbye until the next election. They slag each other off and accuse each other of lying and if elected they will do the best for us, promising us everything, which doesn't materialise when they are elected. At the same time, each Councillor does not only represent the people who voted for them, but all the people in the ward. We don't all wear cloth caps and vote Labour. Where are their voices? Then there are candidates who are Independent, they decide for themselves what they want and policies which suit their needs.

I have a council summary of accounts 2007/2008 which shows how much each authority has, at the end of the year, in the reserve fund. This was at March 31st 2008, showing the County Council had £100.855m plus pounds in reserve, the police had £11.874m and the fire brigade had £5.889m. This was at the end of the financial year. Which is approximately £117m under spent and the council tax still went up. Amazing what you find in lockdown. Still, our MP has had a meeting to encourage the Council to put in for levelling up funds. They are not backward in coming forward when money is involved. It is 13 years on, how much is now in the coffers? They say the council tax needed to go up this year because of government cuts.

Another candidate wants off road parking and quoted preventative measures and pointed to a previous collaboration as an example. The last collaboration I know of for off road parking was carried out on Baliol Green and a cul-de-sac in the village, when there was a more pressing needs on Baliol Road and Clarence Chare main bus route and the person in question, who raised the point, was told to contact the bus company and have the bus route rerouted by one of the said councillors. Speaking of green areas, do the Council own Clarence Green? If so, have livin been sold part of it or have they acquired part of it by other means? Because it is much smaller in area now the road has moved, taking away the green and extending living property.

Next, we have the task of electing a Crime Commissioner. Who are they and what are they going to do for the community? What qualifications do they have and what did we do before them? Are they local or are they from outside the area and will they be accused of lining their pockets as well?

Another point in question, a separate door for Councillors to enter council buildings, I mean they can't be seen rubbing shoulders with the riff raff, also a reduction in Councillors.

I think that this year, because of Covid-19, we may have to provide our own pens at the polling stations, question: is it worth the ink? Name and address supplied

Congratulations

Irene Gartland

3rd May 2021 - 80 Years Young

Happy birthday, we all love you lots. Amazing Mam to Denise, John and Lyn, Mother-in-Law to Allan and Ian, Nanna to Christopher, Emma, Becky, Sam and Lauren, Great Nanna to Isaac, Belle and Rose. Have a lovely day xxx

N.A.F.C. JUNIORS

U8s Blacks played against Leven Whites. It was another case of playing a very good team, who should be in a far higher division, but Aycliffe competed well in the first half, going in down at half time. Second half Leven dominated the game. Another tough day for the kids, but we go again.

U8s Whites played against Hebburn Town Juniors. It was a tight game and Aycliffe went in down at half time. They had been pressing Hebburn hard but made a few daft mistakes that cost Aycliffe. MOM was awarded to Josh.

U9s Blacks played against Chester le Street Lions. Aycliffe only had seven players but they gave it their all, however, the opposition proved too strong. Starting well with a fine bit of play from Benjamin and Rhys, Aycliffe took the lead. The opposition though took hold of the game and scored a few in quick succession. The aim for Aycliffe in the second half was not to concede as much as in the first and try to score, in which they succeeded, with a goal from MOM Benjamin.

U9s Juniors played away to Guisborough Town Whites. Aycliffe took the lead with a deflection from a Jonah cross but Guisborough responded and scored more. Aycliffe came back with one from Jack after some brilliant passing. Aycliffe kept creating the chances but could not convert any more. MOM went to Ernie.

U11s played away at Felling Magpies. A fantastic game for Aycliffe but unfortunately Magpies lost their keeper to injury early on. Aycliffe saw some great moves, brilliant goals from headers and even a cheeky back-heel goal from Thomas. Aycliffe were solid at the back with the return of Oscar in the back 3 who all had an excellent performance. Well done to Celina who was awarded Player of the Match.

U12s Whites picked up another 3 points with a steady 3-1 win at home to Linthorpe Academicals. Goals came from Jake, Oliver and an own goal from Linthorpe. Linthorpe got a conciliation goal but rarely troubled Aycliffe thanks to their solid defence. MOM went to Reiss.

U13s Whites played against Boro Reds. This was a really close game in the first half but Aycliffe missed a penalty and two good opportunities. Boro Reds took their chances to make it 2-0. Second half Aycliffe went for it and scored through Niall but Boro Reds ran out winners with the game ending 1-5. Brad was awarded MOM.

U14s played against North Ormesby with Aycliffe leading 5-1 when the game was abandoned with 8 minutes remaining. Goal scorers were Jordan, Jake, Tom & Travis x 2. **U15s** travelled to Farringdon on Saturday, looking to add to recent positive performances. Aycliffe battled back twice to draw level with goals from Finn and James, however Aycliffe were unable to battle to secure at least a point that was deserved, with 3 quick fire goals at the end of the game seeing a 5-2 defeat. MOM went to Louis.

Lady on a Mission

Dear Sir,
Sorting out problems is second nature to me. When you deal with accounts for people on a daily basis you learn a lot about a lot of different businesses. You realise how hard people work, including the self employed, and you understand how quickly people can shift from being OK paying the mortgage to struggling. This past year has surprised everyone and many are still suffering. Having Councillors who recognise and understand this is essential. The community spirit, the help from our neighbours and the recognition that we need to work together, has shown the true value of people in our town. Yes, there is so much to sort out, jobs, regeneration and more. Like all the pot holes in our roads and uneven pavements. But there's also a solution to this and so many other problems. It's common sense. Not wasting money on silly repairs. It's value for money. Not paying out more than we need to fix things. It's only doing what matters, not coming up with hair-brained schemes. It's fixing what's broken and doing it with respect for taxpayers money. Please support me and my Lib Dem colleagues. We need a strong team to make sure the money we all pay to the town and county council is spent wisely and we need clued up people to take on the unfair tax issue Labour and the Conservatives are unwilling or incapable of fixing. I look forward to finding savings, so we can protect services, tackling waste, so we can save you money. Please back all three of us in Aycliffe North and Middridge, Michael Stead, Maureen Shelton and I. Andrea Miller



Acknowledgement

Doug Ellis - A Big Thank You

A big thank you for the lovely cards, flowers and kind thoughts from family, friends and neighbours. It means a lot to know you are there for me and my family at this very sad time. Doug has left a very big hole in our lives, with your help we will get through this. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to you all. Brenda Ellis and family

Obituary

Elizabeth Rose Moore
Betty

4/5/40 - 18/4/21
Passed away peacefully in her sleep. Eternally loved Wife, Mam, Gran and Great Gran. If tears could build a stairway and thoughts a memory lane. We'd walk right up to heaven and bring you home again. Rest in peace xxxx
Private Family Funeral Service at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe, 1.30pm on Tuesday 4th May 2021

In Memoriam

Malcolm Duffy

28th April 2018
Three years have passed since you left us. We love and miss you each day. All our love Mam and Brian

Agnes Hills

28/4/48 - 1/5/14
Seven years since you left Agnes. Always loved, Never forgotten. Your ever loving Husband Tom xxxx

Aycliffe Youth Football Latest Update

Hebburn Honeys v Aycliffe U11's Angels Blue

A tough encounter on one of the Blues furthest away games. A really close first half showed good defensive work from both teams. The Angels went into the second half with a narrow lead. The second half found Hebburn attacking less, with the Angels taking control of the match and extending their lead. Goals from Charli and Sophie and a hat-trick for Macie enabled a win based on a solid defence and energetic midfield performance. Angels win.

Aycliffe U12's Eagles v Hebburn Town Juniors

After our narrow win mid week against the same team Aycliffe were keen to show how good they can play. The Eagles broke the deadlock after 15 mins from a corner headed home by Joel which was followed by Adam. HT 2-0. Second half the lads managed to retain most of the possession. Adam scored the 3rd and the 4th from Olly, who, from distance, smashed the ball past the keeper. Adam then completed his hat trick. A foul on Will and Liam stepped up to take the free kick to score. The final goal came when Adam ran down the wing and played the ball to Olly who struck it beautifully and got his second goal in the game. FT 7-0.



Aycliffe U12 Girls v Deerness Valley

Impressive first half but with Aycliffe only 1 - 0 up at the break, thanks to an outstanding finish from Demi Lee, the game was still in the balance. Second half was much of the same, but when Deerness did manage to break, the defence and Safiye in goal were there to sweep up.

Three fantastic goals finished off the game and a well deserved win for the Aycliffe girls. We have been unlucky with injuries recently but the girls there today stood up and made their moment on the pitch count. 4-0.

POTM: Demi Lee, Goals: Demi Lee & Freya 3.

Aycliffe U10's Eagles v Saltburn

The first goal came when Brandon sped down the wing, passed to Krystian who found the back of the net. It was Saltburn that bagged the next goal to go level as the first half finished. Dan then restored the league. The Eagles were full of confidence now and playing well. Aiden made a pacey run down the wing and found himself one on one with the keeper and smashed a shot into the goal. Saltburn did get another goal back but it was too late and the ref blew for FT. MOM: Brandon.

Aycliffe U9's Wildcats v Boro Girls

With only 6 available, and no goalkeeper, so played 4 girls a quarter of a game each. The passing was superb at times from back to front and across the pitch. The work rate was excellent especially off the ball trying to win it back. Ava, Phoebe, Imogen and Brooke were on the score sheet with Lucy

and Nyah both deserving a goal but were unlucky not to. Lucy hit the post twice and Nyah had several shots saved. All in all a great game, great effort, great win and a superb clean sheet.

Other Results:

Hebburn Town 7 v Aycliffe U13's Girls 1
Kader 3 v Aycliffe U14's Eagles 1

Adults:

Hebburn Women 5 v Aycliffe Women 1
Aycliffe U23's Men 4 v Redcar Athletic 6

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Thank You

Dear Sir,
As we are both standing down at the forthcoming elections, we would like to thank everyone who supported and voted for us over the past years.

We would also like to thank our fellow Councillors, both past and present, as well as officers of Great Aycliffe Town Council and Durham County Council.

Sarah Iveson

Neville Ward (GATC), Aycliffe East (DCC)

Malcolm Iveson

Shafto / St. Mary's (GATC)

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