

Friday 21st May 2021

Established 1948

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

Five Acres Community Garden Opens at ROF59

See page 3 for full story



Special thank you to your Newton News Sponsors:

SHAKE 'N' CAKE



PAUL HOWELL
MP for Sedgfield



Unique Opportunity for Residents in this Area

Due to the success of previous projects, Bishop Auckland College has secured additional funding through the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) and Livin to help residents, aged 16+, in the GAMP area to progress/move closer to or into employment, further training or volunteering.

Project Description

There are three funds designated to supporting those over the age of 16+ residing in the Great Aycliffe and Middridge area.

These three funds are:

- Upskilling Fund aimed at those in low paid jobs, to support them in acquiring new skills/qualifications, enabling them to move up the career ladder, change direction or gain additional work in a new sector. This opportunity is available where there is no mainstream funding available and where opportunities cannot be provided through employers' Continuous Personal Development Fund (CPD).
- Employability Skills Fund aimed at responding to specific training needs, where there is no mainstream funding available.
- Discretionary Fund aimed at removing barriers, for example, travel, childcare, resources that prevent clients from accessing training and employment.

To-date the Project has successfully supported 308 people into employment. For further information contact Denise Hopps, Project Officer 01388 443078 or email denise.hopps@bacoll.ac.uk

The following site highlights the positive impact that the Upskilling, Employability & Discretionary Project can have on people's lives. <https://bacoll.ac.uk/training-opportunities>

Greenfield Arts Celebrate Community Spirit

Greenfield Arts have led an exciting collaboration with Shildon Town Council to celebrate community spirit and the many unsung heroes of Shildon.

Artist Paul Theo Murray and Katy Milne, Creative Director at Greenfield Arts, were delighted to share the final artwork in an extended project to commemorate the spirit of VE Day. Pop up artwork and an art installation formed part of the celebrations and a film produced by Greenfield Arts illustrated the community collaboration and journey that shared the inspirations and memories of the wonderful people of Shildon. The artwork will tour across spaces in Shildon including Holly Lodge Care Home and Redworth Care Home and the Shildon Institute.

Artist Paul Theo Murray was commissioned to design and create inspiring boxes that encouraged people to recall memories of people and places and reflected acts of kindness and community spirit. It was lovely to see the artwork come together to be enjoyed by the community and be a part of the final celebrations organised by Shildon Town Council.

Thank you to all involved in the project, a final book is being created to share the journey and you can enjoy our film by visiting Greenfield Arts (vimeo.com).

Shout About Shildon is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the project benefits from a valuable partnership with Shildon Town Council. "There is so much to shout about in Shildon. What a fantastic community with a positive spirit and generous

nature that make amazing things happen" said Katy Milne.

Greenfield Arts are committed to providing high quality arts and creative opportunities that encourage creativity, questioning and curiosity. To find out more about us you can contact our friendly team by emailing info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or you can visit www.greenfield-arts.co.uk to find out about our full programme of projects and activities.



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Davy's Rock Page review: "All in all, a great night with a great atmosphere and a lot of people dancing, so if you want to hear newer covers with a good mix of older rock, 101 deliver."

Saturday 29th May - 'Graham Hunter'
Saturday 6th June - 'Repertoire Dogs'

For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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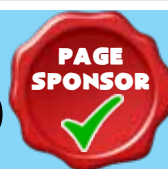


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Five Acres Community Garden Opens at ROF59

On May 17th a brand new facility opened for School Leavers and Adults with Learning Difficulties, offering Arts, Crafts, Music, Sport, Horticulture, Agriculture and Cookery, to support members with skills in preparation for adulthood and assisted living.

Five Acres Community Garden is a Community Interest Company (not for profit), the Directors are Debbie and Gavin Icton,



who also operate J&C Coaches. "Since J&C Coaches started in 1975, our constant 'bread and butter' contract work has been the transportation of children and adults with additional needs and learning difficulties, it's our turn to give something back to this sector in our Community" said Debbie.

We intend to turn our five acre field at Brafferton into a horticulture and agricultural centre, incorporating a community garden and respite lodges for families who need a break. Planning permission is ongoing on this site, sadly delayed due to the pandemic. In the meantime, John and Julie Finley have allowed us to open at ROF59 - this has enabled us to diversify and offer so much more to our members. In addition, we now have a sensory room for chill and relaxation and a crafting lounge, the contents of which were kindly donated by Zara and Simon Davies of Crafters Companion. To the rear of ROF59 we have space for physical activities, in the warmer months we will be holding outdoor events such as festivals and craft fairs. We will also be introducing a social evening, one night a week, and a social club for members and their families one night each month. It's a fun, enjoyable, daily experience for all who attend.

We have amazing staff who are passionate about delivering the best possible experience, encouraging and practicing physical and mental well-being for our members.

The Happiness Hub Fund, PCP (County Durham CCG) have recently awarded Five Acres a £5000 grant towards a Garden Shed and Poly Tunnel - this is a fantastic contribution and we are so grateful. Thank you also to everyone who has donated items and given financial support that will help our members realise their potential.

We are currently offering taster sessions for prospective members. If anyone requires any further information please contact Debbie on 07980 753469 or email: deb.fiveacres@gmail.com

Website: www.fiveacresgarden.co.uk - and check us out on Facebook: 'Five Acres Community Gardens'.



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

SATURDAY

9-10am	Eurovision Show	Simon Harding
10-12am	Moderation	Jack & Garvey
12-2pm	Kitchen Floorfillers	Caz Bojangles
2-4pm	Weekly Edition	Paul Baker
4-6pm	Motown, Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby

"The Saturday Night Experience" Sponsored by Bengal Lounge Indian Restaurant & Takeaway

6-8pm	Evening Session	JimJams
8-9pm	Rock the House	Carl Booth
9-10pm	Retro Trance Mix	OZ-DJ
10-12am	Drum 'n' Bass Show	MC Supa
12-1am	Night Club Session	A DJ

SUNDAY

9-10am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	Random Reiki Master	Phil Hawkins
12-2pm	Dave's Sunday Brunch	David Ringer
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
6-7pm	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

"Weekend Warmup" Sponsored by Shake n Cake

4-6pm	Weekend Warmup	Dan Calum
6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	28th May - Pauly Mac Rare Vinyl (Australia)	
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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LISTENING OPTIONS:

Free App (all formats), TuneIn, Alexa, Radios Online, Internet Radio, Online Radio, RadioGarden, Radio Box, StreamFinder, Deezer, Radio Shaker



Care Home Restrictions

From Monday 17 May care home residents will be able to have more named visitors and more opportunities to make visits out with no need to self-isolate when they return.

As part of step 3 of the roadmap, the number of named family members or friends able to visit their loved ones in care homes will be increased from two to five, as the visiting restrictions continue to ease. A maximum of two visitors will be allowed at any one time or on any given day.

This follows a reduction in Covid-19 cases and the ongoing successful vaccine rollout with 95% of older care home residents receiving their first jab.

Residents will also be able to go to medical appointments, a workplace, educational setting, and day centres without having to self-isolate on their return.

The period when a Covid-19 outbreak in a care home can be declared over will also change from 28 days to 14 days after the last positive case assuming there are no Variants of Concern (VOCs) identified.

This means visits can resume sooner following an outbreak, once the relevant testing has been completed and provided all staff and residents tested receive a negative result.

Greenfield Students Engage with Environment



Students from Greenfield Community College have been part of a valuable project supported by County Durham Community Foundation and Durham County Council Arts Team.

The project has enabled students to engage with their environment through creativity and take time to think about their recent experiences and the impact of Covid 19.

Led by Greenfield Arts, the project has engaged artist Paul Theo Murray to work alongside Year 10 3D design students to produce artwork that reflects upon their thoughts for the past, present and future, using the environment as a metaphor for exploring their ideas and feelings.

The project is inspired by Finders, Seekers, a recent exhibition at Greenfield Arts by artist Bethan Maddocks, and students are creating thought provoking and stimulating artwork that they are developing to share with their peers to reflect and support positivity at this time. Workshops have included cyanotype, printmaking, bookbinding and seed bombs.

"These creative, artist led workshops are a fabulous opportunity for young people to explore ideas and express their feelings. The conversations and artwork will shape a resource that will encourage another 1000 young people to enjoy arts and creativity and help better understand themselves and the world around them" said Katy Milne, Creative Director at Greenfield Arts.

Greenfield Community College are committed to supporting their students to reach their 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.

Aycliffe Youth Football News



All our games over the weekend started with a minute's silence to remember Jordan Banks, aged 9, who lost his life after being struck by lightning whilst attending his training session in Blackpool.

Under 12 Eagles 4 v Wear United 2

A free kick was awarded to Wear and a powerful shot left Kian with no chance, The boys continued to attack but couldn't get the equaliser before HT. Second half the Eagles were dominating most of the play. Hamza was brought down in the box after showing some top-quality skills. Kaiden converted. The Eagles were rewarded when Will buried the ball into the net. Then Wear were awarded another free kick and scored to equalise. Adam made a run forward and finished. In the final minutes a shot from Adam was saved but Harvey was there to finish with style. 4-2. FT. MOTM went to Olly Easington Girls v **Aycliffe U11 Angels Blue**

All 11 Angels were available. Isobel and Sophie took their turns as goalkeeper today. Every player rotated through defence and all players played in 2 or 3 positions across the course of the game. It wasn't necessarily a game for defending. The Blues were in control for the whole game, but this Easington team has developed well since our meeting earlier this year. They also had a goalkeeper on top form who made brilliant saves throughout.

Our players showed great teamwork. 7 different players scored a goal today and those who didn't score each grabbed at least one assist. Star player player's choice: Ella, Coaches choice: Erin.

Aycliffe U11 Angels Yellow v Durham United Leopards

A tough match against a good Durham side. Maddison has joined us from the Blues, and her experience proved valuable. We struggled to really get our game going, with our inexperience as a team, but not our determination. However, the girls kept fighting until the final whistle and came off the pitch smiling and determined to go again next week. We will keep practicing and build our character from days like this. Players: Gwynneth. Coaches: Maddison.

Redcar v Aycliffe U10's Eagles

A great win for The Eagles, in particular the boys in defence had an outstanding game. The midfield finding space and driving with the ball. The forward players applying pressure from the kick off. At half time it was all square. Second half, however, the lads played some great attacking football and managed to bag another 4 goals. Well done to the goal scorers but the goals wouldn't have been possible if it hadn't been for the great team play from everyone. MOTM went to Cole.

Under 7 Eagles v Billingham

Our newest team have been improving every week as they get used to match football, the coaches knew they would eventually get their reward. The visitors have had a great start in the league and arrived full of confidence. But it was Aycliffe who took the win in a seven goal thriller.

Other results:

Aycliffe U13 Girls 3 v Boldon All Stars 5

Washington Panthers 3 v Aycliffe U16 Falcons 4

Student Leadership Opportunities at Woodham

As part of the Leadership Academy at Woodham Academy, Year 9 and 10 students have been taking part in a variety of workshops with North East Collaborative Outreach Programme (NECOP). These have predominately focused on educating students about their future employability skills. NECOP helped to raise student's aspirations by demonstrating the options for higher education at a range of Universities.



Throughout the session, staff highlighted the range of courses available and students were then able to research appropriate pathways in relation to their future aspirations. Engagement was high and students thoroughly enjoyed these sessions.

Furthermore, within the Leadership Academy, Year 10 students have participated in workshops with guest speakers such as Mervyn Lyn, a famous music producer who has worked with artists all over the world. Students were inspired to hear about Mervyn's life and how he followed his ambition by totally changing his initial career path. He captivated the audience with his speech and engaged the students by encouraging them to follow their passions alongside their career paths.



NUTTY NEWT IS IN TOWN!

Come along to Aycliffe Town Centre on

Saturday, 29th May

between 11am and 3pm

to meet Craig, alias Nutty Newt, from 'magicaparty.com'

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A New Broom?

Dear Sir,
The good people of County Durham have swept Momentum/Labour out of overall control of their County Council. It is now up to the non-Labour Councillors to ensure that the new 'Cabinet' is not loaded by Momentum/Labour Councillors and that it represents the changed political climate in the County and the region. Hopefully, the new DCC will elect a 'Climate Sceptic' to the role of 'Climate Czar'. He could concentrate on ensuring our current 'green-enough' economy is able to function during the upcoming period of cooling. (Wind and Solar Panel Farms proved to be inoperable in Texas last winter!). Perhaps, our new County Council can spend some of its excessive reserves to make the promised Council Tax Cuts. I congratulate all the re-elected and newly elected Councillors and wish them every success in properly representing their electorate and improving our chances of getting our fair share of Government 'Levelling-up' monies being sought by our MP. Alastair P.G. Welsh

Rotary Newton Aycliffe Donate to Local Cancer Charity

Rotary Newton Aycliffe recently presented Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group with a donation which enables them to carry on with their essential work in the community. The group assists patients going to hospital for treatment in many ways, one of those being the making up of what are known as 'chemo bags' and these are available for men, women and children with one hundred of the bags being organised presently with more to follow.

To fill the bags, volunteers source items for adults which include bottled water, body sprays, pens, note and puzzle books. For children, the bags contain drinks, biscuits and sweets, coloured pencils and crayons, books, and small toys.

At Rotary Newton Aycliffe, we believe this is a great idea, an amazing use of our funds and ultimately, a fantastic use of the cash that you, the public, donate. Rotary are delighted to be able to offer assistance and to raise awareness for deserving causes such as this.

The Cancer Support Group is open to anyone affected by cancer, be it a patient, relative or carer and if you need more details, please access their Facebook page at Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group / Facebook.

Photo: organiser Allison White is seen receiving the cheque from President Trish Pemberton and in the second photo, Allison is pictured with some of the volunteers.



Refurbished Telegraph



Dear Sir,
One of the first duties carried out by the newly elected Aycliffe Village Councillor, Carl Robinson, was to declare open the beautifully refurbished Royal Telegraph public house. Following a lot of hard work during lockdown in the Royal Telegraph, by Vicki and Phil, a new ambience has been created for the people of the village and their many customers from Great Aycliffe and beyond. The residents are very lucky to have the Royal Telegraph and The County within the village, both offering great venues for all tastes. Please make sure that you follow all safety advice when attending. Carl Robinson



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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS

Two differing photographs from the wildlife pond. Mother duck with her ducklings and the other showing a nest surrounded by discarded rubbish.



Brenda Laight

In 1996 Acorn Players was formed by a small group of ladies, one of those ladies was Brenda Laight who became our treasurer, as the years went by Brenda became officer for booking venues and ticket selling.

As if that was not enough she also made costumes, was front of house manager, organising helpers and doing anything to make things run smoothly.

We could not have coped without Brenda's calming influence when things got a bit tough. We will all miss this lovely lady and have fond memories of our times together. God bless you Brenda.

Anne Harland

Slow Down

I have noticed, over the past few months, a lot of carers who make home visits to the disabled, elderly and infirm and don't care about how they drive.

A large percentage actually drive carelessly, without thought for other road users, safety or speed.

I understand they may have a schedule to keep - an allotted time and a number of homes to visit. BUT should a carer have an accident, surely that would cause the schedule to run even later, or not being able to do any visits at all. So would it not be better to arrive a bit late, than not at all? Name and address supplied.

Avon Court Supporting Families



The Supporting Families team would like to say a huge thank you to the residents of Avon Court for their continued support and donations to help needy families. It really is appreciated.

Sheena, Yvonne, Liz, Rachel and Bob.

Photo: Brenda, Freda & Lori from Avon Court.

Situations VACANT

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We are a ready meals manufacturer and require a Cleaner for 2 hours per day, Monday to Friday 8.00am to 10.00am to start mid June.

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To apply please contact Paul Veitch, General Manager, on 01325 319039 or send details in writing to Harvest Foods, Whinfield Drive, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6AU or by email to paulv@harvestfoods.co.uk



Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership Needs You!

Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership has three public representative vacancies on the partnership board.

This is an exciting opportunity for local residents from the partnership area (Great Aycliffe and Middridge) with a keen interest in the local community, to join a dynamic and proactive board who have successfully delivered a number of projects throughout the area since our formation in 2009.

The public representative role itself isn't onerous; in terms of time commitments, there's a requirement to attend a board meeting every two months, and preferably to have input to at least one of our Task & Finish Groups if you can, but really it's about sharing your valuable local knowledge and being passionate about your community - helping to make a difference in our area. Some meetings will potentially take place 'virtually' in future, so you should ideally have access to relevant IT equipment.

To become a public representative on the board you must live, work, volunteer or study within the partnership area, and you must be over the age of 16.

Brian Riley, GAMP Coordinator, said; "The work of the partnership is driven by the support and enthusiasm of the Board. The public representative vacancies represent a good opportunity to become directly involved and make a difference in our local community."

If you're interested in applying, please contact the office for an application pack:

Email us: gampaap@durham.gov.uk
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The closing date for applications is 12.00 noon on Tuesday 15th June 2021.

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Darlington Piano Society Summer Bonanza

After an absence of some fifteen months, Darlington Piano Society is to host four recitals between June and September. These will be given by pianists whose planned visits had to be postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The four dates and pianists are Steven Osborne (27th June), Mei Yi Foo (25th July), George Harlono (22nd August) and Antonina Suhanova (19th September). Steven Osborne last played in Darlington in 1998 and since then has risen to be a pianist of international standing and recently won the BBC Music Magazine Instrumental Award for his recording of Prokofiev's "War Sonatas". Mei Yi Foo gave an outstanding recital in 2017 and brings another captivating programme; in 2017, at 16 years of age, George Harlono was one of the youngest ever recipients of a four year scholarship at the Royal College of Music, and Latvian pianist Antonina Suhanova is a Master's degree graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Greg Johnson, Chairman of the Society, said "the last fifteen months has been a barren period for all types of live performance, with our events having to be postponed and rescheduled a number of times because of Covid-19. With the progressive easing of lockdown measures, it will be a great relief to return to live performance in June, as long as there is no slippage in the easing of lockdown restrictions. After the difficult time experienced by many, the return of the recital series will be a boost for the wellbeing of everyone who attends".

The recitals will, as ever, take place in Central Hall at the Dolphin Centre at 3pm on the Sundays listed. Tickets can be bought in advance via the Society's website – www.dpiano.co.uk – using the booking form there or through a TicketSource link. As the series of events begins after the implementation of Step 4 of lockdown restrictions, tickets will also be available at the door. Full details of the recital programmes can be found there also.

The lockdown situation has provided the opportunity to plan well ahead and plans for the six recitals in the usual winter series, beginning in October, are also in place. "Our efforts during lockdown have secured what I see as a continuum of ten outstanding recitals that every lover of the classical piano repertoire will revel in hearing" added Greg Johnson "and I hope that many will attend and take the opportunity to take a step towards normality as a result."

For further information please contact Greg Johnson, Chairman, at gregw1949@gmail.com or call 07730 870589

Woodham Academy – Sporting Extra-Curricular



Year 7 and Year 8 students are now fully embracing the extended Sports Academy opportunities on offer at Woodham Academy. Since the start of term, participation has been consistently high for the following extra-curricular clubs; Mountain Biking, Dance, Gymnastics, Trampolining, Netball, Football, Basketball, Girls Active, Boxing and Rugby. Activities run across lunchtimes and after-school and are delivered by PE staff.


Year 9 BTEC Sport students have also particularly enjoyed improving their Volleyball and Badminton skills and tactics previously learned in their practical lessons.

Students have expressed their enjoyment at now being able to receive specialised coaching in a wider range of sports, which they had previously missed out on during the periods of national lockdown earlier in the academic year. Nicole Anderson in Year 7 says "I love the fact that all of the extra-curricular clubs are back on. It allows you to make friends and use all of the different facilities on offer in the PE Department. The activities are fun to join in and for me, the Mountain Bike Academy links closely with my elite sport of Cycling, outside of school." Amelia Hawkins commented "The staff are always so welcoming and it doesn't matter what ability you are, everything is well thought out and planned for a wide range of abilities." Jackson Raitt, who participates in at least five different Sports Academy clubs across the week says he particularly enjoys the Boxing Academy as he acknowledges, "I play a lot of football, so it's great that there are a wide range of choices available and I've been able to try something completely new."

Due to Covid restrictions on year group bubbles, this year attendance to all clubs has been trialled using invites via the SIMS Student App. Students across all year groups can access the Sports Academy clubs on a rolling weekly basis by accepting an invite to any clubs that they wish to attend during their allocated week. This system has worked very successfully and has allowed for close monitoring of attendance to all clubs.




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It's on with the Show at the Hippodrome

Following an extended period of closure due to the Covid pandemic, staff at Darlington Hippodrome are gearing up to re-open the doors in May.

It is hard to believe that it's been over a year since Darlington Hippodrome released a major season brochure. Like everyone else the venue was looking at 2020 with a great sense of anticipation for what promised to be one of their strongest line-up of events for some time. That sense of anticipation was turned on its head with the announcement that all theatres in the country were to close. Over the last twelve months Darlington Hippodrome has done a tremendous amount of work to keep the theatre viable through the pandemic and to ensure the venue's future success. Arts Council England's Cultural Recovery Fund have supported the Hippodrome with grants totalling almost £1.5 million allowing the theatre to navigate what has been one of the most difficult periods in the venue's 114 year history.

But now the theatre has launched a brand new season brochure and the staff worked tirelessly towards the grand re-opening on Monday 17 May.

Along with a full schedule of classic cinema screenings, West-End screenings, theatre tours, fitness and dance sessions and heritage workshops, Darlington Hippodrome's stage will once again host live theatre with a fabulous mix of block-buster musicals, stand-up comedy, tribute acts and household names.

The return of live theatre will be marked by a Come Back Home concert presented by Darlington Operatic Society, who seem to be making a habit of re-opening the venue after periods of closure. This will be followed by a diverse programme including comedians Carl Hutchinson, Jason Manford and Chris Ramsey, family shows including the Horrible Histories team with Barmy Britain, In The Night Garden, Dragons and Mythical Beasts and Milkshake Live and one-night-only tributes to the music of The Temptations, Carole King, Fleetwood Mac, The Rat Pack, Queen and Tina Turner.

You can spend an evening with Sir Michael Parkinson or maybe you'll choose Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Band? Jason Donovan will tread the boards and the theatre will also play host to Dick and Angel as they take a break from renovating their French Chateau.

Drama lovers will have plenty to choose from including Helen Forrester's By The Waters of Liverpool, a solve-a-long-a Murder She Wrote and a new stage adaptation of the Gothic thriller The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Fans of musical theatre will not be disappointed. The smash-hit musical Rock of Ages will raise the roof whilst Craig Revel Horwood's Strictly Ballroom will set the stage alight. And don't forget the fabulous, festive, family pantomime which this year is the all-time favourite, Cinderella.

With more and more shows being booked on a daily basis the theatre is slowly returning to a sense of normality. Heather Tarran-Jones, Programming and Development Director of Darlington Hippodrome, said: "We are so excited to launch a new season brochure of this nature. We are all set to welcome audiences back to enjoy the thrill of live theatre or just to pop in to soak up the atmosphere. Naturally the health and wellbeing of our audiences will be uppermost in our plans, we have introduced special ticket scanners and a brand new app so people can order food and drinks from the comfort of their seats in the auditorium. I would encourage everyone to 'come back home' by purchasing tickets for the fabulous selection of shows we have on offer at Darlington Hippodrome." For full details of all the shows on offer or to book, visit www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk or call the Box Office on 01325 405405



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All social distancing rules - Toilets and sanitiser station on site
This event will adhere to any Covid-19 restrictions in force on the day

ICE Bridge Challenge For Sugar Hill Pupils



Class 13 pupils from Sugar Hill Primary participated in an ICE Bridge Challenge at UTC on Wednesday 5th May, where they had to work collaboratively to build a structure that was strong enough for them to walk across. The event gave the children a hands-on insight into the civil engineering industry and the workings of the outside world. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed constructing the bridge and working with the staff and pupils at UTC. Class 14 completed their visit on 12th May 2021. Many thanks to staff and pupils at UTC for organising this event for all our Year 6 pupils.

MP Visits Local Schools



Go Well, a Community Interest Company based in Chilton, welcomed Paul Howell MP on Friday 14th May, as they showcased how schools in south Durham are putting the health and wellbeing of the pupils at the heart of their Covid-recovery plans. Research released this week by the Schools Active Movement, which Go Well is part of, revealed a shocking picture. Of the teachers surveyed in this area, 100% reported a decrease in physical fitness amongst their pupils, 93% a decline in general wellbeing and 79% a reduction in fundamental movement skills. During his visit, Paul Howell MP saw lunchtime activities at Byerley Park School, Newton Aycliffe and enjoyed the spectacle of a colour run at Walworth School. He also talked to staff at Sedgfield Primary School and learned how the school is using physical activity to help improve children's mental and physical wellbeing. Sarah Price, managing director at Go Well, which supports schools to help their pupils develop healthy active futures, said: "We are dedicated to using the power of PE, school sport and physical activity to improve lives. We are very pleased Paul Howell, MP, has taken the time to visit us and our schools, and to understand the difficulties facing teachers as they help pupils who have missed out on so much over the past twelve months. The long-term health and wellbeing of children is at risk. We urgently need Government to announce the continuation of the PE and Sport Premium Funding for the next academic year. This will enable schools to access the support and opportunities their staff and pupils need to inspire and build healthy active futures." Paul Howell, MP for Sedgfield, said: "Physical activity makes such a difference, not only to our physical health but to our mental wellbeing too. I was pleased to have this opportunity to see how Go Well and our local schools are supporting children to develop healthy habits for life."

Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, put in an excellent performance to beat Saltburn 2nd XI to gain their first win of the season in the NYSD 2nd division. Aycliffe won the toss and elected to bat first and were in trouble at 76 for 6 despite the efforts of Joe Haines (19 runs) and Luke Telford (18 runs). However, a club record 7th wicket partnership of 101 between captain Adam Randall (sponsored by DTS Joinery) and vice captain Michael Howe, put Aycliffe right back into the game. Randall top scored with an eye catching 79 off 80 balls, including eight boundaries and five huge sixes and Howe scored his season's best 68 off 72 balls with seven boundaries and one six, which helped to push their team's score to 230 all out from 44.1 overs. In reply the visitors battled hard, but were eventually dismissed for 181 after 45 overs thanks to some good bowling from George Slatcher (3 for 24), Luke Telford (3 for 59) and Jack Slatcher (2 for 27). This game was sponsored by Unison.



The club's young second team continued their promising start to the season with a well earned draw away at Blackhall 2nd XI in the NYSD 4th division. After being asked to bat first, Aycliffe scored an impressive 166 for 8 in their allotted 40 overs. Ryan Patrick (sponsored by A Star Bathrooms) was in brilliant form for Aycliffe top scoring with a career best 71 from 69 balls faced, including eight boundaries and a six. Other notable contributions came from Matty French, with a career best score of 28 and Thomas Dearden, who chipped in with 17 runs. In reply, the homeside held out for a draw, finishing their allotted 40 overs on 126 for 8 despite some excellent bowling by Sean Morgan, whose ten over spell yielded the respectable figures of 4 for 21.

The club's u11's played their first league of the season away at Seaton Carew and were beaten by 32 runs despite good performances with the bat by Will Moffat (13 runs) and Trent Telford (11 runs). Special mention must go to 6 year old debutant Harvey Palmer, the third generation from the Palmer family to represent Newton Aycliffe at cricket, who had a day to remember taking two wickets for seven runs during the homeside innings and then finishing undefeated with one not out when he batted. Newton Aycliffe Senior Ladies managed to beat the weather and play their first game of the season at home to Sedgfield but unfortunately they lost a good game by just 15 runs. This fledgling team have come a long way in such a short space of time and, despite this defeat, the excellent team spirit amongst the ladies was clearly evident. Well done to all the team members and coaches. *Photo: 6 year old debutant Harvey Palmer, the third generation of the Palmer family to represent Newton Aycliffe at cricket. Well done young man.*

Election Thanks

Dear Sir,

As you may know, I was not elected to the Aycliffe North & Middridge division of Durham County Council in the recent local elections. I am at ease with that result; you cannot believe in democracy yet complain when voters choose someone else.

HEARTBROKEN

Of course I am disappointed. I have often said that being chosen to represent a community as its Councillor is the greatest honour. I *loved* looking after my ward, and it was wonderful wandering past initiatives in which I had had a hand (I vlogged on some of these during the election campaign). Indeed, being the local County Councillor had become part of my identity - every day I signed dozens of letters: "John D Clare (Aycliffe North & Middridge)" - and it is still strange not waking up to a pile of tasks. In particular, as I wrote in the Newton News in February, there were a number of unfinished issues I was keeping a watching brief on - including Forrest Park, the S&DR regeneration project (and the Locomotion pub), the Woodham Burn nature corridor, Cobblers Hall environmental play area, and the Kings Drive shrub beds. Hopefully, someone else will now see these to completion. And I am especially heartbroken not to be able to extend the County Council's Climate Emergency into County Durham as planned. Having said that, it had been obvious for months that I was likely to lose my seat on the County Council and - as I have written elsewhere in the Newton News - we had been embedding climate action into the Council's everyday structures and systems ... so that work will continue automatically as long as the new administration does not actively renege on its climate declaration.

A SENSE OF RELIEF

Having acknowledged the immensity of the loss, however, it is also true that being a County Councillor is a very onerous and stressful job if you do it properly.

Aycliffe North & Middridge is one of the largest wards in the county, and the hundreds of service requests I am factually proven to have submitted were only the tip of a 24/365 iceberg of problems and complaints, meetings, local groups, site visits, walkabouts and drive-arounds, keeping people informed etc. ... along with residents' personal troubles - many of which were empathetically draining. Desperation does not keep office hours - I fielded complaints even on Christmas Day, and the most notable request was at 3.45am (by chance I was awake to respond). Last week I took my first holiday in eight years without my Council phone, computer and a pile of Council work!

Added to this, this work was done under a daily barrage of abuse. Hundreds of messages which were simply lists of foul words. One 'contract' publicly issued on Labour Councillors' lives. A number of 'we know where you live' messages. Lots of what is called 'gas lighting' - posts designed to undermine my self-esteem and mental health. Three people who thought it acceptable to follow me down the street screaming at me. Five cases where I had to seek police advice concerning harassment. One libel, so serious it required a solicitors' letter. These are typical of the price a prominent local politician pays nowadays for trying to serve their community. So - upset as I was to lose the election - I cannot say that I did not leave the count also with a sense of relief.

THE FUTURE

I am still, of course, a Town Councillor for Byerley Park, Horndale & Cobblers Hall Ward, and you know that I will do that job thoroughly. However, I think the message of the election was clear, and I am pulling back from front-facing politics. It only remains for me to thank residents sincerely for allowing me to be their County Councillor. Not only has it been a massive honour, but also fulfilling and huge fun and a peerless opportunity to do good in my local community, for which I am immensely grateful!

John D Clare



This week Parliament continued with the debate on the Queen's Speech, I was able to contribute last Wednesday and raised the importance of jobs and how they create opportunity which in turn can feed aspirations, a key attribute we all need to improve our situations. On Thursday you may have seen that the Prime Minister visited Ferryhill along with Julia Gillard, who was the Australian Prime Minister from 2010-2013. They were there to meet virtually with Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of Kenya, who was in a school in Nairobi. School children from Ferryhill and Kenya shared the announcement of funding to support girls to get 12 years of quality education. It was fabulous to see the excitement from the children seeing Boris in their school and his engagement with them was also lovely to see. After we left Cleves Cross Primary, I took the Prime Minister to meet a couple of my staff and Joe Quinn, the new Conservative County Councillor in Ferryhill, to Ferryhill Station. We were able to show him the importance of the potential reopening of the train station here and explain how game changing it would be for the local economy.

I continued the theme of schools on Friday and had a fantastic few hours visiting Byerley Park and Walworth Primary Schools in Newton Aycliffe and Sedgefield Primary School. The schools admirably demonstrated the achievements made in sport and activities. Hannah, Layla, Dominic, Evie, Ruby and Harry from Byerley Park Primary School explained to me how their activities worked and how they had Captain Taskivator giving them challenges and indeed they then designed some challenges themselves. At Walworth School I met Paul from Go Well (aka Captain Taskivator) and they had a Colour Run in progress, this is something to behold, as is mentioned elsewhere in this magazine. Maybe once social distancing ends, I could encourage some of the Aycliffe Councillors to join me to try this! At Sedgefield Primary School I also met with Sarah Price, the Manager of the Go Well Team, a Community Interest Company (Not for Profit) who are working across the Sedgefield constituency to inspire and build healthy active futures.

Last week I also joined a round table discussion entitled 'Pride of place: building social infrastructure in left behind areas'. This had Lord Greenhalgh, Lord Heseltine and Professor Michael Kenny as key speakers. The discussion was around how to restore civic pride and engagement in so called 'Left Behind' areas.

Monday, of course, has seen the further relaxation of lockdown with indoor hospitality opening for small groups. I am sure that, like me, many of you may have ventured out for a pint or a meal with friends. If you do, please be sensible and remember Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air is something to continue as it helps minimise any risks of having to return to further lockdowns. We have also seen some pockets of concern around the country with the Indian Variant, so called as it was first identified in India. The Government is attacking this with surge testing, in the short term this is more effective than more vaccinations as the vaccines take a couple of weeks to become fully effective. My understanding is that of those affected a disproportionate amount are people who have had the opportunity for vaccine but declined it. This just further illustrates how important it is to take up your opportunity when you get it and to also follow through with the second jab when it is due.

We are continuing to collect the Town Centre surveys and will let you know the results shortly. I notice we had a letter in last week suggesting I should not be looking to invest in the Town Centre as I would be supporting a private business. Let me assure everyone that anything we do will be fully transparent and an appropriate use of public funds. At this stage, all I am trying to establish is what people would like us to try and achieve.

Please remember to continue to be sensible and whilst we can do more, common sense tells you that it is best to continue the Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air protocols for a while yet. Stay Safe.

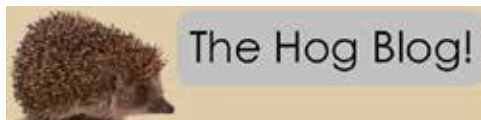
Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield



Paul Howell
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

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



We are getting very poorly little ones at the moment and we ask everyone who sees a hedgehog, that they believe is in trouble, to pick him or her up immediately and send for help. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society have rescuers numbers so ring them on 01584 890801. All us rescues work together and bring these beautiful little hogs into our homes to care for them, as appropriate to their injuries or illnesses, because they need a safe haven so they can recover. They all face a lot of danger out there but we can all play our part, however small, by making that quick phone call. We also need to mention that violence towards hedgehogs by adults and children alike, if witnessed, should be stopped, it's unforgivable behaviour. The police have wildlife officers for these purposes. We want to thank June, Valerie, Beryl, Angie and her mum for some lovely items for our car boot sale, we have attended two recently, the money we make is spent on various items bedding, food, pain relief, antibiotics and wormers, some has to come from Australia, believe it or not, but it saves lives. We have also had some very generous cash donations, thank you Alan and Gemma. Thank you, this saves us a lot of work because we have to be here for very poorly hogs so time management skills are very important too. On a positive, we are discharging our hogs from rescue now, so we can admit others in that are in need of help and it's also baby season, mums will be giving birth so please be aware.

Tip of the Week: Please watch out for nesting mums and hoglets, they will be in your gardens nesting somewhere, ring for help if you disturb a nest, straight away, check before using power tools too.

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Some pretty sinister skies over the town recently . . . Hail, rain and winds.
Hello Spring!
Photo by Darran Weston

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Darlington Bus Running Day

On Saturday 15th May 2021 a bus running day, organised by the Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society, was held in Darlington. This was a new event conceived to anticipate the opening up of society following the Covid-19 pandemic. Two preserved buses, owned by the Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society, were in attendance. One was a former United single-decker which spent time working the Newton Aycliffe 'Newtonian' local services in the early 1980s. The second was a former



Darlington Transport double-decker.

A circular route was operated between Darlington town centre and Salters Lane South. This followed most of the former Darlington service 2B route and went out via North Road and Thompson Street East and returned via Haughton Road, Hundens Lane and Yarm Road. The Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society bought the double-decker in May 1981 and acquired the 'Newtonian' single-decker in November 1984.

The Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society's website is www.aycliffebus.org.uk
Photo: Former Darlington Transport 7 (AHN 451 B) lines up alongside former United Automobile Services Ltd 1452 (NDL 769 G) on West Row, Darlington, as part of the Darlington running day on Saturday 15th May 2021. By Peter Mitchell, courtesy of the Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society.

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Weekend Trip

New Friends New Places welcome new members to their Tuesday club, held every week at The Big Club, Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe from 2.00pm until 4.30pm. On Friday 10th September until Monday 13th September we are organising a weekend trip to the Elgin Hotel, Blackpool. A hotel that we usually stay at three times a year. The food is excellent and the entertainment is good. A coach will pick you up in Newton Aycliffe on the Friday morning and bring you back on Monday afternoon. The total cost is £193.00 which includes evening meal and breakfast each day as well as Sunday lunch. There are three twin room spaces available for this trip. For further information Contact Dorothy Bowman on 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

Sudoku

1	8	7			2	
		8		3		
4	3	2				
				6	7	
8	6		2			
		1		5		
			4	9		5
7						1
2	4					

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Apprenticeships on the Rise at Roman

The UK and Europe's leading shower designer and manufacturer, Roman, has welcomed its four newest apprentices into different departments within the company.

Roman has recruited four new apprentices to add to the nine already working at Roman who are at different stages of an apprenticeship. The leading shower designer and manufacturer have had an ongoing student apprenticeship scheme running for over 20 years and understand the value and benefits apprentices bring to the company. Apprentices are also a great foundation for someone to go on to a successful career in industry and there are many examples of this within Roman.

Roman has always supported apprenticeships, as the company feels it is very important to help young people gain the skills they need to succeed in future employment – more now than ever before following all the disruption to the education sector as a result of the ongoing global pandemic.

The new apprentices are based in different areas of the business covering different skill sets, Leah, 16, and Connor, 18, are doing an apprenticeship in Design Engineering; whilst Adam, 22 and Joe, 18, are doing an apprenticeship in Mechanical Engineering after choosing to pursue their chosen careers at Roman following college.

Leah Scott, Design Engineer Apprentice at Roman, commented: "I'm developing invaluable skills and knowledge at Roman by gaining experience in over 7 departments which have allowed me to gain a full rounded understanding of the company, and I feel prepared to kickstart my ambition to become a Design Engineer. Whilst gaining practical experience, I am thoroughly enjoying the balance between learning whilst learning and studying towards my Level 2 Qualification."

"I am commencing my Design career at Roman and I have already gained some necessary skills to help further my progress in this sector. I have also used my prior experience in the Roman assembly process to widen my knowledge of the products I now design and I'm very excited for my prospects in the future with the company," says Design Engineer Apprentice, Connor Gillard.

Joe Wilbraham, Mechanical Engineer Apprentice, commented: "I started at Roman in October 2020 and since then I have been able to



experience different departments in depth and understand how they work. This has helped me to understand the production process much better, rather than just staying in one department. I have also been trusted with my own projects which has helped me to grow and made it much more enjoyable. I am excited for the future ahead and to see how far I can go and what I can achieve whilst working for Roman."

"I started at Roman working on line 5 and wanted to progress, so when an Apprentice Engineer role became available, I applied. Since I started my apprenticeship I have loved every minute of it. I have enjoyed learning new skills in work and in college, also working here I have been given freedom to design and create my own projects," says Mechanical Engineer Apprentice, Adam Barnes.

Neighbourhood Policing

By PC Holly McCabe



This week saw the easing of lockdown which has been a long time coming but please make sure you still comply with the remaining guidelines that are in place.

The Neighbourhood team has been busy this week and you may have seen some of our officers on our new electric bikes. These are a fantastic piece of equipment that allows officers to respond to incidents in a quick and effective manner. We have managed to speak to many more people within the community and offer reassurance and have an overall greater policing presence. They are brilliant for accessing areas where our police vehicles can't access, and the bikes will be utilised more and more in the coming days, weeks and months.

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

We are working with partner agencies to secure funding and are always looking at new and innovative ways to tackle the problem. Have you heard of our online messaging service 'Keep in the Know'? By signing up to this service for free you can find out what's happening in your local area, receive regular crime updates, information on road closures and learn about what your local neighbourhood policing team is doing. You can decide what agencies you wish to receive messages 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.

PC Holly McCabe

In Memoriam

Noel Needham

26th May 2009

No farewell words were spoken, no time to say goodbye. You were gone before we knew it and only God knows why. Loved and remembered always, Sheila and families

Maria Halpin

22nd May 2016

Five years without you, deep in our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. Mam, Dennis, Florence, Bruce, Diane and family

Louise Cunningham

23rd May 2010

Sadly missed and never forgotten. Always in our thoughts. Dave, Steven and family

Birthday Remembrance

Trevor Plaskitt

12th December 2010

Today we should have been celebrating your 80th birthday (23rd May). In the garden of gold, Lord, take care of Trevor. Love, Valerie xx Shirley, Julia, Adam, Grandchildren Jonathan, Maxina, Louis, Mix and family xxxxxxxx

Congratulations

Susan Trotter



Happy 60th Birthday
23rd May 2021

From your loving Husband Billy xx

Have a great 60th Birthday Mam. Love, Chris, Craig, Michael, Jade, Ryan and all the Gran Girls xx

Obituary

Joan Gallagher

Passed away on 13th May 2021, aged 87 years. Beloved Wife of the late Ted Gallagher, beloved Mother to David, Ann and Elaine, beloved Grandmother of Lisa, Sarah, Shaun, Bradley, Rebecca, Sam, Harriet and George, also a beloved Great Grandma. A funeral Service will take place on Tuesday 25th May in St. Clare's Church at 12.45pm followed by interment in The West Cemetery, School Aycliffe.

Heidi

26th May

Happy birthday to our very special Granddaughter. We will be thinking of you with lots of love and affection, as you celebrate your 4th birthday. We hope you have a wonderful day. With lots and lots of love from Grandma and Grandad xxx

Thank You



Dear Sir,
My wife and I would like to express our sincerest thanks to all the people who voted for us in the recent elections. We will try our hardest to work on your behalf and hope that we fulfil your expectations.
Jo and Nev Jones

N.A.F.C. JUNIORS

Prior to kick offs, all NAFC teams paid touching tributes to Jordan Banks with a minute's applause, RIP little fella.

U8 Blacks hosted a good Leven Junior side this morning. Another improved performance against an excellent team whose passing and finishing proved too much for them. Not the result we wanted but the boys' attitude was first class. MOTM Leo B.

U8 Whites played Fast Feet Juve and dominated the match, but it wasn't to be our day. Will got MOTM for his great timed tackling at the back. All the lads were amazing, Harry and Oscar scored.

U8 Whites Another incredibly good game against Absolute United Whites. We just could not find the net, peppering their goal and had one cleared off the line. Another fighting performance didn't get the result they deserved. MOTM William B.

U9 Juniors hosted Bishop St Mary's Aces. A close game with both teams coming close, HT was level. Aycliffe started the second half brightly, Jonah teeing up Jack to get his first. Bishop tried hard, but we kept a clean sheet and Jack added another.

MOTM Jack. A well-deserved result.

U9 Blacks V Blackhall Monks Reds. A tough battle in the first half with a few opportunities, HT evens. The second half was similar, with Blackhall getting a late goal. The lads kept pushing but it wasn't their day. All the boys held their heads high today. MOTM was a tough call and awarded to Alfie.

U11s played unbeaten Redcar Town. The first half was close, Logan keeping us in it. Second half and Redcar scored 3, we pushed to get back into it and Alex scored a superb goal, a great assist from Ethan. Some lovely football and unlucky not to get more from the game. MOTM Alex.

U12 Whites played Linthorpe Academicals away. Linthorpe went ahead on the stroke of HT. Then a perfect corner by Ethan, which Henry fired home. Aycliffe dominated and took the lead with a quality strike from James. Linthorpe grabbed an equaliser resulting in a fair 2-2 draw. MOTM was Henry.

U12 Blacks faced Brandon with a depleted squad. HT and it was 0-0. Second half couldn't have started better, Leon grabbing 2 in 4 mins. Brandon grabbed 2 back, only for Leon to decide he was having a 3rd with a superb goal. FT 3-2 Aycliffe. MOTM was keeper Harry for being class throughout.

U13 Whites 7-2 Boro Ranger's Blues. Aycliffe dominated this morning's game and recorded our biggest victory of the season. We played some outstanding football! Tyler R x2, Niall x2, Aidan, Jayden and Tyler Smith scored the goals. Tyler R was awarded MOTM

U14s made it 11 wins from 11 with victory over Great Ayton. Trav scored early, but 3 goals for the home team saw us go in at HT 3-1 down. Second half and Trav and Alex brought it back to 3-3 before Jordan scored last minute, 3-4. Trav completed his hat-trick in stoppage time, coming away 5-3 winners and moving 3 points clear at the top of the league.

U15s travelled to face Plains Farm in a good game. Aycliffe dominated but couldn't



convert our chances. Bailey opened the scoring, before Plains Farm equalised. Two quick fire penalties, first for Plains Farm, then an expertly finished one by Anthony saw it finish 2-2. MOTM Anthony.

U16s hosted top of the table 21st Allstars. A totally dominant first half and 3-0 up at HT, goals from Brennan, Callum and Jack. We continued to play the better football. All-stars grabbed one back, 3-1, but Brennan restored the 3-goal lead. Allstars scored late on but we ran out 4-2 winners. 3 wins on the bounce.

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