

Friday 3rd September 2021

Established 1948

# Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Magazine

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



See page 2 for full story

## 100 Miles for 100 Years

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PAUL HOWELL  
MP for Sedgefield





# 100 Miles for 100 Years

100 year old veteran, William Cooksey, who recently turned 100 years has set a challenge for himself which many younger, able bodied people would struggle with. The fantastic feat will involve walking TEN miles every day for TEN days, making a total of 100 miles. William's nephew has started a gofundme page where donations can be made and will benefit 'County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust'. Pat Chambers from the Trust said "We are totally humbled to know that William has chosen our NHS Charity to fundraise for as he takes on this mammoth challenge of walking 10 miles every day for 10 days. What an absolute hero - who would believe that only days after celebrating his 100th birthday he would want to do this for us? Thank you William, a true local hero and we hope our communities can support him as he takes on this challenge. Thank you so very much."



William has previously, in the 1980s, completed walks such as Pennine Way, Coast to Coast, Offas Dye and the West Highland Way. William commenced his task on Saturday 28th August and it will be completed by Monday 6th September, he walks the path along the old railway line between Newton Aycliffe and Shildon. Please support William in his effort to raise as much money as possible for the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

**To donate to this worthy cause, please go to: [www.gofundme.com/f/100-year-old-william-walks-100-miles-in-10-days](http://www.gofundme.com/f/100-year-old-william-walks-100-miles-in-10-days)**

Donations to boost the funds can also be left at Newton Press reception (for residents without internet access or who would prefer this method of donating).

*Photos: Front page shows William on day 5, 50 miles completed. Above: William with his niece Yvonne and nephew Bill.*

# Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group Dates for your Diary

With one in two people affected by cancer, Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group is providing an ever-growing and valuable lifeline to families affected by cancer - not just in Newton Aycliffe but in surrounding towns and villages.

Throughout lockdown, the charity's services were still in great demand, from transporting patients to and from hospital to helping with benefits claims, acting as a conduit between patients and health professionals, providing gifts and much more besides.

Many vulnerable cancer patients were also left in isolation during lockdown and the charity was able to offer friendly support and a chat on the phone.

However, Covid lockdowns have resulted in a reduction in the vital funds that are needed to carry on this important work.

Last month alone, the charity spent around £1,500 on transport costs. And although drivers are all volunteers, the number of patients needing transport to and from hospitals in Darlington, Bishop Auckland, Durham, Middlesbrough and Newcastle, has increased along with the cost of fuel.

Allison White, who founded the charity after suffering from leukaemia herself and experiencing a gap in support provision for people with ALL types of cancer, is urging townsfolk to get behind this vital service - either through volunteering as a driver or by supporting the events that are planned for the rest of the year.

The charity is also particularly in need of tombola and raffle prizes. To donate or volunteer, email [allisonwhite75@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:allisonwhite75@yahoo.co.uk)

You can also visit the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group's Facebook page to keep up to date with events.

Meanwhile, make a date to visit the group's pop up shop in the town centre on September 11th, when lots of bargains will be on offer.

A charity disco is also being held at Elm Road Club in Shildon on November 13th. Please email Allison White at the address above for tickets, costing £5. The event will include a licensed bar, bingo and a raffle to boost funds.

• Could you organise a fundraiser for Great Aycliffe Cancer Support? How about a coffee morning, a cake sale or a school non-uniform day? Are you a big company keen to support your local cancer charity? Are you a local business that could donate a service or items for charity raffles? If so, email: [allisonwhite75@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:allisonwhite75@yahoo.co.uk)

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## Childrens Badminton

The Big Hit for Children is coming on Monday 6th September at 4:00pm. Bring your friends and have a great time enjoying Badminton, the nations favourite racket game at Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre, Burn Lane. More Info contact [peterwalton1@aol.com](mailto:peterwalton1@aol.com)

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 Saturday 11th Sept: 'Jake Roberts'

### Domino Handicap

**Friday-Sunday 8.00pm**

# William is 100 Years Young

## William (Bill) Cooksey

Bill was born in the village of Deri in the coal mining area of South Wales.

His father was diagnosed with TB soon after his birth and became permanently unemployed so the family lived in poverty on 57p a week national assistance. William had 5 siblings, 4 of whom died between 1922 and 1934. During the 1926 miner's strike they used the village soup kitchen. In 1933, William won a free scholarship to Lewis School, Pengam, a prestigious grammar school (Neil Kinnock was Head Prefect in the 1950s).

In 1937 the family moved to Papworth near Cambridge. Bill joined the RAF in April 1940 as an airframe fitter and spent four years in the Middle East during World War 2. His convoy was torpedoed in mid-Atlantic, which missed his ship and hit an adjacent troop ship.

He narrowly escaped being captured in the Western Desert in July 1942. William later flew as an extra lookout in a Wellington Bomber in operations from Benghazi with an Air Sea Rescue Squadron. Posted to a



Communication Flight he was later forced to land in Cyprus with engine trouble. He spent 6 weeks living in the aircraft waiting for a new engine.

In 1948 he was posted to a Flying Training School in Southern Rhodesia and secretly married Kathleen in June 1950 in Bulawayo for a total cost £5.2s.6d spending their honeymoon at Victoria Falls cost £30.

In 1951 the couple returned to the UK and settled near Cambridge. He was employed in various occupations including farm work, factory work, photographer and journalist and served twelve years as Clerk to Harlton Parish Council as well as producing a monthly parish magazine on a hand operated duplicator which he sold for £1 a copy.

William qualified as a teacher at Saffron Walden (Cambridge University), he left state education after teaching at a junior school in Cambridge from 1971 to 1981 and became a private tutor. His other accolades include writing some of the first computer programmes for schools with the ZX81 and Spectrum and published his own books. From the proceeds he purchased his first home in 1984.

The couple moved to Newton Aycliffe in 1991. They had 3 children - all University trained teachers. The youngest is now the Headmaster of The International School in Sweden.

Kathleen passed away in 2017 after being married for 67 years. William celebrated his 100th birthday on Thursday 19th August 2021 by walking along the seafront at Seaton Carew and enjoying a fish and chip lunch. The following day he rode six miles on his tricycle.

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## READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



As a Visitor Ambassador for Locomotion, The National Railway Museum at Shildon, myself and my colleagues have enjoyed a wonderful three weeks hosting visitors to Flying Scotsman. Photo by Darran Weston

## Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report



Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, played two games over the bank holiday weekend and came away with a draw and a defeat. On the Saturday they visited second in the table Marton 2nd XI in the NYSD second division and earned a hard fought draw. The homeside chose to bat first and were restricted to 188 for 7 from their allotted 50 overs with 16 year old Matty Greaves (sponsored by Britannia Fire Ltd) the pick of the Aycliffe bowlers taking 3 for 21. In reply, club stalwart Chris Palmer top scored with 32 from 45 balls and opener Luke Telford also batted well with 24 runs from 28 balls faced. However Aycliffe lost wickets at regular intervals and were thankful for a defiant unbeaten 16 off 59 balls from 14 year old Thomas Dearden and a battling 13 runs off 29 balls by Matty Greaves, which pushed their side to 149 for 9 at stumps and helped Aycliffe earn the draw.

On bank holiday Monday, Aycliffe hosted Rockcliffe Park 1st XI and were soundly beaten by 87 runs (game sponsored by Midland Structural Services). Aycliffe won the toss, asked the visitors to bat first and at the half way stage this looked to be a good decision as the visitors were bowled out for 146 after 45 overs thanks to good performances with the ball by Matty Greaves (3 for 36), Michael Howe (3 for 42), George Slatcher (2 for 11) and James Layfield-Carroll (sponsored by Unison) taking 2 for 26. In reply, Aycliffe were reduced to an astonishing 16 for 8 after some pretty dreadful batting and were thankful for a last wicket partnership of 29 between James Layfield-Carroll (18 not out) and George Slatcher (10 runs) to give the innings some substance before being dismissed for 59, their lowest score of the season, after 23.5 overs.

The second team made the short trip away to third in the table Sedgefield 2nd XI in their final NYSD 4th division game of the season and were easily beaten by nine wickets. Aycliffe decided to bat first and were bowled out for just 68 after 27.4 overs with only Leo Mercy (sponsored by Joint Design Direction) with 22 runs, Owen Smith (12 runs), Ryan Patrick (11 runs) and Joe Teasdale (10 runs) reaching double figures. In reply, the homeside coasted to victory after 23.5 overs with Harrison Pearson (1 for 6) taking the only wicket to fall.

Despite this heavy defeat, the young Aycliffe second team finished their season with a playing record that reads : Played 22, Won 5, Lost 8, Drew 3 and six games not played due to bad weather and Covid-19. The final points total was 216 and they finished in a very creditable 7th place in the NYSD 4th division.

Photo: 16 year old 2nd team batsman Leo Mercy in action.

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# UK City of Culture Bid for Durham Sketch Walk

County Durham's bid to be UK City of Culture 2025 has the power to bring transformational social and economic benefits to the entire North East, according to the partnership driving forward the campaign.

The message coincides with an announcement from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport listing the names of the 20 locations across the UK that have expressed an interest in the prestigious title.

It also comes as more and more business leaders, arts organisations and individuals from across the region voice their support for County Durham.

This is the first year submissions can cover county areas as well as cities, which has led to a record number of entries. Durham's bid incorporates the whole county, providing an opportunity to showcase and develop the area's diverse cultural offer – from its varied landscapes and rich heritage, to its inclusive arts scene, vibrant communities and pioneering academic research.

The initial bid was submitted by Durham County Council, with principal partner Durham University, on behalf of Culture Durham. This is a partnership of organisations, including Beamish Museum, the Auckland Project and other public, private and voluntary organisations that share the same belief in the power of culture to transform lives.

Cllr Elizabeth Scott, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economy and partnerships, said: "Becoming UK City of Culture 2025 would not only enrich the lives of our communities by creating new and exciting cultural activities, it would boost our economy, significantly increase visitor numbers, both in County Durham and the wider region, and lead to additional investment and new employment



opportunities.

"Hull was UK City of Culture in 2017 and the figures speak for themselves. City of Culture was directly responsible for almost £90 million of investment in the city and a ten per cent increase in tourism.

"In County Durham, we know that if we increase the number of visitors staying overnight from eight per cent to 16 per cent, we can boost our economy by £415 million.

"We recognise that culture and tourism will play a crucial role in our recovery from the impact of the pandemic, and we have a longstanding commitment to culture-led regeneration.

"UK City of Culture status would support these efforts by raising our profile nationally. In fact, this is already happening, with the #Durham2025 campaign providing a platform for us all to shout about what makes our county great."

The winning location will be announced in May 2022, with the twenty bidders reduced to an initial long list next month and a final shortlist announced in early 2022.

To find out more about County Durham's bid and to leave messages of support, visit [www.durham2025.co.uk](http://www.durham2025.co.uk) and follow @Durham2025 on Facebook and @Durham\_2025 on Twitter.

Members of the public can also support the campaign by sharing pictures of their favourite County Durham places on social media with the hashtag #Durham2025.

Thanks to the hardy folk who accompanied me on my recent sketch walk to St. Andrew's Church yard in Aycliffe Village.

The weather was unseasonably cold, it was a peaceful morning with only the sound of the distant trains on the main line until the arrival of three grass cutting machines! Apart from that we enjoyed it and are looking forward to the next venue.

If you would like to join us, please contact Bill Lowery on 01325 311225.

## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings of the Town Council and its Committees

Wednesday 8th September 2021 - 7.15pm

### Policy & Resources

NOTE:- Further information on Public Participation and Public Questions can be obtained by visiting the Council's Website: [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

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## ACORN Community Association

Our monthly meeting will be on Thursday 9th September at 6pm in the Phoenix Club. We are hoping to get ideas and suggestions for our trips away and upcoming events. After more than 18 months of isolation it is so good to be able to look forward to socialising again. Our local Councillors will attend if available. A friendly welcome, cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit will be provided. Hope to see you there. Covid precautions will be taken.

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## Weekly Programme Schedule

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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	Across the Decades	Richard Gladstone
2-4pm	Weekly Edition	Paul Baker
4-6pm	Sports Saturday	Sean Lawless

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

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

### SUNDAY

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

**'Blues Show' Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service**

2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin & Monica
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6:30-8pm	Jazz Time	Mike Dixon
8-10pm	Soul Show	John Wooler (USA)
10-12am	Easy Sunday	Al Smart

### \* 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

**'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	Dave Graham
10-11pm	00s Show	Producer Dan
11-12am	Teens Show	Andy Fittes

### TUESDAY

6-7pm	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
7-8pm	Around Town with	Phill Hawkins
8-9:30pm	7th Sept: Junction7 and Endeavour	Woodcrafts
9:30-12am	Jazz Time (R)	Mike Dixon
	Soul and Motown Selection	

### WEDNESDAY

6-7:30pm	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	10th September - Martin Norris - Movin' Melodies	
12-1am	Night Club Session	A DJ

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

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## Amazing Disco Night



Wow, what an amazing night we all had at the Community Spirit family disco. The event exceeded expectations and it was so lovely to see so many kids and parents having a good time.

Thanks to Cake & Bakes, The Candy Queen, Miss Kitty Glitters and KD Discos who made the night perfect. The GATC allowance we receive is going straight back into the community meaning we plan to have a Free Family Disco every month. The money we make from donations and hot dogs will go to a different charity every month. If you want to nominate an Aycliffe charity please let us know at [communityspiritaycliffe@gmail.com](mailto:communityspiritaycliffe@gmail.com)

Last weeks nominated charity was The Shine Church & Community Choir, which we raised an amazing £97 for!

Shine will be back on September 20th at 5-6pm in the stage hall at St Clare's Church, all are welcome to come for a taster, it's free and lots of fun.

Thanks must go to Shirley at Tesco, our community champion, who always goes above and beyond to help our community, and to Paul Howell who took time out of his busy schedule to help man the doors, what a lovely man! Also to the Big Club as without their help the night would just not be the same.

We, of course, would not be able to do what we do if it wasn't for the support of the great people of Newton Aycliffe who attend our events. We feel that we hear so much negativity that now is the time to be positive and we would like to acknowledge the good work, acts of kindness and community spirit in our town.

If you would like to nominate a family, person or child who have gone above and beyond we would like to recognise them with an award at one of our family disco's, let us know by contacting us at [communityspiritaycliffe@gmail.com](mailto:communityspiritaycliffe@gmail.com)

Our next disco is planned for 17th September, so please come and meet us and have a great night.

Joanne & Neville Jones  
Community Spirit





## Darlington Period Poverty

I am from a group of young people who recently completed our NCS programme in Darlington and are wanting to spread awareness of period poverty and support local groups in fighting this cause. We have teamed up with local foodbanks and are working on a partnership with supermarkets in



Darlington to create boxes similar to those you see for foodbanks. Within our boxes we are aiming to collect hygiene and sanitary products that will be collected and stored by the King's Church foodbank, they can then be distributed to different locations. These locations would include schools (if they require more products after RedBox Project stopped providing products), refuges (like the ones housing people who came from Afghanistan) and different foodbanks who have a shortage of our collected products. The goal isn't to stop period poverty, as it's a difficult situation to beat, but to reduce the number of women and young girls who can't afford necessary products for themselves.

Around Darlington town centre shops have been raising awareness of our campaign by putting posters up within their stores that has a link to our social media (@darlingtonperiodpoverty on Instagram) and statistics linked directly to period poverty that really opens the eyes of readers to a problem they didn't know existed. Our campaign tag is #NCSdarloperiodpoverty and we hope to spread awareness and contribute to reducing a problem that's on a global scale.

Member of the darlingtonperiodpoverty campaign

## Local Junior Sprinter takes on the North East

Making her competitive debut season, local U13 girl shines against top athletes from the North East. Elizabeth Clay, who has been a member of Aycliffe Junior Running Club since she was 8 years old, made the jump this season to compete in top athletic Sprint events. Performing well at the Kieran Maxwell Open and Shildon Open earlier in the year, Elizabeth entered the NEYDL (North Eastern Youth Development League) with events at Morpeth and MSV in Middlesbrough finishing 2nd at 100m in both.

The season's main event the NECAA (North Eastern Counties) Outdoor Championships held at MiddlesbroughMSV Stadium – coming through the heats, Elizabeth pulled off an outstanding run in the final and won Silver at the Championships for 100m. A couple of weeks later she repeated this performance again at the NEMAA (North East Masters Athletics Association) Tartan Games 2021 at Gateshead International Stadium taking a Silver Medal.

Aycliffe Junior Running Club offers fundamental training for any child aged over 8, who wishes to enter the world of Athletics. An opportunity to become healthy and make new friends. If your child is interested in joining please contact Claire at our email address arc.juniorsection@gmail.com. This year's Olympians had to start somewhere.



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ROF59 and Newton Press Reception



# Gin Making - Heads, Hearts & Tails . . .

The most asked questions at The Herbal Gin Company are about how we make our gin and how long it takes for the whole process. The distillation process itself does not take long. Whereas whisky has to be kept in storage for a minimum of 3 years and a day, gin is fortunately much quicker to make. To understand the process of gin making, needs

attention to detail. So here goes....

Our still is a beautiful 250 litre piece of equipment that digitally controls temperature to one tenth of a degree and to the individual second. Add to this our recipes of botanicals that weigh up to 1kg per distillation run, which are measured in turn to 0.1g and you have an accurate formula and process that allows for a reproducible product, distillation run after distillation run.

The distillation starts with a column rinse and tank wash. The column is relatively short compared to the column of an old fashioned still, the secret digitisation and mechanical elements of the distillation tower equate to an old distillation tower height of 15m, working to the same efficiency of distillation but with an accompanying significant improvement of energy efficiency (something close to our heart at The Herbal Gin Company).

Copper coils are then introduced into the column. These coils assist in the flavour-making, as the distillation vapour has to work its way past the coils, in order to rise to the top of the still. In doing so, flavour production is improved.

However, first things first. The still needs to be filled with a 250 litre mixture of water and ethyl alcohol, the ABV needed to produce an ideal alcohol concentration is 33% (i.e. 1L of 100% alcohol for every 2L of water).

This is then heated up by an oil filled jacket that surrounds the still. Stills can be heated by this oil jacket method or by an immersion coil. The coil option is no different in truth to an electric kettle – effective but limited.

The oil jacket gives more options for heating such things as potatoes - thereby making a lovely potato vodka (something we are keen to try in the future). At the moment though, we restrict ourselves to water, alcohol and botanicals whilst distilling.

The botanicals are measured with pinpoint accuracy and enclosed in a linen bag that is gently agitated 9 times a minute whilst heating, as the alcohol, water and botanical combination is heated.

Alcohol boils at 78 deg C. Water boils at 100 deg C. This means that, as the mixture within the still is heated, the first thing to vapourise is mainly alcohol. However, this is where heads, hearts and tails come in....

**Heads** - this is the first thing to be collected. Don't shout about it though, it's only good for cleaning your windows (although it smells awesome and is indeed a fantastic window cleaner). This is because it doesn't taste great, and if there is any methanol anywhere, this is where it will be collected.

**Hearts** - this is the awesome stuff. Collecting 80L or so of 76% ABV gin is a lovely thing to behold. If you are brave enough to sample a (very) small amount, it tastes almost creamy! Often any citrus added to the recipe will be predominant at this first stage of the hearts draining, adding to the intensity of flavour as the first drops appear.

**Tails** - this is less good to taste. Remember that we are heating up botanicals in water/alcohol and just as happens to tea when the bag is left too long in the pot, the same happens with gin. This is where the all



important decision about 'making the cut' comes into the distillers remit. We will not give away our secret, suffice to say that our 'cut' comes earlier than most. We value quality of product over volume production and so our yield is less than some may demand for their distillation runs but we feel the sacrifice is more than worth it for the quality of end-product.

The distillation then finishes and the hearts are left to 'rest' after adding water to the solution to allow for the magical 40% ABV to be obtained.

The following week we bottle. Many people ask why we leave the gin resting for all this time. Whilst we cannot define what exactly happens during this time (nobody can), be assured that the resting time adds to the flavour.

Thereafter, bottling, labelling and sealing are undertaken to allow for our end product. In articles to come, I will discuss recipe development, in particular what makes a good recipe and what does not. In the meantime, I hope that this article has stimulated your taste buds sufficiently to investigate further.

Indeed, if you are interested in making your very own gin recipe, then come along to our Herbal Gin Experience where you can become a distiller for a day but make a recipe that will last a lifetime.

<https://www.theherbalgin.com/the-herbal-gin-experience>

Cheers

Colin & Wayne

The Herbal Gin Company

## Creative Garden for Greenfield



The Men's Cree group at Greenfield Arts have once again created a wonderful space for the community to enjoy.

The project has recycled the previous bamboo sculpture to extend its life beyond its original purpose. Working alongside facilitator Ian Rigby, the group have worked together to design, recycle material and create the final product. The bamboo planters and new pathway now form a welcoming space for Greenfield Community College and Greenfield Arts.

The group are now looking forward to a full programme in the autumn season and are preparing to collaborate on a project working alongside the Locomotion Museum in Shildon, an exciting venture which benefits the community, supports their own well-being and is supported by County Durham Public Health.

The group meet at present from 10:30 – 12:00 each Monday and Wednesday morning. If you would like to know more, contact our friendly team on 01325 379048 or email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk) for further details.

Greenfield Arts promotes and stimulates creativity to encourage our community to explore a greater understanding of themselves and the world around them. Visit our website to find out more [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk)



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# An Evening at St. Michael's 91 Year Old Takes to the Skies



On Sunday 26th September, St. Michael's Church, Heighington will be holding a musical evening with a difference where everyone is invited to sing along in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. A group of local musicians, featuring guitars, keyboard, and drums, have volunteered their time to accompany the singing with the theme varying from gentle rock to country to ballads and even the occasional traditional favourites with a modern twist. The service will be led by the Vicar of St. Michael's, Rev. Lissa Scott and, although informal, will still retain the dignity and joy of singing Christian songs together in a more modern style.

The evening will begin at 5pm with a glass of wine, or cup of tea/coffee with snack food including home baking - what's not to like? Donations accepted but not obligatory. The bell ringers will be present to ring us in (as photo) and to talk about their craft before the service or if you would be interested in learning more beforehand, please email Bell Captain, Anthea Enzor, on [heighingtonbells@gmail.com](mailto:heighingtonbells@gmail.com)

To support us with our singing, some of the church choir will also be attending the evening of music and, if you are keen to become a member, please message via our Facebook page. Both groups are always scouting for new recruits. If singing is not your thing, why not come along to the evening of music anyway and watch, listen, mingle with friends, inspect our newly installed kitchen facilities and café space, or simply admire the beautiful stained-glass windows and the amazing architecture of the church interior. You will be very pleased you did and be made most welcome.

Website [www.stmichaelsheighington.xara.hosting](http://www.stmichaelsheighington.xara.hosting) - or Facebook search for St. Michael's Heighington.



Mrs Colleen Hostein, now 91 years old, recently took a trip in a glider from Thirsk Gliding Club at Sutton Bank. This was her birthday present from her daughter, Lesley Davis. She had previously abseiled for charity on her 80th birthday. So, I decided she would have another little challenge for her 90th which was last year, however Covid put paid to that opportunity, but it was carried forward to her birthday this year.

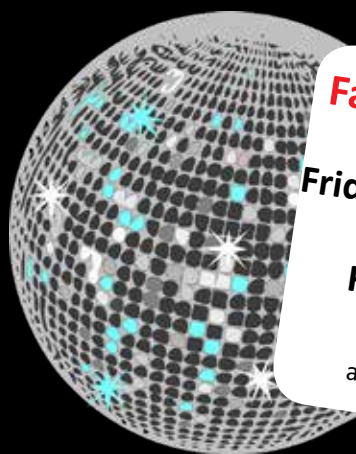
Colleen has lived in Newton Aycliffe since 1972 and is well known to a lot of people as she managed Goldfinch Wines (later Hazelbank Wines), next to the former Oak Tree pub in Neville Parade from 1972, only retiring at the age of 79 in 2009.

Colleen lost her husband to a stroke in 1996.

She has an extremely large family, having had five children and now has nine grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren and a great great grandson on the way. Colleen's greatest pleasure has always been her family and she has always put them first.

We are all so proud of her.

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# N.A.F.C. REPORT

Aycliffe head for Mossley in the Emirates FA Cup on Saturday on the back of two disappointing league results.

On Tuesday the Newtonians lost 3-2 to recently promoted Crook Town despite having taken the lead twice. That game was followed by a trip to

Guisborough & a goalless draw. The Priorymen played with 10 men after losing defender Harry Ord after just 10 minutes for a handball on the goal line. Sonni Coleman, playing against his former club, missed the resulting penalty. Aycliffe failed to capitalise on the numerical advantage & for the last five minutes played against nine men as Guisborough had a second player dismissed.

Aycliffe travel to inform Sunderland Ryhope CW on Tuesday for another tough game. Ryhope have won their last five league games & now sit fourth in the league.

Saturday sees Aycliffe in FA Cup action with a trip to Mossley. The hosts, who play a league higher than Aycliffe, overcame Lower Breck in a replay last week.

*Photo by Yvonne Wood, Aycliffe's Ben Wood in action at Guisborough*



## RUNNING CLUB NEWS

We start our round-up this week with the Locomotion 5K, which took place on Wednesday, 25th August 2021. The race, the fifth in the Darlington Trail Series, follows the path of the original Darlington to Stockton railway line. First to finish for the Club was David Stothard in a time of 29:08, and he was joined by Melanie Rowland, who completed the race in 31:14.

Thursday, 26th August 2021, saw one of the most popular events on the local race calendar, the NYMAC Tom Wall Relays, which were held at Stewart Park in Middlesbrough. In a strong showing, Aycliffe Running Club fielded ten teams in the event, which involved teams of four runners each taking a turn to carry a baton around a one-mile lap of the park.

Our first team home was the team of John Surtees (4:53), Gareth Kyle (5:19), Dez Fielden (5:15) and John Firby (5:16), in a cumulative time of 20:43. Next home was the team of Richard Campbell (5:22), Floyd Jones (5:28), Richard Holland (6:03) and Andy Talbot (5:45), for an accumulated time of 22:38. Richard, Floyd, Richard and Andy were competing in the M200 race, where the combined ages of the team exceeded 200 years.

Stuart Joyce (6:01), Corey Horn (6:10), Simon Turner (6:26) and Steven Dawson (6:02) were the next team to cross the line for the Club, in a combined time of 24:39, and they were followed in by the team of Dave Blewitt (6:12), Ryan Pearson (6:45), Matt Sommerville (6:08) and Peter Smith (6:58), who finished with a time of 26:03.

Our first Mixed Team to finish was the team of Michelle Zamir (6:59), Jayne Rudd (8:19), Trevor Needham (6:35) and Richie Johnson (7:07) in a time of 29:00, and they were followed in by our F160 Team of Angela Sutheran (6:57), Trish Kay (7:52), Michaela Kerr (8:09) and Carley Cooper (7:55) in a combined effort of 30:53.

Just six seconds separated our next two teams, with Alan Kellett (7:56), Anne Kellett (8:47), Jim Wilson (9:08) and Shaun Dods (7:07) finishing in 32:58, closely followed by Rob Nicholson (9:28), Donna Campbell (9:55), Natalie Sommerville (8:37) and John Surtees (5:04) in 33:04. Hot on their heels were David Stothard (7:36), Ian Stothard (10:24), Eve Doe (9:22) and Stuart Joyce (6:07) in 33:29. Our final team on the night comprised Sandra Rudd (9:19), Jan McLuckie (10:07), Marie Rudd (11:05) and Yvonne Blewitt (9:03), who finished in 39:34.

Elsewhere on Thursday night, Paul Dalton took on the Watergate 5K, a popular two lap race on multi-terrain paths around the lakes at Watergate Park, hosted by Low Fell Running Club. Paul completed the race in 18:32.

On Friday evening, Second Claim Member, Paul Rands took on the Mid Cheshire (Summer) 5K, which has built a reputation as one of the fastest 5K road races anywhere in the country. Paul certainly benefited from the quick race, registering a new 5K Personal Best (PB) of 20:16. As usual, the Club was well-represented at parkruns last weekend, with 32 Members taking the opportunity to take part in these popular running events. The most preferred venue for Members this week was Sedgfield parkrun, though we also had Members running at Blackpool, Hackworth, Hartlepool, Keswick, Riverside and Town Moor parkruns.

Several Members recorded parkrun Personal Bests (PBs) this week. At Hartlepool parkrun, Angela Sutheran ran a new fastest time of 22:39 for the fast out-and-back course. Meanwhile, at Keswick parkrun, John Surtees was posting a new quickest time of 16:52 for that event, also completing the run as First Finisher on the day. Carley Cooper continues to set new quickest times, this week registering a 27:52 PB for the Riverside parkrun course at Chester-le-Street. Peter Tennick, Stuart Bryden, Richard McFarlane and Christina Lambert all registered new best times for Sedgfield parkrun, posting 21:13, 26:55, 27:09 and 33:26 respectively.

Finally, on Saturday morning, two Members took on the Stanhope 10 Miler, a hilly race which started at Stanhope show field, and sought to raise funds for 'Quinn's Retreat', a charity offering a retreat for those bereaved by suicide. The route for the run took on several steep climbs and sharp descents, before heading downhill to Frosterley and back to Stanhope alongside the banks of the River Wear. Paul Dalton and Richard Campbell completed the race, however unfortunately the results were not available at the time of publication and we hope to bring these to you in due course.

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

Great Aycliffe



Town Council

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**Closing Date:** 12 Noon, Monday 13th September 2021

**Shortlisting:** Tuesday 14th September 2021

**Interviews:** TUESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2021

For further details or an informal discussion about the post, please contact Louise Downton on mobile 07968 379009 or by email at [louise.downton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:louise.downton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk).





# Around Town

Dear Sir,  
My new community based show Around Town on Aycliffe Radio is quickly becoming established and is now into its fourth week and this week's guests were John O'Sullivan of Aycliffe Counselling and Zoe Savage from Aycliffe Tri Club. John's wife Mary was also in the studio to lend moral support and provide her own input.

John discussed the ongoing need for counselling services to be available in the community due in part to the effect of the social restrictions imposed due to the global pandemic and the knock on effect to people's health and well-being. Zoe shared her experiences with us as she continues her preparation to take part in the prestigious and gruelling Hawaii Ironman Triathlon, the level of personal commitment, training regime and fundraising necessary to make this dream a reality.

Next week I'm pleased to welcome Junction 7 and Endeavour Woodcrafts to discuss the various aspects of their community based support and mentoring initiatives that continue to go from strength to strength in spite of the challenges faced over recent months

The Around Town provides a platform for local groups, associations businesses and individuals to highlight and raise public awareness of the great work they do in the community, often without the public recognition they deserve. It allows them to raise their profile, explain the services and support they provide, and, most importantly, help people to understand their passion to help others and what motivates them to serve the people of their community. The live show goes out every Tuesday evening from 7.00 till 8.00pm and is supported by our new pre-recorded daytime slot for those guests who may find the evening schedule a little restrictive and problematic. The pre-recorded show allows us to be more responsive to the needs of the guests who want to use the show to promote the work they do. When appropriate, studio time can be booked in advance to maximise the time available. It also allows us the freedom to edit and and personalise the show.

My thanks to everyone who have already taken part in the show and if you want to be part of the show in the future just get in touch via the shows Around Town Facebook page and together we can help one another make a real difference in our community.

Phillip Hawkins



The national focus this week has of course been on events in Afghanistan and I want to applaud the efforts of the MOD team led by Secretary of State, Ben Wallace. The work of the department and the clear and consistent communications to me and other colleagues about what was actually happening has been commendable. The challenges around evacuating people from a country that has so many people that need our assistance, but also some that want to harm us, are particularly difficult, but this team could not have done more.

My week started with a couple of visits, the first being to Acorn Dairy, which is a farm based not far from Aycliffe at Archdeacon Newton between Walworth and Darlington. They sell their milk and other products primarily to the local markets and it was a pleasure to see their operations and meet local members of the NFU (National Farmers Union). They are doing some fantastic development work to enable school children to visit and see how a farm works. The other visit was to a small business in Middleton St George where we discussed banking services. Wednesday saw me start at NETPark to help promote potential inward investment before coming to Newton Aycliffe. Once here I started at the Veterans Hub, this was being opened by The Lord Lieutenant, Sue Snowden, along with Veteran, Scott Robertson. I spent a great couple of hours talking to the many veterans and volunteers present and if you know any veterans who would like support from them or indeed want to support veterans yourself, just get in touch, or call down and buy some of their fantastic products.

I had a call with the ladies leading the Darlington and County Durham Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre to understand their work and make sure we know how best to contact them should any constituents reach out to us. I welcomed Robert Jenrick, the Secretary of State for MHCLG, to Newton Aycliffe on Thursday, visiting the new housing development at Elder Gardens. This includes some houses in the pilot scheme offering 30% discount to key workers and this is only the 3rd site in the country to offer this. MHCLG stands for Ministry for Housing, Communities and local Government. Departmental responsibilities include driving up housing supply; increasing home ownership; devolving powers and budgets to boost local growth in England and supporting strong communities with excellent public services. His team are Luke

Hall MP, Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government; The Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP, Minister for Housing; Eddie Hughes MP, Minister for Rough Sleeping & Housing and Lord Stephen Greenhalgh, Minister for Building Safety and Communities.

Whilst he was here to talk housing, I also took the opportunity to talk about regional devolution and the importance of County Durham getting a solution that enables it to control its destiny and not be overwhelmed by its neighbours to the north.

I had an update from the Police and Crime Commissioner as regards the proposed new custody suite being proposed for Durham. She has decided to proceed with the previous proposal, whilst this appears to be the preference of the police as well, it is important that full consideration is given to the estate as a whole. The amount being spent on the custody suite is significant so there are concerns that this could put pressure elsewhere later, but she has assured me this is not the case.

I had the pleasure of calling at the community event at Silverdale Place led by Junction 7, Durham Community Action and Livin. The weather just about held together despite trying to rain several times. A great event and a credit to everyone involved. Friday teatime I called down The Big Club to see Joanne and Nev Jones and team for the family disco event they were putting on. Some of their normal team were busy so I ended up on door duty. The attendance was incredible and it was fabulous to see so many smiling faces and hopefully they made some money for the Shine choir. On Bank Holiday Monday I was out and about in Thornley, Wingate and Station Town and saw the end of a dog show as well as talking to residents about their concerns with regards to anti-social behaviour issues. Things generally feel like we are heading back to a more normal world, but it is absolutely critical that we do not get complacent. The importance of continuing to take every opportunity to maximise fresh air and using masks when appropriate remains and if you have not yet been vaccinated please do so. Should we see upturns in infections it is vaccinations that will mean that these do not translate into hospital admissions or, worse still, deaths. So please don't waste the efforts of our NHS and get yourself jabbed.

Stay safe  
Paul Howell  
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

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## Sudoku

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

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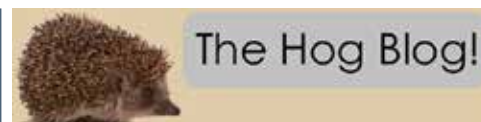
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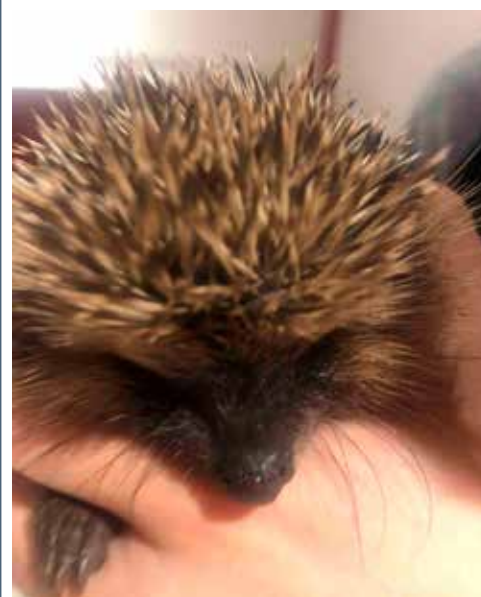
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## The Hog Blog!



Thanks again to Newton News for publishing our weekly articles, many hedgehogs are saved because readers know that help for these beautiful mammals isn't far away, in fact, I have admitted two little girls, one from Ritson Road off Derek, and another from Gamul Close off Taylor. Thank you also to Sue, Pat and Fred for also having some little ones in their homes to help me out!

By way of a public apology to Valerie, thank you for doing all the lovely items for our tabletop sale next week, sorry I missed you out of the Blog last week, also June for sewing toys together, Tracy and Dave for their donations, monetary or otherwise.

We have to announce that our tabletop sale is now on Sunday 12th September between 1-5, please come and see us, it's all for our hedgehogs.

**Tip of the week:** If you see a hedgehog out during the day please pick him or her up, Derek and Taylor are shining examples, both their little girls are settled and warm because they wanted to help these adorable creatures who don't survive when out during the day. If I can't help you, I will help you find someone who can, or ring BHPS on 01584 890801 office hours only.

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## Neighbourhood Policing

By PC Holly McCabe



Hello, it's PC Holly McCabe from Newton Aycliffe here. We've had a busy week on the Neighbourhood Team in Newton Aycliffe this week.

This week saw a spate of vehicle crime where an investigation has been underway, a suspect has been arrested on suspicion of these crimes and for an attempted burglary that occurred in Newton Aycliffe and he is currently in the cells as I write this blog. This week we have also arrested a male on suspicion of inciting minors into sexual activity via social media and this investigation is ongoing. I would like to remind parents or guardians to keep an eye on your children's social media accounts and who they may be engaging with to ensure they are safeguarded and protected. I know PCSO Button mentioned last week that we had several commercial burglaries on the industrial estate in Newton Aycliffe recently and, to update you, we have seized a vehicle connected to these. This investigation is still ongoing.

On a lighter note, PCSO Button and PC Booth attended the Town Park fun day last week and thoroughly enjoyed themselves meeting people and chatting with members of the community. It's the final week of the summer holidays so Good Luck to those going back to school next week.

On a final note, if you have a spare minute, please consider signing up to 'Keep in the Know', which is our online messaging service where it can send out local alerts to keep you up to date of what is happening in the local area. It's a completely free service, and you can receive regular crime updates, road closure updates and you can see what the Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Team is up to. To register yourself please visit [www.keepintheknow.co.uk](http://www.keepintheknow.co.uk) for a simple sign up.

email:  
[paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk)

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**



## Litter Picks



This week's litter pick concentrated on the area behind Moore Lane Eco Centre, parallel with the A167, opposite the Gretna. Among the haul was a double mattress and headboard, an old garden fire pit and a sun lounger, as someone thought it was acceptable to pull into the layby and hurl it all into the bushes, rather than continuing on to the tip. I'm sure most of us agree that it isn't. As always, information on future Wednesday morning litter picks can be given from: [ian.gray38@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.gray38@btinternet.com)

## Congratulations

**Roman Ellis Storey**



8th September 2021  
**Happy 1st Birthday**  
to our darling boy

You bring so much happiness into our lives. We couldn't love you more if we tried. Here's to one year of you. Hope you have the best day!  
Lots of love from Mammy and Daddy xxxx

## Birthday Remembrance

**Frances Woodhead**

9th September

Life goes on without you here but the memories of you will never fade. Today and always, we remember the difference you made. Happy Birthday Mum. Lots of love,  
Gary xxxxx

**Frances Woodhead**

9th September

Roses mean remembrance, they are also a symbol of love and we could think of no better way to let you know that you are remembered and loved so much on your birthday Mum. Lots of love,  
Mandy & John xxx

## Obituary

**Keith Henderson**

We regret to announce the death of Keith Henderson on 25th August.

A Service will be held at Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 7th September at 11.30am, followed by refreshments at Woodham Community Centre.

Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to Cancer Research UK.

**Mandy Parker**

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully on August 20th, aged 56 years. A much loved Sister and Auntie.

Family and friends please meet for service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday September 7th for 2.30pm.

**Teresa McDowell**

Of Newton Aycliffe, peacefully at home on 25th August, aged 78 years.

Dearly beloved Wife of Parker; a much loved Mam to Coreena and Carlos; a dear Grandmother, Great Grandmother and Mother-in-Law.

Family and friends please meet for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Thursday 9th September at 3.30pm.

**Lee Smith**



7th September

**Happy Birthday Lee**

Party with the angels, knowing that our hearts are up there with you. We will love you always and for ever. Mam and Dad



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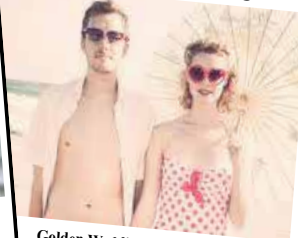
**Alice Springs**



**Happy 21st Birthday**  
10-10-10

to our beautiful Daughter on your 21st birthday. Lots of love from Mam & Dad xxx

**Bonny and Clyde Cunningham**



**Golden Wedding Anniversary**

Mam and Dad on your Golden Wedding on 1st January 2011. With all our love forever, Sisters, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.



# Biggest Event in the North East



**SHILDON CARNIVAL '13 BACK!**  
**FREE MONSTER TRUCK SHOW**  
**GIANT FUN FAIR**  
**ALL DAY BAR**  
**11TH & 12TH SEPTEMBER HACKWORTH PARK**  
**FUNFAIR OPEN FRIDAY FROM 6PM**  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
 SPONSORED BY **HUMBLER UP YONDER BREAKERS** 07778 157778



The sleepy little town of Shildon is to come alive on Saturday the 11th and Sunday the 12th of September when it hosts the biggest Carnival in the North East (with Newcastle Town Moor and Durham Miners Gala among others being cancelled). This will be one massive family fun event & much needed party with FREE admission, FREE MONSTER TRUCK'S (where the huge turbo beasts decimate cars and accelerate at such a speed they leap into the air) coupled with this, the event will boast a world food court, an all day continental bar and the biggest fun fair Shildon has ever seen including a 120ft theme park ride and golden carousel amongst many others.

As said, it is FREE to get in and watch the amazing MONSTER TRUCK SHOWS totally FREE. The fun starts at 11am until 7pm people can also actually ride on a monster truck!

The event has been organised by Paul and Lucy Evans from Carnival Fun Fairs - for more information please call 07836 350507.

## Coffee Mornings

St. Elizabeth's Church in Woodham is now OPEN and the Coffee Mornings are to restart on Saturday 4th September at 10.00 am.

All welcome, to rekindle friendships and make new acquaintances. Refreshments will be served and a raffle will take place. Looking forward to seeing you again.

## Community Crafters

Have you acquired new crafting skills in the long months of lockdown? Or are you a novice who would like to learn new crafting techniques?

If you would like to try art and design, card making, decoupage, flower arranging and many other creative activities as part of a friendly, social group, then why not join us? Our first class is on Monday 13th September from 10.00am to 12noon at St. Clare's Church Hall, Newton Aycliffe.

If you would like to book a class, please contact Lindsay on 07856 739443 or Viv on 07846 819369.

We look forward to seeing you.

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