

Friday 8th October 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



## A Move in the 'Root' Direction

See page 2 for full story

Special thank you to your Newton News Sponsors:





# Team Work Makes the Dream Work

We have athletes in our town who have sacrificed a great deal to achieve their goal to be selected to play for their country, but success when it comes, does so with a hefty price tag firmly attached. The moments in the spotlight and the adulation of the crowds is insignificant compared to the years of training, driving thousands of miles to different venues and training camps just so the coaches can see if you have what it takes to represent your country in your chosen discipline.

Some sports have a high profile and readily attract sponsorship which takes some of the financial pressure off the athletes themselves allowing them to concentrate on what they do best which is excelling at their chosen discipline at the highest level. Sports such as water polo have to try and generate their own sponsorship to make their dream a reality. We are lucky to have several junior and senior water polo players who have national status but with the dream comes a reality check of the sometimes crippling personal financial costs involved in putting on a GB tracksuit and representing your country.

These athletes, for that's exactly what they are, have to pay for the pleasure and pride of flying our flag. Driving the length and breadth of the country is one thing but when they are selected to represent our country in international competitions the costs involved can quickly escalate to become thousands of pounds. If no sponsorship is available the athletes and, in the case of the junior squads, their parents must provide the money out of their own pockets.

Very few people or companies can afford to commit large sums of money in the form of sponsorship but would £1.00 break the bank? Would £1.00 make a difference? It would if every person in the town could give £1.00. A pound per week could be in excess of £20,000 per week and if you extended that for just one year the total amount raised would be over a £1,000,000.

A silly dream; but in the words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has". A silly unrealistic dream I know, but it's team work that makes the dream work.

Cllr Phillip Hawkins

# A Move in the 'Root' Direction - Community Garden Welcomes Support from Utah

A local charity is appealing for a helping hand to maintain its Community Garden. Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) relies on voluntary support to look after its beautiful Community Garden that is used by not only the local community, but



Together 21, a group for families with children with Down syndrome, and Options, a group for adults with learning and physical disabilities.

PCP Trustee and Lead Community Volunteer, David Cockburn, said: "We have been fortunate to receive support from missionaries from Utah, and the work they have helped us achieve has been truly amazing.

"They have offered to take on heavier and more intense tasks such as digging, building work and cutting down trees, which has been hugely appreciated in shaping the Community Garden for community groups to use.

"The two visiting missionaries from Utah, Elder Andrew Martin and Elder Tomas Flores, lent a helping hand to PCP's Community Garden for six weeks, and during this time were able to put floor down in the greenhouse and new garden storage area, which has proven to be a valuable asset."

Throughout the Community Garden there are many plants that require regular maintenance to be used in sensory educational activities for community groups.

PCP are appealing for regular volunteers to join them on a Monday morning or a Tuesday afternoon at the PCC, Newton Aycliffe. No experience in gardening is needed.

Carol Gaskarth, Chief Executive of PCP, said: "Without the support of volunteers, we wouldn't have been able to achieve half of the fantastic things PCP has worked on over the last 20 years."

To lend a helping hand at PCP's Community Garden, contact enquiries@pcp.uk.net

Visit PCP's social media channels. PCP's Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/PCPandCentre](http://www.facebook.com/PCPandCentre) PCP's Twitter and Instagram @PioneeringCare

If you would like to find out more about PCP generally, or to support our work please, contact: Jenny Lee, Senior Marketing & Media Officer [jenny.lee@pcp.uk.net](mailto:jenny.lee@pcp.uk.net)

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**Saturday 16th October - 'The Force'**

**Saturday 23rd October - 'Big Sigh & the Yawns'**

For more information on bands go to [www.turbiniapub.co.uk](http://www.turbiniapub.co.uk) or 313034

## Sketch Walk

As I wrote in an earlier article we had been offered entry to the church, by David Blair the church warden of St Andrews, Aycliffe Village. I had been saving the offer for a rainy day. The group were joined by three new artists and we had an informative tour of the church by David and then sketched our chosen subjects.

We have been invited and look forward to returning at a future date.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Bill Lowery 01325 311225.

## THE BIG CLUB

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Saturday 9th Oct: TBC

**Domino Handicap**

Friday-Sunday 8.00pm

**Forthcoming Attractions**

Saturday 23rd Oct: Uncle Gilbert

Saturday 30th Oct: Abba Girls

Saturday 6th Nov: Whole Hog

Saturday 13th Nov: Clair Marshall Experience

Saturday 4th December: 3 Steps 2 Venga

# Cricket Club Presentations

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club held their 2021 presentation day last Saturday. After having to cancel last year's presentation, due to the pandemic, this year's day was very well attended with the junior presentation on the afternoon and the seniors having their presentation on the evening. Entertainment on the evening was provided by local band Another Crisis. The first team player of the year was presented to Michael Howe while the second team player of the year went to 16 year old



Leo Mercy. For the first time in the Club's history Natasha Grainger received the ladies player of the year, the Club having had a senior ladies team and girls under 11's team playing competitive league cricket in 2021. Junior player of the year was William Dearden who, at 12 years old, has this season represented the Club at all levels from under 13 up to the senior second team, whilst also having a good season for Durham County Cricket Club. Special awards were made to Sam Telford, who scored 117 in the last game of the season, and to Chris Palmer, who this season became the first player in the Club's history to pass 10,000 senior runs. Chris made his debut as a 15 year old in 2000 and has played 22 consecutive seasons, making a club record 659 senior appearances. In his time he has scored 43 half centuries and 3 centuries including being the first Newton Aycliffe player to score a century in the NYSD. By all accounts Chris is not finished yet as his 6 year old son Harvey played for the Club's under 11's this season and Chris' ambition is to carry on long enough to play alongside Harvey in the senior side. Photo shows Chris Palmer being presented with an engraved vase to commemorate his 10,000 senior runs, by Club President, Lee Weldon.

## Neville Community Association

Our next meeting is at Neville Community Centre on Tuesday 19th October at 6.45pm. Refreshments will be available from 6.30pm. Come and join us, we would love to see you there.

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## Opening Day Giveaway

### LIFELINE COMMUNITY ACTION

Lifeline Community Action Charity would like to invite you to the opening of their new Community Hub which is now located at 17 Beveridge Way (next to Boyes) in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre on Monday 11th October from 10am – 2pm. We will be holding a raffle, punch balloons for the children and our biggest community giveaway yet! All items are free. Pop down and say hello and find out more about who we are and what we do. We hope to see you there!

## Trustees Wanted

Junction 7 are seeking new Trustees to build on our already thriving Charity. We are looking for like minded people to join the existing team and have a love for their community.

We are looking for people who have IT and social media experience, also someone with a financial background and finally someone who can write funding bids and take care of monitoring. For further information please contact Junction 7 via email [junc7tion@gmail.com](mailto:junc7tion@gmail.com)

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**HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?**  
We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service  
**Tel: Paul**  
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or [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk)

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# Aycliffe Youth Football Latest News



## Aycliffe U13 Girls 4 v Consett 5

First half started and Consett were on top but Aycliffe grew into the game. We were closing down well and trying to play on the counter attack. A few chances came our way but fighting against a strong wind was slowing the game down a little. First half finished 0-4. A quick half time chat and a few changes Aycliffe started the second half on top. The girls showed their character and playing some great football and managed to close the gap to 2-4, fairly quickly. Then the girls found that crucial pass and found the back of the net again, 3-4 and big smiles all round. A real team performance was needed today and they all stepped up. While pushing for the equaliser Consett managed to score again but Aycliffe had the last word with another amazing strike. FT 4-5.

Goals: Safiye x2, Demi and Emily. POTM: Chloe.

## Hetton Juniors 3 v Aycliffe U13 Eagles 0

With only 11 players available against a good team we knew the game was going to be challenging. First half against the wind was tough with Kian having to make some good saves in goal. We couldn't seem to get out our half and when we did just didn't take our chances in front of goal. HT 0-0. Second half and Hetton came out the blocks not bothered about the wind against them scoring 2 goals early on, followed by a 3rd. MOTM: Zac.

## Aycliffe U8 Eagles v Saltburn

The boys have made a fantastic start to the season and continued with yet another victory against Saltburn. The lads have worked hard in training, which paid off, with some great pressing and wonderful passing throughout the team which created lots of chances which were expertly put away. George D, Phoenix, Harry, Will, Adam, George H were all on the score sheet but all the lads deserve a massive pat on the back after a fine team display.

## Aycliffe U12 Angels Yellow 5 v Spennymoor Town Girls 5

The wind was against us in the first half and Spenny raced into a 3-0 lead. Although a bit deflated we were creating just as many chances as the opposition. Gwynneth coolly finished to make it 1-3, Spennymoor scored again before another trademark goal from Amy and HT, 2-4. We started the second half slowly and Spenny scored their 5th. But the game wasn't over as Aycliffe scored another 2 goals and the equaliser came in the final few minutes as Amy found the ball at her feet from a tight angle in the 6 yard box and knocked it in. Players Player: Amy, Coaches Player: Olivia.

## Aycliffe U8 Wildcats v Bishop Auckland

Derby day facing unbeaten Bishop Auckland girls. An early strike from Macy settled the nerves. Then Brooke smashed in an unstoppable free kick to put the Wildcats in control of the game. Elsie, Ava, Elizabeth and Georgia all worked hard in midfield and created the chances for Brooke and Macy to add to their early goals. Brilliant performance and happy faces at the end.

## ADULTS

## Seaham Coast Women 3 v Newton Aycliffe Women 6

Aycliffe opened the scoring before Seaham grabbed 2 goals.

However, a second from Katie and one from Meg and we got to the break 2-3 up. Into the second half and Meg scores her second but Seaham were not giving up and pulled a goal back. Aycliffe sealed the victory with 2 more goals, first from Lottie, intercepting the ball on the half way line then playing a one two before unleashing a 25 yard strike which left the keeper no chance. Final goal came from Katie, Morgan played a wonderful through ball inch perfect for Katie to run onto and a shot across the goal into the far corner for her third and Aycliffe's Sixth.

## Other results

**Aycliffe U13 Girls 4 v Consett 5**

**Aycliffe U15 Girls 5 v Consett 0**

**Felling Magpies 2 v Aycliffe U17 Falcons 4**

# Logico Continue on the Road to Success

Award-winning Newton Aycliffe based business, Logico, will be looking to raise awareness of their transport compliance and training services when they attended the prestigious North East Automotive Expo at the Beacon of Light in Sunderland.



The company provide transport compliance services such as external transport manager consulting, representations at public inquiries and accredited transport training to businesses across the UK. Logico are also the only north east based business to hold DVSA Earned Recognition Auditor status ensuring they are at the forefront of the industry within our region.

Following several recent award wins, such as Transport Consultancy of the Year in the 2021 UK Transport Awards and Logistics Consultant of the Year in the 2020 North East Prestige Awards, the company are looking to build on their success with their attendance at the automotive expo.

The North East Automotive Expo, held on the 30th September, is the north east's flagship automotive exhibition and networking event and provides an excellent platform to reconnect the region's automotive sector.

A host of suppliers and technology providers were in attendance including Britishvolt, Gestamp, Nissan and Komatsu.

Logico's commercial director, Stephen Gosnay, commented, 'We're delighted to be exhibiting at the NEAA expo, this is a great opportunity for us to showcase our services to influential businesses within the north east and UK.'

Since our company was launched, just over two years ago, we have experienced rapid growth and enjoyed several award successes.

With the vast transport sector experience within our team, it gives us the ability to help businesses remain compliant, assist with the DVSA Earned Recognition status scheme and provide enjoyable, accredited transport training.

We enjoyed chatting with fellow exhibitors and delegates and with a packed agenda throughout the day, we heard from the automotive sector regarding the industry and opportunities available."

To speak to Logico at the NEAA expo and find out more about their services, visit their stand at SME15.



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# Two Exciting Nights of Live Entertainment



Aycliffe Radio are proud to present two new shows to round off 2021. On Saturday 13th November in the ROF59 Function Room a 'Glam Night' will rock the building with a fantastic six piece band, 'The SLEEZE SISTERS' playing tracks by David Bowie, Alice Cooper, Slade, T-Rex, Sweet, Mungo Jerry and many more.

With The SLEEZE SISTERS you are always guaranteed a great night of high octane entertainment as they strut their way through hit after hit from the 1970's. The Sisters are well established session musicians, so you can expect to hear faithfully reconstructed songs played to the very highest standard. Backed with a top of the range theatre PA and Lighting.

The second event, whilst celebrating Aycliffe Radio's fourth birthday, will also be a lively Christmas party with free party hats, party poppers, crackers, streamers, etc. Entertaining will be a tribute band bringing us all the hits from Steps and The Vengaboys. This will take place on Saturday 4th December at The Big Club and features '3 Steps 2 Venga'.

Steps and The Vengaboys formed in 1997 and had huge success around the world with Steps selling more than 20 million records

and The Vengaboys selling more than 25 million. In November 2017 The Vengaboys supported Steps on their 'Party on the Dancefloor' tour. '3 Steps 2 Venga' celebrate the many hits from both of these fantastic groups with replica costumes, original Steps and Vengaboys choreography routines, head worn mics and bucket loads of energy! 3 Steps 2 Venga have toured throughout the UK appearing at the very best cabaret rooms, special functions, holiday parks and festivals.

For more information and to purchase your ticket visit:

[www.ayclifferadio.co.uk/tickets](http://www.ayclifferadio.co.uk/tickets) or Newton Press reception.

## The Emma Raducanu Effect

Dear Sir,

I am hoping that the Emma Raducanu stunning victory in the US Open Tennis in New York last month will give a boost to all racket sport participation in the country. I myself found my way to Badminton having watched the Wimbledon Tennis Championships on TV as a teenager and have played for many years.

Last week I visited the coaching sessions held by Aycliffe Badminton Club at the Leisure Centre every Friday night and was impressed with what I saw. Two qualified coaches were leading the session aimed at juniors and adult beginners. They say they are prepared to teach all aspects of the game, racket skills, tactics etc. Conveniently the tuition is before the senior club session so anyone who picks the sport up quickly can progress.

As winter draws in these sessions are ideal for adults wanting to get into Badminton or parents who want to encourage their children to take up a fast exciting sport.

Anyone interested can email: [aycliffebc@outlook.com](mailto:aycliffebc@outlook.com)

Yours In Sport

Darren Clarke

**Glam Rock**

Featuring  
**'SLEEZE SISTERS'**

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Covering classics by: T-Rex, David Bowie, Slade, Mud, Sweet, Suzie Quatro, Showaddywaddy, Alice Cooper, Chicory Tip, Osmonds, Bay City Rollers, Cockney Rebel and many more...

**Saturday 13th November**  
**ROF59 Function Room**  
7.00pm to 11.00pm

Tickets: £6.00 - available from  
[www.ayclifferadio.co.uk/tickets](http://www.ayclifferadio.co.uk/tickets)  
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**Fourth Birthday Party**

**3 STEPS 2 VENGAs**

All The Greatest Hits and Iconic Dance Moves from a memorable era...  
High Energy, Full Costume Show with Classic Songs from Steps & Vengaboys

**The Big Club**  
**Sat., 4th December**  
7.00pm till 11.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)

Tickets £5.00 available behind the bar or  
[www.ayclifferadio.co.uk/tickets](http://www.ayclifferadio.co.uk/tickets)

# AYCLIFFE RADIO

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## Weekly Programme Schedule

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"Aycliffe Town Centre... Shopping for You"



### Classic "Love Songs" Sun-Thurs 12 to 3am, Fri & Sat 1-3am

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

#### SATURDAY

9-10am	Eurovision Show	Simon Harding
10-12am	Moderation	Jack & Garvey
12-2pm	LA Connection	Emperor Rosko (USA)
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
<b>'Blues Show' Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service</b>		
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

<b>'Through the Decades' Sponsored by McDonalds Newton Park</b>		
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
	12th October: Acorn Ukes	
8-9:30pm	Jazz Time (R)	Mike Dixon
9:30-12am	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	Back to the 80s	Andy Little
10-12am	Rock Night	Jonny Goldsmith

#### FRIDAY

**'Weekend Warmup' Sponsored by Shake n Cake**

4-6pm	Weekend Warm Up	Dan Calum
6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	15th October - Nathan Abbott - Dance Classix	
10-12pm	BeatRoote	Graeme Roote
12-1am	Night Club Session	A DJ

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

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## Rebuild of Greenfield Community College

A £20m rebuild of a County Durham school is being put forward to enhance standards of education for students.

Durham County Council's Cabinet will next week be recommended to agree to the redevelopment of Greenfield Community College's Newton Aycliffe site, following an options appraisal.

Councillors will also be asked to approve consultation being carried out on the permanent closure of the school's Sunnydale site at Shildon, following the decision to temporarily close it last year on health and safety grounds.

The meeting next Wednesday, 13 October, will be reminded how, following an Ofsted inspection judgement of 'inadequate', Sunnydale School in Shildon was amalgamated with Greenfield School at Newton Aycliffe. Greenfield School was enlarged at the beginning of 2015 to become Greenfield Community College, following the closure of Sunnydale as a separate school.

Education was initially delivered across both sites but a report to Cabinet sets out how this did not address the underlying challenges evident before the amalgamation. The split-site approach has limited the delivery of a broad curriculum impacting on standards while pupil numbers continued to fall.

The meeting will be reminded how in January 2020 all pupils began to be taught on the Greenfield site, after health and safety concerns led governors to temporarily close Sunnydale.

Cabinet will be told that council officers have considered options for improved educational provision.

They acted in response to falling pupil numbers impacting on standards and financial viability of the school across two sites; and Ofsted inspections and Department for Education advisers identifying the split-site arrangement as inhibiting educational improvement and progress.

The report sets out how, of four options considered, making the current temporary arrangements permanent and consulting on closure of the Sunnydale site is "the most compelling in terms of all factors – enhanced standards, minimal disruption to learning, improvement of accommodation and cost efficiency."

It tells councillors that the decision to locate all pupils at Greenfield temporarily has allowed for a better standard of education and how a recent Ofsted monitoring visit reflected the improvements arising from moving to single-site provision.

Councillors will be told that it would cost around £20m to remodel the Aycliffe site to accommodate all pupils in an improved educational environment, and that funding would be sought either through the National Schools Rebuilding Programme or the council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

Cllr Ted Henderson, the council's Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "The provision of a high standard of education to our children and young people is at the heart of everything we do and the options appraisal we have carried out for Greenfield Community College has sought to explore how best to provide this in a form that will be sustainable for the communities it serves in the long term."

"We also know that both Ofsted and the Department for Education have advocated a move to a single-site school to offer the best possible education. While we fully appreciate there is a desire in the Shildon community for secondary education to be offered there, pupil numbers show there is not a justification for this, either educationally or financially. We firmly believe that a rebuilt Greenfield Community College is the best option to provide a sustainable long term model of education for the communities it serves and that this would allow the school to build on the improvements made since moving to a single site"

## Walking Football Returns

Following a break, due to Covid, walking football is resuming in Newton Aycliffe! A popular and growing format of the game, Walking Football is aimed at encouraging older adults to play football again on a regular basis.

Walking football carries all the same rules as everyday football except you can't pick up too much speed. It provides a sociable, fun and safe environment for those looking to be a little more active in their spare time. Everybody is welcome, whether you've played walking football before or not.

Running every Thursday (term time only), 1.30-2.30pm at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, sessions cost £3 per person.

For more information contact Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on 03000 266446.



# Bethany's Fundraiser for Sands

Baby Loss Awareness Week takes place every year between 9th and 15th October and gives:

- Bereaved parents, their family and friends the opportunity to unite with others globally to commemorate their baby's lives.

- Those affected by baby loss, charities and other organisations the opportunity to raise awareness about pregnancy and baby loss in the UK.

- Charities, supporters and other organisations the opportunity to drive improvements in the bereavement care and support available for those affected.

Local girl, Bethany Jackman, is walking 310,000 steps in October for Sands and helping to break the silence around baby loss. Your gift will help bereaved families and support research into lowering the number of babies dying every day. So whether you donate £5 or £500, every little bit helps. Thank you for your support.

To donate please go to: [https://www.facebook.com/donate/1206904146453372/?fundraiser\\_source=external\\_url](https://www.facebook.com/donate/1206904146453372/?fundraiser_source=external_url)  
Sands is the leading stillbirth and neonatal death charity in the UK. Sands exists to reduce the number of babies dying and to ensure that anyone affected by the death of a baby receives the best possible care and support for as long as they need it. Sands provides bereavement support services both nationally,



through its Freephone helpline, mobile app, online community and resources, and locally, through a UK-wide network of around 100 regional support groups.

Sands works in partnership with health care professionals, trusts and health boards and offers a range of training programmes and bereavement care resources to ensure that every bereaved parent and family receives the best possible care wherever they are in the UK.

Sands supports and promotes research to better understand the causes of baby deaths and save babies' lives. The charity also raises awareness of baby loss and works with governments, key influencers and other stakeholders to make reducing the number of babies dying a priority nationally and locally.

Over the past 40 years Sands has grown into a national charity with a powerful vision, to create a world where fewer babies die, shared by dedicated volunteers, fundraisers, members, donors, healthcare professionals, partners, staff and bereaved parents and families.

## Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club News



## Minister Rejects Call to Keep £20 Universal Credit Uplift

Dear Sir,

The government has rejected calls for the £20 uplift to universal credit to be retained. This will result, according to Lib Dem councillor Mark Wilkes, in over 52,000 people across the County losing over £1000 in income from the end of next month.

In July Durham County Councillor Mark Wilkes got agreement from the Joint Administration running the Council for it to write to the government to ask that they halt the withdrawal of the £20 uplift to universal credit, which was introduced last year to help people during the pandemic.

Cllr Wilkes says, "The pressures on low income families have not gone away. If anything there are more pressures with rising prices. Universal Credit is paid to a huge number of people who are working in our county. Removing this uplift is going to have a significant impact on the County taking over £52million out of the local economy at a time when it needs it."

"The government doesn't seem to realise that taking over £1000 out of the pockets of those on the lowest incomes is going to massively impact on attempts to level up across the poorer parts of the UK and in particular the North East."

Many Conservative MPs as well as six former conservative welfare secretaries have also called on the government to retain the uplift in recent months.

In the response sent to Durham County Council from the government welfare minister Will Quince he said, "The Government has always been clear that the £20 increase was a temporary measure to support households affected by the economic shock of COVID-19."

Cllr Wilkes challenging this responded saying "The leaders of the council had asked for it to be retained to make sure there wasn't a detrimental impact on those receiving it. I am absolutely certain that scrapping the uplift is going to cost the government and the Council more money, down the line, than it will save."

"We urge the Government to reconsider this decision and recognise the disproportionate impact this is going to have on those areas of the Country they say they want to level up."

Cllr Mark Wilkes

On Friday 24th September Liam Gibson of Aycliffe Boxing Club and Greenfield School travelled to Hartlepool, after reaching the final of the Tyne Tees & Wear Schools Championships.

Liam started very well but the long lay off, caused by the Coronavirus, showed with ring rust and although Liam was very competitive he was on the wrong end of the decision on points. After the contest Liam said he would put it down to experience and he will bounce back for his next contest.

Liam is coached by the team at Aycliffe Boxing Club, with the head coach having over 43 years experience any boxer could do well. Aycliffe Boxing Club are located in Acorn House, Durham Way North on the Aycliffe Business Park (DL5 6HP). Training times for budding junior boxers are 6pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Aycliffe Boxing Club welcomes pupils from Greenfield School and Woodham Academy. The next Championships are for youth boxers, 17 and 18 year olds, and we will be entering Lee Wilkinson and David John Elliot in October.

For more Information please ring 07746 307165.

# New Befriending Group at PCP

## PCP launches a new befriending group in County Durham

Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), a leading North East charity, is launching a new peer support group as part of their return to focusing on face-to-face befriending services for those living in County Durham. Created by funding from the Great Aycliffe and Middlesbrough Area Action Partnership (GAMP), and sustained by County Durham NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) funding, PCP is proud to deliver a service that is transforming to suit community needs. Carol Gaskarth, Chief Executive of PCP, said: "During the pandemic PCP launched a new befriending service 'Every Call Counts' aiming to connect with isolated people in our communities.

"As we move out of lockdown we're pleased to be able to provide needed face-to-face support through appointments and a new befriending group.

"Befrienders provide companionship, reassurance and a listening ear, they can help you to form positive relationships and long-term friendships, which are so important as we take our first steps into returning to pre-pandemic times."

The new friendly and informal befriending group will give people the opportunity to connect with each other in an informal environment, with the next weekly session taking place on Tuesday 21st September from 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

The sessions will take place at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe, refreshments will be available during the session, so you can relax and unwind, whilst having a conversation and meeting new people.

If you are over 18 and live in County Durham, call 01325 329934 or email [befriending@pcp.uk.net](mailto:befriending@pcp.uk.net) to book a place. Visit PCP's social media channels. PCP's Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/PCPandCentre](https://www.facebook.com/PCPandCentre) PCP's Twitter and Instagram @PioneeringCare

If you would like to find out more about PCP generally, or to support our work, please contact: Jenny Lee, Senior Marketing & Media Officer [jenny.lee@pcp.uk.net](mailto:jenny.lee@pcp.uk.net)



## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 13th October 2021 - 7.15pm  
**Environment & Recreation**

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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R.A. Taylor GDC No: 154105 - A. Edmundson GDC No: 129799

# Aycliffe Angels Blue Plaque

Dear Sir,

A blue plaque honouring the Aycliffe Angels will be unveiled on Saturday 23rd October at ROF59, the site of the former Second World War munition factory in Newton Aycliffe.

We would like to invite people from the local community, many of whom will have connections with the Aycliffe Angels.

Invitations have also been sent to all County Councillors for the Great Aycliffe area as well as all Town Councillors and Mr Howell, MP.

By way of a bit of background information, the reason for the female blue plaque nominations was Lyn Gibson, secretary of the Women's Banner Group (WBG), discovered there were no blue plaques in County Durham dedicated to women. Lyn subsequently organised a hustings event for the WBG to change that at the Durham Miners' Hall in March 2019. WBG invited members of the public to submit nominations.

Being from a military family myself, I decided to nominate the Aycliffe Angels. All nominations were voted on and the winning three plaques submitted by WBG to DCC were the Aycliffe Angels, Kate Maxey (one of the most decorated nurses in WW1) and Bella Lawson (a passionate pioneer and promoter of Child Welfare Clinics from 1919 until her death in 1968).

There will be three blue plaque events taking place on the same day in County Durham with the Aycliffe Angels event being the first of the day.

The event at ROF59 is scheduled for 10.00am on Saturday 23rd October with a couple of short speeches and an unveiling of the plaque. The plaque will be placed on the outside of the building and ROF59 have agreed to use that space and the area of the Blitz Restaurant for this event. We hope by using that combined space we can ensure as many people who want to attend can attend and in a safe way. We are very grateful to the Finley family for their help with this event.

Tim Dredge

**COMMUNITY SPIRIT**  
NEWTON AYCLIFFE

**Spooky Family Disco**  
**at The Big Club**

**Friday 22nd October**  
**5.30-7.30pm**

**£1 entry per family**

Fancy Dress - Glitter Bar  
Hot Dogs - Sweets - Cakes

**FOLLOWED BY**



**Halloween Disco**  
**at The Big Club**

**Friday 22nd October**  
**8.30-10.30pm**

**£1 entry per person**

All profits go towards next disco and a chosen local charity

Glitter Bar - Candy Queen  
Hot Dogs - Sweets - Cakes

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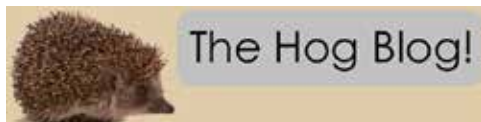
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The winter months are almost upon us, the nights are getting darker as the clocks go back an hour in a few weeks time. I would like readers of this article to spare a thought for our wildlife, especially when it's cold and wet, surprisingly there are still very small hedgehogs out there, please be vigilant especially when you let your dogs out in your gardens at night, check for hoggies first before letting your dogs out. Hedgehogs need to build up fat reserves for hibernation. Dogs have been just one of their many enemies, we have a responsibility to all our wildlife.



Prickly Haven Rescue is now over-wintering small or poorly hedgehogs, hibernation is out of the question for my rescue hoggies. It's been a very difficult year for every rescuer, we have seen them come in with multi parasite burden, predator attacks and also orphaned babies. My smallest at the moment is Hermione, 235g, out alone (see photo).

If anyone needs any help or advice, I run the rescue from home and my email address is pricklyhaven@yahoo.com - otherwise ring The British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801 office hours.

## Junction 7

After a very long time Junction 7 are finally opening with our booked in sessions at The ARK, Silverdale Place, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7DZ

Our newly named Butternut Squash Community Cafe will be open Monday and Thursdays 10am - 4pm.

Monday evening: Dyslexia course 5pm

Tuesday: to be announced

Wednesday: 1-3pm drop in, we are not just a Mothers group . . . crafts, cookery and more for women.

Thursday: 6-7pm, Under 11s Youth Group

Friday: 10am sing and sign for toddlers. We will also be starting 'The Little Ducklings Toddler Group'.

Saturday evenings: Will be our Soul Cafe, details to be announced soon.

Dates soon to be announced for 3D printing, men's group, guitar lessons, DJ and music production course.

Our community garden continues to develop. If you would like to get involved please contact us.

Junction 7 will be at Neville Community Centre each Wednesday, 11am until 1pm with our Community Cafe and surplus food. Junction 7 are organising several events to be held this and next year including craft fairs, food fairs, table top sales, music nights . . . watch this space.

Contact [junc7tion@gmail.com](mailto:junc7tion@gmail.com)  
07783 539167 or 07851 723647  
Or find us on Facebook.

# Heighington AFC Update

## U7s RFYL Green

### Heighington 8 v Belmont United 1

Another fantastic 2nd half performance saw the U7s score 6 with 0 reply. After a slow start and plenty of missed chances to score the lads went in at half time leading 2-1 thanks to goals from top scorer Isaac Turnbull.

2nd half saw the lads open it up and start taking their chance and it was great to see Nate, Jackson and Oskar get on the scoresheet and a further three from Parents MOM Isaac Turnbull.

Goals: Issac x 5, Oscar x 1, Jackson x 1, Nate x 1.

Managers MOM: Nate Anderson for his well taken first goal of the season.

Parents MOM: Clear winner today for this one, 5 goals to add to his tally taking his goals to 18 in 4 games. Isaac Turnbull.

## Heighington U10s

### Spennymoor Shields U10s 3 v

### Heighington U10s 2

The Heighington boys put in a performance they can be proud of against a very good Spennymoor side today. The first half was a game of chess as both sides battled hard to find the breakthrough. With neither side dominant and the score level at 1-1 at half time, the game was very tight. As the Match opened up Spennymoor were awarded a controversial penalty which made it 2-1 with 15mins to go. Further heartbreak followed when the lads found themselves 3-1 down with 10 minutes left. Will Farrow found a way back for the boys with another trademark long range strike and a frantic push in the last few minutes wasn't enough to save the boys from their first defeat this season as the time ran out.

A great team effort by everyone in a game which could have gone the other way on another day.

MOTM: Tyler Keyes, he gave everything today, showed great strength, determination and never give up. Was always first to the second ball.

Big thank you to the team at SASH HARDWARE for our sponsorship.

## Heighington U12s RFYL

### Ryton & Crawbrook Juniors U12s v

### Heighington AFC U12s

The Mighty Red and Blacks played some fantastic football today. The result wasn't what the performance deserved. Final result was 5-4 to Ryton. We have debuts from Tom and Handley, who slotted into the team excellently. Despite not having an official referee for the match the lads produced plenty of chances to win it comfortably. Just wasn't meant to be. Goals scored: Jack x3 (unlucky not to be more).

Cole x1 (quality free kick into the top corner). MOM: Went to Jack. Not just for his hat trick but also his work rate. Brilliant performance from everyone.

## Heighington U12s Whites TJFA

### Heighington Whites 8 v Bishop

### Auckland St Mary's Aces 3

The Whites continued their fantastic home form coming from 1-0 down to lead 2-1 at half time, thanks to Cameron Mairs getting his 1st ever goal after great work by Daniel Bennett-Scott. A Cruz Denton screamer pulling the Whites back into the game and giving us a half time lead after a fantastic strike. Second half the mighty Whites pushed and soon found ourselves 4-1 up after Chris Abrams hit one followed by

Daniel Bennett-Scott adding a quick fourth goal. Chris Abrams added his second of the match shortly afterwards putting us in a comfortable 5-1 lead with 15 minutes left to play. Soon Evie Pearson added our 6th goal with a fine finish. The Aces pushed and pulled one back with a fine finish from Alex only for Daniel to quickly restore our 5 goal lead and make it 7-2. With 5 minutes left the Whites continued to press and Daniel completed his 1st hat trick of the season and so did Alex for the Aces, making it 8-3 final score. Great team effort, fantastic all round display and 3 out of 3 in the league.

Coaches MOM: Charlie Wilkinson for his fantastic defending and forward passing. Great job keep it up.

Parents MOM: Chris Abrams for his great finishes and tireless work.

Everyone played great - fantastic result and a huge thank you to the Hammer & Pincers for their sponsorship this season.

## Situations VACANT

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## Medical Administrator

For Peaseway Medical Centre Newton Aycliffe

Full time position – will consider part time staff to job share - (previous applicants need not apply).

We are currently seeking a motivated, focused and experienced medical administrator to join our successful team.

Good communication, I.T and literacy skills are essential.

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[www.peaseway.com](http://www.peaseway.com)

## Free Half Term Holiday Activity at Greenfield Arts

Greenfield Arts are excited to be part of The Big Draw, a festival that promotes visual expression and celebrates creativity.

This year we are working alongside young people exploring the environment and finding ways to be kind to our planet.

As part of the project we are offering free half-term workshops at both Newton Aycliffe and Shildon. Join Dawn Belshaw and have fun at these hands-on sessions and make something amazing to take home.

Our October half-term holiday activity will run on Thursday 28 October at Greenfield Arts and Friday 29 October at Shildon Civic Hall. Both sessions will run from 10:30 – 12:00 and are suitable for young people age 7+. You can reserve your place via our website using our simple online form or contact our friendly team on 01325 379048 for further information or email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk). The sessions form part of our autumn programme with exhibitions, creative events, projects, courses and activities, check out the website at [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk) to find our full range of events available over the season.

Greenfield Arts are committed to offering high quality arts activity that helps stimulate creativity, questioning and enquiry.



## Cake on the Agenda

It's not every staff meeting at Sugar Hill that starts with cake, but when cake was on the agenda for a whole school staff meeting last week it certainly went down a treat!

The Macmillan Coffee Morning is usually an annual event in our school calendar and parents and carers are invited to attend. Since the pandemic this has not been possible.

For many staff at Sugar Hill the Macmillan charity is close to their hearts. It was certainly a welcome addition to the meeting agenda to start with 'cake and a chat' whilst raising funds for the charity.

Special thanks go to Mrs McCormick for organising cake and to Miss Brister for arranging staff treats (candle and poem). With Miss Brister also holding a Coffee Morning at home £160.00 was sent to the charity.

Next year we are hoping our annual coffee morning returns.

At Sugar Hill we are working towards the Emotional Well-being Award and it has to be said that this start to a two hour staff meeting was very well received and appreciated, putting staff well-being on the agenda too! Staff just couldn't say 'no' to such yummy cake and raising funds for such a worthwhile cause at the same time.

Miss Brister posted a special thank you to staff for all their support in boosting the total money raised from the two events as it is a charity that means so much to her and her family.



## Music at The Aviator Bar

We have been enjoying hosting live music at The Aviator with an increasing frequency and it is our intention to host weekly events. Live music helps to make an evening special and it is our wish to provide the highest quality of music at the bar to increase your enjoyment of evenings at the bar.

There has been lots of research as to why live music creates a different response to the individual compared to recorded music. To cut a long story short, the sound is getting to you without the barriers of all sorts of technological recording, fewer cables, fewer microphones, fewer phones and direct speakers with no headphones or tiny speakers. It's fresh, it's fun and it's free to enjoy with your friends whilst having a relaxing drink in a great atmosphere.

Our events list is always being worked upon. We are also excited to say that we have already secured the first artists for our exclusive and ticketed New Year's Eve party. Details soon to be revealed. Christmas party time will soon be beginning too. So, if you're needing to arrange a work Christmas party or simply a party amongst friends, we can help. Book early to avoid disappointment, as the diary is starting to get full. We will be extending our opening hours in the lead up to Christmas to cater for as many parties as possible. In the meantime, here's the programme to date for the next couple of months. More acts will be added in the next few days once events are confirmed.

Saturday 9th October - Beth Miller, 7.30pm

Saturday 16th October - TBC, 7.30pm

Saturday 23rd October - Steve Bradley, time TBC

Saturday 30th October - TBC, 7.30pm

Saturday 6th November - Triple B, 7pm

Friday 26th November - Tamla All Stars, 7.30pm (formerly Detroit 4)

Saturday 27th November - Steve Bradley, Time TBC

The Aviator Gin Bar is to be found at: Unit 18, Northfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 6EJ

See you soon!

## Greenfield Students Explore Science Creatively

A group of students at Greenfield Community College are learning new skills and being inspired to learn the concepts of science in creative ways.

The group of students are working alongside professional artist Dawn Belshaw to collaborate and share their thoughts on important issues that affect the environment.

The group are finding creative ways to discuss topics such as pollution and the impact upon our planet, creating artwork that reflects their feelings, links to science and provokes practical solutions.

The 'Creative Collaborators' are working together to learn more about science, themselves, and the world around them. The artwork produced by the group is already taking shape and will be shared with the school through an installation in the foyer area.

The project is led by Greenfield Arts and contributes to a learning experience that is bespoke and considers each and every young person involved and offers the opportunity to learn and inspire the whole school. Thank you for support from County Durham Community Foundation Durham County Council Arts.

Greenfield Community College are committed to developing skills that raise aspirations and support learning. The school promotes an inclusive curriculum encouraging students to work together to realise an outstanding learning experience. If you would like further information visit [www.greenfieldschool.net](http://www.greenfieldschool.net) or contact the school by emailing [contact@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:contact@greenfieldschool.net) or by calling 01325 300378.



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# RUNNING CLUB NEWS

Picking up where we left off last week, the finalised results of the Coxhoe Trail Run, held on 26th September 2021, have now been released. First home for the Club, and claiming maximum points in the Club Championship, was Andy Talbot, in a time of 42:09, which was also good enough to place Andy second in his Age Category (M60). Craig Robinson was next across the line in 53:55, with Trish Kay not too far behind in 55:33. David Stothard finished the undulating trail run in just over the hour (1:00:04), with Eve Doe (1:07:25) and Ian Stothard (1:20:33) completing the Aycliffe contingent.

David and Ian Stothard were also in action on Wednesday, 29th September 2021, taking on the final race in the Darlington Trail Summer Series, the West Park 5K. David completed the race in 27:58, whilst Ian finished in 36:58. The pair were separated by Melanie Rowland, who crossed the line in 28:46.

Twenty-Two Members participated in a parkrun on Saturday, 2nd October 2021, with the Club represented at the Albert, Blackhill, Darlington South Park, Ferry Meadows, Hackworth, Lytham Hall and Sedgefield events. At Hackworth parkrun, Jayne Rudd recorded a new Personal Best for that course, registering a time of 33:45, whilst over at Sedgefield parkrun, Donna Jarps continued her recent improvement, posting a new PB for the event of 28:26.

The Kielder 10K also took place on Saturday morning in somewhat wet and soggy conditions. Kathleen Tonge was first across the line for the Club, finishing in 1:07:01, just pipping husband Richard Tonge, who finished in 1:07:20.

Sunday saw several Members taking on the classic marathon distance. Down in the capital, John Surtees was the first Aycliffe runner to cross the finish line at the London Marathon, completing the 26.2 mile distance in 2:54:59, setting a new Club Record in the M35-39 Age Category.

Stephen Sutheran was next home in a very impressive 3:39:09. Rob Nicholson ran his 'last' marathon (though we take Rob's suggestion that this was his last marathon with a pinch of salt!), finishing in an extremely creditable 4:48:13, establishing a new Club Record for the distance in the M65 Age Category.

Up in Scotland, Richard Campbell was also taking on a marathon, this time along the shoreline of Loch Ness. Richard had a fantastic run, completing the Baxter's Loch Ness Marathon in 3:07:44. Whilst Richard was taking on the marathon, wife Donna Campbell kept herself entertained participating in the River Ness 5K Fun Run (and keeping an eye out for Nessie!).

Kielder also hosted a marathon on Sunday, however it was the Half Marathon option that piqued Members interest, with several Members participating in the race. Richard Holland crossed the line in 1:57:14, closely followed by Simon Turner in 1:57:23. Susan Rees completed the run in 2:02:05, with Team Heywood (Mandy and John) running together, and both finishing in 2:26:04.

Sunday afternoon saw the first NYSD (North Yorkshire South Durham) cross country (XC) fixture of the 2021/22 season, with the race taking place at the Acorn Centre in Acklam. The course was mostly firm, taking in fields and woodland trails, though there were a couple of muddier sections to keep it interesting. First home for the Club in the Ladies Race, which took place over 3.5 miles, was Michelle Zamir in a time of 28:08. Michelle was followed by Melanie Rowland in 31:36, Jayne Rudd in 33:18, Natalie Sommerville in 35:13, and Sandrine Hewitt in 35:34.

The Men's Race took place over 6.2 miles, and first to cross the finish line for the Club was Dez Fielden in 40:07, just pipping Paul Dalton, who completed his run in 40:15. Andy Talbot finished in 43:09 (second in the M60 Age Category), and he was followed home for the Club by Shaun Dodd in 50:26. David Blewitt completed his run in 51:31, and he was pushed all the way by Ryan Pearson (51:50), Peter Jarps (54:19), David Stothard (59:01), David Thompson (1:05:33) and Ian Stothard (1:20:40).

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)



## Parliament Talk

Tel: 01325 790580 - Email: [paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk)

Whilst we are in party conference season and Westminster is in recess, I have been able to get out and about in the constituency. Tuesday started with a visit to Roman for a catch up on their plans, and some nice coffee and cake, thanks Kay. I then went to the Aycliffe Secure Centre where I was able to see the incredible achievements of staff who are working with some young people from extraordinarily challenging backgrounds, I was massively impressed by their commitment and delivery. After holding a surgery at Middleton St George, I then went to County Hall at Durham to join a briefing on Levelling Up investments in the Sedgefield Constituency by Durham County Council. The primary points were around Aycliffe Town Centre and the Ferryhill Station railway project.

Last Wednesday I had discussions with a number of groups, including Durham University, about a possible Community First Graduate scheme before a surgery at Middridge. There we had a representation about speeding traffic in Middridge, I will push that concern to the police and the Police and Crime Victim's Commissioner. After surgery was complete, it was on to the Ferryhill local history society. They had a talk about the Green Howards and next time it will be Chris Lloyd from the Northern Echo talking about Darlington.

Thursday started with a walkabout with the Police and Crime Commissioner and local councillors in Ferryhill looking particularly at the ASB shopkeepers were suffering and she was strongly encouraged to apply more resource and improve the 101-phone system. I then went to see the outstanding Sedgefield Community College and hear their plans to make it even better. After that I headed to Newcastle to visit Inex which is one of the companies associated to the eco system of space orientated businesses in the north east. It was interesting to understand their connections with businesses in Aycliffe and Sedgefield and their impressive growth plans. It was then back to Sedgefield to join the forum of NETPark ambassadors. Whilst NETPark has been in place for around 25 years it needs to have its profile promoted to further encourage more private sector inward investment to support Durham County Council's recently announced plans and this is the role I and the other ambassadors can deliver.

On Friday, I had the pleasure of a visit to 3M to understand how their business coped through Covid and the significant changes that have arisen in their marketplace. It was then back to NETPark for another discussion on the Space sector. At the weekend I headed off to the Conservative party conference. My initial engagements, apart from meeting many colleagues and friends, have been to join a fringe event on "Trusting the People," which was about getting meaningful power to local communities and participating on a panel discussing the importance of Northern Powerhouse Rail and HS2 eastern leg. This gave me the opportunity to further make the case for Ferryhill Station and the Leamside line.

This was written on Monday and I will tell you more in next week's column about the rest of the conference.

I have had the invite to go for a flu jab, like I am sure many of you have, and I would encourage those of you invited to go, to get it and if you've not yet had your Covid jabs, please sort that too.

Paul Howell MP

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

## HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature **good** news and interesting items on achievements & community service

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



**Paul Howell**  
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

[paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk)  
Telephone: 020 7219 6385  
Aycliffe Office: 01325 790580

# A Recital Season of Variety at Darlington Piano Society

After the 25th anniversary season of Darlington Piano Society was completely lost because of Coronavirus restrictions, the forthcoming season brings an array of youthful, award winning pianists and programmes that

includes works rarely, if ever, performed for the Society previously, alongside more usual fare. The season begins on 17th October with the return of the Leeds International Piano Competition winner in 2015, Anna Tsybuleva. Her visits to the UK are few and far between and she brings a programme of works by CPE Bach, Beethoven and Brahms to open the season in great style.

The 14th November recital features Elisabeth Brauss, a current BBC New Generation Artist, featuring regularly in broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and on the cusp of a major international career. Her recital of works by Scarlatti, Beethoven, Ravel, Prokofiev, Brahms and Schumann will certainly illustrate this.

The third recital, on 12th December, is given by French pianist Patrick Hemerlé, musician in residence at Clare Hall, Cambridge, in a programme including rarely heard works by composers such as Vienne, Granados, Albeniz and Villa Lobos.

The New Year opens with a visit to Darlington by Lauren Zhang on 16th January 2022. Chinese-American Lauren was the winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition in 2018. She plays a challenging and substantial programme of Bach, Beethoven, Liebermann and Liszt. On February 20th, Dinara Klinton makes her second appearance for the Society. She brings a totally Russian programme which includes several works by lesser-known composers, alongside works by Prokofiev, Rachmaninov and Stravinsky. The season ends on March 20th with the highly anticipated appearance of Eric Lu, winner of the 2018 Leeds International

Piano Competition. His programme includes Beethoven's 'Moonlight' sonata, works by Schumann and J S Bach and ends with Chopin's 3rd sonata.

Full details of the Society's season and the ticket booking process can be found at [www.dpiano.co.uk](http://www.dpiano.co.uk)

The recitals take place in Central Hall, The Dolphin Centre, Darlington on the Sunday afternoons listed, all beginning at 3.00pm.

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Entry £5 per adult, £1 per child.  
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8th October 2021

## Licensing

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Raymond Gardner  
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 Durham DL5 4XE is  
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## Licensing

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 DL5 6DE is applying  
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## Sudoku

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



# No Consideration for Driver Training

Dear Sir,  
From 1st January 1997 to tow a large trailer a driver had to sit a test set by the DVSA, these changes created the need for companies like mine to supply the training for drivers wishing to hold this licence. On the 10th September 2021 the DVSA announced that they will no longer be conducting B+E trailer tests to make room for more HGV tests and are expecting for the law to change back to as it was pre-1997. This announcement has had a staggering effect on me and many hundreds of other small businesses. From that one email my business income has stopped. I have been a driving instructor for close to 30 years and worked tirelessly for the last 15 to grow this part of my business, on target to sit around 400 B+E driving tests in the 12 months following Covid shutdown. Certainly, putting us amongst the largest of B+E trainers in the North East. We are a family run business with my partner working in the office and myself with other family members and staff conducting the training. I have invested in vehicles and trailers, a rented hard standing plot to conduct our reversing exercise, taken a bounce back loan, upgraded our computer system etc. My vehicles and the bounce back loan still have to be paid for, I have wages to pay but no income because of this heartless, reckless decision to stop B+E tests. Do I sell my vehicles at a loss, make my staff and family redundant? Should I hold on and wait for the government to advise me on what proposals they have for road safety? We, as an industry have been forgotten, no help or advice offered, simply dismissed by an email on that Friday night.

This decision has been made as a knee jerk reaction to the lack of HGV drivers but no thought has been given to the people working in this industry, or to road safety. If this law change is put in place any driver will be allowed to hitch a large trailer, caravan to a car or pickup truck and drive without any experience or training, yet the DVSA say it will have no effect on road safety. If this is true then how have many thousands of drivers failed to reach the test standard set by the DVSA even after training? Are we, as a country, really prepared to step back nearly 25 years in road safety and endanger our public and road users as a reaction to the lack of HGV drivers? Over the last few days, I have seen and listened to Grant Shapps on TV, in my expert opinion he has no idea on what he is doing or saying. He said it takes about three weeks to become an HGV driver, it takes longer than that to book the medical, then around 10 weeks for the DVLA to send a provisional licence, followed by driver training, a driver CPC and then test - 3 weeks! He also stated that 50,000 HGV driving tests made available are getting snapped up. This is simply not true, the examiners are sitting in the test centres with no work and thousands of tests available. In my opinion the government are going completely the wrong way about things, they are destroying businesses like mine and endangering the public by simply not looking at the real cause of this problem. The government decisions are destroying jobs, endangering road safety and are so inefficient to the point that MPs are prepared to lie on national TV. Jack Braley  
Jack's Driving School

## Obituary

### Mark Robert Baxter

Of Newton Aycliffe, suddenly at home on 21st September, aged 59 years. A much loved Partner, Dad, Brother and Grandad. Family and friends please meet for Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Monday 11th October for 9.30am.

### Anne Hardy

Aged 77, passed away in her sleep on 27th September. Loving Wife of Norman and Mother of Janet and Carol. At peace now, will be missed by family and friends worldwide. Funeral to take place at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Friday 15th October at 3.30pm. Followed afterwards at The Phoenix Club, Newton Aycliffe.

# Super Day Out for Acorn Community

ACORN Community Association had a super day out at Beamish on Saturday 18th September. It has been a couple of years since our last visit and it is amazing how the popular museum is developing new exhibits, from coach and horses rides to a new 1950s display which is currently being built. Always a brilliant day out, we found it virtually impossible to take everything in on a day visit, highlights included, fairground, pit village complete with fish and chip shop, community hall featuring, would you believe, a skiffle band, the farm with pig and chickens and, one of my favourites, the farmhouse where volunteers were busy making a clipping mat.

Of course no visit to Beamish is complete without a ride on a tram and this was no exception, sadly not everyone is mobile but staff went out of their way to assist and be as helpful as possible.

ACORN Community Association are already organising trips to York on Sunday 17th Oct., £8 per person and Leeds for Saturday 11th Dec., £8. We would like to thank friends old and new for joining us and The National Lottery for funding us.

Coach trips through ACORN are available to Newton Aycliffe area residents but first chance of seats go to attendees of our meetings held on the second Thursday of every month from 6pm in the upstairs lounge of the Phoenix Club.

Events and trips are held throughout the year with our next event being a Halloween Party to be held at Moore Lane Sports Club on Saturday 30th October from 5.30pm, priced at £3 per ticket which includes a



raffle ticket. This Spooktacular Halloween event is sponsored by GAMP through a neighbourhood budget supported by Cllr Eddy Adam, Cllr Jim Atkinson, Cllr Neville Jones and Cllr Ken Robson. In attendance will be our Town Mayor, Sandra Haigh, who will be thrilled to meet parents and children alike. Tickets can be purchased from the Town Council offices, the Sports Club, Ken Robson tel 07443 046804, limited numbers, so get yours quickly. Ken Robson Chair Acorn Community Association 01325 321471 or 07443 046804.

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## In Memoriam

### Alan Herbert

In loving memory of Alan Herbert. Sadly passed away 14th October 2019. Missed by family and friends. Always in our thoughts.

## Thank You

### Muffin

Julie and Alan would like to thank all our, and Muffin's friends, for all the kindness shown to us. We so appreciate all the love everyone had for little Muffin. Love from Julie & Alan xx

### John Shields

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully in hospital on 22nd September, aged 80 years after a short illness. Dearly beloved Husband of the late Miriam; a dearly loved Dad to Stuart and a much loved Father-in-Law to Roseanne; a treasured and devoted Grandad to Emma, also a dear Brother and Uncle. Family and friends please meet for Service at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Monday 18th October at 10.45 am, followed by private cremation.

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# Newton Aycliffe Football Club Junior Section

NAFC Junior section had another packed weekend of games, reports below. Our **U9's Blacks** also had a great day on Saturday at Moore Lane as they were mascots for the senior team, as they beat Redcar 3-1. This was all part of the match day experience including taking penalties on the pitch at half time. A great day was had and a big thanks to all at NAFC.

**U9's Blacks** had a tough day away at Hartlepool Youth Blues in the Challenge Cup. The score line flattered the home team, and the lads put in a real gutsy performance against a team four divisions higher. The coaches were extremely proud of the effort and attitude shown. MOTM Finley Page

**U10's Whites** fielded the bare 7 players due to illness against a very strong Brandon side. The boys stepped up and played absolutely fantastic, never giving up. They passed well, talked, and played out of their skin. Goals coming from Jack 3, Jonah 2. MOTM going to Max H for a commanding strong performance as centre back. Outstanding team performance today.

**U10's Blacks** took on the Velocity Eagles and produced a really strong performance from all of the boys! Some great team work, dominating the match. They really played for each other today, kept their heads up and the passing was superb! Goals from Rhys 3, Harry 2.

MOTM Rhys and Charlie. Rhys was on fire

today, great movement on the ball and got himself a hat trick! Charlie for his amazing saves, confidence and great decision making. Well done boys.

**U10's Juniors** travelled to top division Thornaby Town in the League Cup. Thornaby came at us from the off but couldn't get past our defence & keeper. On the break Aycliffe took the lead through Marley, closely followed by Dom adding a second. Right on half time Thornaby scored a penalty. A tight second half with chances for both teams, Thornaby drew level. In the last 5 minutes Dom got another, and then Jonah adding one at the end. On to the next round. MOTM went to the whole team for an amazing team performance throughout, each player working for each other as a team.

**U12's** hosted Coulby Newham Juniors and started the better side, creating chances for Keaton, Thomas and Callum. Against the run of play Coulby scored a goal. Aycliffe kept their heads up and tried to get back into it but first half ended 1-0 to them. Second

was scrappy with both sides not really creating any clear chances. We battled well and should have got more out of the game, but the game ended 1-0 to Colby, meaning we lost our first league match of the season. MOTM: Oscar.

**U13's Whites** played at home to division higher 21st All-stars Jets. A really close game saw the All-stars go in at half time 1-0 up. Evenly matched throughout the Jets took a 2-0 lead. Ethan scored to bring us back to 2-1 and create an exciting finish but Jets scored on the stroke of full time to make it 3-1. MOTM was Oliver, fantastic work rate back and forth in midfield.

**U14's** hosted Hartlepool Pools Youth in an entertaining game. A sending off and sin bin for the visitors who took a 0-2 lead against the run of play, Aycliffe fought back superbly from 0-2 down to earn a point. Aycliffe played really well, the only team trying to play football and were unlucky not to take all 3 points. Goals from Niall and Mason, MOTM was Jack C.

**U16's** travelled to Wingate to face Shotton on Saturday with only 12 available, Aycliffe made a strong start, moving the ball well through midfield, although the final ball wasn't there. Shotton grabbed two quick goals to establish a lead, before a dangerous ball into the box from Anthony was deflected home to halve the deficit at half time. The second half was a scrappy, niggly match, which meant we lost concentration, Shotton running out 7-1 winners in the end. Aycliffe goal from Lewis S, his first for the club. MOM: Charlie/Ted.



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