

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



Students Train in First Aid & CPR

See page 2 for full story

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Support the Shine Choir



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This wonderful choir is once again building up its numbers and welcomes all children from five years upwards. We aim to build confidence in performing, develop a love of different genres of music, improve health and well-being and, above all, it's great fun. Shine Choir is free to join, snacks are provided - so please support us if you are able, so we can continue to SHINE in our community.

Supporting Families

The Supporting Families team would like to say a huge thank you to Rotary Newton Aycliffe for their kind donation which enabled us to get a stock of baby wipes to help needy families and also a thank you to Melissa, Aldi manager, for ordering them for us. Sheena, Yvonne, Liz, Rachel & Bob, Supporting Families team.



Students Train in First Aid & CPR

On Woodham Academy's second Specialist Day, students took part in a range of different activities and studies that cover Citizenship, RSE and Careers. As part of this, the Year 10 students had a session that covered first aid and CPR.

During the session, students learned about how to keep themselves safe in an Emergency. Groups discussed the risks that are in the local area and what to do if they come across someone that needs help. As well as learning the different steps to follow in the situations, the process of calling an ambulance and identifying the locations of Defibrillators in the local area, students also took part in practical scenarios.

During the practical elements, students were role playing scenarios of finding a casualty. They assessed the surrounding area to ensure it was safe before checking for a response of the casualty. The first scenario was an unconscious, breathing casualty. Students were taught how to put someone into the recovery position to keep them safe whilst waiting for an ambulance. After being shown the process, students practiced on each other until they were confident with the process.

During the second part of the practical, the students used resuscitation dolls from the British Heart Foundation. This is where students focused on CPR. All students were taught how to do CPR, why it is important and what a defibrillator looks like and how to use it. During the session, the students all demonstrated CPR along to 'Stayin' Alive' by the Bee Gees so they mastered the perfect rhythm.

To round off the session, the students spoke about different scenarios and what their actions would be. All the students in the day left feeling more confident to act if they found themselves in an emergency. Well done to all Year 10 students that were involved throughout the day!

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Saturday 13th Nov. - 'Tommy & The Oddballs'

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www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

Concert Cancelled

Dear Sir,
 Because of the uncertainties created by the ongoing Covid crisis, and the prevalence of the infection in schools, it is necessary to postpone the Rotary Christmas Concert, for another year, on health and safety grounds. Many schools still have measures in place to protect the students and cannot commit to the concert at this moment. We definitely intend to renew the Concert next year when we expect/hope we will be back to 'normal' and look forward to your participation. Rotary Newton Aycliffe

Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe

Live Artists

SHERATON BAR

Friday 29th Oct: 'Dru Chapman'

Sunday 31st Oct: 'Jenna Highfield'

Friday 5th Nov: 'John Anthony'

Sunday 7th Nov: 'Sparky'

CONCERT HALL

Friday 29th Oct: 'Fiona Scott Experience'

Saturday 30th Oct: 'Abba Girls' £5 c/c

Saturday 6th Nov: 'Whole Hog' £3 c/c

UPSTAIRS

Saturday 30th Oct: 'Michelle B'

Saturday 6th Nov: 'Ian Joseph'

Forthcoming Attractions

Saturday 13th Nov: 'Clair Marshall' £5 c/c

Saturday 27th Nov: 'Kick' £5 c/c

Saturday 4th Dec: '3 Steps 2 Venga' £5 c/c

Funeral Director Takes on Epic Ironman Challenge

Local Funeral Director Tracey Rimmer (nee Warrior) was cheered across the finishing line by her husband and supporters after completing the Ironman Austria challenge to raise funds for The Alice House Hospice. Tracey, who works at John Meynell Funeral Directors in Darlington and Newton Aycliffe, both part of Dignity Funerals, swapped her top hat for running shoes to take on the Ironman challenge in Austria.

On completing the challenge Tracey, who took part in the challenge with her husband, said: "I thought I would be really emotional crossing the line, but I was smiling from ear to ear. I was buzzing the whole way down the final stretch, the noise from the crowd was incredible."

The Austrian Ironman course is a true demonstration of sporting prowess, with participants first completing a 3.8 km lake swim, followed by a 180.2 km bike ride and finally a 42.2 km run, all to be completed in under 17 hours!

Tracey trained morning and night 6 days a week, starting back in December 2019, right up until the competition in September. Tracey managed to smash the competition target of 17 hours, going through the finish line at 15hrs 19mins.

The challenge marked the culmination of Tracey's fundraising efforts for The Alice House Hospice, the only adult hospice in the Hartlepool and East Durham areas. Alice House Hospice works to ensure that people affected by a life limiting illness or death of a loved one receive the care, comfort and support they need. Tracey said: "I've seen the work that the Alice House Hospice do first-hand, and it's incredible, I just wanted to give something back to them when they give so much to others."

Janice Forbes, Community Fundraiser at The Alice House Hospice, added: "Well done to Tracey on such an amazing achievement – what a true Warrior! I hope that supporting local patients and families



was a good motivator throughout training and the incredible challenge itself. Massive thanks from everyone at Alice House and thanks also to all of Tracey's sponsors and everyone at John Meynell Funeral Service for their wonderful and ongoing support." So far Tracey has raised over £900! A huge thank you to those that have already donated, if you want to support Tracey her just fundraising page is still open - <https://www.justgiving.com/Tracey-Warrior2>

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Aldi Parking

Dear Sir,
Like a recent reader, I was shocked to receive a £70 parking charge for being one minute over at Aldi, Aycliffe. I know Parking Eye has nothing to do with Aldi, but I'm sure we all call it Aldi's car park. I rang Aldi customer services 0800 042 0800 (not at Aycliffe) and immediately the guy I spoke to cancelled the charges. He said to let others know to ring, it's not Aldi charging. B Williams

Play Whist?

Dear Sir,
I would like to organise a weekly game of Whist with other like minded persons. Eg: Book a table in the library for one day a week from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Anyone interested (male or female, any age) please contact me at: william507@btinternet.com
Bill Cooksey

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Not Even an Hour New Businesses Open in Aycliffe Town Centre



Dear Sir,
I read with interest, and a little bemusement, at the anonymous correspondent on page 9 of Newton News issue dated 22nd October, re the £70 charge they received in the Aldi car park.

They said, and I quote, "One hour really isn't enough" and that they'd been charged for overstaying by ONE minute.

The time allowed for parking in Aldi is actually 40 minutes and is clearly stated on any of the six large signs in the car park.

The disgruntled shopper, looking at their own statement, actually overstayed by 21 minutes.

Darran Weston
Newton Aycliffe

The town centre is starting to come alive with new ventures opening up for business. Two units were recently taken over with another four in the process of completing contracts with the landlords and solicitors and hope to be open shortly.

The first of the new units is 'Top Nail Spa' based at 50 Beveridge Way and is run by Josh and Tony offering eyebrow wax, nail designs, nail gels, as well as pedicure and manicure services. They are very friendly and have many years experience using quality products with a variety of colours to suit any customer. A Facebook page is available listing more details and information, search Top Nails Spa Newton Aycliffe or ring 07888 819898 to make a booking.

The other recently opened salon is 'After Glowz Studio' ran by Rebecca Ainsley-Weighell offering four luxurious stand up tanning booths with controllable cooling fans and accepts single or block bookings.

They also offer beauty, tanning, nutrition advice and supplements as well as a range of comfy gym clothing. Working alongside Rebecca is Aimee Lou Scanlon, offering a personal nail service. Bookings for either can be made on 07506 528877 or visit the Facebook page.

The town centre management have reported that the ex-Peacocks Unit has been let to Durham Beds & Furniture Store, who are shopfitting. We do not have an opening date, however, it will be very soon - watch Newton News for more details.



Feel Good Film Show

The feel good film show takes place in St. Clare's Church Fellowship hall each Tuesday at 1pm, following Welcome Café which begins at 10am with tea/coffee and toast, followed by lunch at noon.

All this is free and all are most welcome. The film on Tuesday 2nd Nov is the 2016 animated Disney classic 'Pete's Dragon' starring Robert Redford. Long lost 10 year old Pete turns up, claiming to live with a green dragon. A heart warming film for all ages. For further info please contact Ric Hargreaves on 07561 335 445.

Sketch Walks

We returned to Heighington on a sunny morning and sketched around West Green. The last hour we were welcomed into St. Michael's Parish Church and had a welcome cuppa. We were spoilt for choice when it came to subjects to sketch in the church, but did our best and everyone agreed to return at a later date.

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

Craft Market

Please come along to our Junction 7 handmade Craft Market on Saturday 6th November. It will be held at Neville Community Centre from 12noon to 4pm with free entry and over twenty local artisan crafters to support! Refreshments will be available to purchase, with all proceeds going to Junction 7.

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Closed Bridge Update from County Council

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to the letter in last week's Newton News headlined 'Closed Bridge', to provide an update on the footbridge near Brockett Close.

First and foremost we would like to assure the writer of the letter that the safety of all pedestrians is of paramount importance to us. We inspected the footbridge in April and noted that three deck planks at the northern end were loose due to rot in the underlying main timber deck beams.

The damage was minor and an instruction was issued for the rotten wood to be removed and new timber introduced to allow the decking to be secured.

At that time the bridge was temporarily closed while further checks were made.

The bridge was then opened and has been available for use until recently.

We recently closed the bridge again to allow removal of the decking to patch the main beams.

Unfortunately, when the decking was removed it was found that the rot was more extensive than initially thought and the work was stopped to allow more extensive repairs to be programmed.

This work has now been ordered and design and procurement has commenced.

It is anticipated that the work will be complete by the end of this year.

We appreciate that this may not be as soon as the writer of last week's letter would like but complex work like this does take time. The writer can rest assured we will do everything we can to complete the work as soon as we can.

Paul Watson
Strategic Highways Manager
Durham County Council

New Collective Exhibition at Greenfield Arts

Greenfield Arts are thrilled to announce a wonderful new exhibition in The Greenfield Gallery. The exhibition 'Emerging' is a collective exhibition by artists who form part of the Creative Forum, a group which meets weekly at Greenfield Arts.



The exhibition showcases their creativity during lockdown and beyond, as they emerge once more a creative group who relish working alongside each other and learning from fellow creatives.

The exhibition will run from Thursday 4th November to Wednesday 15th December 2021 and runs alongside an exciting programme of activities. There will be a preview event on Wednesday 3rd November from 6.00pm - 8.00pm. Greenfield Arts are delighted to be hosting the exhibition and there will be many items for sale. The varied work includes many beautiful pieces include batik, monoprint, collage and textile art. Mixed Media artist Sharron Bates supports the group and will be holding a relaxed workshop exploring the art of free form drawing. Visit our website to find out more and reserve your place. The workshop will be held on Tuesday 30th November and costs just £20 and is a lovely opportunity to relax and design amazing images. We look forward to seeing you soon. The Greenfield Gallery is open from 10.00am - 9.00pm Monday to Thursday and 10.00am - 4.00pm each Friday. Greenfield Arts are committed to offering high quality arts activity that helps stimulate creativity, questioning and enquiry. Please visit the website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk to see our full autumn programme and to sign up for our monthly newsletter. You can contact our friendly team by emailing info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or by calling 01325 379048.

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Tickets £5.00 available behind the bar or
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Pupils Showing Racism the Red Card

Year 5 pupils at Sugar Hill Primary are currently working on a project to understand prejudice and create a campaign against it.

Within class lessons, across different curriculum subjects, they have been introduced to the idea of stereotypes and how these can lead to prejudice. As part of their learning, they have been looking at different ways/reasons that people could be prejudiced against (e.g. religion, ability, age and race).

They have looked at different cultures and how the differences in appearance can lead to prejudice. As they have been learning about this, they have made links with current news issues around racism and particularly in football. The children have been introduced to the 'Show Racism the Red Card' to understand more about the issues as well as illustrating how a campaign works.

On Friday 22nd October, Year 5 children were allowed to come into school wearing red or football tops and stood up in assembly to explain how supporting the campaign linked to their learning. The project will end with the children presenting their own campaign in school during the project showcase week, at the start of December.

The children and staff are really looking forward to sharing their work with the whole school, their families and governors. School leaders and staff recognise that learning about prejudice is crucial to educating children for life and the children are making links with what they already know and how they can make a difference in ensuring they embrace all differences and recognise that there is no place for racism and prejudice in school, the local community and the wider world.

A life lesson for us all and one never too young to learn.



NAFC Junior Section



U9's Blacks travelled to Hartlepool Youth Whites on Saturday.

Against the wind, Aycliffe battled well first half, playing some nice football, going in level at HT. Second half, Aycliffe lost concentration and shape which saw Hartlepool score twice. Despite late pressure, Regan hitting the bar with a free kick, Aycliffe couldn't find a goal and the hosts got the spoils. MOTM: Fin C.

U10's Blacks v East Durham. A very frustrating game today and unfortunately it just wasn't our day. Both teams battled hard, but we struggled to get momentum going against a physical side. The boys gave their all but just couldn't find the back of the net. POTM - Alfie for his strength and just never giving up!

U10's Whites played against Sunderland West End, and it was very scrappy from start to finish. The Aycliffe boys kept getting frustrated and losing concentration with the oppositions approach to the game, however, when they did play in between the free kicks they played good football. Goals coming from Jack and MOTM going to goalkeeper Jensen for an excellent performance.

U10's Juniors hosted Northallerton on Sunday. A bit of a scrappy game but Aycliffe took hold of it with Sammy scoring 2 & Tyler following up on a missed penalty to add another. Second half we held firm, some good defending and saves from Jensen and we hit them twice on the break with two goals from Dom. MOTM: Sammy.

U11's hosted FC Hartlepool Reds today. A really good end to end game saw the game finish all square with goals from Sam x2, Alex & Evan. MOTM went to Sam.

U13's Blacks played Spennymoor Town away today and started slowly. With the lads heads dropping, a great left footed goal for us opened the scoring. Now playing great football, the ball kept hitting the back of the net, ending 7-1 to Aycliffe. Goals from Danny x3, Alex x2, Keaton x1, Jayden x1. MOTM to Keaton. Great game today, keeping our shape all game, well done.

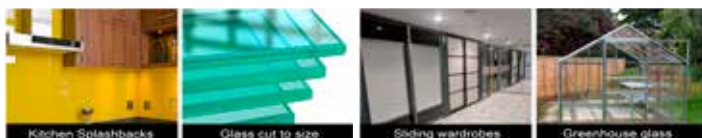
U13's Whites hosted table topping, unbeaten, Mount Pleasant Rangers. We dominated the first half, with MPR on the defence the whole time, but we couldn't seem to finish, then Oliver fired in off the post. MPR equalised before half time with a hit and hope helped by the wind, HT 1-1. Second half was an end to end game with both teams having chances, some quality corners from Ethan just couldn't be converted. FT 1-1. MOTM Trystan.

U14's hosted top of the table Whinney Banks on Sunday morning. It was an entertaining game and we unluckily got beaten 2-3 with goals coming from Brad and Mason! Liam was MOTM. We deserved something from the game, but it wasn't our day.

U16's hosted Felling Magpies in a frustrating game overall for the home team. Despite having a strong squad, Aycliffe didn't get started in the first half, seeing us fall behind to two scrappy goals, giving Felling something to hold onto. Second half was a much-improved performance overall, with Charlie, Matthew, Brandon and Anthony going close, the Felling keeper having a good game to keep us out. NAFC 0 Felling Magpies 2. MOTM: Matthew.

U18's played host to Kader today and ran out 6-1 winners. A dominant performance throughout, with some quality passing football. Goals from Jack x4, Dec S x1 and Lewis H x1. Up to 3rd with 2 games in hand. A week off now then back to it, well played lads, quality performance.

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RUNNING CLUB NEWS

Twenty-eight Members started their weekend with a parkrun last Saturday. The largest turnout from the Club was at Sedgfield parkrun, though we were also represented at Darlington South Park, Hackworth, Hartlepool, Herrington, the Town Moor and York parkruns. The only Member to claim a parkrun Personal Best (PB) this week was Rob Young, who improved on his best time at Herrington parkrun, crossing the line in 20:13.

On Saturday night, Richard Holland and Simon Turner took on the Chopwell Woods Moon Runner event, hosted by Greener Miles Running. This 10K Trail Race took place through the woods at dusk, meaning headtorches were a must. Richard completed the race in 51:28, with Simon not far behind in 55:46.

Sunday saw several Members heading down to Yorkshire in search of fast times at the Leeds Abbey Dash. This 10K race is renowned for its quick, out-and-back course, and Dez Fielden will certainly have been pleased to have made the journey as he finished the race in 36:00, setting a new Club Record for the distance in the M45-49 Age Category.

Next across the line for the Club was Stuart Joyce in 42:36, with Dave Blewitt not far behind in 44:06. Peter Smith had an excellent run, completing the race in 48:30, with Trish Kay finishing in 50:01, and Carley Cooper crossing the line in 54:00.

In the more picturesque surroundings of Hamsterley Forest, Ian Stothard was also out running on Sunday morning, taking on Forestry England's Forest Runner 5K. The route featured a beautiful circuit north of the Euden Beck, taking in some of the highest points in this part of the valley, and offering a tough challenge over the relatively short distance. Ian completed his run in 36:40.

We were well-represented at the latest NYSD XC fixture, which took place at Foxrush Community Woodland in Redcar later on Sunday morning. In the Ladies Race, which comprised two laps of the course, totaling 6K, Melanie Rowland was the first Member of the Club home in 35:37, followed by Kelly Dickinson, who had a great run, in 37:19. Penny Johnson completed the course in 39:44, with Sam Baronowski finishing in 43:13, Susan Clark in 46:48, and Jan McLuckie in 50:16.

The Men's Race took in an extra lap, which extended the distance to 8.9K. Male Club Captain, John Firby, led the way for the team, finishing in 35:11, with Andrew Sedgwick next across the line for the Club in 38:50. The ever confusing pair of Shaun Dodd and Shaun Dodds completed the race in 43:34 and 45:56 respectively, with David Stothard bringing the team home in 48:46. If you have any queries about the activities of Aycliffe Running Club, please visit our website www.ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk, or contact the Club's Secretary, Donna, at ayclifferrunningclub@gmail.com

Coffee Morning

St Elizabeth's Church, Woodham monthly Coffee Morning takes place in the Church Hall on Saturday 6th November at 10.00am. Coffee, tea and sweet treats plus a seasonal raffle. All welcome to meet friends and make new acquaintances. Start your weekend with Sparkle, Fun and Laughter.

Facts are Important

I regret that it is necessary to reply to Vince Crosby's letter in Newton News last week. It is always unwise to proceed from a false assumption and arrive at preconceived conclusions. The lady from the Sewing Group and poppy display contacted me by phone just over two weeks ago. I rightly suggested to her, that she contact our Town Clerk and gave her his telephone number. To date there has been no contact by the Lady or Group with our Town Clerk and it would be for the Council as a whole to decide on such issues, not a single councillor. This Group should proceed, as I suggested, to the lady concerned, and discuss the matter with the Town Clerk, Tel: 300700, so that he could bring the issue before the Council, and the Lady and Group would be welcomed and have the opportunity to address the Council.

It is a sad fact that there are three Town Council by-elections due, in the very near future (two Councillors passed away and one resigned), and I sincerely hope that neither Vince or his Labour Party will not seek to play party politics on an important issue like this.

Cllr Arun M Chandran
Chairman, Policy and Resources, GATC



Aycliffe TOWN CENTRE

aycliffe radio

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By Mystery Guest

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Reminder for Parents to Apply for Secondary School Places

Parents in County Durham are being reminded that the closing date to apply for secondary school places for their children is fast approaching.

The deadline for applications for the next academic year, which starts in September 2022, is Sunday 31st October 2021. In order for a child to be eligible to start secondary school in September 2022, the child's date of birth must fall between 1st September 2010 and 31st August 2011. Cllr Ted Henderson, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "For parents, the decision of where to send their child is, understandably, a big one. We would urge parents to make sure they apply by the deadline as a late application greatly reduces chances of getting into a preferred school." Applications can be made online at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions or by post. If posting, the forms should be sent back using signed for or special delivery services. Application forms can also be requested by phoning 03000 265896 or by writing to the school places and admissions team at Green Lane, Spennymoor, County Durham DL16 6JQ.

Offers of places will be made to parents on 1 March 2022. For applications completed online, offers will be received by email. For applications sent by post, offers will be received by letter. These should arrive by no later than 3rd March 2022.

Rotary President Visits Five Acres Community Gardens

Recently, President Gary Blenkinsopp of Rotary Newton Aycliffe visited Five Acres which is a day centre like no other for young adults based in the ROF59 building on Aycliffe Business Park. Their space within ROF59 is owned by John Finley of Finley Structures and they are forever grateful to John who gave them their first 3 months rent free. The purpose of Gary's visit was to hand over a cheque from Rotary, to hear about their plans for the donation and learn more about the work they do. The centre is the brainchild of Debbie and Gavin Icton with the idea being formed a few years ago after Debbie had a conversation with a friend. She realised that a day facility for young adults with learning difficulties did not exist locally. It is now well established and ably managed by Donna Martin with Charlotte Icton as Assistant Manager.

The centre is open weekdays 9.15am until 3.15pm and caters for young people of age 17+ who, because of their complicated disabilities, may not be able to find employment yet channelling their energies and talent is essential for their well-being and that of their families and also gives them an outlet in their lives. The centre has a huge space for all sorts of noisy and physical activities and a beautiful sensory room for quiet and relaxing times. There is also a craft room equipped with the essentials for creating, learning and preparing young people with life skills. Many thanks to Sara Davies of Crafters' Companion who donated most of the craft stock when her Aycliffe store closed. The donation from Rotary will be used to buy iPads for the teaching of basic technology, something not necessarily offered in other learning facilities for young people with complicated needs. They are also taught gardening, animal care, basic cookery, and other skills to help prepare them for adult life.

Future plans include the development of a parcel of land in Brafferton owned by Debbie and Gavin (Five Acres) with planning permission underway to site woodland lodges. Huge thanks to Husqvarna who have donated equipment for use on the

land and to J & C Coaches who donated a coach to enable trips away. The area will be used to provide accommodation for those young people whose parents/families are in need of some respite care and, when operational, will be fully staffed with qualified personnel in residence. Fencing is needed for the perimeter of the site, primarily for the security of residents, so they are appealing to any companies who feel they want to raise their product profile by donating to this very ambitious, innovative and so worthwhile project. If you can assist in any way, please contact Donna at Five Acres on 07739 091769.

Thank You

Dear Sir,
My Mum, Margaret Close, who is 90 years old, went to the Post Office at Horndale Supermarket on Saturday 23rd October. Some time later, she realised that she had lost her debit card, which caused her a great deal of anxiety. Sunday morning Mum's kindly neighbour went to the shop and Mum's debit card had been handed in. My Mum would like to say a huge thank you to the kind person for handing in her bank card and to her neighbours for their support. It is a powerful reminder of the inherent honesty and kindness of human nature during these trying times.
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Children's Craft Morning



Last week pupils at Aycliffe Village Primary School held a Harvest Crafts Morning which was a great way to end the half-term. Reception class really enjoyed making paper wreaths and scarecrows. Toby, in Year 1 rated the activities 20/10! They had been making pumpkin prints, autumn wreaths and yummy carrot and coriander soup. Leaf rubbings, drawing and hedgehog weaving were the activities in Year 2. They thought it was amazing. "I enjoyed drawing hedgehogs," said Freddie. In Year 3 the children loved paper weaving and making stained glass windows. Phoebe, in Year 4, liked working with all the autumn colours as she made Harvest cards and decorated stones. Joshua said, "I really liked the day off real work. I loved the drawing work." Year 5 made light and fluffy bread and a wonderful vegetable soup. Oliver described the soup as his dream food and Jasmine thought it had been a lovely creative day. Cross stitch pictures were also created by the pupils in Year 4. Brandon said, "It was amazing how they turned out." Following on from these creative activities the children walked to St Andrew's Church for a Harvest Festival Service led by Reverend Ann. Mrs. Adamson, the Head Teacher, said that she had enjoyed seeing the children being creative and enjoying all their activities. By Kobe Paterson and Benjamin Shaw, Year 5

Making Work Worth Less

Dear Sir,
I believe I find myself in a similar position to many in our town who work full-time and have been fortunate enough to get on the property ladder, a little dismayed by our MP Paul Howell and his vote to hike our National Insurance by 10% and put a cap on care alone, of £86,000. Not only has our personal taxable allowance been frozen, meaning as the years go on we'll get to keep less of what we earn but his government also wants to take more from us as full-time workers, especially those of us who earn less than £50,000. He won't pay a penny extra on the income from the sixteen properties he owns though, but his tenants probably will. The cap means should I need social care, we'll have to sell our home. Not that we've paid enough of the mortgage off to cover £86,000 but should my wife need it too, we'll need to find £172,000. Oh, and our pensions will be worth significantly less from scrapping the triple lock by the time we come to need it. Is this making work pay or making work, worth less? Not to worry though, the Libdems are going to save us all up to £400 on our council tax which couldn't have come at a better time with all these increases. Or that was what was promised until they voted against starting a working group to look at it or even speak on the matter at the last P&R meeting at town council and voted to increase council tax at County for the next four years! It seems not keeping election pledges is the order of the day for our budding politicians in Newton Aycliffe, I'll remember this and I'm sure many others will too. Simon Hocking

"I Was Gob Smacked . . ."

Dear Reader,
Firstly, may I offer my congratulations to the other three nominees for the Syd Howarth Community Service Award presented last week. Sharon Franklin from Clear & Care in the Community, Alison Firby from Play Cafe, and Jean Rutter from the Newton Aycliffe Scout Association - all very worthy winners along with myself.

To say I was 'gob smashed' would be an under estimation, I was asked to come along to have a photo taken, along with Helen McCormack (my daughter), who should be given 'the straight face of deception' award - only joking Helen.

To see these Howarth 'boys' as this is how I have always known them from a very young age, presenting this award in memory of their beloved Dad, Syd, was very emotional for me.

After Syd's death, these three men, have taken on the 'mantle' from their dad, and I know he would be so proud of them seeing the success they have made of running Newton Press. Those of you reading this, who knew and loved Syd, will no doubt agree with me in writing this. Paul, Stuart and Christopher are three very experienced 'Lads' who serve this town and surrounding areas with great skill and enthusiasm. Their willingness to go above and beyond whatever is asked of them is truly exceptional. My thanks to them and their lovely families in awarding this prestigious award to the four candidates, whose names were put forward by our towns residents, is very humbling and gracious.

'The Press Gang' do an amazing amount of work within this town, maybe many of you do not realise how much. From not just printing our beloved town magazine every week, but by printing all kinds of service sheets for many occasions, baptism and wedding invitations, and funeral service booklets, along with many Service booklets for The Town Council Remembrance Services every year. They can provide any form of print requirement. I can only advise you to go to Newton Press first, before any other printing firm, as you will get a really good and speedy service.

Now I have really put myself out in singing their praises, I will remind them that Christmas is coming and I do love Ferrero Rocher chocolates (haha).

Well, all has been said good people, but thanks for taking the time in reading this letter, and never forget, you are serving YOUR town and its people by going to Newton News for all your Christmas messages of goodwill, why pay an enormous amount on postage stamps when Newton News will print any kind of message (within reason) for a very small sum, compared to some. To Paul, Stuart and Christopher, and their lovely families, I wish a very early Happy Christmas and may God always look down on you in everything you do for the good of this town and its people. Many blessings to you all. Pam Lovelass xx



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Halloween Allotment Visit Ward Update



Eleven pupils from Beaumont Hill Special School in Darlington took part in a Halloween Trail at the allotments on Thursday 21st October 2021.

These pupils will be the first group of children to plan and grow produce at the allotments. The idea is that they are pioneers in introducing healthy eating and well being.

They had a wonderful time looking for clues around the allotment and meeting some allotment holders who introduced them to different vegetables being grown including some giant pumpkins.

Dear friends, neighbours and residents,

I hope you all had a lovely summer!

Firstly, can I apologise for no Liberal Democrats Focus Newsletter in August. It was a democratic group decision. I had one ready to put out in July but the team decided that they preferred to use the Newton News, as printing and delivery is more time and cost effective.

Therefore, I would like to update you on events on our ward of St Mary's & Shafto and on general council events in the last two months.

Firstly, can I say how wonderful it was to see families in the park at the Mayor at Home 'Party in the Park' event in August.

It was so nice to see children being able to play again in the sunshine with their friends. I also, very much enjoyed my visits to 'Five Acres' at ROF59 and 'The Veterans' Community Hub' at the IES Centre, where the café and craft shop are great!

I am also delighted to see St. Mary's & Shafto looking so clean and tidy of litter and also grateful to those volunteers Bob Fleming highlighted planting new trees on Ross Walk (where Wendy and Jed Hilary helped them plant and Bob went out to thank them).

I hope that many of you were able to attend, online, the Police and Communities PACT Meeting on Wednesday 20th October at 6pm. I found it difficult to connect, so do let me know how you got on, as you are the eyes and ears of our communities, to support the police via Crimestoppers, 101 and Action Fraud.

I asked Sgt. Andy Boyd about PACT meetings in July and he said that the online ones are better attended than face to face at Community Centres and that they are advertised in the Newton News.

Please do attend them, especially if any are 'whole-town' and not Ward specific. You must have an opportunity to put forward your views, concerns and opinions to the police. I want to praise, support and congratulate them on their good work. PCSO Steven Kipling has kindly offered to train me on 'speed-watch' devices too.

I have asked Durham County Council (via Nev Jones) for extra bins on: Rufus Green, Vane Road and the Hylton Close end of Washington Crescent, behind Whitehead Walk.

I have also asked GATC for a bin outside St. Oswald's Park, now that we are into the winter opening hours are in operation.

Recently, I had to report business signs being tied to Durham Council lamp posts and also a large branch that had been broken off a tree at McColls shop via Durham 'do-it-online' website.

Sadly, I have also had to attend two funerals of Councillors in the last two weeks. My heartfelt thanks go to them for their service to the town.

The very sad news about the murder of an MP makes it even more important that we show kindness, respect and compassion to everyone. Councillors of all parties follow the 'Nolan Principles' to ensure bullying, harassment and abuse are not tolerated.

I have noticed that the traffic from Woodham Academy has now moved close to McColls shop, where there are at least parking bays. Thank you to parents for parking sensibly and not blocking the road and driving slowly and carefully. This is keeping everyone safer. Special thanks to those who park at St. Oswald's car park and Tesco/Youth Club and ask their children to walk.

Hopefully, Woodham Academy will, in the future, be able to build its own visitor car park, similar to the large one at Vane Road Primary, to ease congestion and pedestrian safety.

I hope that you enjoyed the half-term holiday. Please be kind to pets on Halloween and enjoy the council fireworks display!

Best wishes

Councillor Tony Armstrong

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Aycliffe Youth Football News

Aycliffe U11 Eagles 2 v Prissick Rovers Athletic 2

A really hard fought battle and a great game of football. The opening goal was an OG as Jack shut the defender down so quickly that the defender played the ball back to the keeper and the ball found the back of the net. Then bullet of a shot from distance by a Prissick player found the back of the net to make it level. Prissick attacked well and a ball, looped over Charlie, found the back of the net. Again, nothing Charlie could have done, 1-2 HT. Through ball from Aycliffe and as the keeper came out, Dan chipped it over him, hit the post but Jack, in true striker style, was there to blast it in for the equaliser, 2-2. Outstanding and so brave making some key saves and putting his body on the line several times. MOTM: Carter.

Pools Youth 1 v Aycliffe U13 Girls 7

Accurate passing, working for each other and crucial tackles were what stood out in this game as well as some top class finishing. Games in previous seasons have always been tight affairs with Pools coming out with the victory in the more recent games between the two. The opposition coach commented on how well the Aycliffe girls played.

Goals: Demi Lee x5, Safiye & Sophie. POTM: Emily.

Prissick Rovers Blues v Aycliffe U10 Eagles

After their last two great wins, the boys wanted to see if they could get a third. We went 1-0 down in thirty seconds. In five mins we were level through Lucas. After some great teamwork, Sam scored again. Sam scored two more before half time. Harrison came down the wing, he finally got his goal. Our defence was great with Dylon and Kobe playing the ball up for Harrison to score again! MOM: Sam.

Aycliffe U18 Girls 3 v Darlington Locomotives 0

Excellent display by Darlo GK as she made several good saves throughout the game. However an OG, and 2 goals from Hattie, the first from 25 yards, into the top corner, followed by a penalty and the girls secured a deserved 3 points.

Norton & Stockton Ancients Girls 1 v Aycliffe U12 Angels Blue 3

The first goal came after twenty minutes then just before half time a timely second. Then Norton pulled one back, the Blues took back control. Then a lovely pass to Evie who took a shot from outside the area, lobbing the keeper from distance and finding the top of the net.

Aycliffe U10 Wildcats 1 v Felling Magpies 3

Felling opened the scoring before an equaliser from Phoebe and the game was very evenly matched until two late goals from Felling.

Aycliffe U8s Wildcats v CLS Amazons Jaguars.

Elsie's hard work gave Macy the chance to grab the opening goal. Then Penny pulled a shot just wide, before a fantastic corner from Elizabeth fell to the feet of Macy who smashed in her second. Some determined play from Georgia and Erin created the chance for Erin to get on the score sheet, before Ava finished well for the final goal of the game. Brooke again bossed the game at the back. Just before full time an outstanding save by Penny ensured a well deserved clean sheet.

Aycliffe U8 Eagles v Darlington Bulls.

Darlington finally broke down the defence to take the lead. However, in the very last second, George swung a corner into the box and Will dived forward to chest it home for an equaliser. The development team were outstanding with Louie making a great save and Josh and Jenson linked up well to set up both Evan and Phoenix who both finished expertly to score a hat-trick each

ADULTS

Redhouse Plains Farm 2 v Aycliffe U23s 4

Goals from Sam Dawson, Jack Kielty, Kyle Ormsby - Jack Mortimer sealed the three points and kept the lads joint top of the league.



As I said last week, I am spending quite a lot of time on the Nationality and Borders Bill. The purpose of the Bill is to increase fairness of the system, support and protect those who need entry, deter illegal entry and to remove more easily those with no rights to be in the UK. I am currently doing two days a week on this Bill and, on each day, we have both a morning and an afternoon sitting. This squeezes my time but there are still many other interactions I can do, this included catching up with Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham, primarily to talk about the aftermath of the murder of Sir David but we did, of course, have broader discussions than that.

I took the opportunity to attend a reception hosted by my colleague, the MP for Ashfield and Eastwood, Lee Anderson, with the Coal Authority to discuss Clean Energy from Coalfields, this primarily looks at extracting heat from the water in old mine workings. This is something I had already been engaged with as a Durham County Councillor and I've met a number of people from Durham and the surrounding area. It was good to see some of the work in Durham being used as leading examples of the opportunities we have. I also had a session with Lord Baker, who was one of the primary advocates of the introduction of University Technical Colleges. We discussed the development opportunities in the north east and elsewhere but also the development of issues like T levels and BTECs. It was very valuable listening to Lord Baker and others in the forum who have spent much more time than me contemplating the pros and cons of different educational structures. As you know I am a member of the Northern Research group which is focused on making sure that the Government gives full consideration to the north of England in all it does. We have had many meetings with different ministers and this week we were able to talk with Michael Gove and share our views on the Levelling Up agenda he leads. I also went to London County Hall to represent the APPG in a joint forum with the CPP, Centre for Progressive Policy, to discuss the importance of investing in social infrastructure and why this is critical in levelling up the north.

Friday last week was a sitting Friday when Private members Bills are debated. This week was all about a 'Fire and Rehire' Bill. This is such a critical area, and we need to make sure that the environment changes to make certain that businesses are not using the process of firing and rehiring in its worse form, as a threat to employees in any negotiations and I look forward to seeing how the Government take this forward.

On Saturday it was an absolute privilege to join several local Councillors and others at ROF59 for the unveiling of a Blue Plaque to celebrate the work and commitments of the Aycliffe Angels during the war. The plaque was unveiled by Muriel Scott, an inspiring 100-year-old lady who was an Aycliffe Angel in her 20s. It was attached to the outside of ROF 59 which of course was part of the armaments buildings where the Aycliffe Angels worked. The restoration of this facility in recent years by John Finley and his team has given the building a whole new future and it was good to see that the facilities in ROF59, including the trampolines, are now fully open again after a very difficult time through Covid.

This week was budget week, and I am writing this on the Tuesday before the budget is delivered but I thought it would be good to let you know where my lobbying efforts have been. I, of course, wanted to see the Chancellor putting efforts into levelling up and looking after the north, but when it comes to taxes, I would particularly like to see him continue to freeze fuel duty and introduce a differentiation on beer duty so that the keg beer in our pubs is charged less than the canned and bottled beer available from supermarkets.

Clearly Covid continues to be a concern, we must all be aware of the risks if it re-emerges, and we need to be vigilant going forward. We are seeing increasing cases and the importance of the vaccines also increases so please can I encourage you all to take up the option of booster jabs as and when they are offered to you. If you are over 50, and it's been 6 months since your second, it will be time for your booster jab.

Paul Howell, MP for Sedgefield



Paul Howell
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

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

So Many Garages Standing Empty in a State of Disrepair

Dear Sir,
A number of weeks ago I contacted Livin in response to the question "were empty

garages being deliberately withheld from residents who had applied to rent them". My initial contact received a prompt reply explaining they weren't the person responsible for dealing with this matter; however, they had forwarded my email to the relevant officer for their attention.

At the time of this editorial I am still awaiting a reply from the officer concerned, this is in spite of two follow up emails and a request to a county councillor to follow it up to see if they could shed some light on the situation. They did and were able to inform me my enquiry had been forwarded to the appropriate department as there were set procedures to be followed.

The question has still to be answered. Why are garages standing empty when residents want to rent them, and why some garages, in a shocking state of disrepair, have been allowed to become little more than a vermin infested dumping ground. There may be genuine reasons for this current state of affairs or there may be a long term development strategy for the garages, but silence simply creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and confusion and people form their own conclusions which do nothing to help the situation.

There are already serious congestion issues in the town, with the limited parking available, so the withholding of garages, for whatever reason, is going to have a knock on effect. If there are answers to these questions then we need to hear them, if not we need to see damaged garages repaired and maintained, and, where possible, empty garages let to the residents who are waiting to rent them, sooner rather than later.
Cllr Phillip Hawkins

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Litter Picking



Ian Gray's litter picking group continue to meet weekly on a Wednesday morning for an hour at various locations around the town. This week's area was along the Burn from the bottom of Humphrey Close to the bridge at Burn Lane. Among general litter was an Aldi trolley, retrieved from the Burn, handy for carrying the abandoned child's car seat and traffic cone, but really not necessary! For further information, contact Ian email: lan.gray38@btinternet.com

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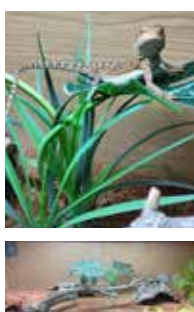
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The Hog Blog!



Sorry about my absence, a week away with the family and a week to catch up, but it's business as usual with some additional news and information. All rescue hedgehogs had a lovely week with Bernie's Hedgehog Rescue in Durham, all returned happier and healthier, she is an excellent rehabber as are Dawn, Jude and Jill of A Prickly Problem north of here, Sandra at Darlington, we are all over capacity, we help each other and share ideas, we have the same goal, help these poor little mammals. As things are, at the moment, all rescues are full and then some, we are all taking in more than usual even doubling up in the larger cages, wherever possible. We will all say the same thing, when you see a hedgehog out during the day or it looks too small, or both, it needs rescuing, these will not survive if left unattended, time is of the essence. The colder nights are upon us very soon. The nights are getting longer, this is also something that needs to be mentioned, watch your dogs, make sure hedgehogs are safe and check your gardens before letting them out, it only takes a minute. Our hedgehogs are looking for food, that's all! As Halloween and firework night approaches, I would like you all to spare a thought to these beautiful mammals, to begin with pumpkins need to be kept away from hedgehogs, they can give them an upset stomach, if you need to feed them to squirrels, birds etc put them out of reach of hedgehogs, secondly, for those of you who light bonfires, please wait till the day of lighting to set these up, any hedgehog will think it's for them to nest in so be aware please. The outcome for these babies doesn't bear thinking about, take my word for it, there are little tiny ones out there still. Bernie has a 90g baby hoglet hand rearing at the moment! Thankfully baby is doing well! We all have non releasable hedgehogs at the moment, my littlest is 235g little Maria, thank you Angie for dropping her off on Sunday night, also Denise with Geri, out during the day with an internal parasite burden but treatment started on arrival. Thanks go to Pat and Fred for freeing up some room here so I can admit the critical cases, they are wonderful to know. Pat wants to learn more and become our next rehabber, she will be supported fully because it's not an easy task, but she will do well. We are also releasing whilst we still have time. If anyone wants to help us we are at the Scout Hall on Saturday 4th December, 1-5, thanks in advance to all businesses, crafty ladies and Marlene for helping me with the tombola and some raffle prizes too. Photo: Baby Grace, dreadfully poorly on arrival but doing ok, thanks to Katie, Mellanby Cres. Email pricklyhaven@yahoo.com or BHPS 01584 890801 for rehabbers in this area

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Supporting Women with Mental Health



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 2nd November
9.30am - 11.30am
and 7.00pm - 9.00pm
in St. Clare's Vestry

Gingerbread Season!

With the change of seasons, comes a change in what we eat. Gone are the classic summer strawberries and the light salads that go down so well on balmy evenings and in come the warming hot-pots and bowls of soup. In addition, our flavour preferences change and gingerbread flavours start to become one of those tastes that are readily sought as the nights draw in.

Gingerbread tends to conjure images of edible smiley gingerbread men biscuits, to spiced bread and the classic gingerbread houses that we associate with fairy tales and warm cups of hot chocolate by the fire. Nowadays, gingerbread is mainly understood to be associated as a sweet flavoured delicacy but this was not always the case.

Ginger originated from Asia, often documented as being used for medical purposes in Ancient China, where close botanical neighbours such as galangal were also cultivated. Interestingly, both ginger and galangal are present within some of our gin recipes, similar yet obviously different when compared side to side. Travel via the Silk Road allowed ginger to spread westwards and, as with many strong flavours, was used as a means to prolong the life of some foodstuffs by disguising the taste (especially for meat).

Modern day society still sees ginger being used in medicinal ways. After all, who hasn't seen or heard of ginger biscuits being taken to reduce problems like travel sickness, nausea in both children and pregnant ladies or to 'settle' a stomach. Whilst there are many excellent modern medicines for these problems, the persistent use over the years for these situations may suggest some sort of benefit.

Recipes for gingerbread mainly include warm spices, in addition to ginger, such as cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, cardamom, star anise and sweeter flavours like molasses or honey. Knowing these also help to make a mulled wine, we decided that The Herbal Gin Company would do well to make a GINgerbread GIN.

Using our oriental based, spiced gin, as the foundation, we added the sweet and warm dimension of gingerbread to make a gin that we are incredibly proud to bring to market. The flavour is deep, warm and truly classic gingerbread.

The fun really begins when we team it up with a mixer. In addition to the classic variety of tonic mixers, this is where the festive fun begins. Our GINgerbread gin mixes with lemonades, both classic and cloudy, but it also springs to life with the addition of ginger ale or ginger beer.

Then there are the cocktails to consider. Top of the list has to be a Spiced Gingerbread Espresso Martini, closely followed by a Gingerbread Bramble. The cocktail world is only improved by the addition of gingerbread!

Head to our website at www.theherbalgin.com to see our wares, including our GINgerbread gin. For a little bit of experimenting, why not also pop down to the Aviator Gin Bar (Unit 18, Northfield Way, DL5 6EJ) to try some of the lovely ways it can be enjoyed!

Recruiting for Police Call Handlers

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Not Just Mothers

Junction 7, at The Ark, are proud to announce the launch of a new group 'We Are Not Just Mothers'. They will meet every Wednesday from 1 to 3pm at The Ark in Silverdale Place. Come and meet other likeminded ladies and take part in activities such as crafts, baking and more, or you can just come for a cuppa and a chat. No need to pre-book and are open to ladies of all ages.

Roman Joins United Nations Global Compact

As the leading UK and European shower manufacturer, Roman takes sustainability and CSR extremely seriously. Roman is immersed in all aspects of the Circular Economy and is committed to using recycled materials in the production process – and to ensure that all parts of all products can be recycled and reused back at their original value at their end of life. Roman is currently in a Carbon Neutral process and there are many other initiatives active within the business relating to sustainability.

Roman is proud to have recently joined the United Nations Global Compact network. This is a prestigious and far reaching programme with the key aim of generating positive social impact as a business. There are four core pillars within the main activity of the UNGC - the Environment; Human Rights; Labour; and Anti-Corruption – and also broader sociable aims such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The UNGC has well established lines of communication with key UK government departments to help evolve the responsible business environment.

Within the four pillars of the UNGC sit ten fundamental principles for ethical business. These are enshrined within the conduct of the members. These principles firmly reinforce the policies and direction of Roman and the international links of the UNGC are driving these principles across the business world.

David Osborne, CEO of Roman, commented: "We are delighted to join the UN Global Compact and to help drive the business case of their Sustainable Development Goals across our sector and to help partners embed them within their business processes and culture. This is a truly global initiative and one which we are honoured to be a part of."

Christmas Market

Please come along to our Junction 7 Christmas Market on November 20th It will be held at The Big Club from 12-4pm. It's free entry. There will be over 30 local artisan crafters to support! Santa will also be making an appearance.

Refreshments will be available to purchase, with all proceeds going to Junction 7.

Kidz Flix

Discover a world where dreams are made with this computer animation film that sees a giant hamster having to sort out step sibling squabbles.

From the makers of Monsters Inc and Inside Out, **Dreambuilders** film clearly celebrates the power of the imagination. As usual we have hot chocolate, sweet shop and ice creams - all from 50p.

Admission is £1 each and doors will open at 1.30pm to get your seats for a 2pm start.

Saturday 6th November at St Clare's Movie Hall.

Obituary

Margaret Cherrie (nee Raisbeck)

Of Heighington. Peacefully at home with family by her side, on 16th October, aged 74 years. A much loved Wife, Mam, Grandma and Great Grandma. Family and friends please meet for a Committal Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 2nd November at 11.30am. To be followed by a Thanksgiving Service at 12.30pm at the Glow Church, DL5 6AP

Derek Nicholson

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away suddenly at home on October 15th, aged 87 years. Beloved Husband of the late Joan, dearly loved Dad, Father-in-Law, Grandad and Great Grandad. Would family and friends please meet for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 5th November at 3.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, to Dementia UK.

In Memoriam

George Potts

29th October 2020
It has been one year since we said goodbye. You are always in our thoughts and hearts. With love from Wife Alice; Daughter Hilary; Son-in-Law Alan; Son Graham; Daughter-in-Law Denise; Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

Margaret Sedgewick

Died 31st Oct., 1981
40th Anniversary
Suddenly taken from us 40 years ago today. Even though the time is long, happy memories linger on. Never more than a thought away, loved and remembered till the end of our days. Sadly missed by Husband Harry, Maureen and Chris

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Thank You Newton Press

I was very surprised and pleased to accept the Syd Howarth Community Service Award on behalf of the Play Café Project. So many people did extraordinary things since March 2020. It's great to have our contribution recognised in this way. Heartfelt thanks on behalf of all at Play Café, especially our superstar volunteers and sponsors. We enjoy great support from businesses, individuals and groups in our community. Tesco, 3M employees, Walkers Butchers & Bakers, Rotary Newton Aycliffe, The Big Club, NAYCC and the DCP County Food Bank all give ongoing support. The list would seem endless to try to name everyone! We really couldn't do half of what we do without their generosity. Play Café is doing its October half term support to families on the Town. This will be partly funded by the County Durham Fun and Food programme, via the GAMP and match funded by our supporters and sponsors. Thank you to you all. Well done to Pam, other runners up and everyone who helps those in need - winners or not this year! Great job Newton News and the Howarth family. It means a lot to you and us, organising this recognition from the Community we seek to serve. Honours the memory of a great man. Alison Firby
For Play Café

RUGBY UPDATE

Newton Aycliffe Rugby played their first home game of the season against Guisborough Monks at home.

This was a tough first outing for all concerned but both teams approached the game with great spirit. The final score, 47-7 to Newton Aycliffe, did not do the game justice as it was a hard fought and well contested game. Both sides had to contest with not having had much meaningful scrummage or lineout practice, or game play over the past 18 months or so, but despite that managed really well and provided an entertaining afternoon's rugby.

Newton Aycliffe opened the scoring with a well worked try by Chris Knight after only 7 minutes. Luke Tinkler converted. Guisborough Monks immediately responded and after 10 minutes the scores were level 7-7.

At 26 minutes Hooker Dale Patterson bashed his way over the try line for a well worked close quarter try. This was unconverted by Tinkler due to him not having the right coloured kicking tee!!

Just on half time saw us once again capitalise on our dominance in the close quarter play to see Phill Sangster cross the line to make it 17-7. This was again unconverted – we really must find that orange kicking tee.

The second half was a much more open affair and saw Aycliffe open the play up a little more and this resulted in 5 unanswered tries for Newton Aycliffe. Ben Curran converted by Tinkler – 24-7. Andrew Parkin belying his excesses to sprint through and join in the fun – 29-7 (tee was too high this time).

Fed up with missing the conversions (we know why now) Tinkler decided to add a try himself - 36-7. Not to be left out Mikey Dunn's return to Aycliffe colours saw him dodge and weave his way over the line for a well earned try.

The game was settled by a well worked team try finished off by newbie Jordan 'Robocop' Saunders, who had only taken up rugby a couple of months ago, he sprinted in from 30 metres out making the final score 46-7.

Thanks must go to Guisborough for making the journey with only 11 players. After a bit of re-shuffling, we managed to get the game sorted with two full squads. This would also not have been possible had we not had further support from Sedgfield Rugby Club so big thanks to them. Aycliffe Rugby are continuing to build the squad numbers. Any new players, of any level of experience, wishing to join will be made welcome.

Contact us by message in club or FB page for details. Big thanks to match day sponsor The Mortgage Advice Centre.



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