

Friday 21st January 2022

Established 1948

# Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Magazine

Editorial and Advertising contact: paul@newtonnews.co.uk - Telephone: 01325 300212 - www.newtonnews.co.uk

## Five Acres Going Strong



See page 2 for full story

Newton News proudly supported by:





# St. Teresa Charity Christmas Tree Collection



Around 65 volunteers from Darlington Rotary Club toured the town in a fleet of vans to take away the festive firs in return for a donation to St. Teresa's Hospice. With donations averaging around £10, a record £16,575 was raised, most of which goes directly to the hospice. The scheme has been running for the past 11 years with trees going to John Wade Recycling for conversion into fertiliser or to specialist arborists Greenworx to be chipped to provide biomass fuel for power stations.

The venture was hosted by Drive Vauxhall, with vans loaned by rental companies Enterprise and Charter, and local firm MT Print. Rotary Club organiser David Hayward said: "This is a win-win venture for everyone. Residents avoid any mess removing their trees and the hospice gains much needed funds following a challenging year."

More than £3m needs to be raised every year to provide free inpatient and community care for residents of Darlington, South Durham and North Yorkshire.

St. Teresa's chief executive Jane Bradshaw presented a special award to Darlington Rotary Club president Peter Phillips for members' fundraising efforts over the past year. She said: "We have all had a very difficult two years and at times like these the support of our friends has never been more important. In today's very tough climate this is a welcome boost to our funds and we are very grateful to Rotary and local residents for supporting us."

*Photo: Darlington Rotary Club volunteers with St. Teresa's Hospice chief executive Jane Bradshaw before embarking on a weekend charity Christmas tree collection.*

## Five Acres Community Garden Eight Months On, Still Going Strong . . .

For those readers who haven't heard about Five Acres Community Garden CIC we are a Day Respite Centre for School and College Leavers with Learning Difficulties. Phase 1: We opened in May last year when John & Julie Finley from ROF 59 offered us some rooms to hire in their fantastic Activity Centre. Initially we had only two Members and two Members of Staff - Donna Martin, Centre Manager, and Sam Dawson, first Learning Mentor, both have previous experience in the Special Needs Sector - fast forward to January 2022 and we now have 28 'Champions' and a further 4 full-time Staff Members plus an Apprentice.

We call our members 'Champions' as we feel it gives them empowerment and purpose.

Our ethos is for our Champions to enjoy their day while learning and engaging in activities in preparation for Adulthood. They enjoy Music, Zumba, Craft, Sensory Projects and Fitness Sessions as well as practical activities to help with literacy and numeracy skills. We also go offsite too and visit the local area.

We are on Durham County Councils list of providers for Day Respite and are now a Commissioned Day Service with Darlington Borough Council.

We have forged friendships with other local Community Groups including Community Spirit, Crafters Companion, PCP, All Disability Matters, Aycliffe Radio, CAFÉ JJ's, Morrisons and Middlesbrough FC. We have completed Defib Training with David Sutton Lloyd too and we are part of the 'Keep Aycliffe Tidy' Campaign.

We have a fantastic facility at ROF 59 that can adapt to any occasion and we have held various events such as Party in the Park, Ladies Night and a Christmas Far. We've also hosted a Big Brew Coffee Morning on behalf of SSAFA to raise money for their veterans. We want our Champions to be included in all aspects of our Community and Local Projects.

On 19th August we celebrated our 'Grand Opening' and Paul Howell MP for Sedgefield did the honours of officially opening the Centre. We took on our first Apprentice, Joseph Carrick, who is now enrolled on a Health & Social Care course.

We have received a grant from The Happiness Hub (PCP) for a Polytunnel and Potting Shed. Husqvarna have kindly donated workwear and gardening tools. The Rotary Club have donated Chrome Books for our IT Suite. Tesco sponsor us with Fresh Fruit and Breakfast essentials. Community Spirit have also donated towards Cookery items and Bakeware as in December we joined forces with Mr & Mrs Claus, aka Nev & Jo Jones, and helped with their Santa Tours.

To top off 2021 we were honoured to receive an 'Investing in Children Membership Award' which we are thoroughly proud of. Phase 2 is now underway, an additional Day Centre to run alongside ROF 59 - we intend to create a Community/Sensory Garden to include Horticulture/Agriculture with Respite Lodges at Lime Lane, Brafferton. The Planning Application is now 'live' and can be viewed on the Darlington Borough Council Website - search for 'Planning Applications Online' - Ref No is 21/00753/FUL.

If anyone would like to support our application please email your letters to [planning@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:planning@darlington.gov.uk) stating your name and address and the Reference Number above.

The Staff at Five Acres are passionate and focused on delivering the best outcome for our young adults - It has been a truly amazing 8 months - Thank You All for Supporting us on our Journey.

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**Saturday 5th February - 'Trlogy'**

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

## JW Footcare

Local mobile footcare provider, JW Footcare, have now secured a clinic at the prestigious country hotel and spa, Headlam Hall, Darlington. The pre-bookable clinic will run from the 31st January 2022 every Monday. JW Footcare understands that some clients would prefer to come to them and there is no better place than a luxurious spa environment! What is also great, is that the rural communities around Headlam can now benefit from the Newton Aycliffe based business.

Bookings can be made directly with JW Footcare on 07540 848272 or check out their website: [www.jwfootcare.co.uk](http://www.jwfootcare.co.uk) Don't worry, JW Footcare still does home visits throughout the week, all over the county, so get in touch today.

## 'Open Art' Exhibition at Greenfield Arts



Greenfield Arts are thrilled to be hosting their annual Open Art Exhibition 'Our Place' from Thursday 10 March to Wednesday 27 April 2022 in the Greenfield Gallery. There is still time to submit your artwork and take the plunge to be part of a wonderful exhibition. The exhibition allows for artists working in a range of mediums to participate, including areas such as painting, drawing, writing, photography and textiles or performance arts. This year we are celebrating a sense of place, capturing stories of places and people and the attributes of the local area. What does 'Our Place' mean to you? Artists are being asked to submit up to three pieces of artwork that will be showcased and celebrated in our state-of-the-art gallery space and the cost is just £15.

The deadline of Friday 28 January is fast approaching but there's still chance to apply. There will be a preview evening on Wednesday 9 March where artists can meet the public and fellow practitioners and be the first to enjoy the artwork on display, everyone is welcome to come along. You can register your submission online via our website or contact our friendly team for further information on 01325 379048 or email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk) The exhibition is an important event at Greenfield Arts and forms part of a full programme that includes a range of exciting arts and creative opportunities. You can find much more by browsing our website [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk).

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Greenfield Arts are committed to providing high quality stimulating arts and creative activity and encouraging questioning and enquiry.

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## Change of Venue

**New Friends New Places** have finally moved to a new permanent venue for their weekly meetings. Every Tuesday from 1.30pm until 4pm at **THE TURBINIA**, Sid Chaplin Drive DL5 7PA (off Burnhill Way, next to Burnhill Methodist Church). We had our first meeting this week and all the members commented on the friendliness of the staff, the cleanliness of the place, the good reports that it has had over the past five years from various authorities. We invite and welcome old members and new. We hold activities such as armchair aerobics, curling, bingo, singers, coach trips to places of interest and also have some pleasant surprises to come over the summer months. If you are sat at home alone, come and join us. The Turbinia is opposite the Bluebell housing group and the No. 7 bus passes the road end from the Town Centre and Woodham. For further information ring 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

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## Clean Bandits



On Sunday 9th January 'The Clean Bandits' organised a litter pick around the streets of Neville Parade area. Eight people and a baby set off to tidy up the streets. We managed to fill twelve bin bags with bottles, cans and other litter. We covered Neville Parade, Gilpin Road, Baliol Road, Clanny Road and Pudsey Walk. Many thanks to Great Aycliffe Town Council who provided the equipment, thank you also to our litter pickers, Carol, Alice, Nev, Simon and Alan and a special thank you to Ashley Scoones and her three children, Dominic, Declan and Aurora, proving anyone can help and make a difference. We hope to make this a regular event, for our next date keep an eye on Neville Community Association Facebook page.

## Passion For Every Penny Motion

This week Liberal Democrats councillors will propose that the Town Council does not increase this year's council tax. In the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee Councillor Michael Stead is set to provide 20 different areas the council can look at to reduce costs. Every single proposal will protect all town council services. Last week, Cllr Stead proposed that discounted beer in the local council run Sports Complex should not be subsidised for by Aycliffe residents. He received a majority vote for plans to review this. This is just one of dozens of suggestions made by local Lib Dems.

Cllr Michael Stead says "Charging more appropriate prices for alcohol in the Sports Complex could mean no council tax rise is needed for the town council."

It is unclear if Labour and Independent councillors will support those Lib Dem proposals.

Another savings proposal from the Lib Dems includes cutting the cost of councillors paperwork, by thousands of pounds, by using technology and email instead of by first class post.

The Town Council is proposing a 2% increase in council tax.

Great Aycliffe has one of the highest council tax rates in the entire country.

Cllr Lyndsey Aston adds "Local Liberal Democrats feel that, in a time when residents are struggling, local residents should not see council tax rises when it isn't necessary."

All of the money which will be raised by the proposed Town Council increase would not be spent. It would be added to the £1 million in the Town Council's reserves.

Cllr Stead is asking residents to write in their support for a council tax freeze to the town council and Newton News.

*Photo: Councillors Lindsey Aston and Michael Stead.*



## Difficult Choice

Dear Sir,  
Our MP, Paul Howell, will shortly have to face some difficult choices over Boris Johnson's future.

On the one hand he can support his beleaguered PM, but this is tantamount to saying that Boris Johnson's apparent repeated lying, contempt for Parliament and the Law, and blatant corruption, are acceptable behaviour in anyone, let alone in the country's leader.

On the other hand he can oppose the current PM, but then whom does he support as the next Conservative leader and PM, particularly as all the likely candidates will almost certainly abandon 'Levelling-up', which is probably Paul's only realistic chance of re-election? Moreover, given that we are still in the middle of the 'Omicron' pandemic, and are facing large cost of living increases, when should this change be made?

Frankly, I don't envy his choices, but it will be interesting to see how he "stands up for Sedgefield" when he finally decides which way he is going to jump off the fence!

Alan Jordan  
Middridge

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## BARBARA ANNE CLARE (1945-2022)

At first, Barbara Clare did not want to come to Newton Aycliffe. A committed Christian, she told God: "I'll go anywhere for you Lord ... except Newton Aycliffe". It seemed, however, that God had other plans - she came to live in Aycliffe in 1977 and, despite attempts to go and live elsewhere, always ended up back here.

Barbara was born in Bradford, living as a child in Ushaw Street. Desperately ill at the age of ten, she nevertheless managed to go to Bolling Grammar School and (despite leaving with just one 'O' level) worked as an auxiliary nurse and a PA in a Building Society. She became a Christian, married an accountant, adopted two daughters, and seemed destined for a middle-class life as a mother who helped with youth groups and bible groups in a city church ... until 1976 when her husband, who had decided to train to be a vicar, threw it all up and went off with a student, leaving her and her daughters in a student flat in Cranmer Hall, Durham (which, of course, she had to quit).

Thus it was - via a Council house in Bearpark and an exchange to Silverdale - she came to live in Aycliffe.

"When I came to Newton Aycliffe in 1977," she said later, "I was a deserted wife with two small children. In Newton Aycliffe I was given a house, friends, a job and a place in the community."

To the end of her life, she campaigned that those days of opportunity might not be taken away from others by governments which did not seem to understand the principles of the Welfare State.

She worked as a finance clerk at Perstorp, and as PA to the director of a construction company. Marrying a local teacher, with family finances stretched, she also, however, to make ends meet, worked as a school cleaner and collected milk money door-to-door. For a time, once a week, she helped out as a volunteer reading coach at Stephenson Way School and then at Greenfield Comprehensive as a Learning Support Assistant.

Barbara was elected as Town Councillor for Woodham in 1995 and then, in 2003-2007, to Sedgefield Borough Council. There, she was appointed Vice Chair of the important Scrutiny 3 Committee, which monitored Council spending, and was proud to represent the Borough on an exchange visit to Rheinhausen in Germany. In the community, she was secretary to the Local Implementation Group for Mental Health, and to the Woodham Community Association, and she also at that time served as a director of the Sedgefield Citizens Advice Bureau. Proud Labour, she was also Assistant Secretary of the Council's Labour Group.

In 2009, Barbara suffered a quick succession of serious heart attacks, during which she died and had to be resuscitated, and needed an emergency double by-pass. From that time on, she lived with severe heart failure, which in turn damaged her kidneys and liver. Coming round from an induced coma in intensive care, she would remember seeing people as white shapes with tiny yellow alien



faces ... and determining not to sleep until she had recovered. She resolved to live, and to make the most of her remaining time for her community.

She served as GATC Deputy Mayor and then, in 2013-14, as Mayor of Great Aycliffe. At the start of her year she set herself three objectives: (1) to acknowledge the marvellous people of Great Aycliffe and all that they do, (2) to raise the profile of Great Aycliffe in County Durham, and (3) to build links between the community and the companies on the Business Park. With the help of the Newton News, she was able to accomplish all three, hosting 'at homes' for Aycliffe volunteers, and was particularly delighted with the number of local firms she was able to visit and support, including Formica, Palram and Hitachi. Her chosen charity was the Cardiothoracic Unit at James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough, to which she owed her life, and she presented the cheque to the surgeon who had saved her (who was not a little concerned about the amount of work she had done during her year as Mayor!) Barbara was re-elected for Woodham Village in 2017 and again in 2021. After campaigning for a higher profile for women on Great Aycliffe Town Council, she became Vice-Chair of Planning. She served as Secretary to Sedgefield Constituency Labour Party, providing a calming influence during a lively time in the Party's history. Lately, as a medically vulnerable person, she found herself self-isolating for much of the pandemic, but - helped by Bewick Crescent Surgery and the local NHS heart and diabetes teams - actually felt healthier, taking short walks and enjoying breaks at her holiday home in Whitby. Unable to attend church, she found her spiritual needs met by a weekly phone call from Rev Daniel Hudson, which she greatly valued. Last Tuesday, however, she contracted a short-but-sharp infection, which led to anaemia and - too weak to cope with any medical procedure - her husband by her side - she passed away calmly at Darlington Memorial Hospital at 11pm on Monday 17 January, 2022. (Many thanks to the staff on Wards 34 and 42 for making her so comfortable.) Barbara leaves behind three children and nine grandchildren, and an adoring husband whose comment was that the light has left his life. Hundreds of lovely posts on Facebook evidence the respect and love of many local people for the lady who was sure God was determined she should live and die in Aycliffe.

## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 26th January 2022 - 7.15pm

### Full Council

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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## Friday 28th January The Big Club

8.30-10.30pm

£1 entry per person

All profits go towards next disco and a chosen local charity

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Hot Dogs - Sweets - Cakes

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# Little Acorns Litter Pick Driving MOT

Dear Sir,  
Members of the Little Acorns Residents Association took to the streets on Sunday to start their monthly litter picking in the area. All novices at litter picking, but within minutes the bags were filling up. Councillor Ken Robson joined in and helped the troops along the way. We want to thank everyone that took the time to help and let the children know how proud we are of them. The next litter pick will be on Sunday 20th February at 2pm - meet on the Green at Marshall Road and Priestman Road. Please come along and support us in keeping our area clean.  
Martha



## Are you over 55 and interested in a free driving MOT?

Durham Constabulary is encouraging eligible drivers to take part in Durham County Council's Safer Driving with Age (SAGE) driving assessment. SAGE consists of a 40-minute session with a driving instructor with residents taking a drive in their own car, along roads they know well, and at the end the assessor will provide feedback and offer any additional tips. SAGE has been running in County Durham for several years with many drivers repeating the experience annually. Assessments are available all year round. If you are interested, call the council's road safety team on 03000 268 172 or email: [road.safety@durham.gov.uk](mailto:road.safety@durham.gov.uk). Alternatively, drivers can fill out an application form and find more information, at [www.durham.gov.uk/article/6545/Older-driver-training](http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/6545/Older-driver-training)

# St Oswalds Food Collection

The children and their families from St. Oswalds pre-school held a food collection at school, but, due to Covid, were closed the last week of term and therefore have only just reopened. The Reverend Jeff, from St. Clare's, collected the food hampers for the food bank.



The children collected the food as part of Christmas Jumper Day, as an alternative to making a donation of money. We managed to collect a wide variety of food ranging from tinned to dried goods, such as pasta, lentils, biscuits and other store cupboard items.

## Aycliffe Youth Football News

Once again heavy frost cancelled most of our early Saturday home games but an improvement on Sunday helped get all games played.

### Aycliffe U11 Girls 3 v Durham County Girls 1

After twenty minutes, Lyra opened up the scoring after dispossessing a defender and smashing the ball into the opposition goal from the edge of the area. Peyton was next up to add her name to the score card and hammered home two well taken goals just before half time with the assists going to Lyra and Yasmin. HT 3-0. Strong defending by Aycliffe, with only a single goal from Durham and the girls earned a well-deserved victory. Opposition Coaches Player: Maddi V, Players Star Player: Kate, Managers Star Player: Eva.

### Aycliffe U10 Eagles v Prissick Rovers

The lads dominated the first half as goals from Farris 3, Sam 2 put Aycliffe in control. The second half continued with Sam completing his hat trick and another from Farris before Dylen rounded off the scoring. This has the Eagles unbeaten in the last nine games.

### Aycliffe U10 Wildcats v CLS Aztecs

After a tough few weeks and two players making their debuts, the girls were determined to get a result. The first half was close with Sofia saving a penalty to reach HT all square. However, the girls then pushed forward and got their reward with a hat trick from Phoebe and one from Nyah. Two late goals from CLS couldn't prevent the girls from taking the win. POTM: Phoebe.

### Thornaby Reds v Aycliffe U11 Eagles

First game back after seven weeks off and the boys were raring to go. The game started really well for the Eagles before a Thornaby goal was cancelled out by Brandon. However, Thornaby scored a second just before HT, 2-1. Into the second half and the lads equalise through Krystian but as the lads tired, through lack of matches, Thornaby scored three times to win the game. MOTM: Evan.

### Hetton Juniors Girls 1 v Aycliffe U12 Angels Blue 1

A closely fought contest between two good footballing teams. Hetton have had a great season and were sitting in third place at the start of the game, both sides had chances to score more, but a draw was a fair result. The Aycliffe goal scored by Faith just before half time. Players Star: Erin, Coaches Star: Layken.

### Aycliffe U8 Wildcats v Darlington Locos

The girls faced local rivals Darlington Locos in what we knew would be a difficult game. The girls found themselves two goals behind really early in the game. Erin smashed in two brilliant goals to draw the girls level in what was a brilliant first half. Elsie calmly finished off an excellent move early in the second half. Then a fantastic free kick from Brooke and lob over the goalkeeper from Macy, late in the second half, finished off the scoring. Elizabeth, Ava and Georgia also played their part in what was an excellent performance, well done girls, hard work pays off.

### Newton Aycliffe Women 8 v Seaham Coast Women 2

Early goals, from Katie and Morgan, set the women on the road to victory. However, Seaham scored to put pressure on Aycliffe but a quick reply from Annabelle restored the two goal lead. Then, before half time, a penalty for each side both converted, Katie for Aycliffe. Half time, 4-2. The women were asked to keep defending and take the game to Seaham. A second half dominated by Aycliffe and Meg, who scored four unanswered goals to take the points and the player of the game.

### Other results: Under 12 Eagles 0 v Kader FC 0

### Saxon U15 Boys 4 v Aycliffe U15 Eagles 2

## Local Covid Information

### VACCINATIONS & BOOSTERS

Vaccinations and booster jabs are available at Jubilee Medical Group, Newton Aycliffe offering vaccines to patients who have booked as well as a walk in service. Covering ages from 12 years and upwards.

Available every Thursday from  
8.00am-12.30pm & 2.00pm-4.00pm

There is also a Vaccination Service based in Sedgefield (Harbinson House - 01740 620300) and Spennymoor practice (St Andrew's - 01388 817777).

5 to 11 year old children will start soon, clinic times will be after school hours and weekends.  
*Watch Newton News for more details.*

### PCR TESTING

Available at the Locomotion, Shildon and a Walk Through Testing Site at the former Etherley Lane Depot, Bishop Auckland DL14 6UQ

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## Doctor eConsult

Dear Sir,  
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The eConsult is not fit for purpose as it lists illnesses and ailments that are not appropriate to my conditions so will not allow me to complete. I had to actually fake my illnesses in order to complete my recent application and then explained at the end what my actual condition is!  
The recent notice in the Newton News states that a new model is going live from 24th January. Let's hope they have tweaked out the problems, as they've had long enough to do it.  
Name and address supplied

## Greenfield Community Sports Welcome New Clubs



Greenfield Community College are thrilled to offer a range of sporting opportunities to the community to welcome new clubs and individuals to our community sports.  
The community sports section has had a recent change of management and we are delighted to welcome Rachel Curry, Arts, Sports and Community Co-ordinator, to the team. Rachel will be on hand to develop a new programme whilst liaising with our existing clients to make sure community use is benefitting a wide range of users from Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding areas.  
Greenfield's facilities are exceptional, offering a bespoke 3G football pitch, full size sports hall, state-of-the-art tennis courts and a multi-use gym. We have recently been thrilled to open our doors to new users including netball clubs, individual junior tennis bookings and new five-a-side and seven-a-side football teams.  
Greenfield also work alongside partners to offer professional coaching and the chance to access teams and clubs. Greenfield Tennis Club are resident on site and are welcoming new members and offering coaching opportunities. The Martin Gray Academy are currently offering quality coaching each Monday evening from 17:30-19:30 and we are also proud to be home to local clubs such as Newton Aycliffe YFC and Brays Netball Club and Heighington FC, who regularly train at Greenfield.  
"I am very happy to be joining Greenfield Arts and Sports Centres at a very exciting time of its development. I look forward to developing our programmes and classes further and to welcome the community to enjoy our facilities and the services we have to offer" said Rachel Curry.  
If you would like to know more about our offer, or would like a home for your club or group, call our friendly team by emailing [communitysports@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:communitysports@greenfieldschool.net) or call 01325 379048.

## Babygro's Wanted

Dear Sir,  
Please can you ask your wonderful readers if they may be able to help us with the supply of babygro's to support babies in the maternity wards in our hospitals?  
Sadly, not every mum comes into hospital prepared to give birth as baby is ahead of all those fabulous plans for birthing. We also have some families that are financially challenged, where access to these generously donated babygro's is transformational in being able to ease the financial burden for the parents at their time of need.



We need, ideally, new garments, in white or cream (or other neutral colours that don't traditionally define male/female) in the following sizes please: **3 - 5 lbs, 4 - 6 lbs and 6 - 8 lbs**  
If they can be sent to:

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Darlington DL3 6HX

If you would prefer to donate, instead of purchasing, you can do so via Paypal to [cddft.charity@nhs.net](mailto:cddft.charity@nhs.net) - quote 'Babygro' as your reference or use BACS please to:

CDDFT Charity  
Sort Code: 60 70 80  
Account: 10011056

Thank you for your wonderful support.

Pat Chambers  
Charity Development Manager  
[cddft.charity@nhs.net](mailto:cddft.charity@nhs.net)

AYCLIFFE  
**LGBTQ**  
PRESENT

# AYCLIFFE PRIDE FEST

A FIRST FOR NEWTON AYCLIFFE

**HEADLINE ACTS: 'Pink' Tribute by Kyla Porter  
'Michael Jackson' Tribute by James Aston  
Jeni Jaye as 'Kylie' and 'Lady Gaga'  
Samantha Mac, Alex Hall + Local Artistes & DJs**

· Crafts · Circus Acts · Ice Cream · Food · Fairground · Stalls ·

**AUGUST**

**6**

**2022**

**ROF59 Arena**

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**1.00pm to 8.00pm**

**Tickets: £6.00 Adults - £4.00 Under 14s - £1.00 (VIP - SOLD OUT 18s)**

Available from [www.ayclifferadio.co.uk/tickets](http://www.ayclifferadio.co.uk/tickets)  
**Mel Wilson or Newton Press Reception**

**PRIDE FEST 'AFTER PARTY' in ROF59 Function Room**  
7pm-Midnight - Drag Queens & Spot Prizes - Over 18s - Tickets £5.00



## Mental Health Issues at the Hub of Veteran's Organisation

With many people experiencing the 'January Blues' with bills from Christmas to pay, bad weather on the horizon and COVID restrictions, mental health issues are increasing throughout the region. The effects of mental health and depression are often more prevalent for ex-service men and women, some who have PTSD and have spent much of their service lives where everything is organised within their tightly knitted communities. Now, a County Durham organisation for veterans is offering help and support to those in need from their base in Newton Aycliffe.



The Veterans Community Hub was created to help all veterans, and the local community, access a range of services and training. It offers a range of classes as well as a place to meet others in a safe environment. Popular courses include cookery, pottery, furniture restoration, woodworking, vehicle renovation and art. In addition, as a service to the community, healthy, nutritious meals are cooked on site and delivered to families in the area needing extra support. Ex RAF officer and Hub manager David Routledge explained how the organisation worked:

"We've brought together a group of like-minded people who have their own companies who help veterans with their own specialist skills. We are all under one roof which helps us to provide a seamless welfare and training package for the people who come to us. It means that we can all identify people who need additional support and either direct them to our in-house experts or to external help."

A new addition to the hub is the counselling and therapy provision which is run by ex-army nurse Donna Murray. Donna is a qualified therapist offering counselling and life coaching. She is supported by a team of therapists who also offer mental health awareness and suicide prevention training.

Donna is particularly interested in helping those who fall into a hard-to-reach category including LGBT, the homeless, disabled people, and females.

"Help for male veterans is very well funded and supported yet a lot of women veterans face barriers when accessing support. The armed services are traditionally a very male focused environment and there is still a culture of people not admitting that they have a mental health problem. What my team is doing is trying to talk to these people to see if they need our help."

As well as offering a drop in facility at the Hub, Donna has worked with her colleagues to provide a joined-up outreach service using a mini bus. The bus is equipped with a seating area for chats and refreshments and healthy meals cooked in the Hub can also be served. In addition, a hairdresser will be onboard as well as facilities for veterans to tell their stories on a video camera which can then be replayed back to others. The bus is nicknamed 'Bluey' after the communications notes used in the military and will operate from Helmsley in Yorkshire up to Northumberland.

"We're very aware that NHS waiting lists for mental health cases are very long and we aim to help people who see us at the Hub within a week. Some of the activities and complementary therapies we do here can have a positive effect very quickly such as listening to music, creative arts such as painting and pottery and getting involved in a woodworking project. We then offer psychological support, but everything is at the pace needed by the individual," said Donna.

David Routledge added: "In the short time since August that we've been open, we've helped countless veterans in many ways. The advantage we have here is that everyone has served in one of the armed forces and we have a shared understanding and empathy which has been invaluable."

## Work Begins on New Transition Unit at Children's Home

Work is underway to create a new unit at a secure children's home in County Durham to help support young residents when they leave the centre. Following an announcement from the Government that it is investing an



initial £12million to create new places in secure children's homes, construction has started at Aycliffe Secure Children's Home, in Newton Aycliffe, to create a new 'step-down' place. The area will support children to move out of secure accommodation safely and back into the community when they are ready to do so. It will also create more than 20 new skilled jobs.

Aycliffe provides high-quality, specialist accommodation for young people between the ages of 10 and 18, many of whom have complex problems and need intensive support to help them turn their lives around. Accommodation is available for up to 38 young people, who have either been sentenced or remanded by the Youth Custody Service or are accommodated for their own or others safety under Section 25 of the Children's Act 1989 and are commissioned by local authorities.

There is a requirement for a new transition unit at Aycliffe to address the difficulties that young people often face when leaving a secure environment to go out into the general community. This can be particularly difficult if children leave to reside in an unfamiliar area that is in a different location to their previous home environment.

The new unit will allow access to school, college or apprenticeships whilst enabling children to live in a safe environment with access to support and staff whom they have come to trust. It will provide four en suite bedrooms for young people - all at ground floor overlooking the centre's courtyard - as well as two secure staff sleep-in rooms and a staff office and meeting room.

Work on the unit is expected to be completed by September 2022, with children who currently live at the home remaining there throughout the build process.

The creation of the new transition unit comes after Aycliffe Secure Children's Home retained its position as an 'Outstanding' centre following an inspection by Ofsted in November 2021. The home has been rated as Outstanding since 2019.

During the latest visit, inspectors found that "children continue to enjoy warm and supportive relationships with staff. These relationships help them to develop trust in the people who care for them. Consequently, the children are able to reflect on their life experiences and establish positive strategies to deal with challenges. This helps children to move forward with hope and confidence."

The report added: "Partnership working between managers, staff and other professionals who support the children is extremely effective. This helps staff to collaborate closely and to implement care plans which promote and protect each child's welfare."

"It is very clear that members of staff know the children well and know how each child prefers to be supported and nurtured. As a result, children continue to make good progress because they live in this home."

Aycliffe Secure Children's Home is currently looking for people to join its team in a challenging and rewarding career with real opportunities to change young people's lives. There are a range of roles available including daytime and night-time residential workers, case workers, educational staff and house managers. Find out more at [www.durham.gov.uk/article/22667/Join-our-team](http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/22667/Join-our-team)

For further information about the children's home and to read its latest Ofsted report, go to [www.durham.gov.uk/article/21410/About-our-centre](http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/21410/About-our-centre)

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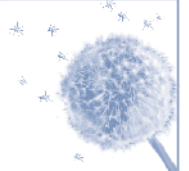


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# Heighington Matters

Dear Sir,  
A couple of events, which I feel you should be aware of:  
For the last few years I have organised the Holocaust Memorial Ceremony. Last year I had to cancel due to Covid. So I am delighted to confirm that this years Holocaust Ceremony will go ahead in the QE College, Vane Road on Thursday 27th January at 7pm. Masks are to be worn in keeping with Covid restrictions and you are most welcome to join us.

I am particularly pleased and proud that most of the ceremony will be presented by students from the QE, Carmel, Hurworth and Teesside High School and led by Rev. Rick Simpson, Archdeacon of Auckland. This year's theme is 'One Day' and our students will reflect on their own feelings and fears, had they to endure the indignities and uncertainties of being ordered into cattle trucks by armed soldiers, not knowing what was to happen to them and their families and, after reminding ourselves of the genocides and atrocities since the last World War, some of the students will provide us with a message of hope when looking to the future. I look forward to welcoming everyone to this important ceremony - do try to join us.

Looking forward to June and the Queen's Platinum Celebrations. From the meetings with various Parish Councils in my Ward it is good to see that the Parish Councils are starting to plan for this important and most enjoyable historic event. There has never been a Platinum Jubilee in our country's amazing history and I doubt there will ever be another one, so, if you are not involved in organising something, contact your Parish Council and offer to help.

As far as Heighington is concerned, volunteers are slow in coming forward - six to date. This is most unusual as in the past, when I have organised Village fetes and bonfires, there has always been lots of volunteers to help create something to remember and what better way in doing this than to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, like thousands of towns and villages across the UK?

It is amazing, but if you were to ask our older generation how many of them will recount the time when they were part of the celebrations way back in 1953 when Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth was crowned - and we now have the chance to create similar happy memories for our own children and grandchildren. So if you want to be involved contact me on 314622, 07876 216182 or email: Gerald.Lee@darlington.gov.uk  
Councillor Gerald G. Lee  
Heighington & Coniscliffe Ward

## Neighbourhood Policing

By PCSO Steven Kipling



Hi everyone, PCSO Steven Kipling here for your weekly update, hope this finds you all well.

On Wednesday 19th January the local Neighbourhood Team had a visit from our Police and Crime Commissioner, Joy Allen and two of her colleagues. Lots was discussed about moving forwards and how we will work more closely in the future with regards to important issues such as Anti-Social Behaviour, which we know our residents really care about.

On Monday 17th, myself and PCSO Middleton responded to a report of shoplifting in the Town Centre. Within minutes, we located the two suspects who had numerous stolen items on them and detained them. They were then taken back to Newton Aycliffe station by colleagues from Response, where they were interviewed and admitted to six shoplifting offences.

Moving onto youth related Anti-Social Behaviour in and around the town centre, we have identified a number of youths found to be causing ASB around the Leisure Centre, and working together with our partners from the ASB team from Durham County Council these youths will be started on our ASB escalation process, which aims to reduce their offending going forward.

Furthermore, a number of youths were in Court last week, where we submitted an application for a Criminal Behaviour Order for one youth. Another youth was found to have breached his own Criminal Behaviour Order on a number of occasions, this youth now has an electronic tag which means he must stay in their address between the hours of 8pm-7am.

Also, our colleagues on Response executed a warrant on Wednesday 19th at an address in Arncliffe Place, Newton Aycliffe under the Misuse of Drugs Act. A male has been arrested and enquiries are ongoing in relation to this.

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

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## RUNNING CLUB NEWS

The cold weather conditions led to the cancellation of the parkruns in Darlington South Park and Hackworth Park this Saturday, however the Club was still represented by 15 Members across the Durham, Hamsterley Forest, Sedgfield, Stewart and York events. Carley Cooper and Ian Stothard both celebrated parkrun milestones, each running their 50th parkrun event, and qualifying for one of the prized red commemorative t-shirts.

The biggest race of the weekend was on Sunday morning. The Brass Monkey Half Marathon, which starts and finishes at the York Racecourse, is a popular race, with many runners using the race to gauge fitness after the Christmas period. The course is flat and fast, and therefore the race attracts many of the best runners from around the North-East.

First home for the Club, and setting himself a new Personal Best (PB) for the distance, was John Firby in 1:17:30. Gareth Kyle made a huge improvement on his previous Half Marathon best, crossing the line in 1:23:09. Stuart Joyce also managed to record a PB, finishing in 1:31:06, with Richard Holland not too far behind in 1:39:42.

Trish Kay was our first lady home, completing the race in 1:58:30, and Jayne Rudd started 2022 by taking over twelve minutes off her previous best Half Marathon time, crossing the line in 2:11:06.

Elsewhere on Sunday, the Club fielded four teams in the Birtley XC Relays which took place at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy in Birtley. Each team featured three Members, with each Member running a leg of approximately 3K. In the Men's Masters Race, our V35 Team of Richard Campbell (11:34), Paul Dalton (11:45) and Rob Young (12:30) completed the race in 35:49.

Our V55 Team, comprising Andy Talbot (13:16), Graham Atkins (13:45) and Trevor Needham (13:49), completed the course in a combined time of 40:50, with our V45 Team of Shaun Dodd (14:20), David Stothard (16:15) and Ian Stothard (20:25) finishing with an aggregate time of 51:00.

Our sole Ladies Team competed in the F35 Category and finished with a combined time of 52:40. Kelly Dickinson was first off for the ladies and completed her leg in 17:40, and she was followed by Susan Cranswick (14:49) and Eve Doe (20:11).

Also on Sunday, three Members took part in the Gerry Kearsley Winter Handicap, held over a multi-terrain 10K course, and hosted by Sedgfield Harriers. Entrants were 'handicapped' based on their most recent 10K time. Lorraine Sweeney was first back for the Club with a total time of 1:00:02, and a net time of 54:02. Melanie Rowland completed the course in a total time of 1:00:49, with a net time of 59:49, and Rob Nicholson completed his run in 1:01:47.

Paul Rands was also in action in his native North-West on Sunday, taking on the 38th Essar Four Villages Half Marathon. Paul had an excellent run, completing the course in 1:40:43, recording a new Personal Best. If you have any queries about the activities of Aycliffe Running Club, or would like to know more about joining the Club, please visit our website [www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk](http://www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk), or contact the Club's Secretary, Donna, at [ayclifferunningclub@gmail.com](mailto:ayclifferunningclub@gmail.com)

## Musical Evening at St. Michael's



On Sunday 30th January, after a break for Christmas, the ever more popular musical evenings are returning to St. Michael's Church, Heighington.

Word is spreading. Momentum is gathering for the evenings of song with various singers and musicians coming along to take part including members of Heighington School Choir . . . Now there is a real treat.

Come along and support our local primary school. The evening will begin at 5pm with light refreshments and snack food, followed by music and singing at 6pm. We are back and we are not letting Covid get us down, so come along and have your spirits raised with a good sing and listen to some great music. Website: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13601/>

Facebook: St. Michael's Heighington

## Have A Say on Local Issues

Residents in Great Aycliffe & Middridge can find out how local issues are being tackled when the local area action partnership holds their next virtual board meeting later this month.

The Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership board will be meeting virtually on Tuesday 25 January 2022, between 6pm and 8pm, via Microsoft Teams, and members of the public are invited to observe proceedings. Board members are due to receive an update presentation from Durham County Council in relation to future budgets, as well as information from Co Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service in relation to their Community Risk Management Plan. Anyone who would like to attend the virtual meeting should register in advance by emailing [gampaap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:gampaap@durham.gov.uk) so that we can forward a link to join the meeting. Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership is one of 14 Area Action Partnerships set up by Durham County Council in 2009.



**Greenfield Community College**  
A Specialist Arts & Science School

### Caretaker

Grade 3 SCP 4 - 6 (£18,933 - £19,698 per annum)  
37 hours per week, whole time

Greenfield Community College are looking to appoint a skilled, hard-working and flexible person to take-on this important role. The successful candidate will have the ability to work effectively as part of a team, whilst also being able to work on their own initiative and prioritise their workload. The person appointed will play a vital role in ensuring a clean, safe, secure and well-maintained environment for students, staff and visitors.

The contractual hours for this position are 37 hours per week whole time, a shift pattern will be arranged between 6.45 and 21.30, with an enhanced rate paid for hours after 20.00. Split shifts may apply to cover sickness and holidays. Annual leave entitlement is to be taken during school holiday periods.

If you can share our commitment to providing the best possible learning environment for our students, and the best possible working environment for our staff, we would be pleased to receive your application.

Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered. Completed forms should be returned to [contact@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:contact@greenfieldschool.net) or to the school.

Please go to [www.greenfieldschool.net/vacancies](http://www.greenfieldschool.net/vacancies) for an application form.

Greenfield Community College is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. As a disability confident employer, we are committed to employing disabled people and people with health conditions making reasonable adjustments to support disabled applicants when required.

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment. All posts are subject to a satisfactory DBS clearance.

**Closing Date: Monday 31st January at 12 noon**

Interview date to be confirmed  
All appointments are subject to appropriate pre-employment checks

Your place of work will be Greenfield Community College which has two school sites, one in Newton Aycliffe and one in Shildon. You may be required to work on any of the two sites.



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### Teaching Assistant

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Grade 3 SCP 4-6 (£18,933 - £19,698 pro rata)

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To encourage the participation of students in the social and academic processes of the school and enable student(s) to become more independent learners.

To undertake work/care/support programmes to enable access to learning for student(s) and to assist the teacher in the management of student(s) in the classroom.

For further information and an application pack please contact HR on 01325 300378 or email [contact@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:contact@greenfieldschool.net)

Visit our website [greenfieldschool.net/vacancies](http://greenfieldschool.net/vacancies)  
Completed applications should be sent to the above email address. Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered.

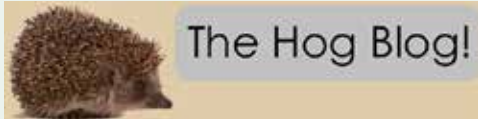
Greenfield Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race, marital status or disability. The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment. All posts are subject to a satisfactory DBS clearance.

**Closing Date: Tuesday 1st February, 12 noon**

Interviews to be confirmed.  
All appointments are subject to appropriate pre-employment checks

Your place of work will be Greenfield Community College which has two school sites, one in Newton Aycliffe and one in Shildon. You may be required to work on any of the two sites.





What a week it has been! I hope everyone has been reading and enjoying this little article and anyone who has Facebook can also keep up-to-date with this rescue which is looking forward to a new year of helping more of these beautiful creatures.



To update on Mitzi, doing well and growing stronger everyday but still has some spines yet to come through but there is still some time to go before the weather changes for the better and they can be released.

One thing I can say is that just because these are wild animals they still feel ill, they come in with all sorts of problems, feel the cold, pain, etc etc and us rescuers see it all. I have even seen a hog with tears because he was safe and comfy here. They have a lot to contend with in the wild and we are responsible for some of the bad things that happen to them and I see them as vulnerable, not wild in the slightest.

Here is an example of a brilliant rescue, on Sunday a lovely couple brought a lovely hog in who was clearly in distress, out in the day time, which never should happen to nocturnal mammals. She had woken up hungry, thirsty and disoriented from hibernation. Jane and Selwyn picked up this hog and took her indoors and warmed her through then sought my help.

She is very thin but healthy, but what is astonishing is that she isn't a young hog, she is maybe 5 years old considering the awful things they have to put up with in the wild. All hoggies in here are very special in their individual way because we have to work hard to keep them alive. But, here she is, Jane and Selwyn have named her Molly! Settling well and gaining weight too, she likes Brambles Hedgehog Meat.

Can I also mention another lady who is always on hand to help us rescuers, Katrina, and her mum, another lady called Jane. She always watches out for our prickly pals, so thank you. All help and donations are very much appreciated, I try to graciously accept because it's all voluntary and helps me feed and medicate these lovely creatures.

**Tip of the Week:** Please get help for hedgehogs in trouble by ringing The British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801, my email: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com and, if you want to keep up with hoggies on Facebook, it's Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel.

Maxine



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

Well, last week didn't go quite as planned, and that's before all the political fallout from events in No 10! Last Wednesday I tested positive, meaning I had to isolate and completely rearrange the meetings I had planned. I have been vaccinated and boosted and am sure that will be why I have not been too badly affected. I have now tested negative twice and will be returning to Westminster this week.

As you would anticipate with the media furore, I have had several inbound emails questioning the role of the Prime Minister in the 'parties' in No 10. I have no intention of making any excuses for what appears to have been happening but nor am I about to draw my conclusions yet. Particularly with not being in Westminster at the end of last week I only have the information delivered via the press and political opponents and I am certainly not going to react based on those alone. For the avoidance of doubt, I can reassure you all that I was neither at, nor aware of, these alleged 'parties' or any others for that matter. I hope that the facts are delivered as soon as possible, and any appropriate actions taken.

My frustration at times like this is the potential for distraction from the important agendas that need to be progressed and I am doing all I can to continue this work. After the recent reshuffle there are new relationships to build, of particular importance to me is the new minister responsible for Rail, Wendy Morton MP. I had a very good relationship with her predecessor who has moved to the Foreign Office team but with both Hitachi and my plans for Ferryhill Station to consider I have already met Wendy and will have further meetings this week.

I was pleased to see the announcement last week of the developments on Merchant Park creating more jobs for our residents. I spend quite a bit of time working with the Business Durham team and they have some incredible agendas in play. You may not have noticed but the team from NETPark have just announced that the North East Space Conference will take place in Durham in March. We will not be launching space rockets from Sedgefield anytime soon but the number of companies we have in our region that supply businesses in the space sector is truly staggering. For any of our young people, who aspire to work within the space technology sector, there are certainly opportunities coming. Another of my key relationships is with George Freeman MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Science, Research and Innovation, who is proving to be a good friend to the Sedgefield constituency.

Although isolating, I can of course continue

with virtual meetings. I had a meeting with Local Trust, the secretariate for the Left Behind Neighbourhoods APPG that I chair. This call reflected on the health inequalities report we had produced but also on the progress of the Dormant Assets Bill. We hope this Bill will deliver a Community Wealth Fund to enable investment in the neediest communities. I joined Peter Gibson MP and others in a call with Baroness Vere, who is the roads minister, ostensibly to discuss Smart Motorways but we both took the opportunity to remind her that a Northern Darlington Bypass needs to be in her plans to alleviate the congestion being suffered. A big pleasure in the week was being invited to a virtual meeting of Darlington Rotary Club as they were holding their Austin Brooks lunch where they celebrate young people who have demonstrated Rotarian principles in their everyday life. Ethan Brown from Hurworth school, which is in the Sedgefield constituency, was one of the recipients.

This column is written on the Tuesday, before Prime Ministers Questions on Wednesday, which I'm sure will be another feisty affair. I have explained before about how questions to the Prime Minister work, and indeed questions to the various Secretaries of State, in that you apply for a question; there's a draw and members are selected. After several weeks of not being successful in any draws and only getting questions by bobbing in the chamber, this week I have drawn two. I can ask questions in both PMQs on Wednesday and to the Secretary for International Trade on Thursday. I will tell you next week about how these went. If you want to watch them, you can look on the UK Parliament website and search for my contributions. <https://www.parliamentlive.tv/Commons>

We are hearing speculation that restrictions will continue to lift later in the month, this will have the UK being one of the most open countries for pandemic restrictions. So, whatever the outcomes of 'Partygate' it appears the big decisions regarding vaccines and restrictions have been good ones. One clear, good decision has been the push for vaccine jabs and boosters and once again I would encourage you all to get any jabs you need. The next few weeks could be a real tipping point, remember what you do has most impact on you, your friends, family and colleagues, so don't let the reported actions of others be an excuse for not doing the right thing.

Stay safe.

If you need to get in touch with me and the constituency team, please send an email to paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk 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

## Aerial Installations

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The entrance to the school used to be over the other side near the playing field, however the 'trade' entrance seems to be the only means of access now, surely it would be a common sense approach to open both entrances and ease the congestion. We appreciate people need to get their children to school, however there seems to be very little thought for the people living in this area.

I would urge the local police to attend a typical morning/afternoon drop off and assess the situation as I don't believe for one minute that what we witness on a daily basis would be acceptable in any other environment, an emergency vehicle would struggle to get through Staintondale with the constant gridlock caused by the excessive amount of traffic at these times.

Concerned Resident  
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## Follow and Obey

Dear Sir,

May I express my concerns with regards to the very eye catching notice that was published on page 12 in the 14th January issue of the Newton News? In light of what is currently happening in government right now with the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson under extreme pressure to resign for the alleged many breaches of covid rules and laws at Downing Street and other cabinet offices over the past twelve months or so. The laws and rules that HE stipulated that WE MUST follow and obey, which many of us struggled and suffered throughout, but did exactly what was asked; despite the touch paper being lit when Dominic Cummings did what he did and pretty much got away with it.

Seeing this article has really touched a nerve and boils my blood, and I'm sure I'm not the only one! The timing couldn't have been so wrong, the article structure and contents equally couldn't be so wrong. Is our conservative MP, Mr. Howell, representing his constituents or, does he have some authority over us telling us what WE should do and laying down the law? Is it really his place to be doing such a thing, especially with what is happening right now in his own party? I find that article grossly offensive and highly hypocritical. Firstly, it's in red! Upper case font, which indicates expression as though shouting. Clearly Mr. Howell has been to the shops recently and has noticed that the people are just quietly getting on with it in their own way, shop staff and the public, each to their own. I think we've all had enough now and I certainly see no need whatsoever for such an offensive article like this. Above all, he fails to state an important part of the law...those who are EXEMPT!

This article is clearly an article of Conservative dictatorship in the name of covid. Clearly he is angry at something, and that something is happening at Whitehall? If anything, I would've accepted Mr. Howell's article if it was firstly, not in Red and perhaps used better phrasing, such as, 'A Polite Notice' or 'May I Remind You' etc and refrained from stipulating the law, when now is NOT the time to be laying down the law by any conservative politician, with what has been going on. Shameful to say the least.

Who is he targeting with this article?

Perhaps Mr. Howell should use his time more efficiently and preach the 'covid law' to members of his own party, including that of his illustrious leader Boris, instead of us! We have suffered enough as it is and now their conduct is borderlining cheek and offensive. People have lost loved ones, livelihoods, vast sums of money. Their mental health has been severely disrupted and has greatly suffered, and to have the mindless gall to issue an article like this is outright hypocrisy!

How dare he? And I'm sure many others have taken offence by this article in the same way but dare not say anything because of the 'Conservative' world we now live in, but how long for, is the question? The 'Brexit' bandwagon is over and the people can see this party for what it really is. Perhaps the people may vote more wisely and truly and look for honest leadership, leadership that is more in line to their way of life and ideals instead of this nonsense! I think our MP, Mr. Howell, should offer a formal apology for this hypocritical, patronising and offensive article or, perhaps he should join Boris and resign for inappropriate conduct?

Was this 'rubber stamp' article his duty and was it absolutely necessary? Or is it one step too far for the conservatives, yet again? Name and address supplied

## Sudoku

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

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# N.A.F.C. REPORT



## Saturday 15th January 2022 Ebac Northern League Division One Thornaby 0 v Newton Aycliffe 2

Despite almost a month's layoff - Newton Aycliffe showed no sign of rustiness as they took three points at second place Thornaby on Saturday. Goals from Andrei Ardelean and Ben Reay sealed Aycliffe's third win of the season over the Teesside team. Aycliffe started the game strongly with Andrei Ardelean opening the scoring on seven minutes, turning in a cross from the left. The first half saw the visitors putting in an excellent battling performance with the midfield especially preventing Thornaby from creating any serious threat to Adam Pickford's goal. The second half was played in similar fashion. Although Aycliffe had plenty of possession they were unable to find the target to put the game beyond doubt. With twenty minutes to go the home side had two players red carded - the first for a foul, the second for the reaction. With Thornaby reduced to nine men Aycliffe continued to press but it wasn't until added time that substitute Ben Reay was able to double the lead and end the game. Reay latched onto a through ball and did well to make himself space before firing into the bottom corner. The result was a fantastic win for Aycliffe against a team who were seeking their fifth win in a row. Aycliffe return to the Beaumont Landscapes Stadium on Saturday 22nd January where league leaders Consett will be the visitors. The Steelmen currently have an eight point lead over Thornaby but suffered the disappointment of going out of the FA Vase on Saturday to a last minute goal. No doubt they will be looking to bounce back and avenge Aycliffe's win in the reverse fixture back in August. The Consett game will be followed by a Race Night in the Sports Club. Tickets cost £3 and are available at the game or on the door. The Race Night starts at 6pm and includes pie & peas. Photo: Aycliffe players celebrate Andrei Ardelean's goal.

## Obituary

### Dawn Christine Hatser

*Aycliffe Village*  
Peacefully in hospital on 17th January, after a short illness. Dawn Christine, aged 56 years. Youngest Daughter of the late Tommy and Hazel Hatser and a special Sister of Wendy and Joy-Marie. Funeral service to be held on Monday 7th February in St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village at 12.30pm followed by Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 1.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu, will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service in aid of Aycliffe Village Hall. A touch of Pink would be much appreciated.

### Ruth Laycock (nee Taylor)

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully, at home with family by her side on 12th January, aged 86 years. A dearly beloved Wife of the late Ron; a much loved Mam to Dave, Chris, Mike, Jue and Jackie; Mother-in-Law to Allan and the late Fiona and Mark; a treasured Grandma to Mally, Phil, Ian, Andrew, Lee, Leanne, Kelly, Nick, Paula, Tom and Victoria and a much loved Great Grandma, also a dear Sister to Ann and Judith and Sister-in-Law to Tony and Neil. Will family and friends please meet for a service in St. Clare's Church on Wednesday 2nd February at 1.45pm, to be followed by Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations, in lieu, for Dementia UK.

### Catherine Brett

*28th December 2021*  
Peacefully, after a short illness, of Bethany House (formerly Beechfield) - Cath, aged 82. Devoted Wife of the late Sidney; loving Mam of John, Elaine, Alison and Jean; a dear Mother-in-Law of David and Kay; a much loved Grandmother of Charlotte, Emma, Richard, Alan, Natalie, Michael and Sarah; a Great Grandmother of Poppy and Lily. Would friends please meet at Wear Valley Crematorium on Monday 31st January at 10.30am. Family flowers only please, donations may be left in the collection plate provided for Bethany House.

### Roberta Frances Ferguson (Bobbie)

*Newton Aycliffe*  
Died peacefully on 1st January. Sadly missed by all who knew her. Funeral Service to take place at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Monday 31st January at 2.30pm.

### Inga Eales

*10th January 2022*  
Peacefully, Inga (nee Treddenick) aged 72 years of Newton Aycliffe. Loving Wife of the late Stephen; dearly loved Mam of Sharon and Paul; dear Mother-in-Law to Karen; devoted Grandma to Charlotte, James, Emily and Georgia; much loved Daughter-in-Law of Mary, also a sadly missed Sister to Brian and Lewis. Will friends please meet for Service in St. Clare's Church on Thursday 27th January at 11.00am, followed by interment in West Cemetery.

## Congratulations

### Alwyn Pearson



**Happy 80th Birthday**  
*13th January 2022*  
Happy birthday to a fabulous Mam and Gran. Lots of love, Janice, Nigel, Tom, Jess, Lauren, Dan and Thomas xxxxx

## In Memoriam

### Marjorie Local

*Died 15th January 2015*  
Will never forget you pet.  
Husband John.  
Love and kisses xxxxx

### Rita Smith

*22/4/1942-24/1/2021*  
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### James Stonley

*Died 24th Dec 2021*  
Much loved Dad, Grandad and friend. Funeral at 3:30pm at Durham Crematorium on Monday 24th Jan 2022. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to Dementia U.K. For details email: [ken.stonley55@gmail.com](mailto:ken.stonley55@gmail.com)

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## Thank You

Dear Sir,  
I wanted to say thank you to everyone responsible for cleaning the footpaths along Woodham Way and into the Woodland Walks.

An excellent job was done and it is very much appreciated.  
Joanne Russell



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## NAFC Junior Section



**Development:** Had a wonderful turnout with eighteen children attending a great training session provided by Jack. There were also considerable numbers at under 7's training with twenty children attending. The trainer of the week was Reggie, won this on his very first night at training, well done Reggie!

**Under 9's Blacks** hosted Hartlepool St Francis. A defensive error saw Aycliffe concede early, some good football was then played with Aycliffe hitting the bar. There was great celebration when Tyler Jay scored from outside the box. Unfortunately, the opposition were just too strong for Aycliffe, who put in a gutsy performance. MOTM: Luca, who was outstanding in goal and made some very brave saves.

**Under 10's Whites** played Washington PSG. Aycliffe put in a wonderful performance, with the opposition goalkeeper keeping his side in the game. The goal eventually coming from a well worked free kick scored by Maxi. MOTM: Max.

**Under 10's Blacks** played against a well organised Coxhoe team. The Blacks took the initiative by scoring three early goals through Rhys, Oliver, and Benjamin. The game then settled before Oliver grabbed a fourth before half time. Coxhoe scored a goal before Harry, then Benjamin scored again. MOTM: Benjamin who grabbed a brace played well throughout.

**Under 10's Juniors** played a 9v9 friendly away to Seaton Carew. After a shaky start, Seaton took an early lead before Aycliffe managed to settle into the game for much of the rest of the half. In the second half we played some good football at times, but tired legs & with substitutions saw Aycliffe lose shape and concede more goals. A good first effort at 9v9.

**Under 11's** travelled to Hartlepool Pools Youth Whites. A controlled performance assured Aycliffe the win. In a game they dominated, goals come from Evan (2) and Archie. MOTM: Evan.

**Under 12's** played Skelton Utd. Some good football was played with Aycliffe creating numerous chances. It was the opposition however who took the initiative scoring three goals. The 3-0 loss was hard to take after the level of performance. MOTM: Alex.

**Under 13's Blacks** played a strong Washington Blues, having only twelve players available for selection. An early goal from Danny, saw Aycliffe dominate the first half. There was an injury to Keaton, before Danny scored a wonderful free kick. Washington, however, came back strong and grabbed two goals to end the game 2-2. MOTM: Danny.

**Under 13's Whites** without a league game, the team played a friendly against Eaglescliffe Elementis. An experimental line up saw James open the scoring, before Eaglescliffe were awarded a penalty 1-1 at half time. Reverting to normal positions in the second half, Aycliffe scored six without reply from Jayden, Sam, Ethan (2) and Thomas (2). MOTM: awarded to the full team.

**Under 16's** travelled to face Durham Tigers. As has been the story of the season so far, Aycliffe dominated the game, with Archie and Liam testing the keeper, who made great saves. Durham took the lead near half time with a well worked goal. In the second half Aycliffe pressed without being able to find a goal. MOTM: George Rose, who was outstanding in goal.

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