

Friday 24th June 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

Great Aycliffe Garden Guild



See page 2 for full story

Newton News proudly supported by:



Great Aycliffe Garden Guild

Dear Sir,

We are writing to tell you about Great Aycliffe Garden Guild, a new community group that is being set up for the residents of Great Aycliffe. We plan to open a shop and a community room at Clarence Chare Allotments. The shop will be open on a weekend and it will sell good quality gardening products at a fair price. We will also run community events on a regular basis; these will include crafts, talks and demonstrations. The focus of the project is to inspire people to engage in gardening and learn how to do so in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.

So far we have secured funding from Livin. We are in the process of submitting a funding claim to the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership. The project will gather pace shortly and we will need more support from the local community to ensure it is a great success.

We are holding a public meeting on Thursday 30th June at 7pm at the Oakleaf Sports Complex. We hope that residents will come along to find out more about the project and contribute their ideas too. Teas and coffees will be provided along with a raffle for a garden hamper. Representatives from the Town Council and Funders will also be attending.

As the project gains momentum we will need more volunteers to support the project. At present we especially need volunteers to join the committee, in roles such as Secretary, Social Media and Events organiser. The committee meets informally once a month. The project is just starting out, so it is an opportunity to shape the direction of the project, develop skills and meet new people. Once the project progresses we will need more volunteers for the shop. All volunteers will be provided with full training and will be eligible for a discount on shop products.

We would like to thank Councillor Jim Atkinson who initiated the project and provided funding, Lee and Dan from Great Aycliffe Town Council, Louise Barbé from Livin, Angela Blanchard from Durham County Council and Design Draughting Services. Their support in getting the project to the stage it is today has been invaluable. If you are interesting in volunteering please contact Lucy on 07828 536235 or check out our Facebook page 'Great Aycliffe Garden Guild'. We look forward to seeing residents on 30th June.

Great Aycliffe Garden Guild Committee
Contact G. Crossen 07340 606402.



Commercial Training Requests for Welding Soar



The Gestamp Training and Wellbeing Academy, based at Aycliffe Business Park (Newton Aycliffe) has seen external demand for its specialist welding training increase by 200 per cent in the first quarter of 2022, compared with figures for the whole of 2021.

Situated adjacent to Gestamp's manufacturing facility in its own 4,200 sq ft purpose-built space, the Training and Wellbeing Academy has been supporting the development of Gestamp employees since 2016 and is also now working with local employers to upskill and reskill their workforces.

In the first three months of 2022, the academy saw an increase in training bookings from a range of companies including an automotive supplier, a training company and a warehousing and distribution facility, for its specialist MIG and TIG welding. This exceeds the total number of training bookings for 2021.

Gestamp's bespoke training provides flexibility to employers and the academy offers specific training based on their requirements. The training covers a wide area of expertise in both MIG/MAG and TIG welding on mild steel, stainless steel and aluminium, in addition to robotics training, which covers both the operation and maintenance of the machines.

The training, designed and delivered by Gestamp, is designed to be fit for purpose for each employer and training provider, and can be delivered on a client's site or at Gestamp's facility.

Paul James, Head of Training and Wellbeing Academy, at Gestamp commented: "It's fantastic to see the results from the last few months and to have had the opportunity to work with such a diverse range of employers. We're extremely privileged to be able to support local companies with the specialist training their teams require."

"Too often 'off-the-shelf' welding and robotics training is very rigid and can mean that companies are getting too much, too little or none of the level of training they need. That is why we take the time to talk to employers, visit their facilities and apply Gestamp's decades of experience to deliver training programmes that will address their needs."

"This approach has proved very successful, and it's the method we use at Gestamp, where we believe in People the Architects of Success."

Lee Childs, Director of NC Group, which provides a range of bespoke training to companies and has worked in partnership with the Wellbeing and Training Academy for a number of years, commented:

"We work together on delivering training and consultancy packages for a number of companies who have requests for training that we're not able to fulfil ourselves."

"We haven't found anyone else like the Gestamp team who can deliver bespoke training to specification and requirements, as well as offering advice and guidance to get people into work and keeping them there with the skills they need."

"The team has provided fantastic training and are continuing to help us develop workforces."

The Training and Wellbeing Academy features specialist welding bays, a tooling facility, an extensive robotics maintenance and training area as well as classrooms and an auditorium. In development is its wellbeing suite, which will include a medical area, physiotherapy suites and a wellbeing zone. The ambition of the academy is to be a central hub to supporting its employees and the employees of other local businesses and community groups with training and wellbeing support.

Photo, L-R: Stuart Blackett, Paul James and Jordan Paterson.

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Saturday 2nd July - 'Turtle Z's'

Saturday 9th July - 'Dreadnought'

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

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HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

Tel: Paul

01325 300212

or paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Luke Signs for Doncaster Rovers

After four seasons with Hartlepool United Luke has left the club and on Tuesday this week he signed a 2 year deal with Doncaster Rovers. Luke enjoyed his time at Hartlepool and had his best season last season, being their top scorer, having scored 12 goals in league and cup games. Luke made a real connection with the fans there – they even sang a song about him! In his goodbye message to the fans Luke said: "I hope you understand my decision to leave was not an easy one. I will be leaving the club that has given me so many good memories and made the best day of my life possible in that play off final. I will be forever grateful for what this club and you, the fans, have done for me and how close I became with all of you. I made some lifelong friends at this club and memories I'll never forget! "Never Say Die."



Luke's family are all very proud of him and his achievements and look forward to supporting him in the next stage of his career at Doncaster Rovers.

Incinerator Appeal Dates

Arrangements that have been made for the inquiry to be held regarding the appeal by the appellant against Durham County Councils decision to refuse planning permission. The inquiry will start at 10am on Tuesday 28th June 2022 at The Work Place, Heighington Lane, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe. It is scheduled to last five days. The Inspector, Woolcock BNatRes MURP DipLaw MRTPI, appointed by the Secretary of State under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 6 of the Town and County Planning Act 1990, will attend to hear representations and thereafter will decide the appeal.

Members of the public may attend the inquiry and, at the Inspector's discretion, express their views. ELG Planning will be representing Great Aycliffe Town Council at the Appeal and our consultant is scheduled to speak early on the Wednesday morning (29th June), along with the residents' group. Councillor Arun M Chandran

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Voice Your Objection



Town Councillors Robson, Jones and Hawkins showing their objection to the incinerator planned for Aycliffe Business Park. Durham County Council denied permission for the incinerator plans to go ahead, the company are now appealing this decision. To express your concerns, the inquiry starts at 10am on Tuesday 28th June at The Work Place on Aycliffe Business Park. Members of the public may attend the inquiry.

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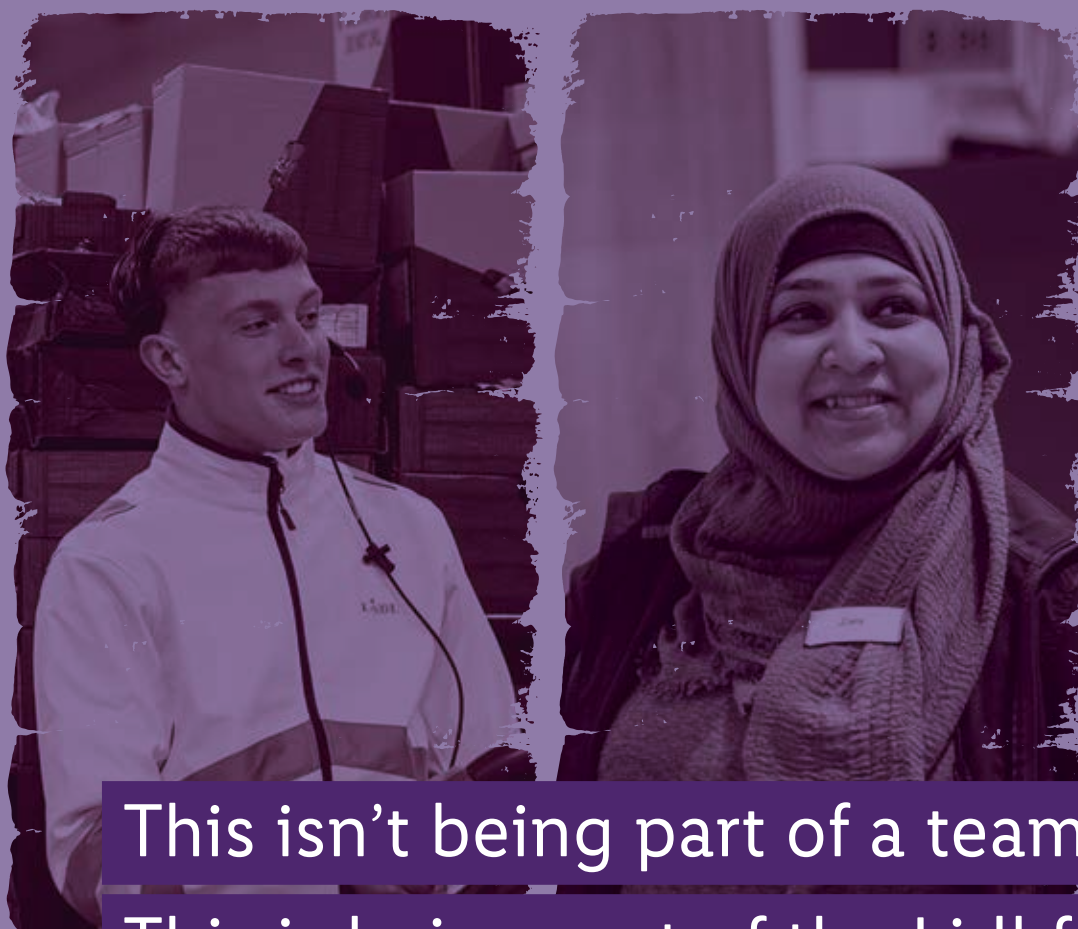
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Sketching Walks

Thursday 16th June Walk

It was a sunny day and I've got twice as many artists this week for company. We went to the Locomotion Railway Museum in Shildon. We located to the picnic area and in front of us were the railway sidings with an array of stock to inspire and challenge us. A relaxing two hours were spent. If you would like to join us we meet in Newton Aycliffe or surrounding areas on a Thursday morning. For more information phone Bill Lowery on 01325 311225.

Sugar Hill Jubilee Picnic



On Thursday 9th June PCSO Jess Brown and PCSO Holly Cowton arrived at Sugar Hill Primary to escort a special visitor to our whole school Jubilee Picnic Event attended by parents, carers and other family members. The event was to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee and to raise funds for our local Community Defibrillator. The event was a huge success. 'The Queen' arrived in the style to which she is accustomed, with her chauffeur, stepping on to the red carpet and greeted by children and our Chair of Governors Denise Raine. Many thanks to all staff who coordinated this event and to all our families who, as always, showed their tremendous support. Watch out for our defibrillator story that will be shared with you all very soon!



England Call Up for John

Sedgefield Water Polo Club would like to congratulate John Pratt who was selected to represent England Senior Men at the Home International Tournament over the weekend of Saturday 28th May and Sunday 29th, at the Alan Higgs Centre in Coventry.

The first game was against Wales, which England won 21-1. John scored a very impressive six goals. His second game was against Scotland, where England won 13-7 with John scoring another 2 goals for his country. John not only plays for the club, but also gives up his time to coach his peers and the younger members, so this is an excellent way for our members to see what they can achieve with hard work and dedication. The games can be watched back on the WePlaySport app - <https://www.weplay.sport/get-view> In addition to Junior and Senior sessions, the club now offer a beginner session on a Saturday afternoon for those wishing to try this fun and exciting sport. All sessions need to be booked in advance so please check our website for further info and joining instructions; Contact us: 07579 030 598 / sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com



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Covid-19 Resilience Service Celebrates One Year

Have you or someone you know been emotionally impacted by COVID-19 or the pandemic?

The County Durham COVID-19 Resilience Team is here to make a difference – offering tailored support to individuals and families, not in crisis, living or working in County Durham.

Donna Sheavills, Project Lead of the County Durham COVID-19 Resilience Team at the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), said: “The long-term impacts of COVID-19 and the pandemic have been shown through the referrals into the service.

“The effects of COVID are not over, with bereavement, carer support, financial wellbeing and social isolation, to name a few, still causing emotional distress amongst individuals and families.

“I’d like to thank our dedicated team for going above and beyond to show compassion and support communities in County Durham as we move forward from the pandemic.”

What makes the service unique is that it is completely client led – from 1:1 or group sessions, it’s up to the client and what is best for improving their mental wellbeing.



The Dash is Back



The Dash is a big primary school sporting event held every year. For the last two years, due to Covid, it has been cancelled, but this year it was finally back. For the first time it was held at Eleven Arches Farm in Bishop Auckland - the site that is usually used for the Kynren. Children from Aycliffe Village Primary School competed in their first ever Dash athletics competition and loved it!! Teams from each year in Key Stage 2 competed in a series of events including chest throw, standing long jump and 300 metre run. The teams that went to Kynren consisted of two boys and two girls from each year. In Year 5 we had Sam Maddison and Hannah Clark representing our school for the chest push and standing long jump and myself (Harrison Taylor) and Jasmine Dhillon representing us in the 300 metre run. Although nobody in Year 5 were finalists, Mila Parnaby and Oscar Clarkson in Year 4 made the finals. Mila came second and Oscar was joint third. At Kynren, to celebrate the winners of the events for chest throw and long jump the Locomotion replica steam engine came out with its carriages filled with the winners! Although we didn’t win any event for our year group, we all had a fantastic time and enjoyed the event very much and I can’t wait for the school to do it again next year.
Reporter: Harrison Taylor, Year 5.

So far, 83% of clients show improvement for overall life satisfaction and mental wellbeing within the first six sessions.

Anyone that lives or works in County Durham is able to use the service, simply get in touch with their team.

To find out more about the service, visit www.pcp.uk.net/covid-resilience-service or email covidresilience@pcp.uk.net



SPORTS DAY 2022

AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE SATURDAY 9th JULY 2022 11.00am to 3.00pm

Meet representatives from your local sports clubs

- Cricket • Football • Rugby • Archery • Water Polo •
- Boxing • Dancing • Cheer Leaders • Karate • Ballet •
- Irish Dancing • Clubbercise • Axe Throwing and more

Performance Times:

- 11.15 to 11.30 - Clubbersise
- 11.45 to 12.00 - Infinity (Younger Dancers)
- 12.15 to 12.30 - RDA Silver Swans (Ballet)
- 12.45 to 1.00 - O’Hehir School (Irish Dancing)
- 1.15 to 1.30 - Zanshin (Karate)
- 1.45 to 2.00 - Infinity (Senior Dancers)
- 2.15 to 2.30 - Nemesis (Cheer Leaders)

Community Calendar

Part Funded by Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership

Sisters of Support

St. Clare's Church Hall 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7-9pm, Contact via FB: @sistersofsupport
Mental Health Support for Women

Neville Community Association

Neville Community Centre,
Neville Parade, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5DH
3rd Tuesday (except Aug & Dec) 6.45pm.
Contact: Heather Brewster 07751 385250

Newton Aycliffe Women's Institute

St. Clare's Church Hall
Second Tuesday of each month, 7pm
Contact: Christine Robinson 07981 992686

School Aycliffe Ladies Group

School Aycliffe Community Hall
First Wednesday of each month, 7pm
Contact: Christine Robinson 07981 992686

Shine Children's Choir

St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe
Monday's from 5-6pm, Free for ages 5+
Contact: Helen McCormick 07716 801262

Rotary Newton Aycliffe

Hallgarth Hotel, Coatham Mundeville
Tuesdays (except after Bank Holidays) 6.30pm
Email: rotarynewtonaycliffe@outlook.com
Facebook: @rotarynewtonaycliffe

Kinship Care Support Group

Costa Coffee, Greenwell Road
1st and 3rd Thursday, 10-11.30am
Email: jane.harmer@kinship.org.uk
Tel: 07943 865601

Citizens Advice

Newton Aycliffe Library - 0808 278 7821
Monday & Friday, 10am-1pm
Website: www.citizensadvicecd.org.uk

Woodham Knit & Natter

Meets 1-3pm, every Monday
St. Elizabeth's Church Hall, Newton Aycliffe
Contact: Milly 01325 313819

Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group

Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre
1st Thursday of month 6-7.30pm
(except January/August)
Contact Allison on 07762 258696 or
Janice 07874 709014

Greenfield Community Badminton

Every Saturday
Under 11yrs 1pm-2pm, 11yrs+ 2pm-3pm.
First week free
For more information contact peterwalton1@aol.com or Community Sports 01325 379048

Befriending Group

Pioneering Care Centre,
Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF
Every Tuesday, 12.30-1.30pm
Contact: befriending@pcp.uk.net
or ring 01325 321234

Sensory Parent Support Group

Meeting every 5-6 weeks at
Tree Tops Children's Occupational Therapy,
Eldon Road, Aycliffe Bus Park, DL5 6UL
Contact: spdpsgnee@gmail.com
Sensory, Dyspraxia, Gross/Fine Motor Difficulties

Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group

Chilton Catholic Club
Coffee Morning + Tombola
Third Wednesday of month 10am-12noon
Everyone welcome.

Tiddlers & Toddlers

Meets 9.30-11am, every Wednesday (term)
St. Clare's Church Hall, Newton Aycliffe

Welcome Cafe

Meets 10am, every Tuesday
St. Clare's Church Hall, Newton Aycliffe

Acorn Ukcs

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Every Wednesday, 1-3pm
Learn to play the Ukelele
Contact: Margaret McDermott 01325 317419

New Friends, New Places

The Navy Club, Burnhill Way
Every Tuesday, 1.30-4pm
Get togethers and trips
Contact: 01325 308094 or 07967 901477

Men Talking Together

Unit 14A, IES Centre, Aycliffe Business Park
Every Monday, 12noon-2.30pm
Meet new people, visit interesting places
Contact: 01325 308094 or 07967 901477

Aycliffe Beekeepers Association

St. Oswald's Allotment Apiary
Every Monday evening at 6pm
throughout the summer months
aycliffebka@gmail.com - Tel 07905 190701

Allsorts Charity Shop

End of St. Clare's Church Hall (Acorn Centre)
Open Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturdays
From 10am-1pm
All funds raised go to local charities

Junction 7 Butternut Squash Cafe

The ARK, Silverdale Place DL5 7DZ
Mondays and Thursday 10am-2pm

Junction 7 Thrive Mens Group

The ARK, Silverdale Place DL5 7DZ
Tuesdays, 6pm
Contact Simon 07783 539167

Junction 7 We Are Not Just a Mothers Group for Ladies

The ARK, Silverdale Place DL5 7DZ
Wednesdays, 1-3pm

Junction 7 Lighthouse Kids

The ARK, Silverdale Place DL5 7DZ
Thursday evenings booking only
junc7tion@gmail.com

Junction 7 Cooking on a Budget

The ARK, Silverdale Place DL5 7DZ
Friday 1-3pm booking only
junc7tion@gmail.com

Junction 7 Foodbank

Mondays and Thursdays
Contact: junc7tion@gmail.com
07783 539167 or 07851 723647

Junction 7 NE First Credit Union

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Mondays and Thursdays 11am-2pm

Learning Together - Homework Group

Email: Sam@learninganewway.co.uk
Saturday 10.30-12noon
Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre

Neville Parade Art Group

Neville Parade Methodist Church
Every Wednesday from 1pm-3pm
Contact 07523 472522 or just turn up

Acorn Community Association

Phoenix Club upstairs lounge
Second Thursday every month at 6pm.
5.30pm for Little Acorns

Reunite & Reconnect

Meets 10am, every Monday
St. Clare's Church Hall, Newton Aycliffe
Reducing isolation for over 55's

Hub of Wishes

Meet Mon-Fri 10-4pm, 10-11 Silverdale Place
Vicki Lawrence or Joanne Howe
Contact: 01325 300121
Email: thehubofwishes@gmail.com
Website www.hubofwishes.co.uk

KidzFlicks (Cinema Club for children)

First Saturday of every month at 2pm, £1.
St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe
Contact: Helen McCormick 07716 801262

Messy Church

Meets 4pm on third Saturday of every month
St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe (free)
Faith, fun, fellowship with crafts, story and tea.
Contact: Helen McCormick 07716 801262

Walk and Talk

Meets 3.30pm, 1st & 3rd Sunday
St. Clare's Church Hall, Newton Aycliffe
Contact: Rev. Daniel 01325 962096

Coffee Morning

Meets 10am-12noon, every Saturday
St. Clare's Church Hall, Newton Aycliffe

Coffee Morning

10am-12noon, first Saturday of month
St. Elizabeth's Church Hall, Newton Aycliffe

Lifeline Community Action Knit & Natter

LCA Community Hub
17 Beveridge Way, DL5 4DZ
Tuesdays, 10am-12noon
Contact: 07936 431262 or
officellifelinecommunityaction@gmail.com

Lifeline Community Action Craft Sessions

LCA Community Hub
17 Beveridge Way, DL5 4DZ
Thursdays 10am-12noon
Contact: 07936 431262 or
officellifelinecommunityaction@gmail.com

Lifeline Community Action Tea Dance

St. Clare's Church Hall, Newton Aycliffe
Thursdays 1.30-3.30pm
Contact: 07936 431262 or
officellifelinecommunityaction@gmail.com

Lifeline Community Action

Children's Dance Classes
St. Clare's Church Hall DL5 5NT
Thursdays 5pm-6pm or 6pm-7pm
(depending on the age of the child)
Contact: 07936 431262 or
officellifelinecommunityaction@gmail.com

Neville Community Cafe

Open every Friday, 10am-12 noon
Neville Community Centre, Neville Parade

All Disabilities Matter

Every Tuesday 11am at Cafe HQ Town Centre
Coffee, Cake and a Catch Up

PCP Summer Fair

at the Pioneering Care Centre,
Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe
Friday 19th August, 10am - 2pm
Summer stalls and activities

Darlington Video Makers Club

We meet in Aycliffe Village starting in
September. All you need to get started is a
mobile phone. Search on line to contact us.

Friends of St. Clare's

Visit website: www.friendsofstclares.uk
To attract people who do not, or very rarely,
attend church. Would you like to volunteer?
Would you like to join?

New Funded Learning Together Group

A recently founded, non-profit organisation has launched its first, funded learning group at Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre. Running on a Saturday morning, from 10.30-12 children are welcome to come along with their homework and reading books to access support with their learning.

All sessions are hosted by qualified and experienced teacher Sam and teaching assistant Emma, but that is the only similarity with school; the sessions are informal and fun, and we encourage the children to work together and help each other. It also means your child gets their homework done without any of the stresses this can often bring, meaning you free up your valuable family time. One parent told us "Alice loved her first session and is looking forward to attending more" and another reported "George thought it was GREAT!"

Learning a New Way CIC aims to provide quality tuition and meaningful wellbeing experiences to the local community, for those



who would otherwise not be able to access it. These sessions will run up until the Summer Holidays initially.

Anyone can come along, there are no age restrictions nor eligibility criteria. You can email sam@learninganewway.co.uk for more information and find us on Facebook to keep up to date!

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

Armed Forces Day 2022



The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Ken Robson, attended the War Memorial outside St. Clare's Church on Monday 20th June to raise a flag on behalf of the Town to mark the beginning of Armed Forces Week.

The Mayor was accompanied by the Mayoress, Mrs. Elaine Robson, and was assisted by Officers from the Aycliffe Armoury and the Barnard Armoury. The service was conducted by Rev. Jeff Anderson and Canon Ann Anderson. Veterans and members of the public attended to mark this annual occasion which is an opportunity for local communities to be able to show their appreciation to the men and women of the Armed Forces from serving personnel to service families and recruits and veterans.

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Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER

June 2022

T: 01325 300700 • E: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • W: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk



In Search of Community Heroes

Do you know a Local Hero?

Do you know someone who dedicates their time to improving the welfare of residents of Great Aycliffe or raising the profile of the parish through charity work, fundraising, environmental work, outstanding sport, art or cultural contributions?

Great Aycliffe Town Council is launching its new Community Recognition and Awards Scheme, which aims to recognise the often-unsung heroes of the local community. Parish residents are invited to nominate individuals whom they feel are deserving of this award. Nominations will be considered by the Council and successful nominees will be invited to a Council meeting and presented with a Community Recognition Scheme Certificate and Local Hero Medal by the Mayor.

Nominations may be made at any time throughout the year and will be reported to the next available meeting of the Council for consideration.

Full details of the scheme, nomination criteria and a nomination form are available on request to info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk or via the Council's website at www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Message from the Outgoing Mayor, Cllr Mrs Sandra Haigh

"It has been an honour to serve the town as Mayor, we have seen a lot of change over the last twelve months, with things starting to re-open as normal.

It was wonderful to be able to take part in over 50 engagements including many formal civic duties and meeting so many of our residents and sharing in their special occasions. Fundraising was part of many of my events and I was pleased to present a cheque for £2115 to my chosen charity Children's Blessing's at the Annual Meeting on 18th May. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came along to these events and wish the new Mayor, Councillor Ken Robson, success for his forthcoming year".



75th Celebrations

Newton Aycliffe will be 75 years old next year.

The Town Council is planning a display of photographs and memorabilia as part of the birthday celebrations and would like your help. Do you have any old photographs or memorabilia depicting events on the town – such as royal visits, Silver Jubilee street party celebrations, the carnival, community events, construction or opening of buildings or shops? Anything of nostalgic or historic interest.

If you have anything at all that you would like to donate, or memories to share, please contact: Amanda Donald, Corporate & Policy Officer at the Town Council.

Tel: 01325 300700 or email Amanda.

Donald@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

2021-22 Donations

Durham Constabulary (Bike Lights) £400
Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society £380
Aycliffe Beekeepers Association £659
Catherine Lenahan £600
Neville Community Association £760
Junction 7 Summer Event £1000
Neville Parade Community Centre £2000
Oakleaf Golf Club £400
Rotary Newton Aycliffe £200
The Friendship Club Newton Aycliffe £500
Sedgefield District 75 Swimming Club £4995
Aycliffe Squash Club £240
Aycliffe Tri Club £3700
Veterans Community Hub £3597
Acle Scout Group £600
Shine Community Choir £170
Woodham Village Community Assoc. £2000
Cyclocross TBC
Junction 7 Food Festival £1000
Community Spirit £1000

Message from the New Mayor, Cllr Ken Robson



I am honoured to be elected Mayor of Great Aycliffe for this year and I am looking forward to getting out and about visiting residents and communities around the town to celebrate your special occasions.

My chosen charities are Together 21 based at the Pioneering Care Partnership who provide support and activities for children and young people with Down Syndrome and Wishing Well (Gateway Club) who promote and provide leisure and social opportunities for people with learning difficulties.

If you would like me to come along to your event, please contact the Council offices on 01325 300700.

Town Council Meetings

01 June 2022	Environment	30 November	Recreation
01 June	Recreation	07 December	Policy and Resources
08 June	Policy and Resources	14 December	Full Council
15 June	Full Council	11 January 2023	Environment
13 July	Environment	11 January	Recreation
13 July	Recreation	18 January	Policy and Resources
20 July	Policy and Resources	25 January	Full Council
27 July	Full Council	01 March	Environment
07 September	Environment	01 March	Recreation
07 September	Recreation	08 March	Policy and Resources
14 September	Policy and Resources	15 March	Full Council
21 September	Full Council	12 April	Environment
19 October	Environment	12 April	Recreation
19 October	Recreation	19 April	Policy and Resources
25 October	Policy and Resources	26 April	Full Council
02 November	Full Council	AGM Wednesday 17 May	
30 November	Environment	Parish Meeting Wednesday 24 May	

All meetings start at 7.15pm, Recreation Committee follows Environment Meeting

Annual Report

The Town Council has strived to support the community throughout the difficult times during and after the pandemic, keeping the vast majority of our services, running as close to normal as possible under the restrictions, and re-opening our sports complex and driving range as soon as the regulations allowed.

The Council also set up a COVID-19 Recovery Fund using some of the money saved as a result of the cancellation of the community events during 2020 and 2021. Beneficiaries of the Covid-19 Recovery Fund included:-

- Enhanced Senior Citizens' Trips and Fun in the Parks Events

- Funding of investigatory surveys in relation to the possible establishment of a woodland burials site adjacent to West Cemetery

- A COVID Recovery Grants Fund which has given many local community organisations and charities the opportunity to access funds to help them deal with the financial losses suffered as a result of the pandemic. More than £15,000 has been allocated from this fund to a total of seven local organisations.

The Town Council will face significant challenges over the coming years as it deals with likely funding cuts and budget pressures as a result of the ongoing cost of living crisis with inflationary pressures causing particular strain on the Council's Revenue Budget.

The Council will need to review the services it currently offers and how they are delivered to ensure that they are providing the best value for money possible and that the services, align with community needs and priorities.

• What we do

The Town Council takes great pride in the green environment of the town and provides a number of services in support of this. This includes the provision of:-

- Allotments

The Town Council provides over 200 allotments including facilities for keeping pigeons and poultry as well as beekeeping plots at specific allotments sites located at:

- o Clarence Chare
- o Finchale Road
- o St. Oswald's
- o Aycliffe Village and
- o Byerley Park
- Cemeteries

The Town Council provides, maintains and undertakes burial services at its two cemeteries at West Cemetery and Stephenson Way. We also provide a burial service for St. Andrews Church in Aycliffe Village.

- Grounds Maintenance

The Town Council undertakes grounds maintenance e.g. the provision of flower beds, grass cutting and tree planting and maintenance, on all Council owned land and facilities.

- Environment and Green Open Space
- The Town Council runs the Environment Centre at Moore Lane and runs a programme of environment events.

We also carry out environmental management of a number of nature and conservation areas including the Great Aycliffe Way and other green open space across the Parish including the Great Aycliffe Way, Woodham Burn, South Agnew Plantation, Cobbler's Hall Plantation, Simpasture Railway Walk, Aycliffe Nature Park, School Aycliffe Wetlands and Byerley Park Nature Area.

The Town Council is also the custodian of Aycliffe Village Greens.

We also assist a number of community groups such as local scout, guides, and Friends groups.

The Town Council has also declared a Climate Emergency and is working towards reducing its carbon footprint and becoming carbon neutral.

- Street Equipment

The Town Council provides public seating, bus shelters, litter, and dog bins on Town Council owned land.

Leisure facilities and community events have formed a major part of the Council's service provision over the years. This includes the provision of:-

- Parks and Play Areas

The Town Council owns and operates eight very different parks, all with their own character. These are found around the town at:

- o Moore Lane Park
- o St. Oswald's Park
- o Town Park
- o Horndale Park
- o Simpasture Park
- o West Park
- o Byerley Park
- o Woodham Park

We provide modern and well-maintained play equipment at all of these parks, as well as specific play areas at the following sites:

- o Oakleaf Sports Complex
- o School Aycliffe
- o Aycliffe Village
- o Scott Place
- o Cobbler's Hall

The Town Council also provides five multi-use games areas at Moore Lane, Simpasture, Horndale, Woodham and Cobbler's Hall, as well as a skate park in the Town Park, a scoot track at Horndale Park and a BMX track at Woodham Park.

The Park Patrol Service provides an out of hours service to monitor and safeguard the Council's assets and its users.

- Oak Leaf Sports Complex

The Oak Leaf Sports Complex provides an indoor bowls green, a multi-use sports hall, four squash courts, function room and bar and catering facilities.

The sports complex is also home to an indoor bowls club, squash club, running club and archery club, and provides a number of coaching and activity sessions for both adults and children, including an activity programme for children during school holidays.

In recent years, a programme of events has been developed at the sports complex including school sports events, steam punk/sci-fi events, MMA events, dog shows and craft fairs.

- Oak Leaf Golf Complex

The Council also manages and operates the Oak Leaf Golf Complex, comprising an eighteen-hole golf course, 18-bay floodlit driving range, golf shop and changing rooms.

- Football Pitches

The Town Council provides eight football pitches, including junior football and six a side pitches at three sites:

- o Sports Complex
- o Simpasture and
- o Moore Lane

- Community Events

The Town Council runs a series of annual community events including:

- o Senior Citizens' Excursions
- o Fireworks Display
- o Fun in the Parks
- o Santa Tours / Letters
- o Christmas Lighting Display

We also provide financial support to events

run by local organisations including the following events:

- o Remembrance Day Parade
- o Cyclocross Event
- o Junior Cross Country Race
- o Tri-Golf Schools Event
- o Food and Craft Fair

Other services provided by the Town Council include:-

- Pre-School Learning Centres

The Town Council provides a Pre-School Learning Centre located in St. Oswald's Park which is currently registered for 40 places for 3-year-olds.

It also provides a setting for two-year olds called 'Tots in the Park', offering 12 places, morning and afternoon, 5 days per week.

- Grants and Donations Fund

The Town Council operates a grants and donations fund offering financial support to community organisations and local charities

- Youth Council

The Council operates a Youth Council offering local school children the opportunity to get involved in local politics.

- Civic Events

The Town Council hold a number of civic events including Mayor's at Home and the Annual Civic Ball.

2021/22 Allowances

Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the Council's Elected Members during the financial year 2021/22 in line with statutory requirements as set out in the Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2004.

Adam, Edward	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Armstrong, Tony	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Ashcroft, Martin	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Aston, Lindsey	£ 414.33	£ 414.33
Atkinson, James	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Bergg, Peter	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Bowman, Dorothy	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Chandran, Arun	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Clare, John	£ 746.82	£ 746.82
Clare, Barbara	£1,024.74	£1,024.74
Clark, John	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Collinson, Neil	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Fleming, Robert	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Gray, George	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Gray, Ian	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Hall, Brian	£ 635.99	£ 635.99
Haigh, Brian	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Haigh, Sandra	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Hardaker, David	£ 635.99	£ 635.99
Hawkins, Phillip	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Hill, Andrew	£ 414.33	£ 414.33
Hillary, Jed	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Hillary, Wendy	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Hopper, Catherine	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Jones, Joanne	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Jones, Neville	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Miller, Andrea	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Moore, John	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Robinson, Carl	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Robson, Kenneth	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Shelton, Maureen	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Stead, Michael	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Woodward, John	£ 414.33	£ 414.33
Dalton, Maria	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Raw, Valerie	£ 88.30	£ 88.30
Iveson, Sarah	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Iveson, Malcolm	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Blenkinsopp, William	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Hewitson, Irene	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Atkinson, Derek	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Symons, Sally	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Symons, Paul	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Beetham, Kathryn	£ 110.83	£ 110.83

Annual Report

on Council's Finances 2021/22

1. Introduction

Welcome to this annual report on the Council's finances which we hope you will find informative and of interest.

This report sets out the Council's spending plans for this year; 2022/23, whilst also providing a summary of the Council's actual income, expenditure, and financial performance over the last year; 2021/22.

2. 2022/23 Revenue Budget

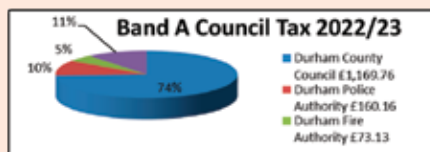
The 2022/23 Revenue Budget was prepared on the basis of 'business as usual' for the new financial year, following another uncertain and challenging year with the Coronavirus pandemic. It was also developed on the principle of continuing to provide all Council services, facilities and events and maintaining current standards of service, whilst recognising the longer-term budget pressures faced by the Council, and the need to maintain contingency resources within the Revenue Budget for as long as possible and address the forecast depletion in the level of the Council's balances and reserves. Additional budget provision needed to be made for a number of issues including substantial increases in insurance premiums, significant increases in relation to electricity and gas costs, increases in staffing cost including a local government pay award and an increase in the employers national insurance contributions as well as ongoing unavoidable inflationary increases. However these increases were partly offset by council tax base growth, in addition to this, the Council Tax Support Grant settlement for 2022/23 saw a year on year increase in funding. The overall effect of these changes resulted in the 2022/23 Revenue Budget being approved on the basis of an increase of 1.99% in the Town Council Tax. In overall terms, the Council's 2022/23 Net Revenue Budget, as represented by the Precept has increased by £49,369 or 2.9%, from £1,697,500 in 2021/22 to £1,746,869 in 2022/23. In overall terms, the proposed 2022/23 Revenue Budget is considered to be a robust and prudently set budget, that will ensure all services can continue to be provided to the standard expected by the residents of Great Aycliffe during the year, continue to provide a firm foundation and some surplus resources to meet the increase in running costs that lie further ahead, and allow the Council to continue to replenish its balances and reserves moving forward.

2022/23 Revenue Budget Summary

Service Area	2022/23 Budget £
Members and Civic Expenses	72,600
Finance Section	91,050
Administration Section	76,650
Corporate Section	272,750
St Oswald's Pre Schools	270,150
Works	179,100
Depot	35,250
Capital Financing Charges	25,900
Community Events	228,100
Sports Complex	763,100
Sports Pitches	21,600
Golf Course	220,800
Driving Range and Golf Shop	141,350
Parks and Play Areas	209,950
Environment and Open Spaces	101,200
Street Equipment	8,050
Cemeteries and Church Works	110,450
Allotments	30,950
Contingency Sum	11,950
Total Cost of Running Town Council Services	2,870,950
Capital Programme Investment in Council Assets	280,600
Contribution to Capital Reserves	50,000
Total Planned Revenue and Capital Spending	3,201,550
Less Income	
Council Tax Support Grant	(191,681)
Pre-School Funding and Fees	(211,700)
Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(405,150)
Golf Course Fees and Charges	(144,300)
Driving Range and Golf Shop Fees and Charges	(130,250)
Cemeteries and Church Works Fees and Charges	(57,900)
Allotments Fees and Charges	(7,600)
Feed in Tariff Income from Solar Panels	(12,000)
Other Income	(11,000)
Investment Income	(2,500)
Total Income	(1,174,081)
Less Use of Council Balances - Capital Programme	(280,600)
Net Budget Requirement / Council Precept	1,746,869

3. 2022/23 Council Tax

The 2022/23 Band D Town Council Tax is £255.06 per year. This represents a 1.99% increase on the 2021/22 Council Tax. However, it is important to note that around 60% of the properties in Great Aycliffe fall within Council Tax Band A and pay only two thirds of the Band D Council Tax. The 2022/23 Band A Council Tax is £170.04 per year which equates to around £14 per month. A breakdown of the 2022/23 Council Tax is shown below demonstrating that 11p in every £1 of the total Council Tax comes to the Town Council:-



4. 2022/23 Capital Programme Budget

The Council will continue to make capital investment in order to deliver the Council's Asset Management Plan and invest in community assets. The Capital Programme Budget for 2022/23 currently stands at £280,600.

The budget includes provision for various building works, replacement works vehicles and machinery, information technology improvements, footpath repairs, play area safety surfacing replacement and provision to drain and repair West Park Lakes. There were a large number of delayed capital projects in 2021/22, totalling £279,000, which have been carried forward to 2022/23. The Capital Programme Budget will be funded from the Council's Earmarked Capital Reserves which are set aside for this purpose.

5. Council Balances & Earmarked Reserves

The Council's Balances and Earmarked Reserves stood at £1.662 million at the 31st March 2022. This is much better than anticipated and is as a result of the savings delivered on the Council's Revenue Budget and lower than expected spending on the Capital Programme Budget last year.

This is considered to be an adequate level of reserves to fund capital spending commitments for the foreseeable future and to provide some protection against future revenue budget pressures and possible cuts to funding. During 2022/23 it is anticipated that Balances and Reserves will fall to £1.040 million as a result of commitments including carry forward requirements from 2021/22, funding of the 2022/23 capital programme, and contribution to reserves from the 2022/23 Revenue Budget.

6. 2020/21 and 2021/22 Actual Revenue Spending

A summary of the Council's actual expenditure in 2020/21 and 2021/22 in running its various services, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2020/21 £	Service Area	2021/22
60,764	Members and Civic Expenses	64,232
75,961	Finance Section	81,039
98,134	Administration Section	66,628
250,376	Corporate Section	300,484
246,134	St Oswald's Pre Schools	242,829
117,371	Works and Depot	165,662
28,789	Depot	31,321
26,908	Capital Financing Charges	26,159
65,359	Community Events	116,371
457,706	Sports Complex	599,916
17,128	Sports Pitches	16,625
197,799	Golf Course	212,338
108,875	Driving Range and Golf Shop	136,782
124,726	Parks	141,153
50,406	Play Areas	61,319
100,550	Environment and Open Spaces	93,524
5,393	Street Equipment	8,733
110,267	Cemeteries	92,406
9,250	Church Works	12,500
33,691	Allotments	30,032
0	Contingency Sum	4,377
2,185,582	Total Cost of Running Council Services	2,506,332
Less Income		
(165,036)	Council Tax Support Grant	(184,992)
(242,163)	Pre School Funding and Fees	(229,433)
(57,397)	Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(306,312)
(125,859)	Golf Course Fees and Charges	(133,461)
(53,749)	Driving Range Fees and Charges	(131,818)
(110,043)	Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Funding	(30,196)
(27,528)	COVID Funding	-
(55,056)	Cemeteries Fees	(49,320)
(7,374)	Allotments Rents	(7,694)
(8,587)	Other Income	(13,477)
(8,837)	Investment Income	(424)
(12,213)	Feed in Tariff Income from Solar Panels	(12,325)
(880,869)	Total Income	(1,106,424)
1,304,713	Less Use of Reserves	(24,201)
412,787	Actual Net Cost of Council Services	1,373,707
	Contribution to Council Balances / Savings	323,793
1,717,500	Council Precept / Council Tax	1,697,500

The financial position and spending of the Council is continuously monitored and controlled in order to help achieve the most efficient use of public resources.

Spending in 2021/22 was £323,793 or 19% under the level of Precept. The main reasons for this saving were the budgeted contribution to capital reserves, limited use of the contingency sum, staff savings due to vacant posts, savings due to the Coronavirus pandemic as a result of a number of cancelled events, lower spending during the COVID restriction periods, a significant increase in golf shop sales and an increase in pre-school funding and fees.

All savings achieved on the Revenue Budget are set aside in the Council's Earmarked Reserves to provide for further investment in Council and community assets for the benefit of the tax payers of Great Aycliffe over the coming years.

7. 2020/21 and 2021/22 Actual Capital Investment

A summary of the Council's capital investment in Council and community assets in 2019/20 and 2020/21, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2020/21 £	Investment Area	2021/22 £
18,128	Council Building Works and Improvements	57,084
51,521	Replacement Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment	84,718
12,523	Information Technology and Office Equipment	7,753
8,308	Parks and Play Area Improvements	54,451
1,540	Infrastructure Works (Drainage, Footpaths)	41,782
7,355	Street Equipment (Bus Shelters, Seats, Bins, Fencing)	17,301
99,375	Total Capital Investment	263,099
	Funded by:-	
99,375	Use of Council Balances	206,151
-	External Funding	56,948
99,375	Funding of Capital Investment	263,099

8. Annual Return and External Audit Report

The Council completes an Annual Return each year comprising its Accounting Statements, Annual Governance Statement and Internal Auditors Report. The Annual Return is reviewed by the Council's external auditors and an opinion is provided on whether the Council has prepared the accounts and governance statement in accordance with statutory requirements and proper practices. The Council is pleased to report that the external auditors did not raise any issues of concern in respect of the 2020/21 Annual Return. The 2020/21 Audited Annual Return to the Council is available to view at the Council Offices or on the Council's website, along with the 2021/22 Unaudited Annual Return.

2021/22 Attendances

Councillor	Att	Apols	Poss
Adam, Edward	40	3	42
Armstrong, Tony	34	5	39
Ashcroft, Martin	54	2	56
Aston, Lindsey	4	0	4
Atkinson, James	36	3	39
Bergg, Peter	31	16	48
Bowman, Dorothy	24	12	45
Chandran, Arun	54	1	55
Clare, John	15	2	17
Clare, Barbara	18	9	27
Clark, John	30	12	50
Collinson, Neil	23	11	35
Fleming, Robert	48	6	54
Gray, George	46	0	47
Gray, Ian	42	2	44
Hall, Brian	6	4	10
Haigh, Brian	44	6	51
Haigh, Sandra	39	11	52
Hardaker, David	17	1	18
Hawkins, Phillip	32	19	51
Hill, Andrew	8	0	10
Hillary, Jed	33	7	40
Hillary, Wendy	19	21	40
Hopper, Katherine	31	4	35
Jones, Joanne	26	4	30
Jones, Neville	29	4	33
Miller, Andrea	13	23	38
Moore, John	28	9	38
Robinson, Carl	54	1	56
Robson, Kenneth	47	2	49
Shelton, Maureen	12	17	31
Stead, Michael	44	8	55
Woodward, John	6	0	6
Woodward, A	1	0	1

Aims and Targets - 2022-2023

AIM 1 - TO PROVIDE GOOD QUALITY GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL

Publish a Town Council Service Delivery Plan by the end of June each year.
Publish an Annual Report.
Provide an annual training programme for the Town Clerk from his annual appraisal and CPD requirements.
Maintain a training programme for Members which shows recommended courses with a regular reminder sent and records of attendance and non-attendance kept.
Annually
Develop and provide an annual training programme for the staff within each service area, informed by the annual appraisal process.
Undertake an annual review of the Council Constitution, Financial Regulations and ensure compliance with current legislation.
Ensure compliance with GDPR.
Improve advertising of Council facilities and services by targeting a service area in each publication making sure each area is targeted at least once.
Ensure that social media is used to advertise the Council's services and facilities.
Undertake research where appropriate for new policies and procedures.
Keep up to date with any changes in legislation and report to council as and when required.
Continue to monitor energy consumption, implement energy saving initiatives and reduce usage where possible.
Ensure all staff have an annual appraisal.
To undertake quarterly review of staff sickness and report to service managers.
Complete review of electronic filing system and implement improvements to enable upgrade of the Council's main server and transferring data to 'the cloud'.
Continue to implement any Government guidance and recommendations regarding Coronavirus to ensure the safety of staff, members, and public.
Monitor and enhance Cyber Security arrangements in conjunction with TSG
Complete a programme of new Member Induction Training to cover all service areas, roles, and responsibilities.
Continue to review and reduce the Council's use of single use plastic.
Officers liaise with CDALC, NALC, DCC and Genex Consultancy to discuss progressing the Council's climate change response
Officers begin the process of factoring in the possible additional capital costs of tackling climate change in the next update of the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan

AIM 2 - TO MANAGE THE COUNCIL'S FINANCES AND ASSETS IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER

Produce Annual Return by 30th June each year.
Achieve an unqualified audit opinion of the Annual Return by 30th September each year.
Ensure the Medium-Term Financial Plan is approved by 31st July each year.
Deliver the Internal Audit Plan Schedule of Work and report quarterly to Audit Sub Committee then to Council.
Manage the financial impact of any cuts to LCTSS funding.
Quarterly budget control reports are presented to P&R Committee.

Budgets/Precepts approved by 31st January 2023.

Ensure all relevant information is published in compliance with the Transparency Code/ Openness of Local Government Regulations.
Deliver the work set out in the Asset Management Plan via the capital programme and ensure that a six-monthly review is undertaken with Officers and Member Asset Management Group.
Undertake an annual update of the Asset Register including the schedule of expected life and replacement costs for buildings, plant, and machinery.
To consider the Council's Business Risks every March and minute that the full review has taken place by Council.
Ensure that at least one Service Review is completed each year.

AIM 3 - TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE LEISURE FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Deliver the Council's programme of special events:-
Platinum Jubilee
Fun in the Parks
Senior Citizens' Excursions
Firework Display
Sk8t Fest
Santa Letters
Christmas Lights
Santa Tours
Town's 75th Anniversary
Develop and provide an improved and enhanced yearly programme of events, including new events.
Continue to diversify, improve, enhance, and increase the number of events and activities offered within the Sports Complex.
Partner with outside bodies including Wellbeing for Life
Officers to carry out feasibility study on refurbishment of Simpasture Pavilion
Sports Complex Service Review to be completed

AIM 4 - TO PROVIDE PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AS APPROPRIATE IN GREAT AYCLIFFE

Ensure the continuous improvement of the service and obtain at least a 'good' and aiming for 'excellent' Ofsted Inspection
Ensure that all staff undertake all relevant training and that any new staff receive Special Educational Needs training.

AIM 5 - TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OF AYCLIFFE BY MANAGING AND DEVELOPING PARKS, PLAY AREAS AND GREEN SPACES

Works and Environment Manager to arrange to work with local schools and community groups to develop volunteer opportunities by helping to deliver 15 public countryside events
To continue to monitor the health and condition of the trees on Town Council land in line with the tree management policy and undertake a visual tree inspection of a specific area every 6 months to assess the health and condition of the trees
Investigate options and costings for the drainage and repair of West Park lakes
Complete at least 5 targeted Himalayan Balsam removing working parties along The Burn
Undertake maintenance and management of specific Durham County Council environmental areas as per the management



agreement

Proactively monitor Ash Dieback Disease and remove diseased trees as necessary
To undertake maintenance and management of the former Elmfield School site, subject to a lease being agreed with Durham County Council.
Work with Great Aycliffe Gardeners' Guild to establish a Gardeners' Guild at Clarence Chare Allotments
Complete a feasibility study into possible woodland burial site at West Cemetery
Carry out repairs to St Oswald's play area safety surface
Carry out programme of footpath inspections on Town Council owned land

AIM 6 - HELP AND ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO IMPROVE THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE

Support and encourage Aycliffe Youth Council (AYC) by:
Organising the election process –
Holding at least 8 meetings a year –
Helping to organise at least 1 project a year
To continue partnership working with DCC and build on the existing initiatives.
Work with the Youth Council, DCC Officers, Tidy Britain, schools, community, and voluntary groups to hold a Town Pride Environment Week, incorporating an anti-litter campaign.
The Works and Environment Manager and Park Patrol Officers to work with DCC Officers and Police in regard to anti-social behaviour issues.
Work in partnership with residents and friends' groups to improve our parks, play areas and environment areas.
Work with Newton Aycliffe Police to address anti-social behaviour issues

AIM 7 - ENCOURAGE THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Undertake a budget setting and aims and targets consultation using social media or other suitable platforms.
To review the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan in 2022.
Hold a Parish Meeting
Hold an Allotment AGM
Hold a minimum of 4 allotment representative meetings
Hold or take part in at least 2 events to inform residents about Town Council services with an aim to establish priorities.
Make better use of social media to engage with resident and undertake consultations
Re-engage with community groups and organisations following prolonged Covid restrictions.

AIM 8 - TO RESEARCH INFORMATION AND MAKE THE CASE FOR GREAT AYCLIFFE

Produce timely responses to all major consultations carried out.

Greenfield Production Returns with 'Grease'

Students from Greenfield Community College are about to tread the boards once more!

Each year Greenfield's Performing Arts Department put on their annual school production. In previous years, they have had successful shows including 'School of Rock' and 'Little Shop of Horrors'.

The Pandemic, however, brought a halt to the shows, with the last production taking place in 2019, but the students are back once more with an incredible production of 'Grease'.

Students have been working hard all year to get the performance ready, and we think audiences won't be disappointed. So make sure you brighten up your 'Summer Nights' and come along for a fantastic time.

Show dates Tuesday 28th, Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th June, 7:00pm

Greenfield Community College is a Specialist Arts and Science School and is committed to providing extended opportunities to support students to reach their full potential. If you would like to find out more visit www.greenfieldschool.net or contact the school by emailing contact@greenfieldschool.net or by calling 01325 300378.



WOODHAM ACADEMY

Washington Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4AX
Telephone: 01325 300328

Email: info@woodham.org.uk Website: www.woodham.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr. A. Bell

Attendance Administrator

37 hours per week term-time only

Start date: September 2022

Grade 3 Point 4-6 (approx. £16,597 to £17,268) pay award pending

Woodham Academy is seeking to appoint an attendance administrator to assist in the promotion of outstanding attendance, by working in partnership with pastoral teams. Candidates would ideally have experience of administrative or secretarial duties, using and maintaining databases, management of information systems and of working with young people and their families in a professional setting. This post is initially offered on a temporary contract until 31st August 2023 with a view to becoming permanent.

A good general education to at least GCSE Maths / English at grade C or above (or equivalent) is essential, as is the ability to relate well to young people.

Eden Learning Trust is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We want to develop a more diverse workforce and we positively welcome applicants from all sections of the community.

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. Any offer of employment will be subject to receipt of a satisfactory DBS Enhanced Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available via the school website. Completed applications should be emailed to l.buck@woodham.org.uk.

Closing date for applications: 9.00am Wednesday 6th July 2022.

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Flower Demo

On Monday, 4th July at 7.30pm at Shildon Civic Centre, area demonstrator, Derek Morgan, will present an evening of flower arranging entitled 'In the Frame' for members and visitors of Shildon and District Flower Club. Entry is free to members. £5 for visitors, payable on the door. There will be a variety of stalls to peruse and refreshments are available to purchase.

4 Ball Better Ball Golf Competition

Great Aycliffe Town Council in Association with Oakleaf Golf Club are holding a 4 Ball Better Ball Competition on Saturday 2nd July 2022.

Entry is free and is open to all Oakleaf Golf Club Members and residents of Great Aycliffe who are members of any golf club and hold an active handicap.

Tee Times 8am – 11.30am. Yellow tees, red for ladies.

Men - Max 28

Ladies - Max 36 85% allowance.

Handicap certificates will be required for winners.

Winners will receive vouchers for the Oakleaf Golf Shop.

1st Prize - £120

2nd Prize - £100

3rd Prize - £80

4th Prize - £60

5th Prize - £40

Please ring the Oakleaf Golf Shop to book 01325 310820 or see our website www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/oakleafgolfcomplex/home

RUNNING CLUB NEWS

It has been another busy week for Members taking place in a variety of races across the region. First up on 12 June, we had Robert Young take part in the Burton Leonard 10k. Rob finished the course in 44:49 enough to earn 3rd place in the Male Veteran 35 category.

On 14 June, one Member took part in the North Yorkshire South Durham Harrier League. John Firby took part in the 1500m event finishing third in the senior men's race in a time of 4:41.2.

On 15 June, David Stothard took place in the Muddy Roads 5k at Lordstones Country Park in Helmsley on a very humid day, David finished in a time of 28:37. The following day David Stothard also took part in the Kilpin Hall 10k trail race finishing in a time of 56:02. On the same day was the Ernie Johnson Memorial Penshaw Hill Race, which was a 3 Mile Cross Country Course around this striking North East Landmark. Alan Wilks completed the course in a time of 27:49.

Three Members took part in the Penshaw Half Marathon in what could only be described as brutal with a total climb of 1591 feet and a lot of steps to climb. The first member back and running up that hill was Richard Campbell in a time of 1:49:52. Richard also finished third in the Male 40 and over category. Second back was Jayne Rudd in a time of 2:29:52 followed by Sandrine Hewitt in a time of 2:59:03.

Saturday morning was a very busy one for Members with a total of 32 members beginning their weekend with a Parkrun. The Club was represented at the Pontefract, Durham, Sedgfield, Darlington South Park, Hackworth, Hartlepool, Leazes Park and Hamsterley Forest events.

At Pontefract, Carley Gibson was taking part at this event for the first time, finishing the course in a time of 30:08. At the same time Peter Jarps was attending the Durham event for the first time, finishing in a time of 29:54. Other major achievements included Alan WILKS completing his 100th park run at Sedgfield which is an excellent achievement.

Laura Grainger achieved a personal best for the Hackworth Park event finishing as third female in a time of 27:17 and also only one second off a personal best at any parkrun.

At Hartlepool it was a Surtees takeover with John Surtees finishing 1st in a time of 16:55 and Tracey Surtees coming in as first female in a time of 20:34 which was a personal best for the Hartlepool course. It was also brilliant to see Jane Burnside taking part in her first parkrun for over two years finishing in a time of 36:51

We also had Members take part in the NEEMA Track and Field Championships on 18 June. Dez Fielden took part in the 1500m race and finished third in a time of 4:55:40, which is a new club record for his age category.

He also took part in the 800m, finishing second in his race in a time of 2:26:39, which again is another club record for his age category and a fantastic achievement. Stuart Joyce also took part at the event, competing in the 5,000m in the men's over 55 category. He finished fourth in his race in a time of 20:06:54 in what was a different type of race on the track and is hoping to compete in more of these types of races moving forward.

Finally, to finish off the weekend, Dean Barclay took part in the Race the Wall, which is a 70 mile stretch of Hadrian's Wall from Carlisle to Gateshead.

Unfortunately, Dean had to pull out at Hexham 46 miles in, due to injury. At the time, he was on target to complete the mammoth event in 15 hours. He is already looking to come back stronger and more determined to complete the event next year. Saying that, running 46 miles over Hadrian's Wall is some achievement in itself and we know that Dean will be able to beat his target next year.

If you have any queries about the activities of Aycliffe Running Club, or are interested in joining the Club, please visit our website www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk, or contact the Club's Secretary, Donna, at ayclifferunningclub@gmail.com






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PCP AGM

This year the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 26th July 2022 from 11.30 am until 12:30 pm at the Pioneering Care Centre.

For over 24 years PCP has proudly delivered high quality accessible projects and activities aimed at improving health, providing access to services and reducing social isolation. None have been so challenging as the past year; however, we are very proud of what we have achieved despite the global pandemic.

As well as managing the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe, PCP delivers a wide range of projects across the North East supporting the Charity's mission of 'Health, Wellbeing and Learning for All'. If you would like to meet the Board of Trustees or hear our Chief Executive highlight some of PCP's key achievements, please contact Kath/Lucie on email: pa@pcp.uk.net by Tuesday 19th July 2022.

Finally, if you would like to support the work of the Charity by becoming a Voting Member please contact Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive, on 07890 642683 for an informal chat. PCP services and projects are developed to meet the needs of our communities so we actively encourage local people and stakeholders to become members and help shape our future direction.

Reunite and Reconnect

Reunite and Reconnect is funded by Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership (GAMP) with the aim of connecting the community by addressing social isolation and low activity in older people in Newton Aycliffe. The focus is to confront loneliness, reduce social anxiety & fight isolation reducing the risk of deterioration by providing social activities both indoors and outdoors. During the term of the programme we will be able to improve mental health and the overall wellbeing of individuals.

Having launched and piloted our successful Wise Owls project during lockdown in Newton Aycliffe we are now able to widen the beneficiaries of the sessions enabling us to provide a service to any older individuals who may be suffering. This includes things such as:

- Introduction and slow integration to the programme
- Provide weekly outreach sessions
- Food and activity packs delivered to homes
- Craft & activity sessions
- A free 2-hour weekly coffee morning at St Clare's Church on Mondays 10am-12pm, providing transport if needed.

We fully understand the impact Covid 19 has had on individuals heightening social isolation and reducing confidence with the older generation still hesitant to leave their homes. With this in mind we aim to reach out with welfare checks including:

- Weekly telephone calls
- Door stop chats
- One to One walks
- Food & activity packs
- Support with shopping
- Signposting to relevant agencies offering extra support

Elderly people in care homes and supported living have been affected dramatically being unable to see their families, therefore we are currently working with care homes to provide and support craft sessions on site.

We know that providing this programme we will be able to bring the community back together and build friendships amongst people, leading to external trips.

Amy Sture

Community Project Manager
Groundwork NE & Cumbria



I started last week with a meeting in the DEFRA offices. Each Monday the Department has a 30-minute weekly meeting to make sure all the team are aware of any issues. This includes the Secretary of State and his ministers as well as the 3 PPSs (Parliamentary Private Secretaries, of which I am now one.) and some advisors. For those who can attend it takes place in Westminster but there is also a virtual option for those who can't attend in person. The other aspect to my new role is a weekly meeting of the PPSs from all departments where we become more aware of agendas across Government.

I had a catch up with the secretariat of the Left Behind Neighbourhoods APPG, Local Trust, to look at forward plans as they continue their enquiry into how 'Levelling Up' will affect those in most need. I will be stepping down as Chair after 2 years but will remain an officer on this important APPG.

The BEIS committee this week changed its previous plans and undertook an enquiry into the problems in the Air Travel industry with the number of cancelled flights and the dramatically different impact of different airlines. If you want to see this, or any other of our enquiry sessions, you can find them online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/departments-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy>

I took part in a debate in Westminster Hall on the Council of Europe (CoE). Again, if you want to see the debate it's available online but the key concern was getting awareness of the role the council plays. It is often confused with the EU but it is a completely different assembly and covers all European Countries. The Council of Europe is first and foremost a human rights organisation. The UK has been a member since its inception and we played an essential role in drafting its best-known document, the European Convention on Human Rights. Its purpose is to promote and maintain what one could call liberal democratic values in member states. Human rights, democracy, and rule of law are the priorities of the CoE.

I also spoke in the debate on the rail strikes. Whilst always recognising the right of workers to strike it does seem as though this is being rushed into by the RMT and I think they could at least have delayed until the exam season was over. Our young people have had enough challenges in their education over the last two years. Back to constituency issues and I had meetings with some local GPs to discuss changes they are worried about and a meeting with the Durham team about progress on devolution and Durham Council. I also went to the NRG (Northern Research Group) conference. I am part of this group and it was great to see many MPs, councillors and business leaders present. We were joined by the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Michael Gove (virtually). Both were very well received and took part in Q&A sessions.

On Saturday I went to Teesside Airport to take part in a service by the Middleton St George Memorial Association. My wife informed me that it was this event 37 years ago that meant our wedding took place on the 16th rather than the 8th of June as they had the St George Hotel booked and that is where our reception was to be held!

The week finished with the excellent news that the proposal to reinstate Ferryhill Railway Station has passed another hurdle and the DfT will be funding more detailed evaluations, working with Durham County Council. This week will be more constituency focused due to a combination of meetings early in the week and the rail strikes later. Hope to see some of you out and about. As always, if you want to catch up or ask for help, please email at paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk or call on 01325 790580.

Paul Howell, Member of Parliament for Sedgefield



Paul Howell
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk
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Coffee Morning

Jolly July is the theme for this month's Coffee Morning at St Elizabeth's Church in Woodham on Saturday 2nd July at 10am. Home produce, summer raffle and delicious refreshments. A jolly welcome, a jolly good time and jolly good friends. See you there.

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Firstly, can I say a big thank you to the people who have taken the time and trouble to contribute to the incubator, this is a very expensive item, £450, but it does save lives. Thank you Elizabeth for your help, our babies need this and hoglets are coming in thick and fast. Can I thank Carrie for having me at the Pride Fest, this rescue relies on fundraising to keep these babies well cared for and alive. My standards are very high, they are such endearing little souls and I treat them like they are our guests.

Tip of the week, if you think you have disturbed a nest with hoglets in it, please ring The British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801

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Licensing

THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice is hereby given that Ms Rachel Walton has applied to Durham County Council in respect of the premises known as

The Hammer and Pincers, Preston Lane, Preston Le Skerne, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6JH

For the grant of a Premises Licence to permit the following licensable activities:

Provision of plays, Provision of films, Performance of Dance and Anything of a similar description Mon- Sun 9:00-23:00

Live music - Indoors and Outdoors Mon- Sun 9:00-23:00

Activities would extend from 23.00 hours on New Years Eve until 02.00 hours on New Years Day
Recorded Music (Indoors and Outdoors) and Supply of Alcohol (Consumption on and off premises) Mon- Sun 9:00-24:00

Activities would extend from 24.00 until 02.00 hours on New Years Day

A record of this application may be inspected at the Council's offices at Annand House, John Street North, Meadowfield, Durham. DH7 8RS by appointment on weekdays between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm.

Any representations about this application must be made in writing by the 14th July 2022 and sent to:-

Durham County Council, Licensing, PO Box 617, Durham. DH1 9HZ or email to: licensing@durham.gov.uk

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is unlimited.

24th June 2022

MP Backs Push on Levelling Up Fund

Paul Howell, local Member of Parliament, welcomed Durham County Council (DCC)'s decision to bid for Government money to regenerate Newton Aycliffe town centre.

The proposals for Newton Aycliffe, include the repurposing of land and buildings within the town centre, the installation of a public transport interchange, re-provision of surface level car parking and enhanced commercial buildings, as well as improved transport links and an improved cultural offer within the town.

Paul Howell, MP, said: "Whilst these plans have been developed by Durham County Council officers, I have been closely involved in the process and have had numerous meetings with officers. I have always tried to ensure that we make the most of the process by being ambitious about what we can do to unleash the potential in Newton Aycliffe town centre. The plan is to make the Town Centre much more welcoming and better connected."

Paul added: "I am glad that the Joint Administration of Durham County Council are fully engaged with the Government's Levelling Up Fund Round 2 and I look forward to their ongoing drive to delivery." The plan was discussed at Council Cabinet last Wednesday and has been accepted. Overall, the Council would look to invest £22m in the project, with £20m coming from central Government and £2m being provided by DCC as match funding.

The regeneration scheme sits as part of a package of more than £117m across the county, which includes approximately £20m that was recently allocated to Bishop Auckland, as part of the Government's flagship Levelling Up Fund.

Cllr James Rowlandson, Conservative Cabinet member for resources, investment and assets, said: "We are really excited to be poised to put in provisional funding bids that would result in more than £117m in investment for communities right across County Durham, on the back of the £20m we have already secured for the Bishop Auckland constituency."



Open Garden

Sunday, 10th July 1.30pm - 5.00pm
Hillside Cottage, Low Etherley,
Bishop Auckland DL14 0EZ

The large island beds, featuring conifers, heathers and perennials, are bordered by grass paths with views over Weardale. Interesting shrubs abound and two ponds and naturally-managed areas are a haven for wildlife. This half acre garden is a garden for all seasons. There will be various stalls to peruse and tea and cakes, to tempt the palate will be available to buy.

Entry £5/£1 for children.

All monies raised will go towards providing 'end of life care' in the Bishop Auckland area.

Sudoku

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

Volunteers Wanted

Those who do not attend church, or only attend once in a blue moon, are wanted as volunteers.

Our organisation is looking for help. We will soon be in a position to organise events and will need people, who have a little spare time, who like to help others. Simple jobs such as serving, door duty, ticket sales, fundraising, catering and many others. Contact us via our website friendsofstclares.uk and we will be in touch to discuss how you could help. We are independent of St. Clare's and are genuinely looking for people who do not attend church. Our website explains who we are and what our aims are. You may have a little place in your heart because of past experience with the church. A wedding, a funeral, a christening or some other reason you feel that you would like to help. There is no obligation to join as a member and certainly no obligation to start attending the church.

Noel F Bennett, Founder

Pre-Season Friendlies

Newton Aycliffe FC will be welcoming Darlington FC to Moore Lane on Tuesday 5th July for a Pre-Season friendly.

Announcing the fixture on their website Darlington said: "Quakers have arranged to play our friends at Newton Aycliffe in our first pre-season friendly on Tuesday 5th July at Moore Lane, Newton Aycliffe, kick off 7.30pm. Manager Alun Armstrong will send a strong squad to the game, and it will be the fans' first opportunity to meet the new signings."

Brian Atkinson's squad returned to training last week to prepare for the new season.

The full line-up of pre-season friendlies is:

Fri 1st July 7.30pm v Easington Colliery (H)

Tues 5th July 7.30pm v Darlington (H)

Sat 9th July 3.00pm v Abbey Hey (H)

Tues 12th July 7.30pm v Tow Law (A)

Sat 16th July 3.00pm v Darlington Town (H)

Tues 19th July 7.30pm v Spennymoor (H).

Thank You

Dear Sir,

We enjoyed a lovely Jubilee party at Avon Court and I would like to thank, from us all at Avon Court, for all their wonderful help, especially Wesley, Lorri, Brenda, Sandra, Janice and Susan.

Carol Doors

Obituary

Dudley Paul Woodhams

Passed away in Darlington Memorial Hospital on Monday 13th June after a short illness, aged 72 years. He leaves a loving Wife, Kathleen; Father to Susan and Carol; also a much loved Father-in-Law to Mark and Paul; cherished by his eight Grandchildren and Grandchildren-in-Law, as well as his seven Great Grandchildren; Brother to David and Uncle to Simone, Letitia and Darren. At Dudley's request, there will be no funeral, but there will be a gathering of family and friends to celebrate his life on Friday 1st July at 1.00pm in the OakLeaf Sports Complex. Please feel free to come and join us, as we would love to hear your memories of Dudley.

In Memoriam

Marilyn Storey

26th June

My beloved Wife, I watched you suffer, I saw you die, but all I could do was sit close by.

God eased your pain, but broke my heart, there are no goodbyes for you and me, wherever you are, you will always be in my heart.

Love you always, Laurance

Lester Stephen Atkinson

24th June 2019

A million times we've needed you, a million times we've cried. If love alone could have saved you, you never would have died.

In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place, no one else can ever fill.

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone, part of us went with you, the day God took you home. Loving you always, Sue, Stephen, Kelly, Michael, Eden and George xxxxxxx

Patricia Dolphin

29th June 1945 - 29th June 2021

Can't believe it's been a year when we wished you happy birthday and watched you gain your angel wings.

You left us behind beautiful memories, your love is still our guide, although we cannot see you, you are always by our side. You are missed and loved every day.

Love, Ronnie, Anthony, Paula and all your family xxxx

Congratulations

Ward - Alderson Nicola and Paul

Congratulations on your wedding day, 10th June. Lots of love and happiness for your future together. Love from Mam, Dad and all the family

Thank You

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the kind words and heartfelt support I received following the loss of my beautiful Daughter, Michelle, who was an angel in disguise. Michael Shaw

Thank You

Thank you to the kind person who found my purse in the town centre on Tuesday 21st June and handed it in to AfterGlowz Studio.

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Spectacular Swimming

Sedgefield 75 swimming club were back in action last Sunday at Haven Point in South Shields as a competing club at Newcastle Swim Team's 'Summer Spectacular Sprints' gala.

A one-day event with 50m and 100m races that proved very popular with a very high turnout including a number of swimmers from Scotland.

Zoe Hodgson swam six races beating her PB's in four of them, the undoubted highlight

being beating the cherished landmark 30 seconds for 50m freestyle for the first time, posting 29.83 seconds.

Jessica Bell raced five times and set new PB's in three of them, 50 and 100m breaststroke and 100m butterfly.

Charlie McEwan took on four races, freestyle and butterfly over both distances, placing well.

Emma Price entered seven races, beating PB in four of them and setting three new club records in the process. She came away with gold medals in 50 and 100m freestyle, silvers in 100 butterfly and 100m individual medley, and bronze in 100m breaststroke.

Ellis Dickinson swam in three races and set a very good PB of over 2.5 seconds in 100m freestyle and placed very well.

Filip Wilczynski swam five races, beating PB in 100m individual medley and 50m butterfly. Filip also set a new club record for 50m backstroke, in which he won bronze.

Swimming at her first competition was Aviana Wilson, who swam very good times and placed very respectably in 50m freestyle and 100m individual medley.

At the end of the two sessions were fun 'skins' competitions – a knockout of quickfire 50m races, the strokes chosen at random with the last swimmer being eliminated in each heat until there is one remaining. Qualification was via the 100m individual medley races.

Filip and Emma both qualified with Filip finishing third in the boys 13 & under and Emma second in the girls 14 & over. Both took home generous cash prizes for their efforts which was very well received!

Sedgefield 75 are based at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and offer top coaching towards competitive swimming for those progressing from swimming lessons. Check out www.sedgefield75.com or find us on Facebook.





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Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report



Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, suffered a three wicket defeat in a very close game at home to Middlesbrough 2nd XI in the NYSD 2nd division. Aycliffe elected to bat first and got off to a bad start when both openers were dismissed without scoring. Joe Teasdale led the fightback when he top scored with an excellent 64 off 73 balls and his innings included seven boundaries and four sixes. James Layfield-Carroll (sponsored by Yvonne and Bob Wood) also batted well scoring a career best 41 off just 28 balls, including eight well struck boundaries, and Sean Morgan also contributed with 35 runs off 35 balls as Aycliffe totalled 255 all out with just one ball of their allotted 50 overs remaining. In reply, the visitors looked to be coasting to a comfortable victory as they reached 219 for 1, however Aycliffe fought back well taking six wickets for 33 runs. James Layfield-Carroll completed a fine individual performance taking 5 for 53 and George Slatcher took 2 for 54, but it wasn't quite enough as Middlesbrough crawled over the winning line, finishing on 259 for 7 with just 10 balls of the match remaining.

The U17's lost by 38 runs away at Richmond in the NYSD Junior League. The homeside chose to bat first and scored 164 for 4 in their allotted 20 overs. In reply, Aycliffe made a brave attempt at chasing down the challenging target and reached 126 for 6 from their 20 overs despite some excellent batting by Ramzan Hussain (39 off 24 balls), Leon Patel (25 off 27 balls) and Leo Mercy (22 off 35 balls).

The U15's had a comfortable win by 59 runs away at Darlington in the NYACC League. Aycliffe posted an impregnable 162 for 3 from their 20 overs thanks to captain Tom Dearden's fifth U15's half century of the season and his runs aggregate so far at this level

is now 320, which is a new U15's club record for runs in a season. Adam Shaw also batted well scoring an unbeaten 35 and Dan Heaton chipped in with 18. In reply, the homeside were restricted 103 for 2 from their 20 overs.

The U11's lost by 45 runs at home to Darlington in the NYACC League despite some excellent batting from captain Joey Hayman (32 off 16 balls) and Trent Telford (19 not out off 15 balls) and some good bowling from Miles Telford (2 for 21).

The Aycliffe senior ladies team got their league season off to a great start with a comprehensive victory by 81 runs at home to Sacriston in the Durham Womens League.

Photo: The victorious Aycliffe's ladies team (in blue) and their counterparts from Sacriston (in red).



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