

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper
 Editorial & Advertising contact: Telephone: 01325 300212 - Email: paul@newtonnews.co.uk - Website: www.newtonnews.co.uk

Campaign to Save Heighington Railway Station



Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway are pleased to report that they have successfully launched the 'Save Heighington Station' campaign and with grant applications into a number of sources, have so far raised over £8,700 from crowdfunding alone, towards the £100,000 necessary to match fund a £400,000 community ownership fund bid. The building, recognised by Historic England as the world's oldest railway station building, is currently in a very dilapidated state and has recently been added to the Heritage at Risk register. The building has been vacant since 2017 and since then has been a target for vandals and continues to degrade through lack of repairs. Our long term aim for the building is to restore it as a Georgian Railway Inn to give visitors a handy stop off point on the S&DR trail and also to recreate the atmosphere of the early Georgian rail user. If you haven't made a donation yet and would like to contribute to the campaign, you can donate by visiting our website at: www.sdr1825.org.uk - or through our online JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/save-heighington-station> The group are also searching for people to help support our community ownership fund bid by filling out a short petition and survey to demonstrate to funders the community interest aspect of the railway <https://www.sdr1825.org.uk/save-heighington-station> Husqvarna showed their support for the railway project by donating £2500 to the funds on Tuesday 23rd April, along with a short

presentation highlighting some of the plans for the 2025 bi-centenary celebrations, which currently have works in progress including a 26 mile walk/cycle path running alongside the original S&DR route. More details on the 2025 Festival will be announced in September at: <https://sdr200.co.uk>
History of Stockton & Darlington Railway: The Stockton & Darlington Railway (S&DR) was formally opened on the 27th September 1825. It marked a significant milestone in the development of the modern railway network. Whilst some of its operations were still developing after 1825, the Stockton & Darlington Railway proved to be 'the great theatre of railway operations', lighting the fuse for the explosive expansion of railways across the world and a second wave of the industrial revolution.
Friends of Stockton & Darlington Railway: The group was set up in 2013 to safeguard and promote the heritage of the railway, amidst concerns that what remained of the line was under threat from neglect and redevelopment. Formed from a wide range of people from all walks of life, with a shared passion for our railway heritage and significant individual expertise, the Friends have a wealth of knowledge of the history of the line. The Friends work with partners to identify, preserve, promote and develop the 1825 Stockton & Darlington Railway line as an educational, cultural and historic site of international significance and to develop its recreational, economic and tourism potential.

Local MP Spearheads Crucial Discussions For Hitachi

Last Wednesday, 17th April 2024, Paul Howell, MP for Sedgefield, organised a meeting with the Transport Secretary, Mark Harper, and union representatives from Hitachi. Paul Howell said: "I'm pleased to have facilitated a crucial meeting between union representatives from Hitachi and the Transport Secretary, Mark Harper, last week. This gathering signifies a commitment to collaboration and finding viable solutions for the future of the Newton Aycliffe site. The discussions centred around the challenges facing the site and the broader implications for the community and the economy. It's imperative that we work together, harnessing the expertise of both industry stakeholders and government officials, to ensure the longevity and prosperity of this vital economic asset. "I would strongly encourage opposition politicians to engage in looking for a way forward and to stop politicising this situation. They claim it is a political decision by the Government not to help, this makes absolutely no sense, the political imperative is clearly to do all that can be done to keep the jobs in place, the political noise is from those claiming it is simple! "I'm encouraged by the shared dedication to finding solutions that prioritise the interests of workers, the local community, and the industry as a whole. Moving forward, I remain committed to advocating for the interests of Hitachi and will continue to facilitate constructive dialogues that can lead to positive outcomes for all involved. "This meeting was said by all to have been valuable and constructive and ended with commitments from all parties to do all within their power to find a way forward for a sustainable future for the Aycliffe facility."



Earth Day at St. Francis'

On Monday 22nd April, the children and staff of St. Francis' joined many people around the world to celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day is an annual event on 22nd April to establish support for environmental protection. The first Earth day was held on 22nd April, 1970, and now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by Earthday.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.

The children watched a live virtual Earth Day assembly at 9.30am, they were joined by members of David Attenborough's Planet Earth III team and listened as they discussed nature and the planet in an engaging and educational get together. The children really enjoyed learning lots about the animals and the jobs many amazing people do to show us an up-close and personal experience of many animals around the world.



Cricket Season Has Finally Arrived

For the second year running the start of the cricket season was postponed due to the wet weather throughout the winter, which left ground staff with an impossible task of trying to get pitches prepared and dry enough to start.



Most leagues, throughout the country, decided to postpone the first weekend of cricket, with the North Yorkshire and South Durham League following suit. The first weekend's games will now be played later in the season.

Because of this Newton Aycliffe First Team will now start on Saturday 27th April when they host Barnard Castle Seconds while the Second Team start with a trip to Marske to play their Seconds.

Aycliffe have been denied the presence of three players, who are members of HM Forces, and are all away on tours of duties for the majority of the summer. Young fast bowler, Joey Hayman, has also left the club to play cricket elsewhere. With the need to bolster numbers the club have moved quickly to bring in four players, Ben Howard, Alex Pollard, Matthew Thompson and Charlie Cayless, who has returned to the Club. Fast bowler Ben goes straight into the first team for Saturday's game while the other three will travel to Marske with the Seconds.

The first game of the season, at Moore Lane, starts at 12.30pm. Meanwhile last years, all conquering ladies, start the season on Sunday 28th April with a home game against Thirsk Ladies, starting at 2.00pm. After winning three trophies last year, including the inaugural NYSD Ladies 100 competition, the ladies have decided to test themselves against different opposition and have left the Durham League, which they have won for the last two years, to join the Hambleton League.

Aycliffe will again have junior teams playing at all age levels from under 9 through to under 17 with the junior season starting in early May. They will also be running the highly successful All Stars Cricket sessions starting on Thursday 30th May.

Anybody who would like any further information about Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club can visit the club's website page at newtonaycliffe.play-cricket.com or contact Club Secretary, Lee Weldon, on 07759 754959.

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Rotary Newton Aycliffe & Blind Life Visit The Ark

Our members recently received an invitation to The Ark in Silverdale Place, Newton Aycliffe. Thank you to our hosts, Junction 7, and thanks to Jane and Simon Day for the wonderful food and making us feel so welcome. We enjoyed a tasty hot buffet followed by a talk given by our speakers, Jim Welch, and his carer Jo Ede. Jim is the founder of Blind Life and a friend of Rotarian Jeff Watson.



Jim is confined to a wheelchair and only had sight in one eye then, in 2002, he lost the sight in his good eye. He soon realised that there was not much out there for visually impaired people so along with his wife Margaret, he started his own charity and Blind Life was the result. That was 20 years ago in June.

As well as being Chair of Blind Life, Jim is an advisor to the CPS and Health Watch and sits on many committees for other organisations. He has taught himself to touch type and enjoys playing the guitar as well as socialising through activities organised by Blind Life and its volunteers. They produce a monthly newsletter which can be provided in audio format and Jim was keen to demonstrate his interactive spectacles which tell him what he is typing or translate the written word to spoken. New members are very welcome and, for £10 per year, membership gives friendship and advice, regular socials, newsletters, New Age Kurling and Bowls and assistance/mentoring with technology.

For more information access the website (blindlifeindurham.org.uk) or ring 01388 763501 or email: blindlifeindurham@gmail.com

Photo, left to right: President Jean Thompson, Jim's carer Jo Ede, Rotarian Jeff Watson and Jim Welch.

Great Aycliffe Gardens Guild

After a ten year break, the Great Aycliffe Gardens Guild will reopen on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th April from 9.00am to 12 noon. The Guild is a registered community interest company run by volunteers with all profits ploughed back into the organisation. They are self sustainable and based in Clarence Chare allotments. They will be open every Saturday and Sunday during garden season, from 9.00am to 12 noon, assisting members and local gardeners. Membership is £10 per annum with access to facilities as well as educational sessions in the community room. Volunteers and helpers are always welcome, for further information contact 07340 606402, 07971 504901 or 07706 802950.

Closed for Lunch

Dear Sir,
Just what on earth is happening at Bewick Crescent Surgery? I had a question regarding repeat medication but, on arriving, was confronted with locked doors and a sign advising that the surgery was closed for lunch! What century are we living in? Do the powers that be not realise that peoples requirements or pain does not close for lunch? Do we assume that all the people who require treatment have been seen? Judging by how difficult it is to get a phone or econsult, I doubt it or could it be that staff levels have been cut? I will let you, dear reader, decide.
PS: On a positive note the reception staff, when available, are always most helpful.
John L Humble

Woodham Dance Academy

Spring is always a very busy time for the fifty students of Woodham's Dance Academy. This year is no exception and the extra work and effort that has been put in by staff and students has really paid off. They have choreographed and performed some complex pieces, varying in a range of styles, many of which were performed at the Christmas concert, and most recently, at the 'Great Big Dance Off' regional competition. The Dance Academy travelled to Halifax on Wednesday 20th



March and performed two pieces. The first powerful and dramatic piece 'Run Boy Run', involved all students in Dance Academy. The second, choreographed by Mrs Duffy, was a contemporary piece performed to 'Russian Roulette'. This was a very challenging dance that was performed exceptionally well by ten students from Y7 through to Y9. They really came together to make their performance look effortless. At the Victoria Theatre, not only did students perform, but they also had the opportunity to watch other schools and colleges. This was a fantastic chance for the students to see a range of styles and age groups representing the Northern Region. All of the practice and commitment of the students preparing for this benefitted the Woodham Dance Showcase, which was held on Thursday 25th April at Woodham Academy and celebrated and showcased the hard work that the students had put into Dance. There was a full programme with twenty very different pieces ranging from solos to whole group pieces.

Generous Donation



Sedgefield Water Polo Club would like to thank Helios Real Estate, based in Durham, for their very kind and generous donation of £1,500 towards our clubs operating costs. Our club is run totally by volunteers, many of whom have full time jobs and families of their own. Pool hire costs have unfortunately increased by over 400% since the pandemic and the club aims to keep membership costs as low as possible, in order to encourage more children to take up this fun and exciting sport. The donation from Helios is very much appreciated. We currently have over sixty members on our register, ranging in age from 8 years old up to 38 years - so, we cater for all age groups, both male and female. We are always looking for new members and offer free trials before having to sign up with us. In addition to Junior and Senior sessions, Sedgefield Water Polo Club now offers a beginner session at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on a Saturday afternoon for those wishing to try this fun and exciting sport. All sessions need to be booked in advance on our Club App, so please check our website for further information and joining instructions, email: sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com or contact 07579 030598.

NASSA AGM

Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 30th April at 7.30pm. All members are welcome, please be prompt as the doors will be locked at 7.30pm.

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Sow Your Seeds Aycliffe STEMfest: Igniting Young Minds

Dear Sir,
 We have heard a lot lately about our town centre car parking issues, the current parking spaces being made in Clarence Chare took three years to approve and cost £48,000 - this is, therefore, not a quick solution. But, there are some areas where cars can park on roads and not on the grass verges. We, therefore, would like to launch a great community initiative to fix some of these areas and get the kids involved as well. We will supply the soil, the seeds, the posts (Palram Industries Ltd.) - you can even loan a spade and rake (sponsored by Husqvarna). Why not ask your friends and relatives to park on the road rather than the grass verges and the children can watch the grass grow and take pride in their work? Prizes available for the best kept regrown grass - let's all get some pride back in our community, our kids, our town's future. We love our town and prefer to promote positivity not negativity. If you would like to be involved, contact Jo via email: communityspiritaycliffe@gmail.com or text 07436 803533. *Durham County Council are aware of this project.*

In the heart of Aycliffe, an electrifying event unfolded, igniting the passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) among young students. Aycliffe STEMfest, generously funded by the Great Aycliffe Middridge Partnership (GAMP), welcomed 180 enthusiastic students from nine primary schools for a day filled with exploration, experimentation and excitement. STEM education has long been recognised as the cornerstone of innovation and progress in modern society. Aycliffe STEMfest sought to nurture this ethos by providing a platform for young minds to delve into the wonders of STEM disciplines. From chemistry to physics, algorithms to mathematics, and engineering, the event offered a diverse array of sessions designed to spark curiosity and inspire creativity. Throughout the day, students immersed themselves in hands-on workshops and interactive demonstrations led by passionate educators and industry professionals. In the chemistry session, colourful reactions captivated the student, demonstrating the magic of chemical transformations. Meanwhile, in the physics workshop, students competed in designing aircraft to soar above the crowds. In the realm of technology, algorithms took centre stage as students learned the building blocks of programming and computational thinking, in a play your card right/oompa loompa sound tracked phenomenon. From coding challenges to problem-solving exercises, young participants were introduced to the fascinating world of algorithms and their applications in everyday life. Engineering, the backbone of innovation



and progress, was another highlight of the event. Schools raced to construct towers with the simplest materials, allowing participants to embrace the engineering mindset with enthusiasm and determination. As the day drew to a close, the excitement reached its peak with the presentation of awards to the top 15 students who impressed the presenters with their ingenuity, teamwork and dedication. These young achievers were celebrated for their outstanding contributions and commitment to STEM excellence, serving as beacons of inspiration for their peers and future generations of aspiring scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians. Aycliffe STEMfest stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, innovation and community engagement, in nurturing the next generation of STEM leaders. Thanks to the generous support of Councillor Jim Atkinson from GAMP and the dedication of organiser Nic Jenkins from Woodham Academy, educators and volunteers, the event not only ignited a passion for STEM, but also fostered a sense of curiosity, exploration and lifelong learning among young minds in Aycliffe and beyond.

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Happy Memories

Dear Sir,
 I'm grateful to the Newtonian who wrote in your last edition about the importance of our town centre ('Whatever Happened to...'). Growing up in Aycliffe in the 80's and 90's, I have happy memories of a bustling town centre, full of independent businesses. Harry Harding's toy shop was always top of my list. And we'd spend hours in the school holidays, with my Granny, going from stall to stall on market day, as she seemed to know every trader!
 Times have changed. But with strong political and community leadership, other town centres have found new life and reinvented themselves. Aycliffe Town Centre needs urgent attention from the county council and government to help it adapt for the future. Last week we launched Labour's plan for high streets - replacing business rates with a fairer system, 13,000 more community police and community support officers, guaranteed face-to-face banking, stamping out late payments to protect small traders and powers for communities to revamp empty shops. Taken together, these policies would help, but it's local leadership that's the key. If elected as our Member of Parliament, championing a better future for our town centre would be a top priority.
 I'm also pleased to hear the resident is keen to get in touch. We speak to hundreds of residents every week on the doorstep and residents regularly contact me by post, email and social media. We'll be adding a campaign hotline soon and opening a campaign centre nearer the election.
 Alan Strickland,
 Labour Candidate for Newton Aycliffe & Spennymoor.

An Evening of Entertainment

A charity event will be held on Friday 10th May 2024 at the Big Club, Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5NU, Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. Tickets available from many places, including online, in advance for £4.00 or on the door (if any left) for £5.00.
 We wish to thank Newton Press and Newton News for their help. Also, a thank you to the acts that, we are sure, will make it a night to remember with a few nice surprises during the evening including dancing, music and laughter. Food will be on sale, a game of bingo (bring a pen) and a raffle - the evening will be rounded off by Powerplay Entertainment.
 A final thank you to those, listed below, who are helping us to sell tickets.
 Tickets available from:
 The Big Club, Sheraton Road.
 Jorjas Attic, Town Centre
 St. Clare's Church from Miriam or Noel
 Fresh Sandwich Shop, Neville Parade
 Sun Inn/Sew Inn, Simpaturegate
 Digital Vapers, Thames Centre
 AllSorts Charity Shop, next to St Clare's Church on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 1.00pm or online: [theticketsellers.co.uk/buy-tickets/an-evening-of-entertainment/10057930](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/buy-tickets/an-evening-of-entertainment/10057930)

A Seat at The Table

'A Seat at The Table' will take place on Thursday 9th May, 7.00pm at The Big Club, Newton Aycliffe.
 A Seat at The Table tells a story of a community hub in County Durham and the people from it. The play will be read by our community cast and actors, directed by Jon Luke McKie and Sound Design by Elliot Mann and Stanley Young People's Club.
 Mustard Stories Arts have been working with PACT House, Junction 7 and Stanley Young People's Club in County Durham to create a play. Fourteen weeks of storytelling workshops have produced a script, and we are excited to share the hard work and dedication of the community groups.
 Alongside a reading of 'A Seat at The Table' will be a free meal for audience members. Book a ticket to secure your free seat at the table. 'A Seat at The Table' is commissioned by No More Nowt and supported by Community Foundation, tickets available from <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-seat-at-the-table-tickets-884153485877?aff=oddttdcreator>

N.A.F.C. REPORT

Newton Aycliffe 2 v Dunston 5 Tuesday 16th April

Newton Aycliffe suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of Dunston UTS in their penultimate game of the season. The two teams had played each other on Easter Monday, a few weeks prior, but the game was abandoned at half time due to worsening weather.
 The first goal of the evening came when Liam Adamson deftly passed the ball to Ethan Wood and Wood would pass back to Adamson. Adamson was initially dispossessed by Phil Turnbull, but Turnbull couldn't hold the ball and was pickpocketed by Liam Jarvie who easily fired it home to make it a 1-0 lead for Aycliffe in just the 16th minute.
 Dunston's defence would remain composed however, and it became challenging for Aycliffe to get too many more chances. Dunston's next attack saw them obtain the equaliser when Michael Pearson crossed it to David Robson who laid the perfect pass to Richard Coulson to allow him to finish into the bottom left corner.
 Dunston now firmly had momentum, and their second came in the 42nd minute when Chris McDonald's cross found David Robson's head and he headed in from very close range. The first half would end 2-1, and the second half was mostly the same, with a plethora of Aycliffe attacks getting snuffed out by Dunston's defenders.
 The third goal for Dunston came when Pearson's cross found Dunston's pacey forward Jack Maskell. Maskell broke away with ease past James Winter and Dale Elgie to slot it home in the 57th minute. Dunston were still searching for more goals and found another just two minutes later when Luke Carr broke forward and fired a shot in the box that Michael Coulson headed in from close range to make it 1-4 just before the hour mark.
 Aycliffe would gain a second, albeit a consolation. Ethan Wood skillfully dribbled past several Dunston defenders to give Cole Kiernan a quick and easy finish. With 71 minutes on the clock however, a comeback didn't seem too likely. Just four minutes later, Coulson got his hat trick, when he found Baxter who drilled a ball into the box that Winter initially dealt with, however the Dunston attack continued and Coulson found the ball and curled it in from close range to make it 5-2 to the away side, which is how the final score would remain.



Aycliffe complete their first season in the Northern Premier League on Saturday 27th April when Pontefract Collieries will be the visitors to Moore Lane.
 Photo by Yvonne Wood, Cole Kiernan scores against Dunston. Match report by Ryan Livingston.

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With a focus on play-based learning and individualised attention, our programme aims to foster the social, emotional and cognitive growth of each child in our care.

"We are delighted to introduce this new addition to our school community," said Mrs Evans, Headteacher. "Early childhood education lays the foundation for a lifetime of learning, we are dedicated to providing an enriching and supportive experience for our youngest learners."

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Aycliffe Youth Football News

Marton FC v Aycliffe U7 Eagles

The boys started the game slowly allowing Marton FC to score five quick goals before we settled. Aycliffe grabbed a goal before half time from Kurtis. The second half, Aycliffe were more organised, playing some great football. Goals by Mason and two from Fraser brought the Eagles back into it. The last five minutes were dominated by the lads, but they just couldn't find the equaliser.

Aycliffe U13 Eagles 3 v Newton Aycliffe FC 2 (Wednesday)

Tense, Tight, Emotional and Heart Stopping. What a great game of football from two teams fighting for the league title. Both sides worked their socks off and left it all out on the field. Aycliffe Youth came out on top with goals from Rossi and Olly Luke x2. No player of the match today as everyone brought their 'A' game on the night, so a team award was given.

Aycliffe U13 Eagles 5 v FC Hartlepool 2

Another tough game, followed on Sunday, for the lads in their attempt to win the league. Hartlepool are one of only two sides to take a point off Aycliffe this season, so we knew it would be a battle. A lot of hard work saw Aycliffe 3-1 HT with goals from Rossi, Jack V and Olly. A tough second half battle ended with Aycliffe taking the three points. Goals from Leiland and Olly, second of the game.

Birtley 1 v Aycliffe U15 Eagles 5

Birtley started strongly and the lads struggled to test the keeper. Birtley went a goal up within the first five minutes. However, Aycliffe were encouraging one another and they soon found their form, winning comfortably in the end. Goals Noah x3, Olly and Adam. MOM Harry.

Chester-le-Street 4 v Aycliffe U17 Girls 2

Aycliffe started slowly against a good side and quickly found themselves two goals down. Then, after changing tactics, Aycliffe soon took control of the game and went into half time level at 2-2. The girls put up a fantastic performance and battled on, but finally lost in an excellent game of football.

Aycliffe U13 Girls 3 v Durham TIBS 1

The team got off to a flying start and scored on three minutes with a second, twenty minutes later. At the start of the second the girls conceded from a defensive clearance that got fired straight back into the goal. However, on fifty minutes, Aycliffe scored and secured the points. MOM Ellena.

Aycliffe U14 Angels 6 v Hebburn Town 1

A great performance by the whole team, starting strongly and not letting up. Four goals from Romilly, one from Faith and one from Amy. Four assists from Faith and two from Heidi. Star players: Poppy and Faith.

Aycliffe U12 Wildcats 1 v Washington Wildcats 0

The first half was quite even, although Aycliffe edged possession and made the breakthrough when Mia found Olivia wide and she played it across the box for Phoebe to finish. The second half was just as tight, with their best effort being cleared off the line by Lucy, after Hannah



blocked the initial effort.

Gateshead Leam Rangers 5 v Aycliffe U15 Girls 1

A tough game against a strong Leam side. Aycliffe only had one sub and played the final fifteen minutes with ten, due to injuries. The girls battled well and created some good chances and scored a good goal from an indirect free kick as Eveie rifled a shot into the top corner after Lana rolled it to the right. Star players: Emily and Charli, both putting in strong performances at the back.

Aycliffe U11 Girls v Birtley

A great performance by the team, first half ended 1-1. However, in the second half, the girls wanted the win. The wingers worked hard to get lots of crosses in the box and creating chances for the team. POTM Poppy, a great captain display supporting her team and getting herself a hat trick.

Aycliffe U10 Eagles v Guisborough

Eagles got off to a flying start and followed up with great team goals from George D (4) Will (2) Floyd (2) Sam and George H. Superb brave goalkeeping from Harry M to keep a clean sheet with fantastic defensive displays from Harry L, Adam, Phoenix, George H and Sam.

Aycliffe U9 Eagles v Kader FC

Aycliffe continued their fine home form in recent weeks. A comfortable first half and led 3-0 thanks to some great passing play and some good finishing. Credit to Kader who came out strong and made life difficult for much of the second half, pulling back two goals, but the boys stayed strong and saw out the game well.

Aycliffe U8 Wildcats v Whickham Fellside

Another step in the development of our newest girls' team. Despite opening the scoring, they were pegged back just before half time. Whickham stepped up in the second half to take the game. Plenty of game time for all the girls.

Marton FC v Aycliffe U7 Eagles

The boys started the game slowly allowing Marton FC to score five quick goals before we settled. A goal before half time for Kurtis meant the first half finished 5-1. The second half Aycliffe were more organised, playing some great football. Goals by Mason and two from Fraser brought the Eagles back into it. The last five minutes were dominated by the lads, but they just couldn't put the ball in the net.

Editorial Contributions

Editorial contributions, stories and tidbits can be sent to the Newton News editor via email:- paul@newtonnews.co.uk
Alternatively, you can 'contact us' via our website:-
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HiQ Garage Recognised as Top Brand Ambassador

HiQ New Bridgegate Tyres has been honoured with a national award during the recent HiQ Pride Awards Ceremony.

HiQ Tyres & Autocare, Goodyear's UK network of independent service centres, has awarded the business with a national award for its advocacy of the Goodyear brand.

The autocentre was recognised as the HiQ Goodyear Brand Ambassador Business of the Year 2024. These awards recognise the exceptional performance and dedication of the HiQ New Bridgegate team-members, including franchised locations in Newton Aycliffe, Barnard Castle and Birtley, in providing top-quality service and advice to its customers. The awards evening, hosted on 10th April at the luxury Belfry Hotel & Resort in Warwickshire, celebrated the exceptional accomplishments of existing HiQ Tyres & Autocare franchisees across the United Kingdom.

Part of the national Goodyear-backed network, New Bridgegate Tyres forms part of the growing network of independent tyre and garage service centres across the United Kingdom, backed by global tyre brand Goodyear. They operate three HiQ Franchise centres across the North East in Newton Aycliffe, Birtley and Barnard Castle.

Since the company's last award night, in October 2022, 14 franchisees have joined the HiQ Tyres & Autocare network of service centres. That growth has continued into 2024, with the introduction of new B2B business models and the expansion of the franchisee



HiQ Tyres & Autocare Network." Craig Sprigmore, Goodyear Retail Director UK & Ireland, commented: "It fills me with immense pride to see HiQ New Bridgegate Tyres win this award. Earning recognition as the top-performing Goodyear brand ambassador nationwide speaks volumes about the commitment of the staff, who consistently deliver unparalleled service to its customers. A heartfelt congratulations to the team and its exceptional team for this well-deserved award."

Photo (left to right): Craig Sprigmore, Retail Director UK & Ireland; Phillip Wilks, Managing Director HiQ New Bridgegate Tyres; James Bowman, General Manager HiQ New Bridgegate Tyres; Ben Crawley, Sales General Manager Europe North Goodyear EMEA; Pascal Audebert, Goodyear General Manager Contracted Retail Europe.

network, including 17 physical centre openings and several new business partners set to enjoy the benefits of being part of the HiQ Tyres & Autocare brand.

Commenting after the awards, Phillip Wilks, Managing Director HiQ New Bridgegate Tyres, and James Bowman, General Manager HiQ New Bridgegate Tyres, said: "We are thrilled to win this prestigious national award, which demonstrates what a fantastic job the whole team at HiQ New Bridgegate Tyres have done over the last few years. We are very proud of our team and to be part of the Goodyear-backed

Springtime

*It's that time of year that must be seen,
As the trees are, once again, covered in green.
There's also blossom, pink and white,
This adds to the viewers delight.
So, look around when you travel,
And observe how nature does unravel.
Don't walk about looking at the floor,
Look up and see much, much more.*

Chris Barlow

Veteran and former Durham Police Sergeant fighting to fix Durham Constabulary.

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YOUR CHOICE ON THURSDAY 2ND MAY

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">LABOUR'S JOY ALLEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Force downgraded to Requires Improvement in two categories for the first time in the force's history. Neighbourhood crimes, including residential burglaries, up by 24% in the first 3/4 of last year. 28,637 calls to 101 abandoned in the first 3/4 of last year. Police stations being ran into the ground with local police stations facing potential closure. £24.9M wasted on an empty and unused white elephant custody suite. Planting flowerbeds, rather than recruiting frontline police officers. 	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">ROBERT POTTS - More Police, Safer Streets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put more police on your streets. Keep your local police station open and invest in neighbourhood policing. Fix our broken 101 system. Crack down on the illegal use of off-road bikes. Increase evening patrols. Restore pride, integrity, transparency and accountability. Review the £24.9 million white elephant custody suite currently sitting empty in Spennymoor.
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Tel: 01325 790580 - Email: paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk

Last week was particularly busy and started with questions to the Home Secretary. I was able to ask the Policing Minister a question on the importance of getting the right Police and Crime Commissioner in the forthcoming elections. I then had a Delegated Legislation Bill on Financial Services and Markets before the main Westminster business of the day which was to decline the Lords Amendments to the Rwanda Bill. It consistently amazes me that Labour complains about us not controlling immigration and then do all they can, using their majority in the Lords, to prevent us taking the actions proposed! These were voted down and sent back to the Lords, the Lords then sent amendments again on Wednesday which we again voted down. They have sent more to us which will be our start point on Monday. This 'ping pong' (as it's referred to) delays progress, but eventually the Lords accept the primacy of the elected members, so I anticipate the Bill finally passing this week.

Tuesday, I had a meeting in the Department of Transport before later going to No 10 for a roundtable discussion on Public Services. I left this promptly as an Urgent Question had been raised in the House as regards the future of Rail Rolling Stock businesses. The Labour focus was on Alstom, built in Derby, but it was imperative to get Hitachi's voice heard too. It was, unfortunately, characterised again by too much politics implying simple solutions to things that are complex and difficult. After waiting patiently, I finally raised the penultimate question expressing this concern and the disingenuous approach of opposition parties on such an important issue. It was then back to No 10 for another round table, this time on Security before another Delegated Legislation Bill, this one on Major Sporting Events (Income Tax Exemption) which dealt with tax implications for participants in the Champions League Final to be played at Wembley and I called in to an Assisted Suicide Event. Later we passed the legislation on Tobacco and Vapes.

Wednesday was a particularly important day. As I mentioned last week, I had been able to arrange for representatives from Unite to come to meet the Secretary of State to hear first-hand what he could or could not do. This meeting was said by all to have been valuable and constructive and ended with commitments from all parties to do all within their power to find a way forward for a sustainable future for the Aycliffe facility. The meeting was scheduled for 30 minutes, but lasted just over an hour, after which the union team had another meeting whilst I went into Prime Ministers Questions where, again, I was selected to ask a question and was able to ask the Prime Minister to thank his Secretary of State for engaging with the unions and to give him all the support he can. I then collected the union team again and we spent time with Transport for the North and met numerous other supportive Conservative MPs. The team then headed back north and I went to meet

some constituents who were down for Prime Minister's Questions and then, as I said earlier, it was the Rwanda votes.

Thursday, I went into a Westminster Hall debate on large solar farms. Thursday was a one-line whip, so the only MPs in Westminster were those with specific interest in the debates happening. The rest would usually take the opportunity to head back to their constituencies. For this debate it was noticeable that all the back bench contributions were Conservative with no Opposition members showing an interest. I spoke about the Brafferton/Bishopton proposals and stressed the need to be aware of multiple applications when a large-scale project is evaluated by the Secretary of State and how imperative it is that we do not cover farmland that should be used for crops or livestock, we must not let a chase for clean energy reduce our resilience in food supply.

Back north for a busy Friday, starting with following up on last week's meeting with residents of Rushyford to discuss the imminent changes to the roundabout. I was able to have a discussion with the Durham County Council team who will now meet residents to investigate further options. Then it was to Ferryhill to join the meeting of the regeneration team who are developing some great plans to invest in Ferryhill. I was going to update them on the Station, but we ran out of time so that is on the next agenda. Back to the office where I met an amazing Veteran, Jason Stringwell, who is about to walk Hadrian's wall with his partner to raise funds for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. More information and how to donate can be found on his JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/jason-stringwell-1703759851513>

After this it was over to Hurworth school to meet the students who had written to me about traffic outside the school, I was joined by local Councillors and we could share some positive imminent changes. Then it was a Teams call with Durham County Council about Special Educational Needs and Disability provision before my day concluded with a meeting at Aycliffe Village Hall. I had been able to arrange for a representative of the Environment Agency to come and inform residents of the actions and progress associated to the smells that have been emitting from the quarry. We will have a follow up meeting soon.

Over the weekend I was able to call at St Albans in Trimdon Grange to meet Rebecca Dowson who is doing some tremendous work on the back of her Pageants to deliver 'Prom on Loan' allowing access to some fabulous prom outfits for those that may be challenged to afford them.

Back to Westminster this week where my visitors include the Mayor of Newton Aycliffe Carl Robinson - we can tell you how that went next week. In the meantime, if I can help in any way, please get in touch by calling Aycliffe 790580 or sending an email to: paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk

Five Acres Conquer Roseberry Topping



Last Thursday, our 'Super Six' Champions: Megan, David, Jayden, Matthew, Connor and Adam, plus three members of staff, travelled to the North Yorkshire Moors National Park to climb the iconic Roseberry Topping. The weather was perfect, and all six Champions managed to reach the summit within an hour - which is an amazing feat. We are super proud of our Champions and what they achieve on a daily basis - bring on our next challenge.

Aycliffe Senior Football News



Wynyard Village 0 v Newton Aycliffe Youth Seniors 7

A depleted squad, due to injuries, travelled to the team, a place above Aycliffe in the table.

In the first ten-fifteen minutes Wynyard kept the ball well, however, the lads retained their good shape and pressed as a unit, which ensured that Wynyard never created anything.

The goal of the game was, our first, from Reed Molloy, with a well struck shot from over thirty yards, clipping the underside of the crossbar and into the net. At half time Aycliffe were three nil up, with a second from Reed and a goal from Ryan Peart.

Early in the second half, the lads went four up with Ryan finishing off from close range following some great football. Shortly after, Jack Mortimer dribbled his way into the box and beat the keeper at the near post. The game was finished off with Ryan then Reed both getting their hat tricks. Final score 7-0.

This is the best the lads had played for a while, everyone worked hard, the shape and pressing were good, with positivity and encouragement throughout. Due to the lack of numbers, Aycliffe had lads playing out of position and others coming back from injuries, all playing their part to produce this result. Other results went their way, so Aycliffe have been promoted to Division 1 and, with five league games to go, seven points are needed to be promoted as champions.



Paul Howell

Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk

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Congratulations

Madison Furlonger



Happy 28th Birthday Madison
30th April

Hope you have the best birthday, your first one as Mrs Furlonger! Lots of love from Mum and Dad xxxx

Happy Birthday Big Sister



Happy birthday Madi, hope you have a good day. Love from Macca, Louise & Maysie xxx

Happy Birthday Madison



Happy birthday to my beautiful Wife! All my love from Martin xx Happy birthday Mum, love you lots, from Cayden xx

Keith Baldwin (Ken)

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully in Darlington Memorial Hospital on 13th April, aged 82 years. Dearly beloved Husband of the late Lilian; a much loved Dad to David and Steven; a dear Father-in-Law to Tracy and Christine; a treasured Grandad to David and Michelle and Great Grandad to Georgia. Will family and friends please meet for a service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 10th May at 11.30am.

Paul Robert Newby

On 9th April 2024, aged only 55 years. Dearly loved Husband of Margaret; loving Father of Robert and David; cherished Son of Anne and Bob; a treasured Brother of Mark; Father figure to all their foster children and a very dear friend of many. Paul's funeral service will be held on Wednesday 1st May at 1.30pm at Wear Valley Crematorium. Family flowers only.

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Obituary Notices

Anita Christina Forrest (nee Turner)

12th April 2024
Peacefully in hospital, Anita Christina, aged 81 years, of School Aycliffe and formerly Ferryhill. Wife of the late Gordon; dearly loved Mum and Mum-in-Law of Andrew and Elizabeth and a loving Nana of Ewan. Would friends and family please meet for a service at Darlington Crematorium on Monday 29th April at 10.00am. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, may be given for The British Heart Foundation. Colourful clothing preferred.

In loving memory of a loving and devoted Husband, Father and Grandfather
Alan G. Richardson



8th November 1946 - 2nd May 2023

*They say there is a reason,
They say that time will heal,
But neither time nor reason,
Will change the way we feel.
For no one knows the heartache,
That lies behind our smiles,
No one knows how many times,
We have broken down and cried.
We want to tell you something,
So there won't be any doubt,
You're so wonderful to think of,
But so very very hard to be without.
We cannot bring the old days back,
When we were all together,
The family chain is broken now,
But memories will live on forever.
Until we meet again, your loving Wife Judy, our Children Cheryl, Alan and Suzanne and their families.*

Margaret Elizabeth Lanfear (nee Frost)

Of Newton Aycliffe, formerly of Alnwick. Passed away peacefully on 11th April 2024, aged 91 years. Dearly beloved Wife of the late George, also a much loved Aunt and a dear friend to many. Will family and friends please meet for a service at Darlington Crematorium on Friday 3rd May at 11.00am. Family flowers only, by request, donations in lieu, if so desired, may be made to the RSPCA. Donation plate provided at the crematorium.

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In Memoriam

Malcolm Duffy

28th April 2018
Always remembered, never forgotten. We love and miss you very much. All our love, Mam and Brian.

Garry Westgarth

26th April 2022
Deep in our hearts you will always stay, loved and missed every day. Wife Anne, Daughters Karen and Lesley xxx

Tessa McDonald

Born 5/11/37
Passed away 27/4/23
Loved and remembered, always and forever. Ian, Craig, Martin and all the family xxx

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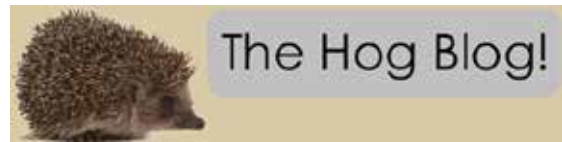
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Over the last week I have admitted six hedgehogs, all are ok and responding to treatment, four from finders and two from Sore Paws. I now have 22 here. Firstly, I would like to thank Jackie and John for rolling out the red carpet for two of my overwintered males last Saturday. John kindly made some lovely houses for Chandler and Joe, these hogs were too small to be able to hibernate and wake up in spring. The garden they came from was deemed unsafe because a dog had killed three hedgehogs last year, as a rehabber I decided to release them where I knew they would be safe, job done! The other released hedgehogs went out of the area, to Sunderland and Crook - support fed gardens too, they will also live a long and healthy life without any problems. Thanks also go to Christine and Pam, these ladies brought me a female each, Hazel, as she has been named, has sustained a head injury, she is responding to medication but it’s going to take time. Pam’s little female has some breaks in the skin, one behind her ear and another one by her tail. Because these ladies brought these lovely hogs in quickly they are doing well, they have both been very kind too and given me a donation towards their care, they have settled well and are enjoying their comfy beds and nice food. Sore Paws also called me on Monday night, another female, bless her, she is missing spines and fur so she will be kept safe and comfortable but, she will take a long time to put right. If the finder wants to get in touch BHPS number below have my number. When we bring hedgehogs in to rescue the majority of problems they endure take a long time to put right, it takes weeks to get them well and their weight up to an acceptable level before they get that second chance out there. This doesn’t come cheap either, medicine cupboard has to be kept full and the food bill gets very pricey too, all of this so far has cost £1,500 (ish) this year but, thanks go to everyone who has supported these lovely mammals that I care for. It’s hard work as it is without the stress of money worries. All of the time and hard work does pay off, especially if they go happy and safe. Don’t forget hedgehog awareness week is from the 6th May. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society number is 01584 890801. My Facebook page is Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel, my email is pricklyhaven@yahoo.com

RUNNING CLUB NEWS

It has been a busy week for Aycliffe Running Club with members travelling the length of the country and beyond. This started with two members travelling overseas to take part in the Magaluf Half Marathon and 10k. Trish Kay (2:14:35) represented the club in the half marathon, finishing first in the female over 60 category. In the 10k race, Eve Doe (1:08:39) represented the club.

On the same day, two members travelled to the Yorkshire Wolds to take part in the World Rangers Way Ultra. This saw runners run a huge 44 mile circular route through the Yorkshire Wolds starting and ending in Driffield taking in some stunning scenery along the way. Salv McDonnell (11:36:46) and Cath McDonnell (11:36:53) both ran/walked the course together. Amazingly this was there second ultra of the year, an unbelievable achievement.

On Sunday 21st April, one member travelled to London to take part in the iconic London Marathon. Jayne Rudd, started the year off struggling to be able to complete a parkrun. Through amazing determination and willpower and despite not enjoying training, she managed to complete the event in a time of 5:24:24. Absolutely amazing, completing a marathon is a special achievement for any runner.

On the same day, four members travelled to Blackpool for the Blackpool Festival of Running. This provided runners with an opportunity to take place in anything from a 2k event, right up to a marathon. Three members completed the half marathon course, running along the promenade below the famous Blackpool Tower. Carley Cooper (2:07:19), Jean-Pierre Hupin (2:18:49) and Em Flynn (2:34:21) all represented the club. Steph Colvin (5:21:49) took part in the marathon and, like Jayne at London, showed amazing willpower and determination to complete the race. Another absolutely amazing achievement in what was not perfect weather for marathon running with the sun out.

At the same time, one member took part in the Guisborough Moors Fell Race which was a 20k fell race starting in Guisborough with a total of 850 metres of climbing. Matt Heron completed the event in a time of 2:01:53.

On Saturday, a huge 40 members started their weekend with a parkrun, taking in the Town Moor, Valentines, Sedgefield, Darlington South Park, South Shields, Hackworth, Keswick, Druridge Bay, Wetherby, Blyth Links, Leazes, Rothay Park and Hamsterley Forest, events.

At Valentines, Paul Dalton (24:20) and Jayne Rudd (54:51), completed the course for the first time with Jayne walking the route to keep fresh for the marathon a day later. At Darlington South Park, Jimmy Agnew (20:42) set a new personal best for any parkrun. At South Shields, Richard Holland (21:31) completed the course for the first time. At Hackworth, Mikey Taylor (17:30) set a new personal best for any parkrun. At the same event, Bernadette Cooper (26:20) took part in her 150th ever Hackworth parkrun. At Keswick, Yvonne Wood (36:26) completed the course for the first time. At Wetherby, Carley Cooper (28:57), Jean-Pierre Hupin (29:07) and Em Flynn (32:30) all completed the course for the first time. Angela Sutheran (23:39) completed the event at Blyth Links for the first time. At Leazes, Steve Williams (27:16) and Viv Williams (30:34) both completed the course for the first time. Laura Grainger (28:12) also completed the course at Rothay Park for the first time.

If you are feeling inspired and are interested in joining the club, you can turn up for one of our sessions. More information is available on our website www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk - or our Facebook page. If you would like to chat with someone, then you can email ayclifferunningclub@gmail.com - If interested in the Junior Section you can email arc.juniorsection@gmail.com - Make this year the year you or your children get into running and join us to keep it going for many years to come.



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N.A.F.C. JUNIORS

Under 8's Reds faced Trimdon United. There were lots of positives from the game with the team showing a very good attitude. The goal was scored by Kian and MOTM was Alfie.

Under 8's Reds played their final home game in 5v5 against Darlington United. An injury to goalkeeper Michael meant Orig played and he did fantastic. Kian scored the goal. Oliver was awarded MOTM and Orig won opposition managers MOTM.

Under 9's entertained Prissick Rovers Milan, in an evenly matched encounter with both teams battling hard. MOTM was goalkeeper, Harvey, for some outstanding saves.

Under 10's Blacks travelled to SPR Blues. Aycliffe were straight out of the blocks and scored an amazing ten goals with a superb double hat-trick from Alfie S, JJ grabbed two and a top corner strike from Lucas P got goal of the game. POTM awarded to our captain, Jack B, by opposition, for dribbling and skilled footwork.

Under 10's Reds played against Darlington, there was some great play from Aycliffe with the goal coming from Marshall who was outstanding. MOTM was Fletcher.

Under 11's Blacks finished their campaign away to champions Greatham in a tough game. MOTM Kai, who scored Aycliffe's goal.

Under 11's Whites played Hebburn Sparks, with goals coming from a Josh (header) and Oscar (penalty). MOTM was Luca, for an incredible string of saves in the second half.

Under 12's Juniors travelled to Darlington Allstars in a thrilling game. It was Aycliffe who took the spoils, winning 4-3 with Jonah the hero scoring all four goals. MOTM was both Jonah and Will.

Under 12's Juniors finished their season at home against Darlington Allstars who they beat earlier in the week. In a game full of goals, it was Jonah, Shay, Will & Dom who netted for Aycliffe. POTM was goalkeeper, Jensen and Phoebe.

Under 12's Blacks played against East Durham, going down 3-1. The goal was scored by Charlie J. MOTM was goalkeeper, Charlie, who made some great saves.

Under 12's Juniors played Bishop Auckland St. Mary's Kings in the Fred Anderson Memorial Trophy at Heritage Park. A fantastic opportunity to play at a great venue. Aycliffe won the trophy with a 4-3 win, Dom scored a hat-trick.

Under 13's hosted Newton Aycliffe Youth in a top of the table clash in what was an outstanding game of football from two really good sides. Youth ran out 3-2 winners. Goals were scored by Grayson and Oscar J.

Under 13's entertained Kader. Aycliffe controlled the game start to finish with some great football and team goals earning an 8-0 win. Goalscorers were Oscar J (3), Archie (2), Rhys, Lucas and an OG. MOTM was Alfie.

Under 13's played against Northallerton, coming away with a great 3-2 victory. Oscar J scored two goals and Zack the other. MOTM was Seth who was outstanding.

Under 15's Whites got an amazing 9-0 win in their Challenge Cup quarter final at home to Greatham. Adam scored a hat-trick, with the other goals scored by Noah, Tom, Ethan, Lewis, Jake and Josh securing Aycliffe's semi-final appearance. MOTM was Ethan.

Under 15's Blacks hosted Spennymoor Town Knights in a fast paced and physical game. Aycliffe were edged out 3-2 with the goals coming from Joseph and Leon. MOTM was the fantastic Zak.

Under 16's Whites lost 3-0 away at Boro Rangers Reds, it was a battling performance, without a recognised goalkeeper for the second week running Aycliffe give it their all and deserved something from the game. MOTM was awarded to Tyler and Dom.

Under 16's Reds played Eaglescliffe in a good game of football, unfortunately, Aycliffe lost 3-1. The goal was scored by Ollie M and MOTM was Finley.

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