# Men lew

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







**ACORN Community Association** took a coach to York on Saturday with a little bit of trepidation due to weather reports forecasting showers. The rain proved to be horrendous on the way down and we were expecting a dismal day. Fortunately, on arrival, the sun appeared and we were instantly cheered up. Of course, first port of call was to a café for a cup of tea, and it just happened to be adjacent to the Minster which gleamed in the midmorning sunshine obviously a good omen for the day. Heading



into town we came across a green cow statue, majestic in a garden, on our way through cobbled streets to the Shambles market area in ancient York surrounded by buildings which certainly would not pass current planning laws, but look lovely. Pleasant to wander through the Shambles market stalls selling everything from flowers to handbags. Onward we strolled, marvelling at the array of shops, impressive in their variety, on the way to our lunchtime venue, Wetherspoons, for a spot of lunch before sampling the delights of Primark and Marks and Spencer. Passing Jorvik we noticed long queues and were pleased to reminisce on previous visits.

Of course, York is a popular destination for foreign students and tourists alike and it was a great opportunity to mingle and chat to Chinese, Japanese, Polish, Germans and visitors from around Britain, although it did amuse me when in a souvenir shop I witnessed a Chinese family making purchases of souvenirs which were obviously made in China.

One of the advantages of visiting a tourist city is that there are never a shortage of cafes, pubs and eating houses and the beauty of a coach trip is that you can rest a while and take in your surroundings such as Morris dancers energetically doing their best to entertain in the plazas around the Minster. Altogether, another triumphant coach trip with happy passengers, tired but ready for the next Acorn adventure, many thanks to our organisers for making these trips possible.

Our next adventure is much closer to home with the great ACORN Community Association Petting Zoo, held in our very own town centre, which is a free treat for all ages on Saturday 13th July 10am to 2pm. We have three petting zoos, a variety of stalls and animal charities. For further details, contact Ken on 07443 046804.

## **ACORN York Adventure CrossFit Athlete Returns to Compete in CrossFit Games**

Local CrossFit coach and athlete at CrossFit All Out gym in Newton Aycliffe, Vicki Finn-Smith, is preparing for a return to the CrossFit Games in America this

"My season started in February this year, along with 14,000 females in the CrossFit Open. I was unsure as to how the Open would go, it feels a while since I've been in individual competition. I've worked hard after coming back from the Games in 2022 with a shoulder injury, then had a further set back in October last year when I badly sprained my ankle. The Open went relatively well and I placed 105th worldwide. The top 25% gained a place in quarter finals in April earlier this year. We completed four workouts over a weekend for quarter finals and I finished 33rd overall, worldwide, out of 4500 women, with a top five finish in one of the workouts. I'm looking forward to the next few months training and hoping to go into the games healthy, fit and ready

to compete."

The top 200 women from quarter finals then progress onto semi-finals completing a further four workouts over a weekend. In May, Vicki competed against the 200 women and placed 30th, with more consistent finishes across the board, earning her spot within the top 40 women to go to The CrossFit Games 40-44yrs category.

CrossFit All Out gym owners Terry and Vikki Anderson said "for Vicki to be heading back to the games for a second time is so inspiring for everyone at the gym. We are really proud of all of her achievements and everyone at the gym is behind her and wishing her the best of luck at the Games this year. This year the **CrossFit Games Masters will take place** August 29th - 2nd September in Alabama, USA and Vicki has a Go Fund Me page to help fund the cost of the trip.

To donate head to www.gofundme.com and search for Vicki Finn.













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## Ginger Johnson and Stephen Bailey at Pride, Bishop Auckland

Cultural entertainment company Baccanalia is working with the students at Bishop Auckland College to produce a vibrant two-day Pride Festival on Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd June. The festival will take place on the college campus and welcomes the whole town to come along, promising to be a colourful tapestry celebrating identities and cultures.

Breaking new ground for Bishop Auckland, this Pride Festival transcends mere revelry and will stand as a testament to inclusivity and diversity. The festival will showcase a diverse range of activities with music performances, cabaret, family shows, stalls offering food and crafts as well as talks, workshops and access to services.

Students will get the opportunity to work in a professional setting, alongside some of the most well known Pride and cabaret performers in the country, with the likes of drag queen Ginger Johnson, the reigning winner of RuPaul's Drag Race UK and award-winning comedian Stephen Bailey, to name just a few.

Every event orchestrated by Baccanalia is deeply rooted in community engagement, forging meaningful cultural bonds within the region. For the Bishop Auckland Pride Festival, college students will be encouraged to participate at every stage. They will have opportunities to gain invaluable hands-on experience with all aspects of event production, including management, logistics and site and set building. While some of the events and activities are free (with a ticket), wristbands are required to access the main stage. All tickets can be booked at www.baccanalia.co.uk

Baccanalia extend thanks to Bishop Auckland Town Council and the County Durham Community Foundation for supporting Pride, Bishop Auckland through the Community Grants Funding Programme. Their contribution enables the company to continue their impactful work for the benefit of the town, contributing to regeneration, local economy, and community bonds.



## **Peace Doves at Durham Cathedral**

A new programme of events and services have just been announced to accompany Peace Doves at Durham Cathedral, making it an even more atmospheric experience for visitors.

Peter Walker's mass-participation artwork Peace Doves is coming to Durham Cathedral this summer from 26th July to 4th September. Although visitors can experience the artwork of 15,000 paper doves with no admission charge and no booking required, a series of special events and unique experiences have now been announced.

From special services to unique dining experiences plus late-night openings - the programme is set to enhance what is already expected to be a breathtaking installation in the historic Nave of the cathedral which will be set to music by composer David Harper. Andrew Usher, Chief Officer: Visitor Experience and Enterprise at Durham Cathedral, says, "We're very much looking forward to showcasing Peace Doves at the cathedral this summer. The artwork itself will look impressive in the Nave of the cathedral, however, we also wanted to offer people the chance to have some unique experiences that reflect the serenity and peace of the installation. We've developed a programme that is accessible to a broad range of visitors and includes special services and familyfriendly activities that are free to engage with, mid-range evening open events and, for those who want to splurge on something extra special, we are hosting three-course dinners under the artwork too. We hope there is something to meet everyone's tastes and

The special services and events programme is now live for visitors to book or plan their summer days out, including family-friendly mini tours, a Day of Prayer for Peace and three-course meals under the impressive artwork. One of the highlights will be a series of latenight openings offering visitors the chance to see the installation after-hours. On selected evenings in July and August, visitors can see Peace Doves at night as the thousands of



handmade doves will be illuminated against the evening backdrop of the cathedral's Nave. The Very Revd Dr Philip Plyming, Dean of Durham, says, "The Peace Doves installation represents a chance for people of all faiths and backgrounds to come into this historic house of prayer and offer their different voices, wishes and prayers in the cause of peace. The programme that surrounds the artwork is a wonderful mix of prayerful services, one-off experiences and thought-provoking activities which we hope will inspire everyone who takes part with a sense of God's peace which they can take away into their own lives. Since 1st April, visitors, schools, local groups and church communities have been invited to create one of the 15,000 paper doves needed for the installation They have been encouraged to write their own message of peace, love, friendship or hope onto a dove for it to be included into the installation later this year. Visitors can create their own peace dove every

Visitors can create their own peace dove every day at Durham Cathedral until 20th July, just before the start of the installation. For more information visit www. durhamcathedral.co.uk/peacedoves

## **PCP AGM**

This year the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17th July 2024 from 11.00 am until 12.30 pm at the Pioneering Care Centre. For over 26 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 immensely 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 Lucie on email: pa@pcp.uk.net by Thursday 27th June 2024. 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.

## **New Boundaries**

Dear Sir

Last week's letter in the Newton News from my colleague, Paul Howell, explained the boundary changes taking place at the General Election. Simply put, those readers of Newton News who live inside the Borough of Darlington will no longer be part of the Sedgefield constituency, but now part of an enlarged Darlington Parliamentary Constituency.

For the past four years I have been the MP for Darlington and, as the Conservative Candidate for the enlarged Darlington Constituency, I have been getting out into this large rural area which is almost five times bigger than the town of Darlington.

Visiting the Auction Mart, multiple farms, enjoying an ice cream at Archers, helping on litter-picks, attending Parish Council Meetings and delivering surveys and newsletters in every Parish from Piercebridge to Summerhouse, from Brafferton to School Aycliffe, and everywhere in between. This beautiful part of our area is a joy to be in, but it is not without its concerns and issues, be it broadband, rural crime or road surfacing works.

Should I be elected on 4th July, I look forward

Should I be elected on 4th July, I look forward to getting stuck into being part of the solution to these issues, working hard for you, as I have for the town over the last four years.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Gibson

Parliamentary Candidate for Darlington.



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## 16,838 Hours of Respite Given to Carers

Over 16,838 hours of respite were given to carers from North East charity, the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) in the last year. PCP understands the demands caring for someone can have on its own employees and that, at times, it may be difficult to combine their work and caring responsibilities.

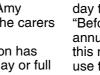
As part of PCP's commitment to supporting working carers, PCP enhances the statutory carers leave offer. Employees can take up to a maximum of four days paid carers leave.

Sandra Roberts, Governance and Development Manager, said: "The policy aims to set out the support PCP offer to employees who have a caring responsibility.

"This is to help them balance their working and caring commitments and continue to be effective in their role. Through offering carer friendly practices, PCP aims to attract and retain employees with caring responsibilities, we have had a lot of positive feedback from staff who use carers leave."

One employee who has found the policy hugely beneficial is Amy Johnson, Workplace Health Development Worker, who uses the carers policy to balance care giving duties to her son.

Amy, said: "I have found the carers policy a real benefit. My son has lots of hospital appointments and often have to spend a half day or full



"Before the policy, I found myself taking annual leave for appointments, so I've found this really beneficial now that I don't have to use those which should be for respite. As an organisation PCP have always been really supportive of me as both a carer and a parent. For other working carers, sometimes it's hard to recognise that you are one, so making sure your organisation is aware of your care giving roles

"I think it's really important for organisations to have carers policies, so that staff can have that flexibility and the support from both your organisation and your team around you. PCP are also a part of the Carer Friendly Durham County Carers scheme which really helped the organisation to build on our carers policy." If you'd like to find out more about PCP, its projects or services or if you'd like to embark on a career with PCP, please visit www.pcp. uk.net or email enquiries@pcp.uk.net

## Traveller Encampment on **Oak Leaf Sports Pitches**

The Town Council is liaising with the relevant agencies including Durham County Council and Durham Constabulary regarding the traveller encampment and seeking legal advice as to the options available to address the situation.

There will be some unavoidable impact on Council services and facilities as a result of these unforeseen circumstances.

The Town Council is unable to make any further comment at the present time but will issue a further statement in due course.

## Opera Day Enjoyed By All



Opera Day at Woodham Burn Community Primary School, on Friday 14th June, was a huge success. Forty Year 5 children took part, capably assisted by five talented music students from Woodham Academy. The day was led by Ben Noble, Music Educator, and Lauren Gilbert, Opera Nova Accompanist, aided by a group of Opera Nova

Everyone worked hard throughout the day, learning to sing and act four numbers from the comical operetta The Merry Widow. At the end of the day, all took part in a performance for the whole school. Even the youngest children in the audience were enthralled. Everyone had great fun - and performed brilliantly.

On Saturday 29th June, Opera Nova will give a very special performance of The Merry Widow featuring children from Woodham Burn Primary School supported by Woodham Academy music students. The performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets are just £5.00 for adults and free for all under 18s. Phone 07795 323985 to reserve tickets in advance.

Important note: The venue for this performance has changed from Woodham Academy to Woodham Burn Community Primary School. Opera Nova would like to thank Great Aycliffe Town Council for the generous support that made all our summer events in Newton Aycliffe possible.







Book an appointment: 01325 309003

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## **Croft Circuit**

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July 13th/14th
BRSCC TCR UK Touring Car Championship

July 27th/28th Kwik Fit British Touring Car Championship

August 10th/11th

Historic Festival Weekend and Show

August 24th/25th

Darlington & District Motor Club Battle of Britain Race Meeting

September 7th/8th

British Automobile Racing Club Mini Festival

September 21st/22nd

750 Motor Club Car Meeting

**November 24th** 

Swift Signs & Shirts Winter Stages Rally

## **Over 50?**

A drop in session will be held every first Monday of the month from 2.00pm until 3.30pm at the Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre, Burn Lane DL5 4HT. The purpose of the sessions is to get together with people approaching or over 50 years to discuss any challenges they may be facing so that we can shape our services to ensure we are meeting their needs.

Residents over 50 are welcome to just come along or can speak to us via email: info@ageukcountydurham.org.uk or call 0191 386 3856.



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# **Aycliffe Sisters Represent Durham**



On Saturday 15th of June. sisters Elizabeth and Charlotte Clay entered the Gateshead International Stadium to represent County Durham at the ESAA Inter-Counties Championships. Competing against the best school Athletes from northern counties - Northumberland, North Yorkshire, Cumbria and Cleveland.

Elizabeth taking on the Inter Girls 100m and Charlotte competing in the Junior Girls 300m.

Though both competing throughout the athletics season, the qualification process was through English Schools Athletics Association (ESAA) events held during May and June. Charlotte received a surprise late call up for 300m after training for 200m, which proved to work in her favour. After one training and strategy session beforehand, it was clear this distance suited Charlotte's running style.

The event first being the ESAA T&F Cup – County Rounds, 14th May at Monkton Stadium in Jarrow, where the girls, running for Hummersknott School, finished first in their respected races. Both winning by a comfortable margin.

Following on from that was the ESAA T&F Cup Championships 5th & 6th June at Middlesbrough Sports Village for Elizabeth and York University for Charlotte. Running for Durham Schools, against a more competitive field, Elizabeth again comfortably winning her race, and Charlotte taking a hard earned third place.

This set up for the final qualification round held on 8th June at Monkton Stadium the ESSA Track & Field Championships. Both girls knowing that only first and second place for each event go on to represent their County at Gateshead Stadium. Taking into consideration this was only Charlotte's third time at running this distance against more experienced competitors. She ran a perfectly judged race, overtaking two on the final straight to clinch third position. Shocked to be told at finish, she had also qualified, and invited to join the team. Sister Elizabeth giving two thumbs up, in support when seeing Charlotte proudly trying on her purple County Durham hoodie. The pressure was now on to get both girls through.

Inspired and focussed, Elizabeth made the perfect start on hearing the gun. Storming into the lead for the first 40m, running at a superb pace and took second place to book her place and to get that all important purple top.

Both girls performed exceptionally well on the day at Gateshead Stadium for County Durham at the ESAA Inter-Counties Championships. Especially Charlotte who, earlier in the year, was diagnosed with Autism and has had to overcome many challenges her whole life. So, to be able to race in front of large crowds with remarkable composure and leave the track, smiling and full of confidence is truly wonderful to see. It shows how special sport can be to aid children.

Well done girls, be very proud of your achievements.

# **AFWC** in Herriot Countryside



June's outing for Aycliffe Fell Walking Club took them to Herriot country with a selection of walks from Devonshire Arms, Bolton Abbey, to the bustling town of Grassington in the Yorkshire Dales. Here is an account of a typical day out with AFWC from one of the walkers

"Caught coach at Bishop Auckland and away we went, picking others up on way. Absolutely lovely walk from Bolton Abbey to Grassington. Beautiful scenery en route and the weather was perfect for the whole walk. Calling in for a quencher at a pub in Burnsall along the way and meeting up with the rest of the walkers at the end - such a friendly crowd and a great walking group! Change of boots then a cafe for green tea and a knicker-bocker glory (chocolate free) then onto the pub to join the rest of the walkers in the sunshine for a catch up. They filmed the James Herriot second series here in Grassington and the cafe had lots of photos in frames, of them and the crew, on their walls A fantastic day all in all.' AFWC is always interested in signing up new members. If you are interested, please visit www.aycliffefellwalkingclub.com for details of all our walks and get yourself signed up. Next walk: Saturday 13th July, Rosthwaite to Keswick via various routes.

## **HALL FOR HIRE**

### **School Aycliffe Community Centre**

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## AR Power Helps Bishop Auckland College

North East commercial solar and battery storage installer AR Power recently completed a large rooftop panel installation for a County Durham FE college as part of a £4m capital investment programme.

The Washington-based company, which manages a complete turnkey solution from design to installation, was awarded the contract by Bishop Auckland College following a competitive tender.

From the 2021/22 academic year, the college chose to redouble its commitment to addressing the climate emergency agenda and used the Climate Action Roadmap for Further Education Colleges as a route towards achieving Net Zero emissions.

All operations were reviewed to help achieve the initial target of a 15% reduction in the college's carbon footprint by 2025. Having carried out an independent energy and carbon report to identify the size of their footprint, the college decided to look at and implement measures to reduce this. Leaders also wanted to reduce their energy costs and reliance on energy from the grid and investigated installing solar panels.

The technical team at AR Power created the overall designs as part of the initial proposal to the college, then their in-house installation team deployed the commercial solar PV system shortly after the college awarded the contract to the company. During the installation, qualified electricians used a boom lift to safely take cables down from the roof to the inverter room, enclosing them with HDG

tray and HDG lids for protection.

This was a 253.38kWp SolarEdge system, made up of 618 panels which could generate 227,218 kWh of energy per year. The college expects to consume 86.2% of the energy generated by the panels and benefit from sending the remainder back to the grid. An independent report estimated the college was generating 647,727.81kgs of CO2 per year, however the solar PV system will help reduce this number by 44,383kgs every year massively contributing to helping them achieve their Net Zero targets.

To mitigate against the impact of bird droppings, which can significantly reduce the amount of energy the system can produce if they soil the panels, AR Power also installed an audible bird deterrent system as part of the installation to help combat this. This should also minimise the amount of cleaning needed in the future.

While at the college, AR Power project manager Adam Black met with some of the construction and engineering students where he talked about all things solar including his career from his apprenticeship through to his current position, and how his transferable skills were the most important factor in securing his role.

AR Power has completed hundreds of solar installs to businesses across the UK, from manufacturers, government buildings to universities and public buildings. Clients include Newcastle, Durham and South Tyneside Councils, Dunelm Stores, University



of Sunderland, Northumbria University, BHK, Durham University, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, The Metal Drum Company, and many more.

AR Power, the largest and longest established independent commercial solar installer in North East England, was named 'Contractor of the Year' at the National Solar and Storage Live Awards, held in Birmingham last year.

To find out more about AR Power, visit: https://www.arpower.co.uk



## **Fine Firsts for Heighington U11s**



Heighington FC U11's capped their first season as a team with a good effort in the Cockfield Cup at Cockfield on 15th June.

The boys made a slow start to their first ever tournament but improved throughout to reach the 'Plate' final via a thrilling semi-final penalty

Their first season in the Russell Foster Youth League was one of exciting development for the boys, after forming last August. Some big wins, tough losses, and lots of progress made for a solid mid-table finish.

The team is built on principles of respect, bravery and unity, and all players are given match-day experience regardless of where they are in their football development.

Massive thanks to the team's two sponsors Fisk Services and Wilkinson Concise Construction, both of which have been a fantastic support to the team.

Meanwhile, the club continues to expand and has two more new teams for the upcoming season, at Under 8 and Under 7.

## **Junior School Visit Durham**

The children in Year 6 visited Durham Cathedral for their Leaver's Service. The children participated in many activities to celebrate the progress they have made in Junior school. The children made peace doves with messages of love and hope, explored the meaning of spirituality by creating posters and using Lego, were asked to make something that made them feel happy. It was a real 'feel-good' experience for the children and the staff.

After spending time at the Cathedral, the children jumped back on the bus and headed to Wharton Park. The rainy weather didn't stop the children enjoying the playground equipment.

The children were inspired by the beautiful views of Durham City and didn't mind posing for a picture.



Dear Sir,

We hear this a lot. Whilst politics in a broken world can be deeply discouraging at times, I believe that voting matters and urge you all to use your vote.

All citizens ought to be aware of their right and duty to promote the common good by casting their vote. But in order to arrive at the polling station as well informed as possible on things that matter to you, this is not always possible, due to the fact that have you no contact details on most of the candidates, unless you are an activist or have received correspondence from

The issues that the new Government will take on are immense, with some issues inherited, but what about the candidates hoping to become the next MP for our area, where do they stand?

I have always been involved in volunteering and campaigning, for many years, on issues such as poverty, food and climate change with organisations like the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) and CAFOD. I support both organisations.

The key issues facing this election are the Cost-of-Living Crisis, with almost two million people using food banks, what plans do you have, as a candidate, to tackle the cost-ofliving crises in our area.

Migration and Asylum is another area of concern, every year people tragically die as they attempt to cross borders to reach safety, will you champion the right to safe and legal routes for people needing to flee their homes, rather than leaving vulnerable people prey to people smugglers? We need to ensure the country is a welcoming one to refugees and migrants, including ending unjust deportation of people.

Ten percent of the world's population regularly go to bed hungry. We urgently need the way we grow, distribute and consume food, when there is enough food. The problem is both distribution and waste.

Climate, I know that we need to transition away from fossil fuels if we are to have any chance of halting the climate crisis. Some of the poorest communities are facing the greatest burden of the climate crisis. Debt Cancellation, given that over 50 of the world's poorest nations are currently struggling to manage this debt, the idea that the UK should champion debt cancellation for those low-income countries who need it, so that they can properly fund essential services. Business and Human Rights, some of the British businesses are some of the most powerful in the world, often with supply chains that span may countries. Many of the things we consume in the UK are produced via supply chains. Throughout these supply global chains, it is often the case that workers are exploited and / or the environment damages Aid and International Development, the UK has slashed its aid budget, turning its back on global poverty, we need MPs to restore the aid budget to 0.7% of national income, as agreed in the International Development Act and show that we are a country committed to making the world a better place for all.

Building Resilient Communities and tackle Regional Inequalities, will the people expecting to become the next MP work more closely with local groups and communities, including faith groups, to identify the best policies to support left behind areas?

Vince Crosby

## Why Should I Vote Witness Sought

Dear Sir.

I am requesting assistance with a 'Fail to Stop' / 'Failure to Report' incident.

On Wednesday 29th May 2024 between 11.00am and 11.20am a white Volvo (we think XC90 model) collided with a VW which was parked up in Woodham, causing nearly £1000 worth of damage. The driver failed to stop and report the accident.

This specific vehicle has distinctive alloys and a double sunroof, no information on its age sadly. If anyone recognises this vehicle then please get in touch with Newton News who will pass on the information.

It might be that on this exact date the actual car might not have been in the owners possession and driven by someone who was not the owner. There is also video footage of the actual crash occurring should the owner of the vehicle recognise it; this has already been passed on to the insurance company.

Any information would be greatly appreciated. Name and address supplied.





## **Pot Hole Problems**







Potholes appear to again be an ongoing problem that the local authorities seem incapable of resolving.

I recently reported severely deteriorating road conditions in Newton Aycliffe to the County Council only to receive a response that the potholes were not posing a 'danger' nor an 'emergency'.

This was not only unhelpful but bemusing, because I never used 'danger' or 'emergency' when reporting the issue.

The reported issues remain unresolved and the deterioration of our roads continues. Contributing over £2500 annually in Council and car tax, is this 'value for money'? Shame on you Durham Council, you are, once again, letting our lovely town down. Name and address supplied.

## The Story Begins

A new visitor attraction, celebrating the past, present and future of County Durham, is now open to the public.

Durham County Council officially opened The Story on Friday 14th June – a gateway to the history of County Durham and its people, on the outskirts of Durham City.

Located in the recently restored and extended Grade II listed Mount Oswald manor house, The Story blends Georgian grandeur with stateof-the-art modern facilities.

Combining five important collections, it offers visitors access to ancient documents and archaeological finds, records of bravery, and stories of life-changing events. This includes six miles of archives charting 900 years of County Durham's history and the entire Durham Light Infantry (DLI) Collection, which has been reunited with the DLI Archive for the first time since 1998.

A free, interactive exhibition space lifts the lid on the stories within these collections, and an exciting programme of activities will offer new ways for people to discover and learn more about the people and events that shaped the county.

And, as the new home of the County Registration Service, The Story provides a place for current and future generations to make their own milestones – be that registering a birth or getting married in one of the venue's magnificent ceremony rooms.

The official opening on Friday kicked off a weekend of special activities for people of all ages to mark the occasion.

Historical re-enactments, pop-up theatre performances, live music and a teddy bears' picnic were among the free activities on offer, along with the chance to be among the first to see inside the new venue. Mount Oswald was built in the early 19th century and was most recently used as a golf club before planning permission for The Story was granted in 2020.

Since then, the building has been restored inside and out. A contemporary extension has been added with views across the grounds, and 291 solar panels and 60 ground source heat pumps have been installed.

Inside, visitors can experiment with audio and visual devices to interact with exhibitions, and a specialist digitisation studio is allowing The Story team to expand the collections that are available digitally. A state-of-the-art online collections search is also available both on site and online, meaning people can discover The Story's treasures from their own homes as well as taking advantage of artificial intelligence

The Story has been made possible thanks to support from a number of organisations including The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, The Wolfson Foundation and the Banks Group, which gifted Mount Oswald manor house to Durham County Council.

To stay up to date with the latest news, events, exhibitions and visitor information from The Story, visit www.thestorydurham.org and follow @ TheStoryDurham on Facebook and X.



## **Changing Lives**



If anyone doubts that one person can make a difference in the world, they need to take the time to talk to Mark Solan who is the CEO and Founder of the Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust CIC. Many years ago Mark and his family were faced with the challenges a Cancer diagnosis brings with it. Today, support for patients and their families is a lot better than it once was, when Mark and his family needed it. So, faced with some harsh life lessons, Mark decided he was going to make a difference in the level of Cancer support available for the people who need it the most. The Trust is based in Spennymoor and provides a wide range of support and guidance for Cancer patients and their families across the region. The dream, over time, became a reality and grew way beyond anything he could have first imagined, but he would be the first to admit it's the TEAM that makes the DREAM work and he feels very fortunate and privileged to work with a small but dedicated, hard working team of staff and volunteers. The demands for the service are continually growing and the trust needs to continue to grow in order to keep pace with the demand.

If you have benefited from the Trusts help and support and have a few hours to spare a week and would like to give something back, or you feel inspired by their story and feel you would like to volunteer and make a difference, you can find the details you need to help you make a difference and be a part of something special and worthwhile on The Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust Facebook page. Phill & Andv

Around Town, Aycliffe Radio

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Page 8 Newton News

# Pensioners Tuck in to a Taste of WWII

Pensioners who lived through WWII have been treated to a taste of their past thanks to some big-hearted North East businesses.

Residents at Church View Care Home tucked into some free fish and

chips as the nation commemorated the 80th anniversary of D-Day last week.

And there was a sentimental reason behind the free chippy tea; During

the war, fish and chips were eaten regularly as they were exempt from Government rationing.

With National Fish and Chip Day moved to 6th June this year, to coincide with the anniversary, Collins Seafoods, based in Newton Aycliffe and the UK's leading supplier of frozen-at-sea fish, teamed up with nearby Beedle's Chips to put a smile on the residents' faces.

"We are a local business that supports other local businesses and people within the community. We have a good relationship with Church View Care, and it was an opportunity to give something back," said James Beedle, owner of Beedle's Fish and Chips.

"The residents at the home will remember the war and D-Day, Winston Churchill even called fish and chips 'good companions' and he ensured they weren't rationed as he thought it would be detrimental to morale during the war. This just shows how important fish and chips are, not just to the nation, but the larger supply chain involved."

It was all smiles at the South Church home as they tucked into Collins' freshly fried fish along with some chips, made from potatoes supplied by Thames Fruit and Veg.

"We are extremely proud to be involved in this initiative with James at Beedle's Chips," said Craig English, Managing Director of Collins Seafoods, which is based in Newton Aycliffe. It is great that National Fish and Chip Day has been moved to tie in with D-Day, as well all know how important Winston Churchill thought fish and chips were to morale during WWII. We know that James and his team provide fantastic fish and chips and I'm sure the residents at Church View enjoyed them."

For more information on Collins Seafood, visit:

https://www.collinsseafoods.co.uk



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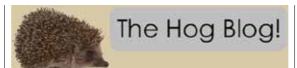
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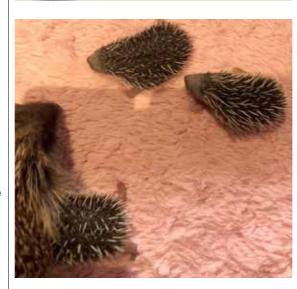
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Just a quick one this week, because I am so busy with all sorts of stuff being a wife, mum and rescuer with lots on the go. It has been quite distressing recently because hogs have been coming into rescue too far gone to save. They have lasted hours, rehabbers need days for meds to have any kind of positive effect, I am thankful that I am prepared for any eventuality, thanks go to Grange Vets for keeping me stocked up and prepared for anything.

I want everyone to remember this, out in the day, not ok! Pick up hedgehog, put in a high sided box then make a couple of phone calls. On a positive note, all mums and hoglets are doing very well, Goldie had six, but three didn't survive, Annie had three and two didn't survive. Baby Bella is still in the incubator and also doing well, she can see and hear now, 68 grams in weight.

I am still trying to do a fundraiser and a raffle and have lots of lovely prizes, Donella, Wally, Wendy and Mandy have a raffle book at Grannies Choice if you visit them, at the moment I am so tired because Bella needs four hourly feeds during the night, but not for much longer because she is cutting teeth. Here is a picture of Goldie and her three babies, cute eh?

Should anyone like to help me keep them safe, healthy and well fed, any donation, large or small, is a big help to me, also in the cage next to Goldie is Annie, her baby girl is also doing well. Can I also welcome Summer, she has been in a very short time and she also may be pregnant! Thanks go to Ken for bringing her in.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society Telephone Number is 01584 890801. My Facebook page is Prickly Haven Hedgehog Rescue.

Thank you.

## **Roller Derby**

Dear Sir

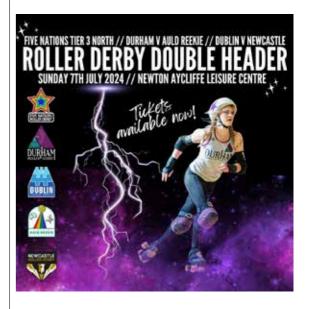
I'm writing on behalf of Durham Roller Derby, we are a women's roller derby team based in Ushaw Moor, County Durham.

If you are not familiar with the sport, roller derby is a full contact sport played on roller skates. A game is made up of two, thirty minute halves, which are broken down into 'jams' lasting up to two minutes. For each jam, each team fields five skaters, four 'blockers' and one 'jammer'. Players skate around an oval track and the jammer scores a point each time they pass a blocker from the opposing team. Blockers use their bodies to prevent the jammer from passing and scoring points. Each year we take part in the Five Nations Roller Derby championships against other teams from around the UK.

This year we are competing in Tier 3 Women's North after moving up a tier following our gold medal win in Tier 4 last year! We will be hosting the final games of our tier on Sunday 7th July 2024 at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. This will be a double header featuring Durham Roller Derby vs Auld Reekie Braw Stars and Dublin Be Grands vs Newcastle Whippin' Hinnies. This is a hugely important event for us within the sport - Five Nations is one of the largest roller derby tournaments in Europe, featuring over fifty leagues from across the UK - and the outcome of these games will determine which teams will make it to playoffs in September to face off against Tier 3 teams from other regions.

Our team has grown a lot since returning to play after covid and we now have over fifty members, but we would love to drive up some further interest in our sport, and hopefully get some spectators there on the day who aren't already involved in roller derby.

More information about our team can be found at www.durhamrollerderby.com or on our Facebook page.



## A.G.M.

On Sunday 30th June at Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church (Neville Parade) we are holding our AGM and Gift Day.

We extend an open invitation to you to come along to find out what is happening on the premises. The event starts at 3.00pm with the A.G.M. followed by tea at 4.00pm and concludes with Songs of Praise led by Rev David Payne at 5.00pm.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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## **Obituary Notices**

### Michael John Teasdale



Died peacefully, after a long illness, on 11th June.

Much loved Dad to Louise, Leanne, Angela and Grandad Courtney; Lewis, Jake, Hayden, Brooke, Chloe, Holly and Greyson and loving Brother to Shirley.

Michael opted for a Pure Cremation, but friends are welcomed celebrate life on Friday 28th June at the OakLeaf Sports Complex at 5.00pm.

There are no words for how much you will be missed, but you can rest now back with your beloved Wife Ann.

### **Paul Denham**



Died suddenly on 14th June in New Zealand after a six week visit to Newton Aycliffe.

Father to Brian and much loved Brother to Keith, Shirley and Connie.

He will be forever in our hearts.

### **Margaret Hewitson**

Passed away peacefully on 3rd June 2024, aged 99, after a short illness. Beloved Wife of the late Joe and much loved Mother Daughter-in-Tony, Law Irene and sadly missed by her many Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. Funeral service to be held on Tuesday 25th June at 2.30pm Wear Crematorium. welcome to attend.

### **Edna Wilson**

away Passed Darlington Memorial Hospital on 8th June, aged 88 years. A much loved Mum, Gran, Great Gran and Mother-in-Law. Will family and friends please meet for a service at St. Clare's Church on Friday 28th June at 2.30pm, to be followed by a committal at Durham Crematorium. Family flowers only,

## **Roy James Angus**

donations in lieu, if

so desired, to Cancer

Research UK.

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully at home on 29th May 2024, aged 74.

beloved Dearly Husband of the late Brenda; Father to Jeffrey and Graham. Would family and friends please meet for a service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Wednesday 26th June at 3,30pm.

No flowers, at family's request. Donations can be made to Durham County Carers Support.

### **Pets**



### **Maureen Burnell** Nee Harper (Little Mo)

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully in Sť. . Clare's Court Care Home on 9th June, aged 83 years.

A much loved Mam and Nana. family

friends please meet for a service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Tuesday 2nd July at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, may be made for Primary Evergreen School.

the family's Αt request. could everyone wear colourful clothing.

### **Barbara Ann Ward**

8th On June. Barbara, aged 66 years, passed away, surrounded by her loving family. Loving Wife to Kev; adored Mam

to Sueling, Meiling, Hailing, Joling and the late Cody; treasured Nanna and Great Nanna; a devoted Sister and Aunty.

Will be sadly missed by all those lives she touched.

Funeral service to be held at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 21st June at 10.30am. Friends please meet at the chapel, please wear colourful clothing. Family flowers only please.

### **Robert Wilkinson** (Bob)

Sadly passed away in hospital on Tuesday 4th June 2024, aged 93 years.

Loving Husband of Audrey; precious Dad of Irene and the late John; Pop to all his Grandchildren Great Grandchildren. A great loss to all xx Funeral to take place at Wear Valley Crematorium Monday 24th June at 1.30pm, then at Phoenix Club Newton Aycliffe. Please meet at the Crematorium.

### John Ingledew (formerly of Shildon)

and **Brenda Ingledew** (formerly of Spennymoor)

After illnesses borne with dignity and courage. John died on 10th June 2024, aged 87 years. Brenda died 12th June 2024, aged 85 years.

Much loved Mam and Dad to Shaun, Dean and Sonya; loving In-Laws to Christine, Bev and Tony; much loved Brother of Joyce and much loved Sister of John and Sister-in-Law Tracy and proud loving Grandparents of Joanne, Nichola, Russell and Luke; **Great-Grandparents** of Callum, Brodie, Abby, Bobby, Roman and Ava: Great-Great-Grandparents to Millie, all of whom they adored and loved very much.

Friends and family please meet at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon Wednesday 3rd July at 11.30am for their joint funeral service, followed by reception at Woodham Golf Club.

A touch of the colour to purple wear. would be appreciated.

Forever in our hearts, forgotten, sadly missed.

## **Congratulations**

### **Tracy Swinburne** OBE

Congratulations on your Award in The King's Birthday Honours. We are so proud of you. Mags. Love from Will, Mam and Dad

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## **Paul McNamee**

In Memoriam



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I thought of you today, but that is nothing new, I thought about you yesterday and the days before that too. I think of you in silence, I often speak your name. All I have are memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is a keepsake from which I'll never part. God has you in his arms - I have you in mv heart.

Woody also misses you and is waiting at the door for his 'best buddy' to return. Rest in Peace Paul. All my love, Christine XXX

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## **Election Candidate**

### **Paul Howell**

Conservative candidate to be Member of Parliament for Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor.

Dear Sir,

I would like the people of Newton Aycliffe to consider re-electing me as their Member of Parliament. I have been your MP through the challenges of Covid and a war in Europe. neither of which were anticipated back in 2019. It has been the honour of my life. I have given you transparency on my work by writing Parliament Talk every week in this paper. I have delivered as a constituency MP by making myself available through constituency surgeries at various locations and we have had the privilege of dealing with over 18,000 pieces of casework, 3,300 were from the Aycliffe area, which is 11 for every single day since I was elected.

As your MP I have worked on many important issues for the town, including the need for our Police Station to remain and for the Police to be on top of ASB, but also for specific issues like knife crime. I have supported causes like the WASPI women and the Mineworkers Pension Scheme.

I have met and worked for many of the businesses on the industrial estate, in particular, I have worked very closely with Hitachi on their current challenges, including taking the Unions to meet the Secretary of State. For anyone to say the issue could be solved at the stroke of a pen is hugely misleading. The political imperative for Government was to resolve the problem so, if they could have, they would have. I know that all that can be done is being done and I would continue with this as a primary focus if re-elected.

I have met and worked with so many wonderful people across the Town and would appreciate the opportunity to continue listening to you and working for you, Vote Paul Howell to continue as your MP. Paul Howell

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Newton News Page 11

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# A Tribute to our Armed Forces

A special celebration is to be held in Darlington as we pay tribute to our Armed Forces personnel, past and present – and we are inviting you to join us! Individuals, schools, community groups and businesses are welcome to take part as we host a special Raising the Flag ceremony in the Market Square on Friday 28th June to mark Reserves Day (26th June) and Armed Forces Day (29th June). Organised by Darlington Borough Council, the celebrations will be led by the Mayor of Darlington, Cllr Bob Donoghue.

Invitations have been sent to all councillors, other civic dignitaries and representatives of the military including the chairman of the Royal British Legion, John Smith.

The event is a chance to say thank you and show our support to all those who make up our Armed Forces, service families, veterans and cadets and it is hoped as many people as possible will come along to what is now an annual event in the town.

It represents just one of the ways we support our Armed Forces, as the council is also among the many public and private sector organisations that have committed to supporting personnel, past and present, by signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant, a promise that ensures they are treated fairly.

A short parade of representatives from the Armed Forces, military associations and civic guests will leave the Town Hall at 10.15am on Friday 28th June, to make its way to the Market Square where the Raising the Flag ceremony will take place.

A bugler will sound the last post and wreaths will be laid on the commemorative stone in the Market Square.

Anyone who wishes to attend is asked to be at the Market Square before 10.10am. To find out more about how you can show your support for the Armed Forces visit: www.armedforcesday.org.uk

## St. Francis' School Need Your Help

St. Francis' Junior school are holding their Summer Enterprise Fair on Monday 1st July. The children are working hard to develop and create their own stalls including things to sell, games and challenges.

We are asking if anyone would be able to kindly donate to our raffle. If this is possible please either email school on: stfrancis@durhamlearning.net or you are very welcome to drop these off at the school reception, Monday to Friday

Thank you.

between 8.30am-4.00pm.

Everyone at St. Francis' Junior School appreciate your support.

## Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report

Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, were thankful that heavy rain forced their away game at Shildon 1st XI in the NYSD second division to be abandoned as a draw after 29 overs with Aycliffe struggling badly at 47 for 7. The only batsmen to reach double figures in the visitor's innings were 17 year old Tom Dearden and Adam Gittins, who both scored 11 runs and

The second team game at home to Preston 1st XI in the NYSD fourth division was

Leon Patel who chipped in

with ten.



abandoned after 18 overs of the first innings due to persistent rain. Aycliffe were going well and were handily placed at 56 for 3 thanks to Jai Sander (28 off 34 balls) and Matty Greaves (10 off 22 balls) before the rain intervened and the game was abandoned as a draw. Not the most memorable of starts in their senior Aycliffe careers for debutants, 13 year old Trent Telford and 14 year old Will Moffatt.

The club's Ladies team had a narrow win by 12 runs at home to Thirsk in the Hambleton League to consolidate their position as joint leaders in the table. Carys Myers (1 for 12) took the only wicket to fall when the visitors batted and there were some good performances with the bat when Aycliffe replied. Amanda Norman top scored with 19 runs off 12 balls, Carys Myers scored 17 off 16 balls and Louise Jackson hit 15 off 12 balls to help take their side to their fourth consecutive victory. Our U17's were heavily defeated by 75 runs at home to Barnard Castle in NYSD Junior League. After electing to bat first the visitors found themselves in deep trouble at 41 for 6 thanks to some excellent bowling from Aycliffe's Leo Stout (4 for 22) and Ramzan Hussain (2 for 25). Barnard Castle recovered to reach 105 all out after 14.1 overs despite Will Dearden taking 2 for 21 and older brother Tom chipping in with 1 for 38. Aycliffe never got going in their reply and were skittled for just 30 after 13 overs.

Aycliffe's U15's were well beaten by 93 runs away at Darlington in the NYACC League cup. Darlington scored an impregnable 152 for 1 in their 20 overs with Will Moffatt the only bowler to take a wicket, finishing with 1 for 17. In reply, Aycliffe were bowled out for 59 after 15.2 overs with only Trent Telford, who top scored with 14 off 23 balls, and Tom Norman (13 off 15 balls), reaching double figures.

The U13's lost by ten wickets at home to Rockliffe Park in the NYACC League. Aycliffe were asked to bat first and were restricted to 67 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs with Trent Telford top scoring with 16 off 28 balls and Jack Collingwood also batted well finishing with 13 not out off 31 balls. In reply, the visitors coasted to victory after just 13.2 overs without losing a wicket.

Photo: Our Ladies team after their exciting win at home to Thirsk.

# Did You Get Married at Neville Parade Methodist Church?

Were your children christened there? Or did you attend the iconic 'Meth' in your younger days? Have you heard rumours that the church is closing? To clarify the situation at Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church (Neville Parade) please take the time to read on...

The church (sanctuary) is closed due to the disrepair of the roof making the building unsafe. BUT, there are still services each Sunday at 11am. Weddings, christenings and funerals are all going ahead using the lounge space. There are lots of groups using the premises and being welcomed with open arms. These include craft, art and dance groups, a ladies group and Girl Guiding (Rainbows & Brownies).

So what next? Get behind the repairs, improvements or ...? We would love to hear your thoughts on how to continue to use the site. The cost of a new roof is beyond the reach of the church members at a minimum of £120,000. What happens in the future will be very different, but the people of the church are committed to continuing to provide a space for worship and community use at Neville Parade for many years to come.

Comments on the above can be sent to the minister:

Reverend David Payne, email: david.payne@methodist.org.uk

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## Pre-Season Buzz at Newton Aycliffe RUFC Cookery Class





\*Terms & conditions apply, see website for details. Offer extended until 31st August.

The familiar sound of "feet, feet, hit" has returned to the Moore Lane Sports Club pitches. Pre-season training is well underway at Newton Aycliffe RUFC, with two highly encouraging sessions already in the books.

The turnout has been fantastic, with existing players joined by new faces keen to get involved, as well as some veterans dusting off their boots for one last run out. There's an unmistakable buzz around the club as the new campaign kicks into gear.

It's been a great start. The lads have come back absolutely flying, putting in serious graft from the very first session. But, just as importantly, there's a positive, upbeat atmosphere that creates an excellent training environment.

NARUFC prides itself on cultivating an inclusive, welcoming space for players of all backgrounds and abilities. The pre-season programme has been specifically designed to develop all-around skills and fitness through engaging, rugby-focused activities. There are no tedious shuttle runs or bronco tests. It's all with ball in hand - skill zones, working on techniques and individual coaching, then game zones putting it all into practice with competitive games. You don't even realise how hard you've worked

The players have been loving the varied sessions so far. Team camaraderie is building rapidly, with the tight-knit group often sticking around long after training in the clubhouse to share some laughs. Having that social element is so important. We're mates first and foremost, but there's a profound trust and respect there too, that translates to how we operate on the pitch. With such an encouraging pre-season already unfolding, NARUFC is keen to recruit even more new members to swell the ranks. The invitation is open for anyone looking to get involved in a progressive, ambitious club, with a wonderful community feel.

Whether you're a veteran chasing one last hurrah, new to the game after being inspired by recent international tournaments, a student in the area, or an established player hungry to fight for a spot in the starting XV - we want you here. NARUFC is a local rugby club focused on creating a positive environment for players to play, support, enjoy, encourage, grow and respect the values of the game.

Pre-season training continues every Tuesday and Thursday at 6:45 pm on the Moore Lane pitches. Follow the club's Facebook page @ayclifferugby for all the latest updates as NARUFC gears up for an exciting new season.

On Wednesday 10th July 2024, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, the Angel Trust at Belvedere House, Kingsway, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7JN will be holding a cookery class. Join us for an evening with Manzo's Head Chef, Dan Toase. He will host a cookery class on Sweet Potato & Wild Garlic Gnocchi with Crispy Prosciutto in homemade Pesto followed by Crème Brûlée! Bring your partner, friends or family for a night of culinary expertise. Dan, a world-renowned chef, is bringing years of experience to the table to teach you how to make one of his signature dishes! Bring something to drink, we'll get the music on, and enjoy an evening of fun and food in our Angel Trust kitchen. Want to know more or want to customise the dish to suit your preferences? Email: callumhodgson@angeltrust.co.uk or call 01388 737270 for more information. https://www.angeltrust.co.uk/events-1/ evening-cookery-class Tickets are £25 per person.





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