

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper

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St. Francis' Summer Fair

On July 1st, St. Francis' Junior School held their Summer Fair. The children and staff have been working hard over the last couple of weeks to decide, as a class, what stalls they wanted to set up, the children worked together to develop games, gifts and prizes for their stalls.

We also held a raffle where we were very kindly donated by some companies. A huge thank you to Tesco, Little Land of Adventures and Jules from Clubercise who kindly donated gift cards to raffle off. Thank you to all parents and carers that joined us for the fair, enjoyed our cakes and refreshments, purchased raffle tickets and enjoyed the games and activities our children had set up for you - we hope you had an amazing time!



Top of the Poppins



Young performers at a County Durham school wowed audiences with their spirited rendition of Mary Poppins. Children from local primary schools and parents were invited to a run of four performances of the Disney classic at Greenfield Academy.

Drama teacher Amy Thurley, who directed the show, said: "I'm incredibly proud of our talented cast and crew who have worked so hard to put on such an amazing show. A big production like this relies on the support and dedication of the families of the children involved, and we're incredibly grateful for all their support. We're overjoyed with the feedback from our audiences - parents have told me that, thanks to this show, their child is now seriously considering studying performing arts in further education, and someone else said it's been a game-changer for their Year 7 daughter, helping her settle in, make friends, and boost her confidence.

"This is wonderful to hear, and it's a fantastic illustration of why it's so important to us to embed drama and performance within our school and community. The role of the performing arts is crucial and special; the confidence it develops in children is incredible."

Students performed the show four times at the school - which is part of the Advance Learning Partnership - including three evening performances and a matinee.

15-year-old Madison Dixon brought the titular magical nanny to life, while her fellow Year 10 student Chloe Craig delighted audiences as Bert the Chimney Sweep - roles made famous by Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke.

Year 7's Evie Bell and Dexter Smith played Jane and Michael Banks - the children Mary Poppins comes to care for, while Year 8's Ava Birbeck and James Dean portrayed their parents: suffragette Winifred Banks and workaholic George Banks.

Amy Aspland, Head of School, said: "I am very grateful to our staff members who dedicated their nights and weekends to make this happen, working with the children to help them shine like the superstars that they are, and especially to our director, Miss Thurley. "Watching the children perform filled me with pride. It was particularly heart-warming to see so many of our younger children involved in the show, including playing lead roles. There was a true sense of family amongst our cast and crew.

"There really is only one word that does it justice: supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!"

A167 Major Road Works

Work has begun to deliver improvements to the A167's Central Avenue and Ricknall Lane junctions, and at the A167/A689 Rushyford roundabout. Rushford roundabout work is due to be completed by mid September 2024.



In July 2024 work will commence to improve the A167 Central Avenue and Ricknall Lane junctions. It will provide additional road capacity in the area, and potentially allow the development of up to 1400 new homes on the Low Copelaw site to the east of the town.

Work that will be completed:

Durham County Council are widening the roads to the A167/A689 Rushyford roundabout and improving its layout.

They will start work at the A167's Central Avenue and Ricknall Lane junctions in early July 2024 and expect to finish by Spring 2025.

The work at the A167's Central Avenue junction will provide a new link road providing access to the future housing site, as well as a traffic light-controlled entry, improved pedestrian crossings and road resurfacing.

This junction will be closed from 15th July 2024 while this work is ongoing.

DCC are also adding new traffic lights at the A167's Ricknall Lane junction, improved pedestrian crossings and resurfacing the road. This junction will be closed from mid-September 2024. They will maintain access to the Premier Inn and The Gretna Green.

Diversions

Diversions for vehicles will be in place during specific construction phases and these will be signposted. Local pedestrian and cyclist diversions also will be in place and signposted.

Although some disruption is inevitable, the County Council are doing everything possible to minimise the impact to businesses and residents.

Funding

This scheme has been funded to the tune of £7million from the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to deliver the scheme, which is scheduled for completion Summer 2025.



Thomas is a GB Shark

Thomas Forrest, 14, from Sedgefield Water Polo Club, has recently returned from playing in The U15's Labe Cup, in Decin, Czech Republic from 20-23 June. The team was the only club from the UK who participated in this event, therefore allowing the young players to gain valuable experience at international level. The team named themselves as the 'GB Sharks' and was made up of players from Coventry, Solihull and Sheffield; many of these players are part of the England Talent Centres and train together fortnightly at various locations across the country.



Thomas was selected as team captain and played against teams from Germany, Denmark, Czech Republic and Slovakia. He was the joint second highest goal scorer for the whole tournament, scoring a fantastic 16 goals for the team. We'd also like to advise that we can now offer player sponsorships for just £30 per player for this season in return for regular advertising and promotion on our social media pages. If this is something that your business may be interested in, please don't hesitate to get in touch. All monies raised will be used to allow our fantastic members the opportunity to develop their skills and provide them with the equipment they need in order to succeed in the sport. 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.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

By PCSO Steven Kipling



The Neighbourhood & Response teams working out of Newton Aycliffe have been busy responding to a variety of incidents across the area over the past week, here's a very brief update of what has been happening; Officers executed a Magistrates Search Warrant at an address in Newton Aycliffe, and a large quantity of drugs and cash were seized, with one male arrested at the scene. On Monday, a male was arrested on suspicion of possessing indecent images. Also on Monday, a male was arrested on suspicion of assault following a domestic related incident. Response and neighbourhood officers responded to a report of a suicidal female. Fortunately, officers located the female within minutes, safe and well and is now receiving the appropriate support. PCSO Kipling attended the North East Autism Society to speak with the students around Road Safety, and then conducted some Speedwatch checks on the A167 with the help of the students. On Wednesday, PCSO's Todd and Kipling attended the Shopwatch meeting, along with representatives from our local shops. Also on Wednesday, Sgt Boyd chaired a steering group meeting looking at the creation of a new Community Hub in the town centre. The group have identified a property, surveys are being completed, and funding applied for. This work is in collaboration with a number of partner agencies including Lifeline Community Action. On Friday night, a male was arrested following a report of a domestic related incident and was transported to custody. On Saturday, PCSO's Kipling and Todd seized an off-road bike that had been causing a nuisance to the public. On Sunday afternoon we had the pleasure of attending the Middridge Summer Fair. Thanks for reading, enjoy your week. PCSO Steven Kipling.

Guys & Dolls and Baccanalia



On the Sunday 7th July show we had Danielle Beck as our first guest, Danielle is one of the principal players with the Ferryhill Stage Society and she was discussing their forthcoming local production of Guys and Dolls. A musical fable of Broadway, music & lyrics by Frank Loesser. Book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows. Based on a story and characters of Damon Runyon. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. From the 17th - 20th July at the Mainsforth and District Community Centre, Ferryhill Station, DL17 0AG. Tickets: £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/ferryhill-stage-society or call 07748 248394 for further information. In the second half of the show we had Thomas Wales, the Director of Baccanalia who provides specialist markets and cultural events across the region. Durham County Council has procured specialist social enterprise Baccanalia to organise bespoke markets at 11 locations across the county. Ranging from craft markets, street food, farmers' markets, vintage fairs and Christmas markets, the events will run across the calendar year and build on previous events which have been held in Bishop Auckland. The Aycliffe Street Food Market takes place on the 3rd Friday of the month, the next one being the 19th July commencing 3.00pm. Phill & Andy Around Town Aycliffe Radio.



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St. Joseph's Successful Summer Fair Thank You From Paul Howell



To the residents of the Sedgefield Constituency as was and in particular the readership of the Newton News, I should like to say thank you for your support and engagement whilst I was your Member of Parliament. I was welcomed into your community spaces and given the opportunity to understand any issues and support any you may need.

I have done my very best to do what I could to help and this has been massively aided by the outstanding efforts of my staff in Aycliffe and London. I thank them publicly for their amazing diligence and delivery and wish them well in their futures. The team that helped me campaign for re-election also deserve incredible praise but, when the national politics were as they were, their efforts proved in vain. It has been the most amazing privilege of my life to represent you and I wish my successor all the very best in a job which was, by far, the most challenging and satisfying I have ever had and one I would have loved to continue. I sincerely hope he gets the same satisfaction from it as I did.

Paul Howell.
 Former Member of Parliament for Sedgefield.

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St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School brought the community together for a successful fun fair on Friday 5th July. The event was very well attended by the local community, including families who do not attend St. Joseph's, making it a true celebration of community spirit. The summer fair featured a wide range of activities that delighted all ages. Children had the opportunity to handle a variety of unique animals including snakes, stick insects, a gecko and a bearded dragon. Other highlights included a lively disco, nerf gun wars, fabulous face painting, aerial hoop, an inflatable slide and a bouncy castle. A standout activity was 'splat the teacher' which was particularly enjoyed by the children. The local community praised the event, with many people commenting on how enjoyable it was and commending the school for their hard work in organising such a fantastic fair. Mrs Kirsty Evans, Headteacher of St. Joseph's, expressed her delight at the turnout and the positive feedback from the community. She said, "We are thrilled with the support from the local community; it's been wonderful to see families come together and enjoy the day. We look forward to hosting more events in the future that bring everyone together."



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Middridge Fun Day Success

Dear Sir,
The Middridge Village Association and residents of Middridge would like, firstly, to thank everyone who attended the day on Sunday 7th July and supported us. It was a tremendous day with everyone enjoying the stalls and attractions on show.
We would also like to thank all the companies and businesses who very kindly donated prizes for our raffle, especially Woodham, Bishop Auckland and Ponteland golf clubs, Hays Travel, Humbles Garage, Simpsons Shoe Shop, MKM Building Supplies, Broom Hill Farm Shop, Tesco Stores, Ulnaby Farm Shop, Bay Horse Middridge, Sarah's Fish & Chip Shop, Healing Hands Sports Massage, Bella Vista Beauty Salon, HH Electrics and Flawless Infusions.
Lastly, to the volunteers of the village that made the day happen, the weather was very kind to us. Here's to next years Fete and Family Fun Day.

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Sainsburys (Woodham)
Specsavers (Town Centre)

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Pupils Prepare for 'Superhero Walk'

Pupils and staff from a North East specialist school are donning costumes from comics and films for a sponsored climb of Roseberry Topping to raise money for their class.
Class 6 from Aycliffe School, run by the North East Autism Society (NEAS), will take on a 'Superhero Walk' to the 1,049 foot summit of the iconic landmark on 17th July.
The young people in class 6, aged 15-16, as well as staff from the school, hope to raise money for free time resources to help pupils relax and socialise in the classroom between lessons.
Judith Gibbons, class 6's teacher at Aycliffe School, said: "Especially during the winter months, when they can't always get outside for breaks, pupils get to play together, and it brings everyone together as a class with common interests."
Rhys, a pupil in class 6, added: "It's entertainment and it builds friendships."
The class has been preparing for the trek with regular wellbeing walks in parks around the region, including South Park in Darlington, Hardwick Hall Country Park, and the Tees Barrage.
Judith said: "We find, as a class, walking is good for our general wellbeing, fitness, and mental health. That led to the idea that we'll walk up Roseberry Topping, and we felt that if we were walking up Roseberry Topping, we should do it to raise money."
Pupils were inspired by other fundraising efforts, and the idea of completing the trek in fancy dress began as a joke about Judith and class 6 pupil Luke dressing up as Batman and Robin for the climb.
The joke soon became a way to promote the event, and grew into the planned theme of a superhero walk, with costumes donated by a local provider.
"As a class we generally like Marvel and superheroes. It's a popular topic for the class and kind of fits with everyone's personalities," Judith said. She added: "We got a lot of attention just being out and about in the costumes, I think the reaction's going to be really supportive now that people know about it."
As well as planning the walk, class 6 are also promoting it themselves as part of an ongoing work experience project with NEAS' marketing team.
Pupils learned about branding and designed a class logo and poster for the event, which they have put up around Newton Aycliffe.
The class also learned about creating QR codes, and anyone interested in donating can scan the code, found on the poster, to be taken to class 6's JustGiving page.
To learn more, or donate, visit:
www.justgiving.com/page/judith-gibbons-1717763835438



Casbah Hit The Stage



Dear Sir,
It's not every day we get to witness the birth of a new band but when it happens, it's one of those special moments as we get to see the raw beginnings of a band taking their first steps into the realm of music . . . make or break.
Friday 19th July is that special day, as four young lads step on to the stage at Newton Aycliffe Food Festival at 5.00pm.
The band only formed a matter of months ago by bassist and former pupil of Woodham Academy, Oliver Gibson (17). Oliver is now a music student at Bishop Auckland College.
The lead singer of the band is a very talented vocalist from Spennymoor, Matt Gamsby (20). The pair met at the 'Steam Machine Brewery' back in October last year, just a quick chat and off they went wowing an audience. Matt is also studying music, but at a higher level, at New College Durham.
Oliver and Matt are joined by Lucas McDougal (19) on guitar and Dylan Swinney (19) on drums. The band have been working hard, fine tuning a strong set list that will entertain to the max with many well known songs from Led Zeppelin, Radiohead to the Foo Fighters and beyond!
It's all or nothing for these lads. If everything goes well, they hope to do regular gigs around the area with bookings already being lined up at local venues such as, Blake's Sports & Lounge Bar, The Steam Machine Brewery and the Aviator Gin Bar. Stepping on to the stage is Matt Gamsby (Vocals + Guitar), Oliver Gibson (Bass + Vocals), Lucas McDougal (Guitar + Vocals) and Dylan Swinney (Drums) - together, they are CASBAH.
Give them a thumbs up on Facebook:
Casbahband-UK

The County Council of Durham (A167 and Central Avenue, Newton Aycliffe) (Temporary Road Closure and 30 mph Speed Restriction) Order 2023

The Council on 22/9/2023 made the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit/restrict all vehicular traffic from proceeding on the following length(s) of road in the following manner:
Temporary Road Closure - Central Avenue between its junctions with A167 and the junction to St Oswalds Court. **Temporary 30 mph Speed Restriction** - No Person shall cause or permit any vehicular traffic from travelling at a speed in excess of 30mph on the following length of road: a 450 metre length of A167 from 225 metres north of the centreline with Central Avenue to 225 metres south of the centreline with Central Avenue to enable junction modification works to be undertaken. An alternative route will be available to vehicular traffic from the eastern side of the closure from A167 south to the junction with St Cuthberts Way, then westerly and northerly to the junction with Horndale Avenue a) Then northerly on St Cuthberts Way to the roundabout junction with Central Avenue b) HGV route turning west onto Horndale Avenue to the Peases Way/ Greenfield Avenue roundabout, and taking Greenfield Way road north easterly and turning north easterly on Burnhill Way and south easterly on Burn Lane to the junction with Central Avenue to the western side of the closure, and vice versa. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence on 15/7/24 and are anticipated to be completed in 29 weeks. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed on site accordingly.

Dated: 12/7/2024



Helen Bradley
Director of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham

Newton News

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Durham Cathedral Achieve Accreditation

The Museum, which is set within the buildings of the medieval monastery of Durham, is located just off the cathedral cloister and explores 2000 years of the North East's history, culture and faith. The fascinating spaces, which make up the Museum, enable visitors to get up close to ancient items such as the Treasures of St Cuthbert and the original Sanctuary Ring. Administered by Arts Council England on behalf of the UK Accreditation Partnership, Accreditation is the benchmark for well-run Museums and Galleries. It means that Durham Cathedral Museum is properly managed and governed to the nationally agreed industry standard and shows the museum takes proper care of its collections, sharing them with visitors and keeping them safe for future generations. Durham Cathedral Museum is spread over three rooms, each with unique displays from the cathedral's historic collections. The story of the Benedictine monks is told in the Monks' Dormitory, which still boasts its magnificent original 15th century oak timber roof, temporary exhibitions which use items from the cathedral collections to tell community stories, are hosted in the Collections Gallery and in the octagonal Great Kitchen visitors can see St Cuthbert's Pectoral Cross and coffin. To celebrate the award, cathedral staff held an accreditation party which also coincided with the launch of the museum's new exhibition Glorious Gospels!, which is in the Collections Gallery until 13th October 2024. Earlier this year, the Museum also became the new home of the recently re-built Durham



Cathedral in LEGO® and plans are in place to make this area of the museum even more family-friendly by summer 2024 with a Monks' dressing up area and an artefact stenciling station. Accreditation opens up exciting funding opportunities, allows museums to host touring exhibitions and gives access to professional advice and support. It also gives confidence to donors and sponsors who may wish to support the museum in preserving heritage and inspiring future generations so further potential developments could be possible. Accreditation covers museums of all types and sizes - from the smallest volunteer-run museums to national museums - and more than 1,700 museums are currently taking part in the scheme across the UK. More information about Durham Cathedral Museum can be found at: www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/museum

Mini Olympics

Sedgefield Water Polo Club were pleased to send two of our younger players to our friends at Rotherham Metro to participate in their 'Mini Olympics' tournament on Saturday 22nd June. The aim of this event was to create a fun, engaging and inclusive Olympic-themed water polo tournament for young children whilst promoting physical activity, teamwork, and sportsmanship.



Oliver and Ted, both just 9 years old, travelled to Rotherham, not knowing any other children there, but were looking forward to a fun afternoon where they would make new friends. The event began with an 'opening ceremony' where the boys - representing Brazil - were introduced to their new teammates. A series of round robin matches, water fun games and dancing to the YMCA ensured that everyone had a fun afternoon and, at the end of the tournament, the boys were presented with their gold medals for 'winning the Olympics'. We would like to thank the Rotherham coaches for their kind invitation of allowing the boys to take part in their event and look forward to returning the favour here in Newton Aycliffe at a later date. We'd also like to advise that we can now offer player sponsorships for just £30 per player for this season in return for regular advertising and promotion on our social media pages. If this is something that your business may be interested in, please don't hesitate to get in touch. All monies raised will be used to allow our fantastic members the opportunity to develop their skills and provide them with the equipment they need in order to succeed in the sport. 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.



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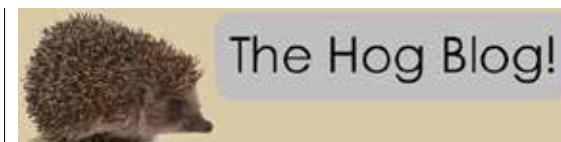
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Available plots and prices correct at the time of going to print July 2024.

Woodham Academy Class of 2024



It was a very special night at the Hall Garth Hotel & Country Club on Thursday 27th June for Woodham Academy Year 11 students. After an intense year focussing on GCSE's they celebrated, in style, the end of their exams and also their last day at Woodham. The students had been looking forward to their Prom for months and it didn't disappoint. The setting was perfect. The girls dazzled in their ball gowns and the boys all looked sharp in their suits. It was a wonderful sight to behold, watching them arrive in all manner of vehicles, along with their parents and family. And so, the celebrations began with speeches, awards and lots of dancing. A huge thank you to the staff at the Hallgarth Hotel for their hard work in making the Prom a night to remember.



I am still pretty busy here with a record number of hoglets I have ever had in rescue at any one time, getting to 14 and they are all under 200 grams in weight. I continue to fundraise, because it is essential, hoglets take a lot of my time and money giving them the special care, including four hourly feeds, day and night, so consequently, I am knackered.

Despite being very tired, I am out and about fundraising, last Sunday I did the Scout Hall Car Boot Sale, I want to thank the people who took the time to question me and make purchases and donations. It all goes into their bank account for food and meds. If you can make a donation I will be eternally grateful. Please either look at my Facebook Page or email me. Details are below.

On Saturday I have been invited to take part in the Petting Zoo, thank you Keith! Lots of lovely items for sale, thanks go to June, Valerie and Carole for her lovely gifts. Can I add that the time I spend on these babies in rescue is free, it's also very hard work.

Pictured above is Baby Biscuit, she came in over the weekend from Middleton St George, she has just been syringe fed, if you have given me a hedgehog or three over the last week or so let me assure you that they are warm, comfy and well fed and if they have been unwell they would have started treatment to help them recover.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society telephone number is 01584 890801 My Facebook page is Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel, my email is: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com

Sedgefield Water Polo Club

Our guest on Sunday 30th June's show was Helen Henderson, who is the fundraising officer for Sedgefield Water polo Club. Helen was able to bring us up to date on the number of members of the club who are playing at national/international level, but this level of success comes at a price with the hire of training facilities currently at an all time high. Sponsorship plays an important part in the continued development and future success of the club, as does the recruitment of new members who will go on to play an important role in the future of the club at grass roots level as well as regional and national level. Now there is a real need for the female members of the club to establish their own identity within the club and play at competition level in their own leagues, so now, more than ever, is the opportunity to get involved.



The club is recruiting now for young swimmers who want to be a part of this success story and have a passion for water sports. If your child can confidently swim 25m and you would like further information you can contact Helen on <https://www.facebook.com/sedgefieldwpc>. If you are a local business and would like to discuss the possibility of sponsorship options, you can also contact Helen on the club website. Phill & Andy Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.

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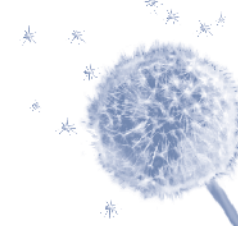


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Giant Prehistoric Monsters at Bishop Auckland



Visitors are invited to step back in time with two new exhibitions showing the giant prehistoric monsters that once roamed the UK and Europe. Carboniferous Monsters will be at Bishop Auckland Town Hall until Saturday 31st August.

Situated in the Durham County Council venue's main gallery, visitors can step back to the Carboniferous period, 100 million years before the dinosaurs, and visit tropical forests and swamps teeming with bizarre and ferocious ancient monsters - some of which had larger teeth than T-Rex. Meet the dinosaurs' distant ancestors: the very first reptiles, the largest creepy-crawlies ever to live, and prehistoric animals unlike anything anyone has seen before. Come face-to-face with scorpions the size of dogs, millipedes the length of crocodiles, and giant meat-eating dragonflies the size of seagulls. Continue to the venue's Strong Room Gallery to see Two Minutes to Midnight, an exhibition created by artist and Newcastle University fine art student Sarah March. It continues the prehistoric theme with eight giant canvas panels as reimagined cave paintings, each covering a period of time from the Carboniferous to now - the rise of man. County Durham's vast coalfields were created during the Carboniferous period by the compressed remains of animals and plants which existed at that time. If the history of the earth was a 24-hour clock, a full day, then dinosaurs only appeared at 11.30pm, half an hour before the end of the day, while humans only appeared at around two minutes before midnight.

The species depicted in Two Minutes to Midnight range from plants, invertebrates and vertebrates, on both the land and in the sea. All the species are chosen, as their fossils were found in the British Isles, Europe or worldwide. Carboniferous Monsters is a blockbuster national touring exhibition and features stunning 350-million-year-old original fossils, reconstructed giant prehistoric animals, and skeleton casts from museums around the world, many of which have never been displayed in the UK before.

Both exhibitions will be free to view from Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm. For more information, visit www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk

Have Your Say

People in County Durham are being asked for their views on information, advice and guidance services. Durham County Council commissions several local charities to deliver these services alongside those provided by its own Welfare Rights Team.

They advise on a wide range of issues including managing money and debt, accessing benefits, welfare, employment, housing, consumer rights, and health and social care. The council has launched a consultation seeking views on how these services can be delivered in the future, with a focus on ensuring they continue to meet people's needs.

Cllr Alan Shield, the council's Cabinet member for equality and inclusion, said: "We work closely with our partner organisations such as Citizens Advice County Durham, Age UK, Durham Carers, East Durham Trust, Durham Foodbank, Community Money Advice and many others to provide our residents with free, confidential and impartial advice and support on a range of issues and topics.

"However, the advice and support needs of our residents and communities have changed in recent years. A good example is the increase in demand we're seeing from people who are in either full or part-time employment and who need financial advice related to the higher cost of living due to pressures such as the rise in mortgage and rent charges as well as fuel and food cost increases.

"We're always looking to make sure the services we commission and deliver meet those changing needs, so we are seeking people's views on their experiences of accessing the advice service sector across the whole of County Durham.

"We'd also like to hear about the types of advice and support people would like to see offered in future and how they'd like to access it, whether that be through face-to-face appointments, telephone lines, online help or through any other suitable methods.

"Ultimately, we want to commission and deliver the most effective services we can and make it easy for people to find and access the help they need. To do that, we need to better understand people's needs and experiences, so we would really welcome and appreciate local views."

Responses to the consultation will help the council shape its commissioning arrangements for advice services in the future.

People can have their say by completing an online survey on the council's website at: www.durham.gov.uk/consultation Paper surveys are available from libraries and Customer Access Points. The consultation closes at 5pm on Friday 30th August.

Choir Shines Brightly



Wow - this little lot absolutely smashed it out of the park last weekend, what an incredible performance, you truly did SHINE.

SHINE Children's Choir took to the stage for a double performance of 'There's a Sunflower in my Supper', showcasing wonderful talent, friendship, care for the environment and team work. Lots of fun, spreading joy and an important message, 52 children, aged 5-14, from across our parish, performed to a full house of proud family members, church family and invited guests.

With thanks to Mayor, Councillor John Clark, and his family for attending the evening performance and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Joanne Jones, and husband Nev, for taking time to attend.

Thank you also to St. Clare's Church for enabling the event to happen and to those who donated their time to help in the kitchen and on stalls. We are truly blessed to be in such a kind and caring community. Little seeds . . . we will keep on sowing.

Helen McCormick, Choir Lead

Keep an eye out for more pictures and videos of the production on Shine Children's Choir Facebook page.



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What's On At The PCP?

Coming to the Pioneering Care Centre (PCC), Tuesday 16th July 10am - 12.30pm, Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) Volunteer Fair.

Pop along for a relaxed morning to see what volunteering opportunities there are within PCP and some of its partners.

You can also enjoy a range of classes to boost your physical wellbeing:

- Ballet Classes by Lauren Harrison, a variety of classes for a range of ages
- Fun Fitness Class by Luke, go at your own pace, whilst increasing fitness
- Yoga classes by Tara Sellars, reconnect with yourself, leave feeling refreshed and balanced
- Pilates with Melanie Flinders, for all ages and fitness levels

For full information you can call the PCP on 01325 321234 or you can download a What's on Guide online at www.pcp.uk.net/activities

Elected!

Well, Mr Strickland, congratulations, you are now our MP. Let's see what you're made of shall we?

You have a priority list I'm sure, and on that list I would hope to see:

A) An improved Police presence on our streets, tackling ASB and the increased misuse of quad and motorbikes on our green spaces, and

B) The landlords of our town centre being taken to task on the dire condition they have driven it into, whilst happily collecting exorbitant rent and rates, and sitting comfortably in 'the south'.

I look forward to seeing what else you are planning. You've 'talked the talk', now let's see you 'walk the walk' with some much needed action.

Mrs Miller

A resident for 65 years.

Community Action Team



Our Community Action Team is preparing to head to Newton Aycliffe. The team have just spent eleven weeks in Annfield Plain and moved to the West Ward area on Monday 8th July.

The team is asking residents, businesses and members of the local community for input in areas and problems they would like to see tackled. This could include problems with rubbish, housing or anti-social behaviour.

Charity of the Month



Dorothy and the ladies of the Sharing Together Craft Group are always beavering away raising money for local charities. This month they have chosen to donate £200 to Community Spirit Newton Aycliffe.

Community Spirit is run and coordinated by Joanne and Neville Jones alongside their dedicated volunteers. Despite their demanding full-time jobs, Joanne is a nurse and Neville runs his own business, J & C Coaches, and both are also councillors, they tirelessly contribute to the community.

Their contributions include:

- Monthly themed family discos;
- Numerous Christmas events including Santa's Grotto and Sleigh visits throughout the streets of Newton Aycliffe;
- The 'Keep Aycliffe Tidy' campaign;
- Basic Life Support classes led by Joanne herself;
- A furniture scheme;
- Wheelchair loans;
- Sponsor 'The Shine Choir'.

Their motto, 'support local families, helping those in need, bringing the community together', truly captures their dedication and efforts. They do all of this at no cost to the community, there is nothing they wouldn't consider doing to help out all the residents of Newton Aycliffe.

It's easy to understand why Dorothy and the ladies wanted to support such an incredible cause. With this generous donation, Joanne and Neville plan to install two 'Letters to Heaven' post boxes at the local cemeteries, Stephenson Way and West Cemetery. This incredibly thoughtful idea will provide a special way for people to send messages to their loved ones who have passed, further highlighting the compassionate and supportive nature of Community Spirit.

Generous Donation Helps Prepare Cadets

1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Air Cadets works with young people from 13 years of age and aims to promote, among young people, a practical interest in aviation. The training that is provided will be useful in civilian life and develop the qualities of citizenship and leadership. First aid training is an essential element of cadet's training not only for while on squadron activities but in day-to-day life. A generous donation from Eldon Financial Planning has enabled the squadron to purchase an extensive range of first aid equipment. This will ensure that the cadets can be well trained in delivering first aid, should the need ever arise.

John Atkinson, Chair of the Civilian Committee, responsible for fundraising for the squadron, commented "This support from a local business has made a tremendous difference to the quality and scope of the training and activities that the cadets can undertake. I thank Eldon Financial Planning for their support for the work of the squadron." Kevin McCarthy, Managing Director at Eldon, said "We are delighted that we have been able to help our local squadron purchase the necessary equipment to assist with their training needs."

1407 will be holding a recruitment evening in September to enable young people to find out more about the opportunities available by joining the squadron.

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Obituary

Mary Dye
(nee Taylor)
Aged 95 Years
Peacefully in Defoe Court Care Home, Newton Aycliffe on 24th June.
Beloved Wife of the late Arthur; much loved Mam to Tony and Ken; dear Mother-in-Law to Brenda and Judith and a proud Grandma and Great-Grandma.
Sadly missed.
Funeral on Thursday 18th July. Would friends kindly meet for service at St. Clare's Church, 1.30pm, followed by cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu, would be much appreciated, in aid of the Residents Fund at Defoe Court Care Home.

Freda Derry
(nee Scott)
Peacefully, in hospital, on 29th June, aged 76 years.
Dearly loved Wife of Kevin; loving Mother to Philip, Diane, Angela and Debra also a much loved Grandma.
Will family and friends please meet for a service in Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Tuesday 16th July at 10.30am.
Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, may be made for Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group, plate provided at the crematorium.

PCP AGM Date Change

PCP have decided to postpone its AGM as a mark of respect to Cllr Mary Dalton. Mary was one of PCP's voting members and had a long history with the charity, she was an avid supporter and friend of the charity who will be sadly missed.
The new date for the PCP AGM will be Wednesday 14th August, 11.00am to 12.30pm, this will be followed by light lunch.
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Jean and Jim xx

Michael James Harrison
(Mick)
Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away surrounded by family on Saturday 29th June 2024 at home, aged 67 years.
Devoted Husband to Karen; dearly loved Father to Mark and Joanne; treasured Grandfather and Great Grandfather to Savannah, Ryan, Ethan, Amelia and Lily; also a dear Brother and Brother-in-Law.
Would family and friends please meet for a service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Wednesday 24th July at 11.30am.
Family flowers only please.
Donations, if so desired, will be gratefully received for Macmillan Nurses and Great Aycliffe Cancer Hub.

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12-7-2024

In Memoriam

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Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report



Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, came out on top in the battle of the bottom two, eventually winning by five wickets at home to Stockton 2nd XI in the NYSD second division. The visitors were asked to bat first and were blown away by some superb bowling by captain James Layfield-Carroll (sponsored by Yvonne and Bob Wood), who finished with seasonal best figures of 6 for 40 from his marathon unbroken 15 over spell. Luke Telford (2 for 6) and Ben Howard (2 for 18) also bowled well to help to dismiss Stockton for 111 from 38.4 overs. In reply, Aycliffe were wobbling on 33 for 4, despite an aggressive 19 off 12 balls by opener Luke Telford. An excellent 5th wicket partnership of 57 between Terence Smit (27 off 45 balls) and Adam Gittins (36 not out off 77 balls) put Aycliffe back on track. When Smit was dismissed, Ryan Patrick (8 not out off 15 balls) continued the good work with Gittins to help take Aycliffe safely over the winning line after 29 overs and with five wickets in hand.
The second team were given the full 25 points when their opponents Bedale 2nd XI were unable to field a team in their scheduled NYSD fourth division match.
The club's U17's lost by nine wickets against Hartlepool at home in the semi-final of the NYSD Junior Cup. Choosing to bat first, Aycliffe scored a respectable 122 for 6 in their allotted overs in an innings again dominated by captain Tom Dearden. The talented youngster top scored with 52 retired off just 37 balls and it was Dearden's 6th half century for the U17's team this season, which is a new club record. Ramzan Hussain (18 off 20 balls), Leo Stout (16 off 33 balls) and Liam Scott (13 off 17 balls) all made vital contributions to the score. In reply, the visitors eased to victory after 16.3 overs with 12 year old Freddie Lawler taking the only wicket to fall.
The U15's were heavily defeated by 107 runs away at Barnard Castle in the quarter finals of the NYACC League Cup. Chasing a formidable 202 for an unlikely victory, Aycliffe batted well and scored a respectable 94 all out in their 20 overs thanks to excellent innings from both Freddie Lawler (39 off 34 balls) and Trent Telford (30 off 26 balls). The U15's were beaten again when they returned to league action away at Darlington despite an excellent all round performance by captain Tom Norman, who took 2 for 24 with the ball and then opened the batting when Aycliffe replied and carried his bat scoring an unbeaten 10 off 45 balls. Fellow opener Liam Scott also batted well, hitting a four and a six before he was dismissed for 12 runs off 11 balls.
Photo: Batsman Adam Gittins in action for the 1st team.

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Croft Circuit Race Meetings

July 13/14 - BRSCC TCR UK Touring Car Championship Meeting
 July 27/28 - Kwik Fit British Touring Car Championship Meeting
 August 10/11 - Historic Festival Weekend and Show
 August 24/25 - Darlington & District Motor Club Battle of Britain Race Meeting
 September 7/8 - British Automobile Racing Club Mini Festival
 September 21/22 - 750 Motor Club Car Meeting
 November 24 - Swift Signs & Shirts Winter Stages Rally

Seaham Food Festival



Traders announced for Seaham Food Festival
 From loaded mac and cheese, Mediterranean mezze, to creamy cheesecakes and sweet treats, the traders have been announced for Seaham Food Festival.
 Durham County Council has confirmed that more than 120 traders will be setting up shop along Seaham's coastline on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th August.
 The festival will feature a weekend full of family entertainment, delicious food, and cooking demonstrations from a line up of celebrity chefs including Rosemary Shrager, Phil Vickery and Paul Young.
 Each year, thousands of visitors flock to the event to try the vast selection of dishes and produce offered by the region's traders, many of which are based in County Durham.
 People will be able to enjoy street food from a variety of cuisines, from Italian, Greek and Indian, to Thai, Armenian and Sicilian dishes. The festival will also feature traders selling snacks and baked goods, from focaccia, gingerbread, churros, crepes, cupcakes, pies and sausages.
 For refreshment, in between food, festivalgoers can visit the many bars and drinks stands selling everything from tea, coffee, cocktails, local beers, gin and rum. There are also retailers selling a mixture of goods including plants, homeware and pet treats and accessories.
 Many of the traders cater to a range of dietary requirements including gluten free, dairy free, vegetarian and vegan.
 For a full A-Z list of traders and dietary information, visit www.seahamfoodfestival.co.uk

Future Business Magnates



A bin, capable of weighing food waste and encouraging recycling and composting was the winning entry in an innovation competition for young entrepreneurs.
 The annual County Durham Future Business Magnates competition saw Year 8 pupils from local schools apply creativity and problem-solving to a range of challenges.
 Organised by Business Durham, the business support service of Durham County Council, this year's theme was 'What a Wonderful World - Can you Make it Better?'.
 And, after an exciting finale at Hardwick Hall, pupils from King James I Academy took first place overall with their 'Smart Weigh' business. Their ingenious concept is based on an eco-friendly bin that can weigh food waste, with users then earning points according to how much of the waste is recycled or composted.
 Runners-up, Belmont Community School, came up with 'TechC', a camera installed inside people's fridges to monitor the shelf life of products.
 Framwellgate School's team bagged third place for their educational 'ShoreSavers' package, designed to teach primary school children about protecting the earth's oceans.
 In addition to the overall winners, the special category winners were as follows:
Brian Manning Award for Best Use of Networks
 Winner: Wolsingham School
 Business name: Hestia Food Testing
 Product description: Testing device within food packaging to detect when food is no longer safe to consume.
Best Prototype and Design and Best Business Plan
 Winner: North Durham Academy
 Business name: Hydro Flow
 Product description: Small dynamo powered by water to generate electricity.
Best Logo and Slogan
 School name: Dene Academy
 Business name: Loch Net Monster
 Product description: Waste/pollution collector for use across streams or rivers to clean large rubbish, microplastics and oil from the water.
Most Effective Team
 School name: Durham High School
 Business name: BioBlend
 Product description: Aerobic decomposition bin with supporting app.
Most Innovative Idea
 School name: Bishop Barrington School
 Business name: Vivagreen
 Product description: Roadside 'motor-bine' to convert wind, generated from passing vehicles, into electricity.
Most Investment Ready Business
 School name: St John's Catholic School
 Business name: Naturwall
 Product description: Insulating wallpaper.
Best Presentation
 School name: Belmont Community School
 Business name: Smart Home Tools and Tech
 Product description: Camera installed inside fridges to monitor shelf life of products.
Most Resilient Team
 School name: Woodham Academy
 Business name: E P Water Safety
 Product description: Innovative water vacuum to remove harmful pollutants from rivers and lakes.
 The County Durham Future Business Magnates event was supported by sponsors, mentors, and community partners, including Co-op, Erwin Hymer, Robertson Homes and Waterstons.
 To find out more about getting involved in the County Durham Future Business Magnates, visit: www.futurebusinessmagnates.co.uk

Remember to tell the advertiser you found them in the Newton News

Humbled MP

Dear Sir,

It's a huge honour to have been elected as the new Member of Parliament for the Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor constituency. I'm really humbled by the level of support I received.

I'm a firm believer in public service; country first, party second. That's why I pledge to work hard for everyone, regardless of whether you voted for me or not. I'm here to serve our community and our country. I'll do so with dedication, commitment and integrity.

As a new MP, I'm setting up offices locally and in Westminster, recruiting staff and organising regular surgeries. This will take some time, but in the meantime please contact me on alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk and I will do my best to help. I'll keep Newtonians up to date through a regular column in the Newton News. My first priority as your MP is to secure the future of Hitachi Rail in Newton Aycliffe, with its 700 engineering jobs, and fight for more world-class jobs, apprenticeships and opportunities. I've started work on this straight away by holding urgent meetings in Parliament to raise this issue.

I'll also be organising visits to schools, local employers and community groups, as well as meeting senior officials at the Council, Durham Constabulary and other key organisations. If you're involved in an organisation you'd like me to meet, please get in touch.

Life's been hard for many local families over the last 14 years. I promise to give us a powerful voice in Westminster and make sure our new Labour government makes a real difference to our area. Aycliffe is my home and I'll do my very best for us.

Alan Strickland MP

MP for Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor.

RUNNING CLUB NEWS



It has been another busy week for Aycliffe Running Club with members travelling the length of the country this week to race.

On Wednesday 3rd July, Em Flynn was the sole representative for the club in the Croft Circuit Pitstop 10k running laps around the Croft Circuit track. Despite it being muggy, and not quite feeling it, Em showed amazing determination to complete the race in a time of 1:07:37.

On Sunday 8th July, seven members took part in the AJ Great North 10k which is seen as a warm up event ahead of the Great North Run. Representing the club were Kieron O'Connor (41:54), Gary O'Connor (43:18), John Burnside (52:37), David Stothard (53:10), Steve Williams (55:41), Viv Williams (1:05:11) and Ian Stothard (1:20:32). At the same time, two members took part in the Durham Coastal Half Marathon with the runners starting in Seaham, before working their way across trails along the scenic Durham coastal path with this challenging run having over 1,600 feet of climbing making it tough for the runners. Paul Dalton (2:16:40) and Ian Payne (2:37:06) both representing the club.

At the same time, three members travelled to London and took part in 'The One in the Park - Regent's' which is a 10k race run over 3 laps around Regent's Park. Despite the warm weather conditions in the Capital, Carley Cooper (57:46), Jean-Pierre Hupin (1:02:35) and Em Flynn in her second 10k race in a matter of days, (1:13:00) all completed the race.

On Saturday 6th July, 36 members started their weekend with a parkrun. At Sedgfield, Thomas Heywood (24:48) continued his excellent form, setting another parkrun personal best. Em Flynn (34:22) completed the aptly named 'Hilly Fields' course for the first time. At Darlington South Park, Ian Stothard (45:26) completed his 100th ever parkrun at this course.

At Hackworth, Bernadette Cooper (23:21) finished as third female, whilst David Stothard (25:23) set a new personal best for the course. This also saw Daniel Tatham (28:36) complete his 100th ever parkrun at this course. At Victoria Dock, Jean-Pierre Hupin and Carley Cooper (29:54) both completed the course for the first time, running together and completing another letter towards their alphabet status. At Wynyard Woodland, Andrew Tweddle (22:03) set a new personal best for the course.

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.ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk - or our Facebook page. If you would like to chat with someone, then you can email ayclifferrunningclub@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.

Beginners Bowls

Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club are pleased to welcome anyone interested in learning about indoor bowls. If you have not tried indoor bowls before then this is your chance at a discounted price of only £1 per session.

Our next session will be on Saturday 20th July 2024 at the OakLeaf Sports Complex from 9am until 10.30am, bowls and shoes are available for hire from the OakLeaf Reception. Further sessions will be held on Saturday 17th August and 21st September (9.00am to 10.30am).

If you would like further information about the Club, please send an email to: aycliffeindoorbowls@outlook.com

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