

Newton News

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

ACORN Petting Zoo Bow Out On A High

ACORN Petting Zoo in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre was a huge success on Saturday despite a light rain threatening to curtail the event. The good people of Newton Aycliffe and beyond turned out to support this spectacular free show which entertained everyone who braved the English summer weather.

From little boys and girls to parents and grandparents everyone seemed fascinated with the variety of animals and reptiles on show, including Spotty Dog and Sid the Squirrel posing for photographs. Primarily the aim of the event is to give children a good day out, with a family feel and an opportunity to have a hands-on relationship with animals, from rabbits to donkeys and all kinds of reptiles and insects. With no charge for face painting and balloon modelling parents were happy to queue, and the children were delighted with their spoils.

Retailers reported an increase in takings and interest, particularly in food and drink offers. The event has been popular every year since the beginning of the ACORN group some thirteen years ago.

Sadly, this must be our last event due to funding difficulties, ageing volunteers and changes in legislation. We will miss this event greatly as I feel sure many members of the public will too. We will, however, continue to organise coach trips and meetings for the foreseeable future.

I must thank all who have supported the event over the years from our Town Centre Manager, Trevor Gyllenspetz, Paul Howarth and Aycliffe Radio for their support with background music and promotion through the Newton News. The petting zoos themselves, everyone is a star, Women's Institute for providing home-made delicacies, Grace Greyhound Rescue, Prickly Haven and Sisters of Support for braving the inclement weather. Town Centre shops for their encouragement and advertising, Newton Aycliffe Residents - who, without their presence we wouldn't have an event.

Finally, thank you to ACORN committee who put in lots of hard work behind the scenes to ensure this event goes ahead without a hitch, especially Keith who coordinates with all the petting zoos, Jen, Betty, Elaine, Alison, Rebeka and Jillian who man the Tombola and answer queries on the day.

Time for a new challenge, who knows what lies ahead?

Ken Robson
 Chair, ACORN Community Association.



St. Joseph's 2024 Leavers Super Season for Woodham Academy FC



As we bid and fond farewell to our year six pupils, it seems like yesterday when they began their journey at St. Joseph's. All the staff would like to say a huge thank you for your resilience and perseverance this year. We are extremely proud of what you have accomplished throughout your seven years. We hope you treasure your fond memories of St. Joseph's. Who could forget when Emily ran into nursery with her coat and bag on? The only problem was she forgot to hang it up and say goodbye to mum and dad! Iga remembers the after school sewing clubs and Nathan is proud of all of the new friends he has made. Everyone at St. Joseph's wishes you the best of luck in your new schools. Remember, the sky is the limit!

Bus Preservation Open Days

Grand Summer Open Day will be held on Saturday 20th July from 10.00am until 3.00pm. This is a free event with free bus rides from the town centre to the museum every hour on the hour. There will be free tea, coffee and cakes. Tombola, etc and children's activities.

The museum will then be open to the public every Saturday during the summer school holidays with the exception of Saturday 17th August when the buses will be at our Annual Rally in the car park of the town council offices on School Aycliffe Lane as well as at the Emergency Services event in the town centre.



Woodham Academy's football teams have had another competitive year of school fixtures. We currently have teams representing every year group, for both boys and girls, and our Football Academy sessions are very well attended. The stand out team of the season has been Year 10, who have won the Bishop Auckland Schools FA League title, League Cup and Ben Potts Memorial Shield, completing the treble of trophies on offer for their year group. The last time Woodham Academy won some of these trophy's date back to the 1990-91 and 1997-98 school years, which shows the level of achievement from the current Year 10 team.

Mr Patterson said "As a school, we are so proud of the team. They have all played their part in a fantastic season, showing excellent character to go unbeaten in the three competitions they won. The students are brilliant role models, on and off the pitch, so I am even more pleased of the people they are growing up to be."

Acknowledgement must also go to the Year 9 girls' Futsal team who reached the County Finals in March, placing third overall. They are a very talented group of footballers and, over recent years, have led the way for the increase in participation of girls' football at Woodham Academy.

In addition to representing the school, a number of Woodham students were selected to represent District teams. Oscar James in Year 8, Clayton Facinelli and Isaac Chambers in Year 10 and in Year 9, Cole Raine, Adam Brown, Troy Keyes and Thomas Howey were all part of the U14's District team that had a very good season and Layken Hardy has represented Durham County. With their club teams, Evie Pearson, Poppy Moroney, Ruby Todd, Hannah Brischuk and Maddi Vickers won the U14's County Cup with Newton Aycliffe Youth and Fearnie Brischuk in Year 11 won the U16's County Cup with Stockton Town.

We would like to thank all our parents and staff who give up their time to support our students and teams. We look forward to another successful season next year.



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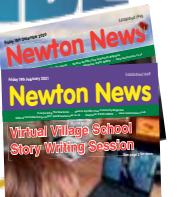
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Thank You From Sisters of Support

When we last spoke to you all we had just launched our #weARElistening campaign, this letter is a message of thanks. Firstly, we need to thank Jules Howe from Wellbeing for Life, through the PCP she secured us a small grant to enable us to deliver our self-care sessions (previously named pamper sessions), without that injection of funds, the sessions



would have come to an end once our donated supplies ran out, so a huge thank you from us and the members. Following a conversation about our new campaign, with Carrie Howarth, Cllr Eddy Adam was able to also offer us a small grant to help cover the costs of the things we needed to keep moving forward as an organisation. With his help, we have been able to replace the gazebo that the wind claimed last year at Aycliffe, a table and chairs for events and much more. This help has meant we can continue to reach out in the community, spreading the message that we are listening, we are here to help, and we care. Organisations like ours could not survive without small grants and the board of trustees, along with the members, would just like to say an enormous thank you to Cllr Adam. Much like buses, we struggled for three years to secure any funding then, once we had the right status, three 'buses' came along at once, because our third thank you is for The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe, following a talk that Carrie delivered to them, they kindly made a donation towards our campaign, the funds we receive are vital to keep us going and reach as many women as we can. We are blown away by the help we have received in these last few months, and we don't quite have the words to express just how thankful we are. The next time you hear from us we will be able to tell you about an exciting new avenue the campaign has taken us down and how the above grants and donation have helped to facilitate it. Our first campaign is proving to be as important as we thought it may be, as we are going to be able to reach and support many more women between Aycliffe and Shildon. While we are saying thank you, we must mention that, on Saturday 13th July, we attended the Petting Zoo in the town centre that was organised by A.C.O.R.N, Tina Hynes, Tina Beal (joined by her daughter Lorelai who is our little mascot), Vikki Forrest and Carrie Howarth attended and ran a stall to raise funds for the campaign and raised almost £100 which is fantastic, these women gave up their Saturday for us and we cannot thank them enough. Tina B, who is one of our new Newton Aycliffe facilitators, said "it was definitely different being on the other side of the table for the first time, but my daughter and I loved it, thank you so very much for the opportunity, I am so appreciative of this group." Funny, she is thanking us when, without people volunteering to run our stalls at events, we would not be able to do so. So, THANK YOU, thank you to our volunteers and to the people who have ensured we have the money we need to continue to offer our service.

Avon Court Summer Fair

A Summer Fair will be held on Saturday 3rd August at 1.00pm. If you would like a stall, please call our Local Housing Manager as soon as possible - £5.00 per stall.

Hazel Davis, Local Housing Manager, Avon Court, Tel: 0370 1924553 or email: hazel.davis@housing21.org.uk

The event will be held in the grounds of Avon Court, Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7LR, so stall holders may bring parasols and gazebos.

We have large grounds, so still time to book a stall. The Royal Air Force Association will have windmills and paper planes for the children. The Fire Brigade will be in attendance along with Bric-a-Brac stall, Cancer Research, crafts, homemade chocolates, luxury skincare, Temple Spa and Police Community Support Officers. Tea/coffee available in the dining area along with ice cream and ice lollies.

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Resettlement Packages

Following confirmation that more prisoners will be subject to early release to ease prison overcrowding, PCC Joy Allen is calling for better resettlement packages to deter reoffending. The PCC is clear that without appropriate levels of support, both the prisoner and the justice system are being set up to fail.

"Far too many prisoners are being released on licence without any practical support," she explained. "I met a woman recently who explained that she was released from prison without anywhere to live. This meant that she breached her licence conditions and was returned to prison very quickly.

"This then adds to the overcrowding conundrum, and we are in a worse position than before. It's like bed blocking in the secure estate. We have to get the basics right. If prisoners are to be released early, then everything possible should be done to keep them out of prison, not returning within a few days. That makes a mockery of the whole early release system.

"I know that this will heap pressure on other agencies, but we have to be practical. We cannot condone prisoners being released early, without a home or means by which to live. That simply leads to further problems. I know we are told that there will be 1000 more probation officers by March 2025, which is good news for the future, but something needs doing now! The whole process needs fixing, not just capacity inside the prisons.

"I will be writing to the Minister for Justice and the Home Secretary to explain my concerns, and asking for assurance that the lack of resettlement support will not simply lead to further overcrowding."

RUNNING CLUB NEWS

Although the last week has been impacted by a cancellation, it has still been another busy period for Aycliffe Running Club.

On Wednesday 3rd July, two members took part in the South Shields Monthly Mile, with Dave Stothard (6:42) and Ian Stothard (10:41) both representing the club.

On Wednesday 10th July, six members travelled to Marske to take part in the Coast Road 5k. Representing the club were John Surtees (17:00), David Stothard (23:59), Kirsty Cameron (28:36), Kathleen Tonge (28:46), Richard Tonge (30:16) and Ian Stothard (35:38).

On Thursday 11th July, one member travelled to Sunderland to take part in the Sunderland 5k, with Richard Campbell (18:04) representing the club. On Friday 12th July, one member took part in the fifth race of the York 5k series of races, with Matt Muir 18:10 achieving a 5k road personal best in the event.

On Saturday 13th July, four members travelled to Stanhope to take part in the Green Miles Stanhope Trail Races. In the 10k race, Bernadette Cooper (1:17:06) and Jayne Rudd (1:50:52). In the half marathon, Richard Campbell continued his excellent week with a time of 2:05:22 and Paul Dalton (2:44:17) using the vent as training for his upcoming Ultramarathon.

On Sunday 14th July, one member took part in the Trail Outlaws Bottoms Up Cup which is a 5k trail race running through the heart of the iconic Princess Anne Park in the centre of Washington. Rob Young (21:29) was the sole representative for the club.

On the same day, two members took part in the Run Through Newcastle 10k, with Laura Hudson (50:32) and Ian Stothard (1:14:27) both representing the club.

On Saturday 13th July, 30 members started their weekend with a parkrun. At Hackworth, Max Todd (20:49) finished third with Melanie Varley (30:13) and Peter Varley (31:46) both setting new personal bests for the course. This was also the 200th ever parkrun for Gareth Hamblin (33:02).

At Hartlepool, Angela Sutherland (23:38) finished as third female with Dave Stothard (23:40) setting a new personal best for the course. One of our members travelled to a special course over the weekend taking in the spectacular Etna parkrun situated at Mount Etna in Sicily, Italy. Sarah Gill (33:07) completed the course for the first time, finishing as first female.

At Cotsford Fields, Lou Mann (33:21) completed the course for the first time. At Leazes, David Thompson (29:56) set a new personal best for this course. At Fulwell Quarry, Keith Hatton (27:38) completed the course for the first time and maintained his North East Regionaire status after the new course was added.

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



Green Flag Awards

Two crematoriums in County Durham have retained their Green Flag status for another year.

Mountsett Crematorium and Durham Crematorium have each been given a Green Flag, an international award which acknowledges parks and green spaces for their good quality, excellent facilities, and high standards of maintenance.

Both sites are maintained by Durham County Council, with Durham Crematorium run in partnership with Spennymoor Town Council and Mountsett Crematorium in conjunction with Gateshead Council.

Graham Harrison, Durham County Council's bereavement services manager, said: "We are pleased that our crematoriums have once again been awarded a Green Flag. The accolade acknowledges the hard work put in by staff to keep grounds in the best condition for everyone who visits.

"Our crematoriums are a place for very personal ceremonies and memorials, so it is important to us that these grounds are maintained to a high standard so that they are a calming and pleasant environment for visitors."

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces.

Any green space that is freely accessible to the public is eligible to apply for a Green Flag Award.

Awards are given on an annual basis and winners must apply each year to renew their Green Flag status.

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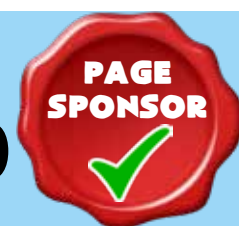
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Marching Band Carnival ‘Good’ Ofsted Report



The Northern Citrines Jazz Band, originally formed in Shildon, now practicing and based in Ferryhill, are hosting their annual Carnival on Sunday 28th July in Hackworth Park, Central Parade, Shildon. The host band are expecting eight marching bands to attend and perform a parade along the bottom path around the park and a marching display in the arena held in the park itself. There will be an arrangement of stalls, raffles, tombolas and various prizes to be won on the day. Hot food will be served from a barbecue area with cold refreshments also available. A presentation of trophies, medals and certificates to the winning bands will be held towards the end of the event. All are welcome to attend this family fun event.

St. Francis' Junior School were recently visited by Ofsted and we are delighted to continue to be a 'Good' school as the report praised the school for being 'ambitious for all pupils,' and a 'nurturing and aspirational school'. St. Francis CE (Aided) Junior School Headteacher, Lisa Lakey, said, "We are delighted with our recently published report. It reflects the love and care that the school ethos brings, the hard work and dedication of children, staff and the wider community. They all work hard to ensure all children can believe in and work towards the many opportunities open to them in the future."

The report highlighted the curriculum and its ambition for all pupils. "The school motto, 'Let your light shine bright', is lived out by all pupils and staff. The newly introduced curriculum helps pupils, including those who are disadvantaged or those with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND), to achieve well."

Inspectors described the 'high expectations of pupils behaviour,' and the 'positive learning atmosphere', where pupils are 'safe and happy'.

Lead inspector, Georgina Chinaka, praised the 'ambitious' curriculum. She said "The school has high expectations of pupils from the beginning of their journey at St. Francis . . . Teachers adapt the curriculum to help pupils fill any gaps in their knowledge. As a result, pupils achieve well by the end of KS2."

Inspectors also praised the school for their support for their pupils and families. Chair of



Governors, Mr Bowes, said "The inspection confirmed what the school and all governors and staff have been working for over the past few years. It is our aim to continue to ensure that all children become part of our St. Francis' family and flourish during their time with us."

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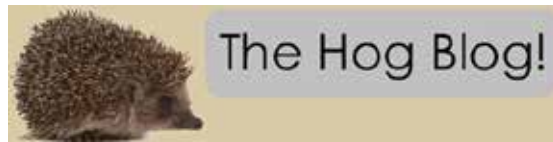
Our thanks to PCSO Stuart Fotheringham who joined us in the studio this week for the second of the three pre-recorded scheduled interviews to air over the next few weeks.

Stuart, who has recently joined the Newton Aycliffe Police, has quickly established himself as part of the community policing team.

As well as discussing the number of initiatives already in place in the community to tackle recurring problems, he was able to confirm Aycliffe Police will soon have access to drone resources which will have a major impact on policing in the area.

PCSO Fotheringham's interview will be aired as part of our live show on Sunday 11th August.

Phill & Andy
Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.



Editorial Contributions

Editorial contributions, stories and tidbits can be sent to the Newton News editor via email:- paul@newtonnews.co.uk
Alternatively, you can 'contact us' via our website:-
www.newtonnews.co.uk

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A debt of gratitude to everyone who came to see myself, June and Valerie at the petting zoo last Saturday and not forgetting Joyce, it was a very cold day too, I can't thank Keith and Rebecca Lovejoy for making this the best event ever, the support I received has put me in a strong position to keep feeding and caring for all the very small hogs I have here, all 14 of them, and the bigger ones too. I currently have 24 here. The hoglets aren't only messy but they are expensive too, they walk through all their food, but they are super cute nevertheless and they are all doing well here. Thanks to Joan for her donation too, much appreciated. It's been a tough road caring for these little ones, I have been fundraising and also up during the night to keep these hoglets from getting hungry, I work alone caring for them and medicating too, whenever necessary, and some babies have had to be put on antibiotics. My day starts at 5.45 with the clean up to start their day. Four hourly feeds, then up at 2am for feeds to keep them alive and well. Yes I am still tired, but I would rather be tired and have them here safe from harm. I get to witness them growing up which is very rewarding. The three little babies from Hopper Road are doing ok, they are siblings so they will remain together for as long as they are here. I have also got three little ones here that were born here. Goldie their mum can be released now, it's no fun being in rescue at over 1000 grams, my thanks go to Steve and Lesley for taking her in and support feeding her in their garden she was grabbed by a dog in Darlington whilst she was out during the day looking for food, her baby girls are named Itsy, Bitsy and Teeny. Bet Lynda, Jackie and John Connell like those names!

I can't stress enough the urgency needed to help these poor downtrodden mammals, if you see a hog out during the day please act, pick them up and put them in a high sided box, then seek help. All too often, small hogs get attacked by corvids, flies etc, heartbreaking and avoidable to say the least. They all have too much to deal with out there, it's so unfair. Pictured is my smallest baby, this is Baby Button, he weighs only 76 grams, but is healthy, the food I purchase is very good, but expensive, they all enjoy their Royal Canin mousse and kibble.

Here are some useful contact details: The British Hedgehog Preservation Society Number is 01584 890801, my email address, which shouldn't be used for hedgehog emergencies, is: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com - Facebook: Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel.

New MP Leads Major Hitachi Visit



In his first full week in the job, our new Member of Parliament, Alan Strickland MP, hit the ground running by leading a parliamentary visit to the Hitachi Rail plant.

To raise awareness of the world class manufacturing taking place at Hitachi, Alan organised for five newly elected Members of Parliament from Darlington, Bishop Auckland and other neighbouring areas to visit the facility.

The parliamentary delegation saw every stage of production, met apprentices and held talks with trade union officials and Hitachi's UK chief director. The MPs heard about the challenges the plant is facing followed the gap in orders left by the previous government.

Alan Strickland, MP, said: "As an election candidate I spent 18 months banging the drum for Hitachi. Now I'm our Member of Parliament, working hard to try and secure a future for the Hitachi plant is my number one priority.

"I'm was really pleased to organise a parliamentary delegation from across the region, so that new MPs could see for themselves the incredible engineering skills on our doorstep and support my campaign to back the plant."

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Dedicated School Council at Greenfield Academy

At the beginning of the school year, we created a student leadership body at Greenfield Academy. The council now plays a vital role in our leadership of school.

Miss Williams, school council leader, explains: "Our Greenfield school council was developed to give students a voice in decision-making, promote leadership skills, encourage active participation in school life and foster a sense of responsibility. It has also been used to enhance communication between students and staff, and helps address student concerns effectively, creating a more inclusive school environment."

The council provides a platform for children to voice their opinions and concerns, ensuring that their perspectives are heard by the school's leaders. Their participation helps children to develop a sense of responsibility; the group works collaboratively, managing projects and taking initiative in addressing school-wide issues.

Our student council organises activities that promote school spirit and foster a sense of community. Most recently they have organised a whole school appreciation of their teachers in school. They dedicated their time to creating presents and certificates for all staff showing how much children appreciate the efforts made by those there to teach them. When asked why they had given up a large amount of time to support this initiative, the children all agreed that it was worth it - "It was amazing to make every single teacher happy!"

They have exciting ideas for the future and with the help of Miss Williams have organised themselves into an effective student leadership body. They have created committees responsible for raising funds for charity, supporting school initiatives, supporting extra-curricular activities. In the last few weeks, they have presented their ideas to school leadership showing how they will help implement the policies and initiatives that will continue the school's continued journey towards excellence.

The children participating in student council are building effective communication between students and staff. Regular meetings ensure that both parties are informed and can collaborate on addressing school-related issues.

The children said that being part of the student council is motivating: "It provides us with a sense of purpose and a belief that we can make a difference in school." All of them agree that the student council is crucial in enhancing the educational experience, promoting student engagement, and building a stronger, more connected school community.

We would like to warmly invite you to our Year 5 and 6 Open Evening.

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Have a Say on Local Issues

Residents in Great Aycliffe & Middridge can find out how local issues are being tackled when the local Area Action Partnership holds their next board meeting later this month.

The Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership Area Action Partnership (AAP) board will be meeting on Tuesday 23rd July 2024, between 6.00pm and 8.00pm at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe and members of the public are invited to observe proceedings. Board members will be receiving a couple of update presentations during the meeting, from Durham County Council officers, in relation to proposed changes to face-to-face customer services and also in relation to proposed boundary changes for the Area Action Partnerships as they transition to Local Networks.

Anyone who would like to attend the meeting should register in advance by emailing gampaap@durham.gov.uk

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Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report



Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, lost by six wickets away at league leaders Barnard Castle 2nd XI in the NYSD second division. Aycliffe were asked to bat first in tricky conditions and were bowled out for a below par 161 after 28.4 overs. Captain James Layfield-Carroll (sponsored by Yvonne and Bob Wood) top scored with 38 off 39 balls and other useful contributions came from Joe Teasdale (35 off 23 balls) and Chris Palmer (25 off 29 balls). In reply, the homeside eased to victory after 29.4 overs and with six wickets in hand despite a couple of wickets from leg spin bowler Tom Dearden. The second team had to contend with a few stoppages for rain and the subsequent loss of vital overs, but in the end could only manage a draw at home to Skelton Castle 1st XI in the NYSD fourth division. Electing to bat first, Aycliffe piled up an imposing 208 for 6 declared after 33.3 overs thanks to a brilliant century from 18 year old Ramzan Hussain (sponsored by Athena Sports Academy). The talented youngster was finally dismissed for a career best 114 off just 66 balls and his memorable innings contained 18 boundaries and four huge sixes. Opener Matty French also deserves credit for scoring a solid 29 off 80 balls and sharing a 3rd wicket partnership of 96 with the centurion Hussain. In reply, Aycliffe were allotted 32 overs, rather than the usual

40 overs, to try to dismiss the visitors, as a vital eight overs were lost due to the rain interruptions. However, Aycliffe still worked hard in the difficult conditions and had Skelton Castle at 141 for 7 when the overs ran out. Leon Patel was the pick of the bowlers taking 3 for 25 and Matty Greaves also bowled well taking 2 for 12, but the 8 overs that were lost proved crucial as the visiting batsmen dug in for a draw with three wickets in hand.

The club's U17's finished top of their group after a brilliant win by 35 runs at home to Barnard Castle in the NYSD 100 Cup. Aycliffe won the toss and chose to bat first and were indebted to a fantastic 2nd wicket partnership of 114 between captain Tom Dearden and Ramzan Hussain. Dearden continued his extraordinary run of form to top score with 82, which was his 7th half century in nine junior games and his dominant innings contained ten boundaries and five sixes off just 39 balls. Hussain also impressed, scoring 47 off 37 balls, smashing four boundaries and four sixes as Aycliffe finished on a very challenging 150 for 9 from their 100 balls. In reply, the visitors were restricted to 115 for 5 from their 100 balls thanks to some tight bowling from Tom Dearden (2 for 16), Dan Heaton (2 for 28) and Freddie Lawler (1 for 17). Special mention must also go to 13 year old stand in wicket keeper Trent Telford who claimed two stumpings and a catch and 12 year old Archie Brown who made his debut and fielded superbly for the team. The girls U11s team played their first festival of the season at Bedale Cricket Club and came away with two wins and a defeat. The girls beat Thirsk in one of their three games by 26 runs, thanks to some good batting by captain Carys Myers (11 not out off 4 balls) and Evie Dean (10 not out off 3 balls) and tight bowling by Neve Britton who took the only wicket to fall when Thirsk batted.

Photo: Girls U11's team at the Bedale Cricket Festival and Ramzan Hussain, who scored a century for the 2nd team.

Are You Ready For The Olympics?



Gymnasts at Woodham Community Gymnastics Club were at our recent awards night which gave us the opportunity to reward the hard working gymnasts of our club. The club was fortunate to receive funding from GAMP (Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership) and has all new gymnastics equipment housed at Woodham Community Centre.

We pride ourselves in providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere and like to keep class numbers small, but with no limit on the enjoyment factor! We run two classes on Friday evenings, the first for younger children from 6.30pm to 7.15pm and the second for older or more experienced gymnasts between 7.15pm and 8.15pm.

We do have places available from September. If you are interested, please email: redfearnjoy@gmail.com

where further details will be provided. First class is free and we'd love to meet you and your budding gymnast.

All Olympians have to start somewhere!



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Nearly, But Not Quite Feet and Flippers



Our guest on the first half of Sunday 15th July show was going to be local healthcare professional, Angela Allison from Aycliffe Reflex Clinic, based at the PCP. Unfortunately, Angela developed a rather nasty throat infection so we had to quickly change things round to accommodate our other guests on the show. Our very own Michael Stead had agreed to lend us his feet for the morning, and ever the good sport Michael still came into the studio to chat with us and to discuss his managing your money guest spot on the show which is scheduled for the 18th August. And, whilst taking advantage of the change to today's show, we were also able to play the first of three scheduled, pre-recorded interviews with various Police Community Support Officers, the first one being with PCSO Steven Kipling. Local athletics world and national record holder Laurie Cummings returned to the studio to share some of his experiences as a diving instructor with over 1300 dives to his credit in the warm waters of the Red Sea around Sharm El Sheik. Laurie brought along his good friend Doaa, who is visiting from Egypt. Doaa ELdagar, is a highly qualified diving professional and expert in her profession who has developed a working relationship and friendship with Laurie and his family over a number of years. Phill & Andy
Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.

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Obituary

Sarah Parkin (Sally)
Passed away peacefully on 6th July, aged 93 years. Beloved Wife of the late Bob; a much loved Mam to Melanie and the late Lesley; Mother-in-Law to Dave and Ian; a cherished Nana to Stuart, Stacey, Sam and the late Adam, also a loving Great Nana to George and Belle.
Funeral service to be held at St. Clare's Church on Monday 22nd July at 11.45am, followed by cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium.

Dennis Williams
Sadly passed away, aged 88, at Rose Lodge Care Home on 8th July 2024. He is loved and missed by all his family. A funeral service will take place at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 26th July at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, a donation plate will be provided at the crematorium.

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Congratulations

Robert & Maureen Ross (nee Lidster)

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In Memoriam
Michael and Carol Slater
Congratulations on your 50th Wedding Anniversary. Lots of love from all the family.

Mrs Margaret Eunice Parkin
Died 21st July 2015
You fell asleep and angels came, the Lord looked down and called your name, now Heaven has its brightest star and in our thoughts you are never far. Until we meet again. Your loving Husband Stan and family. God bless xxxx

Dorothy Clark
Died 23rd July 2023
My Wife, Dorothy, she was ill for years, at the end she could not put up with the pain. On 23rd July she gave up, miss you loads. Hope to meet again. Your loving Husband Barrie xxx

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Acknowledgement

Anne Lindley
The family of the late Anne Lindley wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement. Also for the cards, flowers and donations of £260 for Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Care. Special thanks to Carole Briggs, Celebrant, for the personal and comforting service and appreciation to the Co-op Funeralcare.

Elsie Robinson
The family of the late Elsie Robinson would like to thank Meynell & Mason Funeral Services for their care and consideration; family, friends and neighbours for their invaluable support. Donations amounted to £407.80 have been shared with Marie Curie and Macmillan Nurses.

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Hopetown Darlington Opens Its Doors

The north's newest visitor attraction has announced its opening date - and tickets are now available to book. In 1825, a railway journey changed the world forever. Locomotion No. 1 became the first steam locomotive to haul a passenger-carrying train on a public railway - the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

It's Darlington that will be the destination for tens of thousands of visitors this summer when the region's newest visitor attraction, Hopetown Darlington, throws open its doors - just in time for the school holidays. Following a £35m investment, Hopetown Darlington opened to the public on Tuesday 16th July. Visitors to Hopetown Darlington will enter through the restored Goods Shed on McNay Street. Originally constructed in 1833, and believed to be the second-oldest goods shed remaining in the country, this Grade II listed building now houses a café, shop, and digital media experience. Another Grade II listed building, North Road Station Museum (formerly the Head of Steam), celebrates the past, present and future of rail travel and engineering brilliance with a £3 million investment into a brand new interactive permanent exhibition.

In the Carriage Works, the opening special exhibition is Brick Journeys, a tour through the world of transport made entirely from Lego® bricks. Also within this Grade II listed building is The Stores, where people of all ages can explore Hopetown's archive and discover artefacts and objects not on permanent display.

At Darlington Locomotive Works - the new purpose-built home of the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust - Hopetown visitors can watch members and volunteers of the Trust build the UK's newest steam engine.

Hopetown Darlington celebrates the innovation and experimentation that put Darlington on the map - and that all starts with play. Children's imaginations can run free in Wagon Woods, the attraction's railway-themed immersive outdoor adventure play park based on a Georgian feat of engineering - the Stockton & Darlington Railway's Brusselton Incline. Developed in consultation with local primary schools, the play park includes an accessible incline track with interactive features and a companion slide suitable for wheelchair users.

Those who come by car will be able to park in style in a new car park overlooked by none other than the Grade 1 listed Skerne Bridge - which holds the distinction of being



the oldest railway bridge in the world still in continuous use. Skerne Bridge Car Park will accommodate more than 200 vehicles, including spaces for disabled parking and electric charging points. A 20-minute walk from the town centre, Hopetown Darlington benefits from frequent bus services and shares a site with North Road railway station. The station is served hourly, in each direction, by Northern Trains on the Saltburn to Bishop Auckland railway line. From here you can connect to the main Darlington Railway Station (Bank Top) which benefits from mainline connections to the rest of Britain.

Entry to the site will be free of charge. Free site admission will include entry to North Road Station Museum, Darlington Locomotive Works viewing gallery and The Stores, as well as the shop, café and outdoor areas. A free ticket will be required to enter the site. Visitors are advised to pre-book their free ticket. This will reduce queue times and allow visitors to plan their day with certainty - including selecting their arrival time - to avoid disappointment at busy times.

Some exhibitions, events and activities carry a separate charge. For these, a separate ticket will be required, in addition to a free site admission ticket. These include Wagon Woods adventure play park and the Brick Journeys exhibition in the Carriage Works. Pre-booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.

Tickets can be booked at www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk

To keep up to date with what's on, follow Hopetown Darlington on Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube and visit: www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk to sign up for email updates.

Durham Brass Festival 2024 Success

World Heritage Site Durham Cathedral, care homes, schools, market places, parks and all manner of other venues.

All have resonated with the joyous sounds of live music, singing, chat and laughter; and witnessed dancing aplenty and smiles galore.

Over the course of a week, Durham Brass Festival 2024 navigated some wet weather and brought sunshine to thousands of people across County Durham.

Brass saw a number of sell-out performances, including from Public Service Broadcasting (PSB), and The Cory Band playing with the Durham Miners' Association Brass Band. The Brass On event, which allowed the region's up and coming talent to collaborate with brass acts, was also a sell-out. This saw Sunderland's Nadedja team up with festival favourites Loud Noises, while North Shields' Hector Gannet performed alongside NuSound Brass.

The Public Service Broadcasting gig at Durham

Cathedral wowed ticketholders from as far afield as France, Germany and Switzerland. It saw PSB collaborate with Pelton Fell's NASUWT Riverside Band for a special performance of the former's album Every Valley - music inspired by coal mining in this the 40th anniversary year of the miners' strike. There were special guest performances from Welsh actress and singer Lisa Jen Brown alongside Maximo Park's Paul Smith and the Felling Male Voice Choir, with the acts introduced by Ross Forbes from the Durham Miners' Association.

There was also free entertainment in the form of Brass performances across Durham City, Party in the Park at the city's Wharton Park, and Big and Little Brass Bashes at ten towns and villages across the county.

The festival's final scenes saw a DJ set from Smoove & Turrell at Durham Town Hall, and Loud Noises performing at Durham Miners' Gala.

Brass also prides itself on its outreach programme, with 65 performances across the week in schools across County Durham and a number in care homes.



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New PCSO's Strengthen Neighbourhood Policing



Welcoming eighteen PCSO's to Durham Constabulary, PCC

Joy Allen said that their recruitment highlighted her

commitment to a strong local police presence.

"The public have made it clear to me that Neighbourhood Policing is their top priority, so I have made it mine too," said the Commissioner. "If we are to increase the public's trust and confidence in policing, we have to listen and respond to what they tell us. That's exactly what I did in my first term of office and as I develop my new Police and Crime Plan, I want them to know that it will be shaped by the public, for the public. "PCSO's are a vital part of our local policing teams and I recognise, from the feedback I receive, that the public value them very highly. It is also a great job, with a different challenge every day. I know some people use it as a springboard to become a police officer, while others simply want to be part of the local police family. Whichever, I want all our PCSO's to know I support them and their role and value the job they do."

Norman Cornish and LS Lowry Exhibition

Newly discovered Cornish self-portrait will also now feature in this major exhibition by two extraordinary storytellers of everyday life, who showcase the north through different lenses. Over 50 paintings, drawings and sketches by artists Norman Cornish and LS Lowry will be showcased at The Bowes Museum from 20th July 2024 to 19th January 2025. This major new exhibition includes 35 rarely or previously unseen artworks by the artists who shared a strong love of the north, which was the focus of so much of their work, and who have a history of exhibiting together.



The exhibition will also now feature a newly discovered self-portrait by Norman Cornish. This new painting was uncovered during conservation work to Cornish's painting Bar Scene. The Bowes Museum's Conservator, Jon Old, described its discovery as 'magical'. Although it shows Cornish in his younger days, it is not yet known where this never-before-seen painting fits in the wider chronology of the artist's works, but it has now become the 29th known self-portrait by Cornish and will be proudly displayed facing the other self-portraits in the exhibition.

The exhibition takes visitors on a journey from 'meeting' both artists to seeing their perceptions of the different environments they encountered. These, and the experiences shared by their friends, family and the wider community within those places, are beautifully documented throughout. The artworks span different themes, from community and working life to the role of women.

Visitors can also see a different style from Lowry with more figurative sketches and paintings of his loved ones. These include portraits of his mother and father, and Study of a Girl in Peasant Dress 1917, which are quite unlike his more familiar matchstick style figures.

From August to November the Museum will also host an engaging series of talks supporting the exhibition. The five talks include intimate reflections and personal stories from members of the Cornish family, and insights into LS Lowry's life and works by Curator of The Lowry Collection in Salford Claire Stewart. Attendees can also hear Redhill's CEO Nick Malyan explore the area's mining history and what this community looks like today, and Dr Vicki Pugh, from York St John University, who will discuss the relationship between industry and the environment. More details will be released in due course. To find out more about The Bowes Museum, visit: www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk

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