# Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper
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## **Ayclive Music Festival 2024**

Ayclive Music Festival 2024 was a resounding success as hundreds of locals got out their umbrellas, hats and ponchos in preparation for the expected wet weather. But, not even the downpours put off the die-hard music lovers as they stayed and enjoyed a day full of melodic tunes from the eight live bands, including headline act 'The Real Thing'.

The event drew even more crowds than the first festival in 2023 and hoards of festival-goers danced throughout the day and night taking occasional cover when the heavens opened.

A silent disco, silent karaoke and a circus workshop as well as entertainers on stilts treated those in attendance to an array of extra entertainment during the day while the main stage hosted local bands covering a range of genres and decades. Queues to enter the arena started at 11.45am and didn't ease off until 3.30pm with well over 1600 turning up to show support for the now annual event on the Newton Aycliffe calendar. A good selection of food was available on the day including burgers, hot dogs, pizzas, chips and, of course, the obligatory ice cream. Whilst the bar served a selection of drinks.

The event organisers would like to thank the event sponsors and those who donated goods or services including Securicorp, Husqvarna, PCP, Gestamp, Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership, RJS Laser, Aycliffe Town Centre, McDonalds, Livin, Bishop Auckland College, Rotary Newton Aycliffe, Great Aycliffe Town Council, J&C Coaches, Keep Aycliffe Tidy, Newton Aycliffe Junior FC, Newton Aycliffe







Rugby Club, Newton Press, 3M, Holiday Inn, Tesco and Total Traffic Management. Special thanks also to the fantastic team of volunteers who helped, not only on the day but, during the three days it took to set up the arena and the two days to dismantle and sterilise the grassed area.

Watch this space for details of Ayclive 2025 or follow on social media.

## **ACORN Bamburgh** and Seahouses Trip





An epic tale of sunshine, showers and enjoyed hours in beautiful Northumberland. Saturday began with a gloomy outlook as we boarded our coach to Bamburgh. However, 52 souls, with hope and enthusiasm in their hearts, set off for another wonderful day out on our ACORN trip to visit bonny Bamburgh. As we approached the awesome castle and village the clouds cleared, and the sun rose over the magnificent Bamburgh Castle which is always awe inspiring.

Coach driver Ian ensured that we were dropped off at the high point of the village enabling those who are not so mobile to saunter downhill to the pickup point. After the obligatory toilet stop passengers dispersed to find local cafes / pubs for a mid morning snack and drinks.

Adventurist passengers then dispersed to discover the dunes and beach whilst others found their way into the castle, interested to see artefacts displayed there.

We had arranged to rejoin the coach at 1.00pm which was just as well as the forecast showers decided that was a good time to catch us out. Of course, as Northerners, this did not dismay us unduly as we set off to Seahouses for the second part of our odyssey.

Fish and chips are always a favourite meal in this pretty seaside harbour and town. Although not a large town, we all managed to find something to do, shopping in the quaint little shops, wandering the harbour walls or even sampling the drinks or food in local hostelries into which we were driven by occasional showers.

Our next adventure will be to Scarborough in search of Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme.

Ken Robson, Acorn Community Association.











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## St. Clare's Stained GlassFest

A weekend of activities celebrating thirty years of stained glass at St. Clare's Church on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th August from 10am - 4pm.

St. Clare's Church has stood in the heart of our community for over 50 years and this year we celebrate the wonderful stained glass windows and their story. So, whether you come to church little or often, or maybe only walk past it daily - please do pop inside and take a look. The windows look so different from the inside and if we are blessed with a little sunlight - they are simply breathtaking! We welcome those who wish to photograph or sketch the windows and those who simply would like to take some time out from a busy holiday time, sit for a while and refresh. We begin at 10am on Saturday 10th August with our popular coffee morning, in the fellowship hall, serving drinks, bacon and sausage sandwiches and scones. A homebaked cake stall with a variety of large and small cakes, pies and seasonal produce will be on offer. For this special celebration, the weekend coffee morning will continue into the afternoon, finishing at 2pm. Meet up with friends and catch up with all that is going on. Come and choose a holiday reader from a good selection of books and, of course, take

at your leisure. A warm welcome awaits and we are delighted to be joined by Reverend Colin Jay who will

open our celebrations. Then, from 2pm. we invite children and families to take part in some stained glass craft - sun catchers, painting on glass and card making. We have a competition for children running across the weekend to design their very own stained glass window - which will be judged by Deputy Mayor Councillor Joanne Jones, the lucky winner will receive a £25 Planet Leisure voucher. Parish Youth will be serving a sausage roll tea and strawberry scone for our afternoon visitors concluding at 4pm.

Our doors will open once

with a Festival Service, attended by civic dignitaries, beginning at 11am, once again all are welcome to attend. The Reverend Peter

> Quiet Open Church, between 2-3pm, where there will be an opportunity for quiet reflection and any who wish to do so are invited to place a message of remembrance for a loved one on the prayer tree – please do take this opportunity to come into the church which is YOUR church - at the heart of the community and welcomes you all.

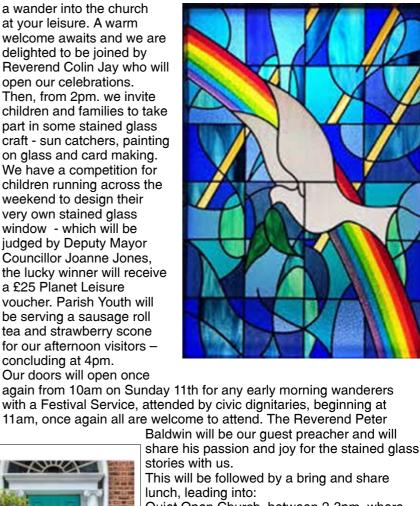
We finally conclude our celebrations with a Relaxed Songs Of Praise where we can sing or simply listen to favourite hymns and songs. You will be greeted with a glass of fizz and nibbles to enjoy this time, beginning at 3pm. Visitors are encouraged to select their song/ hymn in advance and can do so by responding to the Facebook message on the Parish of Great Aycliffe page or by getting in touch with Helen on 07716 801262 or by completing the song request sheets at the back of church. An art exhibition will run across the weekend, featuring work from local artists - you may browse and some will be available to purchase.

We also have a Raffle of Hampers across the weekend - £1 to enter.

The church will be beautifully decorated with flower displays to view.

So, we hope you can see there is something for everyone and everyone is welcome. Helen McCormick Parish Warden





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## **Police Visit St Francis**



We were joined by the Newton Aycliffe police team to learn all about how to stay safe and what to do in many difficult situations. The children have learn't so much from the Police and we want to thank you all for spending the day with us at St. Francis!

Sergeant Boyd spoke to the Year 5 and Year 6 children about bullying, identifying the types of bullying and the behaviours that show bullying. The children learnt about how and why people bully, that it is repeated, usually they are doing it to try and get a reaction and the effect it has on others. The children were aware that by the age of 10, they are of the age of criminal responsibility and that they are responsible for their own choices

Violence/assault, theft, harassment, and hate crime are all examples of bullying and can be a criminal offence. Children learnt further about what is classified as a hate crime. The children learnt about social media and how to use this appropriately ensuring that, if we were to use social media platforms, we understand who we interact with and if they are who they say they are. Bullying has consequences and can affect your future. They can affect your choices of education and employment when you are older, you can have restraining orders, get arrested, imprisoned, you and your family can become evicted and you can get a criminal record. Remember that a trusted adult can help you.

**Internet Safety** 

PCSO Kipling informed us about cyber bullying and defining the term. We were then able to identify ways in which people can cause harm and upset using devices. We were reminded about the things we can do to keep ourselves safe when we see things that concern us online. We were reminded to not respond to messages online, but to take a screen shot of the messages and tell a trusted adult. This means that we can then be supported and make sure that we do not get into trouble. Online grooming was discussed where we learnt that you can hide behind a different personality and that someone you are speaking to online is not always the same person who is behind the screen. They will ask questions and try to get information from you to make it look as though they have things in common with you so that they can build a trusting relationship to you. We learnt about the different social media platforms and the age restrictions that apply to them. We know that they have age restrictions, so that we can keep ourselves safe, because they have the functions to be able to interact with others. We explored the privacy settings and how these are important in our settings.

**Crime and Consequence** 

PSCO Will spoke to us about Crime and Consequence. We began by identifying what a crime is - an action that is against the law, and the types of crime that can be committed. A crime and anti-social event always included a victim, offender and a location. When officers attend an incident, they try to remove one of the three elements that can cause a crime or anti-social event to occur. They discussed how different considerations need to be made based on the scenario. The children thought about different scenarios and how people would feel in such situations and the choices they can make to help the community. Children explored 10 crimes and were asked to order them based on the seriousness of the crime: shoplifting, breaking into a car, picking a fight, drink driving, urinating against a wall, doing a paper round at the age of 11, shouting racist abuse, being sold alcohol in a pub at the age of 16, hanging out with friends and causing criminal damage.

Anti-Social Behaviour
PCSO Stu spoke to us about Anti-Social behaviour. We began by exploring what it meant, focussing on the terms alarmed, distressed and harassed. We applied our emotions to understand these three words further, so that we could understand how anti-social behaviour affects others. We looked at different examples of anti-social behaviour such as vandalism, graffiti, littering, rowdy behaviour, smashing windows, trespassing, breaking in and actions that intimidate others in the community, to name a few examples. The affect of anti-social behaviour on the appearance of a community. Children learnt that every action has a consequence and that taxes help to pay and look after our community facilities. Children were reminded that there is no reason they cannot socialise with their friends, but that they need to think about where they are, their actions and what others around them are doing, because you may not be the one doing something wrong, but you can be associated with it. Anti-Social Behaviour is how you make others feel.





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# On The Buses





In the first half of Sunday 28th July's show we had Caryn, one of our resident counsellors and health care facilitators and a regular contributor to the show, discussing the health benefits of bringing some joy back into our lives. Looking at why we need a little more joy in our lives, the long term effects on our health and wellbeing, as well as the negative effects on our immune system when the natural happiness/sadness effects in life are out of balance. We discussed what it is like to be human, and what kind of things make us sad or unhappy, discussing examples of how others can bring joy into our lives, and ways of creating our own joy, health and happiness in

In the second half of the show, Dave Clark, from the Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society museum, was our quest. Following on from their recent successful open day, Dave brought us up to date with some of the ongoing restoration work by the museum, and their highly successful collaboration and working relationship with the award winning Beamish Museum. The museum will be open on a number of Saturdays over the school holidays, and further details of their opening times and dates can be found on their website and facebook page.

Phill & Andy Around Town, Aycliffe Radio



## Being Happy, and Win Shopping Voucher at Poundstretcher

Newton Aycliffe Poundstretcher is under new management and they're having a MEGA Weekend Event to celebrate. Customers who shop in store on Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th of August have a chance to win a £10 shopping voucher EVERY hour. Customers will be randomly selected using the instore radio system.

Andy Atkinson, Poundstretcher's new CEO, said "under new ownership and new leadership, Poundstretcher is changing fast, whilst we're just getting started, the feedback from customers on our price cuts and new brands has been great. The continued cost of living crisis has been difficult for households up and down the country, so I'm pleased we're helping our customers to save money, and I'm happy to see more and more of them shopping with us every week. To mark the start of this new journey, we're giving away tens of thousands of pounds worth of vouchers across the country over one weekend.'

The Store Manager of the Newton Aycliffe Poundstretcher said "the pace of change at Poundstretcher under new management has been terrific. Me and my team are passionate about our business and it's great that customers have been noticing the lower prices and new brands in our store. We're excited to be celebrating this new chapter with a three-day chance to win a shopping voucher event and look forward to welcoming more customers into our store.

#### Who are the new owners and what changes have they made?

- The new owners are 'Fortress Investment Group,' who acquired Poundstretcher in April 2024. Fortress also own Majestic Wine, Vagabond Wines, and Punch Pubs Group in the UK.
- The new leadership team are listening carefully to customers and colleagues, responding quickly to ideas and suggestions, lowering prices, and helping customers access their favourite brands in all their stores

#### What differences will customers see?

- Lower prices since April there have been over 800 permanent price cuts on many product categories across the store, including household and cleaning, DIY, health & beauty, storage and reading
- Hundreds of lines at 99p to help customer budgets go further
- Over 500 big brands that customers love, introduced in every store, at great prices e.g. Coca Cola, Walkers Crisps, Cadbury, Radox, Listerine, Surf, Pedigree, Felix.
- Super Deals on big brands every month e.g. 21 pack of Kit Kats for £2.99, 8 pack of Capri Sun for £2.49, Skinny bars 5 pack only 99p.
- A new customer events aisle with hundreds of super deals on
- Monthly leaflet to inform customers about our price cuts and deals.



## Casbah on the Road



Dear Sir.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, your readers and the greater community of Newton Aycliffe for giving us support over the past couple of weeks. It's not every day a new band starts but, when it does, it's make or break! And we seem to be off to a cracking start with our enthusiasm and our finely tuned set list, which is proving to be very entertaining.

It has to be said, Aycliffe can be a very hard town to please, many have tried, many have failed, and it's a risk we were willing to take . .. nothing ventured, nothing gained. We were very nervous about playing our launch gig at the Aycliffe Street Food Market back on 19th July, but we maintained our spirit despite a shaky start and wowed a growing audience and made it to our first encore! Amazing. A week later, we performed at the OakLeaf Sports Complex in the bar area, once again, with many nerves as to will there be an audience or not and, to our surprise, there was indeed. It turned out alright on the night with a demand for a second encore. Incredible The next day we attended the fantastic Ayclive Music Festival as we were invited to be understudies, just in case, which was a great honour and opportunity. Despite a few brief downpours, we really enjoyed being backstage and the overall atmosphere.

It was great meeting other acts and chatting to people, but it was a special moment when our new MP Alan Stickland came to see us backstage and showed support for us as a new band in his constituency. Thank you. Unfortunately, we didn't get to play, but we got a moment to announce ourselves to the masses, which was a great moment. The next day, we played our final gig of our BIG weekend at Blake's Sports & Lounge Bar, What a great place to play in, no issues, just great people who really enjoyed our music.
We now have a few gigs in Bishop Auckland, but will be back in Aycliffe on Friday 9th August at the Steam Machine Brewing Company from 8pm, with our special guest, the legend that is, Mr. Gary Grainger. We thank each and every one of you for coming to see us so far and we hope to see you all again very soon. Without you, there's no us . . . we are Casbah!

Thank you. Give them a thumbs up on Facebook: Casbahband-UK



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## **Newton Aycliffe Tri Club Recruiting New Members**

Background: We are a triathlon club based in Newton Aycliffe, supporting members from the local area achieve their ambitions and goals across the multi disciplined events of cycling, swimming and running, through structured training delivered from our experienced coaches. With many opportunities to compete in various single and multi-discipline events ranging from Ironman to Sprint Triathlons, Duathlons, Aquabike, Swimming and many more.

The club offers multiple coached, and activator led, sessions including swimming, running and bike/run brick sessions, which will help develop new and tune existing skills.

Recently supported by funding from British Triathlon, supporting the 2024 Olympics, the club held Open Water swim sessions for both club and none-club members, aimed at both swimmers wanting to try Open Water for the first time and members who want to improve the Open Water skills. Due to the popularity of these, the club is evaluating on how to offer these sessions on a more regular basis. We have a growing number of members that compete in various events including Iron Man, Triathlon and Swimming events.

2024 has already seen many excellent performances by our members proving that we are growing each year as a club, in both local and national events, including:

• In the North East Club Series, which

 In the North East Club Series, which features nine events across the North East, Dave Askew is currently leading his age category and coach Andy Sedgewick is sitting in 3rd place overall and 1st in his age category, with Ian Readman, close behind in the same age category as Andy, in 5th place.











- Jayne Rudd completing the London Marathon in April after months of hard work to prepare and train.
- Ian Readman finishing 2nd in his age category behind Andy Sedgewick at the Derwent Sprint Triathlon, after Ian took third place ahead of Andy in the Ellerton Sprint Triathlon a few weeks earlier.
- Mick Casey winning his age group in both the challenging Lakesman half Iron Man and the Ripon Triathlon whilst Trevor Dixon finished 5th in his age group at Ripon.
- Three members (Austin Donogue, John Heywood and Peter Jarps) completed the challenging 12km Ullswater end to end swim in July in cold and difficult conditions. Both Austin and Peter also swimming the 5km distance in Windermere in June as part of the Great North Swim.
- After competing in his first triathlon, only three months ago, Adam Simpson completed the Eastbourne Ironman in July.
- Coach Chris Dobson completing the Tyne Bridge Ultra in March, before travelling to Italy to complete the Lake Garda marathon in April and completing the Pennine Barrier Ultra in May.
- Ćoach Jim Wilson competing in the half distance Aquabike at the local event in Ellerton, North Yorkshire completed the 2km swim and 96km bike ride to finish 3rd in his age category.

If anyone is interested in joining the club or chatting with one of our coaches to understand more about the club and what we can offer, please message us via our Facebook page or via our club website - https://clubs.britishtriathlon.org/aycliffetriclub



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# Free Golf at Woodham

Woodham Golf Club, Ladies Section, have secured a grant to help encourage new ladies and junior girls/boys to try golf. The grant has been secured from Durham County Ladies Golf Association via England Golf. Big thanks to Woodham Golf Club Management in helping to host these events.

Junior Golf Summer Camp 1, age 7-15 yrs. Tuition with PGA Golf Professional on Thursday 15th August from 11am-2pm and includes thirty minute lunch break (lunch not provided).

There are 12 free places available and equipment will be supplied. To book, please contact the Golf Shop on 01325 319977.

Junior Golf Summer Camp 2, age 7-15 yrs.

Tuition with a PGA Golf Professional on Thursday 29th August from 11am-2pm and includes thirty minute lunch break (lunch not provided).

There are 12 free places available and equipment will be supplied. To book, contact the Golf Shop on 01325 319977.

Invitation to all new or existing lady golfers Free Fun Nine Hole Texas Scramble Open will be held on Thursday 22nd August from 4pm to 6.30pm. The competition is open to experienced and newish golfers. Members and non members are all welcome, with teams of three event, all teams must have at least one player with a handicap and we can help make up teams, if necessary, if you need someone to play with. Play nine holes with other ladies, call for further details and to book a tee time - 01325 319977.

Running alongside the open, there will be a ladies group lesson, also free of charge, from 3.30pm-4.30pm with the club PGA Golf Professional - to book, call 01325 319977.



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## Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report

Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, lost by 92 runs, away at top of the table Richmond 2nd XI in the NYSD second division. The homeside were asked to bat first and Aycliffe were delighted to bowl out their hosts for a below par 139 after 37.2 overs. Matty Greaves (sponsored by Athena Gymnastics Academy and Britannia Fire) was the pick of the bowlers, finishing with a seasonal best 4 for 18 and Luke Telford (3 for 19) and Jai Sander (2 for 33) also bowled well for the visitors. In reply, Aycliffe were skittled for just 47, their lowest score of the season, after 19.2 overs with only Tom Dearden (11 off 40 balls) and Leo Stout (10 off 13 balls) reaching

The second team were also beaten by their divisional table toppers, when Yarm 1st's came out on top by nine wickets in the NYSD fourth division in game that was interrupted on several occasions because of heavy rain. Batting first, Aycliffe seemed to be going well and were looking comfortable at 29 for 2 after ten overs when the first heavy shower hit the ground. On resumption, after a long delay, Aycliffe lost their next eight wickets for just 31 runs, including captain Dan Weldon, who was going well before the untimely interruption with 18 off 24 balls, including two boundaries and a six as his side were dismissed for 60 off 23.2 overs. In an effort to beat the weather, Yarm hurried to victory after only 6.4 overs with Tom Norman taking the only wicket to fall. The club's Ladies team travelled to league champions Northallerton for their final league game of the season and, despite a good performance, they were defeated by 17 runs in the Hambleton League. The home side were asked to bat first and scored 121 for 9 in their 20 overs, despite a couple of wickets apiece from both Addison Jones and Carys Myers. In reply, Aycliffe's Tina Masterman (19 off 12 balls) and Louise Jackson (18 off 17 balls) both batted well, but the team fell 17 runs short. The bonus points gained gave Aycliffe's Ladies the runners spot in their first season in this league, which is an excellent achievement. Aycliffe's U15's were involved in a thrilling game away at Seaton Carew in the NYACC League and the result was a rare tie. The homeside chose to bat first and scored 91 for 7 in their allotted overs with Liam Scott the pick of the bowlers taking 3 for 13. In reply, captain Tom Norman held the Aycliffe innings together scoring 26 off 49 balls and he was supported well by both Jonah Harrop (12 off 11 balls) and Will Moffatt (10 off 9 balls). In a thrilling finale, 10 year old Morgan Jones (3 not out off one ball) nearly got his team over the line but, with the scores level, it was left to 9 year old debutant Harvey Palmer to try to hit the winning run. Palmer became the youngest player in the club's history to play at this level but, unfortunately, the fairytale ending was not to be when the promising youngster was adjudged LBW first ball, leaving both sides to share the spoils.

The U13's put in a good performance but, unfortunately, still lost by three wickets away at Northallerton in the NYACC league. Aycliffe batted first and made 90 for 9 in their 20 overs thanks mainly to Miles Telford, who smashed a whirlwind score of 27 runs from just 11 balls, including six boundaries. In reply, the homeside reached their winning target in a tense finale for the loss of seven wickets and eight balls in hand, with Jonah Harrop (2 for 13) the pick of the Aycliffe bowlers. Photo: First team spin bowler Matty Greaves in action.



## Mrs Armstrong Retires



Denise Armstrong has retired from teaching, after 34 years working with infant children. She trained at Ripon and York St John College and taught in East Yorkshire for 12 years. She advised other schools, as an Early Years Advisor, near Beverley, then successfully completed 22 years at Vane Road Academy, in Reception and Year 1, and became well known for her very entertaining Lumiere festivals, brightening and cheering us up on dark winter evenings. She braved covid, when many of her colleagues had to furlough, for two years (teaching over 30 children from home) and has hardly had a single day off sick, since 2002. Incredible dedication! Mrs Armstrong would like to thank staff and parents for the many generous gifts and kind messages. Most of all though, her family would like to thank her wonderful parents, Tommy and Marlene Elliott, who have supported her, firstly as a student teacher, 100 miles from home and then with childcare, for 10 years, as well as being extremely helpful with financial and practical kindness, and home improvements, completely selfless in their sacrifices to give Denise and their grandchildren the best possible start in life. The reward she richly deserves is good health and happiness and to begin her new journey, a Norwegian Fjord cruise is booked. It is heartwarming to know that you have taught the parents of the children you have recently taught in your final years and to see your own beautiful daughters, Lauren and Emma, grow up and achieve success at college and

So, the final chapter should be weddings and grandchildren. Your very proud and loving husband dedicates this tribute to a wonderful wife, mother and teacher, who has inspired thousands of children and brought happiness to parents and earned the respect of colleagues, over more than three decades - God bless you - congratulations Denise.

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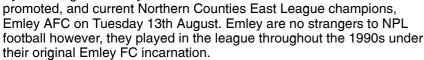


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## **NAFC Season Preview**

Newton Aycliffe FC's pre-season preparations conclude on Saturday, 3rd August, when Step 3 side Basford Utd make the journey up from Nottingham. Kick off at Moore Lane is at 1pm. Brian Atkinson's side start their second season in the NPL East Division away to Sheffield FC on 10th August. Aycliffe are unbeaten against Sheffield FC, with their last meeting a 1-1 draw featuring a last minute wondergoal courtesy of Liam Adamson.

The first home game for Aycliffe is against newly



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Aycliffe's foray into the FA Cup begins on 17th August when they play host to either Beverley Town or Whitley Bay in the Preliminary Round, Ossett United are the visitors on the 24th, and newly promoted Sherwood Colliery follow on the 31st. In between those three games are two midweek fixtures, both of which are away to two newly promoted teams from the Northern League. With a Wednesday night encounter at Heaton Stannington on the 21st, and a local derby against Northern League champions Bishop Auckland on the August Bank Holiday Monday (the 26th).

September 7th provides Aycliffe's second ever FA Trophy game, away to Ellesmere Port based Vauxhall Motors.

Like last season, Aycliffe play Dunston away on Boxing Day and New Years Day is a home game against Bishop Auckland. Aycliffe make their first ever visits to Emley AFC on 4th January, Bradford (Park Avenue) on 15th March, and Sherwood Colliery on 19th April respectively.

There will be a few new faces at Moore Lane for this season, with Dean Thexton & Joe Ferguson returning while Craig Moody & Alex Nelson have also been brought in to strengthen the squad.

Fixture details can change, so please keep an eye on social media & the club's website www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk for details. The website also has details of Season Tickets which are now available. Prices have been frozen from last season despite there being two extra home games as the league has been expanded.

Photo: Dean Thexton returns to the club; story by Ryan Livingston.

## **Hard Lines for Scarlet at Teesside**

On the weekend of July 26th/27th/28th 2024 Newton Aycliffe based kart racer Scarlet Whitaker Dunn attended **Teesside Autodrome** for rounds 4 & 5 of the **Teesside Sprint Series.** Scarlet was racing in the highly competitive Honda Cadet 200cc class with a 30 kart grid on, what turned out to be, a swelteringly hot weekend of racing.

After setting promising 8th and 11th places in

the morning warm-ups on the Saturday and Sunday, tricky qualifying sessions left Scarlet with lots of work to do in her races on both days.

Unfortunately, Scarlet's fortune did not improve over the weekend with many of her races marred by on-track incidents and accidents causing race stoppages for safety reasons. Thankfully, no serious injuries were sustained by those involved. In the final race of the weekend, Scarlet was making solid progress in fighting her way toward the front when she was unfortunate to come upon two stricken karts in her path part way around a blind left hand corner. Scarlet entered the corner



unsighted and skillfully managed to avoid the first kart but sadly not the second causing steering damage to her kart that put her out of the race.

These things happen from time to time in motorsport, however Scarlet and the team will be 'revved up and ready' for the next round at the end of August.

We would like to thank Amaron Racing, PHM (Peninsula Historic Motorsport), Grandad Ron and Rob Storey for their generous assistance and financial support making this possible. To support Scarlet in her journey, please email mail@ amandawhitaker.com

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(Washington Crescent, Wycliffe Close, St Aidans Walk, Taylor Walk, Smith Walk, Philpotts Walk, Defoe Crescent, Espin Walk, Wheeler Green, Newton Aycliffe) (Temporary Road and Footpath Closure) Order 2024 The Council proposes to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic from proceeding the following lengths of road and footpath. **Road Closures** on 1. a 22 metre length of Washington Crescent extending north from the junction

on 1. a 22 metre length of Washington Crescent extending north from the junction with Fenton Close 2. a 20 metre length of Washington Crescent outside No.183 3. a 20 metre length of Washington Crescent outside No's 36b to 38 4. a 25 metre length of Wycliffe Close between No's 9 to 13 5. a 60 metre length of Defoe Crescent between it junctions with Porter Close and Neile Road. Footpath Closures on 1. a 59 metre length of Washington Crescent/St Aidans Walk between No's 2 to 10 St Aidans Walk 2. a 24 metre length of Wycliffe Close to the side of No's 12 to 24 St Aidans Walk 3. a 46 metre length of Wycliffe Close from side No's 10 to 40 St Barbaras Walk 4. a 20 metre length of Washington Crescent between No's 66 to 66 western side 5. a 25 metre length of Washington Crescent between No's 68 to Barbaras Walk 4. a 20 metre length of Washington Crescent between No's 60 to 66 western side 5. a 25 metre length of Washington Crecent between No's 68 to 74 western side 6. a 98 metre length of St Aidans Walk between No's 52,44,39 and 47 7. a 35 metre length of St Aidans Walk between No's 42 to 38 and the side of No.11 Richardson Walk 8. a 78 metre length of Taylor Walk to the western side of No's 6 to 119 9. a 65 metre length of Smith Walk to the northern and eastern side of No's 1 to 4 10. a 60 metre length of Philpotts Walk between No's 4 to 1 and extending to 10 Defoe Crescent 11. an 88 metre length of Espin Walk between No's 7 and 39 Defoe Crescent 12. a 25 metre length of Wheeler Green outside No's 1 to 13. a 25 metre length of Wheeler Green outside No's 1 to 6 unable new telecom 5 13. a 25 metre length of Wheeler Green outside No's 2 to 6 to enable new telecom fibre infrastructure installation works to be undertaken. Alternative routes, wher nore intrastructure installation works to be undertaken. Alternative routies, where available and required will be signed on site locally to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence from 8am on Tuesday 20/8/2024 and are anticipated to be completed in 6 months. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

The County Council of Durham

Dated: 2/8/2024



Helen Bradle & Democratic Service County Hall, Durhan Director of Legal & Den

The County Council of Durham (Beechfield and Linden Place, Newton Aycliffe)
(Temporary Road and Footpath Closure) Order 2024

The Council proposes to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular and pedestrian traffic from proceeding on the following lengths or road and footpath **Road closures** on 1. a 70 metre length of Linden Place that extends northwards from its junction with Greenfield Way 2. a 70 metre length between 228 Rowan Place to 42 Beechfield. Footpath Closures on 1. a 20 metre length that extends along the gable of No 22 Beechfield 2. a 30 metre length that extends between No's 100 to 103 Beechfield 3. A 205 metre length that extends between Nos 76 to 112 Oakfield (eastern side)
4. a 47 metre length of Linden Place to the south eastern side of Nos 115 to 117 5.
a 47 metre length of Linden Place to the western and northern sides of Nos 135 to 138 6. a 43 metre length of Linden Place to the norther sides of Nos 139 to 145 7. a 20 metre length of Linden Place between Nos 181 to 183 western side 8. a 37 metre length of Linden Place between Nos 176 to 181 eastern side 9. a 19 metre length of Linden Place between Nos 211 to 213 eastern side 10. a 23 metre length along the gable of No 201 Rowan Place 11. a 16 metre length along the gable of No 191 Rowan Place 12. a 18 metre length along the gable of No 188 Rowan Place 13. a 24 metre length between No's 185 to 187 Rowan Place 14. a 23 metre along the gable of No 184 Rowan Place 15. a 28 metre length to the northern side of No 225 to 228 Rowan Place 16. a 60 metre length between No 236 Rowan Place and No 51 Beechfield 17. a 61 metre length between No's 43 to 51 Beechfield to enable new fibre infrastructure installation works to be undertaken. Alternative routes where available, will be signed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic as required. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence from 8am on Thursday 22/8/2024 and are anticipated to be completed in 6 months. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

Dated: 2/8/2024



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Page 8 **Newton News** 

## The Voice of Conscience

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George Bernard Shaw, 1856-1950 Irish Dramatist, Essayist and Critic

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It's been another busy week as your new MP for the Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor constituency.

A big priority for me has been recruiting and appointing staff members, so I've got the team I need to serve our community. As your new MP, I've been receiving a large number of letters and emails. Three members of staff started in my office this week and we're working hard together to make sure we get back to everyone who's been in touch. Thank you to everyone who's contacted me. If there's an issue you think I can help with, you can contact me on alan.strickland.mp@ parliament.uk I'm also arranging constituency surgeries and will publish the details for these shortly.

In Westminster, my top priority remains campaigning to secure the future of the Hitachi Rail plant in Newton Aycliffe. Residents who've been following this issue will know the factory was left with a serious gap in orders by the previous Conservative government. Following a site visit with other regional MP's, we wrote a joint letter to the new Transport Secretary urging speedy action.

I held urgent meetings this week in Parliament with the Minister and senior leaders from Hitachi. The importance of UK-based manufacturers for this government's ambitious industrial strategy is key and the Transport Secretary understands Hitachi's role in this. I'm pleased to say that the Department for Transport is now in talks with Hitachi to actively explore options. I'll be following this closely and pushing for progress to be made.

I was honoured to make my maiden speech. It was a proud moment, as I reflected on my grandparents' move to the New Town of Aycliffe when it was first built, to build a better life for their children. The theme of my speech was the motto of our town - 'not the least, but the greatest we seek'. This original vision of our town - that we should strive for the very best, is something that still inspires me and will drive my work as your MP.

This is evident in my support for the industries of the future at NET Park in Sedgefield and the Hitachi Rail plant in Aycliffe. Just as Durham coal powered our economy in the past, I told Parliament that our area can power our modern economy with high-tech green manufacturing. I'll be pushing the new government to give us the investment and support to make this happen.

I also highlighted the great work of many of our community organisations such as Ladder Centre and the Cornforth Partnership who help residents across our area, including Aycliffe. Finally, being a real ale fan, I had to mention our many great pubs, especially the award winning pub and micro-brewery, the Surtees Arms in Ferryhill. On my return home to Aycliffe, I enjoyed some down time at Ayclive Festival on the OakLeaf sports field. The music was great and the atmosphere was brilliant. A massive thank you to Paul Howarth, Stuart McLean and their army of volunteers, as well as the sponsors including Andrea and her team from Husqvarna. It was really good to see so many local families having such a great time.

Over August Parliament will be in recess, allowing me to properly set up my office and visit local organisations. If you're involved in a community group, local business or other organisation that you'd like me to visit, drop me an email. I'm keen to meet as many residents and organisations as I can.



## **Against Two Child Benefit Cap**

I read that our new MP, Alan Strickland, has voted against the removal of the two child benefit cap, thus condemning 500,000 children to remain in poverty.

Some of those children are in his constituency. I do question his commitment to represent his constituents if he is so cavalier about the most disadvantaged.

I note from his Facebook profile picture that he has the Ukrainian flag on his chin. So, I expect, he agrees to spend £3 billion a year in military aid to prolong a war?

Money which, in my view, could be better spent removing the cap.

Name and address supplied.





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Newton News Page

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

#### In Memoriam

#### **Steve Toroni**

20/12/49-8/8/21 Hard to believe it's been three years since the day you died.

Even harder to walk this path of life without you by our

Think of you and miss you every day. Your loving Wife, Jen and family xxxxx

## Congratulations

#### Vicky & Kevin Haigh



#### Silver Wedding 25 Years

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## **Obituary**

#### John Henry Shepherd

Passed away at home on 19th July, aged 75. Devoted Husband to Margaret; much loved Son-in-Law, Brotherin-Law, Uncle. Nephew, Cousin and a good friend to many. The funeral will be held in Cromarty Ross-Shire. Friends wanting to raise a glass to Shep, please come along to The Navy Club on Friday 2nd August at 2pm.

#### Marion Green (née Hay)

Died peacefully on 18th July 2024. Beloved Wife Michael; Mam Beverley and Melanie; Motherin-Law to Tony and Chris. Love vou always. Will be sadly missed by all.

Family and friends meet at Wear Valley Crematorium on Wednesday 7th August at 2.30pm.

#### Irene Quickmire (née Small)



Of Newton Aycliffe, passed peacefully in hospital on 16th July 2024 aged 68 years. A much loved Wife to Paul, dearly loved Mam of Paul, Yvonne and Anthony. A treasured Grandma to six Grandchildren. family and friends please meet for a service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Monday 5th August at 11.30 am. Family flowers by only, request. Donations in lieu, if so desired, may be made for Macmillan. A donation box will be provided at the crematorium.

As per Irene's wishes there will be no wake after the service.

## **Have Your Say**

People in County Durham are being invited to have their say on their council's priorities up until 2029.

Durham County Council is seeking views to help it update its Council Plan – a document in which it sets out how it plans to work and how it will deliver services over the following four years.

The local authority is carrying out consultation as part of its annual review of the plan, with a view to it covering the four years from 2025 to 2029.

Cllr Amanda Hopgood, Leader of the council, said: "Our Council Plan is a really important document as it sets out what our key priorities are in terms of the services residents rely on, and how we will deliver them over the next four years.

"Our current plan sets out how we use an annual budget of around £1.3 billion to provide more than 800 different services to more than 522,100 people in County Durham. We want people to take part in the consultation and have their say on the current plan and on our priorities for the next four years.

"Specifically, we want to know if people think the current priorities are right, if there's anything missing and if there's too many. We want people to help us identify and understand local need, any gaps in our service delivery or any areas requiring improvement. All responses will be carefully considered before our officers review the plan and bring it before councillors for approval."

The Council Plan is the authority's main corporate planning document. It is supported by a series of corporate strategies and service plans which detail the actions, major projects and improvements the authority is undertaking to deliver its priorities.

The plan is structured around the following five ambitions:

- Our economy
- Our environment
- Our people
- Our communities
- Our council

Under each ambition, the council has set out:

- Its priorities
- Its achievements
- The issues to be addressed
- · What its contribution is in this area
- What its future approach will be
- · What major projects it will be undertaking
- Its 'key performance indicators' for the delivery of key services which are used to measure progress towards the authority's ambitions.

The council has also, in line with the Equality Act 2010, included equality objectives, which it reviews every three years.

The authority's progress towards achieving its ambitions is tracked through key performance indicators as well as data from Office for Local Government's Local Authority Data Explorer. This is used to develop the council's quarterly performance reports which can be viewed online at www.durham.gov.uk/article/2427/ Quarterly-reports.

The consultation runs until 5pm on Sunday 15th September. People can take part by filling in a survey online at: https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/02223e61-df5e-49ed-b9d9-a72a860c1d87; emailing councilplan@durham.gov.uk; or by picking up a paper copy of the survey at any of the council's libraries or Customer Access Points. The plan is currently scheduled to be discussed at Cabinet in January 2025, before going to Full Council the following month. To find out more visit:

www.durham.gov.uk/consultation

## Pets

Licensing

**Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence** 

NAS Group Durham Ltd of Unit 310 Howden

Road, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe,

DL5 6EU is applying to change an existing

licence as follows: To add 2 trailers at the

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310 Howden Road, Aycliffe Business Park,

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386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating

their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

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Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EU.



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# Online Voluntary **Service Launches**

The government is making it easier for customers to check for and fill any gaps in their National Insurance (NI) record to help increase their State Pension with a new online service.

The Check your State Pension forecast - a joint service by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) - has been enhanced to include a fully end-to-end digital solution. The service will show customers by how much their State Pension could increase and details of the voluntary NI contributions they would need to pay to achieve this. It allows most people under State Pension age to view gaps in their NI record and pay voluntary contributions to fill those gaps, if it will benefit them.

Anyone with NI gaps in some of their tax years that could increase their State Pension if filled, can use the new digital service to choose which years they would like to pay to fill. They can then pay securely through the service and will receive confirmation that their payment has been received and that their NI record will be updated. Customers can access the Check your State Pension forecast via gov.uk or via the HMRC app.

Those who are eligible have until 5th April 2025 to pay voluntary contributions to make up gaps in their NI record between 6th April 2006 and 5th April 2018. From 6th April 2025, people will only be able to pay voluntary contributions for the previous six tax years, in line with normal time limits.

Last year, the government extended the deadline to pay voluntary NI contributions to 5th April 2025 for those affected by new State Pension transitional arrangements. This covers tax years from 6th April 2006 to 5th April 2018. The extended deadline means that people now have more time to properly consider whether paying voluntary contributions is right for them and ensures no-one need miss out on the possibility of increasing their State Pension.

Paying voluntary contributions will not always increase their State Pension but everyone can use the new service to check whether they could be better off in retirement before making any voluntary NI payments.

Customers will need to login to the new digital service using their Personal Tax Account login details. Those without an online HMRC account can register on gov.uk

Everyone should be aware of the risk of falling victim to scams and should never share their HMRC login details with anyone, including a tax agent, if they have one. HMRC scams advice is available on gov.uk

## **Aycliffe Pupils** National Insurance Reach New Heights



Teenagers from a North East specialist school rose to the challenge when they took on a sponsored 'superhero walk' to reach the summit of Roseberry Topping.

Pupils and staff from class 6 at Aycliffe School, run by the North East Autism Society (NEAS), hit their fundraising target of £500 after climbing to the top of the regional landmark wearing iconic costumes from films and comics.

Judith Gibbons, class 6's teacher at Aycliffe School, 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

The 15 to 16-year-old pupils aimed to raise money for new free-time equipment for the classroom, which the class could use between lessons to relax, socialise and build friendships over common interests. Hot weather on the day of the walk added to the challenge of summiting the 1,049ft hill and while some pupils 'scampered up it in no time', others, including some members of staff, found the route tougher. "It was potentially more challenging than some people anticipated, said Judith, adding that the class' teamwork shone through on the day. "Everyone rallied around and made sure everyone got to the top." Judith added: "Overall it went to plan and went really well." Now that the class has reached its fundraising goal, the class has discussed and identified what equipment the money will be spent on,

as well as how it will be used and how to keep it safe for future use. Judith said: "The pupils are really proud. They feel like they've worked hard for it and it's their equipment, so they're very invested in plans for looking after it.

As well as taking on the sponsored climb, class 6 also promoted the event themselves as part of a project with NEAS' marketing team. Pupils learned more about design, branding and creating a poster to advertise the walk, which they put up around Newton Aycliffe and the school itself.

"They learned you have to keep pushing things, it's hard work to keep people's attention," Judith said.

After their first fundraising success, class 6 is looking to the future for more potential challenges.

Judith added: "We're already saying, "what could we do to beat this," so it was definitely good for confidence and self-esteem."

## WALKERS

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## **Aycliffe Running Club Weekly Review**

It has been another busy week for Aycliffe Running Club, with the races coming thick and fast and some excellent performances from the club. On Wednesday 24th July, two members took part in the Willow Minor Trail race which is tun over 5.5 miles of woodland in Durham, taking in some tough climbs and running past the Willow Miner along the way. Representing the club were Beau-Louise Mason (51:52) and Carley Cooper (56:14).

At the same time, 22 members took part in the sixth race of the Darlington Trail 5k series, the Baydale Beck 5k, with John Firby (19:13) finishing first and Lucy Postle (23:57) second female. Also representing the club were Sam Keenan (20:54), Richard Holland (21:56), Jimmy Agnew (22:31), Daniel Tatham (23:39), Andrew Tweddle (25:07), Sarah Gill (26:11), John Burnside (26:16), Trevor Agnew (26:22), Dave Stothard (26:24), Keith Hatton (29:55), Sue Podmore (30:19), Jean-Pierre Hupin (30:19), Rob Nicholson (30:51), Melanie Varley (31:50), Peter Varley (33:44), Em Flynn (34:21), John Rockett (34:53), Ian Stothard (40:53), Tracey Pickering (41:19) and Cliff Pickering (44:05). On Sunday 28th July, seven members took part in the James Herriott Country Trail Run. This is a 14k trail run over moorland tracks and paths near Castle Bolton in Wensleydale. Despite the hot conditions for the race, there were some excellent performances with Shelley Ramsey (1:36:06), Dave Stothard (1:40:11), Carley Cooper (1:45:28), Sandrine Hewitt (1:45:33), Eve Doe (2:02:13), Kirsty Cameron



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





(2:05:49) and Ian Stothard representing the club.

At the same time, 11 members took part in the second race in the Darlington Trail 10k series and the Low Coniscliffe 10k. This was a new race and replaced the cancelled event from the previous week with those unable to take part having the option of submitting a virtual result. Richard Holland (46:30) finished second, with Lucy Postle (51:40), first female and Bernadette Cooper (52:03 virtual) second female. Also representing the club were Daniel Tatham (48:18), Sam Keenan (51:40), Keith Hatton (1:01:14), Cath McDonnell (1:02:34), Salv McDonnell (1:03:30), Sue Podmore (1:05:56), Jean-Pierre Hupin (1:10:00) and Em Flynn (1:17:09)

On Saturday 27th July, 34 members started their weekend with a parkrun. At Mansfield Park, Keith Hatton (27:14) completed the course for the first time. At Sedgefield, an amazing 21 members took part in the next club Parkrun tourism. This saw Bernadette Cooper (23:09) and Tamara Kirk (26:03) both set new course PBs and Judith Porter complete her 100th ever parkun. Beau-Louise Mason (25:44) also completed the course for the first time.

At The Pastures, Carley Cooper (29:43) set a new course PB with Jean-Pierre Hupin (30:48) completing the course for the first time. This was also the final course he had left to complete in the North East, earning the North East Regionnaire status on his birthday, a double cause for celebration. Em Flynn (33:54) also completed the course. At Blyth Links, Tracey Pickering (37:10) and Cliff Pickering (42:16) both completed the course for the first time. Thomas Heywood (28:06) completed the course at Wolford Wood for the first time.

If you are feeling inspired, and are interested in joining the club, you can turn up for one of our sessions. More information is available on our website www.ayclifferunningclub.org. uk - or our Facebook page. If you would like to chat with someone, then you can email



ayclifferunningclub@gmail.com - If interested in the Junior Section you can email arc. juniorsection@gmail.com - Make this year the year you or your children get into running and join us to keep it going for many years to come.





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