

# Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper

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## Exciting Times for Greenfield



Exciting new plans for modern teaching facilities at Greenfield Academy have been approved by Durham County Council. The new development marks a significant milestone for the school, promising a state-of-the-art learning environment for its students and staff.

Most of the outdated and "horrendous" existing buildings will be demolished upon the completion of a new three-storey teaching block. The new structure will be constructed in the current car park to the north of the school, allowing the majority of the current school operations to continue without disruption. Only two existing teaching areas and the sports centre will be retained at the Greenfield Way site.

The approved plans, submitted in partnership with local construction firm Kier Group, have been carefully designed to minimize disruption to staff and pupils, avoiding the need for advanced demolition. This phased approach ensures that teaching can continue in the existing buildings while the new facilities are being built.

Durham County Council emphasised the necessity of this development, noting that the existing buildings have reached the end of their design life. A council spokesperson commented, "The existing blocks to be demolished have reached the end of their design life and the replacement will facilitate a more functional, welcoming, and efficient layout for the school's everyday operations and needs."

Councillor Michael Stead, representing Aycliffe North and Middridge, praised the project, highlighting the significant

improvement it will bring to the teaching and learning environment. He stated, "A new build for the school is well overdue. When I first became a councillor, I walked that site and the amount of single-pane windows and heating issues was horrendous. There were temporary buildings put outside, with classrooms in portacabins. It's just not acceptable for children of this day and age to be in a school like that."

Amy Aspland, Head of School for Greenfield Academy, expressed her enthusiasm for the new development, saying, "This new teaching block is a long-awaited upgrade that will vastly improve the learning environment for both our children and staff, who deserve to learn and work in an environment that is bright, welcoming and fit for purpose. It marks a new chapter for Greenfield Academy, where we can continue to provide high-quality education in a modern and supportive setting."

The new build will see the student admission numbers with capacity for up to 750 students. Greenfield Academy will continue to serve students from years seven to eleven, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The phased construction work is set to begin in September, with the new site expected to welcome pupils by September 2025. Following the completion of the new buildings, demolition of the old structures will commence, alongside the development of a new playground and parking facilities. This new build will further support the school's new developed ethos to provide 'every child with every opportunity, every day'.

## New Home for Sisters of Support

What an exciting time for Sisters of Support, the launch of the #weARElistening campaign has seen us expand in ways we never thought possible. We are incredibly proud to announce that we now have our very own office situated in the Blue Bridge Centre. Firstly, we would like to thank Stuart Howarth for his incredible kindness, understanding and support in everything that we do, it means everything to us. We received the keys to suite 18 and it was simply perfect, one slight issue was we had no furniture and no money to purchase any.

So, here we are, a beautiful office to better aid us in our endeavours and nothing to sit on. We put a call for assistance out on Facebook and to our contacts and, almost immediately, received a response from the amazing Carol Jackson at Perfect Care who offered us most of what we needed. Desks, chairs and office drawers. We were impressed by such an incredible offer and accepted instantly.

If that was not kind enough, they then arranged for these items to be delivered, directly to our door with their handyman, Paul.

Every day people remind us that there is still love and kindness in the world and when Paul arrived delivering the items he was unable to navigate the stairs on his own, Gavin and Andy from Five Acres came to the rescue and put everything in place.

A huge thank you to all involved in helping us secure and furnish our new home (office), an even bigger thank you to Perfect Care for that amazing donation. Without people like we mention in this article, Sisters of Support would not be able to do what we do.

For more information about Sisters of Support visit: [www.sistersofsupport.co.uk](http://www.sistersofsupport.co.uk)



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## DJ Duo Re-Unite

Three decades after Freshen-Up, where 35 years ago a little house night was founded at the Gretna. House music was new for the north east and there were only a couple of places people could experience high quality music.

Paul McDonald (52) of Newton Aycliffe went all out at the time, recruiting guest DJs from all over the UK to fill the 300 people venue weekly. Freshen-Up became a 90s Aycliffe institution and it wasn't

long before Sean Harker (49) came along for the ride, even when Paul moved overseas, some twenty years ago, the two DJs have been collecting music and collaborating ever since and boast an incredible music knowledge between them.

Fast forward to now, and fate has the pair back in their hometown, with a thirst to provide musical entertainment once more. On top of presenting a show on Aycliffe Radio every Saturday night, they are hosting their own 'Steamed' night at the Steam Machine monthly, featuring some amazing guests.

How does Steamed stand out in a DJ flooded market? Paul says: "We see House Nights becoming a bit mainstream. Anyone can mix two records of the same genre, especially with today's tech. That made us want to stand out and be different, be bold and play tracks that we'd only shared between us. No House music this time . . . just great, great music, breaks, hip hop, jazz, disco, spoken word and anything that'll make your ears prick up!"

The pair are really enthusiastic and can't wait to welcome new faces as well as old friends. "It's amazing to be playing records together again, less than a mile from where it all started. We have got some surprises that'll be sure to keep things fresh" says Sean.

Upcoming dates include:

Friday 16th August with Neil Massey, Original Soul Boy

Friday 20th September with Simon Gibb, Club Havana

Friday 25th October with residents PaulyMac & Sean Harker

Entry to the Steam Machine is free and can be found at 26 Northfield Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6UF.



## Local Unrest

One person has been arrested following violent disorder in Darlington this week.

Dozens of police officers were deployed to the North Lodge Park area after two large groups of mostly males had gathered shortly after 9pm.

This resulted in small pockets of serious violence, which saw bricks being thrown at police officers who attended the scene.

An 18-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of violent disorder, assaulting a police officer and possession of a controlled drug. He has been taken to police custody where he remains.

Section 60 and 60AA powers have been authorised in the area, giving officers enhanced stop and search capabilities and authority to order people to remove face coverings which are intended to disguise or conceal their appearance.

Assistant Chief Constable Richie Allen, from Durham Constabulary, said: "What we have been dealing with tonight in Darlington has been sporadic pockets of violent disorder involving groups of people intent on causing serious harm to our communities and their property.

"We deployed a number of officers to the scene who worked throughout the night to disperse those involved.

"We were supported by officers from Cleveland and Northumbria Police and were assisted by our partners at the fire and ambulance service at the scene, for which I am grateful.

"We will not tolerate violent disorder in our communities. If you were there committing criminal acts, we will do everything in our power to find you and deal with you robustly." If you have any information that could assist in identifying those responsible for this disorder, please contact us on 101, or use the live chat function on our website.

Information can also be submitted anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via their website at [www.crimestoppers.org.uk](http://www.crimestoppers.org.uk)

## Unclaimed Prize

Dear Sir,

An unclaimed prize from the draw that took place at Ayclife music festival. Tickets were purchased from the Husqvarna stall and is a yellow ticket, no 206-210, belonging to Delia Robinson.

If you are the lucky winner, please contact Debbie on 07392 197975.

## £25k Rollover for Hospice Lottery Must be Won



One lucky winner will be chosen to receive a guaranteed life-changing sum next month in the £25,000 rollover for the Win Win Lottery which benefits local charity St Cuthbert's Hospice, Durham. This is the third time the rollover has reached the guaranteed rollover amount, with previous winners from across County Durham.

Angela Lord, Sales Manager, Retail & Lottery, said: "It's always a great feeling to make the call telling someone they've won a prize in our Win Lottery. It feels like we're giving something back to our incredible supporters. After all, that is where the Win-Win name came from. To be able to give someone the news that they've just won £25,000 is amazing. We know this is a life-changing amount of money and we can't wait to make that call next month."

"To date, the Win Win Lottery has raised over £750,000 towards the care we provide at the Hospice and is a vital source of funding for us. We've got over 2,500 players, and one of these will be guaranteed the £25,000 on Monday 2nd September.

"We hope to continue to grow the Lottery and the sustainable income stream it provides for our services."

The charity cares for people with life-limiting illnesses, people who are at the end of life and bereaved families. Each weekday, Win Win Lottery players could win £100 and every month £1,000 is up for grabs which, if not won, is added to the rollover pot.

To be in with the chance of winning the guaranteed jackpot amount next month, players must be quick and sign up before 12:30pm on Monday 12th August 2024. To find out more visit:

[www.stcuthbertshospice.com](http://www.stcuthbertshospice.com) or call 0191 374 6176.

Terms and Conditions apply. Players must be aged 18 years or over to play the Lottery or claim a prize. [Begambleaware.org](http://Begambleaware.org)



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# St. Franics' Juniors Get Musical



At St. Francis, the students have shown exceptional dedication in their music classes this year. On the last Friday of term, we got together to present our musical talents, creating a captivating experience. It was more than a simple concert; it was a celebration of the children's growth and the pleasure of making music together. Year 3 students stood out in drumming skills. Year 4 and 5 students concentrated on mastering brass instruments. Year 6 students invested their time in enhancing their vocal abilities, as well as the school choir, who captivated us with their harmonious voices. The afternoon was a blast, and the children did an amazing job sharing their musical talent.

# Lodge Donate £250 to Local Cancer Group



Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group received a generous donation from the Aycliffe Masonic Lodge at the end of July. Robbie Davison, the Charity Steward, along with five other members; Dennis Townson, Godfrey Bennett, Graham Parker, Dave Wilson and Kevin Wayman from the Lodge, presented the charity with a cheque for £250. "The Freemasons held a recent social event and are always very pleased to support local charitable work. We were keen to help this great charity who help and support cancer patients across County Durham and Darlington." For more information about the charity you can call Marianne, Secretary, on 07442 991859. The Charity has two hubs, in Newton Aycliffe town centre and Darlington, and are in desperate need of volunteers - can you spare just a few hours a week to make a difference to this charity, which is 100% voluntary?

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**Newton Aycliffe Football Club 2024/25 Sponsorship Opportunities**

As we approach the new season, N.A.F.C. are looking for sponsors to support what should be another highly successful campaign.

**CLUB 30** offers an exclusive package of match day benefits, to suit all budgets, running throughout the season with extensive advertising and Social Media exposure.

**Other opportunities include:**

- Stadium Naming Rights,
- Home Shirt Logo,
- Away Shirt Logo.

To receive more information on the above opportunities, or meet with the Sponsorship Team, please register your interest by email to: [treasurer@newtonaycliffefc.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@newtonaycliffefc.co.uk)



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## New Houses

Dear Sir,  
With all these new houses that are going to be built, one wonders where all the tradesmen are going to come from?  
It is difficult enough to find one for local jobs. In one of my idle moments I was reading the new regulations for central heating systems and, if I was a plumber, I would consider a career change. The complexity of the new regulations is unbelievable. This mad dash to zero co2 will have us all going to hell in a hand cart, that is if you can find one!  
R. C. Crook

## Crematorium Open Day

Wear Valley Crematorium are holding an Open Day on Saturday 10th August from 10.00am to 1.00pm. You are invited to join them for their open day, offering tours of the chapel, crematory and gardens, where you will be able to find out more about their services. There friendly staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.  
Refreshments will be provided as well as a raffle with all contributions raising money for Shildon Alive. For more information please contact Wear Valley Crematorium, Councun, Bishop Auckland, County Durham DL14 8PE - telephone 01388 722606.

## Age UK Event

Free Information & Advice Event at St. Clare's Church, St. Cuthbert's Way, DL5 5NT.  
Age UK County Durham are attending the coffee mornings held at St. Clare's Church on 19th and 20th August between 10am and 12noon. There will be advice on benefits and wellbeing.

## SPECS APPEAL



**Don't leave your old unwanted spectacles lying in a drawer . . . donate them to Rotary**

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### COLLECTION POINTS

The Big Club  
John's Mini Market (Neville Parade)  
Sainsburys (Woodham)  
Specsavers (Town Centre)

*We do not require cases, thank you*

## Kynren 'Mane' Event

A herd of performing horses are undergoing their final preparations ready to take to the stage in a multi-award-winning live action outdoor theatre spectacular.

The dedicated cavalry team at Kynren – An Epic Tale of England, which looks after the show's animals all year round, are on hand to make sure the horses are picture-perfect for their performances. Alongside the 38 other horses, Kynren's latest addition to the cavalry team, grey Shire horse Cosmo, is also enjoying his debut season at the Bishop Auckland show.

Galloping onto the seven-and-a-half-acre stage at an impressive 18.3 hands high (1.86m from floor to shoulders), Cosmo is a rare breed Shire horse and one of only 200 grey Shires in the world. Due to his impressive size, Cosmo has enough power to easily pull the carriages in Kynren and also plays a starring role in the Viking invasion scene as a fisherwoman is kidnapped.

The final preparations ahead of each Saturday night include a thorough groom and a relaxing hose down, complete with nourishing shampoo. Cosmo and the rest of the horses get so excited about appearing in the show and enjoy receiving lots of care and attention.

CEO of Kynren, Anna Warnecke, has been competing at the top level in eventing for many years, bringing her wealth of knowledge and experience to the Kynren and believes the expert horsemanship on display in the multi-award-winning live action outdoor theatre spectacular is unlike anything else seen in the UK.

Anna said: "An opportunity to see rare breed Shire horses like Cosmo, alongside other breeds performing at their best due to our expert care and training truly is a sight to behold and gives audiences a sense of the intelligence these animals possess. We're incredibly lucky to work and live alongside them and it's been wonderful watching their progress over the last few months ready for our summer run."

Cosmo and his crew appear in a number of scenes during the 2024 production which tracks England's history and tells the 'story of us' – from Boudicca's battles with the Romans to two world wars, as well as visiting the Vikings, Tudors, Stuarts, Queen Victoria and the Industrial Revolution.

Kynren is a spellbinding, family-friendly experience delivering thrills, shocks, tears, laughs, goosebumps and gasps on a truly cinematic scale. The 8,000-seater tribune provides panoramic views across the outdoor stage.

As well as the expert horsemanship in the world class show, audiences can expect magnificent sets, mass choreography, combat, stunts, stunning pyrotechnics and amazing special effects, including water jets and state of the art video projections.

The 90-minute performances start at sunset and end in starlight, taking place every Saturday evening until the 14th September.

Tickets cost from £26 for adults and from £16 for under 18s. Children aged 3 and under are free when sat on an adult's knee.

For further information and to book tickets, visit: [www.kynren.com](http://www.kynren.com)



## Call Out for Local Artists



Local artists are being given an opportunity to showcase their work to the public.

Bishop Auckland Town Hall is welcoming applications for its annual Open Art Exhibition, starting in December.

Artists who live, work or study in the Durham County Council area can apply to show up to three pieces of artwork in the local authority-owned venue.

Cllr Elizabeth Scott, the council's Cabinet member for economy and partnerships, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for our local artists to showcase their work and make themselves proud. Last year, we received an unprecedented number of applications and the quality of work was outstanding.

"We were able to display 189 pieces of art from 99 artists, making it a real celebration of local talent. We can't wait to welcome submissions for this year and look forward to sharing in the delight of visitors when these fantastic pieces of work go on display."

Submissions can include drawings, paintings, textiles, sculpture, digital art and photography and can be either wall mounted or free standing. These will then be assessed by a panel to ensure that a wide range of mediums and genres are displayed in the town hall's gallery. Young artists aged 11 to 18 can submit two pieces of artwork with parental, carer or guardian consent as part of the venue's Youth Open Call.

Application forms can be requested from [BATHGallery@durham.gov.uk](mailto:BATHGallery@durham.gov.uk) and these should be submitted no later than 5pm on Tuesday 1st October.

Successful applicants will be informed later that month.

To find out more about the exhibition, visit: [www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk/gallery](http://www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk/gallery)

## Editorial Contributions

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

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## Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report



Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, lost by a huge 110 runs away at Saltburn 2nd XI in the NYSD second division. The home side chose to bat first and rattled up an impregnable score of 263 for 5 in their allotted 50 overs despite some excellent bowling by captain James Layfield-Carroll, who took 4 for 45 from his 15 overs. In reply, half centuries from both Tom Dearden (sponsored by Kevin Burton) (56 from 58 balls) and Chris Palmer (52 off 57 balls) briefly gave Aycliffe hope but, once they were dismissed, the innings fizzled out and they were eventually bowled out for 153 after 39.2 overs.

The second team were beaten by seven wickets at home to Maltby 2nd XI in the NYSD fourth division. Aycliffe were asked to bat first and opener Patrick Howe, playing only his second game of the season, was in scintillating form, carrying his bat for a superb unbeaten 92 off 104 balls and his career best innings included 13 boundaries and two sixes. With Aycliffe struggling at 81 for 7, Howe was joined at the crease by 13 year old Trent Telford and the pair batted brilliantly to set a new second team club partnership record for the 8th wicket of 94. Telford recorded his senior career best score of 37 off 51 balls, including five boundaries and with Matty French also batting well with 23 off 29 balls, Aycliffe were eventually dismissed for 180 off 37.2 overs. In reply, the visitors aggressively attacked the Aycliffe bowling and quickly reached their winning target after 26.5 overs with only Leon Patel (2 for 38) and captain Dan Weldon (1 for 28) having any success with the ball.

The club's Ladies team took part in the Durham Ladies Megafest Tournament at the Seat Unique Riverside Stadium, home of Durham County Cricket Club, on Sunday 4th August and came out on top after winning all four games against Eppleton, Seaham Harbour, Sacriston and Murton Ladies Cricket teams. A great achievement by the Aycliffe ladies.

The following night, the ladies, who are the defending champions, had an impressive 67 run victory at home to Rockcliffe Park in the Prestigious NYSD 100 Pairs cup quarter final, thanks to a great team effort in the field, and this was followed by some excellent batting from Tina Masterman (29 off 17 balls), Claire Ebdon (27 not out off 12 balls), Addison Jones (14 not out off 13 balls) and Anneliese Myers (13 not out off 11 balls).

Aycliffe's U15's were well beaten by 92 runs away at Rockcliffe Park in the NYACC League. The homeside chose to bat first and scored a huge 169 for 3 in their allotted 20 overs despite some good bowling from Addison Jones (2 for 31) and Carys Myers (1 for 29). In reply, Aycliffe battled hard and were 77 for 7 after 20 overs despite a defiant innings by Freddie Lawler who batted superbly to finish unbeaten on 43 from 54 balls faced and included 8 boundaries. Credit must also go to 10 year old Morgan Jones, who batted really well, scoring 7 not out off 22 balls and sharing an unbroken 8th wicket partnership of 37 with Lawler at the end of the Aycliffe innings.

The U13's put in a good performance but, unfortunately, still lost by five wickets at home to Darlington RA in the NYACC league. Aycliffe batted first and scored 81 for 7 in their overs, thanks to another excellent innings from in-form Trent Telford who retired on 32 from 22 balls faced. In reply, RA comfortably reached their winning target after 16.1 overs and five wickets in hand with nine year old Harvey Palmer the pick of the bowlers taking 3 for 10 from his three overs.

The U11's put in a terrific performance away at Darlington and were desperately unlucky to lose a very close game by just two runs in the NYACC League. Nine year old Captain Harvey Palmer continued his excellent form with the bat when he top scored with 12 not out from 13 balls faced. When Darlington batted, both Nial Hadland (2 for 3) and Neve Britton (2 for 17) bowled superbly, but Aycliffe fell just two runs short in a tense finale.

*Photo: The victorious Ladies team after their four victories in the Megafest Tournament.*

## Baby Skeleton Found

The body of a little baby, discovered during a Bishop Auckland house renovation, lay concealed beneath floorboards for more than 100 years.

Detectives investigating the discovery of a skeleton at a house in Fore Bondgate believe the body has lain undisturbed since the early 20th Century.

The baby was wrapped in newspaper which has deteriorated over the years, but investigators were able to identify a fragment which dated to 1910.

Forensic examination has also established that the baby was full term at 40 weeks, but have been unable to firmly establish the gender. Officers have also identified twine wrapped around the baby's neck, indicating that the cause of the death is likely to have been suspicious.

Further forensic tests are taking place over the coming weeks, including carbon dating, to confirm the initial findings.

Detectives from Durham Constabulary are now attempting to trace historic records for the

property between 1900 and 1920 as part of efforts to identify who lived there at that time. The property dates to the Victorian period and at one stage housed a church-run mother and baby unit, although it is believed that the baby was concealed before that time.

Detective Chief Inspector Mel Sutherland, from Durham Constabulary, said: "The evidence suggests this has happened a very long time ago, which makes investigating the circumstances extremely difficult, but we still have a duty to that baby. My focus is on finding out who the baby is, what happened and how it came to be under the floorboards of that house. As soon as we are able to, I am determined that this little baby is given an appropriate and dignified funeral."

Police are now gathering historical information about the house's ownership from 1900 to 1920, including securing records and tracing family trees to potentially identify any living relatives. If you have any information about 67 Fore Bondgate, please phone 101 and quote incident number DHM-29072024-0127.




# BLUE LIGHT DAY

## Saturday 17th August

### 12noon-4.00pm

## Newton Aycliffe Town Centre

**Local Police Team\* , Local Fire Brigade\* ,  
 Great North Air Ambulance, Blood Bikes,  
 NHS Wellbeing Team, Humankind,  
 Durham County Council Fostering Team,  
 1407 Newton Aycliffe Squadron (Cadets)  
 Sisters of Support, Lifeline Community Action**

(\*may be on call and have to leave if an emergency arises)

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# The Importance of Your Feet



Our guest on Sunday's show was Angela Allison, owner and founder of The Reflex Clinic based at the Pioneering Care Centre. Angela is a very busy and highly respected practitioner who has recently welcomed fellow practitioner Sandy Ainsley to the Reflex Clinic. Sandy, a therapist with over 30 years of experience in holistic therapies, offers a number of bespoke therapy sessions, or Auricular Acupuncture therapy, designed to help manage the symptoms and effects of cancer and cancer treatments, currently available @ The Reflex Clinic on Wednesdays from 12.00 noon 'til 8pm. Andy had the pleasure of relaxing (eventually) for a very enjoyable two hours whilst Angela carried out a reflexology treatment/tutorial as to the benefits to our health and wellbeing that can be experienced from this form of holistic therapy.

Angela was ably assisted by her young daughter who, when not offering advice and guidance, decided to practice her hairdressing skills on Phill who, by the end of the show, was the proud owner of white hair with vivid fluorescent pink highlights.

It's hoped to get both Angela and Sandy on the show in a few months time to learn more about the health benefits of Reflexology and Auricular Acupuncture and the other holistic therapies The Reflex Clinic has to offer. Anyone wanting further information on The Reflex Clinic can find all necessary details on The Reflex Clinic facebook page, or info@thereflexclinic.co.uk

Phill & Andy  
Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.

# Open Mic Night

A very special night will take place on Wednesday 21st August at the Candlelite Club, Moore Lane, Newton Aycliffe from 8.00pm to 10.30pm. There will be a special 'Open Mic' with a big raffle as well as all types of music. One of our members is undergoing cancer treatment at the Oncology and Radiotherapy Department at James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough and all money raised will be donated to this very worthy cause.  
Joan Edmundson.

# Wave of Success for Seaham Food Festival



Thousands took a trip to the seaside to enjoy some fun, sun, and the return of one of the region's biggest food festivals. People flocked to Seaham Food Festival last weekend for two days of food, family entertainment, and cooking demonstrations from some of the nation's favourite chefs.

The Durham County Council-run festival featured its signature cookery theatre, which hosted a line up of celebrities including TV chefs Rosemary Shrager and Phil Vickery; world-renowned chocolatier Paul Young; former MTV Dirty Sanchez frontman Matt Pritchard; Bishop Auckland's Mike Bartley; and Great British Bake Off finalist Josh Smalley.

They were joined by festival favourite Chris Bavin who returned to Seaham to host on the cookery stage.

Festivalgoers also got the chance to try a variety of dishes and goods from over 120 traders, selling everything from Sicilian, Sri Lankan and Portuguese street food, to churros, crepes, and cupcakes.

And, while enjoying the delicious dishes on offer, they were entertained by a range of performances and activities, which included a dedicated music stage and a dolphin spotting station provided by Wildspace - See the Sea.

Cllr Elizabeth Scott, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economy and partnerships, said: "What a fantastic weekend we have had. It is great to see so many people coming back again and again to enjoy what Seaham Food Festival has to offer, as well as seeing the delight of people experiencing the festival for the first time.

"Each year, Seaham Food Festival attracts thousands of people to the town, providing an economic boost to businesses in the area. It also gives our appearing traders, many of whom are local, the opportunity to raise their profile and reach new customers."

For more information about the festival and updates for 2025, visit: [www.seahamfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.seahamfoodfestival.co.uk)



Where does the time go? I have been helping hedgehogs now for seven years this month and I don't regret any of it, with your support I will continue for as long as possible so, here is to another seven years.

Apologies for not doing the hog blog last week, me and my family took some time off and went abroad for a holiday for some rest, however we returned tired. I want to thank Pat and Fred for taking really good care of Sophie, Poppy and Willow. Sophie and Willow have now been released and Poppy, Pixie and Penny are next, so a good week in that respect.

What worries me is that we are still seeing hogs out in the day, big or small, if they are lucky they get picked up, some aren't so lucky and they die without getting the help they need and deserve. I take it very badly when I bring them into my home/rescue and they last hours and it's very hard to watch them suffer and I am powerless to help them because I need days instead of hours to make any difference to whatever health problem they have.

If and when you see a hog out in the day the poor thing is not ok whatever their size, please pick them up and put them in a high sided box with a towel to hide in, then get them help, they are totally harmless, not flea ridden, totally desperate for help, they have a terrible life in the wild with so many difficulties to face which they don't deserve and I am glad to be here for them.

Thank you to Elaine for bringing in a very small female, (pictured) she is quite unwell but I am doing everything in my power and medicine cupboard to make her better, she is a mere 200 grams and has an awful parasite burden, please wish her well and also the newly released hedgehogs.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society telephone number is 01584 890801. My Facebook page is: Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel. Email: [pricklyhaven@yahoo.com](mailto:pricklyhaven@yahoo.com) (not for hedgehog emergencies please).



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# North East U16 Girls

Sedgefield Water Polo Club would like to congratulate Isha who was selected to represent the North East U16 Girls at the Division 2 Inter Regions tournament held in Walsall over the weekend of 29th-30th June. The girls played two brilliant games against Scotland, narrowly losing in the last quarter, and secured a win and a draw against the West Midlands. Their performance over the weekend made everyone incredibly proud, and the coaches look forward to seeing them build on this success in the future. Isha joined us back in 2020 as a young 10 year old having only played polo for fun. Her success in being selected to represent the region is testament to the hard work she puts into her training and her dedication to representing the club at matches and tournaments across the north east area. We'd also like to advise that we can now offer player sponsorships for just £30 per player for this season in return for regular advertising and promotion on our social media pages. If this is something that your business may be interested in, please don't hesitate to get in touch. All monies raised will be used to allow our fantastic members the opportunity to develop their skills and provide them with the equipment they need in order to succeed in the sport.



In addition to Junior and Senior sessions, Sedgefield Water Polo Club now offers a beginner session at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on a Saturday afternoon for those wishing to try this fun and exciting sport. All sessions need to be booked in advance on our Club App, so please check our website for further information and joining instructions, email [sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com) or contact 07579 030598.

# K9 Competition

On 3rd and 4th August dogs and handlers travelled from all over the country to the Aycliffe sports centre to compete in the K9 Pursuits heel work to music and freestyle competition. On the Friday night, the sports hall was transformed into an area for handlers to compete and show off their skills with their wonderful dogs. Rosettes and prizes were given out to those that were lucky enough to be placed. Spot prizes were given to others that impressed the judges. K9 Pursuits thank everybody for their support in making this competition one of the best in the country. If you are interested in finding out more about heel music and freestyle or any aspect of dog training, please email Gill or Andi at: [k9pursuitsltd@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:k9pursuitsltd@hotmail.co.uk)



# Newton Aycliffe Women's Institute

Your local WI has lots happening as we move into summer and early autumn. This month we will be getting into making a simple, but stylish, craft and we have speakers organised for September and a birthday party in October. We support a local charity, Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group, with the proceeds of our monthly competition. Summer has seen us out and about, supporting the Petting Zoo with a very successful refreshment stall and on Friday 30th August the very popular Sweet Delights evening will be held at St. Clare's Church. We have a variety of excursions in the planning stage for our members, including an Afternoon Tea on the Teesside Princess and a trip to Northallerton Wednesday market. There is lots going on at WI House in Spennymoor, including short breaks, September has a trip visiting Bletchley Park and Waddesdon Manor, there are workshops on Felting and Rag Rugging, an invitation to join the North East Wool Show at Newcastle Racecourse and a talk on the World of Gemology. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm in St Clare's church hall in the town centre. There is no need to be lonely as a WI member, come and join us, all women are welcome. If you have any questions or queries, please contact our President, Christine Robinson, on 07981 992686.

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E: [alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk)

I want to start by thanking everyone who's emailed or written to me with local concerns or issues. My constituency office team have now started and we're working hard to make sure all of the issues are picked up. If you'd like to contact me, you can get in touch via email to: [alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk)

My last week in Parliament, before recess, was a busy one. Safeguarding the 700 world-class engineering jobs at Hitachi Rail in Newton Aycliffe remains a top priority for me as your MP. Following a site visit to the plant with other regional MPs, I led a meeting for MPs from around the North East with the Transport Secretary in Parliament. I was pleased to hear that ministers have got civil servants working at pace to explore all available options with the Hitachi management team.

I also met trade union officials at the plant to update them and discuss the important issue of how we maintain as many jobs at the factory as we can, despite the very difficult situation they were left in. I'll be in regular contact with Transport Ministers, Hitachi senior leaders and union representatives to keep the pressure on to push for this to be resolved.

Whilst in Westminster, I was honoured to be appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Education Secretary. This role means I'll work closely with Bridget Phillipson MP and her ministerial team to deliver Labour's ambitious education policies. This includes free breakfast clubs, recruiting 6500 more teachers, childcare in 3000 nurseries and providing mental health support in every school.

Back here at home, I've been working closely with the Northern Echo to put pressure on the Environment Agency to tackle the unpleasant smell that residents in Aycliffe Village, the town and surrounding areas have been complaining about for many months. I've written a joint letter to the Environment Agency with Darlington MP Lola McEvoy whose constituents in Brafferton and North Darlington are also affected. We've requested an urgent update, a site visit, results from the air quality testing they've undertaken with the UK Health Security Agency and a public meeting with officials to set out the latest to residents. Finally, I've been appalled by the rioting and disorder that we've seen, including in parts of the North East. This has only involved very small numbers of people, but has caused serious damage to local businesses and community centres, as well as leaving police officers hospitalised. Our Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, has been clear that violence on Britain's streets will never be tolerated. The government has courts on standby to sentence violent offenders, 24 hours a day, to ensure justice is done clearly and swiftly. Anyone found to be attacking people, properties or the police should expect to be dealt with very severely. We are a proud, civilised nation where this sort of organised criminality will not go unpunished.

Aycliffe is a strong and longstanding community. We will rise above the hate and division that a tiny minority of people are trying to ferment on social media. We are stronger together.

Alan Strickland, MP for Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor.

**“Dad was a police officer for 28 years.**

I remember listening to his stories and being fascinated by it all.

- PC Jon Cowell

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## N.A.F.C. REPORT

On Saturday 10th August Newton Aycliffe FC open their second NPL East campaign with a trip to the world's oldest football club, Sheffield FC. There'll be a positive mood in the Aycliffe camp, after Saturday's friendly 2-0 win over Step 3 side Basford United. Goals from Cole Kiernan and a long range strike from Jake Petitjean gave Brian Atkinson's side the win. Sheffield finished 12th last season, in a season marred with inconsistency. They lost just five times at home, but thirteen times on the road. It is Aycliffe's second consecutive season which begins on the road after last season's opening fixture at North Ferriby United, which finished in a 4-1 defeat.

### Head-To-Head

Newton Aycliffe are unbeaten thus far against Sheffield, with Liam Adamson scoring in both games against them. He's also the only Aycliffe player to score against Sheffield too.

The most recent contest in March was a 1-1 draw played at Gainsborough Trinity, due to emergency pitch remedial work needed at The Home Of Football.

### Recent Results

Sheffield FC have already played one competitive game this season, winning 2-1 at home against NPL-West side Nantwich Town in the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round. Luke Mangham kicked off the scoring for the home side in the 28th minute until they were pegged back in the second half by Nantwich's Byron Harrison. Sheffield FC would be the next to score, however, and Luke Aldrich's 76th minute goal confirmed Sheffield's progress into the next round.

### Emley

Aycliffe's first home game of the season sees newly promoted Emley visit Moore Lane on Tuesday 13th August (KO 7.45pm). Emley finished 2023-24 as the champions of the Northern Counties East League, earning them promotion to Step 4.

### Upcoming Fixtures

Saturday 10th August - Sheffield FC (away)

Tuesday 13th August - Emley (home)

Saturday 17th August - Whitley Bay (home) - Emirates FA Cup

Wednesday 21st August - Heaton Stannington (away)

Saturday 24th August - Ossett United

Monday 26th August - Bishop Auckland (away)

Saturday 31st August - Sherwood Colliery (home).

*Report by Ryan Livingston. Photo by Yvonne Wood: Jake Petitjean, scorer of a 25 yard screamer against Basford United on Saturday.*



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 to you both.  
 Love from all the family xxxxx

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# Bishop Auckland's Free Family Festival



Cultural Entertainment Company, Bacchanalia is thrilled to announce a free Family Festival will be taking place on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th August at Jane Armstrong Park, Bishop Auckland. Linking with Bishop Auckland Town Hall's summer activity programme and the national touring exhibition, Carboniferous Monsters, currently at the Town Hall until the 31st August, the family festival will be all about '100 million years before the dinosaurs'. County Durham's vast coalfields were created during the Carboniferous period by the compressed remains of animals and plants which existed at that time. These prehistoric remains were the source of the carbon which formed coal that powered the industrial revolution and the climate change we're facing today. Embracing the Carboniferous Monsters theme, the festival will feature a variety of activities and creative workshops, including cave painting, dinosaur training, fossil finding and bug handling. The weekend of prehistoric adventure and fun promises an array of attractions designed to entertain the whole family. Highlights include a multi-media tent, festival food, live shows, and hopefully some summer sun, providing local families an opportunity to engage with arts and culture in the park. Children will have the chance to encounter giant dinosaurs, witness cave people performing a Cave Rave on stage, participate in dinosaur training, enjoy cave painting crafts, and hunt for fossils and gems. "Durham County Council are happy to be supporting Bacchanalia's Family Festival this year, which links with our own summer activity programme and exhibitions at Bishop Auckland Town Hall, giving families the opportunity to interact with artists and performers in creative activities and see the Carboniferous Monsters and Dinosaurs on show throughout the summer." Debbie Connell, Cultural Engagement Officer & Curator, BATH Gallery Jane Armstrong Park on Watling Road in Bishop Auckland is named after a beloved community figure and plays an integral role in the town's recreational life. It's a place where the community can enjoy open spaces and engage in various outdoor activities and is conveniently accessible from the largest suburban areas in the town. Bacchanalia would like to thank the Stronger Towns Fund and Bishop Auckland Town Council for their generous support and funding which has made this weekend family event possible. The festival aims to strengthen community ties by delivering arts and culture to the doorsteps of local families, giving them the chance to engage and socialise in familiar places. Delivering a free programme of creative enrichment is part of Bacchanalia's mission for positive culture, everywhere. For more information go to Bacchanalia.com

## Dogs on Leads

Dear Sir,  
 There were several times where little dogs chase bigger dogs around and the owner thinks it is fun, but if their dog gets attacked it will be a different story. Just because your dog is little, please respect other dogs and keep it on a leader like you should. Also, it is against the law to not pick up your dog poo, just because it is little it is still dog poo and should be picked up. Respect your pets and respect people around you and the local environment. Name and address supplied.

**Obituary**

**Thomas William Johnson**

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of our wonderful Dad and Grandad, of Newton Aycliffe, formally Thornley, Co. Durham. Tommy passed away suddenly, but peacefully, on 2nd August 2024, aged 96 years. Beloved Husband to the late Molly; much loved Dad to Pamela, Tom, Bernard, Paul, Anne and the late Angela; much respected Father-in-Law and the proudest Grandad to fifteen Grandchildren, nineteen Great-Grandchildren and three Great-Great-Grandchildren. Son to the late George and Isabel; Brother to the late Edith; Brother-in-Law, Uncle and good friend to many, near, far, past and present. Service to celebrate his long and wonderful life will take place at Durham Crematorium on Friday 16th August 2024 at 2pm. Family flowers only please, given Tommy's great love for animals, especially dogs, and in memory of his beloved Dandy, donations, if so desired, would be graciously received for the Dogs Trust at Sadberge. The family would like you to join us afterwards at Woodham Golf Club, Newton Aycliffe from 3.30pm, those who are unable to travel to Durham are also warmly welcomed to remember this very special man, our Dad.



**Rita Murray Lowes**

We announce the sad passing of Rita Murray Lowes on 27th July 2024, aged 87. Leaving behind Partner Eric; loving and devoted Son David; Daughter-in-Law Lesley; Grandchildren Curtis and Rebecca; Great Grandchildren Isla Mae and Sophia Grace. A special lady adored by her family and friends. When the time is right, one day we will find you again. RIP Mam, we love you. Funeral on Monday 12th August, 10.30am at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon.

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**In Memoriam**

**Yvonne Robinson**

*8th August 2016*  
 Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear. Love, Sid and family.

**Yvonne Robinson**

*Died 8th August 2016*  
 Constantly thinking, never to be the same. The tears fall quickly, just hearing your name. Your loving Sister Marie and family.

## PUZZLE CORNER

**Sudoku**

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| 6 |   |   |   |  | 3 | 1 | 4 |   |
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| 7 | 9 | 6 |   |  |   |   |   | 3 |
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From 1st September 2024, 15 hours childcare will be expanded to eligible working parents with children aged 9 months old up to 3 years old. Parents are being urged to visit Childcare Choices to check what support they might be eligible for and how to apply: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

The Department for Education is urging parents to apply as early as possible to get their childcare code. The 31st August deadline also applies to the existing thirty hours childcare for 3 and 4 year olds.

The cross-government campaign aims to make more parents aware of the financial support on offer to help them with the costs of childcare. There is a range of other government support to help working families with the costs of childcare, including Tax-Free Childcare and Universal Credit Childcare.

**What we can offer:**

- New data (released July 2024) from the Department for Education's Childcare and early years survey of parents, which reveals:
  - 66% of working mothers of 0-4 year olds said that having reliable childcare helped them go to work, a rise from 60% in the previous year
  - 72% of children aged 0-4 used childcare.

**Croft Circuit**

**August 10th/11th**  
Historic Festival Weekend and Show.  
**August 24th/25th**  
Darlington & District Motor Club Battle of Britain Race Meeting.  
**September 7th/8th**  
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**September 21st/22nd**  
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**November 24th**  
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**Bethany Beach Day**



A wonderful day for the residents of Bethany House, their families, staff and friends, with a selection of seaside activities arranged including sensory jars, fish & chips, ice cream, Brian and his street organ playing tunes and Aycliffe Uke's (ukelule band) strumming their strings and singing songs. We would like to thank everyone involved - it was a 'Whole Home Approach'.  
Debbie.

**From Empty Building to Vital Community Hub**

More than 1,000 cups of coffee, six hundred pots of tea, 500 breakfast buns and countless slices of homemade cake have been served in a community-run shop, café and heritage centre in its first month.



When Cotherstone in Teesdale lost its shop and post office, residents took matters into their own hands, transforming the village's former Methodist Chapel into a place where locals and visitors can shop, socialise and celebrate the area's heritage.

The Old Chapel opened in June, following years of hard work and fundraising by the community, which raised an impressive £120,000 towards the project. This was boosted by a £120,000 grant from Durham County Council's Towns and Villages Community Resilience Fund; £40,000 from Teesdale Area Action Partnership's Towns and Villages Fund; and a total of £20,000 from Cllr Richard Bell and Cllr Ted Henderson's neighbourhood budgets.

This week, Cllr James Rowlandson, the council's Cabinet member for resources, investment and assets, joined Cllr Bell and Cllr Henderson on a tour of the building, which now includes a café and shop selling a range of household and kitchen essentials.

The councillors also learned about the positive difference the venue is making, including:

- Providing employment to 12 people, the majority of which live in the Cotherstone area.
- Serving more than 2,500 customers.
- Raising £300 for local causes by selling ice creams at Cotherstone Fun Weekend.
- Providing more than 200 hours of volunteering opportunities.

To find out more about Durham County Council's Towns and Villages Programme, visit [www.durham.gov.uk/townsandvillages](http://www.durham.gov.uk/townsandvillages)  
For more information about the council's 14 Area Action Partnerships, visit [www.durham.gov.uk/AAPs](http://www.durham.gov.uk/AAPs)  
And to find out more about The Old Chapel, visit [www.theoldchapel.info](http://www.theoldchapel.info)

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



# Newton Aycliffe Athletics Club Running Update



It has been another busy week for Aycliffe Running Club with the races continuing to come thick and fast. On Wednesday 31st July, three members took part in the Gerry Kearsley Handicap race which is a multi terrain route on trails around Fishburn and Bishop Middleham with handicaps based on a most recent 10k time. Keith Hatton (58:00), Sarah Gill (53:44) and John Burnside (53:51) all represented the club. On Saturday 3rd August, one member took part in the Isaacs Tea Trail Race, which is a 37-mile loop from Allendale, via Nenthead, Alston and Ninebanks and includes over 5,000 feet of ascent, making it a really challenging run for anyone. Set in stunning scenery, Sandrine Hewitt completed the course, running further than the suggested distance, finishing in a time of 12:33:01. All the more remarkable considering the injury problems she faced in the build up to the race. There were times she felt like giving up, but Sandrine showed amazing determination and mindset to keep going until the end and everyone at the club is proud of her achievement. On Sunday 4th August, an amazing 40 members took part in the Darlington 10k, a fantastic turnout from the club. Representing the club were Mikey Taylor (35:42 and a huge new PB), Trevor Dixon (36:27, a new PB), Richard Campbell (37:28), Matt Muir (37:49 and new PB), Richard Trowles (39:50), Sam Keenan (40:20 a

new PB), Kieron O'Connor (40:03 a new PB), Gary O'Connor (41:04 a new PB), Richard Holland (43:21), Martyn Knox (43:15), Daniel Tatham (43:32 and a new 10k PB), Jimmy Agnew (45:04), Bernadette Cooper (46:21), Lucy Postle (46:30), Trevor Needham (48:18), Kevin Tatham (48:17), Shaun Dodds (49:40), Sarah Gill (51:15), Sammie Metcalfe (52:18), David Stothard (51:47), John Burnside (52:17), Tamara Kirk (53:18), Cloe Livermore (53:33) Salv McDonnell (54:42), Steve Williams (54:12), Cath McDonnell (54:30), Trish Kay (54:35), Richard MacFarlane (55:00), Rob Nicholson (58:26), Sue Podmore (59:25), Gareth Hamblin (1:02:37), Sam Harding (1:01:47), Yvonne Blewitt (1:03:09), Richard Tonge (1:03:21), Eve Doe (1:05:10), Peter Varley (1:06:01), Viv Williams (1:07:25), Em Flynn (1:09:31), Ian Stothard (1:12:14) and Tracey Pickering (1:20:43).

On the same day, one member took part in the South Shields 10 mile race, with Ian Payne (1:48:42) using the run as a warm up for his upcoming Ultramarathon.

Also on the same day, one member took part in the Run the Raid Lindisfarne Trail Half Marathon which starts at Spittal near Berwick, running along the coast before running up the causeway to Holy Island. Nici Ingman (2:47:07) was the sole representative for the club.

On Saturday 3rd August, 28 members started their weekend with a parkrun. Salv McDonnell (26:47) set a new PB for the course at Fountains Abbey with Cath McDonnell (29:00) also completing the course. At Cliffe Castle, Em Flynn (38:16) completed the course for the first time. Daniel Tatham set a new PB at Jubilee Park showing the fantastic improvements he has made with his running. At Hamsterley, Rob Young (22:15) completed the course for the first time with Rob Nicholson (32:48) setting a new PB for the course. At Wynyard Woodland, Bernadette Cooper (22:38) finished as second female with Angela Sutheran (25:03) fourth female.

If you are feeling inspired and are interested in joining the club, you can turn up for one of our sessions. More information is available on our website [www.ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk](http://www.ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk) - or our Facebook page. If you would like to chat with someone, then you can email [ayclifferrunningclub@gmail.com](mailto:ayclifferrunningclub@gmail.com) - If interested in the Junior Section you can email [arc.juniorsection@gmail.com](mailto: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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