

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper

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Newton Aycliffe's Hidden Gem in the World of Collectibles



Nestled in the heart of Newton Aycliffe, Total Cards has rapidly grown from a small online retailer to one of the UK's leading destinations for trading cards and collectibles. With a passion for bringing the joy of collecting to enthusiasts of all ages, Total Cards has built a thriving business that not only offers a wide array of products but also fosters a community of like-minded individuals who share a love for the hobby.

Founded in 2012, Total Cards started as a humble operation, driven by the simple idea of making the world of trading cards more accessible. Today, the company has expanded significantly, offering an extensive catalogue that includes popular trading card games like Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh!, Magic: The Gathering, and much more. The company's commitment to quality, customer service and competitive pricing has made it a go-to resource for collectors both locally and internationally. What sets Total Cards apart from the competition is not just its vast selection, but its dedication to the customer experience. The company prides itself on its fast and reliable shipping, with orders often dispatched the same day they're placed. Their website, totalcards.net, is designed to be user-friendly, allowing customers to easily find what they're looking for, whether it's a rare card to complete a collection or the latest booster packs on the market.

But Total Cards isn't just about selling cards; it's about building a community. The company regularly hosts events, both in-person and online, where fans can come together to share their passion, trade cards and even compete in friendly tournaments. These events have become a staple for local collectors, providing a welcoming environment where everyone from beginners to seasoned pros can enjoy the hobby.

"We're incredibly proud to be based in Newton Aycliffe," says Adrian Marsden, founder of



Total Cards. "Our roots are here, and it's been amazing to grow alongside this vibrant community. We've always believed that our success is tied to the support of our local customers and we're committed to giving back through our events and initiatives."

In addition to serving the local community, Total Cards has made a significant impact on the global stage, with customers from all corners of the world turning to them for their collectible needs. This international reach hasn't come at the expense of their local presence, however. The team at Total Cards remains deeply involved in the Newton Aycliffe community, supporting local events, schools and charities. As Total Cards continues to grow, they remain committed to their core values: providing top-notch customer service, offering the best possible prices, and fostering a love for the hobby. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just getting started, Total Cards is the place to turn for all your trading card needs.

Visit totalcards.net to explore their extensive range of products, or stop by their Newton Aycliffe location to meet the team and see why Total Cards is a true gem in our town. You can find our store at 6 Maple Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6BF

Newton Aycliffe Independent Supporters Club (NAISC)

We are a group of local lads who have been supporting Newton Aycliffe Football Club for twelve years, home and away. Before this season started we were the first organisation to sign up to the new sponsorship scheme, CLUB 30. The benefits of the scheme really appealed to our group so it was an easy decision to invest.

For last Saturday's home game against Ossett we received one of the many benefits on offer and we were proud Match Day Sponsors. Exclusive photographs behind our pitchside board along with the 'Gaffer' Brian Atkinson and some of the players, was a real highlight. Inclusion in the Match Programme, which contained an interesting description of us, attracted many comments from other fans during and after the game.

To be Match Day Sponsors for such an entertaining game and emphatic win for the team, was the icing on the cake.

But we're just a small group of dedicated supporters, who saw value in investing in our town's team. What we struggle to understand is why so many other local organisations can't see the value and kudos in investing too. PR and social media don't apply to us but surely, it must appeal and be of immense value to many businesses in Newton Aycliffe.

The team has achieved tremendous success in the past few seasons and with increased support can go even further.

NAISC are calling on local businesses and, we've certainly got our fair share of global players, to join us by signing up to CLUB 30 and provide the team with more support.

We'd also like to encourage all Newtonians to come along to the games and join us in cheering the lads on to further success. It's a brilliant afternoon, or evening, watching some quality football, whilst enjoying tasty food from Victoria's Kitchen and for those who like a tippie there's a fully stocked Can Bar.

COME ON . . . PLEASE JOIN US.

Cheers, all the lads from NAISC.



Sounds of 60s

The Scout Centre on Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe are proud to present 'Mally C' and a 'Sounds of the 50s and 60s' show on Saturday 31st August, doors open at 7pm. Entry on the door is £1.00 with bingo and tombola.

Vintage and Classic Cars


The Scout Centre on Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe in conjunction with the Northern Bygones Society bring to you a vintage and classic car show on Sunday 1st September from 10.00am to 3.00pm. Entry is free and food will be available. For more information contact Paul on 07968 367438.

The Voice of Conscience
Jesus came to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfort

The County Council of Durham
(Philpotts Walk, Newton Aycliffe)
(Temporary Footpath Closure) Order 2024

The Council on 23/8/2024 made the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all pedestrian traffic from proceeding on a 16 metre length of Philpotts Walk, Newton Aycliffe to the front of no.1 Philpotts Walk to enable new electrical connection works to be undertaken. Throughout the period of closure, a diversion will be available to pedestrian traffic on surrounding footpaths around Philpotts Walk. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence from 8am on Monday 2/9/2024 and are anticipated to be completed in 5 days. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

Dated: 30/8/2024

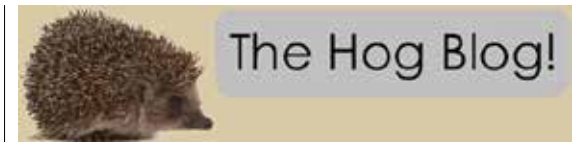


Helen Bradley
Director of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham

Rotary RYLA - Mission Accomplished



Recently, Honorary Member of Rotary Newton Aycliffe, Roger Curtis and wife Sue, safely delivered our three Rotary Youth Leadership (RYLA) participants to camp in Baldersdale. Pictured taking part are Sam and Laura with Roger and also Adam, who is captured in the photo sliding backwards down a Teesdale waterfall and then we see him as he prepares to ascend Goldsbrough for the Shelterbox challenge. Looks like they all had a great time and we look forward to their presentation in September at our club with more action photos.



Just when you feel you are at a point of recovering from past events another tragedy struck me last week. A few months ago I sent a couple of my hedgehogs to Cockfield to be placed into soft release, that I understood was safe. This was not the case at all because a badger managed to rip the wire and got inside the soft release and killed a hog, it was merciless, horrific and extremely painful for the poor soul who couldn't escape, one of mine, Autumn, managed to escape because she was a small female, a mere 600 grams. Bless her she hasn't been seen since.

I have cried lots of tears recently for these poor souls and as I have explained in previous articles they don't have it easy, in fact it's quite distressing to see them poorly when I bring them into my home to care for them and hope I can save them from whatever they suffer from.

It's hard enough what I do, I admit, diagnose, treat and rehabilitate so we can release back to the wild and we hope that they stay safe and explore, they clean your gardens of the nasties that kill your plants etc., but people put slug pellets down and pesticides, there really isn't any need for it, your visiting hedgehog will do it free of charge and all they ask in return is some kitten biscuits and water which is cheaper than weed killers.

I have admitted quite a few in recent weeks and I am happy to say that they are all doing well, even little Angel (pictured) who fell down a drain, she is doing very nicely but she and a lot of others are too small to leave as yet, some may need overwintering including Belle from Bluebell Close, thanks Steph for bringing her in and also another tiny girl, I have named her Bubbles, she has come from a farm that has a badger presence in Darlington, she is too small to even be without her mum. I have advised her finder that she needs overwintering and re-releasing somewhere safer.

On a brighter note, I decided to try my first scratch card and it was a phenomenal success, I have even paid my vets bill. Thank you all for your support. I work to very high standards for these poor souls. Also, I have been invited to Defoe Court Nursing Home to talk about our prickly friends which I am looking forward to immensely.

I have six releases leaving the rescue, thank you Lesley, Steve, Pat and Fred for allowing them to leave captivity from your beautiful hedgehog friendly gardens.

If you see a hedgehog out in the day she is not ok, please ring the British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 899801. My Facebook page is Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel, email: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com



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St. Francis' Sports Day



Although our Sports Day didn't go exactly as we had hoped, we refused to let some rain and flooded fields deter us - we adapted by hosting an Indoor Sports Day. The students of St. Francis' school formed teams and engaged in various games throughout the school to accumulate points and compete for the Sports Day victory. Their enthusiasm and teamwork shone brightly, every child gave their best, showcasing remarkable sportsmanship and camaraderie and the day was filled with laughter and cheers as students participated in events like shot put, zig-zag running, beanbag toss and basketball, to name a few. Staff joined in on the fun, encouraging the students and sometimes even participating in the games themselves. The overall winners were the Red team - congratulations! A special shout-out to the Green team for their amazing effort in the shot put and to the Blue team for their outstanding performance in the hockey game. The Yellow team also deserves recognition for their team spirit and effort. In the end, it wasn't just about winning or losing, it was about coming together as a school community and making the best out of a rainy day. The indoor sports day turned out to be a memorable and joyous occasion, reminding everyone that with a little creativity and a positive attitude, any challenge can be turned into an opportunity for fun and learning. As the students and staff look forward to next year's Sports Day, they carry with them the lessons of resilience, teamwork and the importance of embracing the unexpected with a smile. Here's to many more fantastic Sports Days at St. Francis' school. Congratulations to the Red team, our champions.



School Aycliffe Community Association

We're back after the Summer break!
Our next coffee, cake and stuff will be held on Thursday 5th September from 11am to 2pm and our October session will be our annual Macmillan Cancer Support fundraising event. If you would like to make a donation towards the Macmillan fundraising event (raffle/tombola) a donation box, where items can be left will be available on Thursday 5th September - (timings to follow for Macmillan event). Please contact a committee member to arrange collection if you are unable to attend and would like to make a donation. Many thanks for all your support, and we look forward to seeing you all very soon. Elizabeth & Chris

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GCSE Success for Students

GCSE pupils across County Durham are being congratulated after reaching a huge milestone. Durham County Council has praised students receiving their results, with 62% of children across the county achieving the pass grade of four and above in English and Maths. Cllr Ted Henderson, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "Today is a momentous day for all students receiving their GCSE results and I would like to congratulate them all. Students should feel very proud, not just of their achievement but also of their hard work over the course of their GCSEs."

"While nationally the pass rate has fallen for a third year, within County Durham we have seen the pass rate maintained from last year. This is testament to the hard work and commitment shown by our pupils."

"It can be disappointing for those who don't get the results they hoped for, but it's important to remember that there are lots of different paths to success. Here in County Durham, we have help and support available for everyone as they continue their journey into education, employment or training so please don't feel disheartened." Pupils can access a range of advice around apprenticeships, recruitment, and training for 16 to 24-year-olds at www.durhamworks.info For more information about the council's apprenticeship programmes and adult learning and employability courses visit: www.durham.gov.uk/jobsandcareers

Meanwhile, the mental health and wellbeing community Kooth is offering support to young people via its website www.kooth.com and social media channels, @KoothUK on Facebook or @Kooth_UK on Instagram.

The charity Young Minds also offers support and guidance online: www.youngminds.org.uk

UTC Students Celebrate Exam Results

Students at UTC South Durham are celebrating after receiving top grades in Level 3 and GCSE courses that have allowed many students to go to University and secure Degree Level Apprenticeships. This years A Level students achieved a 98% pass rate, the highest rate ever since UTC opened in 2016.



This success highlights the strength and depth of the tailored curriculum, designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed for both higher education and the world of work.

One Sixth Form student who secured a degree level apprenticeship was Alisha Paige-Leather who will start at Sellafeld as an apprentice nuclear engineer. Two students have secured apprenticeships with companies they have worked with during their time at UTC. Edward Crumper (pictured) has been successful in securing an apprenticeship at DBS Fabrications and Luke Ibbertson has landed an apprenticeship at Husqvarna.

At the GCSE level, many students significantly exceeded their baseline assessments, demonstrating the substantial academic progress made whilst studying at UTC. As a result, a large number of students have chosen to continue their studies at UTC's Sixth Form.

UTC is already full for Year 10 in September with a waiting list also in place for their pre apprenticeship course at Sixth Form. Enrolment is still open for students wanting to study A Levels or T Level Engineering.

Greenfield 2024 Leavers Celebrate



Greenfield Academy is thrilled to be sharing an upward trend of improvement in our exam results in 2024, reflecting the hard work and dedication of our children and staff. As a proud and ambitious school, we are committed to fostering an environment where every child has every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

This continued improvement is a testament to our collective effort and determination to excel with over 130 of the grades awarded to the children at Grade 7 or higher.

The school became part of the Advanced Learning Partnership trust in September 2023 and their positive support and guidance is already paying dividends for our children. A brand-new building next year and now an improving trend of academic excellence. At Greenfield Academy, we believe in nurturing, not just academic excellence, but also kindness and character, ensuring our children are well-prepared for the future giving our children every chance of success.

St. Francis' Prom



St. Francis' Junior School Prom 2024 will forever remain a cherished memory for the children and staff. Parents, carers, and staff watched with pride, capturing moments with their cameras.

The evening was spent learning circus skills with the amazing Emma and reflections on the unforgettable moments spent at St. Francis. The crowning of the Prom King and Queen was a highlight, met with excitement and surprise. The chosen duo, radiating joy, received thunderous applause and cheers from their peers. Congratulations to Kason and Amelia!

As the night drew to a close, the strong sense of unity and camaraderie was unmistakable. Beyond a mere prom, it symbolised a celebration of friendship, progress and, the promising future awaiting each student. The team at St. Francis' is immensely proud of every child in Year 6 and has cherished witnessing their remarkable growth into the individuals they are today. Keep dreaming big and shining brightly in everything you pursue.

Always remember, you will forever be part of the St. Francis' Family.



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Exam Success at New College Durham

New College Durham (the largest education provider in County Durham) is celebrating the achievements of their T-Level, A-Level, and Vocational and Technical students as they receive their results recently.

Alison Maynard, Deputy Principal at New College Durham, expressed pride in the students' achievements, stating: "Today we are acknowledging the fantastic achievements of our students across the many different courses on offer. Many are reaping the rewards of their hard work and determination, and they should all be immensely proud of their accomplishments."

Launched in 2022, T-Levels are technical-based qualifications, developed in collaboration with employers and businesses, with content that meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training, or study. T Levels are two-year courses that can be studied by 16 to 18 year-olds after finishing their GCSEs. T Level students have triumphed with 100% pass rate in Civil Engineering, Digital Production, Design and Development, Early Years Educator, Supporting Healthcare and Surveying and Design for Construction and the Built Environment with an impressive 69% of students achieving the high grades of merit and distinction equivalent to three Bs or As at A-level.

The college is equally thrilled with the achievements of its A-Level and Vocational and Technical students too.

An impressive 97% of A-Level students passed their qualifications, with 35% achieving grades of B or above. In twelve subjects the pass rate was a spectacular 100%.

For other vocational and technical qualifications, a superb 92% of students gained their qualification, this remarkable achievement

rate bears testament to their hard work and commitment over the past two years. The future is undoubtedly bright for these accomplished students as they move on into either their chosen career or further academic studies.

Alison added, "New College Durham has earned a reputation for success. We offer a wide choice of subjects, expert teaching and individual help and support for students looking to progress to university, apprenticeship or employment.

I'm sure that the students would join with me in taking this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff whose unwavering support has, in many ways, been instrumental in their success. Witnessing these triumphs and the joy they bring is a source of immense pride for everyone here at New College Durham." 2024 has been a remarkable year for New College Durham. It was awarded Beacon status from the Association of Colleges for its engagement with employers and last month was named Larger Business of the Year by North East Chamber of Commerce and also received the award of North East Training Provider of the Year for Apprenticeships. The recent results have ended the academic year on an exceptional high for everyone involved.



Teesside Sprint Series



On the weekend of August 24th/25th Newton Aycliffe based kart racer Scarlet Whitaker Dunn attended Teesside Autodrome for round 6 of the Teesside Sprint Series.

She was racing in the highly competitive Honda Cadet 200cc class on what turned out to be a weekend of mixed weather conditions.

An unfortunate qualifying session left Scarlet with lots of work to do in her races, the last one particularly, meaning that she would start the final race of the day from an undesirable 19th place on the grid of the 27 kart field.

Scarlet got off the start line well and displayed great race craft gaining six places before the chequered flag was dropped. She had also just got on to the back of the next pack of karts, so, further progress was likely had there been a few more laps.

"Whilst I enjoyed the weekend my favourite part was the finale, after suffering many discouraging setbacks throughout not just the weekend but the season, I managed to gain six places in the finale which brought a huge smile to my face," said Scarlet.

"I was super impressed and very proud of Scarlet this weekend, showing great race craft and determination," said Mam.

Bring on Round 7.

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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LIFE IN A NEW TOWN

Newton Aycliffe celebrated its 75th anniversary in June 2023.

In 75 years the town has grown from little more than a muddy building site to the mature town we know today; and alongside that growth has developed a wealth of memories of growing up and living in the town.



On Saturday, 7th September 2024 the 'Life in a New Town' will be launched on Beveridge Way, Aycliffe Town Centre by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor John Clark, at 11.45am. The display, filled with personal memories and photographs tells the story of the new town from its beginnings in those early years.

THERE ARE STREET ENTERTAINERS FROM 11.15AM AND A MUSIC STAGE WITH A VARIETY OF PERFORMERS FROM 12PM.

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 Name and address supplied

N.A.F.C. REPORT

**Saturday 24th August
 Newton Aycliffe 4
 v Ossett United 1**

**Monday 26th August
 Bishop Auckland 2
 v Newton Aycliffe 2**



Newton Aycliffe took four points from six over the Bank Holiday weekend. On Saturday Aycliffe recorded an emphatic 4-1 win over Ossett United with a fine team display at Moore Lane. However, it was the visitors who took the lead first in just seven minutes. Aycliffe came back into the game and earned an equaliser on 38 minutes when an Ethan Wood pass found Cole Kiernan who curled the ball passed the keeper. The second half started slowly but Aycliffe once again took the momentum. The 68th minute saw a Wayne Whitfield shot parried by Hughes, but Dale Elgie was on hand to promptly tap the ball home. Two further goals, from Jake Petitjean in the 82nd minute and Cieran Jackson in the 96th minute gave Aycliffe the points. With a hectic Bank Holiday schedule Aycliffe made the short trip to Bishop Auckland on Monday. Once again they conceded an early goal but fought back. Just before half-time Liam Adamson's run on goal was ended when he was brought down by the home keeper. Jake Petitjean slotted home the resulting penalty making it all square at the break. Aycliffe had some good chances in the second half and it was again Petitjean who found the net heading home a Joe Ferguson cross in the 54th minute. Bishop equalised with just two minutes remaining and although both sides had further chances the game finished 2-2. Aycliffe's attention now turns to cup football with a trip to Bamber Bridge on Saturday 31st August in the Emirates FA Cup followed by another away day on Saturday 7th September to Vauxhall Motors in the Isuzu FA Trophy. *Photo by Yvonne Wood, Ryan Lincoln Barrow on the attack against Ossett United. Match report by Ryan Livingston.*

Thank You

Dear Sir,
 About 8.00pm on Friday 23rd August, I had parked in the car park opposite the entrance to the Phoenix Club, I then had a fall on the footpath injuring my arms and knees. I suffer from chronic obstructed pulmonary disease and was having difficulty in getting up. Two young men in a white or cream car stopped and helped me to get up. They were both quite attentive and their assistance was gratefully appreciated. Unfortunately, I did not get their details. Tracy from the Phoenix Club also came and helped me inside where Lindsey dressed grazes on my arm. I would to thank both the young men and the ladies for their help.
 John Malcolm

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Gambling Survey Highlights Needs

Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen has renewed her calls for more effective treatment for offenders with gambling addictions on the back of a major new survey.

The Gambling Survey for Great Britain, launched by the Gambling Commission, provides an unprecedented insight into gambling participation rates across the UK, the experiences and reasons for gambling and the consequences on people's lives and those closest to them.

It found that half of the survey's 10,000 participants had taken part in some form of gambling in the previous month, and that 2.5 per cent had struggled with problem gambling. Furthermore, more than one in 40 who had gambled in the last year had experienced severe harm to their life such as turning to crime to finance gambling.

As the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' (APCC) Joint Addictions Lead, the PCC has fought vigorously for tougher regulation of the industry to hold the sector to account for the consequences of gambling harm, including lobbying for improved betting rules to protect problem gamblers and safeguard children from being drawn into gambling addiction.

She has also spearheaded sweeping local reforms in Durham which saw the force become the first in the country to sign up to the Gambling Charter. This agreement set out the Constabulary's commitment to work collaboratively to tackle gambling harm in the workplace and wider community. Commissioner Allen said: "The evidence from this survey reinforces previous research that for a small minority of people, gambling is a source of significant harm to both themselves, and others."

"It is imperative we take proactive action, rather than reacting to these problems once they become out of control and harm our wider communities. This means doing more to identify, assess and refer offenders with gambling problems into treatment and other support services and rolling out increased protections across the industry to minimise the risk of vulnerable people, including children, developing gambling problems in the first place."

Newton Aycliffe RUFC Show Promise



Newton Aycliffe kicked off their pre-season campaign with a hard-fought match against Richmondshire, ultimately falling 46-12 in a game that was much closer than the scoreline suggests.

The match, played on a sunny afternoon, saw Aycliffe start strongly. Just thirteen minutes in, Josh Dewhurst, sponsored by Cal's Car Valets, crossed the whitewash to put the visitors ahead 5-0. This early momentum carried Aycliffe through the first quarter, as they maintained their lead going into the break.

However, Richmondshire found their footing in the second quarter. By half time, the home side had turned the tables, leading 12-5. Despite the setback, Aycliffe showed resilience and determination as they entered the second half.

Fourteen minutes into the third quarter, Aycliffe's captain, Jason Mclean, sponsored by Multi Surface Fabrications, demonstrated why he wears the armband. Mclean powered over for a try, which was duly converted by Brad Beaumont, sponsored by Lewis Hill - Mortgage and Protection Adviser, bringing the score to a tantalising 17-12 in Richmondshire's favour. As the match wore on, Richmondshire's deeper bench began to tell. Fresh legs and some inspired Fijian flair in their ranks allowed the home side to exploit gaps in a tiring Aycliffe defence. The final score of 46-12 to Richmondshire doesn't reflect the competitive nature of much of the game.

Despite the loss, Aycliffe's performance was full of positives. The team showcased solid defence for long periods and displayed flashes of exciting, expansive rugby that bodes well for the season ahead. Every player who donned the Aycliffe shirt gave their all, showing a spirit and determination that left supporters optimistic for future fixtures.

Jason Mclean, was named Man of the Match for his captain's performance. Mclean led from the front with strong carries, neat offloads, and that crucial try when the team needed a lift. The electric post-match atmosphere in the Aycliffe camp was a testament to the team's spirit and potential. There was a palpable sense that this match, despite the result, was a solid foundation upon which to build their season.

Aycliffe extends their respect and good wishes to Richmondshire for the season ahead, acknowledging a well-played game between two teams with mutual respect.

The squad now looks forward to preparing for their next pre-season clash against Jarrow. If this opening fixture is anything to go by, rugby fans in the area are in for an exciting season of rugby from Newton Aycliffe RUFC.

BEWICK CRESCENT SURGERY SATURDAY WALK-IN CLINICS

Saturday 28th September
8.30am-12.30pm

Over 65 walk-in clinic

Saturday 5th October
8.30am-12.30pm

Ages 18-64 walk-in clinic

Saturday 12th October
8.30am-12.30pm

Any age walk-in clinic

We also have bookable appointments from Monday to Friday, starting at the end of September. Please ring the surgery regarding booking one of these appointments from 1st September onwards.

Thank you,
GP Partners of Bewick Crescent Surgery.



E: alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk

During my election campaign I promised to hold regular advice surgeries if I was elected. I'll be kicking off a busy schedule of regular surgeries from the beginning of September and will publish the dates each month for my surgeries in the weeks ahead.

My team and I have been working hard to find venues across the new constituency. I'll be constantly rotating the locations of surgeries to make sure I reach all of the communities across the area I represent. Each month the list of surgery locations will be slightly different.

How my advice surgeries can help you?

It's really important that as your Member of Parliament I'm here for residents who need my help. Holding advice surgeries is one of the ways I'll be doing that. For many residents facing problems or needing advice, my team and I can quickly pick up your issues with organisations by phone or email. But if you're facing a complex issue that's hard to set out in writing, something sensitive you'd rather discuss in person, or you don't use email, then an advice surgery might be a good way for you to raise your case with me.

Once we've met at one of my surgeries, my staff and I will pick up your issues with the relevant authorities to see what can be done.

Dates for September advice surgeries:

- 6th September, 4-6pm, Ferryhill
- 13th September, 10am-12noon, Spennymoor
- 13th September, 4-6pm, Coxhoe
- 20th September, 1-3pm, Newton Aycliffe
- 20th September, 4-6pm, Sedgfield
- 27th September, 4-6pm, Trimdon Village

How to book an appointment

To meet me at one of my surgeries, you'll need to book an appointment. If you're interested in booking a slot, please email me on: alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk - If you don't use email, you can call the Parliament switchboard on 020 7219 3000 and leave a message, which they will pass to me. Once my constituency office is fully set up, I will be able to provide a direct phone line to my team.

There's a strict convention that Members of Parliament only take up cases from residents living in their constituency, so please make sure to include your name and address in the email.

There's likely to be high demand for slots at my surgeries, so I will prioritise residents facing urgent problems or complex issues that most benefit from an in-person chat. Residents who are booked in for a meeting will be sent a time slot and the address of the venue being used for the surgery.

If my surgery appointments are oversubscribed, or the dates and times aren't convenient for you, don't worry. There are lots of ways I can help. For residents who can't make a surgery, my team and I can provide help by phone, email, video call or a meeting at another time.

Safety and security

Unfortunately, these days, Members of Parliament do have to take safety and security into account when organising surgeries. Security measures will be in place at surgeries to ensure the safety of residents, myself and my team.

Alan Strickland MP

Member of Parliament for Newton Aycliffe & Spennymoor

Vigilance Urged as Records Decline in Fire Incidents

Data from the Home Office reveals a significant decline in fire incidents at non-domestic buildings in County Durham. Between 2019 and 2023, fire and rescue services attended 513 incidents, representing a 15% decrease from the previous five years. The decline underscores the effectiveness of the work that County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue does with local organisations to raise awareness about fire safety practices. Coupled with the introduction of new regulations – such as the October 2023 update to the Home Office's fire safety reform programme, which mandates comprehensive fire risk assessments for all businesses – this demonstrates the impact of proactive measures.



Ansvar, an expert provider of insurance for the charity, care, not-for-profit, and faith sectors, is emphasising the importance of continued vigilance.

Adam Tier, Head of Underwriting at Ansvar, commented: "The decrease in fire incidents across County Durham extremely positive news and highlights the impact that greater awareness and regulation reforms can have, particularly for protecting smaller businesses and organisations in the non-profit sectors, where operational continuity is paramount. Unlike large commercial companies, who may operate across multiple locations or have an ability to utilise hybrid working, many charities and not-for-profit groups cannot continue to function if their premises are rendered unusable due to fire."

Adam Tier continued: "Organisations can take obvious steps like ensuring all areas are equipped with fire alarms and smoke detectors, conducting regular risk assessments, and providing fire safety training to staff and volunteers. However, there are also less obvious measures that can significantly enhance preparedness and resilience against fire incidents. We are encouraging organisations to incorporate these into their fire safety plans for comprehensive protection."

While preventative measures are crucial," Adam Tier added, "specialist insurance tailored to the unique needs of the not-for-profit sector can provide essential protection in the event of a fire. This helps ensure organisations can recover quickly and continue their important work within the community."

Ansvar is part of the Benefact Group, a charity-owned specialist financial services organisation. The Benefact Group is the UK's third-largest corporate donor, underscoring Ansvar's dedication to supporting the wider charitable community.



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A Glittering Event at Raby Castle

A glittering experience is set to arrive in the North East this autumn as Raby Castle, Park and Gardens launches an extravaganza of light, music and storytelling. The Glittering North will be a celebration of the region's Norse and Viking heritage, weaving together tales of folklore and myth, with live music, dance and captivating puppetry which comes alive after dark. The event promises to be a carnival of raucous and fun-filled adventure served with copious amounts of hot chocolate and marshmallows, bringing a smile to the faces of young and old alike. The energetic performances brought to life by the rural Cheshire-based company Wild Rumpus will be woven through the grounds of Raby Castle in a light-filled trail of stories and performance that has something for every age group to enjoy – from foot-stomping folk music set within enchanting spaces, to captivating tales of adventure, myths and legends. Visitors can explore this unique experience at their own pace, getting up close to the

characters of The Glittering North as they weave through the immersive gardens and towering heritage buildings. Sophie Brown, sales and events manager at Raby Estate said: "We wanted to do something very different this autumn following the opening of the wonderful event spaces at Raby Castle. As winter approaches and the nights draw in, The Glittering North launches the most magical of seasons and will appeal to a wide audience who want to press pause for a while and step into another world of folklore, fantasy and enchantment. "Focusing on art and culture and its connection with nature, The Glittering North is a one-of-a-kind event that has been designed by Wild Rumpus specifically to compliment the incredible new spaces and fascinating history we have here at Raby Castle, with stunning illuminations to enchant and delight. "There isn't anywhere else in the North East where amazing puppetry and a trail of mesmerising light art can be enjoyed on this scale and we can't wait to welcome visitors to this very special event and watch them become captivated and spellbound at the glittering north." Visitors can step into the Glittering North at Raby Castle, Park and Gardens on the 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 26th, 27th, 30th, 31st October and the 1st, 2nd, 3rd November. Tickets will be released later this month and cost £20 for adults and £13 for children. For further information and to book tickets, please visit: www.raby.co.uk/events/the-glittering-north



Obituary

Ronald Cross (Ronnie)

2nd March 1930 - 14th August 2024
Died peacefully, but suddenly, in hospital, aged 94.
Much loved Husband of the late Doreen; special Dad to Marjorie and Dave; Father-in-Law of Brian and Joy; Grandad of Mark, Edwin, Kerry and Justine; Great Grandad of Frankie; Brother of Pat and friend of many.
He will be greatly missed.
Funeral will be held at Wear Valley Crematorium on Wednesday 4th September at 10.30am.
Family flowers only, donations in lieu, to St. John's Ambulance and The Great North Air Ambulance.
The family would be pleased if anyone who cannot attend the service could join them for a celebration of Ronnie's life at the Phoenix Club afterwards.

In Memoriam

Mrs Pamela Joyce Rawlinson (nee Whalen - Atkinson)

Died 5th October 23
You fell asleep and angels came, the Lord looked down and called your name, now Heaven has its brightest star and in our thoughts you are never far.
Lots of love, Ken, Louise and Andrew xxx

Eunice Waggott

Peacefully, after a long illness, aged 85. Much loved Mother to Jane and beloved Grandmother to Matthew and Kate. Teacher at Ferryhill Station, Vane Road and Shildon County Junior School. Will family and friends please meet for a service at St. Elizabeth's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Monday 9th September at 10.45 am to be followed by cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium. Everyone is welcome to attend. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, may be made to the church.

Acknowledgement

Tommy Johnson

We, the Family of the late Tommy Johnson would like to sincerely thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind words of support and comfort, cards and flowers and to the many who attended the remarkable celebration of the life of our beloved Dad and Grandad. Following out the wishes of Tommy, heartfelt thanks from him and us to: Bryan Shepherd and colleagues of Whitehouse Funeral Service for their professionalism, Reverend Colin Jay who addressed the service with such care and attention, Newton Press, Petals Florist and Woodham Golf Club. Much appreciation to those within the NHS service who over the last couple of years attended to Tommy's needs especially the Ambulance Crews, DMH, District Nurses, Podiatrists, Medequip, Bewick Crescent Surgery, Pharmacy and also Alisdair and his staff from The Village Pharmacy who served our Dad for many years. Finally, grateful thanks for your kind generosity of donations for the Dogs Trust at Sadberge, a place that was very close to our Dad and Grandad's heart. Gone, but will never be forgotten x

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Hub AGM

The Hub of Wishes Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 12th September at 1.00pm. The AGM will be held at 10-11 Silverdale Place, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7DZ.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

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or paul@newtonnews.co.uk

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

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£100m Plan for 500 Council Houses Takes Step Forward

A £100m project to deliver hundreds of new council houses across County Durham has taken a major step forward, with the appointment of a delivery partner. Durham County Council is planning to provide 500 properties, a mix of bungalows and houses that will be truly affordable and let on secure tenancies, and has appointed Bishop Auckland company T. Manners to help deliver them. Cllr James Rowlandson, the council's Cabinet member for resources, investments

and assets, said: "We are in the midst of a national housing crisis. Not enough properties are being built to meet demand - including the need for affordable housing - and many families are struggling financially in the wake of the recent spikes in inflation and interest rates. County Durham is no different to the rest of the country in that regard and that is why we have taken up the government's invitation for councils to address the shortage.

"We are looking to deliver 500 properties across County Durham, with a mix of bungalows and houses, for the benefit of local people and those in housing need. This programme will see an investment in the county of around £100m - a significant boost for our economy. It will protect existing jobs and create new jobs in the construction industry, and associated supply chain.

"In keeping with our County Durham Pound project, the ability to drive long-term social, economic and environmental benefits, or social value, is fundamentally important to us. It's great therefore to be working in partnership with a locally owned family business to deliver this ambitious programme, which will make a significant difference to those in housing need across the county.

"We look forward to announcing more details of this exciting programme as the sites we are planning to develop progress." The council disposed of its housing stock in 2015 to County Durham Housing Group, now Believe housing. In recent times, the number of affordable properties built in County Durham has not matched the identified need - 836 houses per year. In the five years between 2017/18 and 2021/22, the number of new affordable properties delivered (2,647) was 36.7 per cent below the number needed (4,180). The council's new programme will see houses built mainly on land already in the authority's ownership.

PCC Celebrates Handover Day



Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen has taken ownership of the keys to the new state-of-the-art Durham Investigative Hub from lead developer Tilbury Douglas, marking an important milestone in the project's progress.

The building, which represents the largest investment ever undertaken by the PCC and the Constabulary, will replace the force's ageing custody facilities and provides a new home for an array of investigative and forensic capabilities to improve evidence gathering and secure more convictions for victims of crime.

Developed on land near Spennymoor, the new two-storey Hub provides more than 6,600m² of modern accommodation including 48 custody cells, office space, interview rooms and Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) provision. It also houses evidence stores, virtual courts, CCTV, an energy centre, medical facilities and forensic examination rooms. The investment will transform the operational capability of Durham Constabulary and dramatically improve the wellbeing and safety of officers and staff, and their working conditions, while also enhancing the safety of prisoners, Crime Scene Investigation capability and the handling of evidence.

Work will now continue to fit out the extensive accommodation ahead of staff and officers moving in which will start later in the year. Commissioner Allen said: "This is a proud moment for everyone who has contributed to this ambitious project. It marks the start of an exciting period in our history and is warmly welcomed by the workforce. "These advanced facilities will have a far-reaching impact on our ability to effectively investigate crime and secure justice for victims of crime. They will also greatly improve the safety of detainees and over the longer term deliver operational efficiencies to be reinvested in frontline policing.

"Our police officers and staff work relentlessly to keep the communities of County Durham and Darlington safe. It is important to me that they work in an environment that is fit for purpose and conducive to their wellbeing and needs, while also equipped with the technology and tools they need to do a good job."

The project has been intentionally designed to improve local opportunities, life chances and wellbeing for local people. The PCC, who is the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' (APCC) Joint Lead for Environment and Sustainability, took the decision to include social value principles in procurement tenders to encourage successful bidders to award goods and service contracts to organisations based in County Durham and Darlington and the North East region. The PCC is delighted to have secured total social value exceeding £25 million including exceeding targets for employability, responsible business, wellbeing, environment and improvement categories.

The development has seen Durham Constabulary become the first in the country to utilise Blue Light Commercial Social Value toolkit. The toolkit was designed to help current and future suppliers of police forces across the country develop their own social value action plans. The hub will centralise the force's existing custody facilities with existing suites in Darlington and Durham City closing and Peterlee custody suite retained as a contingency measure. The new building will facilitate 24/7 cover by medical staff which cannot currently be achieved across three sites. This will greatly reduce the number of police hours currently lost by transporting detainees to hospital and waiting in A&E for hundreds of hours a year, instead of being on the streets, catching criminals. It will also allow the force to more effectively monitor and maintain the safety of prisoners while they remain in custody.

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Homeschooling on the Rise

A growing number of parents are considering homeschooling their children to avoid the daily grind of the morning routine and school run. New research reveals that a staggering 77% of parents find school mornings stressful, and almost half (48%) often don't feel like good parents during the morning rush.

This is contributing to almost a quarter (23%) of parents considering homeschooling their child permanently to escape the madness, according to the research carried out by MyNametags.com.

And it seems they're not alone. Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show a dramatic increase in homeschooling over the last two years, with numbers soaring by 11,100 year-on-year between the 2022 and 2023 academic years. With Google Trends data also showing a rise in the number of parents researching home educating over the past decade, it's clear that homeschooling is becoming an increasingly popular choice for families across the UK.

"Our work is centred around making parents' lives easier, so we're always interested in exploring the pressures facing modern families. Our research highlights the significant stress the morning routine can cause and, as a parent myself, I understand the feeling first-hand," says Lars B Andersen, Managing Director at MyNametags.com - "While homeschooling won't be the right fit for every family, it's interesting to see parents exploring alternative educational options to ease the pressure of the school routine."



Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report



Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, were well beaten by eight wickets away at Marton 2nd XI in the NYSD second division. Choosing to bat first, Aycliffe were handily placed at 125 for 4 and looked set for a promising total thanks to an excellent innings by Chris Palmer (sponsored by AccScents Aromas), who top scored with 54 off 103 balls, including eight boundaries with other useful contributions coming from the Dearden brothers, 15 year old Will (25 off 57 balls) and 17 year old Tom (23 off 53 balls). Aycliffe then suffered a familiar collapse losing their last six wickets for just 12 runs to finish on 137 all out after 45.4 overs. In reply, the homeside coasted to a comfortable victory after 25.1 overs with captain James Layfield-Carroll taking the only two Marton wickets to fall. With only three games to go, Aycliffe now seem certain to be relegated to division three after 11 seasons in division two.



The club's second team put in a terrific performance at home to top of the table Rockcliffe Park 2nd XI in the NYSD 4th division and had to be satisfied with a draw after falling just nine runs short of producing the biggest upset of the day. Aycliffe chose to bowl first and restricted the visitors to 157 for 4 from their allotted 40 overs with Leo Mercy (2 for 42), Leon Patel (1 for 25) and Matty Greaves (1 for 31) sharing the wickets. In reply, Aycliffe got off to a good start thanks to opener Patrick Howe, who hit his second consecutive half century, finishing with an excellent 66 from 97 balls, including nine boundaries and Leo Mercy, who supported him well scoring 27 off 77 balls. With the chance of victory in their sights, Aycliffe upped the tempo and despite a run a ball 13 by Matty Greaves, a robust 21 from 22 balls by Adam Shaw and an unbeaten 12 off 21 balls by Leon Patel, Aycliffe's innings eventually closed on 149 for 5 after their allotted 40 overs.

The results from Saturday's games meant that the 2nd team again played the team at the top of the table in their game on Bank Holiday Monday when they hosted new league leaders Billingham Synthonia 2nd XI in a real hum-dinger of a game. The visitors chose to bat first and were dismissed for just 111 after 32.5 overs thanks to some excellent bowling by Ramzan Hussain (3 for 26), Matty Greaves (2 for 13) and Jai Sander (2 for 22). In reply, Aycliffe got off to a good start with opener Patrick Howe continuing his good form with 29 off 50 balls taking his side to 47 for 1. Aycliffe then lost four wickets for 14 runs before captain Dan Weldon smashed 20 off 22 balls to put his side back in the game at 85 for 5 and needing only 28 to win. Leon Patel batted superbly and held the innings together but in an incredibly tense finale, he was the last man out for a gallant 15 off 42 balls as Aycliffe fell to an agonising defeat by just one run. Despite losing by the narrowest of margins, it was an outstanding performance by the 2nd team against the division's top team, especially as all 11 players in the Aycliffe team had uniquely all come through the club's junior set up. Aycliffe's U11's were well beaten by 155 runs in a one sided game away at Northallerton in their final game of the season in the NYACC League. Nine year old captain Harvey Palmer, again emerged with credit after a good all round display, firstly taking 2 for 28 with the ball and then top scoring with 10 runs off 14 balls in the Aycliffe innings.

Photo: Leon Patel holding on to a catch for the 2nd team.

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