

Newton News

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

Walkers in Northern Echo Top 10 Bakers



The Northern Echo's Best Bakery competition is now well and truly open and your favourite local baker needs your support! Three generations of butchers and bakers at this Newton Aycliffe establishment have kept it a mainstay of top quality products for over 54 years.

Walkers Family Butchers and Bakers, in Newton Aycliffe, has made the top ten of The Northern Echo's search for the best bakery in the region. Don Walker, 81, still oversees the family business alongside son Colin and grandson Scott, and says he'll 'never retire'. He said: "We serve and supply many local businesses around the town and Business Park, and have two little vans running about. We sell a lot of pies, sandwiches, cakes and bread buns - about 300 dozen buns each day." Walkers bakers start at 5.30am, with the shop opening at 8.00am daily.

"We used to be supplied by Taylor's of Darlington, but when Covid hit we had to rely on ourselves, so our baking just grew from there. I'm still running the business day to day, and we have twelve of us altogether working here. It is like a family and I just love it. I'm so pleased my son and grandson are working here alongside me to carry it on. I love the people, and you never know what is going to happen from one day to the next. I have put a lot of work into the business, and I'm very proud of it."

Mr Walker, also a Rotarian of 44 years, said the business had seen through good times and bad times, but the shop was still where he'd rather spend his days.

"I never want to retire, what would I do all day? There's always something happening here."

Mr Walker said at Christmas, the bakers can turn out around 1000 dozen bread buns, as well as all the meat and pies people could want. **To vote for Walkers, cut out the voting slip in The Northern Echo and return it by post to Suite 10, Second Floor, Coniscliffe House, Coniscliffe Road, Darlington, DL3 7EE.**

(Partly reproduced from article in the Northern Echo).

Celebrating 75 Years of Newton Aycliffe This Weekend



Live music, family entertainment and a host of classic cars and vintage buses will greet visitors to Newton Aycliffe this weekend. The exciting line-up promises something for all ages this Saturday (7 September), as an event is held to celebrate 75 years of the town. Funded by Durham County Council's Towns and Villages programme and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the entertainment aims to attract a wide range of visitors to Newton Aycliffe.

Cllr Elizabeth Scott, the council's Cabinet member for economy and partnerships, said: "It is fantastic to see that so many people have come together over the last year to celebrate 75 years of the town."

"Although the celebrations are coming to an end, it feels more like a new beginning for the town as people reflect on the past and look ahead to their future as a community. Hopefully, the weekend's events will cement that as we offer an opportunity for families, friends and neighbours to come together and experience a vibrant and bustling town centre." The family fun day coincides with a new exhibition going on display in the town centre, featuring a collection of personal photographs. Life in a New Town, which has been organised by Great Aycliffe Town Council, is set to present life through the lens of Newton Aycliffe residents and will be on display until January. Amanda Donald, corporate and policy officer at Great Aycliffe Town Council, said: "Many people speak fondly of their childhood, playing among the building materials of the new town and remembering the excitement of the arrival of the first shops."

"Subsequent generations are also united in their happy memories of Harding's, the carnival and Mr Whippy's ice cream. It's great to see those memories come to life in the exhibition for everyone to enjoy."



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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.

JOY ALLEN

DURHAM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER



Starting at midnight on 24th September 2024, it will become a criminal offence to possess a 'zombie-style' knife or machete along with a ban on their manufacture, importation, sale and supply.

Zombie-style knives and machetes are defined as weapons with blades over eight inches (20cm) in length that normally have a serrated cutting edge.

As your Police and Crime Commissioner I want to help you comply with this change by making you aware of the Home Office surrender and compensation scheme which will run from 26th August to 23rd September 2024. Lawful owners of these knives will be able to claim compensation for the items in most cases, if the total value of the items is more than £30.

Those who give up their weapons during this time period will not be arrested or face prosecution. However, the government has warned that anyone found with zombie-style knives and machetes following the ban will face jail time. That is why I am urging anyone in possession of these dangerous weapons to surrender them before this new law takes effect.

We need to get these knives off our streets. Knife crime is destroying lives, devastating families and creating fear and trauma in communities. Over the last ten years knife crime has increased by more than 80%, so I welcome this new governments mission to halve knife crime within ten years.

Before you surrender a knife or machete:

- Wrap it in something, such as a towel, and carry it in a bag to prevent injury;
- Knives must not be carried openly at any time so they do not cause distress or alarm to other members of the public;
- Carrying bladed articles in public without a good reason or lawful authority is an offence;
- Ensure your local police station enquiry office is open before you make the journey;
- At the police station do not take the item out until you're asked to do so by a police officer or a member of police staff.

Surrendered items can be taken to the following Police stations:

Bishop Auckland Police Station

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Station is open: Monday to Wednesday, 8am to 4pm and Thursday to Friday, 8am to 5pm.

Durham City Police Station

New Elvet, Durham, DH1 3AQ
Station is open: Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm and Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm.

Peterlee Police Station

St Aidans Way, SR8 1QR
Station is open: Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm and Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm.

Darlington Police Station

St Cuthberts Way, Darlington, DL1 5LB
Station is open: Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm and Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm.

For the sake of our communities and our young people it is important we all recognise the dangers of knife crime and work together to prevent it. Getting these dangerous knives off our streets is a crucial step to help us deliver safer, stronger and more resilient communities.

Further details of the surrender scheme, a list of items covered, their definition and guidance on how to transport them safely, can be found by visiting the Home Office's dedicated web page. Compensation scheme for 'zombie' knives and machetes: www.gov.uk

Newton News

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Discussions on Knife Crime



Recently, Rotary Newton Aycliffe took part in a training day facilitated by two members of Middlesbrough Erimus Rotary Club. It was held at Middlesbrough College and tackled the very difficult subject of knife crime. The event was attended by 20 plus Rotarians from across the south of District 1030, representatives of college staff, Cleveland Unit for Reduction of Violence and business sponsors of the equipment used.

The initiative is being progressed by Rotarians Jacqui Molyneux and Mike Overy of Erimus Rotary and the training was delivered by staff from Midlands based company, Virtual Decisions. Virtual Reality headsets are worn by attendees to put across scenarios which prompt responses then that information is discussed in workshops. The immersive experience is meant to provoke reactions to real life situations which challenges perceptions about the impact of knife crime on individuals and communities.

The intention is to roll the programme out across schools and, in Birmingham, it has already been delivered to 15,000 pupils ranging in age from 11 to 14 years old. It could also be useful for such as scout groups, youth clubs, etc. However, the VR equipment is expensive and the search for sponsorship, funding, grant aid is ongoing.

For more information, please contact Jacqui Molyneux or Mike Overy on email: kcscheme@gmail.com

JOY ALLEN
DURHAM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

IF
you are aware of anyone who carries a knife or have concerns that someone you know may carry a knife

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Community Award



From Pipe Bands, flying ants, to rats the size of cats on a New York subway, Around Town was out and about this week when we took the opportunity to pay The Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band a visit for a catch up, and to meet some of the new members who recently joined the band. It was also a special occasion as we presented the band members with the Around Town Radio Show Community Award for their work in raising the town's profile throughout the region. Not to let a good opportunity pass us by, we also arranged for two of the band members to be our guest on Around Town in the coming weeks when their busy schedule allows.



Sunday's show had Colin McNeillie and his music as our guest on the first half of the show. Colin continues to work hard to raise people's awareness of Alzheimers and Dementia and raising money for vital research in the process. On the second half of the show we had local pest control expert Brian Sowerby as our guest, as we discussed all manner of local pest related problems, to rats the size of cats in New York subways, flying ants in such large numbers across the country they show up on airport radar as a flying hazard. Our good friend Dan of Illumination wall art called in to present Andy and myself with an original piece of artwork that will take pride of place on display in the studio. Dan also agreed to put his extensive talents to good use by agreeing to design the front cover of my latest book 'A Story of Many Voices' which, when published, will help to raise some funds for the local charity All Disabilities Matter CIC.

Phill & Andy
Around Town, Aycliffe Radio

ACORN Residents Association

Our monthly meeting will be held in the Phoenix Club (upstairs) on Thursday 12th September at 6.00pm. Our guest speakers will be Julie O'Connor (residents adviser from livin) and Katie Corrigan (Community Development Officer), both of whom will be willing to answer any questions or concerns. Anyone wishing to put forward suggestions for our outings etc over the next twelve months, please come and let us know what your suggestions are. We welcome anyone who would like to come along and join our friendly group. Tea, coffee and biscuits (free) are available. Looking forward to seeing you there.

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Well Done Town Council



Dear Sir,
I would like to share this picture with Newton News readers and congratulate the town council gardeners who maintain St Oswald's Park.
I recommend everyone to have a walk around the park and enjoy the colourful displays. They really are uplifting.
You hear a lot of moans and groans about certain aspects of the town but, we are lucky to have our parks and floral displays.
Well done to the team that maintains them.
Debbie Ingram.

Back to Back Promotions for INEOS Golf Club Seniors



After achieving promotion in 2023, from Division 3 of the Teesside Union League, INEOS Golf Club Seniors have again been promoted from Division 2 and just missing out on the title by two points. A total of 26 players were used during the season. Well done to all players and team managers. The golf club would like to thank the OakLeaf Sports Complex staff for

providing the catering before our matches. Taking our place in Division 1 we will be playing the likes of Eaglescliffe, Middlesbrough Brass Castle and Blackwell. It's a tremendous achievement for our small club, with just over 200 members and limited resources. Anyone interested in joining please visit our website: ineosgolfclub.co.uk

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Athlete of the Year, John Pratt

Sedgefield Water Polo Club would like to congratulate our player and coach John Pratt who has recently been awarded the prestigious Northumberland and Durham Swimming Association Athlete of the Year 2023. This accolade not only highlights John's individual achievements, but also underscores the talent and commitment present in our region's aquatic community. The award was presented by Nicola Atherton, Board Member of Swim England North East, at the inaugural Festival of Aquatics held at the Sunderland Aquatics Centre as part of the Swim England 'inspired to try' promotion.



John has been an integral member of our Club for many years, showcasing exceptional talent and dedication to the sport - both as a player and a coach. His achievements on the international Great Britain stage have brought immense pride to us here at the club and also within the North East region. The Festival of Aquatics provided the perfect forum for John's recognition. John led the Sedgefield activities and demos at the event, helping raise awareness of water polo within the region, alongside that of artistic swimming and diving. The Sunderland Aquatics Centre buzzed with excitement as participants, coaches and supporters gathered to celebrate aquatics. Swim England North East also extends its congratulations to John and wish him continued success in his sporting endeavours. 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 through sponsorship will be used to allow our fantastic members the opportunity to develop their skills and provide them with the equipment they need in order to succeed in the sport. In addition to Junior and Senior sessions, Sedgefield Water Polo Club now offers a beginner session at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on a Saturday afternoon for those wishing to try this fun and exciting sport. All sessions need to be booked in advance on our Club App, so please check our website for further information and joining instructions, email sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com or contact 07579 030598.

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RUNNING CLUB NEWS



It has been a busy couple of weeks for Aycliffe Running Club with some excellent performances and a few new club records.

On Thursday 22nd August, five members took part in the fifth race of the Muddy Roads Summer Trail Series, the Newham Grange Farm 5k. Representing the club were Andrew Tweddle (23:24), Lucy Heron (25:12), David Stothard (26:41), Sandrine Hewitt (29:34) and Kevin Greenall (30:21).

On Sunday 25th August, three members took part in the Stanhope 10 miler, a challenging 10 mile race. Bernadette Cooper (1:28:32), Cath McDonnell (1:45:02) and David Stoddard (1:53:14) represented the club.

On Monday 26th August, two members took part in the Blanchland show trail races in the North Pennines. In the half marathon race, Paul Dalton finished in a time of 2:19:33. In the 10k race, Jayne Rudd (1:48:40) was the sole representative for the club.

On Thursday 29th August, the club entered 11 teams in the NYMAC Tom Wall relays in Stewart Park with members running one mile each in a team of 4. Representing the club were Tracey Surtees (5:54), Sam Keenan (5:31), Kevin Russell (5:33) and John Surtees (5:09) total (22:07); Henry Mosher in a new club record of 5:38, Max Todd (5:44), Luke Walker (6:24) and Martin Turnbull (5:35), total time (23:21); Floyd Jones (6:00), Karl Hume (5:41), Richard Holland (6:13), Ian Payne (6:23), total time (24:17); Daniel Tatham (6:18), Trevor Needham (6:50), Stuart Joyce (6:39), David Stothard (7:17), total time (27:04); Amy Kerman (6:22), Lucy Postle (6:43), Beau-Louise Mason (6:50), Nicky Aitchison (7:36), total time (27:31); Thomas Heywood (6:40), Jimmy Agnew (6:21), Sam Harding (8:42), Henry Mosher (6:12), total time (27:55); Will Allison a new club record (6:44), John Morgan (7:07), Ryan Cooper (7:25), Elijah Turnbull (9:02), total time (30:18); Keith Hatton (7:52), Salv McDonnell (7:16), Cath McDonnell (8:12), Thomas Heywood (7:15), total (30:35); Louise Reed (7:33), Sue Podmore (8:15), Bernadette Cooper (6:42), Kirsty Cameron (8:47), total time (31:17); Deborah Jane Kell (7:50), Em Flynn (9:34), Sarah Gill (7:34), Trevor Agnew (6:41), total time (31:39); John Burnside (7:27), Jean-Pierre Hupin (8:28), Richard Tonge (8:37), Alan Kellett (8:29), total time (33:01); Martin Turnbull (7:32), Sandrine Boinet-Hewitt (8:26), Eve Doe (9:25), Anne Kellett (9:35), total time (34:58).

On Sunday 1st September, 14 members travelled to Middlesbrough for the Middlesbrough 10k. Representing the club were Max Todd (in a new PB of 42:02 which was also a new under 17 10k club record), Daniel Tatham (43:01 and a new 10k PB), Laura Hudson (49:10), Shaun Dodds (49:44), Sarah Gill (50:43), Trish Kay (53:59), Chloe Livermore (55:14), Jean Pierre Hupin (59:01), Kirsty Cameron (1:01:37), Yvonne Blewitt (1:05:40), Eve Doe (1:04:19), Em Flynn (1:07:45), Lou Mann (1:09:22) and Ian Stothard (1:17:18).

At the same time, two members took part in the Hip Hip Hooray It's Hornsea, which is an opportunity to run anything from a 5k up to an Ultra from the coast at Hornsea in East Yorkshire. Cath McDonnell (3:25:03) completed 20 miles finishing eight overall and third female whilst setting a new Women's Over 55 club record, with Salv McDonnell completing 10 miles.

At the same time, three members took part in the Cheviot's Challenge which is a 22 mile trail race with over 4,265 feet of ascent over the beautiful Upper Coquetdale and Cheviot Hills. Representing the club were Paul Dalton (4:10:36), Nicky Aitchison (5:43:35) and Ian Payne (5:43:35).

Also on the same day, three members travelled to Lancaster for the Golden Ball 20 mile race. Trevor Dixon (in a new Male over 40 club record 2:10:03), Mikey Taylor (2:19:58) and Richard Campbell (2:23:36) all represented the club.

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

Vice Chair Anne Retires

As the new academic year starts this week a very familiar face will be missing from Sugar Hill's Governing Body. On the last day of Summer Term, staff, governors and children presented Anne French with flowers and gifts in appreciation of her long service and commitment to Sugar Hill.

Anne's daughter started at Sugar Hill 32 years ago and Anne was soon appointed as governor and never looked back. Anne recalled one of her favourite memories was dressing in period costume on a visit to Beamish Museum. Anne has loved her role at Sugar Hill, seeing what the children can do and watching their journey from Nursery to Year 6. She has worked alongside four head teachers during her period of office. She is still going to be involved in the life of the school as her two grandchildren attend, but will be a big miss in her role as Vice Chair at Sugar Hill. Mrs O'Rourke and Mrs Legge led a farewell assembly for Anne with fellow governors also attending. Denise Raine, Chair of Governors



and Parent Governors Emma Williams and Richard Garrett joined in as the children sang for Anne one of her favourite songs, 'Sweet Caroline'. The atmosphere was electric and was a farewell she is sure to fondly remember. All staff and children at Sugar Hill say a huge thank you to Anne and recognise, for her and Sugar Hill Primary, her departure marks the end of an era.

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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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Corporate Partnership



Carrie and Amy visited Perfect Care to thank them for the generous donation of office furniture and to see how they could work together going forward. They met with Carol Jackson and Kelly Urwin and to say the meeting was a success would be an understatement. Perfect Care offered to pay for the care packs we have put together to give out alongside Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team, they wish to organise a separate care pack for women who are in desperate need, these packs will be 'perfectly caring'. The contents of which will help them to feel like a woman, no matter how hard things are, every girl deserves that. Most importantly, and certainly most excitingly, Perfect Care offered to become Sisters Of Supports first Corporate Partner. Sisters of Support are excited by the incredibly generous offer and look forward to working side by side. This partnership came with a commitment of £500 and to help support the organisation in whatever way they can. Amy, Carrie and all the women at Sisters of Support would like to say a huge thank you to Perfect Care, it is partnerships like this that ensure the work we do can continue and many more women may be reached.

NARUFC Battle Hard



In a hard-fought pre-season encounter, Newton Aycliffe Rugby Football Club fell to a determined Jarrovians side 21-41 at home. The match, played under scorching conditions, showcased moments of brilliance from both teams, but ultimately saw the visitors emerge victorious. The game kicked off with Jarrovians asserting their dominance early, crossing the whitewash within the first five minutes to take a 5-0 lead. NARUFC responded swiftly, with Josh Dewhurst, sponsored by Cal's Car Valets, touching down at the 10-minute mark. Brad Beaumont, backed by Lewis Hill - Mortgage and Protection Adviser, added the extras to put the home side ahead 7-5. However, Jarrovians' well-drilled outfit proved relentless. They scored a converted try at the 20-minute mark, regaining the lead at 7-12. The visitors continued to apply pressure, adding two more tries and a conversion before the half-time whistle, stretching their lead to 7-29, NARUFC came out of the break with renewed vigour. James Thacker, sponsored by Tina's Cosy Cuts, breathed life into the home side's campaign with a try at the 57-minute mark, converted by the reliable boot of Beaumont. Thacker wasn't done yet, crossing the line again just seven minutes later. Beaumont maintained his perfect kicking record, bringing the score to a more respectable 21-29. Despite NARUFC's resurgence, Jarrovians managed to seal the deal with two more tries in the closing stages, ending the match at 21-41. While the result wasn't what NARUFC had hoped for, the match served its purpose as a pre-season fixture. It provided valuable playing time for new squad members to integrate and develop on-field partnerships. The team's focus now shifts to intensive training as they prepare for their league opener against Seaham Rugby Club. NARUFC would like to extend their gratitude to the supporters who turned out in force, their presence adding to the atmosphere of this sun-soaked encounter.

Thank You Town Council

Dear Sir,
I'd like to thank Aycliffe Town Council for the great job they do around our parks and gardens. Whenever I have met teams doing work, they are so pleasant, friendly and helpful and I love the way some areas have been left to grow naturally. I recently met a team cutting down trees on Burnhill Way and was so impressed on how they do this so efficiently and, as a wheelchair user, I find them so friendly and helpful and find they'll often go out of their way to assist the public, we have a good laugh too. Well done. Michelle.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

By PCSO Steven Kipling



Hello, I hope this finds you well, here's a brief update of what has been happening over the past week:
Further Op Trailblazer patrols have been conducted throughout the week, focusing on Anti-Social Behaviour hotspots. PCSO's Todd and Kipling attended a community walkabout with the Community Action Team from Durham County Council, alongside Livin.
On Wednesday, a male was arrested for a number of offences following a report of a domestic related incident, and was transported to custody.
Also on Wednesday, PC Roberts and PCSO Todd attended a Shopwatch meeting in the town centre, engaging with representatives from our local shops.
On Thursday, two males were arrested for a number of offences, following a report of a fight in the street in Silverdale Place. Both males were charged and appeared at Magistrates Court the following day.
Also on Thursday, officers responded to a report of concern for a vulnerable lady in the town centre. Fortunately, the lady was swiftly located and is receiving the necessary support.
On Friday evening, two males were arrested for a number of offences including possession of a Class A drug with intent to supply, and for possession of an offensive weapon.
On Saturday, PCSO's Todd and Dale attended the Summer Fun Day at Silverdale Place, and had a great time engaging with our residents. Thanks for reading, have a good week.
PCSO Steven Kipling.

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Og Mandino, b. 1923 American Author

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Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report

Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, produced arguably their best performance of the season to comfortably defeat local rivals and promotion outsiders Shildon 1st XI, at home by 80 runs, in the NYSD second division to keep alive their slim hopes of avoiding relegation. Electing to bat first, Aycliffe's Sam Telford was in a destructive mood, smashing 63 off just 31 balls and his whirlwind innings included seven boundaries and four big sixes. When he was dismissed, Adam Girtens continued the good work and scored a more workman like 52 off 128 balls including eight boundaries. Captain James Layfield-Carroll chipped in with a useful 27 off 23 balls late in the innings to help take his side to a competitive 210 all out after 46.1 overs. In reply, the visitors lost wickets at regular intervals thanks to some excellent bowling by left arm spinner Luke Telford (sponsored by JR Smith Electrical Services) who finished with figures of 5 for 25. James Layfield-Carroll (2 for 28) and Ben Howard (2 for 29) also bowled well to help dismiss Shildon for 130 after 33.2 overs.



The day was made even more special for Luke Telford when his 13 year old son, Trent, was drafted into the team to make his first team debut and the youngster put in a faultless display in the field to help his side to a vital victory.

The club's second team lost by 44 runs away at Preston 1st XI in the NYSD 4th division. The homeside chose to bat first on a difficult pitch and scored a challenging 174 for 6 from their allotted 40 overs, despite some good work with the ball by 14 year Will Moffatt (2 for 35), Jimmy Newton (1 for 8) and Matty Greaves (1 for 20). In reply, Aycliffe's opening batsman Jai Sander (sponsored by Armstrong Building Services) was in superb form, carrying his bat for an unbeaten

64 off 89 balls and his seasonal best score included ten boundaries. Adam Shaw (21 off 15 balls) and Matty Greaves (13 off 22 balls) also batted well, but couldn't stop their team from being bowled out for 130 from 33.1 overs. Special mention must go to 16 year old Isabelle Tait who made her senior debut in the 2nd team and proved an able deputy for her Dad who had dropped out before the match due to injury.

Photo: Father and son, Luke and 13 year old debutant Trent Telford, taken during the match between Aycliffe 1st XI and Shildon 1st XI.

Pedestrian Safety

Dear Sir,
Not only is cycling on the pavement dangerous for pedestrians, but also illegal. If the pavement is NOT a shared cycle and pedestrian path or a designated cycle path, then the cyclist should not be on it. I can appreciate young people and children using the pavement, as they don't have the experience or ability to ride safely on the road, but regarding adults they should.

There has been a number of incidents where pedestrians have been hit by cyclists, or forced to step off the pavement onto the road, which is where the cyclist should be, not the pedestrian. If you are a cyclist, then please consider pedestrian safety and ride on the road. Name and address supplied.

Bridge Club

Winter is approaching, long dark evenings and an opportunity to learn to play Bridge is here now, to invest in a great social and rewarding card game where members play into their 90's.

Learning to play at St. George's Bridge Club on Whessoe Road, Darlington enables you to play at both Aycliffe and Darlington clubs, which I do three or four times a week, on a Monday night at The OakLeaf and at Darlington some afternoons and evenings. At both venues we play in very light and pleasant surroundings.

At Aycliffe you have to be able to play and would need a partner which we could possibly find for you. £5 yearly membership and £2 each session.

Lessons are starting at Darlington on Wednesday 18th September at 7.00pm. The first few sessions would be free taster sessions, then £60 for twelve lessons. Feel free to contact me for a chat at any time. I've been through the whole process and can assure you it is so rewarding, a great value evening, a new lifestyle and something always to look forward to. You don't even have to have handled a pack of cards - all will be revealed.

Cynthia Scott,
Secretary Aycliffe Bridge Club
0787 375 8087

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Newton Aycliffe 20th September 1-3pm	Trimdon Village 27th September 4-6pm

To book your appointment, please email:
alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk



Alan Strickland MP
Member of Parliament for the Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor Constituency





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As September starts, Parliament has resumed its normal business in Westminster. That means that, after a busy summer meeting public sector and community leaders locally, I'm back to Parliament most of the working week, standing up for our area.

It has continued to be a busy time in the constituency, with me and my team working hard to respond to hundreds of individual cases from constituents relating to all matters from benefits to bus services, doing everything we can to support our residents and communities. I'm proud that we've responded to 1000 letters and emails so far. I've prioritised helping residents with the most urgent cases, so, if you've been in touch and haven't yet received a response, we're working on it and you should hear from me soon.

Since being elected in July, one of my main priorities has been to establish a strong team of staff to support my work both here at home and in Westminster. It's really important that local MPs have skilled and committed teams in place to support them in being able to advocate for local constituents and causes.

I am excited to be looking for an additional motivated, organised and compassionate Caseworker to join my dynamic team in the constituency. I'm very keen to receive applications from residents living in the constituency, so wanted to set out here in the Newton News what I'm looking for. If you know someone who might have the right skill set, please encourage them to apply.

Caseworker vacancy in my team

As well as my duties representing our communities in Westminster, I have also been appointed a Parliamentary Private Secretary in the Department for Education. That means the Caseworker post is an exciting opportunity to play a key role in helping make a difference to the lives of constituents across our area by resolving constituents' challenges and taking up issues on their behalf. This is a full-time role, but part-time and flexible working options will be considered. The key duties the role holder would carry out are:

- Deal with large numbers of standard queries, as well as assisting on more complex cases from members of the public by phone, email, social media or face to face.
- Gather information to assist with resolving cases.
- Log all cases; monitor progress and ensure all identified actions are taken.
- Draft responses to constituents.
- Ensure records are kept and information managed confidentially in line with data protection legislation.
- Ensure that each case is dealt with promptly, sensitively, confidentially and accurately in accordance with the MP.
- Assist surgeries and other meetings and follow up as appropriate.
- There may be a requirement for the role holder to work outside of the normal working hours and travel for work occasionally.

Essential Skills for the successful candidate include:

- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Workload and project management skills.
- Good IT skills.
- Ability to deal with constituents and community interest groups in a helpful and sympathetic manner.
- An enthusiasm for helping people and a willingness to pitch in where needed.
- Sympathy to the aims and values of the Labour Party.

Further desirable skills include:

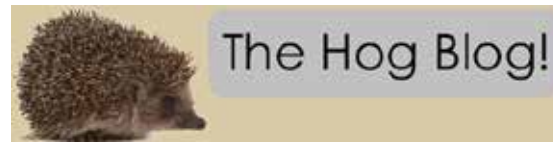
- Experience of advising in areas such as housing, welfare benefits or immigration issues or community advocacy work would be beneficial.
- A good working knowledge of local issues in the constituency.

I would love to see applications from local constituents for the role. The deadline is 11th September 2024. The team and I expect to then carry out interviews week commencing 16th September 2024.

If you feel you could make a difference to our area and succeed in the role, please submit your CV and a covering letter, highlighting how your experience and skills meet the job description, to my office manager via email at liam.fellows@parliament.uk with the subject line 'Caseworker Application'.

Alan Strickland MP

Member of Parliament for Newton Aycliffe & Spennymoor.



I want to thank firstly, everyone who acted quickly to get in touch with me about hedgehogs that needed to come into rescue. Firstly, George and Stephen who brought in Alex on Saturday, bless him, he is a beautiful boy, also Diane Louise who asked me to collect Primrose, Shafto Way, Dinah who found the little one on Monday night by the TA Centre, sadly she passed away a few hours after arrival, she was so small and where she was, there was no food or water for her. I have also admitted one from Greta Bridge, a little female, a baby 172g from Ferryhill Station and also one from West Auckland with an injured back leg, none of these hedgehogs are adult, they are juveniles, all may need overwintering, totally busy but I won't turn a hedgehog in trouble away.

What I need everyone to know is that these little hedgehogs are very sick when they are seen out during the day, all I ask is that as soon as you see one out in the day they are not ok, watching them for a couple of days to see what happens is unacceptable and this is still happening, they are totally harmless, inoffensive and welcome the help that you give him or her. They don't have fleas or any external parasites that can harm you. I have in the past, taken my coat off my back to wrap a poorly hedgehog up to take into my rescue. I bring them home, they are in the house which is brilliant, because if I am worried about one I come down during the night. Even hand rearing hoglets has been done in the house. It's extremely hard work being a Rehabber, every day brings a different problem to which I have to find a solution for.

I have had some very generous donations which go to benefit my hoggies, thank you John, Jackie and John Connell and Lynda. I have used some of the money to purchase a suction machine, this is a quick and easy way of removing flystrike which is every hedgehog and rehabbers nightmare. I haven't had one as yet, so having it here will be a lifesaver for poorly hogs.

Pictured is a beautiful baby that I collected from Ferryhill Station on Sunday morning, she is doing well and she will be overwintered.

Useful contact information:

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society number 01584 890801. My Facebook page is Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel, also email which isn't to be used for hedgehog emergencies: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com

Free Autumn Activities

Green Arts are thrilled to offer free activity to young people and families as part of their new Autumn programme. We are delighted to offer quality activities that inspire young people and families to be creative and learn new skills.

September will see the return of 'Hands On' for our under-fives and our popular 'Creative Explorers' for our 7+ group. The fun creative courses will be led by professional artist Dawn Belshaw and will run on each Tuesday and Thursday at Green Arts, The Eco Centre, Moore Lane, Newton Aycliffe. 'Hands On' restarts on Tuesday 10th September and 'Explorers' recommences on Thursday 12th September

Join Dawn and have fun at these hands-on sessions and learn more about the world around you. The sessions are very popular and are suitable for young people and families. You can reserve your place via our website using our simple online form. Just visit www.green-arts.co.uk or email info@green-arts.co.uk to find out more.

The family focused sessions form part of our autumn programme at Green Arts alongside adult workshops and our Men's Cree wellbeing group. The Autumn will also see an exciting new craft programme and exhibition opportunities, just watch this space or follow us on social media to keep up-to-date.

We are committed to bringing arts to our community in a welcoming space and continuing to inspire young people and families, just visit our website to find out more. Thank you for continued support to Great Aycliffe Town Council, GAMP AAP, Durham Community Action and North East BIC.

Refuse and Recycling

Dear Sir,

I had recently needed to contact DCC to remove an old armchair and paid £20 for the privilege. I further advised DCC that I would not be able to move this chair and leave it at the end of the drive because of the weight and the fact I am, although a fit, 84-year-old, I asked DCC to remove it from the front of the garage. But no luck from DCC I received an email from DCC, to advise me that I need permission to request permission to collect it from elsewhere. It further said that, unfortunately, this is not something that is offered on the website. So, I contacted DCC on the number given which told me to do it online, did they not realise that I had already done it online and paid my £20. I was given a case number but, by this stage, I was getting frustrated saying that I needed permission to come onto my drive, I gave the permission, but no, the Refuse and Recycling Team must give their permission, I wonder if anyone else has had a similar experience to this, is it any wonder there is fly tipping around the County, when all that was needed was a bit of common sense, something that seems to be lacking at DCC, what is needed is a Councillor to take on the role of Member for Common Sense. Vince Crosby

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Charity Helping Residents

A charity promoting volunteering across County Durham and Darlington has secured a £10k grant to help communities build resilience and prosper. Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen has provided £10k to Durham Community Action (DCA) as part of a joint funding deal with Durham County Council to support its activities in 2024-25. The charity is also in discussions with the Commissioner to acquire additional funding to establish a bespoke volunteer development and training programme within the PCC's office to build on her vision to promote volunteering in community safety roles. DCA, which was one of the first organisations nationally to achieve reaccreditation from the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation, is a charity providing advice, support and assistance to front line voluntary and community groups working across County Durham and Darlington. Staff work closely with groups and individual volunteers to identify their needs, help them secure funding and resources and provide the support and encouragement they need to make a difference to their communities. The charity also supports the development of best practice in volunteering organisations and promotes community-led action and engagement through partnership working and capacity building. DCA supports all six of the PCC's current Police and Crime Plan priorities. In the past year alone, the organisation has delivered an extensive programme of training and events including the delivery of Cyber Security sessions for 64 people from VCS organisations and Understanding Safeguarding/ Introduction to Safeguarding workshops for 100 VCS staff. In addition, DCA directly supported 27 online volunteer applications to the Commissioner's Community Peer Mentors service. This service supports the recovery of vulnerable and isolated people affected by significant life-changing events including crime and antisocial behaviour and neighbourly disputes. The charity is also expanding opportunities for the recruitment of ex-offenders into volunteering roles with the aid of a new risk assessment tool kit developed by a key partner and continues its role as regional local lead in VCS emergency response with the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA). The role promotes the sharing of best practice and positive inclusion of people facing inequalities in communities in the planning work around local and national emergency situations. Commissioner Allen said: "I am proud of DCA's work across our county in helping our communities to thrive and remain connected. This grant is part of a three-year joint funding deal that will enable the charity to plan with certainty for the future and expand the excellent networking and skills training opportunities it provides in support of my goal to develop stronger and more resilient communities. "Volunteers play such a vital role in preventing crime, not only supporting the police and other emergency services during times of crisis and peak demand but by helping local people to become resilient so they do not become dependent on front line services. "I am especially grateful for DCA's contribution to my Community Peer Mentors service which has benefited significantly from the charity's advice and support over the years, and its identification of talented and experienced volunteers who are well-placed to give back to their communities. Volunteers are the glue that binds communities together, helping people to live safe and prosperous lives. As I prepare to launch my new Police and Crime Plan, DCA will be a vital partner in helping me to prevent the issues and risks that matter to our communities most."

Anyone Found The Pen?

Since the election I have noted my successor take photos in Hitachi and have been pleased to see mention of the importance of the facility but I recall it being said by many in the Labour hierarchy that this could be done "at the stroke of a pen". The last reports of the department working at pace were already happening pre the election so we have seen literally nothing from Labour. Is this another election lie from Labour? I would like the MP for Newton Aycliffe and Spenny-moor to either find the pen and address this failure or come clean and tell us all why they misled everyone. I could ask a similar question about Ferryhill Station where he is silent on a critical economic opportunity for a community in need that was signed off by my Government. Paul Howell
Former MP for Sedgefield

Obituary

Thomas Elliott

Suddenly in hospital, on 28th August, Tommy, aged 84 years (formerly of Bakelite). Dearly loved Husband of Marlene; loving Father to Denise and Sharon; dear Father-in-Law to Tony and Matt and a devoted Granda to Lauren, Emma, Eve and Elsa. Funeral on Thursday 19th September. Would friends kindly meet for service in Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations, in lieu, would be much appreciated in aid of Cancer Research UK. Should you wish to donate, a collection box will be available at the Crematorium Chapel.

Sydney Tuck



Peacefully on August 24th, Syd, aged 76 years. Devoted Husband of Sheila; much loved Dad and Grandfather. Funeral to take place at Durham Crematorium on Monday 9th September 2024 at 12.00 noon and afterwards at The Hammer and Pincers, Preston Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6JH. Please wear bright colours at Syd's family's request.

Birthday Remembrance

David Atkins

12th September 1977-2017

Many Happy Returns Son

on your special day. Love and miss you always. Harry

Happy Birthday Dad

Love you always. Jonathan Kraig

Happy Birthday Brother

Paul and family, Brianna, Brogan, Jade and Olivia

Kenny Shaw

23rd January 1952 - 25th August 2024

Ken passed away with his wife Jackie and loving family around him. Adored Husband, Dad, Father-in-Law, Grandad, Great Grandad (GG) and a good friend to many. Funeral to be held at Wear Valley Crematorium on Thursday 12th September at 10.30am. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to Stroke Society. A plate will be provided at the crematorium. Afterwards everyone is welcome at the Sports Club, Newton Aycliffe.

For Sale



Mobility scooter for sale, in good condition, comes with rain mac, has indicators, speed up to 10-12mph, pick up from Newton Aycliffe, £650, contact 07414 769664.

Rosalind Mary Woodward (nee Murphy)

My Beautiful Mum
11 September 2019

Remembering always this beautiful, kind and gentle lady, Greatly missed, but forever loved, May your gentle soul always be surrounded in Love, Light and Harmony and your Rose forever blooms.

Dawn

PUZZLE CORNER

Sudoku

6		3	2					
4			1					
				6	5	3		
	8	4	5		2			
	5		7	8	9			
	2		9	8	3			
2	6		4					
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Could You Get Pension Credit?

Hundreds of thousands of pensioners are being urged to apply for a benefit that could be worth on average £3,900 per year as the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is launching a campaign to increase Pension Credit take-up. With as many as 880,000 pensioners missing out, the Pension Credit Week of Action aims to spread awareness and increase claims for Pension Credit, which from this year will also automatically passport eligible pensioners to receive the Winter Fuel Payment. Joining forces with charities, broadcasters, Local Authorities, and a range of partners, the campaign will tackle myths that may prevent people applying, for instance having a small

private pension, savings or owning their own home. Families, friends and neighbours are being encouraged to reach out to retired family members to encourage them to check their eligibility and apply. 21 December is the last possible date to make a successful backdated claim in order to receive the Winter Fuel Payment. While around 1.4 million pensioners are already receiving Pension Credit, up to an estimated 880,000 households are eligible for the support but are not claiming it. Pensioners whose weekly income is below £218.15 for a single person or £332.95 for a couple should check to see if they are eligible for this support which is worth £3,900 a year on average, using DWP's online calculator. People with a severe disability, carers and those who are responsible for a child or young person who lives with them could get more. Pension Credit can also include extra amounts for certain housing costs, such as ground rent or service charges. This work is part of a wider plan to ensure economic stability for pensioners by protecting the Triple Lock and supporting households with their energy bills through the £150 Warm Home Discount and the Warm Homes Plan – upgrading millions of homes this Parliament. Over the next five years, more than 12 million pensioners could see their State Pension increase by over a thousand pounds as a result of the commitment to the Triple Lock.

Let's Talk Menopause

The next face to face peer support group is on Monday 12th September 2024 from 12.30pm-2.00pm at the Youth Centre, Newton Aycliffe. Come along for a cuppa to chat about all things menopause. Very informal, small group, open to everyone (not just the ladies!). For more info contact Jules Howe, Wellbeing for Life Team on 07809 342192 or email: jules.howe@nhs.net

St. Francis' Class of 2024 Say Goodbye

The Year 6 leavers' performance was truly remarkable! Tears welled up in the hall as we listened to the Year 6 students reminisce about their favourite memories at St. Francis. They shared touching stories and sang their favourite songs, including a beautifully composed original St. Francis song by the talented children. The children were thrilled by a surprise video journey down memory lane, created by the staff, which included heartfelt messages for the children to cherish as they embark on their next chapter. The atmosphere was electric with a mix of nostalgia and excitement. Parents, carers, staff and peers couldn't help but join in the applause, their pride evident in every smile and tear. As the final notes of the song resonated through the hall, the students received a huge applause, a testament to their hard work and the close-knit community they had built over the years. It was a day filled with bittersweet goodbyes and hopeful beginnings, a perfect celebration of the end of one chapter and the start of another. As the academic year ended everyone knew that these memories would be cherished forever, a beautiful end to an unforgettable journey. Here are a few messages for our fabulous Year 6's from the staff at St. Francis'.

"Don't look at leaving St. Francis' with sadness, but as the beginning for a new adventure, a new chapter and the chance for you to embrace the wonderful opportunities that are about to be opened up to you. Grasp them! Keep them in your mind and let your light shine so that you can continue to make a difference. Stay true to who you are, try new things and surprise yourself." Miss Cooper.

"Don't be afraid of moving forward, the future will be bright when you shine your light!" Mrs Longstaff.

"What a whirlwind four years it has been. I still remember you all joining St. Francis' in Y3 - every one of you over the past four years has shined in your own way during this time! I am proud of each and every one of you. Work hard, be yourself and always shine bright!" Mrs Hilder.

"It has been a privilege and an honour to watch you grow throughout the years you have been part of our school. You all hold a special place in my heart and I am proud of each and every one of you. Enjoy the next stage of your life, embrace the opportunities life will give you and always remember where it all began...as part of the St Francis' family. Remember to always let your light shine bright. You've got this!" Miss Fahey.

"You've made it to the end of your journey in St Francis! It has been amazing watching you all grow from tiny Year 3's into what you are today; mature (mostly), confident and sassy young people. It was a pleasure to teach you all in the Autumn term, lots of hard work, but plenty of bad jokes to help us along the way even if some of them were so bad we just had to laugh! I'm so proud of how hard you all worked during you SATs, even if we were all fuelled by Marshmallow Fluff and chocolate spread! Keep shining bright as you enter the next stage of your learning journey." Mrs Pickett.

"Good luck Year 6! I hope that you all love your new school and make the most of it - your secondary school days are the best! Thank you for welcoming me into part of your St. Francis family and remember you are always special to us! Shine bright." Miss Bass.

"Love yourselves and always be kind to others. Always look for positives in every day and help others who may not have opportunities that you have. Good Luck!" Mrs Roche.

"Sending lots of good wishes for each and every one of you! Keep shining and follow your dreams!" Mrs Nixon.

"It has been a pleasure watching your transformation into the exceptional young people you are today. Good luck on your new and thrilling adventure! You are truly remarkable! Remember to dream big, continue to shine brightly and know that you will always be a cherished member of our St. Francis's family. You will be missed dearly!" Mrs Wright.

"Wishing you all the luck in the world for your next adventure. Be strong, be kind and be true to yourself!" Mrs Stanwix.

"You are an extraordinary group of individuals! Your positivity, respect and resilience never fail to amaze me each day. I am eager to witness the positive impact you will make on our world." Mrs Lakey.

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PCP Update

At the Pioneering Care Centre (PCC), there is a range of fitness fun throughout the week. Every Monday from 12.30pm to 1.15pm, there is a new upbeat and energetic exercise class, Dancercise! This class combines aerobics exercises with jazz dance steps to get active, burn calories, and increase your dance skills, all while having fun! It is £4.00 per class, to book contact 01325 321234.

If cycling is your preference, there is an Intermediate Cycling Group every Monday morning from 10.00am to 1.30pm, and a Novice Cycling Group every Wednesday morning 10.00am to 11.30am. All equipment is provided for you, please be at the PCC for 9.45am.

And Thursdays are for walking, with the Walking Group. This group is a free weekly walking group, with routes starting at the PCC from 10.30am to 11.30am.

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

N.A.F.C. REPORT



Saturday 31st August Emirates FA Cup First Round Qualifying Aycliffe Earn FA Cup Replay

Newton Aycliffe earned a replay with a 1-1 draw against NPL-Premier side Bamber Bridge in the Emirates FA Cup. It was a game where both teams had chances to win, but the game stayed a stalemate after Charlie Dawson's 70th minute equaliser. Charlie also becomes the third member of his family to score in the FA Cup, following his cousin Dan and Uncle Bri.

The home side started sharp, and Bamber Bridge could have been 1-0 up within five minutes, but Lucas Weaver completely misjudged his shot and fired, high, despite been in a perfect position to score. Bamber Bridge would try to go forward, but Alex Nelson and Toby Pascoe would both be on defensive duties to keep the opposition threat to a minimum.

Bamber Bridge would be the first to score when experienced striker Mark Cullen tapped in from close range to make it 1-0 in the 40th minute. It was almost an instant response, however, in the 44th minute, Cieran Jackson went on a long run and his low shot just barely stayed out the net. The first half ended 1-0, but Aycliffe were already showing good character and giving a very good account of themselves. In the second half, Lucas Weaver kept up his active role in the midfield and his chipped shot narrowly hit the side netting. In the 63rd minute Ethan Wood was unlucky to have his long shot hit the top of the netting. Jim Pollard would be an integral part of the second half, Weaver almost beat him in the 67th, but Pollard once again made a brilliant quick-reflex save.

A few minutes later, in the 70th minute, several Aycliffe players got in a crowded box, and Ryan Lincoln Barrow's cross was whipped in and, after chaos in the box, found substitute Charlie Dawson and tapped in from close range. While Aycliffe had been soaking up some pressure, they were gradually growing into the game. The remainder of the second half, once again, saw Jim Pollard make excellent saves, as Aycliffe managed the end of the game very well to pick up a very credible 1-1 draw away to higher league opposition.

Photo by Yvonne Wood: Charlie Dawson celebrates scoring the equalising goal at Bamber Bridge. Match report by Ryan Livingston.

Have a Say on Local Issues

Residents in Great Aycliffe & Middridge can find out how local issues are being tackled when the local area action partnership holds their next board meeting later this month. The Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership Area Action Partnership (AAP) board will be meeting on Tuesday 10th September 2024, between 6pm and 8pm at Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community, and members of the public are invited to observe proceedings. Board members will be receiving a couple of update presentations during the meeting from Durham County Council officers, in relation to their current consultation on Advice Services and also the work of the Humanitarian Support Team.

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

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