

# Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper

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## Embracing the Change: Menopause Support

A series of Menopause Peer Support Groups hosted by Wellbeing for Life (WBFL) are proving to be very popular, with fourteen women joining in one session alone. Groups take place at Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre, Chilton Town Council and Shildon Football Club. They provide a safe space for women at any stage of menopause to come together, share experiences and coping strategies. The groups also



welcome partners, understanding that the effects of menopause can be far reaching. Attendees at the Chilton group range from 41 to 81 years of age, with positive feedback from all attending.

Teagan, aged 41, said: "When I saw the group advertised, I breathed a sigh of relief that I would be able to meet with like-minded people and on my doorstep too! Being perimenopausal and only 41, I was worried I wouldn't be listened to. I was wrong, all the help I've had has been super positive and I'm hoping this is a move in the right direction for women in the future. Thank you, Jules, and everyone at the Chilton group."

Pam, aged 81, said: "I'm impressed by the ways you are all supporting each other - keep up the good work." The different stages of menopause affect a wide age range of women and the symptoms can be both mental and physical including: changes to mood, like low mood, anxiety, mood swings and low self-esteem, problems with memory or concentration (brain fog), muscle aches and joint pains and changes to body shape and weight gain.

WBFL Facilitator Jules Howe, set the groups up and said: "They are about sharing lived experiences of all stages of menopause and about not feeling alone - sharing is caring." The inspiration came from Jules' own personal experience. She said: "I was

perimenopausal myself and realised that there was no face-to-face support within our local community. I joked about setting something up for friends, so we could chat about our menopause experience - it was something we all needed. WBFL gave me the green light to set up the first group - I was over the moon. We now host three and they are thriving! This support is very much needed and I'm so happy to be able to join them and see the difference it's making!" According to a survey conducted by the British Menopause Society women suffered on average seven different symptoms of menopause, and 42% said their symptoms were worse or much worse than expected. 50% said their home lives had been impacted and more than a third said their work life had been impacted.

Jules' drive to support women experiencing the menopause hasn't stopped at the local groups, it is hoped to build on this success and set up similar ones across County Durham where there is a need. She has also spoken to Durham Hospital Radio and hosted a Menopause Café at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust. For more information about the menopause peer support groups and the 'Insight into Menopause' training sessions, visit the Wellbeing for Life website at [www.wellbeingforlife.net](http://www.wellbeingforlife.net) call 0800 8766 887 or email at [cdda-tr.WBFL@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.WBFL@nhs.net)

## Scout Group Visit Sports Club



On Tuesday 10th September a group of beavers, cubs and scouts from the 1st Byers Green Scout Group visited Newton Aycliffe Sports Club to be put through their paces by the Club's sports teams.

Coaches from Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club, Newton Aycliffe Football Club and Newton Aycliffe Rugby Union Football Club, gave the children, aged between 6 and 14 years, a chance to experience the three sports and get an insight into how the players prepared for matches. At the end of the evening they were also given the opportunity to pose questions to the coaches from the teams. Cricket Club Chairman Ian Palmer, who coordinated the visit, said "I saw that the scout group were looking to give the children different experiences and invited them along to the club to have a go at cricket, football and rugby. It was great to see all of the children enjoying themselves and having the opportunity to try different sports." Scout Group Leader, Lesley Swinney, said "The sessions run by the Sports Club were fantastic. The children all enjoyed themselves and we have had excited chatter about the night. A big shout-out to the coaches who were brilliant with all of the abilities of the children. These sessions provided a great opportunity for children to try a sport they may not previously have thought they may like. One child in particular said he did not like rugby and was a little upset about trying. Fast forward two hours and the young child said he had a fantastic time and would be interested in joining a local club."

## Fashion Show

The Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield are holding a fashion show 'A Century of Wedding Gowns' to be held on Thursday 31st October at Sedgefield Parish Hall, doors open 6pm, show starts 7.15pm. An evening of historical wedding gowns modelled on the catwalk featuring the royal wedding dresses of Princess Diana, Kate and more. Tickets £15.00 per person including Prosecco or soft drink on arrival. Contact Ann Carr for more info on 01740 629070 or 07831 452011.





# Aycliffe Village WI Update



more serious role as fundraising for his chosen charity - All Disabilities Matter. Carole, his wife, is a member of the WI and was there to share her experiences.

Our monthly book club is continuing to be popular, with a variety of novels provided by Durham Library Services. This month a number of members visited Raby Castle and had lunch at the new Vinery cafe which was followed by a chance to see the lovely new landscaped gardens, followed by retail therapy in the gift shop. There was a fabulous evening out to see Sister Act at the Hippodrome in Darlington.

Tuesday Ten pin bowling has re-commenced after a summer break and if you'd like to join us at Planet Leisure on the first Tuesday of the month, please contact us using the email below.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 25th September at 7pm in Aycliffe Village Hall, we will be having our annual auction night. Refreshments will be provided and non members are very welcome to join us.

Anyone who is interested in joining our WI should contact Anne Brown our president via email [aycliffevillageWI@durhamwi.co.uk](mailto:aycliffevillageWI@durhamwi.co.uk)

*Photo: Carl and Carole Robinson recount their time as Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Great Aycliffe Town Council.*

At last month's meeting Carl Robinson gave a very interesting talk about some of the events and his duties during his time as the Mayor of Great Aycliffe Town Council. His experiences were varied and amusing, from multiple afternoon teas and dog shows to the

# From Glasto to the Gala

She's played at Glastonbury, supported the likes of Tom Jones and Martha Reeves, and won international music awards. And now County Durham singer-songwriter Hayley McKay is set to bring her incredible vocal range and distinctive all-round style to Gala Durham.



She'll take to the stage at the Millennium Place venue at 7.30pm on Saturday 28th September.

Hayley has co-written with twice Grammy-nominated songwriter Jan Buckingham, who has written songs for stars such as Whitney Houston and Tammy Wynette, in Nashville.

She has performed in Bob Harris's home studio for his Under the Apple Tree sessions, and supported Albert Lee, Scouting for Girls, and Hazel O'Connor.

In 2022, her song, Wild West, won International Single of the Year at The International Singer Songwriter Awards in Atlanta USA.

In the same year, she was named UK Entertainer of the Year at The Hot Country TV Awards in Ireland.

Her 2021 single, Wild West, was shortlisted for UK Song of the Year at the British Country Music Awards and reached number 11 in the UK iTunes Country Charts.

It is often played on national radio stations including RTE Radio1, Absolute Country Radio, BBC Introducing, and BBC Big Country Show. Tickets, priced £16, can be booked by contacting Gala Durham's Box Office on 03000 266 600 or online at [www.galadurham.co.uk/hayley-mckay](http://www.galadurham.co.uk/hayley-mckay)



## HALLOWEEN PARTY



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**Aycliffe Youth Football News**



Despite it being only the second week of the season, some teams had a free weekend.

**Aycliffe U8 Eagles v Billingham Utd**

The U8 Eagles carried on their good work from last week. A great end to end game with lads getting the better of an eleven goal thriller. Goals from Elijah (5) and Luke secured the win. Lots of positives to take away as we get ready for the next game.

**Aycliffe U9 Eagles v Stockton Town**

A frustrating first game of the season for the boys who found themselves a goal down early, before getting back level. It was then 3-1 at half time, but the boys battled well and equalised when Toby scored a great solo goal. The opposition then scored late on to win the match. Goals from Jacob, Josh and Toby.

**Prissick Rovers v Aycliffe U10 Eagles**

Aycliffe started the game well, playing fluent football, through balls, crosses, switching the ball between the flanks & it proved too much for the opposition with a 2-0 lead in the first 10 minutes. The boys would go on and secure a comfortable 5-0 win.

**U11 Wildcats v Hartlepool Reds**

First game of the season for the U11 Wildcats. The game started with Aycliffe on the front foot creating a couple of great opportunities. However, Hartlepool scored first, but Aycliffe led at the break 3-1. Chances came and went but we finally added a fourth. Hartlepool then scored a cracking second goal and then added a 3rd to make it a nervous last five minutes but, with three minutes to go, Elsie scored to settle any nerves.

**Darlington Locos 8 v Aycliffe U13 Wildcats 2**

The girls battled well. Our GK was away so Lucy went in and did a cracking job. Imogen scored two and Lucy made several saves in a tough game. The girls worked hard and played good football at times. A couple of decisions went against us, and we were 2-1 up at one stage. The second half the girls struggled a bit, but Evie and Olivia could have gotten on the score sheet with a bit of luck.

**Aycliffe U14 Girls 8 v M'Boro Girls 4**

Aycliffe looked the stronger team throughout the entire match, but did have some 'on/off periods. In these off periods we gave away some sloppy goals, but remained confident in our ability and the win never looked in doubt. This was a very good technical performance for the team and brilliant to watch. POTM: Tia. Sponsored by Mobile Rocket Software Development.

**Aycliffe U15 Angels 3 v Whitley Bay 1**

After a tough start to the season, the players bounced back with a good win in tough, windy conditions. Aycliffe started perfectly with Charli scoring within the first minute. Whitley Bay equalised in the first half. Charli and Amy scored in the second half to give the girls the win. Assists from Eveie, Faith & Charli. Star players Maddi (GK) and Charli.

**Aycliffe U16 Eagles 8 v Seaham Harbour 2**

Goal fest at The OakLeaf with some great play by everyone. Seaham only scoring two penalties. The boys have really stepped up after being promoted two divisions to Div 4 and the early signs are positive. Excellent attitudes from all and some outstanding football played. Goals from Harry x 2, Albie x 2, Olly x 2, Hamza and Ollie. MOM Noah.

**Other Results**

- U12 Girls 0 v Norton & Stockton 6
- CLS Utd 1 v U18 Girls 9
- Sunderland City 2 v U12 Eagles 1
- U14 Eagles 3 v Eaglescliffe 4.

**The Voice of Conscience**  
 "The greatest use of life is to spend it on something that will outlast it."  
 William James, 1842-1910, American Psychologist & Philosopher

**School Aycliffe Community Centre**

We have been running junior badminton coaching sessions in the hall for a couple of years now and, during that time, I have been approached on several occasions and asked if any adult sessions are available. The Community Centre has a full size court and, through grant funding, we have purchased posts, nets, shuttles and rackets. The hall can be hired at any time to include the use of the badminton facilities on an hourly basis for those wanting to form their own group. However, if there is any interest in forming an adult (16+) weekly group or club of badminton players at the center on a regular basis, I am happy to hold a meeting, with those who are interested, in the centre on Monday 30th September at 7.00pm to discuss a way forward with this new venture. Please text your contact details, if you are interested in attending the meeting, to Elizabeth Harker on 078813 523050.

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# HEIGHINGTON BOYS F.C.



Heighington FC Youth put on a stellar performance last weekend, showcasing exceptional teamwork and individual skill. Your dedication, hard work, and exceptional talent have once again brought great honour to our club.

**Heighington U9's** fall short in narrow 2-1 loss to Washington United Silver.

- New signing Isaac scored his first goal for the team.
- The team played well defensively and created several chances, but couldn't find the equaliser.
- Despite the loss, the boys showed great effort and determination.

**Heighington U12's** come back to defeat Fishburn 4-2.

- Harry scored a fantastic goal and was named MOTM.
- Tommy and Levi also made significant contributions.
- The team showed great character and teamwork to overcome a deficit.

**Heighington U13's** battled back from 4-1 down to earn a thrilling 4-4 draw against Hartlepool Gretton Crest.

- Bruno Clack and Jack Collingwood scored two goals each for Heighington.
- The team showed great character and determination to fight back after a challenging start. MOTM: Bruno Clack and Jack Collingwood.

**Heighington U9's v Washington United Silver**

Eight players available with new signing Isaac playing his first game. They battled well in the first half. It was a very physical game which the boys did well in coping with. Washington not having much of a chance as the defence was playing really well. We hit the post twice and the Washington keeper pulled off an unbelievable save to keep his team in it. Then the sucker punch, they break away and score just before half time.

So, half time 1-0 down. But the lads started the second half like they played the first, on top, Washington couldn't seem to get into our half. Chance after chance the lads couldn't seem to score. Then again Washington scored against the run of play to make it 2-0 but, after a really good bit of play, Isaac got his first goal for the team. Unfortunately, we couldn't get the equaliser and it finished 2-1 to Washington. Goal Isaac. Opposition player of the match Isaac. We go again next week, unlucky boys, a game they didn't deserve to lose.

# Shildon Flower Club

On the 1st Monday of the month, 7th October 2024, we will be having a Flower Demonstration by Patti Dawson at Shildon Civic Hall, Civic Hall Square DL4 1AH starting at 7.30pm. There will be a raffle for flowers after the demonstration. All are welcome.

# Sedgefield Water Polo Club



Sedgefield Water Polo Club had six members selected to represent the England Talent Centre (North) at the Talent Games, held over the weekend of 8th & 9th July at the newly built Sandwell Aquatics Centre in Birmingham. This pool was built for the recent Commonwealth Games and the facilities were first class.

Thomas and Harry represented the U14 boys, Indie, Reka and Kara the U14 girls and Kyle the U16 boys. All our players had an enjoyable weekend and are currently enjoying their summer break away from Talent Centre before they return to fortnightly training in Rotherham from mid-September. Talent Centres were launched in January 2023 with the long-term aim of improving GB performance in international tournaments by providing elite coaching to talented individuals.

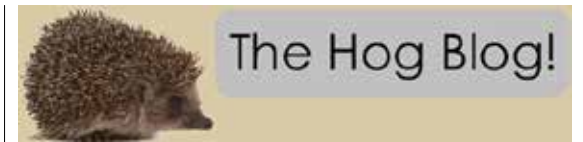
The Talent Games allowed the six Sedgefield athletes to compete against other polo players from the other talent centres in England in a round robin format, where they were able to gain valuable high level competitive game play whilst undertaking educational classroom workshops. This event was an excellent opportunity for a small club to have representation at national level and is testament to the hard work and commitment within our club, not only by our fantastic players but also our coaching team who all volunteer their time to allow children to excel in this fun and exciting sport.

We'd also like to advise that we can now offer player sponsorships for just £30 per player for this season in return for regular advertising and promotion on our social media pages. If this is something that your business may be interested in, please don't hesitate to get in touch. All monies raised will be used to allow our fantastic members the opportunity to develop their skills and provide them with the equipment they need in order to succeed in the sport.

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their support towards the athletes attending Talent Games:

- Indie - MySchoolWellbeing
- Thomas - AK Sports Therapy & Massage
- Harry - Shafto Way Service Centre
- Reka - Gabrielles Italian Restaurant
- Kara - Solid Surface North East

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



Just a quick one this week, because I am up to my eyeballs in poorly hogs. I am trying to admit as many as I can because they are babies and juveniles, for instance, last week I admitted six, three are small babies, two of which came in last Friday, both less than 150g and on Monday morning another one from Grange Vets at Darlington, all on meds and doing well. I will not turn a hedgehog in need away and rehabbers are in short supply. It's very hard work, but I try very hard to make them all well and sometimes I fail. There are a lot here that are too small to release this year, overwintering maybe about 18 which is purely a guess at this time. Fundraising is still very much a big issue, it's quite a strain worrying about these beautiful mammals and money, so I thank everyone who has donated to this rescue, past and present.

I am also grateful to Angela and the team of Grange Vets, most of what I need is here, from pain relief to antibiotics, if I need to reassess treatment it's already here.

Can I also ask finders when they bring hedgehogs to me not to use straw, I don't use straw in rescue, or paper, I like to use vet bedding for them because it's waterproof and doesn't make them uncomfortable especially when they are unwell.

If you find a hedgehog out in the day, it's not ok, so ring The British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801.

My Facebook Page is Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel.

Email [pricklyhaven@yahoo.com](mailto:pricklyhaven@yahoo.com).

Not for hedgehog emergencies please.

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## Greenfield Academy's **2024 Leavers** celebrate success

**Greenfield Academy is thrilled to see 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.

This achievement is a result of a comprehensive approach to enhancing teaching quality, offering targeted support for children and promoting a culture of high expectations. The academy's focus on personalised learning plans, increased access to resources, and teacher development has played a pivotal role in these improved outcomes.

In addition to grade improvements, Greenfield Academy has also successfully prepared children for post-16 study. A combination of career guidance, enrichment activities, and a strong emphasis on developing key skills ensures they are well-equipped for the challenges of further education. The academy's commitment to fostering independent learning, critical thinking, and time management prepares children not only for A-levels or vocational courses, but also for long-term academic and career success.

These initiatives reflect the academy's dedication to providing a high-quality educational experience, resulting in increased confidence and motivation to achieve goals. 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.

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

# OPEN EVENING

**Monday 23rd September  
6-8pm**

**Headteacher welcome  
sessions at 6pm and 7pm**

Experience learning across a range of subjects and speak to our inspirational staff.

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Woodham Academy



# OPEN EVENING

We warmly invite you to our Year 6 Open Evening

**Tuesday 24th September**  
**6pm - 8pm**

We will also be hosting open mornings for Year 6 parents/carers on 30th September, 1st, 2nd and 3rd October 9:15am - 10:45am  
Open mornings must be pre-booked by contacting our main office.

If any visitors require assistance with access, for example wheelchairs, please contact the main office on 01325 300328



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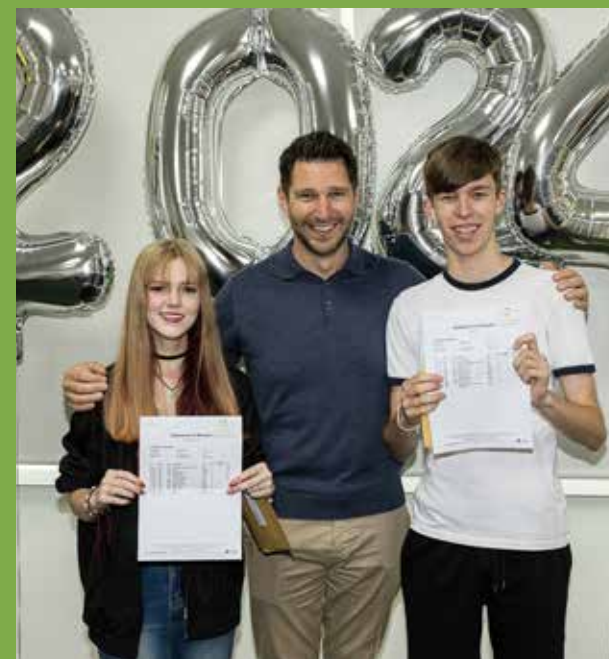


**Be Kind | Aim High | Work Hard | Never Give Up**





# Woodham Academy



Once again, Woodham students celebrated their hard work and efforts, as they collected their GCSE results at the end of August. This day is always a highlight of the academic calendar, with 2024 proving to be another great year.

Andrew Bell, Headteacher, commented “I absolutely love results day at Woodham. Seeing the pupils and families celebrate their hard work, truly is a pleasure. The entire school has delivered good results, making it 8 years in a row that students have left our school with the qualifications required to move on to the next step of their choice. We really take pride in knowing that when pupils come to Woodham, we give them the best chance to be successful”

Sarah Dickinson, Deputy Headteacher, added “We are really proud of the education we provide at Woodham. GCSE results don’t just happen as the result of year 11. They happen consistently because of a 5 year process, where every day is important to us. We pride ourselves on high quality education, everyday. Furthermore, this year 11 were such a wonderful collection of young people. They have very much become the best versions of themselves.”



## Headlines

Progress 8 score +0.10 (provisional)

One in six of all grades within the top category  
63 grade 9's across the school  
*allocated only to the very best students in the country*

**78% of students passed English GCSE**

**72% of students passed Science GCSE**

**70% of students passed Maths GCSE**

**75% of all subjects above or well above national standard**





## MP's Update

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

It's been another busy week as your new Member of Parliament for the Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor Constituency.

My team and I continue to work hard to respond to the letters and emails I've received from local residents. I've now helped over 500 residents who've come to me with particular problems. This has included providing assistance with a range of issues including housing, benefit support, child maintenance disputes and schooling. Many of these cases are very complex and require a significant amount of liaison with government departments to get things sorted, so I'm continuing to prioritise the most urgent cases. Please bear with me if you've been in touch about a wider issue.

Thank you to the many local residents who've applied for the Caseworker role in my constituency office. I'm now in the final stages of the recruitment process and hope to have the role filled very soon. Once in place, my team will be up to full strength, which means I'm able to help more residents, more quickly. As a newly elected MP, you start off with no staff, no offices and no IT! I've been working hard on this and am pleased to have recruited a new team much more quickly than many other new MPs. If you're having a problem, that you think I might be able to help with, please get in touch with me at [alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk)

### Changes to Winter Fuel Payments

I also welcome letters and emails setting out your thoughts on the issues of the day. I've had a number of emails from residents about the decision to target Winter Fuel Payments to those receiving Pension Credit. It's clear from my inbox that some residents are strongly against the change and others strongly are in favour.

Whatever your view on the change, it's important to set out why this difficult decision was taken. The new government inherited serious financial problems left behind by the last Conservative administration. Lots of promises were made that were never paid or budgeted for. That's forced the new government to have to find rapid savings to balance the books this year.

The Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, who's visited Aycliffe on a number of occasions, has made it clear that she didn't plan to make changes to Winter Fuel payments and didn't want to - but it's one of a number of savings that have had to be found to stabilise the economy and start to get Britain back on track.

The good news is that the Labour government's commitment to the Pension Triple Lock means the State Pension increased by £900 this year and will see pensions rise by over £1,000 during this Parliament. To make sure the poorest pensioners receive more help, the government has provided £421m to extend the Household Support Fund. This provides additional funding to those struggling to afford bills, food and household essentials, and can be accessed through Durham County Council who administer this on behalf of the government. In addition, the government's Warm Homes Plan will insulate thousands more homes, permanently bringing down energy bills and creating more local jobs.

### Check whether you should be getting Pension Credit

It's estimated that over 800,000 people who are eligible for Pension Credit aren't claiming it. So, I'd strongly encourage you and your family to check if you're eligible by visiting [www.gov.uk/pension-credit/eligibility](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/eligibility) or by calling the claim line on **0800 99 1234**. If you're having problems applying, you can also contact my office for assistance. Parliament is now in recess for party conferences, but I'm working hard, finishing staff recruitment and being out and about across the constituency visiting community groups and organisations. If you'd like me to meet your local group, please get in touch.

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## N.A.F.C. JUNIORS



**Under 8's Blues** - Had their first ever home league match taking on Redcar Town Lions. It was a fun game, which the team enjoyed with goals from Carter (2), Harrison A, Nate, and Alex. The opposition POTM was Poppy for constantly winning the ball in the middle. Coaches POTM was Oliver for several goal saving tackles.

**Under 8 Juniors** - Had their first away game at Tibbs, from kick-off both teams played great football, with Aycliffe scoring goals from Cooper (3), Harry (2), Ollie (2), Oliver (2), Lewis, Matthew, and an OG.

**Under 9's Reds** - Faced Seaton Carew Sharks, up against an aggressive home team, Aycliffe battled hard and showed great spirit. MOTM was Korben for an impressive performance. MOTM, awarded by parents, went to Michael with some top class saves.

**Under 9's Juniors** - Had a great game against Nunthorpe Athletic Blues. The whole team played great football throughout, with goals coming from Kian, Kaeseon, Zeke, Fletcher, Flynn, Lincoln (2) and Reign (3). MOTM went to Conner for great teamwork and brilliant work rate.

**Under 10's** - Travelled to Darlington RA Hurricanes, looking to build on last week's impressive performance. Aycliffe started brightly with Noah opening the scoring, before there was an OH and a final goal from Eddie, which was enough, along with his energy and chances created, to win him MOTM.

**Under 11's Blacks** - Travelled to Billingham Lions, with Aycliffe running riot, scoring for fun. Goals from Alfie S (3), Jack B (3), JJ, Grayson A & Ben R. POTM was awarded to both Grayson A and Captain Alfie S for constant work rate and tenacity, bossing the midfield all game.

**Under 11's Reds** - Had a remarkably close game with Leven White, Charlie and Andrew scoring the goals.

**Under 12 Whites** - Lost 2-4 at home to Roseberry Park Dragons, in a great game, Aycliffe trailed 2-3 and missed a glorious chance to equalise before the opposition made it 2-4. The goals were scored by Willam and Oscar. MOTM was William.

**Under 12's Blacks** - Welcomed Thirsk Clarets U12, putting in a much-improved performance, but they could not find the goal they wanted, despite going close.

**Under 13's Blacks** - Entertained CLS, coming away with a tremendous 6-0 win, the goals were scored by Anthony, Benjamin, Jack H (2), Rhys (2). MOTM, awarded by the coaches, was Jack H, who caused the opposition many problems. MOTM, awarded by the parents, was Rhys who played well on the wing.

**Under 14's** - Travelled to Marton FC Blues, who started well, Aycliffe eventually took control and dominated to win 5-1. The goals were scored by Layton W (2), Oscar J (2), and Layton H. MOTM was Alex.

**Under 16's Blacks** - Travelled to Wickham, drawing 1-1 at the break, Aycliffe eventually came away with a 6-1 win. The goals were scored by Jayden (2), Keaton (2), Leon and Mushy. MOTM was shared between Cayton and Jayden.

**Under 16's Whites** - Travelled to Riverside Juniors, in an incredibly physical game, it was

Riverside who won 3-0. MOTM was Daniel in defence.

**Under 23's** - Won 4-1 away against Dubmire. Aycliffe dominated the game and scored four excellent goals. Jayden, Dom, Kenzie and Ollie were the scorers and Dom was awarded MOTM.

## NAFC REPORT



### Saturday 14th September Emirates FA Cup Second Round Qualifying Newton Aycliffe 1 Warrington Rylands 1

Newton Aycliffe recorded their fifth consecutive draw, finishing 1-1 against Warrington Rylands in the FA Cup. This also meant Aycliffe remain unbeaten this season. A splendid season high 349 crowd enjoyed FA Cup action on this sunny September afternoon at the Ashcourt Group Stadium. The result earned Brian Atkinson's side a replay on Tuesday 17th September with the winners hosting either Dunston or Scarborough Athletic on 28th September. It didn't start off plain sailing for Aycliffe. Alex Nelson was controversially judged to have fouled Rylands forward Ntumba Massanka in the 9th minute and Ben Hardcastle stepped up to convert the resulting penalty.

Aycliffe struggled to take possession off Rylands within the first half. Their first big chance came when a Joe Ferguson corner was whipped in, whilst Rylands' keeper, Luke Pilling, dealt with the corner, he fell awkwardly, almost falling into his own net. In the other goal, Jim Pollard was at his usual best. His brilliant goalkeeping performances have become par for the course since joining Aycliffe. He did well to deny Liam Morris' curling shot from out the box in the first half. Jack Clarkson had Aycliffe's next big chance when he outpaced and outsmarted veteran Rylands midfielder Dean Furman to be through on goal, but his shot went high.

Massanka had the second half's first chance, but Pollard made a splendid one handed save to stop the volleyed shot. In the 76th minute, Pollard once again denied Massanka, and the resulting corner to Warrington was expertly countered by Aycliffe. Ferguson crossed to substitute Cole Kiernan who went on an incredible run gifting a perfect pass to Dean Thexton who fired it home to complete a brilliant counter-attacking goal.

The latter part of the game had further controversy when it appeared Liam Morris had brought down Jake Petitjean, the referee waved away penalty calls however. The score remained 1-1 setting up another FA Cup replay. Following which Aycliffe's attention turns to the Isuzu FA Trophy with an away tie at Emley on Saturday 21st September.

Aycliffe finally return to league action, after a month of cup games, on Wednesday 25th September with a trip to newly promoted Heaton Stannington.

*Match report by Ryan Livingston. Photo by Yvonne Wood - Dean Thexton celebrates his goal against Warrington Rylands.*



# Arts for Wellbeing Course

Due to enquiries, we are now opening up these sessions to all ages 18+. Join us at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday 25th September from 6pm to 8pm for nine weekly sessions. Enjoy a new arts course delivered with support from the talented artists from Daisy Arts.  
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## In Memoriam

**Janet Ruth Ryman**  
  
*Died 18th Sept 2018*  
My heart still aches with sadness and secret tears still flow. What it meant to love you, no-one can ever know.  
From your loving Husband Alfie.

## Congratulations

**Raymond and Marie Ellis**  
  
**26th September 2024**  
**Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary**  
to the best Parents and Grandparents in the World  
On your diamond anniversary, we send you all our love on this very special day. Sixty years of giving happiness, love and loyalty to each other must not go unmarked. We wish you many more years of love and good health together.  
Lots of love from Darren, Jennifer, Courtney & Nathan xxxxxx

# RUNNING CLUB NEWS

It has been another very busy week for Aycliffe Running Club with some excellent performances across a series of races. On Wednesday 8th September, 14 members took part in the final race of the Darlington Trail 5k series and a new course, the Harrowgate Hill 5k. John Firby (19:09) finished first with Lucy Postle (23:42), third female. Also representing the club were Sam Keenan (21:10), Martin Turnbull (21:45), Richard Holland (22:14), Jimmy Agnew (22:40), Trevor Agnew (24:38), Joe Dickinson (27:43), Keith Hatton (29:50), Rob Nicholson (29:54), Melanie Varley (32:00), Kelly Dickinson (32:26), Peter Varley (34:20) and Ian Stothard (46:45).  
In the overall series of eight races, Lucy Postle finished third female, an amazing achievement. Sue Podmore also showed excellent consistency, to finish in the top 10. In the men's series,

Sam Keenan finished second and Richard Holland third. Jimmy Agnew, John Firby and Trevor Agnew also finished in the top ten overall, making it a fantastic series for the club.  
On Sunday 15th September, three members took part in the Raby Castle Trail Run series, with Laura Hudson (49:11) and Cloe Livermore (49:12) taking part in the 5 mile race and Martyn Knox (1:18:08) taking part in the 10 mile race. Martyn ran an excellent race finishing sixth overall and third in the men's over 30 category.  
On the same day, 13 members took part in the Sedgefield Serpentine race in Hardwick Park and the surrounding woodland. John Surtees (37:34) finished second overall. Also taking part were Ian Payne (43:03), Martin Turnbull (43:22), Tracey Surtees (46:11), Trevor Needham (50:42), Thomas Heywood (53:54), Nicky Aitchison (57:49), Rob Nicholson (59:01), Jean-Pierre Hupin (1:00:52), Sandrine Hewitt (1:04:15), Richard Tonge (1:08:15), Em Flynn (1:13:05) and Kathleen Tonge (1:13:56).  
At the same time, 11 members travelled to Middleton St. George to take part in the final race of the Darlington 10k series of races, the Locomotion 10k. Lucy Postle (48:44) finished as first female and Bernadette Cooper (49:29) second female. Also representing the club were Sam Keenan (44:59), Daniel Tatham (46:53), Joe Dickinson (54:10), Salv McDonnell (54:39), Keith

Hatton (56:04), Cath McDonnell (58:46), Carley Cooper (59:39), Sue Podmore (1:00:09) and Kelly Dickinson (1:02:07). In the overall series, there were some excellent performances for the club with Sam Keenan finishing third overall in the men's series. Daniel Tatham and Richard Campbell also finished in the top 10. In the female series, Lucy Postle finished first overall with Bernadette Cooper second. Cath McDonnell, Sue Podmore and Carley Cooper also finished in the top 10 overall, amazing efforts from them all.  
At the same time, two members travelled to Castleton in North Yorkshire to take part in the Castleton Show. Trish Kay followed up on her excellent performance last year by finishing as first female over 60 for the second year in a row with Shaun Dodds also taking part.  
On the same day, one of our members travelled to Denmark to take part in the Copenhagen half marathon. Judith Porter (2:27:56) completed the race which is her first in the super half series. Judith finished eighth lady out of 20 in the 70-74 age group. She also passed the current men's 3,000 metres world record holder and 5,000 metres Olympic Champion, Jakob Ingebrigtsen, on the course, but as she pointed out she was only 2k into her race and he had 1k to go in his and they were going in opposite directions. Maybe next time...  
If you are feeling inspired and are interested in joining the club, you can turn up for one of our sessions. More information is available on our website [www.ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk](http://www.ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk) or our Facebook page. If you would like to chat with someone, then you can email [ayclifferrunningclub@gmail.com](mailto:ayclifferrunningclub@gmail.com). If interested in the Junior Section you can email [arc.juniorsection@gmail.com](mailto:arc.juniorsection@gmail.com). Make this year the year you or your children get into running and join us to keep it going for many years to come.

## Obituary

**Hilda Mary Nixon**  
Peacefully in Rose Lodge Care Home, Newton Aycliffe on 2nd September 2024, aged 94 years. Beloved Wife of the late George, loving Daughter of the late William and Minnie, also a dear friend to many.  
Funeral Tuesday 24th September. Would friends please meet 10.30am for service at St Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village, followed by interment in St Andrew's Churchyard.  
No flowers by request. Donations, if so desired, to St Andrew's Church Fund.

**Valerie Plaskitt**  
Newton Aycliffe  
Suddenly on 4th September 2024, aged 80 years. Valerie, beloved Wife of the late Trevor, much loved Mam of Shirley and Julia, adored Nan of Jonathan, Maxine, Louis, Mia and Great Nan to Reggie. Funeral service to take place on Thursday 26th September 2024, 10.30am at Wear Valley Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, to the British Heart Foundation.

**June Healer**  
1952-2024  
June passed away peacefully in hospital on 6th September, we are all heartbroken. You are with the angels now. Much love, Sister Mary, much loved Husband Tony, Son Thomas, Mother-in-Law Doreen and all the family and friends, we miss you so much. No words can say how heartbroken we are, we will all miss you so much and your smile June. Forever in our hearts.

**Andrew Paul Clark**  
Of Wallas Road, Newton Aycliffe. Andrew's funeral is to be held on Tuesday 24th September at 12.30pm at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon, Bishop Auckland DL14 8PE. Afterwards we will be holding a remembrance gathering at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club, Moore Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5AG. All are welcome to attend.



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The children and staff have been enjoying learning, researching, creating and presenting different world religions. They explored the different celebrations and festivals that different religions hold, what happens and why they are so important to their religion. Each class researched and learnt about a different religion, such as Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism, to name a few.

The children were tasked with the job of creating a poster with the information they gathered, to then present to the whole school in our collective worship. The children were very brave and stood in front of the whole school and staff, proudly showing us what they had learnt. It is always great to learn about others in our world and very exciting to share what we learnt. The children did an exceptional job and showed such bravery and resilience in this work. Great job St. Francis'!

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**JOY ALLEN**  
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CRIME COMMISSIONER

Join us as we help shape the future of policing in County Durham and Darlington. It is an absolute privilege to continue serving our communities as Police and Crime Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington. My first term was a wonderful success, and I have many of you to thank for those achievements. Back in 2021, you played an instrumental role in helping me to identify the issues that make our communities feel unsafe and impact your quality of life. My first Police and Crime Plan was built around delivering a strong and visible policing presence in our neighbourhoods - just as you had asked - and now, as I develop my new Police and Crime Plan 2025/29, I'm asking for your help again to set the course of policing over the coming four years. Earlier this month, I launched a survey to capture your voice on a whole series of issues and emerging threats to public safety. These include ASB, drug use and dealing, dangerous driving, off-road bikes and crime reporting, as these are issues that are raised with me frequently. The statistics show that alcohol and drugs are a motivating factor in so many of the crimes reported to police, and it's important that we address these problems as part of our approach to fighting crime. If you haven't yet had time to complete the survey, we will be attending a series of shows, farmers' markets and other public events over the coming weeks where you will be able to meet members of my team and have a face-to-face chat with either myself, my Deputy Graham Hall or key OPCC staff about the improvements you would like to see. It's a busy programme which sees us travel the length and breadth of County Durham and Darlington, putting local people in the driving seat of policing change. It's important to me that we speak to residents and businesses from all walks of life, backgrounds and communities, from farmers and landowners through to parents, students, civic leaders, volunteers and youth workers, so please come along and tell us what you think. I cannot emphasise how seriously we value your feedback. My Police and Crime Plan is your Police and Crime Plan. The issues that are important to you are important to me and your views, combined with crime data and public correspondence to my office, will set the tone for how we will approach pressing issues to your safety over the next four years. Please come along to one of our events and make your voice count - you will make a difference. You can find out more details on my social media pages below.

**The Commissioner wants to hear  
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Find out more on my social media pages >>>

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# Aycliffe Senior Football News

## Newton Aycliffe Youth Seniors 2 v Whickham Fellside 1

County cup day for the seniors, and Aycliffe started the game with a midfield with an average age of 19 and had only twelve senior games between them. This is the perfect example of the clubs aim to give our young lads a chance to play at this level and they certainly stepped up to the challenge. The game started in very windy conditions, with both sides struggling to cope, as a result, the game was very scrappy. The visitors first shot from distance somehow found a way to slip in at the near post. However, Aycliffe was the better the side for the rest of the half. In the second half, the lads had the wind behind them and we talked about using it to put their keeper under pressure. A Ryan Groves corner rode the wind and found the net, his first goal for the club. This gave the lads a lift and they were the only side looking to get the ball down and play. They then got the deserved break when Niall Douglas tried his luck from a tight angle which hit the back of the net to give Aycliffe the lead. The lads pressed for a third and maybe could have had it with a bit more composure. All seventeen players got time on the pitch, giving us a solid platform for the rest of the season. MOM Joel Gibson.

## Newton Aycliffe Youth Women 2 v Hebburn Town 3

Not the result they wanted, but definitely a stronger performance from the team.

Aycliffe had a tough start, allowing the visitors to take a quick 0-2 lead. This gave us the wake-up call we needed, and we finished the first half as the stronger side. Beth grabbed her second goal of the season after charging down a clearance and calmly finishing to make it 1-2. We nearly equalised before half time, but their keeper was in top form.

The second half began as we left off, on the front foot but, unfortunately, Hebburn capitalised on a free kick to extend their lead to 1-3. We responded right away when Alex was brought down in the box, and Annabelle coolly slotted home the penalty to bring it back to 2-3. Despite creating more chances, we couldn't find the equaliser and ran out just short.

Player of the Match goes to Morgan, who put in a fantastic shift in her first game back after missing pre-season. She dominated the midfield and we're excited to see what more she'll bring once fully match fit. Well done, Morgan.

# Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report



in the 100 cup semi-final at home to Whitby.

Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, fought hard in their last game of the season, but were eventually defeated by 21 runs at home to Middlesbrough 2nd XI in their final game in the NYSD 2nd division. Electing to bowl first, Aycliffe dismissed Middlesbrough for 204 after 41 overs with Luke Telford (4 for 43) taking the honours with the ball and the other main contributions with the ball came from Tom Dearden (3 for 51) and James Layfield-Carroll (2 for 41). In reply, openers Luke Telford, who scored 44 off 48 balls and Tom Dearden (19 off 22 balls) got their side off to a solid start with a 51 partnership. However, Aycliffe then lost wickets at regular intervals with only the dogmatic Adam Gittins (sponsored by BHP Law) showing any real resistance with a determined unbeaten 59 off 137 balls as Aycliffe were eventually dismissed for a very respectable 183 off 51 overs. After 22 games, the first team finished their season with 194 points and finished bottom of the final NYSD 2nd division table and are relegated to the third division.

The club's second team lost by six wickets in their final game of the season, away at promotion candidates Darlington RA 2nd XI in the NYSD 4th division. Aycliffe chose to bat first and scored 120 all out after 28 overs. Adam Shaw top scored for Aycliffe with 28 off 38 balls and he was supported well by Will Moffatt (15 off 26 balls) and Jimmy Newton (15 off 10 balls). When the homeside replied, good bowling by Jai Sander (2 for 20), Ramzan Hussain (1 for 21) and Matty Greaves (1 for 28) was not enough to prevent Darlington RA from reaching their winning target after 25.5 overs and with six wickets in hand. After 24 games, the second team finished their season with 201 points and currently sit in 9th place in the fourth division table with just one final week of the other games to be played next weekend.

The club's senior ladies team, who were the defending champions, were beaten in a very close game by just ten runs, at home to Whitby in the semi-final of the NYSD 100 Cup. Batting first, Aycliffe's Tina Masterman top scored with an unbeaten 26 off 15 balls, Louise Jackson also batted superbly scoring 25 off 18 balls and Annelise Myers contributed well with 10 not out off 12 balls. In reply, Whitby just edged home in a tight finish despite some good bowling by Anneliese Myers, who finished her four overs with the excellent figures of 2 for 11.

Photo: NACC Ladies team after their narrow defeat

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