

# Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper

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## PCC's Spotlight on Rural Crime

Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen has shared details of the significant projects underway to protect rural communities and businesses from crime as a national week of action launches.

National Rural Crime Action Week ran from 21st to 25th October and highlighted the improvements being made to tackle rural crime and enhance support for rural residents, farmers and businesses.

The PCC recently unveiled the Rurali project which represents one of the biggest investments to date in rural crime prevention in the county. The project has seen more than £200k of Safer Streets funding directed into two new Ruralwatch Coordinators and a dedicated intelligence officer to capture and develop intelligence gleaned from Ruralwatch WhatsApp groups.

The new initiative will ensure more of the public's concerns and suspicions about rural crime are actioned as early as possible to prevent further harm and losses, bring more criminals to justice, and to increase feelings of safety in the countryside.

Commissioner Allen said: "Rural crime has a profound effect on the people who live, work or visit our countryside. From dog fouling and fly-tipping, through to illegal hunting, hare coursing and plant theft, rural communities are plagued by unique problems that require a unique response. This is why, as PCC, I have worked hard to bring the experts together to see what work we need to do – collectively – to make our rural communities safer. And I have backed this up with substantial investment to ensure we have the tools and technology to respond to the problems that matter most to our rural communities.

"No one knows our communities better than the people who live in them. This is why it is so important to me to empower residents to play their part, and this is the key aim of the Rurali project. This initiative will provide the infrastructure needed to be able to quickly action any risks or threats to prevent further harm and losses in our countryside."

NFU Mutual's latest figures estimate the cost of rural crime in the North East at £8.6m in 2023 - a 7.3% increase on the previous year - while nationally the figure stands at £52.8m.

### Success to date:

Since first being elected in 2021, the County Durham and Darlington PCC has undertaken extensive engagement with rural residents, farmers and businesses to determine the issues that impact them most.

Previous survey data revealed a huge proportion of rural residents in the county had experienced fly-tipping incidents (82%) while 23% of rural residents said they had experienced vehicle theft. Livestock theft (19%), dog attacks on livestock (15%), crop damage (9%) and plant theft (9%)

were also high on the list.

Rural residents also frequently raise issues of anti-social behaviour (ASB), speeding, off-road biking, illegal hunting, wildlife cruelty, drug dealing/use, dog fouling and vandalism as problems that negatively impact their lives. In response, the PCC included 'Safer Countryside' as a key priority in her original Police and Crime Plan.

She funded new Community Speedwatch vans with onboard technology to clock multiple speeding motorists in rural communities as well as automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras to track the movement of offenders and stolen machinery through the county. She also funded GPS trackers and other advanced technology including drones to support the work of investigating officers.

Last year, the PCC agreed to invest £20k into 10 new re-deployable CCTV cameras and related equipment in support of Durham County Council's work to target fly-tipping hotspots across the county and bring more offenders to justice.

And to address the menace of off-road bikes, the PCC contributed funding towards Operation Endurance - an all-year-round operation which sees officers seizing bikes on the spot if they are being ridden illegally and anti-socially. The force now uses a range of tactics including drone technology to tackle this top public concern.

As part of an ongoing crackdown on ASB, the PCC secured a place in the national 'hotspot policing' pilot and associated Immediate Justice scheme which has delivered thousands of extra patrols across rural and urban areas of the county and perpetrators made to 'give back' to their communities as punishment.

More recently, the PCC unveiled the Rurali project which represents one of the biggest investments to date in rural crime prevention in the county and has seen more than £200k of Safer Streets funding directed into two new Ruralwatch Coordinators and a dedicated intelligence officer to capture and develop intelligence gleaned from Ruralwatch WhatsApp groups.

The new initiative will ensure more of the public's concerns and suspicions about rural crime are actioned as early as possible to prevent further harm and losses, bring more criminals to justice, and to increase feelings of safety in the countryside.

The Commissioner or members of her team will be visiting rural communities throughout National Rural Crime Action Week to raise awareness of Rurali and how it will benefit rural communities and businesses, as well as how to get involved. This includes visits to Darlington Farmers Mart and St John's Chapel Tupp Sale and Show in Barnard Castle and a Rurali launch event at Slatley Parish Hall in Bishop Auckland.

## Remembrance Services 2024



### Remembrance Sunday - 10th November

The Remembrance Day Parade will leave the Barnard Armoury at approximately 10.40am and proceed to St. Clare's Church, where there will be a short service including the Last Post and the Reveille with the two minutes silence at 11am. Wreaths will be laid, followed by a service in St. Clare's Church.

After the service the Parade will reassemble outside of the Church and proceed down Stephenson Way for the Salute and March Past. The Parade will be dismissed in the Barnard Armoury yard. Please note that there will be road and car park closures in place for this.

### Aycliffe Village Remembrance Sunday Service

A Remembrance Day Service will also take place at St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village on Sunday 10th November commencing at 3.00pm.

During the Service the congregation will proceed to the war memorial in the church grounds for the laying of wreaths.

### Armistice Day - Monday 11th November

An invitation is extended to Aycliffe residents to attend a short service in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre where the Two Minutes Silence will be observed.

Anyone wishing to attend this service should assemble near the Town Clock within the Town Centre area (Beveridge Way) from 10.50am on Monday 11th November.

## Road & Car Park Closures

### REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE - SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2024

For the Annual Remembrance Day Parade this year, the following roads will be closed when the parade marches to St. Clare's Church and for the return route and Salute Past: Greenwell Road, Macmillan Road, Stephenson Way and St. Cuthbert's Way.

The following car parks will be closed between approximately 6.00am and 12.30pm: Greenwell Road / Macmillan Road (car park opposite the Phoenix Club); Stephenson Way (car park outside the Leisure Centre); Bewick Crescent (car park opposite the surgery).



# Baking at Woodham



On Thursday 24th October, the Technology Department at Woodham Academy hosted its first baking session of the year, welcoming over 20 enthusiastic students eager to develop their piping skills. With Halloween spirit in full swing, students created and decorated cupcakes - no tricks, just delicious treats. The next session is set for before Christmas, where students will dive into baking and decorating Christmas-themed biscuits.

# Syrian Evening

You are invited to a Syrian Evening, to taste the most delicious Syrian food and sweets on Saturday 2nd November at 6.00pm. The event will held in St. Clare's Church. The evening is to support a single Syrian mother in the local community - ticket price is £15 with children under 10 free. To book, please send a text message to the following number 07428 231289 and pay through: Account: 11850965, Sort code: 11-05-63 or on entry to the evening.

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 4.15pm: 'Calvos'  
 5pm: Macadam School of Dance  
 5.30pm: Aycliffe & Brancepeth Brass Band  
 6.00pm: St Francis' School Choir  
 6.30pm: Christmas Lights Switch On

**6.45pm: SPARK**

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# St. Francis' Celebrate Black History Month



This year, Black History Month was celebrated from Tuesday 1st to Thursday 31st October 2024.

In the UK, Black History Month is a time for reflection and positive changes for the future. During Black History Month, people can celebrate the outstanding contributions that Black and Mixed Heritage people have made to society across the globe, both today and historically. Black History Month originated in the United States of America, but it's now a global event.

This year, the theme of Black History Month in the UK is reclaiming narratives. The theme of reclaiming narratives focuses on sharing stories of Black History and Culture, as well as correcting historical inaccuracies. This includes less well-known and untold stories, as well as stories about famous historical figures. Listening to these stories, and learning about historical figures and their achievements, can inspire the younger generation to dream big.

Black History Month UK provides great opportunities to reflect on the key moments in history and today's society. It's important to celebrate the contributions of everyone to our communities and to support the multiculturalism and diversity that shapes them. It can highlight any inequalities that Black people are facing, and work towards shaping a better future for all.

Black History Month UK can also give opportunities to discuss inspirational Black and Mixed Heritage people throughout history, that future generations can look up to.

The whole school and the year 1 and 2's from Horndale joined us on Monday morning for the year 6's collective worship to highlight why we celebrate Black History and tell us about some of the key people from the past and how they had a such huge impact on how we live today.

### Black History Month facts

Here are three fantastic Black History Month facts to share with your young learners:

1. Black History Month was founded by the American scholar Carter G. Woodson in 1925.
2. Black History Month was originally only a week long.
3. The first Black History Month in the UK took place in 1987. This date was significant because it marked the 150th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the Caribbean.

The year 6's did an amazing job on Monday, they showed such resilience and bravery performing in front of so many people. Thank you to those who joined us. Brilliant job Year 6, you have really spread the word.

# Cosy Nights

The soup is bubbling on the stove,  
Full of veg to keep tummies aglow.  
Cosy evenings wrapped up to snuggle,  
Pulling on their onesies the little ones struggle,  
Giggling as they hop from foot to foot,  
Getting ready for bed is a hoot!  
Log fires crackle and the flames dance,  
and sleepy eyes begin to flicker into a trance.  
Curtains drawn and blinds pulled down,  
Time to cosy under warm duvets and hang up dressing gowns.  
Climbing up the stairs to bed,  
a night-time story is quietly read.  
Please close your eyes, and sweet dreams  
you sleepyheads!

MMK October 2024

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# Allsorts Open

Allsorts Charity Shop is doing well thanks to the kind people who come into my shop at the side of St. Clare's Church Hall and spend on a very wide choice of items, everything in stock but the kitchen sink. The shop is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10am to 1pm, with all money raised from sales donated to good causes. So far, my accounts tell me, I have given away thousands of pounds. I personally take nothing from the takings, I give my time free and enjoy being able to help people in need. The shop has been closed for several weeks, due to a stay in hospital as a result of a fall. I feel as fit as a fiddle now and the shop will be open again from 5th November. I have a lot of faith in so many people and I am sure they will resume their full support. Just call to say hello will give me great assurance. Geoffrey Bennett



# New Hydrotherapy Pool at PCP



Our guest on Sundays Around Town was Carol Gaskarth, Chief Executive Officer of the award winning Pioneering Care Centre, based at Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe. Carol was kind enough to be our guest and provide us with the opportunity to discuss at length the Centres new Hydrotherapy Pool which opened on the 19th October 2024. The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is a multi-award winning charity whose mission is 'Health, Wellbeing and Learning for All'. PCP aims to support people by creating opportunities to improve the health, wellbeing and life chances of disadvantaged communities. Established in 1998, PCP has grown as a charity to meet developing community needs and supported over 450,000 people. PCP has over 140 members of staff based across the North East. Its dedicated staff team supports its organisational operations, projects and services, that all make a difference to communities. Since starting its journey in 1998, PCP has been recognised as an award-winning charity, not only for going above and beyond for the people they support, but staff and volunteers too. The Hydrotherapy Pool is now open and accepting bookings to use this brand new facility. For further details simply call 01325 321234 or visit the Pioneering Care Centre Facebook page, or call into the Centre to book. Phill & Andy Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.

# Menopause Monday

Our next lunchtime Menopause Peer Support Group is Monday 12th November 12.30pm-2pm, Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre (opposite Tesco). This is an informal drop in for anyone (not just the ladies) that may be affected by menopause (peri or post), anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Jules Howe, Wellbeing for Life Team, 07809 342192.

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# Dates Announced for Bishop Auckland Food Festival 2025

Durham County Council has confirmed Bishop Auckland Food Festival will return to the town on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th April. The festival will feature over 140 independent traders selling everything from street food, cakes, locally brewed drinks, cheeses and chutneys, and even home-ware and pet treats. Trader applications are now open for 2025 and vendors are being encouraged to express their interest before the deadline. Businesses have until midnight on Friday 10th January to submit their application, with those successful notified shortly afterwards. Further details of the festival, including celebrity guest announcements, will be released in the new year. Traders who wish to be part of the festival can apply online at: [www.bishopaucklandfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.bishopaucklandfoodfestival.co.uk)

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# South West Durham Training Opens Doors to Future Engineers and Plumbers



South West Durham Training (SWDT) is inviting aspiring engineers and plumbers to unite and explore exciting career paths at its open evening on Wednesday, 6th November (5-8pm).

The Open Event offers a fantastic opportunity to learn about the diverse range of programmes available through SWDT, part of the Bishop Auckland College Group.

The evening takes place at the centre on Durham Way South, Aycliffe Business Park, and provides a chance to meet with industry professionals and discover the rewarding career paths in these fields.

Jonathan Hall, Executive Director at SWDT, said: "The open evening is very important for SWDT and Bishop Auckland College as it feeds into next year's curriculum plan and student profile."

"Various engineering and plumbing companies will be at the event to meet with potential students and highlight different career options."

Those in attendance can look forward to engaging demonstrations and presentations showcasing cutting-edge technologies in engineering and plumbing.

There will be demonstrations on the air source heat pumps, wire eroder, a plasma cutter, hydraulics and pneumatics, CNC machines, faro arm and electrical circuits.

There will also be a demo of the virtual reality welding set, allowing experience of the world of welding through immersive technology, and go-kart maintenance.

Representatives from leading companies in County Durham on the Aycliffe Business Park will be there, such as 3M, Viper RS, BTS,



Solatron, GSK, Husqvarna and Geo Thermal. Those companies will have someone on hand to discuss career opportunities and provide insights into the industry.

There will be alumni from SWDT who will share experiences and offer advice to aspiring professionals.

Jonathan said: "This annual Open Event enables students to secure a place on a full-time course or even an apprenticeship. It can also help students decide a specific engineering pathway for their full-time course to match their career aspirations."

"SWDT offers courses in welding, precision engineering, maintenance and electrician installation, among others, so students can also arrange some informal careers advice from the SWDT team or book future meetings to do this."

The Open Event is a must-attend evening for anyone considering a career in engineering or plumbing.

There are Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 courses available as well as T-levels in maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing, as well as Level 1 and Level 2 diplomas available in plumbing studies.

There is also a T-level in construction for building services engineering (plumbing and heating engineering).

It's a chance to gain valuable insights, connect with industry professionals and discover the exciting opportunities that await in these sectors.

\* Companies interested in having a stand at the Open Event can register online at [www.swdt.co.uk](http://www.swdt.co.uk) or 01325 313194

## WATER POLO UPDATE

Sedgefield Water Polo's Mixed U16 team travelled to Ponds Forge, Sheffield for their away league fixture against local rivals, City of Sheffield Water Polo Club on 29th September. The team expected the game to be a very close scoring match with both clubs unbeaten in the league and fighting for a place at the top of the leader board.



The game got off to a very close start, with Sheffield scoring first. Goals in close succession from Tyler and Kyle gave Sedgefield an early lead, before Sheffield scored three goals in as many minutes. Kyle's goal, with just one second left on the clock, ensured the score at the end of the first quarter was 4-3 to Sheffield. The second quarter of the game was just as close as the first quarter had been. Theo, Gregor and Kyle all scored which took the lead up to 5-6, before another goal from Kyle in the last minute of the game. Half time score was a respectable 6-7.

Quarter 3 started with goals from Theo, Owen, Kyle & Gregor. The teams strength, fitness and determination to win shone through and this quarter finished with a 4 goal lead by Sedgefield, with the score showing as 9-13. Going into the final quarter, Sedgefield needed to dig deep, knowing that their opponents would come out fighting. Sedgefield needed to remain strong and focussed in order to maintain the goal lead and take the points for the win. Unfortunately, despite a strong press, Sheffield managed to score two goals without Sedgefield scoring any. However, Sedgefield managed to withstand the pressure, and with some clever game management in the final minutes, the match finished with Sedgefield being victorious and having an 11-13 win. This result strengthened Sedgefield's unbeaten record and ensured they were top of the league table.

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

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



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## £200 Donation



Dorothy Whitehouse and the ladies of the Sharing Together Craft Group have generously donated £200 to Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church. They presented the cheque to Reverend David Payne, these funds will contribute to the ongoing repairs for the new roof on this beloved Church. The funds were raised through the sales of handmade crafts, lovingly created by the group, and sold to support local charities in Darlington, Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding areas. Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church, which is a hub for the local community, will be undergoing essential repairs. With this in mind, Dorothy and the ladies wanted to make this contribution as they know how much it will help, enabling the Church to continue being a welcoming space for everyone.

## RUNNING CLUB NEWS

It has been another busy week for Aycliffe Running Club, with some excellent performances.

On Sunday 27th October, three members travelled to Jedburgh in Scotland to take part in the Jedburgh half marathon. This was run on rural single carriageways and open, and termed as being flat, closed roads around Jedburgh. It turned out not to be so flat and was a tough undulating course. Representing the club were John Surtees (1:23:45), Richard Campbell (1:34:12) and Tracey Surtees (1:40:44).

On the same day, three members took part in the Darlington Trail Halloween 5k Fun Run. This was open to all ages and abilities with Halloween fancy dress optional with medals and treats for everyone taking part. There were also special prizes for the best dressed. Tamara Kirk and her son Harry, Cloe Livermore and Laura Hudson all took part with most runners donning fancy dress for the race. At the same time, one member made the trip to Valencia in Spain to take part in the Medio Maratón Valencia Trinidad Alfonso Zurich 2024, or Valencia Half Marathon as it is commonly known. This was a special race which saw a new half marathon world record being set, unfortunately not by one of our members. Judith Porter took part in the race, finishing in a time of 2.28.37 finishing 10th in her age category. Conditions were testing for the race with Judith having to walk 4 miles in the rain just to get to the start, but despite this still commented on how lovely a city it was.

On Saturday 19th October, 43 members started their weekend with a parkrun. At Windy Nook, Steve Williams (27:35) completed the course for the first time whilst Jayne Rudd (31:54) completed the event at Riverside for the first time. A special mention for Cath McDonnell (28:51) who ran at Hackworth and completed her 300th ever parkrun, an amazing achievement. At Penrith, Jean-Pierre Hupin (28:46) completed the event for the first time. At Oakwell Hall, Lou Mann (40:30) completed the course for the first time. Richard Holland (21:37) made the trip to Germany and completed the Hasenheide parkrun for the first time. At Jubilee, Andrew Twedde (25:28) completed the event for the first time. At Hamsterley, Jimmy Agnew (22:32) and Trevor Agnew (25:16) both completed the course for the first time with Kelly Dickinson (32:26) also taking part. On Saturday 26th October, 42 members started their weekend with a parkrun. A special mention for Thomas Heywood (22:22) who set a new parkrun PB, taking over 30 seconds off his previous best, showing the amazing progress he has made since joining the club. At Town Moor, Jayne Rudd (31:02) completed the course for the first time. The plan for a few members was to take part in the run at Fulwell Quarry as part of the club's parkrun tourism. However, this was cancelled, with members having to quickly re-route to South Shields. Taking part were Jimmy Agnew (23:56), Trevor Agnew (25:55), Steve Williams (28:20), David Stothard (30:20), Viv Williams (33:39) and Ian Stothard (54:50). Some just missed the start and unfortunately others were not able to make the run in time and settled for a run along the promenade.

At Hackworth, Bernadette Cooper (24:00) finished as first female with Heather Bainbridge (28:42) and Deborah Kell (29:45) completing the course for the first time. At Pont y Bala, located in Wales, Linda McNamee (53:13) completed the course for the first time. At the fantastic location of Trentham Gardens, Keith Hatton (27:39) completed the course for the first time.

If you are feeling inspired and are interested in joining the club, you can turn up for one of our sessions. More information is available on our website [www.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.

## Dorothys 100th Birthday



Dorothy Irvine recently turned the grand age of 100 and we celebrated it here at Rose Lodge with a party and cake as she was surrounded by her family and friends. Dorothy received a visit from the Deputy Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Joanne Jones, along with some stunning flowers and cards. In the lead up to Dorothy's birthday we asked the local community to help us gift Dorothy 100 birthday cards and they did not disappoint, she received over 300 cards. Thank you to everyone who sent her a card. An even bigger thank you to our local schools and nurseries who all rallied round to make her some cards - she appreciated every single one.

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Sunday Afternoon 10th November  
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**Sunday Night Entertainment**  
£2 Entry

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Sunday 10th - Mark Carter  
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# N.A.F.C. REPORT



## Newton Aycliffe 4 v Consett 1 Tuesday 22nd October

Newton Aycliffe completed an emphatic 4-1 win against local rivals Consett AFC. It was a brilliant performance where Dean Thexton shone as he bagged a hat trick and the Man of the Match award. It was the first time Aycliffe had defeated Consett since August 2021. Aycliffe first had the ball in the net within the third minute, but Liam Jarvie's rebound was quickly deemed offside. The home side were not discouraged however, as in the seventh minute Jarvie this time assisted a goal as his cross found an oncoming Thexton who easily headed it past Consett keeper Harry Moss. Consett equalised in the 22nd minute when a corner from Jake Orrell found the head of Brandon Holdsworth. This was probably the zenith of Consett's night however. The second half saw Aycliffe run away with the game and they were immediately the better side, as demonstrated when Liam Jarvie expertly weaved past Consett's Calvin Smith to pass to Dean Thexton at close range who gently poked the ball into the bottom corner to make it 2-1. Aycliffe were simply free scoring now, in the 54th minute Thexton

bagged his hattrick when Liam Adamson's looped cross allowed the ball to find his head, which he easily headed home, making it 3-1. The 88th minute saw Aycliffe undisputedly seal the points when Cieran Jackson broke away from Consett's Liam College who struck the ball past Moss into the bottom right corner. Capping off a great home win for Brian Atkinson's side against something of a 'bogey team' in recent years, with Consett's last loss at Moore Lane coming in February 2020. On Saturday, Aycliffe moved on to Stockton Town in the Isuzu FA Trophy. Aycliffe had achieved a fantastic win at Premier division side Whitby Town in the last round. However, their fellow Step 3 team, Stockton, proved too strong for Aycliffe on this occasion. Stockton opened the scoring with less than five minutes gone, subjecting Aycliffe to considerable pressure. However, they were unable to extend their lead. Aycliffe fought back in the second half and Dean Thexton headed an equaliser with twenty minutes to go. Just as the 850-strong crowd, including many travelling fans, were thinking of a penalty shoot-out, Stockton grabbed the winner on eighty five minutes. Despite the loss, Aycliffe can be immensely proud of their cup exploits this year. Attention now turns back to the league with four consecutive home games: Pontefract Collieries on 29th October, Carlton Town on 2nd November, Bradford (Park Avenue) on 9th November and Ashington on 12th November. *Match report by Ryan Livingston.*  
*Photos by Yvonne Wood – Action from the Consett game.*

# Junior Athletics



On 24th October Will Allison took part in the County Final Cross Country Championship and finished in first place. It wasn't a straight forward ride into the final, in the heats Will was pushed by another competitor when he started to break free for the finish. Will quickly recovered and crossed the line to be awarded joint first and into the County Final.

Showing his true form in the finals, Will gave it his all and walked away with Gold. On the same day, Aycliffe juniors and adults took part in the Halloween Howler, an amazing turnout of 61 competitors, wonderful seeing the club to come together.

### Winners

- U13G (member) - Isla
- U13G (non-member) - Eden
- U13B - Noah
- U17W - Bridget
- U17M - Iwo
- Parents Lady - Nat
- Parents Men - Anthony
- Senior Women - Lucy
- Senior Men - Matt
- Two Club Records on the Night*
- Men's - Matt 51.5m
- Women's - Bridget 24.5m



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I've been working hard alongside my colleague, Lola McEvoy MP, to raise residents' concerns about the Newton Aycliffe Landfill site. Last week I visited the site with Lola and officials from the Environment Agency to discuss concerns around the odour problems from the site with the owners, Ashcourt Group. This follows my earlier request for an urgent update from the Environment Agency on the situation at the quarry. On site, we discussed residents' concerns and received a briefing from the senior management team of Ashcourt Group. It was clear, and very welcome, that important steps had been taken to address these issues, including £3m of works to improve the management of landfill gases.

The key test here is whether the evidence shows air quality has improved in the area as a result of these works. I've asked the Environment Agency and the UK Health and Security Agency for the latest round of results of their air quality monitoring. I will continue to monitor the situation and share the latest results once I have them.

Residents have also been in touch to raise concerns that another operator on the industrial estate is also generating foul odours. I asked the Environment Agency to investigate this and am meeting them to hear about the progress made.

I'm really pleased that my staff team is now up to full strength, and we're working hard to serve our local communities. Please email me on alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk if there is anything you think I can help with.

I held a constituency advice surgery in Newton Aycliffe last week. Thank you to the residents that attended to discuss important issues. Thank you also to Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre for hosting me.

My next advice surgeries are listed below, to book your appointment please email me:

- 9th November, 10.30am-12.30pm - Croxdale
- 15th November, 3.30pm-5.30pm - West Cornforth
- 22nd November, 4.00pm-6.00pm - Ferryhill
- 29th November, 4.00pm-6.00pm - Newton Aycliffe.

Whilst in Parliament I asked the Home Secretary about police numbers in County Durham. From 2010 to 2020, 408 police officers were cut from Durham Constabulary, a third of its overall strength. I asked the Minister about the government's commitment to improve police numbers in our area and am confident that Labour's commitment to 13,000 more police nationally will make a difference locally. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour is a top priority for me and the extra bobbies on the beat will help deliver on this.

This week we have the first Labour budget for 14 years. The Budget will be about fixing the foundations of our country. The number one mission of the government is to get our economy growing, to create jobs, attract investment and get more money in people's pockets. This means we will be able to grow wages, improve our NHS and rebuild Britain. We have inherited an economy that isn't working for working people. This budget will outline how we intend to fix the last 14 years of decline.

Thank you to all of the residents who have been in touch this week about a wide range of issues. If I can help you with something, or you have an issue to raise, please get in touch via email on: alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk

Alan Strickland, MP for Newton Aycliffe & Spennymoor.

## Ex-GB Triathlete Writes Letter to Past-Self

A woman from School Aycliffe who suffered catastrophic injuries in a cycling crash in 2017, has written a letter to her former self, to highlight the long-term and complex recovery thousands of people face each year after suffering life-changing injuries.

Melanie Varley, who has competed at the World Triathlon Championships with the Great Britain Age-Group Team, was out cycling on a group ride on a steep downhill on the B6275 near Darlington, when another rider lost control of their bike, sending her flying from her bike. Melanie spent five days in hospital with injuries including a fractured spine, multiple right shoulder fractures, a collapsed lung and nerve damage. But she spent years recovering from her broken bones and a mild brain injury she sustained in the crash.

She is among a group of major trauma survivors who have written letters to their former selves as part of a new campaign launched for charity Day One Trauma Support's Major Trauma Awareness Week.

In moving videos and letters available to watch and read online, the 'Dear me' campaign gives an honest and enlightening glimpse into what it's like coping with life-changing injuries and an inspiring insight into rebuilding life after major trauma.

The road to recovery is one that Melanie is still on. Due to her injuries, she has had to give up her business as a self-employed osteopath. But her physiotherapy and rehabilitation means she has begun taking part in aquathlons once more and has been selected to represent the GB age-group team at the European Championships. In her letter, Melanie, now 57, has drawn attention to the lack of support, particularly finding the right legal support, that she received at the time of the accident and now volunteers with charity Day One Trauma Support. As a peer support volunteer, she is there for others who have experienced life-changing injuries, something she would have found beneficial at the time.

*Dear Melanie,*

*It's now seven years since another rider crashed into you at high speed.*

*As an osteopath you knew that you were lucky you hadn't been killed or paralysed. You were a strong, determined, fit woman, who had represented GB at the age group World Triathlon Championships. Most importantly you were wife to Peter, mother to William and India, and ran your own business.*

*PTSD, sleep and fatigue issues were horrible.*

*A lengthy legal case and finding the right legal support until you had all the right people fighting your corner. Dealing with the DWP was horrendous. Being told that you were fit for work, when you and other medics knew this wasn't the case. Having a strong work ethic, and wanting to return to work, you were upset that you knew you couldn't.*

*Your loss of your business and your role as an osteopath helping people was massive. One of the worst parts is that you've had to leave your triathlon club and the sport you love so much. You recall feeling lonely and isolated for the first time in your life. You wanted people to understand how you were feeling, but how could they? This was your journey. You felt you needed to be in a support group, where you could talk to people who had similar experiences to you, but you didn't know of one. You weren't super woman, just human.*



*Your darling husband, children, family and friends were on the journey with you. They were worried for you. You finally received a full year of rehabilitation with an amazing team. This team, with your new solicitor, understood you and where you needed to get to.*

*The journey should have been easier. You'd been let down. And you still get angry about what we have been put through as a family. In 2024 you discover Day One Trauma Support. You always said you didn't want anyone to have to go through the journey as you did, and you want to help people on their journey and make a difference. Now you are doing this and making a difference. It's the end of term, and this is your report to yourself.*

*Well done, Melanie, you survived and have got to this stage. Life is so precious, and everything can change in a split second.*

*You still have more work to do, but keep moving forward and embrace everything life has to offer you. New beginnings are on the horizon.*

*Best wishes, Melanie*

## Craftroom Clearout

**Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church are holding a Craftroom Clearout / Christmas Sale on Saturday 9th November from 10.00am to 1.00pm.**

**There will be a variety of craft materials and equipment on sale, plus some Christmas crafts, cakes, books and toiletries will also feature, along with a tombola and teddy tombola plus games.**

**Refreshments, including bacon and sausage buns, will be on sale to tempt your taste buds.**

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**Rotary Great Aycliffe in Action**



After a quiet summer, we have hit the ground running and our speakers have been fantastic with brilliant charities, support groups and endeavours, many thanks to them. Speakers can be like buses, while you wait, two come along together. Well done Carrie and your team in what you are achieving, helping mental health in ladies through the Sisters of Support. Giving friendship, advice and support through small gifts of kindness, but also recognising their deeper needs. Andy, Manager of the OakLeaf Sports Complex, showcasing the new entertainment system at the Complex. Showing how to join in the new programme of sports and games available and the opportunities for groups to use the new facilities. The club are now planning for the coming winter and Christmas season with many activities to serve and contribute to this wonderful community.

**Thank You**

I would like to say a big thank you to the couple who were walking their dog on Saturday afternoon and came across my husband, who had slipped in the mud and couldn't get up, (it was in the field near the nature pond area). After getting their car they brought him safely home to the door. Hubby was a little embarrassed and confused and sadly we didn't ask for your name. We just want to say a Big Thank You,

**Dorothy Irvine 100th Birthday**

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and gifts to celebrate Dorothy's special birthday. The children's artwork was much admired. Thank you to the staff of Rose Lodge for their hard work, ensuring Dorothy and all the residents enjoyed the day. Dorothy said her day was 'the best'. Thank you Georgia-Lee for a lively sing-a-long. Pauline Welsh and Family.

**Obituary**

**Robert Wood**

Died peacefully on 13th October 2024 in Defoe Court Care Home, aged 88 years. Beloved Husband of Sheila; a dearly loved Dad, Grandad, Great Grandad, Brother and Uncle. A celebration of Rob's life is to take place at Wear Valley Crematorium on Monday 4th November at 3.30pm. All welcome for refreshments at Woodham Golf & Country Club afterwards. Family flowers only. Donations, in lieu, would be appreciated, in aid of The Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group. Rest In Peace.

**Robert Baxter (Bob)**

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully at home after a long illness on 9th October, aged 82 years. Beloved Husband of Iris; much loved Dad of Darren and the late Melissa and Wayne; loving Father-in-Law of Jacky, dearly loved Grandad of Louis and Owen. Will family and friends please meet for a service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 8th November at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations, if so desired, may be made for Macmillan Cancer Support.

**Rita Telford (nee Buck)**

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully in hospital with her family by her side on 20th October 2024, aged 86 years. A much-loved Mam, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Family and friends please meet for a service at Durham Crematorium on Friday 15th November at 11.00am. Family flowers only by request. Donations in lieu, if so desired, for the Poppy Appeal.

**Yvonne Adamson**



Of Newton Aycliffe, previously of Brafferton Village, passed away in Darlington Memorial Hospital on 19th October, aged 80. Dearly beloved Wife of the late Robert; a much loved Mam of Donna; a treasured Nana to Jazz and Becky, Christie and Scott and Jordan and Rachel, also a Great Nana to Alfie, Jack, Poppy, Leo and Trixie; a dear Sister to Pauline and Aunty to Glenn, Gary and Curtis. A celebration of her life to be held at The Phoenix Club, Newton Aycliffe on Friday 8th November between 12 noon and 4.00pm.

**Birthday Remembrance**

**John O'Kane**

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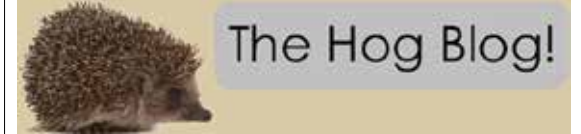
Dear Sir,  
 I have just googled Aycliffe town centre, in the day, and how better it was when the road ran through the middle. I've been on this town since I was twelve years old, lived and worked here. I am now a self employed kitchen fitter, age 64. To be totally honest, Aycliffe is not a place I like to live any more. It has not got a nice vibe, the town centre is horrible, but I am fortunate that I live in Woodham, I grew up in Langley Road just off Vane Road and the old part town is falling apart, walls crumbling, roads a mess - in parts it's like a shanty town. I pay £174 a month council tax and do not get a lot for it.  
 I'm haven't noticed a massive change, you might think I'm out of line by having a view, but I feel strong on this, so I have decided to move off the town as it's not what I envisioned Aycliffe becoming, it's lost its way and no money is being spent in the right places.  
 Name and address supplied.

**Newton Aycliffe Juniors**

**Under 9's Juniors** entertained Marton FC Yellows, on a gloriously sunny day. Aycliffe had their work cut out against a big strong side, but matched them in a great game. The goals were scored by Reign, Kian and Linc. MOTM went to Flynn for keeping a calm head when needed.  
**Under 9's Reds** travelled to face Darlington TSC in a pulsating game for all involved. The Reds, wearing red, worked hard, worked tirelessly, and are developing very well. The goals were scored by Thomas, Korben and Jack. POTM was Jacob who worked very well in defence alongside Orig who was awarded PPOTM.



**Under 10's** travelled to Skelton with only eight players available, the team worked tirelessly and battled for the result. Goal scorer Harvey P was MOTM. Parents POTM was Brodie for an excellent shift in defence.  
**Under 10's Whites** played South Park in a back-and-forth game, Aycliffe played wonderful football at times, with POTM awarded to Teddy and Parents POTM awarded to Elliot.  
**Under 11's Reds** played against Teesside, picking up where they left off last week. It was an outstanding performance with Charlie netting his second hat-trick within two games, Koa also scored a hat-trick, with Jenson, Andrew and Oliver T adding the other goals. MOTM was Charlie.  
**Under 11's Blacks** bounced back from last week's disappointment, at home to Tibs. With changes to the formation, it worked a treat with Aycliffe scoring an amazing nine goals, through Jack B (4), Alfie S (2), JJ (2) and Liam B. POTM was four goal hero Jack B, whose finishing in front of goal was excellent.  
**Under 12's Whites** lost out 4-3 against Sunderland RCS Reds, after leading 3-0 with early goals from Kian, William and Oscar. Aycliffe could not hold on to the lead on a frustrating day. MOTM was Arran.  
**Under 13's Whites** travelled to high flying league leaders Durham WFC, Aycliffe put in a stubborn performance against high quality opposition. MOTM was left back Theo who battled constantly and never stopped encouraging his teammates.  
**Under 13's Juniors** travelled to North Ormesby, hoping to avenge their only loss so far this season. Goals from Matty and a brace from Jonah enabled Aycliffe to take a commanding 3-0 lead into the break. North Ormesby came out fired up and scored three times to equalise. It was not enough though as Aycliffe went on to win 5-3, keeping their place at the top of the league. Jonah scored four of the goals, with Matty adding the other.  
**Under 13's Blacks** had a tough day against AJX Under 13's, Aycliffe did not get into the game in the first half, they did create chances in the second, but could not convert. Parents MOTM was shared between Jake and Charlie John. Coaches MOTM was Dylan.  
**Under 14's** entertained Chilton, a game Aycliffe controlled leading 2-0 at half time. In the second half, Aycliffe could not build on the lead and Chilton grabbed a late consolation, to give Aycliffe a 2-1 win. Oscar J and Alex scored the goals. MOTM was Oscar M.  
**Under 16's Blacks** welcomed Seaham to Woodham Academy, an impressive performance saw Aycliffe come away with a 6-2 win, which keeps them at the top of the league. Goals from Keaton (3), Dylan, Zak and Leon. MOTM, chosen by the opposition, was Jayden.



Everything is going well here with the little hoggies I have admitted recently, they are all small and need to be kept here to be overwintered, they gain weight very gradually, but I have to be careful to make sure that they remain healthy too. It's important that I keep a watchful eye on them all, there is no room for complacency, at the moment I have 22 here, all very cute.  
 Of course, I have to say that this rescue owes a debt of gratitude to Angela and the team at Grange Vets, most are gradually finishing treatment for the most awful stomach conditions, all the meds are here because they all help me help our hedgehogs, whilst our hedgehogs are cute they are very complex creatures. In fact, last Saturday, I admitted a little girl seen out in the day by her finders at Darlington, Grange Vets took her in and I brought her here, she has been named Amelia, gaining weight like the others and doing well, here 'til spring.  
 Last week I had some visitors, some students studying for their Honours Degree came to interview me and meet the hedgehogs in rescue, little Andy the Hedgehog was very sociable, they were all very polite and kind, I wish them the very best of luck, if the film we made is any good it will possibly get on national TV, so I will let you know when I know. Also Don and Claire came and donated some much needed items that are needed to run the rescue and keep the hoggies clean and healthy, thank you! Also Madge and hubby called with a cash donation. Thank you both, I hope I got your name right, and Bev. Also Wendy, Mandy, Donella and Wally of Grannies Choice are always very helpful please take some time to visit them, it's a wonderful place to visit. Finally my thanks go to June for making some beautiful blankets for these babies, they love them. Everything goes to the hoggies.  
 I will be doing my raffle and scratch card very soon, I have a beautiful Christmas Cake which is the first prize and my scratch card will have a cash prize, I will put everything on my Facebook page, I need to feed 22 little mouths 'til spring. This is little Amelia, cute little girl eh? Halloween and bonfire night is approaching, I need everyone to enjoy this time of year, but not at the expense of our wildlife, hedgehogs are protected under the law, I need everyone to be aware of the wildlife we are so lucky to have, precautions need to be taken. If you build a bonfire, do it the same day you light it, hedgehogs will think you have built them their hibernation house.  
 The British Hedgehog Preservation Society can be contacted on 01584 890801. My Facebook page is Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel. My email address is: [pricklyhaven@yahoo.com](mailto:pricklyhaven@yahoo.com) - not to be used for hedgehog emergencies please.



## Aycliffe Youth Football News



Newton Aycliffe Youth FC are looking to add to their volunteer coaches. Have you finished playing or have a keen interest in football and would like to start a coaching journey? Visit our website [www.nayfc.com](http://www.nayfc.com) to find out all about our England FA 3\* Accredited Club, if you are interested come and talk to us and we can tell you how we fully support our new coaches.

### Aycliffe U13 Eagles 5 v Riverside Reds 0

The Eagles dominated the early exchanges with Mo Krubally bagging himself a quick fire hat-trick to send the Eagles into HT 3-0. The second half saw the Eagles continue to press forward with some lovely passing and possession, with Mo bagging another and Tarek Al Saleh getting on the score sheet late in the second half.

### Aycliffe U15 Angels 6 v Auckland Moor 1

Another impressive performance from the Angels. Keeping purposeful possession and playing attacking passes is becoming second nature for the team. They opened the scoring with Faith assisting Charli. Faith then scored with Charli getting a second. Evie scored a penalty, Erin scored

direct from a corner and Eveie scored the last. **Darlington Young Bulls 2 v Aycliffe U15 Girls 2**

No subs meant maximum effort from the eleven. The Girls conceded two in the first half, but pulled one back before half time through Amy Dowson. A change of formation saw Aycliffe with greater attacking impetus in the second half and they got a deserved equaliser through Amy. A fair result in the end. POTM was Amy Dowson. **Hartlepool Youth 2 v Aycliffe U13 Wildcats 0** The girls were away to top of the table Pools Youth. Aycliffe started really strong with some good passing moves and created a couple of opportunities before the home side scored. Aycliffe continued to play well and had a few chances before Hartlepool scored a good second. HT 0-2. There were no goals for either side in the second half.

### Middleton Rangers 1 v Aycliffe U12 Eagles 5

A kindly bouncing ball saw the home team score in the 2nd minute. Aycliffe soon started getting into their stride and were unlucky not to get the equaliser, HT 1-0 down. Second half the lads took it up another level, getting the equaliser through Oliver S, who then went on to add another three goals. The lads kept going for more and got a 5th through Oliver C.

### Billingham Whites v Aycliffe U11 Falcons

Falcons started brightly. Early goals from Zach and George to go 2-0 up in the first 5 minutes. Falcons dominated, but Billingham had some good spells and got one back in the second half. Falcons stepped up and scored three more - a thunderbolt from Hunter, a long range strike from Harry L and a nice lay off from Harry Mc for Zach to bury his second. POM Hunter and Zach.

### Aycliffe U10 Wildcats v Seaham Red Star

Another game in which the girls showed how much they improve each week. Chances fell to both sides and, despite a great goal from Isla, it was Seaham who just edged the game.

### Greatham v Aycliffe U10 Eagles

Another hard-fought game for the Eagles. The boys shot out of the blocks with a goal in a minute, carving straight through the middle to score before the opposition could get into the game. The Eagles remained on top for the first half, but couldn't add to the score line. The second half was hotly contested with chances for both teams, the boys stayed strong and saw out another victory.

### Aycliffe U9 Wildcats v Sunderland City

Aycliffe scored early in the first half after a brilliant run from Willow who then set up Sophie. Then the girls conceded from a corner and the first half ended 1-1. A much better second half performance from the girls. Matilda and Ella played well in midfield and Matilda set up two goals. Two goals from Sophie and two from Emelia.

### Aycliffe U9 Eagles v Kader Athletic

The boys started really well and dominated the game throughout. They were unfortunate not to be a couple of goals up at half time. The boys managed to get a deserved goal through Josh who then scored another. Ollie then got a third which was no more than they deserved. A clean sheet to top off a great game.

## Christmas Fair

Avon Court, Burnhill Way, DL5 7LR are holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November from 1.00pm. If you would like to book a stall, at £5 per pitch, please call: Local Housing Manager 03701 924553.

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