

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper

Editorial & Advertising contact: Telephone: 01325 300212 - Email: paul@newtonnews.co.uk - Website: www.newtonnews.co.uk

Investment in Youth Crime Prevention

A major new programme is underway to boost opportunities for young people at risk of being drawn into crime and anti-social behaviour thanks to a six-figure investment by Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen.

The County Durham and Darlington PCC has provided a grant worth £118,010 to Future Pathways, an alternative provision provider working with young people who are disengaged from their communities, to deliver services for vulnerable young people living in the Darlington and Ferryhill areas.

The announcement comes as the UK marks ASB Awareness Week - a national campaign organised by Resolve, the UK's leading ASB and community safety organisation, aimed at encouraging communities to take a stand against ASB and highlighting the actions that can be taken by those experiencing it. The new scheme will involve young people aged 10 to 16 in a range of positive activities including football, walking, boxing, bowling and biking to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

Three sessions will be hosted weekly in 10-week blocks to help young people develop vital life skills to improve their employment prospects and divert them from crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Activities will take place between 5pm and 8pm to reflect the peak hours of ASB in the areas.

Workshops are also being delivered as part of the programme to address risk-taking behaviours, focusing on issues such as knife crime, gang involvement, child sexual exploitation, addiction and dependency, sex, relationships and consent, serious violence, county lines and mental health and wellbeing.

Participants will be given the opportunity to become ambassadors of ASB prevention with the opportunity to work with professional bodies to discourage other young people from becoming involved in nuisance behaviour.



As part of a holistic approach, the initiative places a strong focus on family intervention and interaction. This means weekly contact will be maintained between youth workers and the families of those participating to update them on the activities being completed. Families will also receive a five-weekly phone call through the programme to identify any additional needs or support for those young people with particularly challenging behaviour.

At the conclusion of the 10-week block, young people will be invited to showcase the positive activities they have taken part in and will be presented with certificates marking their achievements to help raise their aspirations. Future Pathways will contribute matched funding worth just over £200k to the project. The PCC's grant will also provide school holiday provision delivering five hours of day-time support to young people accessing the ASB programme.

ASB typically spikes during the school holidays, putting additional strain on police and civil enforcement resources. Additionally, many families are without the financial means to provide activity for young people in the holidays, resulting in more young people spending more time within the community. The new provision will include high-intensity activities such as water sports, e-biking and army bootcamps.

Permanent Christmas Tree for Aycliffe Village

Rather than purchasing a cut Christmas tree for Aycliffe Village green every year, the Council have taken the decision to purchase a Norway Spruce Fir which has now been planted on the green in a similar place to where the cut tree was erected in previous years. Planting a tree is much more sustainable to the environment and will be trained each year to produce a perfect shaped tree. It would have been unlikely that a larger tree would survive, so the tree is currently approximately 5 to 6 feet tall, once the roots establish, it is hoped that it will soon develop and provide a pleasant tree for many years to come.



The main Christmas tree provided by the Town Council on Central Avenue, outside St. Clare's Church, will remain a cut tree of a similar size to previous years. It will be erected in late November along with the Christmas lights along Central Avenue, St Cuthberts Way and into Stephenson Way.

Important Changes to Your Newton News

Dear Newton News Readers,

As the world of media continues to evolve, your local newspaper The Newton News is facing unprecedented challenges. While we strive to remain committed to supporting the community and bringing you the latest news, shifts in how news is consumed have meant some necessary changes to how and when we print The Newton News.

Starting on Friday 29th November 2024, we will be reducing our publication frequency to two editions per month. Our aim is to continue providing you local news, providing what matters most to you while ensuring the ongoing viability of Newton News.

In December 2024, due to the Christmas close down, there will be a single edition on Friday 13th December, which will be our Christmas edition.

In January 2025, we will publish on Friday 10th and Friday 24th January and from February 2025 onward, we will publish on the first and third Friday of each month.

We know this change may be a surprise, however, we are confident that this new schedule will allow us to continue providing important, local content that matters to you, and we appreciate your continued support as we adapt to the changing media landscape.

Thank you for being a part of the Newton News community.

Warm regards,

The Newton News Team



Next Edition:
Friday 13th
December

Firework Safety Poster Competition Winners



We had a fantastic response to the Poster Competition this year, over 300 entries were received and the Mayor, Cllr. John Clark, had the difficult task of judging the posters on 4th November 2024. The presentation took place on Thursday 21st November in the Council Chamber where the winners were awarded their prize and certificate by the Mayor.

Thank you to everyone who entered from 'home', Byerley Park Primary School, St. Francis CE School, Little Cubs Day Nursery, House of Eden Nursery, Tots in the Park and St. Oswald's Pre-School.

Well done to all of you - don't forget to try again next year!

Pre-school/Reception

1st Coby Clayton, 2nd Savannah Buckley, 3rd Eliza Clarkson.

Year 1/Year 2

1st Sanhitha Patha, 2nd Lily Fitzgerald, 3rd Nicholas Scott.

Year 3/Year 4

1st Alfie Fitzgerald, 2nd Anna Young, 3rd Lilly Ella Naden.

Year 5/Year 6

1st Abrielle, 2nd Hope Colligan, 3rd Hallemae.

Year 7 Plus

1st Sahasra Patha, 2nd Emily Fitzgerald.

All Aboard Experiment!

Hopetown Darlington, the north of England's newest visitor attraction celebrating Darlington's pioneering railway heritage, has just opened its state-of-the-art railway-themed time travel immersive experience – Experiment!

Located on the platform at North Road Station Museum, Experiment! is an extraordinarily vivid immersion into passenger rail travel; using massive digital screens and a motion simulator ride themed like Experiment, the carriage pulled by Locomotion No. 1 on its first journey on 27th September 1825.

The ride takes passengers from Darlington all across the world - and through different time periods - showcasing Darlington's impact on railways across the world.

Experiment! was created by Figment Productions, an award-winning digital media company which uses cutting-edge technology to deliver top class creative work. They have delivered technological innovation worldwide for nearly 10 years, and Experiment! Is their most recent project.

Ian Williams, Chief Executive of Darlington Borough Council, said: "Experiment! is an exciting addition to Hopetown Darlington, which brings Darlington's rich railway heritage to life in a unique way. This immersive, world-class experience is the first of its kind in the north east, and it's safe to say that riders will leave thoroughly impressed."

Colin Arnold, Head of Film and Audio at Figment Productions, said: "Figment Productions is incredibly proud to have worked on this innovative immersive ride experience alongside lead consultants PLB Projects and our AV hardware partners, Fusion LX. Experiment! brings the story of passenger railways to life, captivating visitors of all ages with a time-travel adventure that celebrates the world's first passenger railway journey. Drawing on our extensive experience, crafting immersive rides and attractions for theme parks and museums worldwide, we hope this family-friendly adventure will inspire the next generation of innovators by showcasing Darlington's rich railway heritage and the North East's pioneering history."

Experiment! Opened to the public on Tuesday 26th November. Online booking will be available from Tuesday 3rd December. Details for Experiment! are available on Hopetown Darlington's What's On webpage www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk/experiment



Metrick Consultancy

Our thanks to Laura and Amelia from Metrick Consultancy who called into the studio to bring us up-to-date on the extensive services they provide, some of which include financial resourcing, landlord upgrades, first time central heating, boiler and electric storage heating, and solar upgrades. Further information can be obtained from www.metrickconsultancy.com Phill & Andy Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.



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FESTIVE ISSUE OF NEWTON NEWS

Christmas Edition: Friday 13th December
Deadline: Wednesday 11th December, 11am
No Editions: 6th, 20th & 27th December, 2024
or Friday 3rd January 2025

Back to fortnightly editions from
Friday, 10th January, 2025

Deadline: Wednesday 8th January, 11am

Advertisements are accepted at our reception
or via email to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Office Opening Times

Closing 2.00pm on Friday 20th December.
Skeleton staff in attendance until re-opening
on Monday 6th January 2024 at 9.00am

The Management
of Newton Press and
Newton News would like
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New Lung Cancer Screening Programme



Local residents in Bishop Auckland will be the first to be invited to take part in County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust's new Lung Cancer Screening programme.

The scheme will see current and former smokers, aged 55-74, being invited for a telephone appointment where dedicated lung nurses will talk through potential symptoms, with a follow-up invite to undergo a low dose CT scan, where appropriate.

Bishop Auckland Hospital has recently been fitted with a brand new CT scanner to support the screening programme, with the Trust also having access to a mobile scanner.

Catherine Lamb, Lead Nurse, said "Lung cancer currently causes more deaths than any other cancer in the UK. However, it is curable if caught early.

"There are often no symptoms at the earlier stages of lung cancer, and it is regularly diagnosed late. Spotting problems early can make a big difference, and could save your life."

Lung Cancer Screening is aimed at achieving earlier detection of lung cancer, in areas where the population has a higher mortality from this type of cancer.

Katie Merrie, Service Lead, said: "Rates of lung cancer are high in County Durham – higher than many other parts of England. This is a much needed screening programme for our region. Telephone appointments are convenient for most people. Our CT scanners will be in community hospital locations, which are closer to home for our patients. We're dedicated to delivering high quality and accessible care. If we call to invite you, please book an appointment - a short telephone call could end up saving your life!"

Christmas Dinner

With so many people being alone, or cannot afford to buy a Christmas dinner, Simon Day and Jane Day from Junction 7 will be providing a FREE three course dinner for those who will be alone on Christmas day - available at Cafe HQ in Aycliffe town centre.

You will be able to share the festivities and warmth with like minded people and feel the true love and companionship of Christmas. There are limited places available and booking is essential. Please ring Jane on 07851 723647 or email junc7tion@gmail.com

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Spread the Christmas Joy

LED Supply & Fit believe every child deserves a magical Christmas. That's why they are proud to partner with Trinity Church in Spennymoor for the annual Toy Appeal.

How You Can Help?
We're calling on the wonderful people of Newton Aycliffe to donate new toys to brighten the festive season for local children in need. Whether it's a cuddly teddy bear, a creative craft set, or a fun game, your donation will bring smiles to the faces of children who need it most.

Where to Donate
You can drop off your donations at Unit 6, Northfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 6EJ from 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

What to Donate
New toys only, 0 to 16 year old. All toys collected will be wrapped and distributed by Trinity Church, ensuring they reach the children and families who need them most in our local area. Let's come together as a community to make this a Christmas to remember. Your generosity can light up a child's Christmas morning and fill their heart with joy. Thank you for your support and for spreading the spirit of giving this festive season.

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Inspiring Budding Entrepreneurs



A popular competition, which aims to inspire enterprise amongst County Durham school children, is back for its 20th year. Future Business Magnates (FBM), which is organised by Durham County Council's business support service, Business Durham, will see students from 13 schools compete to create a winning business idea. This year's theme is 'Reimagining the High Street' and tasks pupils with creating a business that will breathe new life into the high street and help transform their local community. Each team of students is expected to research what their community wants, identify what is missing and design a business that brings people back to the high street and into the destination, whether that be for arts, food, entertainment or innovation. The year-long competition, which will see students supported by a range of County Durham businesses, including Waterstons, Robertson Homes, Stiller and Co-op Distribution among others, is the only one of its kind in the region. It also reflects the council's priorities in the County Durham Inclusive Economic Strategy which highlights the importance of raising aspirations in young people, so they can excel in business and their careers. Students will be able to celebrate their success at a ceremony held at the end of the academic year, where the winners will also be crowned. For more information about Future Business Magnates and how to get involved, visit www.futurebusinessmagnates.co.uk



- The recent tragic consequences of drink spiking in Laos Thailand serve as a stark reminder of the importance of staying alert and taking basic steps to protect yourself and others when socialising, after 6 young travellers died following suspected methanol poisoning, after they reportedly drank free shots.
- Coincidentally, these deaths occurred in the same week I was meeting Jess Phillips, Secretary of State for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls, to discuss the dangers associated with spiking and the government's aspiration of halving violence against women and girls.
- From physical and sexual violence to emotional and psychological abuse, women and girls are disproportionately affected by various forms of violence, often leading to long-lasting physical and emotional consequences.
- One particularly alarming trend that has emerged in recent years is the phenomenon of spiking, most commonly this occurs when someone add drugs or alcohol to another person's drink without their knowledge or consent. Spiking can lead to incapacitation, loss of control, sexual assault or other forms of violence.
- Spiking incidents often occur in social settings like clubs or bars or even house parties, where perpetrators take advantage of crowded and chaotic environments to carry out their harmful actions. Spiking someone is abuse and it is a criminal offence. Those responsible can face up to 10 years in prison.
- Be Spiking Aware!
- If something doesn't feel right or if you notice someone acting inappropriately, don't hesitate to speak up and seek help from bar staff, security or the Police.
- If you believe someone has been spiked or is in danger, offer your assistance and support. Encourage them to seek help and ensure they are safe and protected.
- Keep a close eye on your drink. Never leave your drink unattended, even for a brief moment, as this provides an opportunity for someone to tamper with it.
- If you need to leave your drink for any reason, ask a trusted friend to watch over it or simply finish it before stepping away.
- Avoid accepting drinks from strangers or leaving your drink unattended in public places, such as bars or clubs.
- Be mindful of the signs of drink spiking, which can include sudden dizziness, confusion, nausea or loss of consciousness. If you suspect that your drink has been tampered with or if you start experiencing unusual symptoms after consuming a drink, seek help immediately by calling 999 or 111.
- If you are attending a social gathering or party, try to stay with a group of friends or trusted individuals to ensure each other's safety and well-being
- By following these simple yet effective tips, such as keeping a close eye on your drink, being aware of the signs of drink spiking, looking out for your friends, and reporting suspicious behaviour, you can help prevent future tragedies and help us deliver safer, stronger and more resilient communities. Visit the links on our Spiking advertisement for more information.

History Talk

Middridge History Society are proud to present a talk by David Hastings entitled 'Wooden Boats and Iron Men' on Thursday 12th December at 7.30pm. How tragedy, bravery and generosity have shaped the R.N.L.I. to what it is today. An inspirational history of lifesaving at sea and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution from 1790 to the present day and how volunteers have braved all weathers and shown immense courage to save over 146,000 lives. Entrance is £3.00 including light refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

SPIKING?
in any form is a criminal offence.
You could go to prison if you do it, for up to 10 years.

QR codes for: gov.uk/government/publications/raising-awareness-of-spiking, durham.pcc.uk/en/news/report-spiking-to-police, #stopspikingnow

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N.A.F.C. REPORT



**Bridlington Town 0 v Newton Aycliffe 2
Tuesday 19th November**

Newton Aycliffe's victory against Bridlington will have warmed up the travelling Aycliffe fans who witnessed it, as a Liam Adamson brace helped Aycliffe continue their playoff pursuit. The first half saw few chances, although Dean Thexton would have been in the perfect position to shoot in the 24th minute had the referee not blown for a handball. Bridlington's Alex Peterson did have a header from a free kick saved, and a promising free kick wasn't capitalised on by Aycliffe on the cusp of half time. Meaning the first interval finished 0-0.

In the second half, Jack Clarkson was substituted for Liam Adamson, and Adamson's impact was almost instantaneous when Joe Ferguson launched a spectacular long range cross which flew past almost everyone on the field to find the feet of Adamson who sprinted towards goal and fired past Bridlington's Sebastian Malkowski with ease in the 61st minute.

It wouldn't be the last time Adamson took advantage of Bridlington's sloppy defending, and it also wouldn't be the last time Ferguson launched a perfect cross. The second goal came a mere seven minutes later, once again seeing Ferguson fire a perfect cross, which found Ethan Wood, who then passed to Adamson who used his skills on the edge of the box to entirely outsmart Bridlington's Sam Kay and fire it low to make it 2-0 in the 68th minute. Ferguson was unlucky not to get on the scoresheet himself when his rocket of a shot hit the woodwork in the 77th minute. Aycliffe would see out the game, which was played in freezing conditions, and claim the three points.

Sadly Storm Bert saw off Saturday's planned home game against Garforth Town. Aycliffe have two away games, North Ferriby & Grimsby Borough, before returning to Moore Lane on Saturday 7th December when Cleethorpes Town will be the visitors. *Match Report by Ryan Livingston. Photo by Yvonne Wood. Goalscorer Liam Adamson on the attack against Bridlington Town.*

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

By PCSO Steven Kipling



Here's a brief update of what has been happening over the past week or so; **On Monday, PCSO's Kipling & Fotheringham visited Vane Road Primary School to speak with reception class who have been learning about emergency workers.** **On Tuesday, officers from the Neighbourhood Team attended Walworth Primary School to deliver carousel sessions. The students had talks on Crime & Consequences, Internet Safety, Bullying and Anti-Social Behaviour.** **On Tuesday evening, a male was arrested on suspicion of assault following a report of a domestic related incident.** **On Wednesday morning, PCSO Todd attended the Shopwatch meeting in the town centre to discuss local issues.** **On Wednesday evening, a female was arrested on suspicion of assault following a domestic related incident and was transported to custody.** **On Thursday evening, a male was arrested on suspicion of assault and transported to custody.** **On Friday, PCSO's Kipling & Todd attended Thornbeck College to chat with students around road safety.** **Op Trailblazer patrols have been conducted in Anti-Social Behaviour hotspots as part of #ASBWeek. Several youths have been identified causing issues at Tesco.** **PCSO Steven Kipling.**



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We Are Open



Our new gym changing rooms, steam room and sauna room are now open at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

We are so excited and can't wait for everyone to come and enjoy these great facilities. With memberships, starting from just £17 a month, giving you access to the gym, swimming pool, exercise classes, as well as the sauna and steam room, now is the perfect time to join and improve your physical and mental wellbeing.

To ensure everyone using the sauna and steam room are safe, we ask all members who intend to use these facilities to sign the Sauna and Steam room usage policy form. Please also bring a towel to use in the sauna and steam area.

Vane Road Space Camp

On Thursday 21st November, some of our Year 6 pupils from Vane Road Primary School became astronauts for a day, which included an overnight 'camp-out' in the school hall. They took part in various exciting space-themed experiments and activities - the highlights being, creating their own filters to filter 'astronaut wee', completing a vigorous astronaut fitness training plan and star-gazing through telescopes and binoculars. The children ended the night creating constellations on the walls of their tents, using the projectors they had made, which was a lovely sight.

The children were up bright and early to begin the next day with a huge breakfast fit for any astronaut, right before they completed their last set of activities before the end of camp. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, highlighting the opportunities they had to bond closer to one another as friends, as well as enhance their love for science and space.



Rail Safety Workshop



St. Francis' Junior School were joined by Jess Young from Bishop Line, the community rail partnership. Each class had a 60-minute session focussing on the dangers and consequences of trespassing on the railway. Jess showed us many different scenarios; identify the risks and together we decided on the best course of action to stay safe. The children then went on to reflect on their learning and made a pledge to stay safe when using the railway.

Five Tips To Stay Safe Around Trains

- 1 Stay off the tracks – use bridges and underpasses to cross safely.
- 2 Use level crossings safely (stop when lights show).
- 3 Stay away from the platform edge.
- 4 Never retrieve anything from the tracks.
- 5 Be aware of electricity.

Thank you to Jess for helping us make sure our children at St. Francis' are kept safe.

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AYCLIFFE'S
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The weather is getting colder and when I awoke on Saturday to see the snow, in November, what a surprise I got. My doors are closed for any hedgehogs to be released, even my bigger ones are going nowhere 'til spring, but I always try to make overwintering stressless for them, time out of their cages works especially well for the bigger ones. I have also admitted three little ones recently, they are all doing well, my smallest one came in at 295 grams, thank you Angie for bringing her in, she is far too small to hibernate, she is here with me and doing well.

My rescue runs well because Grange Vets share my passion to help these poor souls, I have managed to admit, diagnose, treat and rehabilitate, 65 hedgehogs this year, they also got released to safer gardens. Thank you Angela, Elaine, Riccardo, Giorgio for everything you do to help me help my poorly hedgehogs.

Some hedgehogs don't hibernate, they will still need feeding so please keep the food and water topped up, the one occasion you don't keep the food supply going a hungry hog will need feeding and it won't be there for him which is awful. It's always best to put kibble out for them because the fat grams in the kibble is better, I have put Purina out in my hog box tonight, it has 20% fat content which is brilliant, Grannies Choice have some, they will need as much as possible to survive the harsh winter nights.

This weekend some crucial fundraising is being done, June and Valerie are at the St Clare's Xmas Fair and on Sunday I will be at the Pioneering Care Centre raising funds. I currently have 26 little mouths to feed and it doesn't come cheap, especially with lots of little hogs in at the moment. I will have leaflets and be there for you, If you have any questions. Can I thank Julia and Peter for their very kind donation, Jackie and John, Janet and also everyone else who have been so kind and donated. I personally know how expensive things are, especially with Christmas coming, but all these prickly babies still need feeding whilst here and I also make sure I clean, refresh and check them twice a day, 5.45am and then again in the evening, my routine is cast in stone.

On Saturday, Aycliffe lights will be switched on and on Sunday 1st the Christmas lights will be switched on by Don at Aycliffe Village, he does a wonderful job and this starts at 4pm. Finally, our hedgehogs have been included in the governments levelling up plan, we won the petition in spectacular fashion, more hedges, hedgehog feeding stations and highways between gardens will be encouraged, we want to put their decline in reverse and, with your help, it can be done. They have awfully challenging lives out there, let's work together to change this please.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society can be contacted on 01584 890801. My Facebook page is Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel, email: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com (not to be used for hedgehog emergencies please).

The Mayor & the Bus Museum

Our guests on Sunday's show were Cllr John Clark who joined us for our regular 'Morning with the Mayor' segment. John was joined by Dave Clark from the Newton Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society Museum. John explained the importance of not just representing the town as its Mayor at civic functions, but also supporting local individuals, groups and organisations to raise people's awareness of the great work and services they provide in our community. Both John and Dave discussed the pressures facing many local charities in the current financial climate and the importance of even the smallest donations, even pennies have more power than promises, and it's the small steps that help build lasting success. The Bus Preservation Society Museum Christmas Event is on the 30th November, from 10.30am where you can meet Santa and join the Mayor for a cup of tea and a mince pie.

Phill & Andy
Around Town, Aycliffe Radio.



From Abandoned Puppies to Police Dogs



PD Jasper didn't have the best start in life - he was found abandoned in a sweltering greenhouse at just seven weeks old last summer. Rescued by a kind lady in Manchester, she soon realised that the Belgian Malinois was extra special.

He had lots of hidden talents that made him an ideal police dog candidate, so he was handed over to our puppy development programme at 11 months. PD Axel found himself in the same sad situation when he was abandoned at 12 weeks old in cardboard box outside the Salvation Army, in Darlington.

The fellow Belgian Malinois was whisked off to the vets and soon adopted by Chris, who very quickly discovered that Axel was full of mischief and had a strong character. Again, contact was made with the Durham Police Dog Support Unit and Axel was also accepted into our puppy development programme. The duo started their training course alongside PD Dutch, a German Shepherd who came to the unit at 12 months old from one of our breeders.

All three hit the ground running, jumping straight into the ten-week intensive training course. And last week they all became officially registered police dogs, passing their final assessments with flying colours! PD Jasper, now 18 months, is teamed up with PC Dan Cuthbertson, specialising in general purpose policing.

PD Axel, now 14 months, has joined forces with PC Paul Cooper and became the force's youngest licensed police dog. And last, but not least, 14-month-old PD Dutch will now serve with handler, PC Laura Linskey, to hunt out suspects and search for missing people.

We wish them the very best in their careers.
Photo: Left to right: PDs Jasper, Dutch and Axel.

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E: alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk

In Parliament, I've been working hard to push for more jobs for our town, which will benefit Aycliffe and the wider County. I was proud recently to work with the Defence Secretary to save the semi-conductor factory on the industrial estate. Now I'm working hard to push for the factory to get support from its new owner – the Ministry of Defence – to expand the jobs, opportunities and apprenticeships available. To push this issue, I asked a question to the Secretary of State for Defence, John Healey MP, in the chamber of the House of Commons. I was really pleased to hear that the MOD are committed to supporting this factory and that plans are underway to finalise their future resource plan. This would pave the way for more jobs in engineering, science and technology on our doorstep. I've booked a meeting with the Minister for Defence Procurement and Industry to follow this up quickly and push for action.

It's always an honour to meet our service personnel, so it was a privilege to visit RAF Brize Norton as part of the cross-party Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. It was fantastic to meet the squadrons providing air transport, responsible for moving troops, equipment and supplies, around the globe. I was also lucky enough to try my hand at parachute jump training!

Back home, here in the constituency, I've been travelling around local schools as part of my UK Parliament Week roadshow. I visited five groups of young people to take their questions about our democracy, local and national issues, and how they can shape their communities. My first visit was to the North East Autism Society Aycliffe School where I got asked some brilliant questions. I then visited schools in Windlestone, Trimdon, Spennymoor and then finally I finished at the Newton Aycliffe Scout Centre to chat to the young people about my role and take questions on a range of topics. I was so impressed by all of the young people I met and the quality of the questions they asked. All a real credit to our communities. Thank you to all schools and groups for having me this week. If you're involved with a community group and would like me to visit, please get in touch with me at alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk

I held my advice surgery in Ferryhill, where it was good to meet with constituents, to talk about various issues and how I can assist as our MP. This involved picking up some very serious issues from families facing major challenges. I'll be releasing the dates of December's surgeries shortly. If you would like an appointment then please just get in touch.

After the advice surgery, I travelled to Ferryhill Sport and Education Centre to watch the fantastic Chance Drama in their latest showcase performance. Chance Drama provide the opportunity for young people from across the area, including Aycliffe, to learn performance skills. I was blown away by the excellent vocals and choreography. I'm very proud of the talented young performers we have in our area. Well done to all involved.

In Parliament this week, we have the second reading of the Assisted Dying Bill. This provides the first opportunity for debate on the proposed law. While some MPs have a longstanding view on this matter, I have approached it with a genuinely open mind. I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to share their views on this very sensitive topic with me – I've considered all of these views carefully and will take them into account when deciding how to vote.

Missed A Beat Finalists

Missed A Beat are so grateful to everyone who nominated us, and we are excited to share this honour with some truly inspiring charities. The awards ceremony will take place on 5th December at Hardwick Hall, and we feel privileged to be recognised for our mission to make a positive impact in communities by providing life-saving defibrillators and support.

This award celebrates the dedication and resilience of charities working to improve lives and serve others. Thank you to all who have supported us on this journey - together, we're making a difference!

We're hopeful to reach a milestone of 100 defibrillators - whether community-based or portable, by 5th December. This accomplishment underscores our dedication to making life-saving equipment accessible, wherever it's needed most.

Stay tuned for even more exciting updates in the coming weeks. Thank you for your incredible support on this journey - together, we're making a real difference in our communities.

KidzFlicks

Festive KidzFlicks will take place on Saturday 7th December at 2.00pm and will be showing the latest Christmas movie 'That Christmas'. Film club welcomes families, children over five years of age and invites you to come with a friend. Admission is just £1 and has been since film club began in 2007, supporting our community.

Everyone receives a free ticket entering them into our Christmas gift prize table. There will be a well stocked tuck shop, ice creams, hot chocolate and a warm welcome. So please come along, St Clare's Hall in Newton Aycliffe. Doors open at 1.30pm, come early to grab a good seat as we expect this Netflix new release to be very popular. Please contact Helen: youth/childrenst.clares if you need any further help.

Council Wins National Award



The region's largest council has been recognised with a prestigious award for its work to support and recruit apprentices. Durham County Council's HR and employee services enjoyed success at this year's LGC Workforce Awards, which showcases innovation in local government and celebrates services which have made a difference to their local authority.

The team were crowned winners of the Back Office Heroes category for the council's 'Grow our Own' Apprenticeship Programme at the awards, which were presented by Britain's Got Talent finalist and comedian Daliso Chabonda. The team were also finalists in two other categories - Best Next Generation Employer and Workforce Innovator.

The apprenticeship programme is an integral part of the council's approach to addressing current and future skills needs. By increasing the range and number of apprenticeship opportunities the council offers, the scheme helps attract and retain a skilled workforce, both within the council and across the county. Cllr Richard Bell, Deputy leader of Durham County Council and Cabinet member for finance, said: "Congratulations to the HR and employee services team for their success at this year's LGC Awards. This is a prestigious national award which recognises the best performers in local government, so to be nominated in three categories and crowned winner in one is a significant achievement. "Apprenticeships provide an excellent pathway for anyone wanting to begin or progress their career. We are passionate about our apprenticeship programme, so this national award is a fantastic recognition of the commitment we provide to ensuring our apprentices are on the path to success." For more information about apprenticeships with the council, visit: www.durham.gov.uk/apprenticeships

Christmas Quiz

Friday, 13th December 2024

School Aycliffe Community Association have limited ticket availability for the Christmas Quiz. Ticket sales will close on Sunday 8th December.

It's that time of year to get your tickets for our ever popular, annual Christmas Quiz, £10 per person, which includes pie/quiche and peas. Don't forget to bring your own alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages.

Teams are a maximum of six people.

Tickets are available from Zanna on 07929 916725. Thank you for supporting our events and we look forward to seeing you there.

Ice Trail Returns to Darlington



A 'wicked' selection of magical ice sculptures are set to be unveiled in Darlington town centre on Saturday 7th December from 11am-3pm.

Families are invited to search for different festive sculptures and take some selfies around the town centre. Among the attractions there will be a sculpture inspired by the new Wicked movie, the chance to climb aboard an icy Daryl the magical train, visit a very famous train station and meet a frozen cartoon superstar – 'for real life'!

The sculptures will be all around the town centre including the yards and St Cuthbert's Church. Trail maps will be available on the day and can be seen online at the Enjoy Darlington website www.enjoydarlington.co.uk

Chris McEwan, cabinet member for economy, said: "The ice sculpture trail is always a great event and, following the successful Christmas light switch on, it's a great way for everyone to join in the festive spirit. I hope people will also take the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping, visit our fantastic independent shops and grab a hot drink and some food in one of the many restaurants and cafes in the town centre."

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Budget Survey 2025/26

Great Aycliffe Town Council is in the process of setting its budget for the 2025-26 financial year.

The budget we set is important to the local community in terms of the facilities and services we provide - and to you as a resident regarding the level of Council Tax we need to raise from local taxpayers to fund these plans.

To assist with the budget setting process, the Town Council would welcome your views - no names or personal details are required.

Surveys are available from and should be returned, either by post or by hand, to the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QF.

Alternatively, they may be emailed to: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

The survey is also available on:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/0Y46QH>

Closing Date: 31st December, 12noon

N.A. JUNIORS



The snow on Saturday morning ensured all our scheduled games on that day were postponed. The games below were the fixtures which went ahead on Sunday.

Under 10's travelled to face Billingham Juniors Lions in what is always an incredibly good, hard-fought occasion. Alfie F was the hero on the scoresheet with two great finishes, which give the team a great result against opposition who had previously been successful in all their games. Parents MOTM was Alfie F for an impressive performance and goals which killed the game off. Opposition MOTM was Harvey P for an outstanding display in goal, making several extremely crucial saves which ensured he kept a clean sheet.

Under 13's Juniors saw their recent great run of form come to a spectacular end with an 8-0 defeat away to Chilton. Aycliffe struggled throughout the game, which saw Chilton play some great football. The team will look forward to putting things right next week.

Birthday Remembrance

Stephen (Ibbo) Ibinson
 30th November 1975



Today recalls the memory of a loved one gone to rest, and those who think of him today are those who loved him best. Always loved and remembered, Mam and Family.

Obituary

George Alfred Oakley

22nd November
 Royal Navy veteran and retired Induction Heating engineer, aged 93, peacefully passed away after a short illness. Born in Holymoorside, Derbyshire, George lived in Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, for his last 25 years. Loving Husband of late Wife Margaret, married for 65 years, he leaves behind four Children, eleven Grandchildren and ten Great-Grandchildren, as well as two surviving siblings.

Dearly loved, he was a character who made an impact on all who met him. Particular thanks to the District Nurses, Anne and Sandra from Dale Care, as well as staff at Defoe Care Home. Service to take place at 2.30pm on Thursday 5th December at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. Donations welcomed for Age Concern in lieu of flowers.

Rob Oliver

14th November, on his 78th birthday, passed away peacefully at home with his beloved and devoted Wife, Barbara, by his side. He was a loving caring Uncle to his Nephews, Michael and Stephen and a loving Brother-in-Law to Pauline and Bruce; and a kind friend to those that knew him. Family and friends please meet for a service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 6th December at 10.30am. Family flowers only, by request, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Cancer Research.

For Sale

Jewel Rio 180 Aquarium, white, with white base cabinet, Helialux led and daylight control, 150 watt heater, Fluval 307 external filter, JE Cod Eco propeller pump. Few other bits and pieces, £200. Tel: 07572 614466.

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Mobility scooter, Pathmaster, 7 months old, 4mph, blue, £720. Tel 01325 320389.

All copper table lamp, 21" high x 8" base, excellent condition, £25. **Dolce Gusto** coffee machine plus three boxes of coffee pods (unopened). £35. Tel 07895 714139.

Joyce Raine

Passed away suddenly, at home, on 19th November. Loving Wife of Brian; Mother to Warren, Michelle and the late Joanne; Grandmother to Sam and Shannon; Mother-in-Law to Marie and Brian. Arrangements to be confirmed.

Don Cowan

19th November
 Aged 93

Died peacefully surrounded by his loving Wife Sheila and family. Was a doting Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad and will be sadly missed by all the family. Funeral on Friday 6th December at 11.30am at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon, then afterwards at The Big Club, Newton Aycliffe. Don spent his life dedicated to football so, if possible, could you wear a football shirt, any team welcome. All donations to be given to Newton Aycliffe Youth F.C.

PUZZLE CORNER

Sudoku

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

Your View

Joy Allen, elected Police and Crime Commissioner for County Durham & Darlington, would like to know your views on the policing precept for 2025/26. Take part in our consultation at: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/tv4dxx>

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Christmas Greetings

Lovell, Michael and Pam, Newburn Court, send all their family, friends and neighbours Christmas Blessings and many good wishes for Christmas and 2025. As usual, we will be donating to The Alzheimers Society instead of cards. Please feel free to donate to your favourite charity also. God bless.

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An Evening with John Barnes

An evening with Liverpool and England legend John Barnes turned out to be amazing. The event combined football nostalgia, inspiration, and charity, all in support of MISSEDABEAT - a charity dedicated to funding life-saving defibrillators for local communities. John Barnes, an icon of the game, shared stories from his remarkable career, giving guests a rare glimpse behind the scenes of his time with Liverpool and the England squad. His reflections on former teammate Peter Beardsley, whom he called the best player he ever shared the pitch with, resonated with everyone in attendance. And, in a surprise moment, John treated guests to his famous rap, bringing back memories of World in Motion and lighting up the room with his unique style and charm. Mark Preston took a special moment to invite Newton Aycliffe Chairman, Alan Oliver, to the stage and presented him with the club's new third kit, which MISSEDABEAT are sponsoring. Funds raised for this sponsorship will come through a bonus ball. This partnership with Newton Aycliffe FC will not only spread awareness of MISSEDABEAT's mission, but will also provide valuable support to the town's team. Young entrepreneurs Riley and Jonnah also made an incredible contribution, raising £800 by selling football cards to guests. Beyond celebrating football, the night underscored MISSEDABEAT's mission to provide essential equipment and training that can save lives. Inspired by the stories of loved ones we have lost to heart conditions, MISSEDABEAT works tirelessly to prevent future tragedies, making a real difference in our community.

Reminder . . .

Avon Court, off Burnhill Way, are holding their annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November from 1.00pm. Entry is free with lots of stalls and refreshments available. Come and join us and make a start to your Christmas festivities, shop 'til you drop in our cosy warm building.

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Meeting the County's Housing Needs

Councillors in County Durham will discuss the allocation of social housing when they meet next week. Durham County Council is proposing a comprehensive review of the process to ensure housing is allocated consistently and fairly to those in the greatest housing need. A housing allocations scheme is a requirement of all authorities, setting out the council's eligibility, qualifying and housing need criteria, to ensure priority is fairly assigned. It also sets out how decisions are made on how social housing is allocated and how the council assesses applications to the housing register. In County Durham, a choice-based allocations scheme currently operates to allocate social housing to people on the housing register, as part of the Durham Key Options partnership. This is made up of the council and four key housing providers, who all believe a review to be necessary to respond to the current housing crisis and ease the sustained pressure on the supply of social housing. The council hopes to launch a consultation on the policy in the new year. This will seek opinions on six key issues, including: the criteria to access the housing register, better use of social housing stock, local lettings policies, the priority of homelessness cases, the priority of medical and domestic abuse cases, and monitoring and service standards. Housing providers, professionals, key stakeholders and members of the public will be given an opportunity to take part in the consultation. Cabinet will be asked to agree to the allocations policy review and approve a public consultation when it meets next week. If agreed, this will begin on 15th January for eight weeks, ahead of a second consultation starting in the summer.

Domestic Abuse Training

All frontline officers and staff at Durham Constabulary are set to receive specialist domestic abuse training to help protect vulnerable people. Starting next month, the Domestic Abuse Matters (DA Matters) training programme will be rolled out to around 575 frontline officers and staff. The training will be delivered over several months by the specialist domestic abuse charity SafeLives, which developed the programme with the College of Policing. The aim of the training is to provide 'consistency of service' to those who are experiencing domestic abuse. It recognises the difficult role frontline police play in dealing with domestic abuse and will enable officers to develop and respond to domestic abuse situations and look at changing skills, behaviour and attitudes, by challenging inappropriate language and behaviour. The training covers areas such as coercive and controlling behaviour, understanding perpetrators, digital domestic abuse, assessing risk, male victims of domestic abuse and abuse involving older people. Domestic abuse and violence accounts for almost 17% of all recorded crimes within County Durham and Darlington and the force deals with around 16,526 incidents each year. Temporary Superintendent Neil Fuller, from Durham Constabulary, said: "Every incident of domestic abuse is one too many - nobody should have to suffer abuse and violence at the hands of another. "Our role as police officers and staff is to protect vulnerable people and keep them safe from harm, and we use all powers available to us to do this. Incidents of domestic abuse and violence are among the most complex investigations we deal with, and they require our utmost care and sensitivity. "DA Matters is a crucial training programme that will complement other work we are carrying out within the force, to enable our officers to gain a better understanding about all areas of domestic abuse and how we can develop and improve our response. This is an opportunity for us to make a direct change to victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and forms part of our commitment to tackling violence against women and girls." Ellen Miller, Chief Executive of SafeLives, said: "We are pleased to be working with Durham Constabulary and our fantastic team of experienced associate trainers to deliver DA Matters, a cultural change programme created with survivors and designed to create long term, sustainable change. "We know that Durham Constabulary becoming an adopter force of DA Matters will be welcome news for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, as the programme is designed to increase awareness and understanding of coercive and controlling behaviour and create attitudinal change throughout the entire force. Victims domestic abuse and police officers alike want to know that the criminal justice response to domestic abuse is as good as it can be. Durham Constabulary adopting DA Matters is an important step towards that."

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www.newtonnews.co.uk

RUNNING CLUB NEWS

We are well and truly moving into Winter Running which includes some unique races taking place. On Saturday 16th November, one member took part in the Greener Miles Moon Runner 10k race which, as the name suggests, takes place on an evening with runners required to wear a head torch. This also took place during the full moon on a 10k trail course making the conditions testing for any runner. Representing the club was Richard Campbell (47:32) finishing fifth overall and first Male Over 40 receiving a free entry to a future race as his prize. On Saturday 23rd November one member, travelled to Benidorm in Spain to take part in the



Benidorm Half Marathon. Gareth Hamblin (1:30:47) was the sole member from the club, finishing in an excellent time. On Sunday 24th November, two members travelled to Clowne in Derbyshire to take part in the Clowne Half Marathon. Representing the club were Cath McDonnell (2:17:14) and Salv McDonnell (2:19:22). The club supported an appeal, launched through the If You Can Share Foundation, to support a child impacted by suicide this Christmas, by donating a selection box. The club decided to support this worthy cause, by using the track session this week to encourage members to bring along selection boxes. Members showed their generosity, with a huge turnout on the night and others donating, that couldn't make it, filling two tables and sending off a huge supply of selection boxes as part of the appeal.

Amazing from everyone involved. On Saturday 16th November, 37 members started their weekend with a parkrun. At Durham, Jean-Pierre Hupin (28:33), Carley Cooper (30:19) and Sandrine Hewitt (32:59) all completed the event. At Sedgfield, Thomas Heywood (29:42), Deborah Kell (29:55 and new course PB), Kevin Greenall (31:27), Zoe Savage (32:30), Richard Tonge (32:35) and Linda McNamee (45:12) all completed the course. At Stewart Park, Salv McDonnell (30:17) and Cath McDonnell (32:36) both completed the course for the first time. At Darlington South Park, Jimmy Agnew (21:09), Trevor Agnew (22:10) and Ian Stothard (1:00:41 and tail walker) completed the event. At Delamere, Richard Trowles (29:26) completed the event for the first time. At Hackworth, Richard Holland (22:44), Bernadette Cooper (22:49 and first female), Daniel Tatham (22:53), Karl Hume (23:17), Richard MacFarlane (28:27), Mark Bainbridge (28:48), Gem Holland (31:45) and Eve Doe (32:11) completed the course. At Southwark, Em Flynn (33:24) completed the course for the first time. At Rising Sun, Peter Tennick completed the course for the first time. At Keswick, Susan Rees (25:52) completed the course. At Blackpool, Sarah Gill (26:17) completed the course for the first time. At Jubilee, David Stothard (29:31) completed the event at Jubilee. At Doddington Hall, Keith Hatton (26:38) completed the course for the first time. At Wynyard, Paul Dalton (23:15) and Jayne Rudd (29:53 and new course PB) both completed the course. Over at Thorp Perrow, Lou Mann (54:33) completed the event for the first time as park walker.

On Saturday 23rd November, a number of parkruns were cancelled due to snow, with only seven members managing to take part in an event. Viv Williams (32:39) and Steve Williams (32:40) both completed the course at Burgess for the first time. At Hartlepool, David Stothard (32:05) and Ian Stothard (51:58) both completed the course. At Wynyard, Paul Dalton (23:00), Carley Cooper (33:08) and Em Flynn (36:19) completed the event. Amazing dedication from them all with the time taken to travel to those longer than it was to complete the run.

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.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk - or our Facebook page. If you would like to chat with someone, then you can email ayclifferunningclub@gmail.com - If interested in the Junior Section you can email juniorsection@gmail.com - Make this year the year you or your children get into running and join us to keep it going for many years to come.

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