

# Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper, published on the first and third Friday of each month.  
 Editorial & Advertising contact: Telephone: 01325 300212 - Email: paul@newtonnews.co.uk - Website: www.newtonnews.co.uk

## Christmas Lights Switch on Success



Aycliffe town centre management and Aycliffe Radio CIC would like to thank all the entertainers who came along on Saturday 30th November to wow the crowds of onlookers for the Christmas Lights Switch On event.

Special thanks go to Greenfield College Choir, Shine Children's Choir, Macadam School of Dance and St. Francis School Choir - all the children performed admirably along with 'The Christmas Trees', 'Calvos', Aycliffe & Brancepeth Brass Band and the amazing 'Spark'. Thanks also to the Mayor and Mayoress of Great Aycliffe, John and Bernadette Clark, accompanied by Amber. A mention also to Durham County Council for part funding the afternoon. Great Aycliffe Rotary brought along Santa who worked tirelessly to give out a free gift to all the children who visited the All Disabilities Matter winter wonderland.



## Emily Nominated Dr. Jeyarajan Retires



Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club members, and sponsors, Group 2 Fire Protection and LLM (Later Life Money), are very proud to announce the nomination of 13-year-old Emily Denham, to represent the Tyne Tees & Wear Amateur Boxing Association in the Golden Girls International Competition in Sweden at the end of January 2025.

Emily is a two-time England national champion winning in the 2023 final in Guildford, Surrey and the 2024 final in Newcastle and is going for her third schools title starting in March 2025. Aycliffe Boxing Club train at Acorn House, Durham Way North on Aycliffe Business Park DL5 6HP, Monday from 4.30pm with the Kid Gloves class, up to 9 years old, then 6.00pm with the Junior class, 9 years to 14 years and finish with the Senior class from 7.00pm. Tuesday 6.00pm Juniors, 7.00pm Seniors. Wednesday 4.30pm Kid Gloves, Females 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Thursday Kid Gloves 4.30pm, Juniors 6.00pm, Seniors 7.00pm. Saturday 10.00am to 12 noon casual training. For more information ring 07746 307165.

## Dr. Jeyarajan Retires

Aycliffe Dental Practice is bidding a fond farewell to Dr. Jeyarajan, who is retiring after an extraordinary 43 years of dedicated service to the community.

Dr. Jeyarajan began his career at the practice in 1981 and has since become a trusted and much-loved figure among patients and colleagues alike. Known for his commitment to excellence, Dr. Jeyarajan has always stayed ahead of the curve in state-of-the-art dentistry, continually updating his knowledge and techniques to provide the best possible care. His ability to deliver even the most complex dental treatments with precision and care has set him apart in his field.

Reflecting on his career, Dr. Jeyarajan said: "It has been an absolute privilege to care for such a wonderful community over the years. I'm deeply grateful for the trust and support of my patients and colleagues. While I'll miss the daily interactions, I'm excited to spend more time with my family and explore personal interests."

Dr. Jeyarajan's colleagues describe him as a mentor, a leader and a friend, who always put patients first. To honour his outstanding contributions, the team at Aycliffe Dental Practice recently held a celebration to mark this milestone.

The practice will continue under the care of new owners, who are committed to upholding the high standards set by Dr. Jeyarajan. The community joins together in wishing Dr. Jeyarajan a joyful and well-deserved retirement.



# Thank You Freemasons SMAE Medal



All Disabilities Matter would like to thank Aycliffe Freemasons for their generous donation of £250, which was kindly presented to us by Robbie Davison, Godfrey Bennett, Graham Parker and Dennis Townson on Saturday 30th November, just before the grand opening of our magical Christmas wonderland.  
All Disabilities Matter Team.

## Thank You

The Heighington Village Bonfire Committee would like to thank local residents and volunteers for their help ensuring that the event was a success again this year.  
Special thanks to Bryan Knox for donating the hay bale and Simon Shepherd for donating the pallets.

The medal is awarded to a member or group of members who have served the cause of model flying and the Society by their particularly meritorious or sustained endeavors.  
Barry Robinson was awarded the SMAE Medal for his great commitment Control Line Aerobatics (Class F2B), and for the great number of years that he has represented the UK in both World and European Championships.  
Barry represented the UK in 33 out of 43 European and World Control Line Championships between 1979 and 2024. In 1979 he went to Marville in France, as a substitute, along with Bill Draper and Peter Tindal. He placed 6th, the best placed British flier and the team secured the Bronze medal. This was the first in a run, achieving two Gold Team medals (1987 and 1989) and three Bronze Team medals (1979, 1983 and 1985). Barry was the best placed UK flyer in 14 of these events.  
He qualified for a team place virtually every year, but financial and other constraints meant he was unable to attend all of the events for which he had qualified.  
Domestically he has won the Gold Trophy for F2B at the National Championships eight times between 1980 and 2006. He has also been the highest placed British pilot when there were Foreign winners of the Gold Trophy. Barry has also won Classic Aerobatics twice adding to these achievements.  
Home International events saw Barry represent England in numerous events, the majority of which were won by England. Barry has won many other cups and trophies, competing in CLAPA events (four times champion) and events run by model clubs throughout the UK.  
Barry has also been a member of the Control Line Technical Committee, and has judged the Nationals, Centralised events and many other Control Line aerobatic events.  
Barry has always helped other modeller's to improve both their models, suggesting trim changes etc. and their schedule flying. The most recent being Steve White of the Shildon Model Flying Club (SMFC), who Barry coached to become the F2B National Champion on three occasions.  
Barry is also very active at club level. For ten years he has been Secretary of Shildon Model Flying Club. He has liaised with the Land Agent to secure a new flying field since the loss of their previous site in 2022, allowing for outdoor flying to recommence. He has been cutting the flying patch on his own for the last twelve years, and he assists in the running of indoor flying meetings organised by SMFC.

# Festive Bin Collections

Residents in County Durham are being reminded of changes to bin collections over the Christmas period. Durham County Council's collections will take place as normal up to and including Tuesday 24th December.

From Wednesday 25th December to Friday 3rd January, residents are being made aware of the following changes to collections:

Normal day	Revised day
DECEMBER	
Wednesday 25th	Friday 27th
Thursday 26th	Saturday 28th
Friday 27th	Monday 30th
Tuesday 31st	No change

JANUARY	
Wednesday 1st	Thursday 2nd
Thursday 2nd	Friday 3rd
Friday 3rd	Saturday 4th

**Normal collections will resume from Monday 6th January.**

Residents can check their collection dates online by entering their house number and postcode into the 'My Durham' section of the council's website at [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk)  
Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) across the county will be open as normal over the festive period, between 9am and 3.30pm, except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

The Thornley, Coxhoe and Horden HWRC sites are normally closed on Fridays, and will be closed Friday 27th December. The opening hours for these three sites are 10am to 4pm Monday to Thursday, and 9am to 3.30pm on a weekend.

People can see opening times of their nearest HWRC, and check how busy a site is in advance, at [www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc](http://www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc)  
Real Christmas tree collections will also be available from Monday 6th January.

Residents can book a free collection in advance at:  
[www.durham.gov.uk/christmastreecollections](http://www.durham.gov.uk/christmastreecollections)  
Residents can keep up to date with any changes to council services by following @durhamcouncil on X or @durhamcouncil on Facebook.

# Free Festivity for Families

Green Arts are thrilled to bring you a free festive holiday activity for young people and families. Professional artist Dawn Belshaw will be leading this popular session in our lovely welcoming space. Come along and make something amazing from recycled materials.

The session will be held on Monday 23rd December from 1.30pm – 3.00pm, when you will get the chance to make something lovely to take home.

To find out more just visit our website to book your place or email the team at Green Arts: [info@green-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@green-arts.co.uk) with any queries or to book a place.

There is no cost to the session just bring your creativity and your family. The festive workshop will take place at Green Arts, Eco Centre, Moore Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

We look forward to seeing you.

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# Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Good news! Santa has told us that he will be able to visit the parish of Great Aycliffe on Christmas Eve for his traditional tour, which Great Aycliffe Town Council helps him to organise! Santa has asked that you congregate at locations that are easy for him to access on his sleigh, as on Christmas Eve some streets can be too narrow to enter due to parked cars. You can check Santa's progress with live updates on GATC's Facebook page.



Please remember, because Santa and his helpers don't know how many people will be out to see him, the times are only a guideline, please listen out for the Christmas music and bells. This community event could not take place without the help of 36 volunteers, the companies who loan us their sleighs: Frack's Transport, Aycliffe Fabrications, Sabre Rail, Ashcourt Skip Hire, Gardner's Yard and Securicorp. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their support. This year the Santa Tours have been sponsored by: The Milk Man, Sharon Ellis Travel Agent, Great Aycliffe Garden Guild, Dominos, Jukebox Repairs & Servicing, Chapters Counselling, Sparkle Aycliffe, Anything Aycliffe, K&L Travel, Head Quarters and Aycliffe Dance Academy.

# Thank you

We would like to say a very big 'Thank You' to all who came along to our Christmas Fair at Avon Court on Saturday 30th November. We raised enough money to pay for a lovely Christmas Party for all of our tenants. Thank you to the stallholders, there were some really super Christmas goodies available, can't wait until next year. Happy Christmas to our neighbours from all at Avon Court.

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# All Disabilities Matter Winter Wonderland

All Disabilities Matter are a 100% volunteer group charity and were delighted to see such a great attendance for the bespoke immersive grotto experience. This has taken literally hundreds of man hours of volunteer support to create and we hope all would agree, was a quality level indistinguishable from a professional production company.



From footsteps on the floor guiding you around and giving everyone the challenge of finding ten hidden, naughty elves in the grotto experience, it began with the initial Christmas village snow area, with so many lit miniatures, all moving and representing a Christmas, with backdrops for that truly immersive feel, to the draped ceiling with literally 12,000 LED lights twinkling behind the black drapes to represent the night sky before Christmas, walking and guided down the UV backlit snow scene trees and presents. At the end of that initial walk, was the immersive digital projection screen, with Frozen, Moana, etc., videos where the children can see themselves 'dance with the characters'. It was a great success and kept many happy whilst waiting for Santa. As you near Santa's Grotto there was the large scale video projection with music and many looping videos to keep all entertained and singing to the songs on the large screen. Lastly, the big event, Santa's Grotto - bespoke printed wood roll effect room, with trees, lights, train, fireplace and elves, with Santa waiting. You then exit the room and have the nativity scene, backlit for the true meaning of Christmas, which is not to be forgotten. All of this, helped by volunteer parents of special needs from All Disabilities Matter, who obtained Charity status earlier this year. We were delighted with the support of Trevor and Aycliffe Radio to allow us take part and be present at the Christmas Lights event.

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**Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre**  
Wednesday 5.30pm  
With Christine, 07970 666291

Group times may change over the festive period please contact the consultant for details.



## Drivers Turn on Your Lights

Dear Sir,

There is a number of drivers who drive around on dark mornings, evenings and low visibility, without lights on their vehicles. Some drivers seem to think because their dashboard lights are on their car lights are on, not always the case.

Also day light driving lights are no good because the rear lights on most vehicles aren't on, only the front lights, and older vehicles don't have day lights, Nor do all vehicles have automatic headlights. Headlights are not only there for you to see, but to be seen.

Front and rear fog lights, should only be used in bad visibility, snowfall, heavy rain and spray and of course fog. Rear fog lights only when visibility is below 100 metres and not to blind the driver behind.

I would also like to mention the parents and guardians who take their children to school, rather than drive around without a minute to spare, causing absolute mayhem, set off earlier and think about where you are going to stop and/or park, not only for the safety of your children but others as well.

A concerned Parent/Grandparent.

## Collins Seafoods Supports Veterans

Collins Seafoods, a proud signatory of the Armed Forces Covenant, is deepening its commitment to veterans and their families. The covenant, a national pledge to treat those who have served the country with fairness and respect, inspired Collins Seafoods to explore local facilities supporting veterans.

This led to the discovery of the remarkable Veterans Community and Enterprise Centre (Newton Aycliffe) CIC.

Jill Saint, Transport and Operations Manager at Collins Seafoods and a Royal Navy veteran (1991–2001), alongside Elaine Armstrong, Sales and Marketing Executive, recently visited the centre located on the Newton Aycliffe Business Park. The Veterans Community and Enterprise Centre provides a welcoming space for veterans to access qualified support and engage in activities promoting health and well-being.

During their visit, Jill and Elaine were warmly welcomed by Chris Morgan, CEO of the centre and a retired veteran himself. Chris guided them on a tour, sharing the centre's mission to assist veterans with mental and physical health conditions by engaging them in meaningful activities.

"The concept is to engage veterans with mental and physical health conditions in meaningful activities that help rehabilitate, build practical skills, develop resilience, and prevent deterioration of health," Chris explained. "It is also aimed at helping veterans' families understand more about the effects of PTSD and other health-related conditions sustained during active service."

The centre offers a variety of resources and programmes, including:

- A workshop where veterans craft high-quality furniture and goods to help sustain the centre.
- Wood skills workshops that teach hand carving, scroll saw work, and basic woodworking techniques.
- Crafty Comrades sessions, introducing veterans to art, model making, and 3D printing.
- A 'Hire a Bench' scheme, allowing veterans to work on personal projects with access to tools after an induction course.
- The Vintage Veterans Project, where participants restore vintage machinery, such as a Massey Ferguson tractor and a 1932 Albion lorry.

Additionally, the centre is working toward opening an onsite café, envisioned as a community hub for veterans and their families to gather over breakfast, homemade cakes, or simply a chat with like-minded people.

"The company's activities provide invaluable benefits to veterans navigating the transition from military to civilian life, while fostering a community of understanding and support."

Collins Seafoods encourages everyone to support this vital initiative.

There are many ways to get involved:

- Follow the centre on social media to help raise awareness.
- Share posts featuring their high-quality, handcrafted furniture for sale.
- Volunteer your time to assist with projects, administration, or fundraising.

The Veterans Community and Enterprise Centre (Newton Aycliffe) CIC stands as a lifeline for many, offering veterans a sense of purpose, community, and hope for the future.

To learn more or get involved, visit: [www.vcec.co.uk](http://www.vcec.co.uk)

Facebook: The Veterans Community and Enterprise Centre - Newton Aycliffe - CIC.

Photo: left to right - Heather Dickinson, Richard Stoker, Kerry Doolin and Paul Cappleman.



## Birthday Treat

Oliver Reece Grady got an early birthday surprise on Saturday, 7th December, when he learnt that he was going to be a Mascot at the Doncaster v Cheltenham Town football match later that day. He had seen boys walking out onto the pitch with their favourite players when he watched a game on television and had said to his Mam & Dad "how amazing that must be."

Imagine his surprise then when they told him he would be doing that. He was so excited that he couldn't wait for the car journey to come to an end. Oliver Reece and his parents (Ali and Aiden) were met by the Mascot Coordinator at the Eco Power Stadium. Oliver Reece was kitted out in the full Doncaster home strip. He then had a tour of the stadium, met the players, manager and staff, as well as Donny Dog, the Doncaster Rovers official mascot. Oliver Reece was also on the pitch with the players as they went through their pre-match warm up prior to the moment when he walked out with the team through the tunnel and onto the pitch before kick-off. He couldn't believe that he actually got to walk out onto the pitch with his favourite player, local lad, Luke Molyneux.

Oliver Reece and his parents then watched the game and, although Rovers didn't win, Oliver Reece did get to see Luke score the second goal resulting in a 2-2 draw. After the game Oliver Reece and his parents went into the Players Lounge where they met the Captain, Owen Bailey, who was only too happy to add his signature to the other players who had signed Oliver Reece's strip. So, I guess, that strip will never get washed now!!! Oliver Reece is 9 on 20th December and he plays for Newton Aycliffe Juniors Under 9's team. He can't wait to tell his team mates about his exciting day at Doncaster Rovers Football Club. A day he will never forget.



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# Santa's Christmas Eve Tour of Newton Aycliffe



## Route 4 - Cobblers Hall and Woodham Gate

**3.45pm-5.00pm:** Foxglove Close, Ashtree Close, Pinewood Close, Forster Close, Patenson Court, Wakenshaw Drive, Youens Crescent, Annand Way, Haslewood Road, Blakiston Court, Carwardine Close, Bloomsley Close, Karles Close.

**5.00pm-5.45pm:** Bluestone Close, Oldwood, Sugarhill Crescent, Wellhouse Road.

**5.45pm-6.15pm:** Acle Burn, Acle Meadows, St Andrews Court, Ryder Court.

**6.15pm-6.30pm:** Woodham Gate, Bridle.

**6.30pm-7.00pm:** The Grange, High Green.

**7.00pm-7.15pm:** Spinny, Low Green.

**7.15pm-7.45pm:** Sunningdale, Sandown Drive, Tattersall Close, Beechers Grove, The Oaks.

## Route 5 - Woodham (Stag lane)

**3.45pm-5.00pm:** Champion Court, Harebell Meadows, Yarrow Court, Sorrel Wynd, Clover Court, Egerton Grove, Dudley Drive, Howson Crescent, Kirkham Close, Beaumont Close, Farnham Close, Village Close.

**5.00pm-5.45pm:** Hind Court, Fallow Road, Fawn Close, Stag Lane, Hickstead Rise, Cheltenham Way, Epsom Court, Kempton Close, Cowdray Close, Windsor Close, Gatcome, Kenilworth Court, Raby Drive.

**5.45pm-6.00pm:** Bamburgh Crescent, Chillingham Grove, Barnard Close, Alnwick Grove.

**6.00pm-6.45pm:** Lowther Drive, Brook Close, Mulgrave Court, Middleton Way, Helmsley Court, Burghley Mews, Badminton Grove, Stoneleigh Court, Lowther Drive.

**6.45pm-7.00pm:** Brafferton Close, Chilton Close, Grindon Court, Whitton Court, Grange Court.

**7.00pm-7.45pm:** Foxton Close, Rushyford Court, Layton Court, Butterwick Court, Hardwick Court, Herrington Court.

## Route 6 - Agnew/Burn Lane

**3.45pm-4.45pm:** Wellhouse Drive, Brookwell, Phoenix Place, Elmore, Deleval Close, Callerton Rise, Hutton Place, Fenhall Green, Kimblesworth, Tanfield Place, The Ballarat, Wellhouse Ride, Stargate, Morrison Close.

**4.45pm-5.30pm:** The Moorlands, The Coppice, The Swale, The Glade, Heatherburn Court.

**5.30pm-6.30pm:** Guthrum Place, Alfrid, Osric Place, Kings Drive, Ida Place.

**6.30pm-7.30pm:** Sid Chapin Drive, Fox Place, Bates Close, Booth Walk, Bakewell Place, Merlin Court, Scott Place, Thornton Close, Brockett Close

## Route 7 - Horndale

**3.45pm-4.15pm:** Ashfield.

**4.15pm-5.15pm:** Rylstone Close, Reeth Place, Malham Crescent, Askrigg Close, Skipton Close, Arncliffe Place, Aysgarth, Hawes Place, Keld Road, Stainforth.

**5.15pm-6.00pm:** Garburn Place, Hawkshead Place, Honister Place

**6.00pm-7.15pm:** Silverdale Place, Kirkstone Place, Langdale Place, Whinlatter, Eskdale Place.

## Route 8 - Central Ave, Washington Crescent, Pease Way

**3.45pm-4.15pm:** Barrington Road, Beacon Court, Paulinus Road, Tunstall Road, Carileph Close, Ebba Close, Bruce Road.

**4.15pm-5.30pm:** Burn Lane, Elstob Close, Sanderson Close, Hamilton Close, Kendrew Close, Bousfield Crescent, Faber Close, Chandler Close, Chapman Close, Hardinge Road, Ewbank Close, Wiseman Walk.

**5.30pm-6.00pm:** Bellasis Close, Defoe Crescent, Porter Close, Lamb Close, Neile Road, Washington Cres, Felton Close.

**6.00pm-7.30pm:** Wolsey Close, Matthew Close, Hylton Close, Hutchinson Walk, Escomb Close, Wren Close, Armstrong Close, Wycliffe, St Oswald's Court.

## Route 9 - Silkin Way, Westmorland Way

**3.45pm-4.00pm:** Church Close.

**4.00pm-5.45pm:** Silkin Way, Stead Close, Humphery Close, MacMillan Road, Lincoln Close, Stephenson Way, Lightfoot Road, Burdon Close, Marshall Road, Priestman Road, Wright Close.

**5.45pm-6.15pm:** Westmoreland Way, Newburn Court, Thurlow Grove, Aylmer Grove, Whiteley Grove, Henson Grove.

**6.15pm-7.30pm:** Faulkner Road, Dalton Way, Hartley Road, Faulkner Road, Webb Close, Walcher Road, Lilburne Crescent, Alington Road, Hullcock Road, Bertie Road.

## Route 10 - Elmfield/Cumby/Emerson Way

**3.45pm-4.45pm:** Linden Place, Elmfield Place, Rowan Place, Beechfield, Oakfield.

**4.45pm-5.30pm:** Crosby Road, Doxford Road, Lowery Road, Cumby Road,

*Listen out for  
my bells, I may  
be a little late*

Watson Road, St Godric's Road, Mills Close, Peaseway.

**5.30pm-6.15pm:** Emerson Way, Moule Close, Finchale Road, Lambton Close, Lee Green, Hopper Road, Dixon Road, Walker Lane.

**6.15pm-7.30pm:** Bowes Road, Lyon Walk, Bewick Crescent, Isherwood Close, Merz Road, Butler Road, Ritson, Marley Road, Wallas Road, Bowes Road, Castlereagh Close, Emerson Way.

## Route 11 - Neville Parade/Anne Swyft Road

**3.45pm-5.15pm:** Greville Way, Neville Parade, Acorn Gardens, Cosin Close, Gilpin Road, Palmer Road, Clanny Road, St Georges Close, Cargill, Travellers Green, Clarence Green, Clarence Chare, Clarence Corner, Clarence Close, Anne Swyft Walk, Haverlock Close, Elizabeth Barrett Walk, Westcott Walk, Surtees Walk, Bede Crescent, Hackworth Close, Baliol.

**5.15pm-6.15pm:** Henderson Road, Crewe Road, Sharp Road, Hunter Road, Crawford Road, Sheraton Road, Sharp Road, Lumley Close, Sheraton Close.

**6.15pm-7.30pm:** Hatfield Road, Hatfield Crescent, Skirlaw Road, Flynn Court, Biscop Crescent, Eldon Close, Heild Close, Bek Road, Shafto Way.

## Route 12 - Vane Road, Mellanby Crescent

**3.45pm-5.30pm:** Welbury Grove, Vane Road, Eden Road, Langley Road, Stanfield Road, Denham Place, Ramsey Place, Auckland Place, Kemble Green North, Maling Green, Mellanby Crescent, Bulmer Close.

**5.30pm-7.30pm:** Mellanby Crescent, Liddell Close, Creighton Road, Backhouse Walk, Yacley Close, Fowler Road, Warburton Close, Jackson Place, Moore Lane, Swan Walk, Gunn Lane, Greathead Crescent, Van Mildret Road, Shafto Way, Bury Road, Wilkinson Road.

## Route 1 - Aycliffe Village

**4.15pm-5.55pm:** Millfields, Durham Road, Atkinson Gardens, North Terrace, Village Green, Heighington Lane, Oaklea Mews, Bickford Terrace.

## School Aycliffe

**6.00pm-7.45pm:** North Cottages, The Garth, Eastfields, Millfields, Binchester, Burnynghill, Lord Neville Drive, Wilbore Croft, Forresters, Smythsons, High Barn, Springfields, High Barn, Hansard Close, Jenison, Westfields, High Barn.

## Route 2 - Greenfield Way

**3.45pm-4.15pm:** Malvern Way, Colwell Court, Belford Way, Wilton Court, Belford Way.

**4.15pm-5.00pm:** Zetland Hunt, Staintondale, Hurworth Hunt, The Culvert, Stirrup, Bramham Chase, The Meet, Holdness, Hunters Green, Ainsty Hunt, Saddlery, The Post Horn, Bedale, Rookwood Hunt.

**5.00pm-5.45pm:** Luttryton Court, Lascelles Avenue, Hambleton Court, Ranulf Court, Jesmond Court, Colburn Avenue, Elswick Avenue, Claxton Court, Russell Court, Yoden Court, Wynyard Court.

**5.45pm-6.30pm:** Meadowfield Way, Stainmore Crescent, Burnhope, Grassholme, Winterburn Place, Greenlee Garth.

**6.30pm-7.30pm:** Blackton Close, Alston Crescent, Fewston Close, Greenwood Court, Stocks Green, Scholars Path, Angram Place, Derwent Place, Tindale Green, Hallington Head.

## Route 3 - Bluebell Way

**4.00pm-4.30pm:** Meadowfield Way, Hareson Road, Cestria Way, Lisle Road, Hoode Close, Lockyer Close, Cheviot Place.

**4.30pm-4.45pm:** Kestral Court.

**4.45pm-5.30pm:** Bluebell Close, Bluebell Way, Coverdale Court, Bluebell Meadows.

**5.30pm-6.45pm:** Wolveston Drive, Alverton Drive, Hamsterley Road, Barton Close, Paxton Close.

**6.45pm-7.45pm:** Temple Way, Spooner Close, Raddive Close, Thwaites Close, Gamul Close, Lancelot Close, Eade Close.

## Hitachi, Job Not Yet Done

As someone who spent my entire time in Parliament supporting Hitachi I am delighted to see last weeks announcements. It's a real credit to all involved and clearly the primary credit goes to the management and staff. The need to continue Government focus though is only just beginning, whilst my successor would have you think this is all due to him and his party I can't see anything they actually did so far other than offer verbal support. The contracts gained were open tender and not Government funded. However, as his Government is on an agenda to renationalise our railways their opportunity is coming fast. Future steps will likely require real Government support in investing in rolling stock contracts to enable Hitachi to bid for (and hopefully win). The contracts so far will not secure the long term future of Hitachi as Kier Starmer has claimed. They are a first step in building the bridge needed to the bigger contracts that are in the long term pipeline but they do not complete the bridge, more are needed. We must not let him think it's job done. It is imperative that we all continue to pressure Government to help complete the job. If the PM and my successor actually contribute to that delivery I will be the first to say well done, but, so far, it looks like something that happened on their watch that they are claiming credit for rather than something they have done. We still need them to find that pen and live up to their promises.

Paul Howell  
Former MP for Sedgefield.

## Methodist Services

Christmas services at Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church, Neville Parade, will be as follows:

Sunday 22nd December, 3.00pm Carol Service, led by Mrs Jeanne Spencer.

Wednesday 25th December, 10.30am, Christmas Day Service, led by Rev David Payne.

Sunday 29th December, 10.30am Service at Woodhouse Close, Bishop Auckland. Normal Services resume on Sunday 5th January at 11.00am. A warm welcome awaits you at any of these services.

The members of the Methodist Church would like to wish you a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and Best Wishes for 2025.

## Thank You



Saturday 30th November saw Sisters Of Support attend the light switch on in the town centre, ran by Aycliffe Radio. The volunteers from the group ran a small stall, raising money for the running costs of the group. Despite the cold, dreary weather, the evening saw plenty of people turn out to see the Mayor and Mayoress John & Bernadette Clark, illuminate this years beautiful arrangement.

In total £72 was raised over the various games run by SOS. We would like to thank all who took part or simply donated. It is your donations that keep the lights on.

To find out more about Sisters Of Support please visit: [www.sistersofsupport.co.uk](http://www.sistersofsupport.co.uk) You can also find a link to our JustGiving on our website, if you would like to extend your support.

### Group Dates in the New Year:

Monday 6th January, 10.30am-12.30pm  
Lilburn Court, Shildon

Tuesday 7th January, 7pm-9pm  
Simpasture Court, Newton Aycliffe

### NEW GROUP

Tuesday 14th January, 7pm-9pm  
Gilpin Court, Newton Aycliffe.

## Stitching Kindness Into the Community



Since launching in October last year, Pioneering Care Partnership's (PCP) Knitting Group has been weaving threads of warmth and kindness into the North East community. Founded by volunteer Sharon Rowley and Annette Allen, PCP Customer and Information Assistant, this talented group has combined their passion for craft with a heartfelt mission to support others and combat loneliness.

From blankets and dressing gowns to scarves and hats, the group initially was set up for people to come together and connect over a hobby of knitting and crochet. However, the group has evolved to provide comfort and care to those who need it most during the colder months with a variety of knitted items.

To put the amount of work into scale, each dressing over 4,000 individual squares have been lovingly crafted in just one year to create over 40 dressing gowns, a true testament to the group's dedication.

Over the past year, the group has created:

- Blankets for the Moses Project in Stockton on Tees, with over 40 squares per blanket.
- Over 50 hats and a variety of scarves.
- Knitted hearts for the Joining the Dots service, spreading comfort and connection.
- Twiddle blankets for Young At Heart ULO, a group for people living with dementia.
- Little stockings for Together 21, bringing festive cheer to children with Down syndrome and their families
- Knitting wear for dolls for Christmas shoebox appeals.

Annette Allen, PCP Customer and Information Assistant, said: "To see the group go from a couple of members to 10 or more every week is fantastic to see. It brings a tear to my eye seeing the goals of the group become a reality when we get the pictures of people wearing the items we have created, it is creating a literal blanket of care covering the North East."

The Knitting Group has become a hub for creativity, companionship, and giving back to the community, reflecting the values of PCP. Every stitch tells a story of care, and their collective efforts have touched countless lives.

The group meets at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe every Thursday from 1.30pm to 3.30pm and welcomes new members, whether you're an experienced knitter or just starting out.

To learn more about PCP's Knitting Group or the projects they support, visit [www.pcp.uk.net](http://www.pcp.uk.net) or call 01325 321234.

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# Newton Aycliffe Juniors

## Week Ending 1st December 2024

**Under 8's Blues** travelled to top division Guisborough Town Reds in the league cup. Aycliffe gave a great account of themselves with the goal scored by Nate after an impressive set piece routine from Alex and Carter. Opposition POTM was Lennox for some outstanding saves with the parents & coaches POTM going to Jude for adapting to the change in formation.

**Under 8's** entertained Billingham in the league cup and, after a slow start, the team rallied to score five goals, through Oliver (2), Cooper, Lewis and Harry to progress.

**Under 9's Juniors** hosted Bishop Auckland Kings in a great match, Aycliffe eventually found their groove and played some fantastic football with goals coming from Kian and Kaeson. MOTM was Reign for magnificent work rate and a never give up attitude.

**Under 9's Reds** faced Boro Rangers Girls, in another thrilling football match which was end to end, Ollie (3) and Thomas 1, scored the goals. PPOTM was Korben and POTM was Thomas.

**Under 10's** travelled to Redcar Town Whites and put in an incredibly positive performance with goals coming from Eddie M (2), Alfie F (2) and an OG. OMOTM was Eddie M for his constant energy and his constant presence. PMOTM was Isaac D for his positional play and his defensive work, helping the team keep third clean sheet in the last four games.

**Under 11's Blacks** entertained Redcar Town Whites, in what was a very feisty affair. Aycliffe played some lovely passing football and scored goals from JJ, Alfie S, Jack B and an OG. POTM was awarded by the opposition manager to keeper Liam B for some outstanding saves.

**Under 11's Reds** dominated against Billingham Synthonia, with goals from Andrew (4), Charlie (2) and Marshall. MOTM was Fletcher who put in a solid performance.

**Under 12's Whites** had a tough game, losing 4-0 away to Shotton Colts Blues, a couple of early mistakes gave the team a mountain to climb. In the second half, Aycliffe did create chances, but could not convert. MOTM was Thomas.

**Under 12's Blacks** welcomed South Park Rangers Blues to Greenfield, Aycliffe started slow and found themselves four behind, before Kai (2) and Riley scored to reduce the arrears. The team could not build on this, South Park scored a further two goals to win. MOTM was Logan.

**Under 13's Blacks** hosted Whickham Fellside in what was a competitive game from both teams. Aycliffe opened the scoring with a great ball from Jake out to Rhys on the right who sent a lovely ball across goal for Connor to finish. Unfortunately, Whickham come back to win 1-3. PPOTM was Jake who was always trying to create chances for the team as well as being strong in defence. MPOTM was Dylen, a great defensive performance, with some particularly important clearances.

**Under 14's** faced Chilton Juniors and raced into a two-goal lead. However, Chilton rallied to score six without reply, Aycliffe pulled the score back to 6-5, but could not get the draw they worked hard to get. The goals were scored by Brad, Archie, Oscar J (2) and an OG. MOTM was Oscar J.

**Under 16's Blacks** faced Whickham FC, in a game which they could not find control and saw them trailing 4-0. The team rallied to bring the score back to 4-3, but could not rescue a point. Joe, Jayden and MOTM Zak with the Aycliffe goals.

**Under 16's Whites** used their free weekend to play a friendly, away to Darlington Spraire Lads, which Aycliffe won 12-0.

## Week Ending 8th December 2024

**Under 12's Whites** faced Seaham Red Star, going down 2-4 in brutal weather conditions. Ollie & Charlie scored the goals for Aycliffe with MOTM being awarded to Lucas.



# MOW's Club

(Mini Meals on Wheels HQ)

Join our FREE Club where we deliver tasty nutritious meals, seven days a week, to the young at heart, the elderly and vulnerable throughout Aycliffe and surrounding areas.

This service, located in Aycliffe, was created during the lockdown period.

The feedback we receive has been excellent and people are so appreciative of what we provide to them.

We feel very proud of our service and our team love chatting to our customers and families alike and, sometimes, we are the only people they hear from. Please get in touch if we can help in any way.

### What is included:

- Join FREE - No age restrictions.
- Sign up for a minimum of three days per week.
- We offer a simple order process from a friendly and trustworthy company.
- Menus are changed on a regular basis to give you a fresh choice.
- Payments accepted by Direct Debit or Card details over the phone, Cash or Card payment to the driver on delivery.
- An order form will be issued weekly, in advance.

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Newton Aycliffe & Shildon £8.00  
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### Delivery Times

11.30am-12.30pm & 1.30pm-2.30pm

Please advise us of any allergies or special instructions.  
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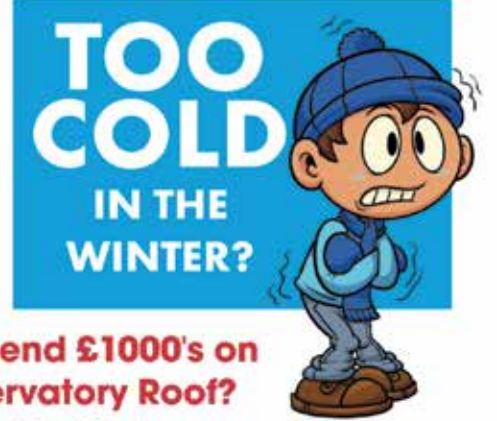
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E: [alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk)

After two long years of campaigning for the future of Hitachi trains in Newton Aycliffe, I was delighted to welcome back Keir Starmer to announce a crucial £500 million deal. After jobs were threatened by Tory dither and delay, this saves the factory and protects hundreds of jobs at the site. This landmark agreement is the culmination of years of dedicated lobbying, both as a parliamentary candidate and now as your Member of Parliament. Ensuring this outcome has been my top priority and I have raised it at every opportunity in the House of Commons and in discussions with ministers. I'm proud of my fellow North East Labour MPs and North East Mayor Kim McGuinness who've joined my campaign and advocated strongly for the plant in Newton Aycliffe. This victory is vital for our town, our local community and our economy. Hitachi is a good employer, hiring hundreds of local residents and trains staff up to be highly skilled engineers. It makes world-class products and is exactly the sort of firm we want to keep and see grow. The problem was that while the factory has a strong order book now and in the future, the previous government procured new trains in a way that left an unsustainable gap in orders. This problem also hit other train factories in the UK. Despite the Rail Industry Association warning about this looming crisis for years, the last government did nothing. When I first brought Keir Starmer to the Newton Aycliffe site, he committed to pulling out all the stops to help tackle the production gap and build a sustainable future for the plant. Keir kept his word. On Friday, I joined him and the Transport Secretary, Heidi Alexander, as he announced the deal to save the factory and secure hundreds of jobs. The agreement was reached between Hitachi, Angel, and First Group, for 14 new trains, totalling 70 new carriages. The Department for Transport played a crucial role in the negotiations and established the conditions necessary for the deal's success. This highlights the impact of having a proactive Labour MP and a Labour government. My work doesn't end there. The government and Hitachi are still involved in active negotiations about a number of other options and I will continue to advocate for the factory and its employees. This facility is vital not only for our town but also for the broader UK rail manufacturing industry. The government has an ambitious rail strategy that includes public ownership, and I am working to ensure world class manufacturers like Hitachi are a key component of it. I'm really glad that we were able to make this announcement before Christmas. While there's still work to do, I know from speaking to factory workers with Keir that this announcement has brought significant relief. And, as this is the last Newton News edition before Christmas, please can I wish you and your family all the very best for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. My office will be open over the Christmas period, so, if there is anything you need my help with, please do get in touch.

## PM Secures Hitachi

Local Member of Parliament Alan Strickland welcomed Prime Minister Keir Starmer back to Hitachi, where he announced a £500 million deal to help save the factory. This agreement, negotiated by the Government, Hitachi, First Group and Angel Trains, secures hundreds of jobs at the Aycliffe plant. The plant had been facing a production gap between major orders, leaving employees concerned about the future. The announcement by the Prime Minister comes after a two-year campaign run by Alan Strickland, the Northern Echo and union representatives. Alan Strickland MP said: "I've been clear since day one that securing the future of Hitachi is my top priority. Dither and delay by the previous government caused serious problems for the plant and the hundreds of people who work there. I'm proud that, by working tirelessly with ministers and the rail industry, I've secured this major step forward within months of the election. This world-class factory is a huge asset to our area and deserves our support."



## Carols at Christmas



The Mayor, Councillor John Clark, and Mayoress, Mrs Bernadette Clark attended the Civic and Community Carol Service at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe, on Sunday 8th December.

Rev. John Musson conducted the service, and the fantastic Shine Choir sang their carols beautifully. Thank you to everyone at St. Clare's for a wonderful festive event!

Want to know all the latest local news, visit our website  
[www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk)

**The County Council of Durham**  
(Sid Chaplin Drive, Bakewell Place, Brockett Close, Loraine Walk, Burn Lane, Thornton Close and Sampson Place, Newton Aycliffe)  
(Temporary Road and Footpath Closure)  
Order 2024

The Council proposes to make an Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, to prohibit all vehicular and pedestrian traffic from proceeding on the following lengths of road and footpath. Road Closures (closed to vehicular traffic) Sid Chaplin Drive an 11 metre length to the side of Number 78 Bates Close; a 17 metre length to the side of Number 325 Booth Walk and a 14 metre length to the side of Number 233 Scott Place. Bakewell Place a 10 metre length to the rear of Number 9 Bakewell Place. Brockett Close a 13 metre length to the side of Number 119, an 11 metre length to the side of Number 142 and an 8 metre length leading into the turning head opposite Number 144 Brockett Close. Loraine Walk a 7 metre length to the side of Number 335 Loraine Walk. Thornton Close a 13 metre length to the side of Number 197 Thornton Close. Sampson Place an 8 metre length to the side of Number 362 Sampson Place. Footpath Closure (closed to pedestrian traffic) Sid Chaplin Drive a 52 metre length leading from the side of Number 68 Bates Close, proceeding in an easterly direction to the side of Number 76 Bates Close; a 43 metre length leading from the footpath adjacent to Burn Lane, proceeding in a southerly direction to the side of Number 83 Bates Close; an 101 metre length to the side of Number 63 Bates Close; a 30 metre length leading from the side of Number 31 Bakewell Place to the side of Number 26 Bakewell Place; a 28 metre length from the side of Number 38 Bakewell Place to the rear of Number 43 Bates Close; a 31 metre length from the side of Number 43 Bates Close to the rear of Number 42 Bakewell Place; a 9 metre length to the side of Number 96 Fox Place; a 45 metre length leading from the side of Number 104 Fox Place, southerly to the rear of Number 106 Brockett Close; a 31 metre length to the side of Number 108 to Number 113 Brockett Close; a 21 metre length to the rear of Numbers 326 and 327, and Numbers 330 and 331 Loraine Walk; a 29 metre length from the rear of Number 123 to Number 124 Brockett Close; a 17 metre length to the side of Numbers 178 and 179 Mackenzie Place; a 14 metre length to the side of Numbers 181 and 184 Mackenzie Place; a 52 metre length from the rear of Number 195 Thornton Close to the rear of Number 192 Thornton Close; a 38 metre length leading from the side of Number 204 Thornton Close to the rear of Number 206 Thornton Close; a 55 metre length from the rear of Number 353 Sampson Place to the side of Numbers 356 and 358 Sampson Place; a 23 metre length to the rear of Numbers 337 to 341 Loraine Walk; a 47 metre length from the rear of Number 314 Booth Walk, southerly to the rear of Number 366 Sampson Place; a 26 metre length from the rear of Numbers 313 to 311 Booth Walk; a 27 metre length to the rear of Numbers 306 to 310 Booth Walk; a 32 metre length from the rear of Number 264 Sampson Place, to the side of Number 285 Hedley Close; a 16 metre length to the rear of Number 233 Scott Place to the side of Number 234 Scott Place; a 56 metre length leading from the side of Number 302 Booth Walk to the side of Number 290 Hedley Close; a 24 metre length to the rear of Numbers 277 to 280 Scott Place; a 63 metre length leading from the rear of Number 15 Bakewell Place to the side of Numbers 1 to 4 Bakewell Place. Brockett Close a 13 metre length to the side of Numbers 135 and 136 Brockett Close; a 7 metre length to the rear of Number 142 Brockett Close. Burn Lane a 19 metre length to the rear of Number 136 Brockett Close to enable fibre telecom works to be undertaken. Throughout the period of the closure, a diversion will be available to vehicular and pedestrian traffic on surrounding roads and footpaths, as signposted on site. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence from 8am on Monday 13/1/2025 and are anticipated to be completed in 6 months. On occasions, alternative dates for the closure may be necessary and these will be signed on site accordingly.

DATED: 13/12/2024



Helen Bradley  
Director of Legal & Democratic Services  
County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL

**The County Council of Durham**  
(Harebell Meadows area, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe)  
(Temporary Road and Footpath Closure)  
Order 2024

The Council proposes to make an Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, to prohibit all vehicular and pedestrian traffic from proceeding on the following lengths of road and footpath. Road Closures (closed to vehicular traffic): Harebell Meadows - for its entire length, between Numbers 36 and 27 to 31; Hickstead Rise - a 115 metre length of road, between Numbers 6 and 17; Hind Court - a 55 metre length of road, between Numbers 5 and 17; Tattersall Close - for its entire length, from its junction with Sandown Drive; The Oaks - for its entire length, from its junction with Sandown Drive; The Paddock - for its entire length, from its junction with Sandown Drive; Yarrow Court - for its entire length, from its junction with Pemberton Road; Campion Court - for its entire length, from its junction with Pemberton Road; Fawn Close - for its entire length, from its junction with Fallow Road. Footpath Closure (closed to pedestrian traffic): Harebell Meadows - a 77 metre length of footpath, extending north from the east side of Number 4 to the side of Number 99, Pemberton Road to enable new telecom infrastructure installation works to be undertaken. Alternative routes where available will be signed on site. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence on Monday 13/1/2025 and are anticipated to be completed in 6 months. On occasions, alternative dates for the closure may be necessary and these will be signed on site accordingly.

DATED: 13/12/2024



Helen Bradley  
Director of Legal & Democratic Services  
County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL

**The County Council of Durham**  
(Brafferton Close and Foxtan Close area, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe)  
(Temporary Road and Footpath Closure)  
Order 2024

The Council proposes to make an Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, to prohibit all vehicular and all pedestrian traffic from proceeding on the following lengths of road and footpath. Road Closures (closed to vehicular traffic) Alnwick Grove - for its entire length from Bamburgh Crescent. Badminton Grove - for its entire length from Lowther Drive. Barnard Close - for its entire length from Bamburgh Crescent. Brafferton Close - a 20 metre length from outside Number 27, and a 20 metre length between Numbers 6 and 20. Brook Close - a 90 metre length between Numbers 9 and 22. Burghley Mews - for its entire length from Lowther Drive. Butterwick Court - for its entire length from its junction with Foxtan Close. Chillingham Grove - for its entire length from its junction with Bamburgh Crescent. Foxtan Close - a 15 metre length from outside Numbers 4 and 5 and a 20 metre length from outside Numbers 18 to 20. Grange Court - for its entire length from Brafferton Close. Grindon Court - for its entire length from Brafferton Close. Hardwick Court - for its entire length from Foxtan Close. Heatherburn Court - for 2 metre length outside Numbers 2 and 3. Herrington Court - for its entire length from Foxtan Close. Kenilworth Court - for its entire length from Foxtan Close. Layton Court - for its entire length from Foxtan Close. Rushyford Court - for its entire length from Foxtan Close. Stoneleigh Court - for its entire length from Lowther Drive. Whitton Court - for its entire length from Brafferton Close. Chilton Close - a 55 metre length between Numbers 5 to 14. Footpath Closure (closed to pedestrian traffic) Butterwick Court - a 100 metre length between opposite Number 14 and Number 22 Brafferton Close and a 55 metre length between Numbers 8 and 23 Brafferton Close. Chillingham Grove - a 25 metre length of the footpath linking to Raby Drive, to enable new telecom infrastructure installation works to be undertaken. Alternative routes, where available will be signed on site where required. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence on Monday 6/1/2025 and are anticipated to be completed in 6 months. On occasions, alternative dates for the closure may be necessary and these will be signed on site accordingly.

DATED: 13/12/2024



Helen Bradley  
Director of Legal & Democratic Services  
County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL



**Christmas Remembrance**

In the past years we have lost family and friends. Always in our thoughts. Patsy, Sheila, Ann H

**Barbara & Les Sutton**  
Our Mother, Nana, Dad and Grandad and our memories of Christmas Day, we all will never forget as we learned the true meaning of Christmas Day, and all the money in the world, could not buy the love we all got. Always in our hearts, all the family

**If tears** could build a stairway and memories a lane, we'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again. Merry Christmas darling, Mam, Dad and Family.

**Laurence Storey**  
Thanks to Gill and Chris. I would like to wish friends and relatives a Happy Christmas. I will donate to a charity instead of sending cards.

**Pets For Sale**

**Karakie** female bird, free to good home, comes with cage and food. Need to find a good home due to ill health. Contact 07359 016951.

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**Public Notice**

**Allsorts Charity Shop** will be closed for the festive holidays from, and including, Thursday 19th December, reopening on Saturday 11th January from 10am to 1pm.

**Opticians**

**K. McGuinness Opticians**  
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to book an appointment

**Christmas Greetings**

**Lovelass,** 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.

**Greetings**

June McLuckie would like to wish friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Peaceful 2025.

**Merry Christmas** and a Happy New Year to all my friends in Newton Aycliffe and Simpasture Court. Best wishes, Heather Merchant.

**Seasons Greetings** to all our many friends old and new. From Godfrey and Shirley Bennett.

**'Special Thoughts'**  
For loved ones no longer with us.

Ellen & Les Cairns wish all family, friends and special neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2025.

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**In Memoriam**

**John McRoberts**  
  
4th December 2018  
John, your time among us was brief, yet you will live forever in our hearts. Your memory is our keepsake, with which we will never part. God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts. Love always, Dad, Nanna, Tyler & Stu.

**18th December**  
**Marilyn Storey**  
Our anniversary, time has passed, but also stood still as I will never forget the most precious thing I ever had. I miss you more than words can say my beautiful lady. Laurence.

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**Obituary**

**Barbara Smith (nee Bradley)**  
  
Died peacefully, surrounded by family, at St Clare's Care Home on 28th November, aged 98 years. Dearly loved Wife of the late Cyril; Mum, Nana, Grandma and Great-Grandma. A Thanksgiving Service will take place at Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church (Neville Parade) on Thursday 19th December at 2.30pm followed by Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium. All welcome for refreshments at Woodham Golf & Country Club after the services. Family flowers only please. Donations, in lieu, will be welcome to be shared equally between Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church and the Salvation Army. "Your beautiful smile will stay with us forever."

**Faith Poole**  
Passed away on 17th November 2024, Faith, aged 68 years. Beloved Wife of the late Geoff; much loved Mam of Geoffrey and Louisa; adored Grannie of Sky and a dear Sister of Trina. Funeral service to take place in Durham Crematorium on Monday 30th December at 10.30am.

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**Licensing**

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**The Hog Blog!**

What an eventful year this has been, this little rescue has been as busy as ever. I have had babies born here and also some that have been born in the wild and grown big and strong enough to be released from here. At the moment I have 26 here, little ones from 300 grams to 1000 grams, these will have to be overwintered, they have had their illnesses and their wounds treated with success so now they can stay 'til spring. The weather conditions are very harsh, some that are still out there may not hibernate, so please keep putting the food and water out, it's a lifesaver, it really is, I make sure that I check my hedgehog house daily, I replace food and water if necessary and have a rummage to see if it is occupied, I have brought hedgehogs into rescue from my garden before, but not for the last couple of years.



I want to thank everyone who has helped me help these beautiful mammals, starting with June, she has brought me a couple of hedgehogs in the past and the hedgehogs here love her blankets, June and Valerie have been amazing helping me raise the necessary funds for the masses of food and medical supplies etc. and Shirley, our Tesco Community Champion, for allowing me into Tesco for fundraising. I want to thank Mr and Mrs Burak for their donations, Lynda Hughes, Jackie and John Connell, hope you had a great Birthday Jackie, Joan, Hazel, Joyce, Elaine who saved little Bobby and also Kim for bringing me Poppet and her kind donation. Also Olwen, Claire, Don from Aycliffe Village for the lovely picture he made me. Lesley and Steve for your beautiful hedgehog friendly garden for releasing in to. I would like to thank Julia and Peter for their donations too, sometimes my hedgehog funds have been exhausted but they have saved the day on more than one occasion. My work continues so fundraising also has to continue as well. Donella, Wally, Wendy and Mandy have been fabulous too, they also raise funds for me with their collection tub in store and the raffle ticket sales too, we have agreed to stop selling this weekend and I have other prizes to give away, Daniel from the Olive Garden has provided me with a voucher, also a very nice lady called Pam Frost, she left some beautiful hand knitted baby clothes to sell to make funds for the rescue, please get in touch if you would like to see them. Finally, a big thank you to The Vets, Angela, Ed, Riccardo and Giorgio, Elaine and all the Vet Nurses at Grange Vets, I have everything here I need to treat what these poor souls need. In the New Year our house will be going on the market with Northgates Estate Agents, I have my own set of health issues and I want to continue Saving Britain's Hedgehogs, a bungalow is the next step. Thank you everyone for your support, wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year The British Hedgehog Preservation Society can be reached on 01584 890801. My email address is: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com Facebook: Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel.

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**Santa's Back**

On Saturdays 14th and 21st December Father Christmas is taking a break from helping his elves, to load the many presents on to his sleigh to visit children at his Grotto on Beveridge Way in Aycliffe Town Centre. He will be in the Grotto, specially built by All Disabilities Matter, between 10.00am and 3.00pm on both days. What's more, every child coming to see Santa and accompanied by an adult, will receive a gift! And it is FREE!! Plus lots of festive fun will be provided throughout Santa's visit by Circurama's Elfred & Sugar Plum and Bell & Bullock's Joy Riding Reindeer on both Saturdays; Elves on Stilts on the 14th; and BackBeat Samba's Festive Drummers on the 21st, all courtesy of Durham County Council.

**Christingle Challenge**

**Ever wondered, how or why, we make Christingles?**  
 Parish Youth invite you to come and join them as they attempt to make 150 Christingles in readiness for the Community Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm. Please come along on Sunday 22nd December at 11.00am to St. Clare's Church Hall and join in with the fun. All materials are provided including FREE breakfast buns and drinks. This is a super chance to do something as a family before the 'big day'. Everyone is welcome.

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# Free After 3pm

A North East council has announced it will once again offer free parking after 3pm in its car parks this festive season. Durham County Council's Free After 3pm scheme will return on Monday 16th December and run through to Friday 3rd January. The aim is to encourage people to shop on their local high streets and to visit the county's hospitality venues this Christmas. The scheme will be in operation at local authority car parks, with the exception of Hardwick Park, Wharton Park, Chester-le-Street Riverside Park, Noses Point in Seaham and on-street pay and display bays. Stickers promoting Free After 3pm will be displayed at all participating council car park payment points. Machines will still accept payment during this time, and no refunds will be given. Motorists are therefore advised to look out for the stickers and check the time before making a payment. For more information about Durham County Council car parks, visit [www.durham.gov.uk/carparks](http://www.durham.gov.uk/carparks) **Remember parking in Aycliffe town centre is free at all times.**

# Christmas Tree Recycling

Households throughout Newton Aycliffe are being asked to support one of the region's most valued hospices by registering their used Christmas trees to be recycled into environmentally friendly biomass fuel. Darlington Rotary Club has launched its annual Christmas tree collection for St. Teresa's Hospice and, early in January, will tour local streets collecting the trees. Rotary club organiser David Hayward said: "We have 70 volunteers and 20 large vans all ready to go." "Everyone wins from this venture as we spare the homeowner from mess disposing of their trees and the hospice gains much needed funds." January's operation is hoped to be the largest yet since the scheme started 14 years ago, with the Rotary Club so far raising over £89,000 for the hospice. Hospice chief executive, Nicola Myers, said: "This is one of our major fundraising campaigns and we really appreciate the help of Rotary and the generosity of local residents. Every year we have to raise over two thirds of our £4 million annual running costs to continue offering palliative care and support to over 1000 local residents." Everything is loaned free. Vans are supplied by hire companies Enterprise and Charter; Darlington's Taylor Pies café acts as the operation's base and trees are chipped by tree surgeons Greenworx and Jackson Trees. The collection, over the weekend of 4th and 5th January, will include the whole of Newton Aycliffe, Heighington, Darlington and surrounding areas. To register your tree visit: [www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk/CTC](http://www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk/CTC) by 1st January, or phone 01325 254321.

# N.A.F.C. REPORT



**30th November**  
**North Ferriby 2 v Newton Aycliffe 3**  
 Wayne Whitfield was the first to get on the score sheet in this game, in the first half. Liam Jarvie made it 2-0 on the cusp of the hour mark and just 9 minutes later Whitfield doubled his tally with Tom Corner for Ferriby scoring what looked at the time to be a mere consolation goal. It should have been plain sailing from then on, but a red card to Whitfield meant Aycliffe had to soldier on with ten men for what felt like a very long 10 or so minutes, with captain Niall Tilsley making it 3-2 in the 90th minute. Aycliffe held onto the three points, however.

**4th December**  
**Grimsby Borough 1 v Newton Aycliffe 2**  
 In keeping with the theme of away games in coastal towns in harsh weather, Aycliffe were 2-1 victors at Grimsby Borough. It was played in wet and cold conditions and saw Aycliffe win, coming from a goal down, when Reece York got on the score sheet for the home side in the 25th minute. A few minutes later, however, saw Liam Jarvie make it 1-1, and fellow forward Dean Thexton wrapped it up in the 68th minute in another game where Aycliffe had the majority of control.

**NEW SIGNING**  
 Newton Aycliffe have snapped up the services of former Whitby midfielder Joe Gibson. Manager Brian Atkinson commented, "he's a really versatile player who can play a number of positions. He's a strong addition to the squad."

**FIXTURES**  
 Aycliffe travel to Pontefract Collieries on Saturday 14th December, before welcoming Sheffield to the Ashcourt Group Stadium on 21st December for their first home game in over a month. Boxing Day sees a trip to Dunston for a 1pm kick off. The team then return to Moore Lane on Monday 30th December when local rivals Bishop Auckland will be the visitors. That game kicks off at 7:45pm. Match reports by Ryan Livingston. Photo by Yvonne Wood: Wayne Whitfield finds the net at North Ferriby.

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