

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper, published on the first and third Friday of each month.
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Aycliffe Dental Practice: Under New Ownership



Dear Sir,
We are thrilled to announce an exciting new chapter for Aycliffe Dental Practice. The practice is now under the proud ownership of Dr. Devanand Isukapatla and Mrs. Rani Musti. With a seamless and harmonious transition from the esteemed Dr. Jeyarajan, the new owners are eager to continue the tradition of exceptional care while introducing modern advancements to the practice. As part of this exciting transition, the practice will be renamed **Dev's Dental Practice Aycliffe**, reflecting the forward looking direction we are embarking upon.

Dr. Devanand Isukapatla brings a wealth of experience from his highly successful practices in Darlington and South Shields. His vision for Newton Aycliffe includes not only upholding its well loved community reputation, but also expanding its offerings with state of the art dentistry, including Invisalign, dental implants and comprehensive National Health Dental Services.

Dr. Isukapatla said, "It is an incredible honour to take over from Dr. Jeyarajan, who has built such a fantastic legacy, which he has spent many years building. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of care while introducing new innovations to serve our community even better."

Dev's Dental Practice has a vision which is committed to providing patient centred care that is rooted in team work, equality, integrity and excellence.

The team at Dev's Dental Practice Aycliffe couldn't be more excited to embark on this new journey with the wonderful local community. We are passionate about providing the best dental care possible and creating a positive, welcoming environment for all our patients and we look forward to meeting each and every one of you and making your smiles healthier than ever before. We can't wait to welcome you into this new era for the practice, combining the warmth and trust you've always known with our dental expertise.

Proposal to Amalgamate Two Aycliffe Schools

A proposal to combine an infant school with a neighbouring junior school, to ensure the best possible outcomes for children, will be considered by councillors next week. Durham County Council's Cabinet will hear that amalgamating Horndale County Infant and Nursery School and St Francis Church of England (C of E) Aided Junior School in Newton Aycliffe would help to sustain both schools by ensuring sufficient pupil numbers. St Francis C of E Junior School, like many other primary schools in the town, currently has surplus spaces. Horndale's numbers, meanwhile, have been declining in recent years, resulting in funding challenges. A shortfall in the last financial year was covered by a Department for Education School Deficit Grant, but this is a one-off payment and cannot be relied upon to balance the school's budget in the future.

Both schools were rated Good in their latest Ofsted reports and are located less than 20 metres apart from each other, with a shared access road and car park. Plans to combine the schools have been widely supported by staff, governors and parents.

The proposal would see the schools amalgamated and the creation of newly named C of E primary school for children aged three to eleven from September 2025. A public consultation was carried out in September and October last year. This included meetings with staff and governors and an event for parents and the wider community to find out more and ask questions. Ninety percent of those who took part in the consultation agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal and six percent neither agreed nor disagreed.

After considering these responses, a statutory notice to amalgamate the two schools was published on Monday 4th November following which people had four weeks to express objections or support. The council received no further representations during this time.

Cabinet will be asked to approve the proposals when it meets at County Hall on Wednesday 15th January.

Welcome Space



Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) will be opening the doors of its Pioneering Care Centre (PCC) in Newton Aycliffe to support the local community offering a free Welcome Space for all.

The first session started on Wednesday 8th January 2025 and will continue to run every Wednesday from 4pm to 6.30pm, until Wednesday 26th March. The weekly drop-in sessions will provide a welcoming environment for people to connect, recharge, and tuck into a free warm meal. Each week will offer different activities, from creative crafts and educational workshops to family-friendly games - there'll be something for everyone to enjoy.

Georgina Beckensall, Project Lead, said: "The winter months, particularly after Christmas, can be tough for many, and we wanted to create a space where everyone feels welcome and supported. The Welcome Space is not just about warmth and food; it's about building connections, fostering a sense of community, and ensuring people have access to the help they need during challenging times."

"The PCC is a community resource for people to use as a hub of support and wellbeing, and we look forward to welcoming many individuals and families to the PCC over the coming months."

This initiative has been made possible thanks to funding from Point North. The aim of the funding is to help people develop skills and find jobs, reduce the impact of cost of living, increase support in communities that have limited resources and improve community spirit and pride in the local area.

No booking is needed - just drop in. For more information, call the PCC on 01325 321234 or email enquiries@pcp.uk.net - find the Pioneering Care Centre on Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF.

A Festive Gathering



Newton Aycliffe Bridge Club in party mood recently - no matter what the cards say! A drinks reception was followed by a lovely meal enjoyed amid a festive setting at Shildon Civic Hall.

It was then down to business as we all moved from dining tables to Bridge tables. The picture shows us all ready for action with Chairman Linda Lawson standing in the background and the gentleman in the foreground, a well known face in Newton Aycliffe itself, Mike Dixon, The Revd, an Aycliffe Radio personality with his jazz programmes and as well as being a Newcastle United supporter he is a keen and very good Bridge player who enjoys the weekly 7.00pm sessions at The OakLeaf Sports Complex.

As a few of our older members have retired from playing, we are looking for new members to join us. A yearly membership of £5.00 plus £2.00 a night for members and £3.00 for visitors makes a pleasant and stimulating experience in a friendly atmosphere with disability facilities in place.

Contact Chairman: Linda Lawson 07817 822196, or Secretary: Cynthia Scott 07873 758087.

National Knife Angel Monument to Visit Newton Aycliffe



A national monument to highlight the dangers of knife crime is coming to Newton Aycliffe. The Knife Angel - constructed using 100,000 seized blades and weighing in at 3.5 tonnes - will officially be installed in Newton Aycliffe town centre on 1st June 2025.

The sculpture was created by artist Alfie Bradley, from The British Ironwork Centre, using blunted blades handed in during knife amnesties held by police forces across the country, the angel has been helping to start crucial conversations about the negative effect of violence and particularly knife crime since it began touring the country in 2018. It is particularly poignant for Newton Aycliffe after one of the town's teenagers, Jack Woodley, lost his life to knife crime in 2021. The 18-year-old was attending a funfair in Houghton-le-Spring when he was attacked by ten other teenagers and stabbed. Despite the best efforts of the emergency services, Jack sadly passed away in hospital. The ten teenagers were found guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison. Since then, Jack's mum, Zoe McGill, has been working with Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team sergeant, Andy Boyd, to add her story to workshops delivered by Sgt. Boyd to thousands of schoolchildren in the town.

Ms McGill said she hoped the arrival of the Knife Angel would further bring home the message that knife crime devastates families. She said: "We feel truly honoured to be bringing the Knife Angel to Jack's home town and I know Jack would be so proud of the efforts of those who helped make it happen. Sadly, not every knife crime incident is reported until it becomes another statistic and too little too late. That statistic is felt so much more to the victim's loved ones and family for the rest of their lives and the ripple effect is never known to those who have been fortunate enough to not have lost a loved one. "I am hoping and praying the Knife Angel stops such a tragedy ever coming to Jack's home town. The grief of losing a loved one to this senseless crime is too much to bear and I feel we need to somehow connect with the public and our younger generation in order to help them feel our pain through Jack's story

so they never want to carry a knife again. If we can save even one family from this pain, that is enough."

Anyone caught with a knife can face up to four years in prison. Sgt. Boyd added: "Delivering educational packages in our schools has been a passion of the Neighbourhood Police Team for a number of years now to keep our kids safe. Although we don't have a huge problem with knife crime in Newton Aycliffe, it is so important to get ahead of the curve to prevent rises in violent behaviour.

"Zoe has been so brave in adding Jack's story to our presentations which lets our kids know just how impactful this type of crime has on family, friends and community. When she reached out to us, with regards to bringing Knife Angel to Newton Aycliffe, we were only too happy oblige."

The sculpture will be installed in the town centre's mall throughout June, with a whole calendar of activities planned for the community. Schoolchildren will also be invited to get involved with special visits to the angel with a poster and photography competitions planned.

A working group is currently organising the finer details of the angel's arrival and anyone who wants to get involved is asked to contact Sgt. Boyd by emailing andrew.boyd@durham.police.uk or PCSO Michael Dale at micheale.dale@durham.police.uk

Joy Allen, Police and Crime Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington, added: "I am proud to support efforts to bring the Knife Angel to the force area for the very first time. This powerful national monument continues to send a strong and poignant message to communities across the nation that all forms of violence are unacceptable.

"Thankfully, we do not have the same level of serious violence in Durham as the larger metropolitan areas, but every life lost and every injury on our streets is one too many - and wholly preventable. We must work harder to deliver campaigns and interventions that stop young people from carrying knives from day one, before they have an opportunity to cause unthinkable harm."

To find out more about the Knife Angel visit: www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk/knife-angel

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Community Recognition Award for Jackie



Local resident Jackie McFadden was nominated for her charitable fundraising work within the Great Aycliffe area and was invited to the Town Council chamber to be presented with a medal and certificate. Jackie is the founder member of local charity 'All Disabilities Matter' who offer assistance to individuals with disabilities and mental health concerns. They provide a supportive space for people with disabilities and caregivers through sharing their own experiences and exchanging information for sources of help and support. The Mayor, Councillor John Clark presented the award to Jackie at the meeting of the Full Council on 11th December. Tony Beddard, Chairman of All Disabilities Matter, who nominated Jackie, said, "As Chairman of 'All Disabilities Matter', the charity, I'm delighted to see Jackie receive this award, as it's certainly well-deserved as recognition for not only herself, in creating and leading this charity as founder, but also being the driving force for all the fabulous work the charity does serving our Newton Aycliffe community (and, indeed, County Durham) for all those living with all disabilities. The positive impact has been incredible, as with most recent examples being the Town Centre Santa's Grotto and Winter Wonderland last December, in addition to the All-Disabilities monthly discos, and the planned upcoming cinema events in 2025. None of this would have been possible without Jackie leading it forwards with the selfless support and energy she has, with all the volunteers, also, in support. Well done!" Great Aycliffe Town Council launched their Community Recognition Award Scheme in 2022. The Council developed the scheme to provide a means of recognising and acknowledging the dedication, commitment and outstanding contribution that nominated individuals make to improve and promote the Parish of Great Aycliffe. If you would like to nominate someone from the Great Aycliffe Parish for a Community Recognition Award, please get in touch by email to: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk or visit www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk for more details.

Christmas Show



On Monday 16th December the staff and residents at Oswald House care home put on a Christmas Show for friends and family. The venue was the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the evening consisted of music and dance numbers performed by the residents. Everyone had a great evening.

Messy Church

Messy Church is back on Saturday 18th January at 4pm in St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe. Come and help us explore the question - Are you willing? What does it feel like to be left out? How can we make a difference? In our story, Luke 5:12-16, Jesus met the man in his greatest need. How can we do this in our schools, work places and homes? We will be making thankful hands, a community of Lego, gingerbread people and den making. Tea is fish fingers, chips and peas with apple crumble to follow - delicious. Messy Church is relaxed, fun and you just turn up. It's for all the family to share together. It's FREE, with donations when you are able. Come and see if it's for you, try something new in 2025 - you might be surprised. Contact 07716 801262 if any further info is needed.

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Thank You Santa A Wonderful Afternoon



Heighington FC Youth had the pleasure of visiting Defoe Court Care Home before Christmas. They spent time chatting with the residents, sharing stories and, of course, delivering a selection box to everyone. It was heart-warming to see the smiles on their faces.

Dear Sir,
We, the residents of Harebell Meadows, would like to express, through the Newton News our thanks to Great Aycliffe Town Council for once again organising the Christmas Eve visit from Santa.
As you can see by the photos we thoroughly enjoyed greeting Santa and his Helpers and thanking them for taking time out to visit us on what is their busiest night of the year.
Our thanks also must go to the many volunteers, companies and sponsors for all they do to give our community such joy at Christmas.
We wish you all a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Woodham Academy Hampers



Woodham Academy continues to value the contributions it makes to the local community. For a number of years, staff and students have produced hampers for Junction 7, a local charity who support families in Newton Aycliffe and this year they also donated to Aycliffe Food Bank and Drop-in based at St Clare's Church. This year, the hampers were better than ever, with over 50 being made by tutor groups in school.
The hampers contained a combination of food items and festive treats. Furthermore, and to encourage some light hearted competition, they were judged by the Headteacher to see which ones were the best. The hampers were delivered by Woodham's head boy and head girl together with the deputy head boy and deputy head girl.

Mayor's Charity Civic Dinner

We are now taking bookings for the Mayor's Charity Civic Dinner to be held on Friday 21st February 2025 at Redworth Hall Hotel in the Prince Bishop's Suite and with a superb three course dinner and complimentary wine on the table for only £40 - bookings will go fast. The evening starts at 7.00pm and there will be live entertainment from the fantastic 'Tamla All Stars'. There will be fundraising activities throughout the evening in aid of the Mayor's chosen charity, Quinn's Retreat and the dress code is black tie.
To book your place, simply download a booking form from our website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk and search for 'Civic Dinner' or, alternatively, contact the Council offices at info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk for more details.

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For more information contact Jules Howe on the details below.

- Neville Community Centre, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5DH
- Jules Howe - jules.howe@nhs.net
- 07809 342 192 - Jules Howe

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£500 Million Deal to Safeguard Hitachi

Government helps deliver a train-building deal that will give Hitachi's Newton Aycliffe site a future - helping protect hundreds of jobs.

FirstGroup, Hitachi and Angel Trains have struck a deal to build 14 state-of-the-art trains to be used on rail lines across the UK, as part of a £500 million deal that will uplift the industrial heartlands, and boost rail services for passengers across the UK.

The Government has delivered meaningful engagement, a stable economy, and a proper strategy for rail, which has created the right atmosphere for this deal to happen.

The Northeast is key to the UK's industrial heartlands, and this sensible approach - which has been supported by the Northeast Mayor Kim McGuinness and the Local MP Alan Strickland - is ensuring this region isn't being left behind. It follows the Prime Minister visiting the manufacturing plant in April and promising to help secure jobs.

The announcement comes as the Prime Minister and the Transport Secretary visit the site to speak to staff and hear first hand of the benefits that rail passengers will feel as a result of this new deal. In the face of that shocking inheritance, the Government will always stand with working people. That was made clear in the new Plan for Change, announced by the Prime Minister. This deal reflects a new way of doing business - a grown-up approach to industrial relations that puts country first. It proves the pipeline for orders is strong, with a number of operators in the market for new trains providing contract opportunities for all UK rolling stock manufacturers.

The agreement will deliver 14 new five-car class 80X Hitachi electric or bi-mode trains (a total of 70 cars). Delivery of the new trains is expected to commence in late 2027. In addition, the agreement provides FirstGroup the options to lease up to a further 13 five-car trains, should their recently submitted other open access applications be successful.

The success of our industrial heartlands is the success of our nation. So the Government is revitalising our railway industry. British trains used to be the envy of the world. This government is going to return our railways to that golden era once more - treating those who build our infrastructure with respect and putting the passengers who use it first. Jim Brewin, Chief Director of UK & Ireland at Hitachi Rail, stated: "This contract is a positive step forward, and just recognition for the hard work and patience of our teams across the Hitachi Rail UK business over recent years. We look forward to once again delivering for Hull Trains and Lumo passengers who will benefit further from our award-winning British built trains. Equally, we owe a debt of thanks to the Northeast Mayor Kim McGuinness and other local MPs who have worked tirelessly in support of this private sector investment."

Christmas Eve Tours



Following his tour of Great Aycliffe on Christmas Eve, Santa would like to say, on behalf of Great Aycliffe Town Council, a huge thank you to all his volunteer helpers for their time and support; to Newton News for publishing his routes; to Aycliffe Fabrications, Sabre Rail, Ashcourt, Focus Cladding, Gardener's Yard, Securicorp and Ferryhill Town Council for the use of their 'Santa Sleighs'; to all those who came out to greet him, and for the cash donations which raised £746.60 for the Mayor's Charities.

Wishing everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. See you next Christmas. Santa Claus.

£600 Raised in Memory of Angela

A recent high energy Clubbercise session proves that dancing isn't just good for your health - but also about giving back. Angela Teasdale passed away in August after losing her battle to cancer - Angela loved attending the Clubbercise sessions with Jules and was a very loyal 'Neon Ninja!' Jules was devastated to hear of her passing, but wanted to arrange something to help keep her memory alive and also give back to a local and most deserving charity.




In October 2024, Jules held a three hour Clubbathon at The Big Club. Angela's sister Carol and her friends also got involved and took part (which was emotional), but it brought together lots of people for three hours of music, movement and, most of all, meaningful fund raising. Thanks to the amazing generosity of the attendees (neon ninjas!) the Clubbathon raised an amazing £600 which has been awarded to Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group - an incredible group that help support anyone who has been affected by cancer. Carol says "Angela loved going to Clubbercise and we (her family) would like to thank Jules for organising the Clubbathon and to everyone who supported it. The GACSG did so much for Angela and continue to do so for many others in our community - we are very grateful to you all."


Great Aycliffe Cancer Support can be contacted via their website: <https://www.greataycliffecancersupportgroup.co.uk> Jules says "The Clubbathon was just the perfect way to help fundraise for a much needed group that offers incredible support, but also doing it with an event that I know Angela would have loved - I miss her in the classes." All attendees praised the event for its vibrant atmosphere and inclusivity and its amazing outcome.

For anyone looking to get involved in the classes - you can find further details of the Clubbercise sessions - on Facebook and Instagram: Clubbercise in Aycliffe with Jules or drop Jules a text/call on 07966 968388. Newbies are always welcome. What's a better to burn calories and have fun - than dancing away in the dark with glow sticks?

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A Joyful Choir



SHINE Choir took time out of a very busy schedule to carol sing at all six care homes on our town, starting with a fantastic light switch on at Defoe Court and ending with hot chocolate and cookies at Bethany House. The children and team enjoy this seasonal spreading of love and joy, through their singing and smiles, so very much. The welcome they receive from the staff, residents and visiting families is just wonderful and often there is not a dry eye in sight. There is something so special when our youngsters and elderly get together.

This year many of the choir parents came along too which added to the atmosphere, singing as we went from home to home. Thank you to everyone, mission complete by SHINE Choir.

Alan Carr's Support Comes to Aycliffe Comedy Club

Newton Aycliffe's monthly comedy club at Steam Machine has a treat in store in January, with a headline act who has been touring huge UK venues throughout 2024. Hilarity Bites Comedy Club, on Thursday 16th January, will be headlined by Newcastle's Louise Young, who has supported the likes of Jason Manford, Alan Carr, Tom Davis, Angela Barnes, and Tom Allen on their nationwide tours around the UK and Ireland. Louise has appeared on Channel 4, Comedy Central, Radio 4, and made her Edinburgh Festival Fringe debut in 2023 with her show 'Feral', which received rave reviews and was nominated for Edinburgh Comedy Awards: Best Newcomer, before going on to appear at London Soho Theatre's Best Newcomer Season in 2024. The show was also nominated for NextUp's Biggest Award in Comedy and was named as "one to watch" by Rolling Stone.



Joining Louise on the night is award-winning musical comedian Edy Hurst, who has been seen on MTV UK, heard on BBC Radio 4, Radio 4 Extra, and was nominated for the Musical Comedy Awards in 2018, 2019, and 2021, and the BBC New Comedy Award in 2017. There'll also be support from three newer comedians, and the show will be hosted by another popular local comedian, the brilliant Elaine Robertson, who is always a popular host of the Hilarity Bites shows at Steam Machine.

Steam Machine's Nick Smith said "It's a real privilege to host this evening at Steam Machine, and amazing to be able to see such talent in Newton Aycliffe once a month. Hilarity Bites comedy club is going from strength to strength, and we can't wait to see the line up for the next one!"

For more details, contact Steam Machine directly, or visit the Hilarity Bites website at www.hilaritybites.co.uk

Christmas Dance

Midridge Village Christmas Social/Dance Evening in aid of the MS Society raised a total of £555.00 through the raffle and ticket sales.



A big thank you to all who bought raffle tickets and supported the evening. Hopefully, everyone enjoyed the night and made new friends. Most of all, thank you to the band, all the volunteers, collecting raffle prizes, selling tickets, arranging the hall to make this a successful and enjoyable night.


Raffle prize donors:
 Mystery door ticket prize, Redworth Hall; The Bay Horse, Midridge; Aycliffe Physio; HIQ; Santinis, Shildon; The Cobblers Hall; Sarah's Plaice; Aycliffe Fruiterers; Bella Vita, (Vicky); Petals & Pets; Ainsley's Chemist, Shildon; Factory Warehouse, Shildon; Go Beyond; Jorja's Attic; Godfrey's, Shildon; Coop, Shildon; Sainsbury's, Cobblers Hall; Jean & Bill Mac; Tony & Jill; Hilary; Avril; Marjorie Humphreys; Lynn & Phil; Libby & Phil; Shiela & Nev; Lorna & Trev.

A big thank you to all who donated, it is very much appreciated.

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 (Temporary Road and Footpath Closure)
 Order 2024

The Council on 3/1/2025 made the above 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 Foxton Close. Chillingham Grove - for its entire length from its junction with Bamburgh Crescent. Foxton 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 Foxton Close. Heatherburn Court - for 2 metre length outside Numbers 2 and 3. Herrington Court - for its entire length from Foxton Close. Kenilworth Court - for its entire length from Stag Lane. Layton Court - for its entire length from Foxton Close. Rushyford Court - for its entire length from Foxton 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: 10/1/2025




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

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 on 3/1/2025 made the above 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: 10/1/2025




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

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

The Council on 3/1/2025 made the above 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: 10/1/2025



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



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Get on the Right Career Path with SWDT

South West Durham Training is an Engineering & Plumbing Training Centre based within the Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe. SWDT has supported students with progressing into careers within the multi-faced field of Engineering & Plumbing since its opening in 1967, as well as supporting employers to grow and upskill their workforce through apprenticeships and commercial training.

SWDT has seen significant growth since the start of the 2024 Academic Year, with 100% growth in Full-Time enrolments and a 30% increase in Apprentices. This growth comes from various factors.

SWDT works in collaboration with a large number of Engineering Companies across the region, including key players such as GSK, Ineos, BTS Facades & Fabrications, to name a few. This ensures progression opportunities for both students and employees whether that be with apprenticeships or commercial training. In Engineering there are a wide variety of Engineering Apprenticeship Standards, which can be complex. SWDT offer a tailored approach to apprenticeships to ensure students are learning content relevant to the business they are working for.

In recent months, SWDT has invested in some of the latest technologies used in industry today, based on employer recommendations, including

a CNC Press Brake, CNC Plasma Cutter, Smart Factories, Wire Eroder and a FARO Coordinate Measuring Machine (CMM). This equipment allows learners to continue to gain industry standard knowledge, skills, and behaviours.

An increase in community engagement has led to further collaborations with local primary and secondary schools to ensure a talent pipeline of Engineers and Plumbers. Funding issued by the Local Skills Improvement Fund led to SWDT leading the way in sourcing fun and engaging STEM related activities for young children across the region including a children's book and a life-size mascot. SWDT are also involved with the Aspire project.

This entails local secondary school aged children being hosted by numerous companies across the Aycliffe Business Park. This allows them to gain insight into a variety of fields. SWDT provide students with a tour of our facility as well as information, advice and guidance on the courses relevant to careers in Engineering & Plumbing. This growth period has led to the onboarding of three new staff members, including Jay Bell (Site Services & Facilities), Leah Scott (Trainee Lecturer) and Sarah Merryweather (Senior Business Development Advisor).

Photo: Executive Director, Jonathan Hall (pictured with the new employees) welcomes them to the SWDT Team and wishes them every success in their new roles.



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5.00pm to 7.00pm**

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- Precision Engineering
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T-Level in Maintenance, Installation & Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing (Equivalent to 3 x A-Levels)

Level 3 & Level 4 Engineering Apprenticeships

- Diploma in Plumbing Studies – Level 1
- Diploma in Plumbing Studies – Level 2
- T-Level Construction – Building Services Engineering (Plumbing and Heating Engineering)

Apprenticeships in Plumbing



South West Durham Training
Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6AT



Email: alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk

I want to start by wishing all Newton News readers a very Happy New Year and all the very best for 2025.

I'd also like to say a special thank you to all those in our community who worked over Christmas and New Year to keep us all safe by making sure our essential local services were running. To our doctors, nurses, police officers, fire fighters, paramedics and everyone who missed family Christmases to serve our community, thank you for your dedication. My Mam worked at Aycliffe Hospital, and now in the care sector, so I know first hand the huge sacrifice many people make over Christmas.

The year 2024 marked a significant milestone. Since my election as your local MP, I have been advocating for our community and addressing the issues that matter most to us. Securing the future of the Hitachi Rail factory in Newton Aycliffe has been my top priority. The plant's future was uncertain due to the previous government's indecision, which jeopardised the future of the world-class engineering plant.

Before Christmas, the Prime Minister came to Aycliffe to announce a ground-breaking £500 million deal with First Group and Angel Trains to ensure the factory's sustainability. This achievement is the culmination of months of negotiations and advocacy with Hitachi's management team, the Department for Transport, and private contractors. The Tories had given up on the factory, but I will never give up on our community and the jobs we need.

I'm continuing to work hard with Ministers on the other live negotiations we have on additional potential orders for the factory. This is important for the jobs there and the 1,500 in the local supply chain that support the plant.

I was also proud in 2024 to work with the Defence Secretary to secure the future of Oetric Semiconductors (previously Fujitsu/Coherent) through a £20 million agreement aimed at safeguarding the UK's defence supply of semiconductor chips. I'm working with Ministers to promote growth and expand opportunities at this crucial factory, so it can offer more skilled engineering and high-tech jobs for our area.

I was born, raised and live in Aycliffe, and am proud of the town. I promised to hit the ground running if I became our MP and I'm really pleased to have already secured these big wins for us.

Another priority of mine is to make our streets safer, which is why I am pleased to see the government has pledged £1 billion in funding for police forces, including additional funding for Durham Constabulary. This financial boost will allow for an increased police presence in our local neighbourhoods. There will be a key emphasis on addressing anti-social behaviour and tackling persistent offenders.

This week we also saw an announcement to fix our NHS. £25 billion was announced for the NHS in the budget and this funding will see a focus on reducing waiting lists and a return to our target of an 18-week maximum wait for treatment. New technology will give patients greater choice for follow-up appointments and treatments. I'm determined to hit the ground running in 2025. This week in Parliament I spoke about the importance of defence engineering jobs in the area, such as those at NETPark in Sedgfield, which has just received funding to improve infrastructure and increase capacity for new units. The site has the potential to become a real hub for UK defence jobs and I will continue to push the government to deliver this. I'm also meeting with Transport officials to talk about the importance of our area for the future of rail manufacturing in this country. A busy first week back in Parliament, I'm looking forward to updating you next week.

A Secret Mission

Our mission would not be complete without one extra SECRET mission to Granny Pam who had been poorly and couldn't join us in our care home singing, which she loves, so we surprised her by going to sing for her at home.



She was overwhelmed.

The choir fosters a kindness and love for others, as well as being a great place for children to develop social skills, a feel good place for mental health, a safe space for our young people and also gives an opportunity to perform on stage to the community. Check out the Shine Choir Facebook page for videos of all we do.

We welcome the children back at the end of January with a New Year Party, to say a massive well done for all the joy they brought to others in December - singing in the town centre, at the Civic Carols, performing in two sell out Christmas Nativities and the Care Home Carol Sing Mission - phew.

The County Council of Durham
 (Well House Drive, Kimblesworth Walk, Kings Drive, Osric Place, Aldfrid Place, Guthrum Place and Morrison Close, Newton Aycliffe)
 (Temporary Road and Footpath Closure)
 Order 2025

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 roads and footpath Road Closures (closed to vehicular traffic) Well House Drive a 12 metre length to the side of number 51 Elemore Place. Kimblesworth Walk a 5 metre length to the side of numbers 207 and 218 Kimblesworth Walk. Kings Drive a 4 metre length to the rear of number 136 Guthrum Place and a 6 metre length to the side of number 52 and 53 Osbert Place. Osric Place a 6 metre length to the side of number 311 Osric Place. Aldfrid Place a 5 metre length to the side of number 239 Aldfrid Place. Guthrum Place a 5 metre length to the side of number 116, a 5 metre length between numbers 115 and 99 and a 6 metre length between numbers 188 & 109 Footpath Closure (closed to pedestrian traffic) Well House Drive an 81 metre length from the side of number 140 to the rear of number 128 Callerton Rise, a 22 metre length to the rear of numbers 145-147 Callerton Rise, a 17 metre length to the rear of number 127 Callerton Rise, a 71 metre length from number 153 Callerton Rise leading to the rear of number 162 Hutton Place, a 19 metre length to the side of numbers 105 to 108 Deval Close, a 168 metre length leading from the side of numbers 101 and 102 to the side of number 116 Deval Close, a 23 metre length to the side and rear of number 120 Deval Close, a 59 metre length from the rear of number 98 to the side of number 89 Deval Close, a 49 metre length to the rear of numbers 81 to 89 Deval Close, an 11 metre length to the side of number 45 Phoenix Place, a 146 metre length from the side of number 50 Elemore Place to the rear of number 74 Fenhall Green, a 40 metre length from the rear of number 74 to the rear of number 69 Fenhall Green, a 70 metre length from the side of number 80, between numbers 76 and 77 and to the side of number 79 Fenhall Green, a 45 metre length to the rear of numbers 51 to 59 Elemore Place, a 15 metre length to the side of numbers 51 Elemore Place, an 88 metre length from the side of Block number 165 to 168 to the front of number 169 Hutton Place, an 80 metre length from the rear of number 175 Hutton Place to number 208 Kimblesworth Walk, a 19 metre length to the side of numbers 211 and 212 Kimblesworth Walk, a 28 metre length to the rear of numbers 33 to 36 Phoenix Place, a 34 metre length to the side of numbers 27 and rear of number 31 Phoenix Place, a 50 metre length from the rear of number 33 Phoenix Place to the rear of number 22 Brockwell Close, a 71 metre length from the side of number 31 Phoenix Place to the rear of number 3 Brockwell Close, a 62 metre length from the rear of number 31 Phoenix Place to the rear of number 14 Brockwell Close, a 42 metre length from the side of number 22 to 15 Brockwell Close, a 23 metre length to the rear of numbers 7 & 9 Brockwell Close, a 59 metre length surrounding block numbers 187 and 190 Kimblesworth Walk, a 14 metre length between numbers 191 and 192 Kimblesworth Walk, a 50 metre length from the rear of number 194 to the rear of number 204 Kimblesworth Walk, a 48 metre length from the side of number 206 to the side of number 207 Kimblesworth Walk, a 40 metre length to the rear of numbers 195 to 200 Kimblesworth Walk, a 102 metre length from number 328 to Block numbers 315 and 318 Morrison Close, a 44 metre length to the rear of numbers 292 to 298 Morrison Close, a 50 metre length from the rear of numbers 300 to 304 and side of number 291 Morrison Close, an 81 metre length from the rear of number 290 Morrison Close to the rear of number 276 Stargate Close, an 87 metre length from numbers 265 to 273 Stargate Close and a 184 metre length leading from number 264 The Ballarat easterly then north then west to number 249 The Ballarat. Kimblesworth Walk a 35 metre length to the rear of numbers 215 to 219 Kimblesworth Walk and numbers 222 to 225 Tanfield Place, a 34 metre length between numbers 225 and 227 and 228 to 229 Tanfield Place, a 36 metre length to the side of number 230 Tanfield Place, a 54 metre length to the side of numbers 231 and 234 Tanfield Place and a 35 metre length to the rear of 220-237 Tanfield Place. Morrison Close a 34 metre length to the rear of numbers 308 to 313. Kings Drive a 40 metre length to the rear of number 5 to 8 and side of number 8 Ida Place, a 30 metre length to the rear of number 136 to 140 Guthrum Place, a 25 metre length to the rear of number 9 to 14 Ida Place, a 19 metre length to the front of numbers 15 to 19 Ida Place, a 125 metre length from the front of number 15 Ida Place in a southerly direction to the rear of number 33 Osbert Place, a 30 metre length to the front of numbers 21 to 23 Osbert Place, a 25 metre length to the rear of numbers 35 to 39 Osbert Place, a 146 metre length from the side of number 40 in an anti-clockwise direction to the rear of number 54 Osbert Place, a 47 metre length from the side of number 42-45 Osbert Place, a 107 metre length from the rear of number 72 eastwards to the side of number 87 Guthrum Place, a 54 metre length from the side of number 81 to the rear of number 76 Guthrum Place, a 30 metre length to the rear of numbers 83 to 86 Guthrum Place, a 58 metre length from the side of numbers 60 to the side of numbers 70 Guthrum Place, a 10 metre length to the side of 65 Guthrum Place, an 18 metre length to the rear of numbers 62 and 63 Guthrum Place, a 55 metre length from the rear of number 57 to the side of number 116 Guthrum Place, a 11 metre length from the rear of number 108 southwards to the side of number 88 Guthrum Place, a 58 metre length from the side of number 90 to the side of Block number 93 to 96 Guthrum Place; a 54 metre length from the side of number 99 to number 104 Guthrum Place, a 30 metre length between numbers 100, 101 and 102 Guthrum Place, a 79 metre length from the side of number 275 Osric Place in an anticlockwise direction to the rear of number 270 Osric Place, a 79 metre length from between numbers 268 and 269 eastwards to number 264 Osric Place, a 65 metre length from the side of number 296 to the rear of number 293 Osric Place; a 58 metre length between numbers 296 and 297 and 297 to 299 and 301 Osric Place, a 79 metre length from the rear of number 311 to the side of number 306 Osric Place, a 43 metre length to the side of numbers 307 and 310 Osric Place, a 57 metre length of footpath to the rear of numbers 254 to 261 Osric Place, an 18 metre length to the side of number 259 Osric Place, a 64 metre length surrounding number 249 to 253 Osric Place, a 46 metre length surrounding number 241 to 243 Aldfrid Place, a 47 metre length to the rear of number 196 and side of number 196-199 Aldfrid Place, an 88 metre length from the side of number 199 to the side of number 220 Aldfrid Place, a 43 metre length to the rear of numbers 214 to 220 and 212 to 213 Aldfrid Place, a 44 metre between numbers 205 to 207, 209 to 210 and 204 Aldfrid Place, a 46 metre length to the rear of numbers 155 to 163 Guthrum Place, a 13 metre length to the side of number 194 Guthrum Place, a 39 metre length from the side of numbers 190 to 192 Guthrum Place, a 120 metre length from the side of number 189 eastwards to the rear of number 180 Guthrum Place, a 24 metre length between number 168 and 169 Guthrum Place, a 123 metre length from number 167 eastwards to number 178 Guthrum Place, an 80 metre length from the side of number 164 northwards to the rear of number 141 Guthrum Place and a 47 metre length from the side of number 140 to the rear of number 136 Guthrum Place to enable fibre telecom works to be undertaken. Throughout the period of 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 at 8am on 20/1/2025 and anticipated to be completed 6 months. On occasions, alternative dates for the closure may be necessary and these will be signed on site accordingly.

DATED: 10/1/2025



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

What's Happening...

Food served
 Mon-Sat 12:00-14:00 & 17.30-21:00
 Sundays 12:00-18:00

The County
 Restaurant with Rooms

HELLO JANUARY

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Searching for George & Ringo

Are you a budding lead guitarist or drummer and would like to pay tribute to The Beatles? It has been 60 years since the most iconic band in British pop music took the world by storm, releasing album after album, hit after hit and setting the benchmark for many to follow. With an unprecedented fan base and industry respect for their great achievements, later this year a new local tribute act 'THE Budget BEATLES' will be entertaining audiences in and around the area, celebrating their music with a set list that will deliver high energy from start to finish. Given that this is a new tribute act formed by two local young lads (Newton Aycliffe & Darlington) with a strong sense of imagery, character and instrumentation, they will be starting on a budget, just like The Beatles themselves, because it's all about the music. The band is aiming to launch by late spring for a summer of fun, so they are working hard developing that iconic sound and performance, but more importantly, 'John' and 'Paul' require the assistance of 'George' and 'Ringo'. So, if anyone reading this article is between the ages of 18 – 23 or knows someone who may be interested and is able to play lead guitar like George or play drums like Ringo, then please do not hesitate to get in touch...WE NEED YOU! A drum kit is available and the guitarist just needs the ability to play well without owning a Gretsch, but it would be nice. At this stage, we're on a budget. Also, if any local venues are interested in provisional bookings from April/May onwards, then we welcome your interest while we find our feet. Email: budgetbeatles@gmail.com or message us via our Facebook page: The Budget Beatles (We Can Work It Out). Bill Gibson.

In Memoriam

Elliot Stubbings

18/3/98 - 13/1/24
The hardest good-byes are the ones you don't see coming. The ones you don't plan or could never imagine happening. Sleep tight Elliot, forever 25. Love from your heartbroken Grandma and Grandad xx
Our Brother Elliot
We will keep the memories of you in our hearts forever. Love, Rubianna and Logan xx
Elliot
You were taken far too soon, but you will never be forgotten. Love, Uncle Sean, Uncle Richard, Clare, Sienna, Louie and Aaron xxxx

John Tobin

12/2/41 - 31/12/23
May the winds of love blow softly and whisper in your ear, "we all love and miss you Dad" and wish that you were here. Love, Linda, Neil and Family.

Jean Fisher

11th January 2023
Forever in our hearts. Constantly in our memories, for us to love and cherish. John, Christine and Family.

Samantha Maddison

12th January 1994
Still loved, remembered and missed every day. Sleep tight sweetheart, you will never be forgotten. Love you always. Mam, Dad & Family.

Lol Green (Laurence)

Died 11/01/2003
Loved and remembered by Sue and your Wallsend family xxx

John Tobin

12/2/41-31/12/2023
Beloved Dad and Grandad. The world changes from year to year, our lives from day to day, but the love and memories of you shall never fade away. Lots of love from Jean, Graeme, Craig and Hayleigh xxx

Obituary

Lily Richards

21st December 24
Suddenly and peacefully aged 90 years. Loving Mum of Elizabeth; Mother-in-Law of Keith; devoted Nana, Great Nana and Great Great Nana. Funeral on Friday 17th January, 11.00am at St. Clare's Church followed by private interment. Family flowers only. Afterwards at Woodham Golf Club for refreshments, where donations in lieu of flowers can be given in aid of Bethany House Care Home residents funds. Reunited with her love, George.

Margaret Young (Candeliter)



1936 - 2024
You passed away quietly and peacefully on Christmas Eve. We spent 71 years together darling Margaret, and you taught me how to live a quiet, full life and your peaceful ways and smile brought peace and comfort, not only to me, but also to those who met you on their journey. Sleep in peace my darling Margaret. You are still here with me. Good night pet. Loving Husband Walt



Peacefully in hospital, on 21st December surrounded by his family. Dave, much loved Husband of Patricia; loving Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Will family and friends please meet for a service at Darlington Crematorium on Thursday 23rd January at 12 noon.

Thomas Naden

Passed away peacefully after a long illness, Tom, aged 69 years. Much loved Husband of Pauline; dearly loved Dad of Melanie & Martyn and Jamie & Beth; a dear Son of the late Tom and Freda Naden of Murton; a loved Son-in-Law, Brother-in-Law, Nephew, Cousin and a good friend to many. Funeral service to take place in Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Friday 24th January at 11.30am. All are welcome, please meet at the Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu for Cancer Research UK.

Isabelle Esme Preshous

23rd December 24
Peacefully in the loving arms of Mam, Dad and George, aged four days. Beautiful Daughter of Adam and Adele; treasured little Sister to George; also a cherished Granddaughter and Niece. Will family and friends please meet for service at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Monday 20th January at 12.15pm. The committal will follow at West Cemetery, Newton Aycliffe. Family flowers only please. Donations in memory of Isabelle may be offered to Home-Neo Angels.

Jane Johnson



9th December 2024, aged 96 years, of Newton Aycliffe. Loving Wife of the late Bobby (Bob); much loved and loving Aunt, Great Aunt, Great Great Aunt and good friend to many. Thank you to all staff at Defoe Court Nursing Home. At Jane's request a private service has been held.

Pets

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Gillian Siddle



9th January 2024

One whole year without you, not a second goes by that we don't think about you, or are reminded of you. Without you, there is a huge hole in our hearts. Forever missed, never forgotten. All our love, Allan, Hannah, and Emma.

Opticians

K. McGuinness Opticians
Town Centre
Newton Aycliffe
Tel: 316600

Birthday Remembrance

Elizabeth Gray (Betty)

13th January
Many happy heavenly birthdays Mam. This is the second year without you, still miss you loads. Love from The Family.

Christma

Dorothy Clark

Lots of love from Barrie. Love you lots to Dorothy at Christmas
xxxxxxx

PUZZLE CORNER

Sudoku

		1		4				2
3					1			
				2		9	7	
1								3
4			6		9			5
	8							6
	2	6		3				
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Ava's Donation to Dogs Trust

Over Christmas time Ava visited The Dogs Trust at Sadberge to deliver her donations to the dogs. The staff were so grateful and surprised with how much she had managed to collect and donate. Photo shows Ava at The Dogs Trust with her delivery of goodies for the dogs.



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2025 Elections

Dear Sir,
I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year, may 2025 be a good year for everyone in particular to the many amazing charities and volunteers we have operating on the town. Whether you are running, or supporting a cause, it is your efforts that make our town the place it is. From Lifeline to Little Sensations, Junction 7 to Community Bus Preservation or the Scout Groups or indeed the very many others I could mention, you all deserve to have the very best 2025. Similarly, the many local businesses we have providing employment for us and particularly those supporting our volunteers deserve both our support and good wishes to thrive in what looks like a very challenging time for them. From the biggest to the smallest, I wish them all well.
2025 will also be an election year for Durham County Council Members and I for one will be putting my name forward for consideration. My time representing you previously as a County Councillor and then your MP were a huge privilege and I would like to serve again, it is imperative that the people and businesses of Aycliffe get strong representation within Durham County Council and I would love to help achieve that.
Paul Howell
Former MP for Sedgfield.

The Hog Blog!

Happy 2025 to all of you who take the time and trouble to read my article and also a very special thank you to Paul and the Newton News team for printing this. I need every reader to know that these beautiful mammals have very challenging lives out there in the wild and I want all of us to take some responsibility to make it easier for them by making hedgehog highways in your garden fences, putting food out, the Tesco Kitten kibble is a big hit with our wildies, it's not expensive either. I am happy to say that I have managed to keep 26 hedgehogs here for overwintering, a mixture of boys, girls, big and small. Thanks to Angela and her team of vets, I have managed to obtain the various life saving treatments, antibiotics, fluids and pain killers, of course these items don't come cheap. I have just managed to get a bottle of antibiotic and it's a good one which cost over £100, so it's not just about food, it's about bedding, medicines, microscope slides and cleaning supplies. The list is endless and I can't afford to be without any of these items, I have 13 cages and two hoggies per cage, it's very hard work because five cages overspill into the kitchen and garden room overnight. My home is still very clean though.



Hedgehogs in rescue can still fall ill, at the moment I have Amelia, Buster and Bobby who have Giardia, this is quite a nasty illness and can make their behaviour erratic, treatment has started and all the signs are good, so don't worry Elaine, Bobby is going to be fine. Buster from School Aycliffe (pictured) is a very tricky little hog. He refuses to take his meds orally, so I have to get them into him another way, some of his meds are injectable, but not the one for his Giardia. Patience is a virtue, he can't win, especially when he loves his puppy mousse.
Most hedgehogs will be hibernating now, especially when the overnight temperatures are below zero, there is no food out there, but I have been told that some visitors have called to Steve and Lesley's garden recently, bless them they always put food on and so do I.
I would like to thank everyone who make donations that go to my hedgehogs, I try very hard to save money with some success too, a few weeks ago I took the time and trouble to ring Royal Canin in Somerset, I asked if they help hedgehogs which they replied 'yes' they do, so now I am a Royal Canin Professional Partner because I run a rescue! This means I don't pay full price for their foods which all my hoggies, past and present, love. If you can get a hog to eat, half the battle has been won. I also use washable puppy pads, recommended by Donella at Grannies Choice, the money I save goes towards food and meds. Thank you Donella.
I am always reachable either by email or on Facebook, so if you need any help please feel free to message me.
Email pricklyhaven@yahoo.com - Facebook page: Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society are contactable on 01584 890801.

Grooms
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NAFC REPORT

14th December

Pontefract 1 v Newton Aycliffe 3

Newton Aycliffe managed to hold onto three points, in extraordinary circumstances, when Dean Thexton was sent off in the 55th minute. Aycliffe were already leading 2-1, courtesy of a Jake Petitjean brace. Despite the man disadvantage, Aycliffe made it 3-1 in the 62nd minute when Liam Jarvie pulled off a brilliant chip finish. The rest of the game was easily seen out by Aycliffe.

21st December

Newton Aycliffe 2 v Sheffield 2

A frustrating afternoon where Aycliffe failed to hold onto a 2-0 lead. The first half saw Cole Kiernan chip the Sheffield keeper, but Aycliffe struggled to produce much more after that. In the 80th minute Petitjean made it 2-0 from the penalty spot, but a change in conditions allowed Sheffield to capitalise on a sloppy piece of play from Aycliffe, the away side scored in a crowded box in the 89th minute and a long range shot in the 90th minute made this match a draw.

26th December

Dunston 2 v Newton Aycliffe 1

This game was similar to the last game Newton Aycliffe played at Dunston which was also on Boxing Day and also finished 2-1. A poor first half for Aycliffe gave them a 2-0 deficit going into the second half that Aycliffe could not conquer despite a Liam Adamson shot from outside the box in the 80th minute.

30th December

Newton Aycliffe 4 v Bishop Auckland 1

Newton Aycliffe taught Bishop Auckland a footballing lesson on the day before NYE. Petitjean kicked off the scoring for the home side in the 19th minute and Jack Clarkson made it 2-0 with a brilliant curling effort on the cusp of half time. The second half saw Petitjean claim a brace, all while Adamson would score at an outrageously tight possession on the wing to make it 4-0 with the Bishops goal a late consolation.

4th January

Emley 3 v Newton Aycliffe 0

A second half flurry of goals were the undoing for Aycliffe. All three Emley goals came within 17 minutes of each other in a game where several first team starters were missing.

Candlelite Club

Dear Sir,
I would be most grateful if you could include our Special Live Music Night at the Candlelite Club, Moor Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on Wednesday 15th January from 8.00pm 'til 10.30pm.

This is a special night with Marty Craggs and his Little Band Jam. Folks will remember Marty from being the saxophonist in Lindisfarne and Happy Cats.

Tickets need to be reserved by ringing me on 01740 621347

Thanks for all your support,
Joan Edmundson.

Aycliffe Senior Football News

Gateshead Leam Rangers Reserves 3 v Newton Aycliffe Youth Seniors 4

First game of 2025 for the Seniors, which was played on the 4G at the Washington hub.

The lads knew how important the January fixtures would be to define the season.

Aycliffe started the game on fire, with Kieran Maughan and Niall Douglas both having one v one's with the keeper, but unable to find the back of the net.

Next up was Jordan Wintersgill with a chip from a tight angle which beat the keeper, but rolled wide. A great ball in from Ryan Groves looked like it was about to be headed in by Kieran, but Leams centre back somehow headed clear.

The breakthrough finally came when Kieran again beat his man and was brought down in the box before he could get his shot away. Niall stepped up and smashed home the penalty. Aycliffe won a free kick 35 yards out, Jordan went for goal which rattled the bar, but the rebound fell to Richard Murray to find the back of the net. With 40 minutes on the clock Aycliffe looked good for a half time lead, but from a Leam short corner a free header was put away. This was quickly followed by an equaliser. HT 2-2.

Straight from the kick off Niall was through on goal, but was saved by the keeper.

Then a great move, starting with Jon Hardy nicking the ball at right back, then beating a man to set Ryan away, his square ball fell to Kieran who back heeled to Niall, who smashed home for his second and put us back in front. Another good move saw Niall pick the ball up 20 yards out on the left, he went past two players and found the back of the net for his hat trick. The referee added seven minutes of stoppage time, and Leam grabbed a third goal. A nery finish, but the lads stuck together and battled through.

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