

Great Aycliffe Town Council

Council Offices - School Aycliffe Lane - Newton Aycliffe - Co. Durham DL5 6QF

Telephone: 01325 300700 • Fax: 01325 301053

Email: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2011

25th November 2011

MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



Councillor Mary Dalton
Mayor of Great Aycliffe
2011 - 2012

As Mayor of Great Aycliffe I would like to take this opportunity to wish residents of the Parish a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

It has been a great honour to be elected as Mayor and represent the town. I have been given so much support by the people and organisations and have attended so many memorable functions that I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help, good wishes and wonderful support.

My nominated charities for my year in office is the Army Benevolent Fund (North East) together with local town charities and I thank everyone who has supported or made donations to the fund.

My Civic Carol Service will be held on Sunday, 18th December in St. Clare's Church commencing at 6 p.m. and everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy the Christmas Festivities.

Finally, on behalf of myself, my Consort Michael and Great Aycliffe Town Council we wish you compliments of the season.

Councillor Mary Dalton

LETTERS TO SANTA

Each year Santa's Elves put special post boxes in Newton Aycliffe so that the boys and girls can post their letters off to Santa.



When everything is quiet, and nobody is looking, the pixies empty the boxes and take the letters to Santa's palace in Greenland. Santa receives and replies to about 800 letters each year from the children of the Parish, so he is very busy and has asked that you remember to put your full name and address on your letter.

The boxes will disappear on Monday 19th December, but e-mails and forms submitted from the Council's website will be answered right up to noon on 23rd December. Santa has a special e-mail address Santa@great-aycliffe.gov.uk and the website address is <http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/events/santa-letters.html>

We have been told that the post boxes will appear on Thursday 1st December at the following locations:

- Ⓞ Stevens Newsagent
Beveridge Way
- Ⓞ Horndale Post Office
- Ⓞ Post Office
Neville Parade
- Ⓞ Woodham Post Office
- Ⓞ Simpasture General Store

CHRISTMAS GARLAND WORKSHOP

On Sunday 18th December Great Aycliffe Town Council will be providing a free event to people who would like to get into the Christmas spirit by making their own high quality garland from 100% natural material.

The event will take place at Moore Lane Eco Centre between 2pm and 4pm and **booking will be essential** by calling Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700 to reserve your places.

The event will predominately be aimed at an adult audience due to the nature of the event; however children are welcome to come along to assist their family during the activity.

Participants are invited to bring along their own decorations such as ribbons to help personalise the garland and give them the finishing touches.



SANTA'S COMING

Santa and his helpers will be touring the town as usual on Christmas Eve. Watch out for more information on routes and times. These will be advertised in the **Newton News** and on the Council Website www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ENHANCEMENT AWARDS

The Town Council wishes to receive nominations from local residents within the Great Aycliffe area for the awarding of Enhancement Awards for residential Christmas Lighting displays which portray the spirit of Christmas.

Please return this nomination form to Great Aycliffe Town Council, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QF or e-mail the details of your nomination to: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

Closing date for applications: - Monday, 19th December 2011.

I would like to nominate the house below for a Christmas Lights Enhancement Award for its display of Christmas Lights 2011.

Address

Householder Name.....
(if known)

Christmas And New Year Office Closures

THE COUNCIL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AS LISTED BELOW:

Monday and Tuesday, 26th / 27th December 2011 – CLOSED.

Monday, 2nd January 2012 – CLOSED.

Councillors & Staff wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

“Town Council aiming to keep the Council Tax increase to a minimum next year”

The Town Council is in the process of setting of its 2012/13 Budget and is working on the principle of keeping any increase in the level of the Council Tax next year to a minimum.

The Council is in a relatively healthy financial position and has been sheltered from the public sector spending cuts as it does not receive any funding from the Government. It is therefore well placed going forward to avoid needing to make cuts to services or jobs and to keep council tax increases low.

Local tax payers will be aware that the Town Council has not increased the Council Tax for two years now. However, in setting the Budget for next year the Council has had to take into account a number of risks, not least the impact of the current economic climate, as well as a number of new issues requiring investment.

While the Council would have liked, in an ideal world, to again freeze the Council Tax next year, a decision has been taken to make a small increase in the level of Precept and therefore Council Tax of 2.5%. This decision has not been taken lightly and the increase is required for four key reasons:-

1. The need to ensure that a prudent budget is set in light of the on-going economic uncertainty, for example by providing for a possible officer pay rise, very high inflation on fuel and utilities costs and continued falls in leisure income;
2. The need to ensure that the Council’s Balances are replenished by increasing the annual contribution to Capital Reserves;
3. The need to make budget provision for the forthcoming requirement to produce a Neighbourhood Plan;
4. The wish to make budget provision available to enable the Council to offer to take over Durham County Council flower beds if required.

The Council will also continue to make investment in Council and community assets next year via its Capital Programme Budget, which will be funded from Council Balances.

I will keep local residents and tax payers informed of any further developments with regard to the budget through the Council website and the local press.



“Town Council in negotiations to take on the maintenance of environmental areas”

The Town Council is currently in discussions with Durham County Council and Sedgefield Borough Homes with a view to taking over the maintenance of a number of areas of environmental open space around the town.

The Council has also put additional budget resources in place in 2012/13 that would enable it to take on a number of flower beds in the town that have been or are planned to be removed by Durham County Council.

Again I will keep local tax payers up to date with any further developments with regard to these discussions.

“Town Council receives clean bill of health from the Audit Commission”

The Council has recently received its Annual Audit Letter from the Audit Commission for the 2010/11 financial year setting out the results of the annual inspection of the Council.

The Council is pleased to report that it has again received a clean bill of health on all aspects of the report, with no issues highlighted for further action.

This means that the Audit Commission has signed off the Council’s Accounts as presenting fairly its financial position, that it considers the Council to be well managed and governed, that its finances are in good order, and, most importantly that it delivers value for money to local tax payers.

All in all, this was another very positive Audit Report for the Council and is testament to the hard work and commitment of all councillors, management and staff.

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

1st Dec. 2011	Planning Sub Committee	4.00 p.m.
1st Dec. 2011	Extraordinary Council	6.15 p.m.
1st Dec. 2011	Environment	7.15 p.m.
1st Dec. 2011	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
7th Dec. 2011	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
14th Dec. 2011	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
11th Jan. 2012	Environment	7.15 p.m.
11th Jan. 2012	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
18th Jan. 2012	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
25th Jan. 2012	Council	7.15 p.m.
22nd Feb. 2012	Environment	7.15 p.m.
22nd Feb. 2012	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
29th Feb. 2012	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
7th Mar. 2012	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
4th Apr. 2012	Environment	7.15 p.m.
4th Apr. 2012	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
11th Apr. 2012	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
18th Apr. 2012	Full Council	7.15 p.m.

* The Recreation Committee will commence immediately after the Environment Committee Meeting.

2nd MAY, 2012 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 p.m. ()**

9th MAY, 2012 - COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - 7.15 p.m.

(* *) (N.B. – this is not a meeting of the Town Council but a meeting of local government electors in the Council’s area. Any queries about the Parish Meeting can be made to the Town Clerk on 01325 300700).

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

A period of up to 20 minutes has been also set aside for an elector to ask questions, give evidence or make representation on any item of business included on the agenda of the Council, its Committees and the Planning Sub-Committee. With the exception of the Annual and Extra-ordinary Council Meetings members of the public can submit a written question for the Council Agenda as long as it is submitted 7 clear days before a meeting. If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting. Agendas / Reports are available on the Council’s Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting.(www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk) **The Public and Press are cordially invited to attend. “The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings”.**

NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING CIVIC EVENTS

CIVIC CAROL SERVICE

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Mary Dalton, will hold her Civic Carol Service at St. Clare’s Church on Sunday, 18th December 2011 commencing at 6.00 p.m.

Following the service refreshments are available in the church hall and members of the congregation are invited to join the Mayor and other civic guests for the Christmas Festivities.



MAYOR’S CHARITY DINNER

Friday, 17th February 2012
The Hall Garth Hotel & Country Club
Coatham Mundeville

Arrangements have now been made for the annual Charity Civic Dinner and Dance. The venue for this years’ event will be The Hall Garth Hotel and Country Club, Coatham Mundeville. Entertainment and Dance Music provided by ‘John Melvin’ until 12.30 a.m.

Tickets are on sale from the Council Offices and are priced at £27.50 each.



Home The Course Golf Club Visitor Info Facilities Contact 01325 310 820

OakLeaf Oakleaf Golf Complex

Check out our website
www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Challenging picturesque parkland course

Buggy hire, shower & changing facilities

18-bay floodlit driving range

Services of Neil Whinham Golf Professional

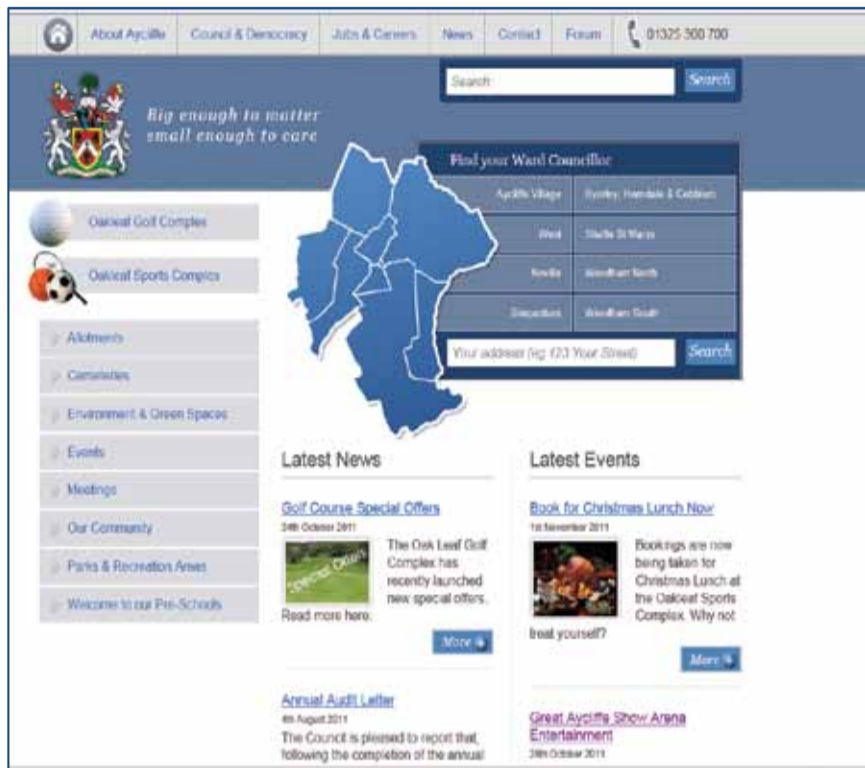
Full range of equipment from Fully Stocked Shop

Visiting Parties Welcome
Season tickets
available from 1st April
6 month ‘specials’ from 1st October

Oakleaf Golf Complex, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.
Telephone 01325 310820 e-mail info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LAUNCHED

Great Aycliffe Town Council's new website was launched on Friday 4th November.



The new site has lots of information on it, and not just about Council services. It has all the information on it that you would expect to find on a local authority website, eg minutes and reports of meetings, financial information, descriptions of the services we provide but it also has several new areas which might interest members of the public:

- Burial records of all interments in Stephenson Way and West Cemeteries
- Our Community – links to local community groups for everything from sport to art
- Forum – discussion venue for current affairs and ‘happenings’ in Aycliffe (will be moderated)
- Find your councillor – just enter your address to find out who your local representatives are on the Council.
- Historic pictures of Aycliffe – more to add yet
- Apply for services on line (where no cost is involved)
 - o Allotment
 - o Football pitch
 - o Pre-school place
 - o Senior Citizens’ Excursion
 - o Some Aycliffe Show stalls
- Waiting list figures for allotments

Additionally, the Oakleaf Sports Complex and the Oakleaf Golf Complex's new websites were also launched on Friday 4th November.

The Golf Complex site has the latest course reports from the greenkeeper, so you can find out easily whether buggies are allowed, if any holes are closed and even what the weather is like.

If you want expert advice, check out the Course ‘hole by hole’ guide with the Golf Professional’s tips on how to play each hole.

The Golf site also has a section specifically for the Oakleaf Golf Club which has individual sections for the Adult, Senior and Junior sections too with fixture lists for the rest of the year.

If there is any information you would like us to include in any of our three sites, please let us know.

The only thing that hasn’t changed is the web address www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

AYCLIFFE YOUTH COUNCIL

Aycliffe Youth Council elections were held in September at the start of the new school year and created lots of interest. The Town Council is happy to report that 22 young people were given the chance to be elected to the position of Youth Councillor. The Youth Councillors this year are a great mix of existing youth councillors and new representatives. This certainly helps with the work of the Youth Council, particularly in the continuity of projects, with the existing members helping the newly elected ones find their feet.



A fantastic team building day was held during the school holidays, where a lot of work around representing, campaigning and skills needed to be a youth councillor was undertaken. A mock parliament and debate session was run by Tom Hunter, the current Chairman of the Youth Council.

Don't forget Aycliffe Youth Council have a small pot of money available to give grants to local youth or children's groups within the Great Aycliffe area.

AYCLIFFE YOUTH COUNCIL - GRANTS AWARDED

Aycliffe Youth Council have given small grants to:-

- MAD Productions to assist with the ‘Blue Lamp Charity’ variety show which was held at the Excel Centre in October.
- ACLE Scouts to help purchase a bike trailer.
- Royal Air Force Cadets to enable the cadets to take part in the Commemorative Marches at Arnhem, Holland. You may have read about this trip in the Newton News.
- The Graffiti Artist who worked and ran workshops at the Great Aycliffe Show.

If you would like to apply, please state the name and activities of your organisation, how much money you are requesting, what you are currently doing to raise funds yourself and what the money will be used for. The Youth Council will also need to see your recently audited accounts and/or most recent balance sheets.

Please put your requests in writing to Aycliffe Youth Council, c/o Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QF.

Aycliffe Youth Council



James Browning



Thomas Burn



Brogan Clish



Meghan Cumming



Mckenna Curbeson



Olivia Dunn



Andrew Fittes



Tom Hunter



Faye Hutton



Anna Morgan



Jordan Oliver



Konrad Szymanski



Amir Treifi



Raven Waters



Amy Watson



Marcus Woodfine

If you would like to know more about the Youth Council, contact 01325 300700

ALLOTMENT ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Allotments Meeting took place on Thursday, 17th November 2011 at the Council Offices.

At that meeting it was announced that the winner of the ‘Best Allotment Garden’ was Mr. P.G. Wheadon who has plot No. 9 at the Finchale Road site.

Councillor Vince Crosby, Chairman of the Environment Committee, presented the winner with the ‘Ken Woodhall’ Trophy, a framed certificate and momento trophy.



THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS . . .



WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CUSTOM IN 2012.

Oak Leaf
SPORTS COMPLEX
01325 300600
www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Traditional Christmas Lunch

On Sunday 27th November, 4th and 18th December only we will be serving Christmas Lunch in the Function Room between 12noon and 2pm.

Two Course Menu

for only £9.50 per adult £6.50 per child (main meal and dessert)

Waitress Service, Please Pre-Book, Payment Required on Booking

Main Meal

Choose from the following;

Roast Turkey with all the Trimmings
Roast Beef - Roast Pork - Nut Roast

Dessert

Choose from the following;

Christmas Crumble - Sherry Trifle
Christmas Pudding

We will be creating a festive atmosphere with Decorations, Table Cloths and Christmas Crackers

Relax
Celebrate
And
Enjoy



We Have
Christmas All
Wrapped Up
For You

Normal Sunday Lunch will still be served in the Bar on those days. A warm friendly welcome guaranteed.

Sports Complex Christmas and New Year Closures
The Complex will be closed on Christmas Day Sunday 25th and Boxing Day Monday 26th December 2011
Open again for business as usual on Tuesday 27th December 2011
The Complex will be closed on Sunday 1st January 2012
Open again for business as usual on Monday 2nd January 2012

Pre Christmas Party with Santa at the Oakleaf Sports Complex!

on SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER between 2.00pm-4.00pm

Children will receive a party tea and soft drink, make a marshmallow snowman and a Christmas placemat, colour in a Christmas picture and enjoy some Christmas themed puzzles

BEST OF ALL — MEET SANTA

before seeing him and all his helpers leave the Complex to begin their tours of Great Aycliffe!

ALL FOR ONLY £4.00 PER CHILD (Parents must stay with children)

Tickets available from Reception upon payment and places are limited, so collect yours soon!

Christmas Super Sports Skills

Crafty Kids

Monday
19th December
9.30am - 11.00am
£3.20 members
£3.70 non members
Have fun and get creative!

Sporting Fun

Wednesday
28th December
9.30am to 11.30am
You will get the chance to try Bowls, Badminton, Squash, Hockey, Dodge Ball & Team Games
£2.40 members
£2.75 non members

Activity Day

Tuesday
20th December
9.30am to 3.15pm
Great Value at only £11.00 per person
Don't forget your packed lunch!



Archery

MiniActivity Day

Wednesday
21st December
9.30am to 11.00am
4 to 7 yrs old
£2.40 members
£2.75 non members

Tuesday
29th December
9.30am to 11.30am
12noon - 2.00pm
£3.20 members
£3.70 non members
Perfect for any budding Robin Hoods or Maid Marians!

PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES

We provide a high quality service, where every child feels safe, happy and has fun in safe and secure learning environments.

The opening times are:-

St. Oswald's Pre-School 8.45am to 3.30pm

Woodham Burn Pre-School 8.45am to 3.15pm

Educational funding is available to all children the term after their 3rd birthday, until then a 3 hour session costs £3.00.

For an application form or further information either call into the Pre-Schools or contact Jackie Swainston on 01325 319880.

