



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



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



Big enough to matter
Small enough to care

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2010

26th November 2010

MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As Mayor of Great Aycliffe I would like to say that it is a privilege for me to represent the Town and the Town Council especially during the festive time of year.

My Consort, Richard, and I have met with some wonderful people throughout the Town and beyond. We have especially enjoyed the events organised by the young people and children of our local schools. Another special date we remember was the raising of the flag to commence the start of "Armed Forces Week".

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support towards my nominated charities, the Chryrelle Addams Cancer Appeal and Wear Valley Women's Aid.

My Civic Carol Service is the next event in my civic calendar and will be held in St. Clare's Church on the 19th December, I would like to invite you all to join me to celebrate the festive season.

Finally, it is my pleasure, on behalf of the Town Council, to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Happy New Year.

Councillor Dorothy Bowman



Councillor Mrs Dorothy Bowman
Mayor of Great Aycliffe
2010 - 2011

LETTERS TO SANTA

Children in Newton Aycliffe and Aycliffe Village have a special postal service so that the children can send their letters to Santa and get a reply in time for Christmas. Santa's little elves will be putting out Santa's special post boxes on Wednesday, 1st December and will take them back to Greenland after the last post on Friday, 17th December. Unfortunately, every year Santa receives lots of letters that have no name or address on them so he is unable to reply. Parents are asked to make sure that the name and address are clearly marked on each letter.

To save the elves extra work collecting all the letter from the post boxes, Santa also has a temporary e-mail address this year, so if any child would prefer to e-mail their letter, please use santa.northpole@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Further information can be obtained from Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe. DL5 7QF. Telephone 01325 300700, e-mail info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk



Boxes are placed at:

- ⑤ Stevens Newsagent Town Centre
- ⑤ Redhouse Post Office
- ⑤ Neville Parade Post Office
- ⑤ Woodham Post Office
- ⑤ Simpasture General Store
- ⑤ Aycliffe Village General Store

SANTA'S COMING



He and his helpers will be touring the town as usual on Christmas Eve watch out for information on routes & times only in the NEWTON NEWS!

NEW COUNCILLOR ELECTED

Following the by-election held on the 28th October 2010, Mrs. K. Hopper of 3 High Barn Road, School Aycliffe, was duly elected to serve on the Council for the West Ward of Newton Aycliffe.

Councillor Mrs. Hopper was the Labour Candidate and she can be contacted on Tel: 01325 314697.



TOWN COUNCIL TAX TO BE FROZEN AGAIN

The Town Council is in the process of setting its 2011/12 budget and is working on the basis of a freeze in the level of Town Council Tax next year. This follows on from the 1% cut in the Town Council Tax made in the current year.

You will possibly have read that major Councils in the area are being faced with massive cuts in the funding they receive from Central Government. Already both Darlington and Durham County Council are announcing very large cut backs in staffing and services to the public will also be reduced.

Aycliffe Town Council does not receive any grant funding from Central Government and will not face any direct cuts in its spending. The Town Council will have to absorb projected inflation costs of between 3% and 5% but we believe that this can be done by making savings in the Revenue Budget for 2011/12.

We will have to keep a careful watch and be aware of how Durham County Council addresses significant cuts to its funding from Government.

It may be that Aycliffe Town Council could find that cuts are made to the funding provided by the County Council such as pre-school funding and the double taxation grant.

It is the intention of Great Aycliffe Town Council to maintain our high standards of service provision in the coming years and be able to do so without staffing cuts.

I will keep local residents and tax payers informed of any further developments through future newsletters and the local press.



COUNCIL RECEIVES ANOTHER CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH FROM AUDIT COMMISSION

Finally, the Town Council has recently received its Annual Governance Report from the Audit Commission for the 2009/10 financial year setting out the results of the annual inspection of the Council. I am pleased to report that it has again received a clean bill of health on all aspect of the report. This means that the Audit Commission considers that:-

- The Council's Statement of Accounts presents fairly its financial position;
- It is well managed and governed with sound strategies, policies, procedures, systems and internal controls;
- Our finances are in good order;
- We deliver economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money; and
- We deliver value for money services to the local community.

All in all, this was a very positive Audit Report for the Council and the Audit Commission commended the Council for the progress it has made over the last few years.

This is an excellent achievement and has only been gained as a result of the hard work and commitment of councillors, management and staff.

Councillor R.S. Fleming, Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee

Christmas And New Year Office Closures

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

Friday, 24th December 2010 - Closed from 12.30pm

Monday & Tuesday, 27th/28th December 2010 - Closed

Friday, 31st December 2010 - Closed from 12.30pm

Monday, 3rd January 2011 - Closed

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

NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING CIVIC EVENTS

CIVIC CAROL SERVICE

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Dorothy Bowman, will hold her Civic Carol Service at St. Clare's Church on Sunday, 19th December 2010 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 Christmas Festivities.

MAYOR'S CHARITY DINNER

Friday, 18th February 2011
The Hall Garth Hotel & Country Club
Coatham Mundeville

Arrangements have now been made for the annual Charity Civic Dinner and Dance. Entertainment from Cabaret Artiste, Chyrelle Addams, 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.



MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

1st Dec. 2010	Environment	7.15 p.m.
1st Dec. 2010	Recreation	*7.15 p.m.
8th Dec. 2010	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
15th Dec. 2010	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
12th Jan. 2011	Audit Committee	6.00 p.m.
12th Jan. 2011	Environment	7.15 p.m.
12th Jan. 2011	Recreation	*7.15 p.m.
19th Jan. 2011	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
26th Jan. 2011	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
23rd Feb. 2011	Environment	7.15 p.m.
23rd Feb. 2011	Recreation	*7.15 p.m.
2nd Mar. 2011	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
9th Mar. 2011	Council	7.15 p.m.
6th Apr. 2011	Environment	7.15 p.m.
6th Apr. 2011	Recreation	*7.15 p.m.
13th Apr. 2011	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
20th Apr. 2011	Council	7.15 p.m.

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

4th MAY, 2011 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 p.m. ()**

**11th MAY, 2011 - 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:

Members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Questions will not be received by the Council which are in furtherance of a person's individual circumstances or which are about a matter where there is a right of appeal to the courts, a tribunal or government minister. A question will not be received by the Council where the issue it concerns has been the subject of a decision of the Council in the last six months.

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".

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE AND SERVICES

Members of the Royal British Legion, Armed Forces, the Mayor of Great Aycliffe and members of the public met in the Town Centre to observe 2 minutes silence on Thursday, 11th November. Prayers were conducted by the Revd. Linda Potter.



The Annual Remembrance Day Parade and Service took place on Sunday, 14th November at St. Clare's Church.

The Parade left the Barnard Armoury and proceeded to the Church for a short service and wreath laying ceremony outside prior to the Church Service.

The Salute was taken this year by Commander Ed. McNaught, RD, RNR.

Wreaths were also laid by Dame Dela Smith on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant's Office, Mr P. Wilson, M.P., the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs Dorothy Bowman, Councillor M. Dixon, representing Durham County Council, together with military and other organisations from the town.

A church service and laying of wreaths, at the war memorial, was also conducted at St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village at 3 p.m.



ALLOTMENT ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Allotments Meeting took place on Thursday, 18th November 2010 at the Council Offices.

At that meeting it was announced that the winner of the 'Best Allotment' was Mrs. K.N. Stewart who has plot No. 12 at the Clarence Chare site.

Councillor V. Crosby, Chairman of the Environment Committee, presented the winner with the 'Ken Woodhall' Trophy, a framed certificate and memento trophy.



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, 20th December 2010.

I would like to nominate the house below for a Christmas Lights Enhancement Award for its display of Christmas Lights 2010.

Address

Householder Name.....
(if known)

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

From Our Environment Officer

BIRDY BONANZA

Saturday 18th December 10am – 12 noon

Spare a thought for the birds this year by making them their Christmas dinner at this special bird pudding making event. Bring along any kitchen scraps which you would like to add to your pudding. Afterwards there will be an opportunity to make a bird mask which you can take home. This event is free and will take place at Moore Lane Eco Centre.



CHRISTMAS GARLANDS



Sunday 19th December Session 1 10am- 12 noon
Session 2 1pm – 3pm

Here's the perfect antidote to the Christmas mayhem! Make the best garland in town by spending a few relaxing hours making a perfectly natural, locally sourced Christmas wreath to decorate your home. This activity is NOT suitable for smaller children and all children should be accompanied by an adult. Please feel free to bring additional decorations from home to personalise your creation. Each garland will cost £2.50. Booking is essential by calling Great Aycliffe Town Council on (01325) 300700.



SEASONAL SAUNTER



Monday 20th December 10am- 1.30pm

Justify that extra roastie on Christmas day by joining us during this pleasant 5 mile stroll around the northern route of the Great Aycliffe Way. The Town Council's Environment Officer will be on hand to point out a few things of interest on your journey. Meet at the Oakleaf Sports Complex Car Park.



CUSTOMER PANEL

The Town Council continues to listen and consult with residents. The latest Customer Panel meeting gave residents a chance to comment on the Town Council budgets and get up close and personal to the Chairmen of Environment, Recreation and Policy and Resources. 80% of respondents to a budget questionnaire were in favour of a freeze to the Town Council portion of the Council Tax and proposed overwhelming support for the environment as a Town Council priority.

The Youth Council were also consulted on the budget setting process with 100% supporting the proposed freeze and not surprisingly proposed things for young people as a priority.

FREE Portable Dance Mats

A 12 mat dance system is available for voluntary and community organisations in the Great Aycliffe area. The Pioneering Care Centre had an afternoon of dance mat fun with one of the special groups. It enabled them to access an alternative form of exercise, be with their friend and enjoy the music as well.



Holiday activities at the Oak Leaf Sport Complex included the dance mats and 39 young people had a chance to test the mats (and themselves) for free.

If you are a community or voluntary group in the Great Aycliffe area why not give the mats a try they are great fun and people of all ages and abilities can take part. If you are a registered trainer in the use of the dance mats



there is no extra cost. If you need a trained member of staff, there will be a £25 fee involved.

The mats must be collected, transported and returned to the Oak Leaf Sports Complex on the day of use. The equipment is not allowed off site overnight. A £30 deposit is required.

The mats are held at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex, telephone 01325 300600 for details.

NEW YOUTH COUNCILLORS ELECTED



Aycliffe Youth Council commences its third year. Young people aged 12 to 19, who live or go to school in the Great Aycliffe area (Newton Aycliffe, School Aycliffe or Aycliffe Village), are elected annually to represent the young people of Aycliffe. We meet regularly and discuss a wide range of issues from a young persons' perspective.

Aycliffe Youth Council



Tom Armstrong



Carl Bravey



Brogan Clish



Mckenna Curbeson



Andrew Fittes



Ricky Hardy



Aaron Hetherington



Tom Hunter



Faye Hutton



Anna Morgan



Stacey Richardson



Jessica Smith



Amir Treifi



Raven Waters



Josh Watson

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

Grants Available

Aycliffe Youth Council has a small pot of money available to give grants to local youth or children's groups within the Great Aycliffe area.

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.

All applications are considered by the youth councillors. Some organisations who have benefited from grants from Aycliffe Youth Council are Jayenelle Gymnastics; Aclé Scouts and Newton Aycliffe FC.

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.

Sports Complex Christmas and New Year Closures
The Sports Complex will be closed on:
Christmas Day - Boxing Day - New Years Day

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

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

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

Christmas Holiday Activities

Junior Activity Day

Tuesday 21st December

9.30am to 3.30pm £11.00 per person
Don't forget your packed lunch!
Sports, games, quiz and much more!
8 to 15 yrs old

Crafty Kids

Tuesday 21st December

3.45pm to 5.15pm 8 to 15 yrs old
£3.00 members £3.50 non members
Exciting craft projects and ideas!

Mini Activity Session

Wednesday 22nd December

9.30am to 11.00am 4 to 7 yrs old
£2.25 members £2.75 non members
Fun games and lots to make and do!

Traditional Christmas Lunch

*On Sunday 5th and 19th 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

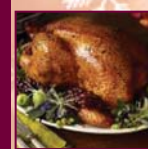
Choose from the following;
Turkey with all the Trimmings
Roast Beef - Roast Pork
Nut Roast

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.

PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES

Children start to learn from the moment they are born, so why not bring your child along to one of our Pre-Schools to help them to continue their learning journey? We provide interesting and challenging experiences in safe and secure environments. With the help of our enthusiastic and dedicated staff team, children are able to achieve and develop the knowledge and skills that form a firm foundation on which to build for their future education.



These photographs show the children in St. Oswald's Pre-School making scones, this gave the children the opportunity to experience mixing ingredients and seeing the changes that occurred when they were baked in the oven. They also prepared vegetables and made soup for their snack.



We provide nursery education through the Early Years Foundation Stage

We are open to all children from their 3rd birthday, and we provide full and part time places

St. Oswald's is open 8.45am to 3.30pm and Woodham Burn is open 8.45am to 3.15pm (term time only)

FREE nursery funded places are available the term after a child's 3rd birthday. It is only
£3.00 per 3 hour session if your child is not eligible for funding, and hours in
excess of the first 15 are **just £3.50 each**

Flexible hours are available to meet your individual needs

OFSTED registered



The children from Woodham Burn Pre-School recently walked to the market to choose and buy fruit, when they returned they discussed what they had bought, and decided that their favourite fruit was a melon. They then drew pictures of the fruit before it was washed and prepared for their snack.



Each Pre-School has a secure outside play area, which the children have access to at all times, this ensures they receive outdoor physical exercise on a daily basis.



For further information please call into
the Pre-Schools (no appointment needed)
or contact Jackie Swainston
on 01325 319880

