



Great Aycliffe Town Council

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27th March 2015

Aycliffe Festival

The concept of the Festival is to involve as many local groups, businesses and voluntary organisations as possible, encouraging them to organise an 'event' within the time-frame of the Festival and this has definitely happened!



So far, the events organised by the local community seem to be providing a wide variety of experiences and activities for children and adults throughout the Parish.

Currently, there are over 40 events scheduled to take place over the Festival period, Friday



3rd July until Sunday 12th July. We are still looking to make the Festival a huge success and will be taking applications from anyone who would like to organise something for the Festival. It doesn't have to be something the size of Glastonbury, it can be something really simple that would appeal to the



people of Aycliffe.

Even if your organisation doesn't need a grant, you can still benefit from our advertising campaign by letting us know when it is on as long as it is in the Festival period.

Any event will be considered, large or small, indoor or outdoor but it must be held in the Festival period in Aycliffe. If you are thinking about organising an event or just want to talk it through with us, contact Marie Robinson on 01325 300700 or festival@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 31st March 2015, however, if you don't have your form completed by that date and you would like to stage an event please get in touch with us.

MAYOR'S CHARITY CIVIC DINNER

The Annual Mayor's Charity Civic Ball was hosted by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Wendy Hillary, on Friday, 20th February 2015 at Redworth Hall Hotel. Entertainment was provided by Dave Lynn with dancing provided by John Melvin.

The fund raising at the event was in aid of the Mayor's nominated Charities during her Year in Office and this year the Mayor has chosen Cruse Bereavement Care and County Durham School Benevolent Fund.

A special thanks must go to Barclays Bank who match funded the evening's fund raising when a total amount of £2,131.38 was made for the charities.

Mrs. Denese Cartwright, Vice-President of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe gave an excellent response to the Mayor on behalf of the guests.

Councillor Mrs. Hillary would like to take this opportunity to thank Ebac (Norfrost) Ltd. for supplying a Chest Freezer to be raffled along with a voucher for meals from Redworth Hall. The Mayor thanked fellow Councillors and friends who have supported her during the year by donating gifts for the fund raising.



Aycliffe Youth Council Start Aycliffe Festival with a Bang!

On Friday 3rd July, 10am until 2pm at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex there will be a range of amazing STEM activities for you to take part in.

The Full STEM Ahead is a really 'cool', or possibly 'hot', event with a Scientific, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical theme, yes it does sound boring, but read on!

Confirmed activities, so far are:-

John Kilcoyne (man in a shed, Brainiac) will give one of his Science shows – be amazed by science.

Do you think you have nerves of steel? Why not try and defuse a 6 foot exploding device! This aims to simulate the stresses and strains soldiers are put under when defusing explosive devices in the world's trouble-spots.

Recruits have just two minutes to make the device safe. If you cut the correct wire then it plays a tune; if you cut the wrong one, or run out of time, then it sounds a claxon and flashes a light.

Test your skills with water tank ROVs and navigate obstacles within the tank.

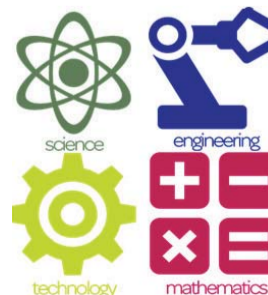
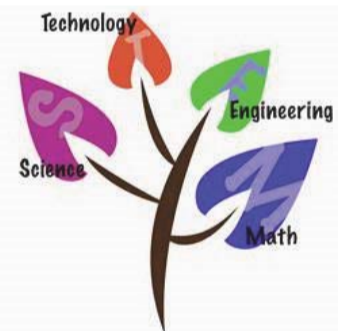
There will be Formula 1 car(s), hopefully, including some that schools have designed and built themselves; a hand operated scalextrics racing track; robots / robot wars area; a range of motor bikes and additional bodywork (from a project with Daley Mathison, superbike rider).

Solve the crime by using information within the crime scene.

Test your knowledge and win a prize with one of our challenges. A number of local companies will also be providing hands-on activities for you to try and there will be further information available if you are interested in pursuing a career in these areas. The Youth Council are still working with companies and colleges to provide additional activities.

Amy Clements, Treasurer of Newton Aycliffe Youth Council said:-

“Aycliffe Youth Council, as a community of young people, is aware that not much is known about the STEM world. We are looking



to change that in our July event and one of our top priorities is getting younger people involved and educated, even those as young as Primary school, but of course we'll keep it very fun! With our exciting event, we want to teach everyone in the community that STEM is an alternative and incredible career opportunity.”

2015/16 Revenue and Capital Budget

“Funding cuts and spending pressures leave the Town Council with no choice but to increase the Council Tax next year”

The Town Council has recently set its 2015/16 Revenue and Capital Budget. The Council's finances are currently in a strong position and in the short term the outlook remains fairly positive with a balanced budget in place, savings continuing to be achieved in the current financial year, and healthy levels of reserves.

As a result, the Council will not need to make any reductions to services next year and the 2015/16 Revenue Budget was therefore prepared in a way that maintains existing levels of service.

However, the Council must also keep a close eye on what is likely to be an increasingly challenging future, and plan ahead now for the difficulties that lie ahead.

The Council is currently reliant on Council Tax Support Grant funding paid by the Government, via Durham County Council, of over a quarter of a million pounds and which amounts to nearly 20% of its Revenue Budget. It has been confirmed that this funding will be cut in the coming years by between 10% and 15% a year, and there remains a risk that it could be withdrawn altogether.

The Council is also facing a number of significant spending pressures including the increasing move towards the payment of a 'living wage' for council staff, increases in employers' national insurance costs from 2016, and possible further devolution of services from Durham County Council. Unfortunately, in order to maintain services, and absorb the cuts to funding and increases in costs faced over the longer term, the Council was left with no choice but to make a small increase of 1.98% in the Town Council Tax next year.

The increase enabled the Council to offset the additional costs of the recently agreed local government pay award, the cut to the Council Tax Support Grant, and a significant fall in pre-school funding income next year, whilst maintaining some surplus resources within the Revenue Budget via the contingency sum and contribution to capital reserves to meet the significant future budget pressures faced.

This decision has not been taken lightly, particularly in light of the on-going cost of living difficulties being faced by local residents, and following on from the four year freeze in council tax delivered by the Council between 2010 and 2013.

However, by agreeing, in principle to limit the proposed rise to less than 2% next year, the increase in the Town Council Tax Bill at Valuation Band A has been limited to less than £3 per year or 5p per week.

This increase will ensure that all of the important services provided by the Town Council to the community of Great Aycliffe can be protected and maintained for at least another year.

Councillor Bob Fleming

Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee and Leader of the Council

MAYOR'S CHARITY CABARET NIGHT

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe will be holding a Cabaret Night at the Royal British Legion Club on Thursday, 16th April 2015 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The event will be in aid of her nominated charities:- Cruse Bereavement Care and County Durham School Benevolent Fund.

Tickets are £5 each and will be on sale from the Council Offices and the Royal British Legion. The evening will host two cabaret artistes, pie and peas and a bingo session. A fund raising raffle will also take place in aid of the charities.

Tickets are limited and will be on sale on a first come first served basis.



EASTER HALF TERM EVENTS

Great Aycliffe Town Council will again be offering a range of free public family events to keep families entertained over the school holidays.

RUBBER DUCK RACE

The annual Woodham Burn rubber duck race will be taking place this Easter. This fun family event takes place along a stretch of Woodburn starting from the bridge at Humphrey Close and is suitable for children of all ages. Parental supervision is essential. The event is subject to suitable water levels and so it is suggested that you contact Great Aycliffe Town Council or keep updated on Aycliffe Moore Lane Eco Centre page on Facebook prior to the event. **The event is scheduled to take place on Friday, 10th April commencing at 10am;** anyone wishing to take place should meet at the footbridge which crosses the Burn near Humphrey Close.



POND DIPPING

Pond Dipping has long been one of the most popular events in Aycliffe. This activity will take place at Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve. The ponds here are a little hidden gem that team with life. During our last visit there was an abundance of dragonfly nymph's but the star prize went to a huge water scorpion. **Come along on Sunday 12th April at 10am – 11.30am to see what we can find this time.**



SENIOR CITIZENS' EXCURSIONS

The Senior Citizens' Excursions are one of the most popular events organised by Great Aycliffe Town Council. Each year, we organise a series of free excursions for the senior citizens (men or women aged 60 years or over) who live in our Parish. This year the Excursions will start on Monday 1st June and finish on Friday 3rd July.

The application forms and information booklets will be available from Tuesday 21st April until Wednesday 6th May from the Council Offices, Oakleaf Sports Complex, Recreation Centre (Beveridge Way) and the Library in the Town centre.

This year, residents have the choice of visiting the Lake District (Keswick), Northumberland (Hexham), Scottish Borders (Berwick), Scarborough, Blackpool or South Shields for the day with a three course meal and tea or coffee provided in a good quality venue, most with disabled facilities.

Some of the excursions have comfort breaks where tea or coffee with biscuits is provided by the Council.

The coaches provided are 49-53 seater executive coaches with toilet facilities. There is also a 53 seater executive coach with a wheelchair hoist to each destination. This ensures that even people with severe mobility problems can enjoy a day out. The hoist can be used to assist passengers who need to travel in their wheelchair, but may be used by anyone without mobility difficulties.

Each person who qualifies is entitled to one 'trip'. To qualify you must be aged 60 or over and must have lived in the electoral parish by 1st April 2015.

In 2014, we received 1337 applications so please make sure you apply in time to get the excursion date you would like. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 6th May 2015.



PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES
'WHERE LEARNING IS FUN
FOR EVERYONE'

Providing high quality care and education where every child feels safe, is happy and has fun in a safe and secure learning environment.

We provide full and part time places for children from their 3rd birthday and Nursery Educational Funded places are available the term after a child's 3rd birthday.

Until funding is available the cost is only £3.50 for a 3 hour session.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is used to plan and provide a range of play activities which help children to make progress in each of the areas of learning and development.

All children have access to the indoor and outdoor facilities throughout the day.

For further information please contact Jackie Swainston on 01325 319880
 or visit our web site at www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/pre-schools



Neighbourhood Plan Update

The County Durham Plan (CDP) Planning Inspector Harold Stephens has said the Durham County Council's 20-year economic blueprint, the County Durham Plan (CDP), contains proposals which are unrealistic, flawed, not justified, deliverable or environmentally acceptable and unsound. However, after reading the full report it is clear that the comments are made predominantly regarding the Durham City area and the housing allocation as well as the Drum Industrial estate and the employment allocations.



What implication will this have on the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan?

Although this means the CDP is currently suspended work will continue on the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan (GANP). It has meant that we have taken a step back and reviewed our progress so far to ensure that the work we have done, and will continue to do, is 'sound', 'realistic', 'achievable and deliverable' as well as 'environmentally acceptable'. This review may lead to a few minor changes for the GANP but we are not anticipating any major implications.

The first round of consultation has been complete and feedback is taking place. The Environment Thematic Group has been set up and will review the general comments made to ensure there are no gaps, nothing has been missed and will investigate options to achieve deliverable planning policies. A Housing Thematic Group will be set up in approximately six weeks, which will complete the same processes.



Officers are currently trying to engage a company to undertake a soft retail assessment to clarify the difference between what residents have said they want during the consultation process and if there is an actual retail need from a business perspective. Unfortunately, to date, there has been no interest from the companies which have been contacted so far. We will continue to keep you up to date with progress though our newsletter, the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page, Newton News, Aycliffe Today and public meetings.

Once again the Neighbourhood Plan Team would like to thank everyone who has contributed so far to this vitally important piece of work and we ask that anyone who has any comments to make to contact Angela Corner 01325 300700 or angela.corner@great-aycliffe.gov.uk or leave a post on our Facebook page.

MEMBERSHIP OF AYCLIFFE YOUTH COUNCIL 2014-2015

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:-

- 1407 (NA) Squadron ATS • ACLE Scouts • WECAN Parents group
- The Woodham Gold & Country Club Junior section

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.



Josh Blackburn



Niamh Broad



Lewis Brown



Thomas Burn



Amy Clements



Meghan Cumming



Billy Hardy



Alex Howarth



Charlotte Kirton



Francesca Moody



Britney Orme



Katie Osbiston



Thomas Roberts



Blake Reed



Oak Leaf
Sports Complex
01325 300600
www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

BAR

OPENING HOURS - BAR
Monday to Saturday
11.30am to 11.00pm
Sunday 12noon to 10.30pm

Bar Meals Served
Monday to Friday 12noon to 2.30pm
& 5.00pm to 9.00pm
Saturday 12noon to 9.00pm
Sunday 12noon to 6.30pm
Extensive Menu from snacks
to full meals & also a varied
selection on our specials board.

We also offer a Take Away Buffet
service, take the hassle out of your
special occasion!

Quiz Night every Tuesday,
starting at 9.00 pm
Cash Prizes, Spot Prizes & Drinks
Tokens to be won
Only 50p per person!

Large screen TV's
with Sky Sports & ESPN

Private Function Room with
panoramic views, can cater
for up to 60 people,
ideal for Parties, Weddings
or Conferences

FITNESS CLASSES

Body Fit

for the over 50's

Wednesday

5pm - 6pm

£2.00 per session

£2.50 non members

Improve your movement,
flexibility, balance and
endurance.

Meet new friends.

Suitable for all ages.

Oaklife

Over 50's Club

Tuesday 2pm - 3pm

Thursday

9.30am - 11.30am

£3.00 per session

£3.50 non members

includes a hot drink

Activities include Bowls, Table
Tennis, Archery, Badminton
and much more.



6 WEEK COURSE
for only £30
or £6.50 per class

Nia is a holistic fitness for body and
mind, blending the joyfulness of
dance with energy yoga and martial
arts. Fun, low-impact, easy to follow
cardio workout, to inspiring music
from around the world.

No experience required.

Suitable for any shape,
age or fitness level.

Tuesdays
5.30pm - 6.30pm

For further information please contact
Instructor, Anne Cosgrove on 07762 148 661

Pilates Sunday 6pm - 7pm Booking essential £4.50 per class

Regardless of age, ability or fitness level, pilates can help everyone move and feel better,
creating a sense of well being.

JUNIOR WEEKLY DROP IN SESSIONS

SQUASH COACHING

Tuesday from 4.15pm - 5pm

Ages 5 to 7 years

£2.00 members £2.50 non members

Tuesday from 5pm - 6.10pm

Ages 8 to 15 years

£2.00 members £2.50 non members

PASS - SATURDAY CLUB

9.30am - 11.00am

Ages 8 to 15 years

£2.00 members £2.50 non members

Try golf, basketball, badminton, archery, squash,
table tennis and much more

Indoor 5-a-side Football

Our 5-a-side court is available to book on the hour for 55
minutes, 7 days a week. Prices start for £20.00
per junior court & £35.00 per adult court,
contact Reception now to book your court, a ball
& bibs can also be hired.



Badminton

We have 6 badminton courts available to book on the
hour for 55 minutes, at various times during the week
and also weekend courts. Prices start for £3.50 per
junior court & £6.00 per adult court, contact Reception
now to book your court, we also hire all equipment needed.



Indoor Bowls Hall

Our bowls hall has 4 rinks, which are available to
book from 9.00am - 10.30pm, 7 days a week Prices
start for £1.85 per junior rink & £2.60 per adult
rink, contact Reception now to book your rink, all
equipment can be hired.



Oak Leaf Golf Complex, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6QZ



2015/16 Season Tickets Unlimited Golf until 31 March 2016

18 hole course with floodlit driving range, buggy hire, shop and changing facilities.

Bar and catering available at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.

Coaching from our PGA Professional and Golf Manager, Julie Welch

SEASON TICKETS

Adult 7 day	£330
Adult 5 day	£285
Seniors (over 60) 7 day	£285
Seniors (over 60) 5 day	£235

VISITING PARTY PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Driving Range £2 Small - £4 Large

Green Fees Frozen

Mon - Fri £13 • Weekends £16

JUNIOR SEASON TICKETS

18 - 21 (in full time education)	£180
14 - 18	£75
10 - 14	£55
Under 10	£35

SPECIAL OFFER

Free Junior Membership with Every Adult or Senior Membership

where member has a child or grandchild under 16

Tel: 01325 310 820 or see www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk for further details