



Big enough to matter  
Small enough to care

# Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER



Telephone: 01325 300700 • Email: [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk) • Website: [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

## WHAT YOU GET FROM YOUR TOWN COUNCIL....

Management of Great Aycliffe Way, Woodham Burn, Woodlands and Nature areas.

Oakleaf Sports Complex – indoor bowls, sports hall, squash courts, bar and catering, children's holidays courses.

Oakleaf Golf Complex consisting of an 18-hole golf course and 18-bay floodlit driving range.

Stephenson Way Cemetery and West Cemetery.

Aycliffe Angels Memorial Garden – provision and maintenance.

1 pre-school learning centre – with 'good' Ofsted rating.

5 allotment sites with 9 pigeon and 5 poultry facilities.

11 parks and play areas at various locations.

6 football pitches, mini-soccer and six-a-side pitches.

Bus shelters with litter bins in various locations.

A lorry park at School Aycliffe.

Grounds maintenance and environmental management.

Planning consultation.

Liaison with principal authorities and other partner organisations.

Park Patrol and Town Pride Teams.

Moore Lane Eco Centre.

Aycliffe Youth Council.

Community Consultations.

Community Enhancement Awards.

### Special Events:

Aycliffe Festival

Senior Citizens' Excursions – approximately 1600 participants

Fun-in-the-Parks

Christmas lighting

Santa Tours – several routes, with volunteer Santas

Children's Santa letters forwarded to the North Pole

Fireworks Display

### Mayoral Events:

Civic Service, Civic Dinner, 'At Home', Golf Tournament & Carol Service



Aycliffe Youth Council



Grounds Maintenance



Brass Aycliffe Festival



Stephenson Way Cemetery



Moore Lane Park



Town Centre Park



West Park



Fun In The Park



Santa Letters



Santa Tours



Community Enhancement Awards



Horndale Park



Allotment Sites



Queen's Birthday Celebrations



Armed Forces Day



Firework Display



Community Consultations



Simpasure



Woodham Park



Aycliffe Village Park



Oakleaf Driving Range



Oakleaf Golf



West Cemetery



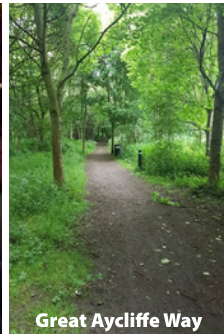
St Oswalds Park



ECO Centre Events



ECO Centre Events



Great Aycliffe Way



Countryside Volunteers



Christmas Lights



STEM Events



Queen's Birthday Celebrations in the Town Park



# TOWN COUNCIL 4 YEARS OF KEY INVESTMENTS:

## INVESTMENTS UNDERTAKEN

- Secured the future of the A167 highway lights
- Development of the Neighbourhood Plan
- New multi-use games area at Horndale Park
- New multi-use games area at Moore Lane Park
- Oakleaf Sports Complex multi unit play equipment
- Improvements at West Park
  - Including new play equipment
  - Footpaths
  - Seating
- New Scoot Track at Horndale Park
- Play Equipment - Horndale
- Oakleaf Sports Complex disabled access ramps
- Humphrey Close bridge replacement



## MAJOR REPAIR WORKS UNDERTAKEN -

- Golf Irrigation System – valves and sprinkler replacement
- Oakleaf Sports Complex roof
- Replacement boilers at Oakleaf Golf Complex and Moore Lane ECO Centre
- Footpath repairs
- Oakleaf Sports Complex drainage works
- Safety surface repairs
- St. Oswald's Pavilion roof replacement



## VEHICLE AND PLANT REPLACEMENTS -

- Wildflower meadow machinery
- Ride on mower
- Park Patrol vehicles



## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Extensive consultation and community engagement with the Youth Council, Customer Panel and attending community events across the town ensures that the Town Council provides the services that the residents want and we prioritise our spending, and savings, to reflect your priorities.

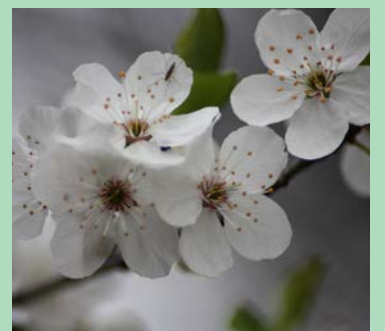
## Moore Lane Eco Centre FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Great Aycliffe Town Council will be building on past activities and organising a series of free public events for local residents to promote and encourage the positive use of our local environment in the coming year.

The focal point for these activities will be Moore Lane Eco Centre. Events such as arts activities, talks and practical sessions will take place at this venue with various other locations managed by the Town Council being utilised for nature based learning and fun throughout the year.

The type of activities will include sessions such as pond dipping, nature walks, bird box making and various nature based arts events.

Keep up to date with what is on offer as it is released by either watching for articles in the local press or signing up to the dedicated Facebook page searching for AycliffeMooreLaneEcoCentre.





## “Town Council to limit the Council Tax increase to 1.99% next year, despite facing funding cuts and unavoidable increases in costs”

The Town Council has agreed its Revenue and Capital Budget and set the Precept and Council Tax increase for the 2017/18 financial year.

Whilst in the short term, the Council's finances remain in a healthy position, with savings continuing to be achieved and healthy levels of balances and reserves, the Council is facing an increasingly challenging future, and must ensure that it plans ahead for the difficulties that lie ahead.

The Council is facing year on year cuts to the Council Tax Support Grant funding on which it is reliant, while it faces a number of significant spending pressures including pay awards and increases to the National Living Wage, pension contribution increases, and inflation on running costs.

In order to maintain the many important services provided by the Town Council, and absorb the cuts to funding and increases in costs faced over the longer term, the Council needs to consider making a small increase in the Town Council Tax next year.

This decision has not been taken lightly, particularly in light of the on-going ‘cost of living’ difficulties we know are being faced by local residents, and following on from the four year freeze in council tax that the Town Council was proud to deliver between 2010 and 2013.

However, by agreeing, in principle, to limit the proposed rise to 1.99% next year, the increase in the Town Council Tax Bill at Valuation Band A would be 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, whilst maintaining some contingency funds to help the Council to offset some of the budget pressures faced in the longer term.

Should you wish to read further information on the Council's finances and the 2017/18 budget setting process you can view detailed information on the Finance Section of Council website via the following link [http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/info/council-and-democracy/finance/Financial Achievements from the past 4 years](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/info/council-and-democracy/finance/Financial%20Achievements%20from%20the%20past%204%20years)

1. The Council has achieved a clean bill of health from the external auditors every year on both its accounts and its arrangements for securing value for money.
2. The Council has not made any cuts to front line services despite losing more than £160,000 in grant funding over the 4 years and dealing with a number of unavoidable increases in costs.

## Senior Citizens' Excursions

Each year, the Council organises a series of free excursions for the senior citizens who live in our Parish. It is one of the most popular events organised by the Council.



Application forms will be available from the Library in Central Avenue, Recreation Centre in Beveridge Way, Oakleaf Sports Complex or Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane from 9 am on Thursday 20th

April. The forms will also be available from the Council's website [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk).

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 3rd May 2017.

To be eligible, you do not have to be drawing your pension or have a bus pass, but you do have to be a resident of the electoral parish and 60 years old with a date of birth on or before 31st March 1957 (applies to both men and women). If you are in any doubt, please telephone 01325 300700 and we will check your eligibility.



This year, residents will be able to choose from Northumberland, Scarborough, Edinburgh, Blackpool, Lake District, South Shields or Barnard Castle with a guided tour of Bowes Museum. Please note that places are limited and given out on a ‘first come, first served’ basis.

Our ‘trippers’ have the choice of venue for the day with a three course meal and tea or coffee (afternoon tea at Bowes Museum) provided in a good quality establishment

usually with disabled facilities. Most of the excursions also call in for a comfort stop with refreshments provided on the way to or from the main destination.

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 for loading wheelchairs for those residents who need to travel in their wheelchair, or for use by people who cannot manage the steps on the coach. 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 31st March in the year of travel.



## MAYOR'S CHARITY CIVIC DINNER

The Annual Mayor's Charity Civic Ball was hosted by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Jed Hillary, on Saturday, 25th February 2017 at the Hallgarth Golf and Country Club. Music for dancing was provided by John Melvin and Cabaret Artiste ‘Mikki Lawton’ who entertained the guests.

Fund raising at the event was in aid of the Mayor's nominated Charity during his Year in Office and this year the Mayor had chosen the Rifles Care for Casualties

A special thanks must go to Barclays Bank who match funded the evening's fund raising of £1,620 making the total amount raised to £2,620.

Mrs. Nora Scott, President of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe, gave a response to the Mayor on behalf of the guests. Councillor Jed Hillary would like to take this opportunity to thank Ebac Ltd., Husqvarna



Group, Tesco and Crafters Companion for their generosity in supplying prizes to be raffled on the evening. Thanks also went to family, friends and fellow Councillors for their support during the year.



### AYCLIFFE FESTIVAL 2017

The Festival Working Group is currently considering event applications for your entertainment and involvement for 2017.

The Festival dates are Friday 14th July to Sunday 30th July inclusive.

The concept of the Festival is to involve local groups, businesses and voluntary organisations, encouraging them to organise an ‘event’ within the time-frame of the Festival.

There will be a ‘Party in the Park’ which is a FREE evening show with bands from the Durham Brass Festival in attendance on Friday July 14th in the Town Park.

Another immensely successful event in 2015 and 2016 was the Music Night at the Working Men's Club and this too will run again this year. We are looking to continue the



success of the Festival which is now in its third year 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 as simple as a Whist Drive or a darts and dominoes Tournament that would appeal to the people you know.

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](mailto:festival@great-aycliffe.gov.uk).

The closing date for applications is 31st March 2017.





Sports Complex

School Aycliffe Lane  
Newton Aycliffe DL5 6QZ

**01325 300600**

[www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)



## MONDAY

**RACKETS & BATS**  
Over 50's  
2pm until 3pm  
Members £2.00 Non-Members £2.50  
Tea and coffee included

**5 - A - SIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
7pm until 9pm

7.30pm until 10pm  
**Bridge Club**

## THURSDAY

**OAKLIFE OVER 50'S CLUB**  
10am until 12noon  
Members £3 Non Members £3.50  
All Welcome  
No need to book  
Come and join in the fun every week

**FITNESS RESOLUTION**  
low impact circuit training  
6pm until 7pm  
Members £2  
Non Members £1.50  
Suitable for all (over 16's only)

**Aycliffe Squash Club**  
**OPEN SESSIONS**  
6.15pm until 7.45pm  
Only £2 per person  
All standards welcome - over 16's only  
Contact John Snowball 01325 311407

**ARCHERY**  
7.30pm until 8.30pm  
**DROP IN ADULT ARCHERY**  
Must have completed coaching course at Oakleaf Sports Complex first  
Members £3 Non Members £4  
Adult Archery Coaching Course  
4 week duration - £25

## FRIDAY

**BOWLS**  
6.30pm until 8.30pm  
8.30pm until 10.30pm  
Members £3.10 Non Members £3.85  
We have all the equipment you need  
Hire Charge  
Member £2.00 (per person)  
Non Member £3.00 (per person)  
with £1.00 refunded

## OAKLEAF SPORTS BAR

Live sports shown daily

**Function Room Available**  
**FREE Room Hire**  
when purchasing food, see reception for more details

## SATURDAY

**P.A.S.S**  
9am until 11am  
Members £2 Non Members £2.50  
For all aged between  
8 - 15 years

**Children's Archery**  
11.30am until 12.30pm  
Members £2.40  
Non Members £2.90

**FAMILY BADMINTON SESSIONS**  
11am until 5pm  
Bookings taken on the day subject to availability  
Only £5 per family, per hour  
Equipment hire included - max. of 6 per court  
**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Book a court, receive a child's meal free

**5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL**  
12noon until 4pm  
**Special Offer**  
Every Saturday and Sunday  
ALL 5-A-SIDE BOOKINGS  
only £20 per hour

## SUNDAY

**PILATES**  
6pm until 7pm  
£4.50 per class  
Taught by fully qualified instructor Ione Hannman

**SUNDAY LUNCH**  
SERVED HERE

**Traditional Sunday Lunch**  
Adults portion £6.10  
Childrens portion £3.10  
and  
Hot Meat Sandwiches  
£2.50

## TUESDAY

**JUNIOR SQUASH COACHING**  
with Bill West  
4pm until 6.10pm  
Members £2.00  
Non-Members £2.50  
5-15 YEARS

**QUIZ NIGHT**  
9pm  
Oakleaf Sports Bar  
General Knowledge, Music,  
TV, Film, Picture Round  
50p per person  
Prizes to be won

## WEDNESDAY

**BADMINTON**  
8pm until 9pm  
Hire Equipment  
Member £2  
Non-Member £3  
with £1 refund (per person)  
Member £6  
Non-Member £7.50  
(per court)

### Available Everyday from the Bar

Jacket Potatoes, Toasties & Paninis  
Prices start at £2.50

### Oakleaf Sports Bar

**SPECIALS BOARD**  
includes 2 for £10.00

Traditional Bar Meals - New Dishes Each Week



St Oswald's Pre-school is set in the beautiful grounds of St Oswald's Park in Wren Close, Newton Aycliffe.

We have excellent resources with a secure outdoor learning and play area for all children to attend from their 3rd birthday.

Here, at St Oswald's we believe that all children are entitled to a quality early years provision that will assist them to achieve their individual potential. That is why the service provided here is of high quality, where each child feels safe, is happy and has fun which helps enormously with their development. The Early Years Foundation Stage is provided in a stimulating environment to ensure that the children make steady progress in all areas of their learning.

We are registered with OFSTED and have achieved excellent results. We offer affordable fees and can even offer flexible hours to meet your individual needs (depending on capacity).

The first 15 hours of educational funding from the government is available to all children from the term after their 3rd birthday which means that the first 15 hours of childcare is totally free. Each additional hour (after the first 15) is £4.50.

If your child is not yet eligible for government funding, the cost is £4.00 for a three hour session with additional hours at £4.50 each.

A full day, (8.45 am to 3.30 pm) is £16.90 with funding or £20.90 if your child is not eligible for funding.

Come along and see for yourself what we can offer you and your child.



For more information please call into the Pre-school to see Julie Gale or telephone 07968 379 009 (01325 319 880).

Alternatively application forms for places are available from our website:  
[www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk).

