



Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER



16th March 2018

Telephone: 01325 300700 • Email: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

COMING SOON!!! COBBLERS HALL PLAY AREA

Great Aycliffe Town Council are proud to announce the development of a new play area will soon commence adjacent to Eade Close and opposite Cobblers Hall shopping area.

Following extensive public consultation Kompan have been selected as the preferred play provider to deliver this investment which includes an extensive play area and Multi User Games Area.

They have a proven track record of producing innovative and exciting new play area in the town and it is hoped that once completed, the play area will prove a massive hit with the children and families of the area when it is due to open in the early Summer.



Cobblers Hall Playspace

Aycliffe Festival

The Festival is not one event, it is lots of events held throughout the Town and Aycliffe Village organised by organisations, residents' associations, and community centres who organise an event or events in their own area for everyone to enjoy.

Why not do something really great for your community?

Organise an event for people in your neighbourhood, something for toddlers, juniors, teenagers, families and older people. The reward of seeing people enjoying something that you have helped to create is really fulfilling and not that difficult.

It needn't be a large event, just something that you think people will enjoy even if it's just a games day or a darts competition.

The date for 2018 is 13th – 29th July inclusive,

encompassing three weekends.

We have meetings to help anyone who might be interested in organising an event, or who would like more information about the Festival. The meetings are usually held at 6pm at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre, all are welcome. Please watch this page for dates of next meetings.

It's relatively early yet, but we already have 5 others in the pipeline. See our "What's on this Year page" for more information www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/events/aycliffe-festival/ From the website you can download an application form or even view our document on how to organise an event.

We are always ready to hear from you if you are thinking about organising an event for the Festival and we hold meetings especially for current, new and potential organisers to come along and discuss their plans, and find out what the benefits are of organising an event for your community.

Events organised by the local community during the past three years have provided a wide variety of experiences for children and adults and delivered a range of activities throughout the Parish.

An initiative of Great Aycliffe
Town Council,
School Aycliffe Lane,
Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QF.
01325 300700
www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Proud to be part of
Aycliffe Festival



"The Town Council agrees it's 2018/19 Precept, with the Band A Town Council Tax set to increase by £7 next year"

The Town Council has met to agree its Revenue and Capital Budget and set the Precept and Council Tax increase for the forthcoming 2018/19 financial year.

Whilst in the short term, the Council's finances remain in a healthy position, with a balanced Revenue Budget, continued delivery of savings in the current financial year, capital receipts from land sales, and healthy levels of balances and reserves, the Council is facing an increasingly challenging future, and must ensure that it prudently plans ahead for the difficulties that it will face in the coming years.

The Council is suffering year on year cuts to the Council Tax Support Grant on which it is reliant to a total of nearly £200,000 per year. This funding is due to be cut by a further 10% next year.

The Council is also facing significant increases in its staffing costs linked to rises in the National Living Wage. The latest local government pay offer would implement a minimum local government pay rate of £8.50 per hour, with annual increases of between 4% and 9% for lower paid staff, and 2% for all other staff. The Council employs a high proportion of staff in the lower pay grades, and this pay award will amount to a year on year increase in the Council's staffing costs of nearly 5% in 2018/19.

In addition, the high level of inflation is putting unavoidable pressure on the running costs of many services.

The Council is also making new investment next year in opening a new pre-school setting to meet the demand for places for two year old children in Great Aycliffe, and developing a new park with play equipment and games area in the Cobblers Hall area of the town.

In order offset these additional costs and maintain the many services already provided by the Town Council, as well as ensure that sufficient contingency resources are maintained to help deal with some of the longer term budget pressures faced, the Council has agreed to increase 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 earlier in the decade.

The agreed increase will add £7.38 per year to the Town Council Tax Bill at Valuation Band A which equates to 14p week.

The Council hopes local tax payers will agree that this is a modest price to pay in order to ensure that all of the important services provided by the Town Council to the community of Great Aycliffe can be protected for at least another year, whilst ensuring that a sufficient level of contingency is maintained to help steer the Council through the difficult times that lie ahead.

Should you require further information on the Council's finances and the 2018/19 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/>

Councillor Bob Fleming

Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee and Leader of the Council



Senior Citizens' Excursions

Our Senior Citizens' Excursions are free of charge. We provide you with a choice of venue for the day, a three course meal and tea or coffee in a good quality establishment usually with disabled facilities. On most of the excursions we also have a comfort stop on the outward and/or return journeys. We usually provide tea or coffee with a biscuit on either the outward or homeward journey. Please see the itinerary (when published in April) regarding the stops en route.



Our visits in 2018 will be to Skipton, South Shields, Melrose in the Scottish Borders, Keswick, Blackpool and Northumberland.

To be eligible, you do not have to be receiving your pension or have a bus pass. However, you do have to be a resident of the electoral parish and 60 years old (applies to both men and women) by 1st April in the year of travel and your date of birth must be on or before 31st March 1958.



The application forms and full itinerary with information on each destination with menus etc. will be available from Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, the Library, Council Offices, Oakleaf Sports and Golf Complexes and this website on Tuesday 17th April at 10 am.

Applications will be accepted in person at our offices only during the following times:

From Tues 17th April to Mon 23rd April between 10.00 am – 12.45 pm & 1.45 pm – 3.30 pm

also From Tues 24th April to Fri 27th April between 10.00 am – 12.30 pm



There's no need to wait! The first few days tend to be rather busy but if you leave your application form at reception we guarantee that it will be processed on that day.

However, we can also accept your application form (together with proof of residency and age) by post or e-mail to info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk and it will be processed on the day we receive it.

If you are in any doubt about your eligibility, please telephone 01325 300700 and we will check to see if you are eligible.

All coaches provided are 49-53 seater executive coaches with toilet facilities. A coach (to each destination) has a wheelchair hoist for passengers who cannot manage the high steps on the coach. This ensures that even people with severe mobility problems or people who need to travel in their wheelchair can enjoy a day out.

The Excursions are extremely popular and it is inevitable that we may not be able to accommodate everyone on their preferred destination or date. If we cannot provide the date or venue of your choice we will endeavour to provide an acceptable alternative for you.

MAYOR'S CHARITY CIVIC DINNER

Despite the wintery conditions, many members of the public joined the Civic dignitaries for an evening of food and fundraising on Friday 2nd March at the Hallgarth Hotel and Golf Club Darlington, for the Mayors' Civic Dinner 2018.

The event was hosted by the Mayor, Councillor Wendy Hillary and was in support of her nominated charity for her year in office, the MRI Scanner appeal for Darlington and Bishop Auckland Hospitals.

The Chair for the County Durham and Darlington NHS Trust, Professor Paul Keane OBE spoke to the audience outlining the need for fundraising for this great cause and the success that has been achieved so far and their plans for the future.

Tony Robinson, President of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe, gave a response to the



Left to right: Pat Chambers, Charity Development Manager, MRI Scanner Appeal, Councillor Jed Hillary (Mayor's Consort), Councillor Wendy Hillary (Mayor of Great Aycliffe), Professor Paul Keane OBE, Chair of the County Durham and Darlington NHS Trust

Mayor on behalf of the guests and John Melvin provided the music for the evening.

The Mayor would like to thank friends, family and Councillors for their support throughout the year and also the following local businesses who kindly donated prizes for the raffle and tombola which helped us to raise £727 on the night for this worthwhile cause:

Husqvarna UK Ltd
Hallgarth Hotel and Golf Club
Finley Leisure
Alan Reed Ltd
Neil Thompson,
Thorn Lighting Ltd
Hedley Tyres
Tesco
Fitness Fuzion
Mobile Rocket





ST. OSWALD'S PRE-SCHOOL

Now brings you 'Tots in the Park'

St. Oswald's Pre-School is set in the wonderful ground of St Oswald's park, we are open from 8:45am to 3:30pm each weekday, term time only and can accommodate 40 children per session. All children are eligible to receive 15 hours free childcare the term after their third birthday. We also offer 30 hours free childcare to parents who are in receipt of this. All information relating to the 30 hours free childcare can be found on the County Durham families information website. We offer three hour sessions which are charged at £4 should you wish for your child to start pre-school before their funding begins.

Our two's provision is now open and we can provide 12 spaces per session and offer 15 free hours to parents who are eligible for funding. Our hourly rate is charged at £4.50, with session times being 8:45am to 11:45am or 12:30pm to 3:30pm, full day sessions are also available.

At pre-school we carry out baking and cooking activities every week, we also have trips to the local shops where the children are given the opportunity to purchase items needed for these activities and to also choose their own snack.

Over in our pre-school we have extended our home lending library and added more fun and educational resources for children to share with their parents.

The children have recently enjoyed creating their very own hairdressers in the pre-school which led to endless amounts of fun and extended learning. They have also been creating lots of mud pies and recipes in our wonderful mud kitchen.

Over in our two's building the children have been creating wonderful masterpieces using their hands and feet and we have had lots of fun messy play.

Our recent parents survey showed that the parents are very happy with the service and standard of care we provide. They value the pre-school and like the changes made last year. The new private Facebook page is a great addition for parents/grand-parents and carers to see what the children have been doing during the day.

We still have places available please contact Julie Gale (Pre-School Manager) on 07968 379009 to arrange a viewing of our wonderful pre-school.



Moore Lane Eco Centre COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS IN AYCLIFFE

Here are a few public events to keep the family entertained through the school holidays from Great Aycliffe Town Council.

POND DIPPING

Tuesday 10th April, 1pm - 3pm

Come along to Aycliffe Nature Park and discover the wonderful creatures that make this pond their home.



NATURE DETECTIVES

Thursday 12th April, 10am - 12 noon

Join the Wildlife Trust to discover the tell-tale signs left by creatures who make the woodlands around Moore Lane their home.

Places at these free events are limited, so booking is essential by calling Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

This year will see the Skate Park in the Town Park being refurbished with new ramps.

Public consultation events will take place through the Easter Holidays.

Further information will be posted on the Council Website, the Council Facebook page and in the local press.



Mini Activity

Tuesday 3rd April
9.30am until 11am
4 to 7 Years
£2.40 Members
£2.90 Non Members

Mini Activity

Monday 9th April
9.30am until 11am
4 to 7 Years
£2.40 Members
£2.90 Non Members

Wednesday 4th April

8 to 15 Years
Fencing
9.30am until 11am
£3.20 Members
£3.70 Non Members
Sporting Fun
11.30am until 12.30pm
£2.40 Members
£2.90 Non Members

Mini Arrows

Wednesday 11th April
4 to 7 years
11.30am until 12.30pm
£2.40 Members
£2.90 Non Members

Archery

Wednesday 11th April
8 to 15 years
9.30am until 11am
£3.20 Members
£3.70 Non Members

Friday 13th April

8 to 15 Years
Fencing
9.30am until 11am
£3.20 Members
£3.70 Non Members
Dodgeball
11.30am until 12.30pm
£2.40 Members
£2.90 Non Members

Table Tennis

Tuesday 10th April
10am until 11am
8 to 15 years
£1.00 Members
£1.50 Non Members

Archery

Friday 6th April
9.30am until 11am
8 to 15 Years
£3.20 Members
£3.70 Non Members

Booking Essential

Contact Reception on 01325 300600 for more information

OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX

FREE

JUNIOR GOLF COACHING

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN MARCH

5PM-6PM (5-14YRS)

INCLUDES FREE MEMBERSHIP
AT OAKLEAF GOLF COURSE
FOR 2018



with
PGA PROFESSIONAL
Steven McDonnell

Limited spaces -
Sign up at reception

Contact:
Steven McDonnell
PGA Professional
07540730022
stevenmcpga@outlook.com



OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX

presents



KIDS EASTER GOLF CAMP

WEDNESDAY 4TH AND FRIDAY 6TH APRIL
9.30AM-12PM (AGES 5-14YRS)

with
PGA PROFESSIONAL
Steven McDonnell

PGA
JUNIOR GOLF CAMPS

£6 per child per day —sign up at reception

To book call reception
Oakleaf Golf
Complex -
01325 310820



Oakleaf Golf Complex School Aycliffe Lane Newton Aycliffe DL5 6QZ

2018/19 MEMBERSHIPS

Unlimited Golf until 31 March 2019

Adult 7 day	£375
Adult 5 day	£330
Over 60 - 7 Day	£330
Over 60 - 5 Day	£280

*19 - 24	£125
Junior 15 -18	£50
Junior (U14)	Free

*In Full Time Education

Special Offer

Driving Range and Green Fees Frozen PLUS

Play between 1pm and 5pm Monday to Friday - special price of £10 per round (adult) and £7.50 per round (concessions)

Visiting Party Package Available	Driving Range	Green Fees
	£2 small	Mon - Fri £13
	£4 large	Weekends £16

18-hole course, floodlit driving range, buggy hire, changing facilities and shop.
Coaching available from PGA Professionals.
Bar and catering available at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

Tel: 01325 310820 or see www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk for further details