## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018

## Mayor's Christmas Message



Councillor John Clark Mayor of Great Aycliffe 2018-2019

As the festive season approaches I look back at the last 8 months with a sense of pride and achievement in serving you all as the Town's Mayor It has been a busy time full of great things to do, the Aycliffe Festival, Fun in The Parks and the Big Brass Bash to name some Although the weather did play a part, three highly enjoyable and successful events
It has been an honour to help residents celebrating special days and anniversaries as well as seeing the achievements of our young people in our schools and colleges. A special mention goes to the UTC who, on the occasion of a Royal visit, showed the great work they are doing on developing the engineers of the future.
The recent debate over the Santa Tours has also proved to me that you, the residents of Newton Aycliffe, do care about our town and are willing to do all you can to keep our traditions alive. Thank you all for your input to resolve the issues.
There have been low points and I think it right to pay respect to the late Syd Howarth. A true Newtonian. May his legacy live on. It was humbling to pay due respect to those who made the ultimate sacrifice on Remembrance Sunday in this the 'One Hundredth Anniversary Year' of the end of the Great War.
The fund for my charity, the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group, is growing steadily and I thank all those who have contributed.
Thanks must go to all the staff of Great Aycliffe Town Council who keep our town looking tidy and put in super work to ensure the smooth running of the events that you all enjoy, such as the fantastic firework display.
Finally may I pass on my warmest Christmas wishes and health and prosperity for 2019.

## FORTHCOMING MAYORAL EVENTS



## MAYOR'S CIVIC CAROL SERVICE

## SUNDAY, 9th DECEMBER 2018

Councillor John Clark will be holding his Civic Carol Service in St. Clare's Church on the 9th December commencing at 4.30 p.m.
The Mayor would like to invite you to join him on this Festive occasion. Refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the Service in the Church Hall.

## MAYOR'S CHARITY CIVIC DINNER FRIDAY, 15th FEBRUARY 2019

Arrangements have now been made for the annual Charity Civic Dinner to be held at the Hallgarth Golf and Country Club at 7.00 p.m.

Entertainment and dancing will follow the dinner and the event will conclude at Midnight.


Tickets are on sale from the Council Offices and are priced at $£ 30.00$ each.
Proceeds from the event will be in aid of the Mayor's nominated Charity:- Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group.

THE GOUNGIL OFFIGES WIL BE GLOSED ON:
Tuestay, 25th \& Wednestay, 26th Decemher 2018 Tuestay, 1st January 2019

Councillors $\$$ Staff of Great Aycliffe Town Council would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Santa would like everyone to be aware that his routes and times are changing, please check the Newton News Christmas issue on Friday 21st December for updated times of his visits, Great Aycliffe Town Council/Oak Leaf websites (www.great-aycliffe. gov.uk) or Oak Leaf facebook page (www.facebook.com/ OakLeafSportsComplex) from mid-December.

Please remember, because Santa and his helpers don't know how many people will be out to see him, the times are only a guideline.


## LETTERS TO SANTA

Each year Santa's Elves put special post boxes in Newton Aycliffe so that all of the boys and girls from Newton Aycliffe can post their letters 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 replies to about 800 letters each year from the children of Aycliffe, so he is
 very busy and has asked that you remember to put your full name and address on your letter. We have been told that the post boxes will appear on Monday 3rd December at the following locations:

## © Post Office/Youngs

## Newsagent,

## Beveridge Way

## (2) Horndale Post Office

B Joy Marie Hairdressing

## Aycliffe Village Simpasture

The boxes will disappear on Monday 17th December, but e-mails and forms submitted from the Council's website will be answered right up to noon on 21st 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


Don't forget Aycliffe Youth Council have a small budget 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. We do ask that you come and tell us about your grant request at one of the meetings. The Youth Council will also need to see your most recent balance sheets. The Grant Guidelines are available on the Town Council website -http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/council-democracy/community-engagement/aycliffe-youth-council/

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.
If you would like to know more about the Youth Council, contact $01325 \mathbf{3 0 0 7 0 0}$

## 2019/20 Town Council Budget Consultation

The Town Council is in the process of developing its Revenue and Capital Budgets for the 2019/20 financial year.
Clearly the budget that we set is important to our local community, both in terms of how our spending plans may impact on the provision of services and investment in assets for the benefit of the town, and in terms of the level of Council Tax that we need to raise from local taxpayers in order to fund these plans.
For these reasons, it is important that the Council provides the opportunity for local taxpayers to comment and ask questions on the Council's services and spending plans, advise the Council of your priorities, and raise any concerns that you might have.
The Council is therefore undertaking consultation on the budget and has published a survey to formally record your views.
The survey can be accessed on the Council website or via the following link https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G8DHC2D.
Your views are very important to us and the results of the survey, including any specific comments made or concerns raised, will be reported to the Council when it meets to set the final 2019/20 Budget in January.
An overview of the Council's draft 2019/20 budget proposals is set out below for your information, and there is much more information, should you wish to read this, on the finance section of the Council's website.

## Summary of the Proposed 2019/20 Revenue and Capital Budget


#### Abstract

In overall terms, the Council is proposing a 2019/20 Revenue Budget that protects and maintains all current services, facilities and events next year, whilst at the same time incorporating some surplus resources that will provide a 'contingency fund' and enable the replenishment of the Council's balances and reserves.

This will be important as the Council faces some significant financial challenges over the coming years, including the ongoing cuts to the Council Tax Support Grant funding on which it is reliant, inflationary pressures on staffing and running costs, and substantial capital investment commitments linked to the many assets that the Council owns and provides for the benefit of the community e.g. cemeteries allotments, parks, play equipment, footpaths and bus shelters. In order to offset the impact of the financial pressures faced at the present time and plan proactively for the longer term challenges faced, the Council is proposing that it raises the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax bill by 5\% next year. Whilst this may seem like a significant increase, the Town Council element of the Council Tax bill amounts to only 11 p in every $£ 1$ of council tax paid, and the actual impact of this proposed increase therefore equates to less than $£ 8$ per year for the vast majority of local taxpayers i.e. those living in Band A properties. The Council appreciates that any increase in the monthly outgoings of our local taxpayers will not be popular, and the decision to increase the Town Council Tax has not been taken lightly. However we hope you will agree that a monthly increase of 65 p 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 another year.


## Town Park Skate Park - Replacement

The replacement Skate Park located in the Town Park is nearing completion and will be complete soon. The new bespoke skate park, which is being built by Fearless Ramps will accommodate BMX, skate board and scooter riders on a circular route.


## Aycliffe Village Play Area

The junior play area
at Aycliffe Village is currently being replaced as part of Great Aycliffe Town Council's continuing commitment to provide accessible, affordable leisure facilities within the parish.
The new play area, which was the preferred option identified during a well-attended public consultation event, will be completed in late November and represents an additional $£ 46,000$ investment in quality play equipment following the $£ 150,000$ investment over the summer in the new Cobblers Hall play area.

## Memorial Benches

Two memorial benches were installed as the final part of Great Aycliffe Town Council's commitment to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the sacrifice men and women made during the Great War. One bench depicts images of the servicemen and women who served their country, whilst the second is a traditional 'Lest We Forget' poppy scene.
During 2018 the Council has also planted poppy meadows throughout the town in prominent locations including the Council Offices, St Clare's Church and Aycliffe Village Green, along with providing two 6 ft Tommy silhouette sculptures which stand in silent tribute to the fallen and have been located at St Clare's and Aycliffe Village for much of the year.


## Support for Community Events

Although the Summer Aycliffe Festival has now ceased, Great Aycliffe Town Council is keen to emphasise that it is not the end of Council support and input into our community's events. In fact, the Council is keen to have events on throughout the year, not just in the previous short period in the summer.
If you are interested in organising an event, big or small please e-mail events@great-aycliffe.gov.uk or telephone 01325300700.

## Allotment Award Winners

Great Aycliffe Town Council's annual allotment awards were won by the following:-

- Aycliffe Village Allotments Plot 8 - Mr. J. Hannan

Byerley Park Allotments Plot 4 - Mr. Wetheridge

Clarence Chare Allotments
Plot 17 - Mr. J. Dobson

\& Mr. A. Gaskarth
Finchale Road Allotments Plot 19 - Mr. R. Browning
St Oswald's Allotments - Plot 12 \& 13 - Mr. and Mrs. Addison
'Angela Fleming' Memorial Trophy is awarded for best plot at St. Oswald's Mr \& Mrs Addison
'Ken Woodhall' Memorial Trophy is awarded for Best Overall Allotment 2018 Plot 17 - Clarence Chare - Mr. J. Dobson \& Mr. A. Gaskarth
'Edward Hubery' Memorial Trophy is awarded for Best New or Most Improved Allotment 2018 - Plot 11 - Aycliffe Village Allotments - Mr. C. Fox

> St Oswald's Pre-School \& Tots in the Park


There are a number of places still available at both facilities.
All children are eligible to receive 15 hours free funding from the term after their third birthday, we also offer the 30
 hours to parents who are eligible.
Children can start at St Oswald's from two years old at our lovely Tots in the Park facility, an hourly rate of $£ 4: 50$ will apply with one session costing $£ 13.50$.

## Please phone Julie Gale

 (Pre-School Manager) on 07968379009 to arrange a visit

## FBDAY 7h Ditrimis

Gpm until 9pm


A fun night for all the family
sf per family
All agas welcome Prehooking required

## Christmas Eve \& New Year's Eve QUIZ NIGHTS

Tickets $£ 2.00$
See Bor Staff for Tickets
On Sale 1st Decermber 1st and 2nd place pizes Hot Meat Sandwich and Quiz inc. in ticket price (Hickets oire limited) Food will be served at 8.00 pm Quiz starts at $8: 30 \mathrm{pm}$
Come \& join the fun!



Tharaifional ChristmassPunch Sunday 25th November and Sunday 2nd December We will be serving Christmas Lunch in the Function Room between 12 noon and 2pm Two Course Menu for only £11.50 per adult \& $£ 7.50$ per child (main meal and dessert) Choose from:
Turkey with allthe trimmings, Roast Beef or Nut Roast \& Christ ${ }^{(1)}$ as Pudding, Cheesecake or Ice Cream. Bookings only
Payment Required on Booking Normal Sunday Lunch will still b served in the Bar on these days A warm friendly welcome guarahte
We have Christmas all wrapped up



## Christmas Garlands at Moore Lane

Great Aycliffe Town Council is offering this event from Moore Lane Eco Centre. Events are aimed at family groups with children of 8 years and over. Booking is essential as places are limited. While the event is free, a donation to the Mayors charity would be welcomed for attending the sessions.
Saturday 8th December 10am- 12 noon
Spend a few hours creating a natural Christmas Garland with your family during this free activity. Bring along your own decorations to personalise your own creation.
To book your place please contact the Town Council on 01325300700 or visit www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

