



Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER

December 2021

T: 01325 300700 • E: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • W: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk



Christmas Eve Santa Tours



Please check the Newton News Christmas edition on Friday 17th December for updated times of Christmas Eve Santa tour around Newton Aycliffe. Or visit Newton News, Great Aycliffe Town Council or Oak Leaf websites:

www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

www.newtonnews.co.uk

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.



Each year Santa's Elves put special post boxes in Newton Aycliffe so that all of the children 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 the North Pole. Santa replies to so many letters each year from the children of Aycliffe, and as he is very busy he 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 Wednesday 1st December at the following locations:

- Post Office/Youngs Newsagents Beveridge Way
- John's Your Very Own Mini Market, Neville Parade
- Horndale Post Office, Silverdale Place
- Sainsbury's Cobbler's Hall
- McColls at Simpasture
- Reds Fish Bar, St Elizabeth Close
- Aycliffe Village Hall, North Terrace

The boxes will disappear on Wednesday 15th December, but e-mails will be answered from today, right up to noon on 20th December. Santa has a special e-mail address santa.northpole@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.



Mayor's Christmas Message

As we approach the festive season, it is a time to reflect on the year as it is closing and look forward to the new one.

Over the past few months, the diary has become particularly busy. I was pleased to meet many of you at our Fun in the Parks event back in August. It was a lovely day with plenty of sunshine and hopefully you all made some happy family memories.

I have been proud to be a small part of many of our residents' achievements this year, including the young people of our town getting involved with community projects, an Aycliffe Angel celebrating her 100th birthday and another 100-year-old veteran who walked 100 miles for charity. They are all truly inspiring people.

We have again recognised and remembered the sacrifices made by our armed services in Acts of Remembrance in the town and Aycliffe Village, on both Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. These were all very well attended. My chosen charity this year is Children's Blessing's, a project which is part of Lifeline Community Action based within St.

Clare's Church in Newton Aycliffe, and which delivers support to the poorest and most disadvantaged parents, babies, and children in Newton Aycliffe and across County Durham.

I would like to express my thanks to the staff of Great Aycliffe Town Council who work so hard to deliver services and maintain the appearance of our town. The success of our town events, including the fun in the parks, fireworks display and Santa tours, all depend on their knowledge, experience, and hard work. There have been so many challenges and changes that we have all had to adapt to over the past couple of years and I am conscious that this festive time may be difficult for many residents.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to send all of you my best wishes and hope that 2022 will be a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.



2022/23 Town Council Budget Setting Consultation

The Town Council is in the process of developing its Revenue and Capital Budget for the 2022/23 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.

In overall terms, the Council is proposing a 2022/23 Budget that protects and maintains all of our current services next year.

The Council is also maintaining some surplus resources in the budget which will allow it to replenish its balances and reserves. This will help ensure that we can continue to make capital investment in community assets such as our cemeteries, allotments, parks and play areas, for the benefit of the

community, in the coming years. In order to do so, the Council is proposing that it raises the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax bill by 1.99% next year.

This increase is well below the current rate of inflation, and to achieve this, savings have been made across all budgets to limit the increase in the Town Council Tax element of the Council Tax bill to our local residents.

This would increase the Town Council element of the Council Tax bill by £3.32 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 in these difficult times.

However, we hope you will agree that a monthly increase of 28p is a small price to pay to ensure that all the existing

services provided by the Town Council can be protected for another year.

Have Your Say

There is much more information on the Council's draft 2022/23 budget proposals, should you wish to read this, on the finance section of the Council's website.

If you wish to comment on the draft budget or provide your views on the services provided by the Town Council, we have recently issued our Annual Budget Survey.

The survey can be accessed electronically via the links on the Council website and social media channels and copies are also available at various community facilities around the town including the Town Council Offices, Oak Leaf Sports and Golf Complexes. The survey will close at 12 noon on Friday 31st December.

Allotment Award Winners 2021

Great Aycliffe Town Council's Annual Allotment Awards were won this year by the following:

- **Aycliffe Village**

Mr and Mrs Fox for plots 10 and 11

- **Byerley Park**

Mr R. Browning for plot 15

- **1st Finchale Road**

Mr B. Middleton for plot 8

- **2nd Finchale Road**

Ms. J Nisbett for plot 10

- **1st Clarence Chare**

Mrs M. Malcolm for plot 11

- **2nd Clarence Chare**

Mr A. Gaskarth for plot 17

- **3rd Clarence Chare**

Mr J. Marshall for plot 34

- **1st St Oswald's**

Mr and Mrs Addison for plots 12 and 13 and the 'Angela Fleming Memorial Trophy'

- **2nd St Oswald's**

Mr D. Fountain for plot 55

- **3rd St Oswald's**

Mrs Liversedge for plot 31

Best new/most improved allotment

• Mr P. Fox for plot 81 at St Oswald's & the 'Edward Huberry Memorial Trophy'.

Best Overall Allotment 2021

• Mr R. Browning, Plot 15 Byerley Park, receives £75 and the 'Ken Woodhall Memorial Bowl'.



Christmas/New Year Office Closures

The Council Offices will be closed for the Christmas and New Year Holidays as listed below: **Monday 27th December 2021 closed.**

Tuesday 28th December 2021 closed.

Monday 3rd January 2022 closed.

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

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, 13th December 2021.

I would like to nominate the address below for a **Christmas Lights Enhancement Award** for its display of Christmas Lights during the 2021 festive season.

Address

Householder Name
(if known)

Forthcoming Mayoral Events



Mayor's Civic Carol Service Sunday 12th December 2021

Councillor Mrs. Sandra Haigh will be holding her Civic Carol Service in St. Clare's Church on Sunday 12th December starting at 4pm. The Mayor would like to invite you to join her on this Festive occasion.



Refreshments will be available afterwards in the Church Hall.

Mayor's Charity Civic Dinner Saturday 12th March 2022

The Mayor's annual Charity Civic Dinner will be held at Woodham Golf and Country Club starting at 7pm.



All are welcome to come along and help raise some much-needed funds for the Mayor's nominated charity: Children's Blessing's. Tickets will be on sale from the Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices from January 2022.

Follow Great Aycliffe Town Council on Facebook and Twitter:

[facebook.com/great.aycliffe.gov.uk](https://www.facebook.com/great.aycliffe.gov.uk)



twitter.com/greataycliffetc



Merry Christmas from  **OakLeaf Golf Complex**

Christmas lesson vouchers now available from Steven Carpenter PGA

Shop the latest range of golf equipment from leading brands

Get Custom Fit for Christmas with Andrew Neasham PGA



TaylorMade PING SRIXON Cleveland 

School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QZ Tel: 01325 310820

Facebook: @OakleafGolfComplex

Twitter: @OakleafGolf

St. Oswald's Pre-School and Tots in the Park



All children are eligible to receive 15 hours free funding from the term after their third birthday, we also offer the 30hours 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 £4.75 will apply with one session costing £14.25.
Two-year Funding is available for children who are in receipt of a golden ticket and parents can claim up to 15 hours.
Please phone:
Julie Gale (Pre-School Manager)
On 07968 379009 for further information



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



Christmas at the Complex

Children's Christmas Party

On Saturday 18th December the fun starts at 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm, for children aged 4 to 7 years old. There will be loads of fun festive games and of course a magical visit from Santa, who'll have gifts for all the children. To book your place call 01325 300600, tickets are £5.00 per child. Booking is essential and payment required at the time of booking.

Christmas Eve Quiz

Stretch your mental muscles at our festive quiz, enjoy a hot meat sandwich and great fun on this magical night. Tickets cost £2.50 which includes the quiz and a hot meat sandwich. Great prizes to be won. Sandwiches served at 8 pm, quiz starts at 8:30 pm.

Breakfast with Santa

On Saturday 18th December the OakLeaf Sports Complex will be receiving a visit from a very special guest, Santa. You will be able to enjoy a cooked breakfast with Santa and each child will receive a gift. This magical event takes place between 10:30 am and 11:30 am, enjoy a cooked breakfast, for only £6.00 for adults & £5.00 for children. To book your place call 01325 300600. Booking is essential & payment required at the time of booking.

New Years Eve Quiz

A great chance to meet up with friends and family and ring the New Year in together, enjoy a hot meat sandwich and test your quizzing skills. Tickets cost £2.50 which includes the quiz and a hot meat sandwich. Great prizes to be won. Sandwiches served at 8 pm, quiz starts at 8:30 pm.

Festive Food and Fun

Are you planning a Christmas Party, fancy something different this year? Why not have a look at the Sports Complex, we have a variety of sporting facilities to choose from, afterwards you can enjoy a buffet or hot meat sandwich in our function room. Check out our menu for more information.