



Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER

December 2022

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Mayor's Christmas Message

Since taking office as the Mayor of Great Aycliffe this year, I have been honoured to meet so many townsfolk, members of the business community and visitors to the town. There have been so many great events on the town that I have been invited to attend. The Platinum Jubilee, Fun in the Parks, special wedding anniversaries, birthday events and the presentation of our Community Recognition Award to worthy residents, as well as visiting so many local businesses, it has truly been an honour. On a national level, the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II perhaps the most memorable in the public eye. My chosen charities this year are Together 21 and the Wishing Well (Gateway Club) and thanks to family and friends and local businesses for their generous donations of prizes which have helped to raise funds for these charities.

I will host my Charity Civic Dinner on Friday 24th February at Woodham Golf and Country Club and I hope many of you will come along for a night of fun and fundraising.

My thanks are extended to all the staff of Great Aycliffe Town Council who work hard to maintain the appearance of our town. The various town events that are organised and the lovely green spaces, allotments and cemeteries all depend on their knowledge, experience and dedication.

I am conscious that this festive time may be a difficult time for many residents, and I send all of you my best wishes and hope that 2023 will be a happy and healthy one.



LETTERS TO SANTA



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 elves empty the boxes and take the letters to Santa's Palace at 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 30th November at:

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, Simpasture
Reds Fish Bar, St. Elizabeth Close
Aycliffe Village Hall, North Terrace

The boxes will disappear on Wednesday 14th December, but emails will be answered from today, right up to noon on 21st December. Santa has a special email address:

santa.northpole@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

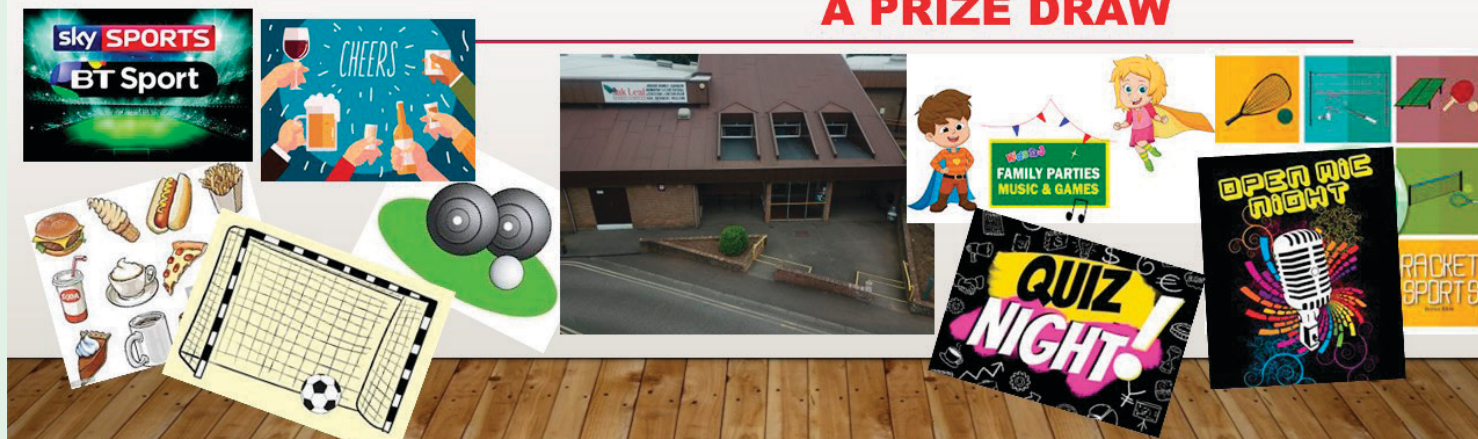
With special thanks to the event sponsors: John's Mini Market, McColl's, Simpasture, Sainsbury's, The County, Young's Newsagents, Around Town Radio Show and Aycliffe Radio.



OakLeaf

SPORTS COMPLEX

**USE THE QR CODE TO FILL OUT OUR
PUBLIC SURVEY AND BE ENTERED INTO
A PRIZE DRAW**



Town Council 2023/24 Budget Setting Update

It seems that everywhere we look these days there are price rises and pressures on our daily budgets - fuel, gas, electricity, food, insurance are just a few areas where we are seeing what seems like constant increases in costs. These increases affect all of us - individuals, families, community groups, businesses, and public bodies are all feeling the pinch and trying to make savings wherever possible.

The Town Council is no different and is facing a substantial financial challenge of its own in order to balance the books both in the current financial year and looking ahead to next year.

The Council is in the early stages of reviewing the impact of the economic difficulties and cost-of-living crisis on our finances ahead of the setting of the 2023/24 Budget. It has seen significant inflationary increases in running costs, staff pay increases and funding cuts, increasing capital investment commitments, as well as a fall in balances and reserves.

The Council is striving to identify and deliver efficiency savings and generate new income whilst at the same time protecting and maintaining all of the facilities, services, and events the residents of Great Aycliffe value so much and trying to keep any required increase in the Town Council element of the Council Tax bill as low as possible.

The Town Council Tax bill is currently £170 per year or £14 per month at Council Band A and nearly 60% of Great Aycliffe residents pay their Council Tax at this rate. This amounts to 12p in every £1 of overall Council Tax paid, with the remaining 88p going to Durham County Council, Police and Fire Authorities.

The Town Council completely understands the financial problems and worries people are facing at this time and is working hard to restrict the required increase to the Town Council Tax next year, whilst at the same time protecting the future financial viability of the Council.

The Council will publish further details of its 2023/24 Budget soon alongside the launch of a Budget Survey to seek the views and priorities of our local residents.

Christmas Lunch
At the
Oak Leaf Sports Complex
Sunday 11th December

12noon until 2pm
2 Courses for
£13.50 Adult
£9.50 Child

Pre-book only.
Payment required at time of booking

Find us on facebook.

Oak Leaf Sports Complex

BREAKFAST OR BRUNCH with SANTA
SATURDAY DECEMBER 17TH 2022
£10 PER CHILD £7.00 PER ADULT

BREAKFAST
9:30AM - 11:00AM

BRUNCH
11:30AM - 1:00PM

INCLUDES GIFT

BOOKINGS ONLY
PAYMENT REQUIRED AT TIME OF BOOKING TO BOOK CALL 01325 300600

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



- 15 hours free funding available from the term after a child's third birthday.
- 30 hours available for children who are eligible
- Children can start at our lovely 'Tots in the Park' facility from two years old, an hourly rate of £4.85 will apply with one session costing £14.55.
- Two-year funding is also available for children who are in receipt of a play and learn eligibility code and parents can claim up to 15 hours using this.

Please contact:
Julie Gale (Pre-School Manager) on
07968 379009
for further information



Christmas Lights Enhancement Awards

The Town Council is asking for nominations from local residents within the Great Aycliffe area for the residential Christmas Lights Enhancement Award for 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 12th December 2022.

I would like to nominate the following address for a Christmas Lights Enhancement Award for its display of Christmas Lights 2022:

Address

Householder Name (if known)

Forthcoming Mayoral Events

MAYOR'S CIVIC CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER 2022

Councillor Ken Robson will be holding his Civic Carol Service in St. Clare's Church, St. Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe on Sunday 4th December starting at 4.00pm.



MAYOR'S CHARITY CIVIC DINNER FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2023

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 charities: Together 21 and Wishing Well.

Tickets will be on sale from the Council Offices from January 2023.



Christmas Eve Santa Tours



Please check the Newton News Christmas edition on Friday 16th December for updated times of visits, or go to Great Aycliffe Town Council website (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk) or Great Aycliffe Town Council's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/great.aycliffe.gov.uk) 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.

We would like to say a big thank you to Community Spirit for a donation towards the decorations for the 'sleighs'.

Festive Office Times

The Council Offices will be closed for the Christmas and New Year Holidays on the following days:

Monday	26th December 2022
Tuesday	27th December 2022
Monday	2nd January 2023

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

Live Panto - Monday 19th December @ 6pm

Chaplins
Antos 4 Kids

OakLeaf

Aladdin

Last few tickets remaining - £5 per person



Christmas Decoration Design Competition

Over the summer students from Sugar Hill and Vane Road Primary schools took part in a design competition to create a bespoke Christmas design for one of the festive street lighting decorations provided by Great Aycliffe Town Council.

The best designs were sent to specialist Christmas decoration experts who have worked with the designs to replicate the students picture in lighting form; the winning designs will be installed within the Town Park in a few weeks so that everyone can enjoy the festive lighting.

Isaac from Sugar Hill Primary produced the winning Christmas tree design and is photographed with Councillor Ken Robson the Mayor of Great Aycliffe.



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 **skechers GOGOLF**

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

Facebook: @OakleafGolfComplex

Twitter: @OakleafGolf