

Great Aycliffe Town Council

Spring Newsletter



Great Aycliffe
Town Council

Big enough to matter small enough to care

MARCH 2023



Aycliffe 75th Birthday Celebrations

See Page 3 to find out what's in store and how you or your community group can get involved!

2023/24 Budget

See page 4 for information about the Councils' budget

Events for 2023!

See Page 5 for the fantastic events we have planned this year.



OUTSTANDING!

ST OSWALDS PRE SCHOOL

The Town Council run Pre-School has been assessed as outstanding on all aspects of the inspection including quality of education, behaviour, personal development, leadership and management.

OUTSTANDING ST OSWALDS PRE SCHOOL!

Great Aycliffe Town Council staff and councillors are celebrating after St Oswald's Pre-School was graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted following an inspection visit on 20th January 2023.

The Town Council run pre-school has been assessed as outstanding on all aspects of the inspection including quality of education, behaviour, personal development, and leadership and management.

This brilliant achievement is testament to the leadership of Pre-School Manager, Julie, ably supported by Deputy Manager Abbey, and the dedication and commitment of the staff team Tracey, Terri, Emily, Laura, Rhianne and Vikki, and is a fitting reward for all of their hard work over the last few years.

The Inspection Report is available to read on the council and pre-school websites.

Julie Gale, Pre-School Manager commented: "The Pre-School has gone from strength to strength and has received a huge transformation over the last several years. I could not be happier that we as a team have received such a great achievement, but it is an achievement that we could not have reached without the support of our families and children whom attend St. Oswald's Pre-School. We are extremely proud of the result we have been awarded and look forward to continuing to provide an enriched and nurturing learning environment for all of our children and to continue in working in partnership with our wonderful families. I would also like to acknowledge the Council's Pre-School Sub-Committee for putting their faith and trust in me to run the pre-school facility."

Dan Austin, Town Clerk for the Town Council added: *"I could not be prouder of Julie and the staff for this achievement as I know they have all worked tirelessly to make St Oswald's such a brilliant pre-school, implementing all sorts of improvements to the facilities, learning activities and care of the children, and working to keep the pre-school open all through the pandemic when many other businesses and organisations were closed. It was particularly touching reading some of the comments from the parents and realising how much they value the pre-school and the care their children receive".*

The Chairman of the Council's Pre-School Sub-Committee, Councillor Bob Fleming added: *"On behalf of the councillors of Great Aycliffe Town Council I would like to thank Julie and the team for their hard work in making St Oswald's one of the best pre-schools in the county. Gaining an outstanding rating from Ofsted is no mean feat and I am very proud that the Town Council can offer such a fantastic facility to the parents and children of the Parish".*



Contact: Julie Gale (Pre-School Manager) on 07968 379009



AYCLIFFE 75 CELEBRATIONS

The 75th Anniversary of Newton Aycliffe takes place this year and the Town Council is making plans to celebrate and commemorate the historic occasion.

Newton Aycliffe was designated as a new town in April 1947, but the actual birth of the town has been widely regarded as being 1948.

The key dates in relation to the birth of the town are 28th June 1948 which marked the “cutting of the first sod” ahead of the construction of the first houses, and 9th November 1948 which was when the keys were handed over to the first resident of the town.



TELL US WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING!

Get in touch and tell us your plans for Aycliffe's 75th birthday if you wish to get involved, as we would be happy to help publicise any events or projects that you might be running.

The Town Council is also keen to hear from any local businesses that might want to help fund or sponsor the celebrations.

CONTACT US:

info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

or

01325 300700

WORKING WITH DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

The Town Council is also working with Durham County Council in developing a project to create a historical exhibition of photographs and memorabilia. This project will involve working in partnership with Durham County Council archives, Newton Press, Northern Echo, and local residents.

It is anticipated that the exhibition will be displayed at various locations including the council offices, town centre, community centres, churches etc later in the year. The council would be delighted to hear from any local groups or residents who have any interesting historical photographs, documents, and memorabilia, or stories or records of the history of the town.

The Town Council is encouraging local businesses, schools, churches, and community organisations to get involved in celebrating and commemorating the 75th anniversary of the town under the banner of “Aycliffe 75”.

Do you have any old photographs or memorabilia depicting events on the town - such as royal visits, silver jubilee street party celebrations, the carnival, community events, construction or opening of buildings or shops? We are looking for anything of nostalgic or historic interest.

If you have anything at all that you would like to donate, or memories to share, get in touch with Amanda Donald, Corporate & Policy Officer Tel: 01325 300700 or [email your memories to us](#)

2023/24 BUDGET

The Town Council has recently set its Revenue and Capital budget for the 2023/24 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.

The Council has set a 2023/24 revenue budget that protects and maintains all services to current standards next year.

The Council is also maintaining some surplus resources within the budget which will allow it to continue 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.

The Council has agreed a 2023/24 capital programme budget of £116,500, with the budget focused on essential investment linked to the delivery of the council's asset management plan.

Planned investment includes building maintenance works, replacement works machinery including electrical alternatives, essential computer replacements, play area surfacing replacement, footpath repairs and bus shelter repairs.

In approving the 2023/24 Revenue and Capital budget, the council has agreed to raise the Town Council proportion of the council tax bill by £12.75 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.

However, we hope taxpayers will agree that a monthly increase of £1.06 is a small price to pay to ensure that all the services provided by the town council can be protected for another year, and that reserves can continue to be replenished.

Mayor, Councillor Ken Robson said, "As a resident of Great Aycliffe I can appreciate the dismay caused by an increase in council tax. Unfortunately, as a council we would be remiss if we were to utilise our reserves to meet the added strain upon our finances brought on by increased salary rises for staff and increases in energy costs. We feel that the service we provide to the people of Newton Aycliffe is something we are very proud of, and we wish to retain".



Events 2023

Date	Event	Location
7th May	King's Coronation Big Lunch	Town Park
5th June to 30th June	Senior Citizens Trips	Various Locations
2nd July	Aycliffe 75, Through the Decades	Town Park
26th July	Fun in the Parks	Town Park
28th July	Fun in the Parks	St Oswald's Park
2nd August	Fun in the Parks	Woodham Park
4th August	Fun in the Parks	OakLeaf Sports Complex
9th August	Fun in the Parks	Moore Lane Park
11th August	Fun in the Parks	Horndale Park
16th August	Fun in the Parks	Aycliffe Village Park
18th August	Fun in the Parks	Simpasture Park
5th November	Fireworks Display	OakLeaf Sports Complex
30th November	Santa Post Boxes	Various locations
24th December	Santa Tours	Whole Parish



Town Park

Sunday 7th May 2023

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Free Entertainment Includes:

-  Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band
-  Jenna Highfield (Singer)
-  Shine Choir
-  Scottish Piper
-  Stilt Walkers

There will also be small fairground rides, glitter-sparkle make-up and a catering unit, a fee applies to all these items.

So why not picnic in the park with us and celebrate this momentous occasion!

OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX



Opening Hours:

Monday	9am - 11.00pm
Tuesday	9am - 11.00pm
Wednesday	9am - 11.00pm
Thursday	9am - 11.00pm
Friday	9am - 11.00pm
Saturday	9am - 11.00pm
Sunday	9am - 10.30pm

BAR AND CATERING OPEN DAILY

RING 01325 300600

or

Scan the QR Code below for more information:





**OAKLIFE
MULTI
SPORTS
CLUB**

WEEKLY SPORTS SESSIONS
FOR THE OVER 50s

THURSDAYS 10AM - 12PM



**Warm
space**

9AM - 12PM DAILY

**COME ALONG FOR SOME COMPANY,
A WARM AREA AND A HOT DRINK**



Oak Leaf
Sports Complex



OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX

OPEN MIC
Night

**LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY
MONTH**

STARTS 7:30PM
**HOSTED BY WILL KIRTON
AND NIAL FENWICK**

**Adults £6
Family £12
(2 x Adults &
2 x Children)**



**NEW
VENUE!**

Model Railway Exhibition

June 3rd & 4th 2023

@

Oakleaf Sports Complex



School Aycliffe Lane,
Newton Aycliffe DL5 6QZ

**FREE
CAR
PARKING**

**Full
Disabled
Access**

Saturday - 10am till 5pm

Sunday - 10am till 4pm

**20 Plus Layouts & 20 Plus Traders
Modelling Displays
Railway Societies & Groups**

**Event Sponsored by:
DURHAM TRAINS of STANLEY**



**&
G&G MEDICAL
(Primary Care Solutions)**

**For further information
Contact**

**Robert Arrand
on 07564 301487**

Email:

robertedwardarrand@yahoo.co.uk

**Refreshments
Available
All Day**

thrive

Walk Durham

Weekly Wellbeing Walks

Where: Gentle Steps Oakleaf Sports Complex, Newton Aycliffe

When: Every Wednesday

Time: 10:30am – 11.30am

Cost: Free

Book at: www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham

Oakleaf Golf Memberships 2023-2024



Golf Membership

From 1st April 2023 Until 31st March 2024

18-Hole Course, Driving Range

Fully Stocked Pro Shop With Custom Fitting Available

Annual Membership

Driving Range

£3.50 Small Basket

£5.50 Large Basket

Range Card

£44

Adult 7 Day £445

Adult 5 Day* £400

Over 60 7 Day £400

Over 60 5 Day* £350

7 Day 19 to 25 £290

Junior 15 to 18 £50

Junior 14 & Under £20

4 Month Instalment Plan Available

* Five Day Memberships exclude play prior to 12noon on Bank Holidays

Weekday £17

**Weekend &
Bank Holiday £20**

Member Buggy hire £15

Non-Member Buggy Hire £23

To Book and for More Information Please Call 01325 310820



OakleafGolfComplex

OakleafGolf

www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/oakleafgolfcomplex/home

School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QZ

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

The Town Council sourced trees, whips and saplings from The Conservation Volunteers and The Woodland Trust.

The trees are funded by private companies as part of a carbon offsetting initiative. These companies include OVO Energy, Sainsbury's, Bank of Scotland and Sofology.

Through these initiatives almost 1500 trees were donated, and every single tree, whip, and sapling was planted in one day! A huge effort from staff and volunteers, who kindly gave up their time to give something back to our green spaces.

Various trees and hedging plants were planted to enhance existing woodland and hedges to help create wildlife corridors linking areas together and providing food and shelter for native birds and wildlife.

Species planted included beech, wild cherry, crab apple, hazel, oak, hawthorn and blackthorn to name a few.

As a nationwide initiative created to mark the Platinum Jubilee, the Queens Green Canopy was due to conclude in December 2022 - the end of the Jubilee year. However, as the official tree planting season in the United Kingdom is from October to March, the initiative is extended to include the full tree planting season, beginning in October 2022 and concluding in March 2023.

All the trees which have been delivered this season as part of the 'I Dig Trees' programme, including ours, will now be added to:

The Queen's Green Canopy map



YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

BYERLEY PARK, HORNDAL & COBBLERS HALL WARD



Peter Bergg

Ind



Dorothy Bowman

Ind



Lindsey Aston

Lib Dem



Ian Gray

Lab



John Woodward

Lib Dem

WOODHAM WARD



Anne Woodward

Lib Dem



Neil Collinson

Ind



Sandra Haigh

Ind



John Moore

Ind



Sandra Kirby

Lib Dem



Michael Stead

Lib Dem

AYCLIFFE CENTRAL WARD



Jim Atkinson

Lab



Jed Hillary

Ind



Joanne Jones

Lib Dem

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE



Carl Robinson

Ind

NEVILLE



Phillip Hawkins

Ind



Neville Jones

Lib Dem

WEST WARD



Eddy Adam

Lab



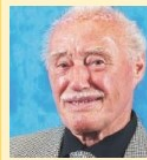
Martin Ashcroft

Ind



Arun Chandran

Ind



George Gray

Ind



Ken Robson

Ind

SIMPASTURE WARD



John Clark

Lab



Andrew Hill

Ind

SHAFTO/ST. MARY'S



Tony Armstrong

Ind



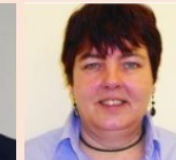
Robert Fleming

Ind



Brian Haigh

Ind



Wendy Hillary

Ind

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Councillor Sandra Kirby

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Councillor John Moore

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Councillor Anne Woodward

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Email: anne.campion52@gmail.com



Our pro shop is stocked with all the leading brands of golf equipment and guaranteed to be at the most competitive prices!

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Our team of highly skilled PGA Professionals use state of the art FlightScope launch monitors to deliver custom fit sessions that guarantee your next golf clubs are custom built for YOU.

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