

Great Aycliffe Town Council November 2024 Newsletter



Oak Leaf
Sports Complex

St. Oswald's
Pre-School

Oak Leaf
GOLF COMPLEX

**Great Aycliffe
Town Council**

Serving the local community for 50 years

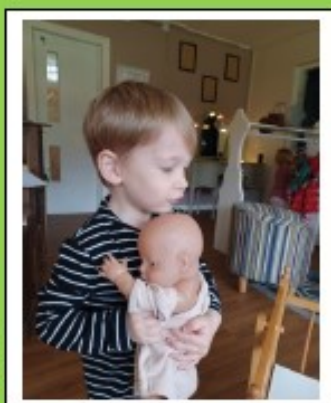
<p>St. Oswald's Pre-School Update</p> <p>Page 2</p>	<p>Draft Budgets for 2025/26</p> <p>Page 3</p>	<p>Oak Leaf Sports Complex Events</p> <p>From Page 5</p>
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AND WE'RE GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS!

For details see page 5



St Oswald's Pre school & Tots in the park



- 15 hours free funding available from the term after a child's third birthday.
- 30 hours for three to four year olds for children who are eligible
- Children can start at our lovely 'Tots in the Park' facility from two years old, an hourly rate of £5.25 will apply with one 3hr session costing £15.75.
- Two-year Funding is also available for children who are in receipt of a play and learn eligibility code or working families code and parents can claim up to 15 hours using this.

Please phone:
Julie Gale (Pre-School Manager) on
07968379009 for further information,
alternatively email

julie.gale@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

2025/26 TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET

The Town Council has recently considered its draft Revenue and Capital Budget for the 2025/26 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 prepared a 2025/26 Revenue Budget that protects and maintains all services, facilities and events 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, sports complex, parks and play areas, for the benefit of the community, in the coming years.

The Council has some significant capital investment commitments relating to its assets over the coming years and has agreed a substantial draft Capital Programme Budget of £666,600 for 2025/26.

Planned investment includes building maintenance works, replacement works machinery, essential computer replacements, football pitch drainage improvements, the upgrade of Aycliffe Village play area, play area surfacing replacement, solar panels, development of a woodland burial site, footpath repairs, tree works, and bus shelter repairs.

In approving the draft 2025/26 Revenue and Capital Budget, the Council has currently agreed to raise the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax bill by £7 per year (3.75%) for the vast majority of local taxpayers i.e. Those living in Council Tax Band A properties.

This increase would have been lower at 2%, had the Council not been facing an 18.5% cut in its Council Tax Support Grant by Durham County Council.

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 less than 60p is a small price to pay to ensure that all the services provided by the town council can be protected for another year, and reserves replenished.

Please note that the Revenue Budget is currently under review following the recent Government Budget which will see a substantial increase in the Council's employers' national insurance costs and the Council may need to consider implementing a higher Council Tax increase to offset these additional costs.

OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX AT CHRISTMAS



Breakfast with Santa



15TH
DEC.

11am - 12:30pm

JOIN SANTA FOR A DELICIOUS COOKED BREAKFAST WITH TEA, COFFEE OR JUICE.

£10 PER CHILD | £8 PER ADULT

CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE A GIFT FROM SANTA

LIVE PANTO
SATURDAY 30TH
NOVEMBER, 4PM

TICKETS ON
SALE NOW
FROM
RECEPTION!

£5 PER
PERSON

Jack
and the
Beanstalk



SCHOOL AYCLIFFE LANE, DL5 6QZ.
01325 300600

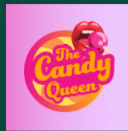
Christmas Market

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER
11AM UNTIL 3PM

OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX
NEWTON AYCLIFFE, DL5 6QZ
(IN THE MAIN HALL)

FREE ENTRY - FREE PARKING

BAR OPEN SERVING FOOD AND DRINK



Christmas Office Closures

The Council Offices will be closed from
Wednesday 25th December until Thursday 2nd January 2025
Councillors and Staff would like to wish you a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



AYCLIFFE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE



Rather than purchasing a cut Christmas tree for Aycliffe Village green every year, the Council have taken the decision to purchase a Nordmann fir which has now been planted on the green in a similar place to where the cut tree was erected previous years.

Planting a tree is much more sustainable to the environment and will be trained each year to produce a perfect shaped tree. It would have been unlikely that a larger tree would survive and so the tree is currently approximately 5 to 6 feet tall, once the roots establish, it is hoped that it will soon develop and provide a pleasant tree for many years to come.

The main Christmas tree provided by the Town Council on Central Avenue, outside St Clares Church, will remain a cut tree of a similar size to previous years. It will be erected in late November along with the Christmas lights along Central Avenue, St Cuthberts Way and into Stephenson Way and Aycliffe Village.

MAYOR'S CIVIC CAROL SERVICE

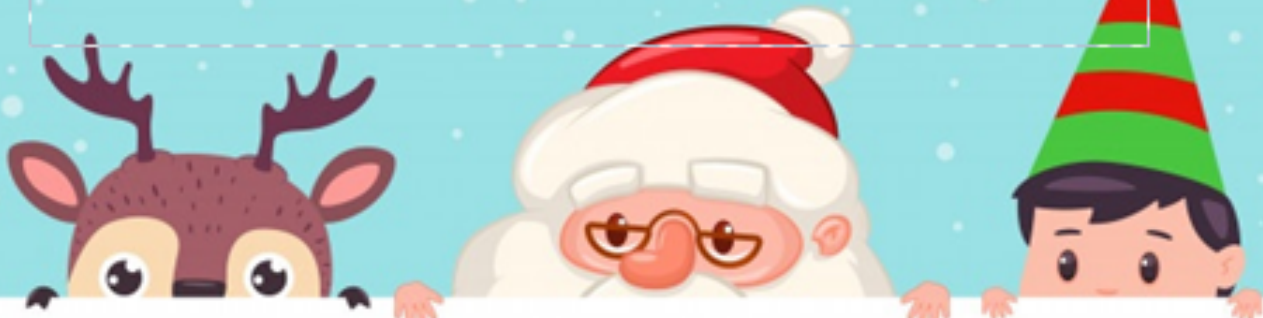
SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER 4pm



Start the festive celebrations with a wonderful sing along with the Shine Choir and the Mayor, Councillor John Clark for the Civic Carol Service which will be held at St. Clare's Church St. Cuthberts Way Newton Aycliffe on Sunday 8th December 2024 starting at 4pm.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join in with our favourite carols.

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 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 Friday 22nd November 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
- The Sun Inn at Simpasture
- Premier Express, St Elizabeth Close
- Aycliffe Village Hall, North Terrace



The boxes will disappear on Thursday 12th 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

With special thanks to the event sponsors:

John's Mini Market, Young's Newsagents, The Sun Inn,
Phil and Andy at Around the Town Radio Show



ALLOTMENT WINNERS 2024

Congratulations to all our hard-working allotment holders! At the Allotment Annual General Meeting the following tenants received special recognition for their plots:

Site Award Winners:

Aycliffe Village: 1st - Plot 8, 2nd - Plot 9, 3rd - Plot 10 & 11

Byerley Park: 1st - Plot 8b, 2nd - Plot 8a, 3rd - Plot 12

Clarence Chare: 1st - Plot 17, 2nd - Plot 11, 3rd - Plot 27a

Finchale Road: 1st - Plot 8, 2nd - Plot 18b, 3rd - Plot 19

Angela Fleming Memorial Trophy for Best Plot at St. Oswald's: 1st - Plot 45, 2nd - Plots 46 & 47, 3rd - Plot 30

Edward Hubery Memorial Trophy for Best New or Most Improved Allotment: Clarence Chare Plot 13

Ken Woodhall Memorial Bowl for Best Overall Allotment: Clarence Chare Plot 17

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE AND SERVICE

As always, there was a great show of support from residents of the town for our armed forces at the Remembrance Day parade on Sunday 10th November.

Led by the Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band, the parade formed up outside of St. Clare's Church where LLM James Walsh carried out a short service and everyone observed the two minutes silence perfectly.

The Mayor Councillor John Clark said, "Remembrance Sunday is one that is special to me and everyone in our town and I am always impressed with just how many people take the time to come along to watch. Thank you to all our service personnel for the parade, it is wonderful to be a part of this special day to remember the fallen and to pay our respects to them for their sacrifice."

A blessing was also held in the Town Centre to mark Armistice Day on Monday 11th November at 11am. Residents gathered near the town clock to observe the two minutes silence and to take part in the short service.



Great Aycliffe Town Council - Upcoming Meetings - 7pm

- * Recreation and Environment - Wednesday 27th November 2024
- * Policy and Resources - Wednesday 4th December 2024
- * Full Council - Wednesday 11th December 2024

Looking ahead to 2025:

MAYOR'S CHARITY CIVIC DINNER FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2025

The Mayor's annual Charity Civic Dinner will be held at Redworth Hall Hotel from 6.30pm.

All are welcome to come along and help raise some much-needed funds for the Mayor's nominated good cause: Quinn's Retreat.

Tickets will be on sale from the Council Offices from January 2025.

For details of the charity see [Quinn's Retreat information](#)

How to Contact Us:

✉ info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

📞 Council Offices - 01325 300700

📞 Oakleaf Sports Complex - 01325 300600

📞 Oakleaf Golf Complex - 01325 310820

📞 St Oswald's Pre School - 07968 379009



Great Aycliffe
Town Council

Big enough to matter small enough to care

