

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper
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Wellbeing Awards



Thirty eight County Durham businesses recently gathered at the Radisson Blu Hotel to celebrate the successes of the Better Health at Work Award. The award supported 43,177 County Durham employees in the last year. By sharing our story, we are hoping you can help us reach and support more.

In the last year, local organisations supported the wellbeing of over 40,000 employees through the County Durham Better Health at Work Award (BHAWA). The award is free and supports organisations to look after the health and wellbeing of its staff.

To recognise the organisations committed to leading the way in workplace wellbeing, the BHAWA, delivered by health and wellbeing charity, the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), wanted to celebrate successes.

Karen Stubbings, BHAWA County Durham Project Lead, said: "We hosted a celebration event with 31 awards given out to a variety of businesses. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the work local organisations are doing to prioritise the health and wellbeing of their staff. Organisations committed to the award report lower absenteeism and increased engagement from staff benefitting from the award. The Better Health at Work Award (BHAWA) aids organisations in improving and prioritising workplace health. By signing up to the award, organisations are supported by a dedicated workplace health team, helping them to improve staff health and wellbeing through a range of activities and policy changes.

The award is structured in levels, ranging from Bronze to Maintaining Excellence and Ambassador status; these categories vary on how much support workplaces provide to their employees.

Smart IT supported the event, enabling PCP's BHAWA team to shine a light on fantastic work taking place in our local businesses. Steven Jones, Business Development Manager at Smart IT, said: "We are proud to support such an important event that encourages businesses to look after their workforce. The award has a significant positive impact on the health and wellbeing of local people, and it was a great opportunity to be a part of this."

PCP is proud to deliver the BHAWA across County Durham, Sunderland and Hartlepool, to inspire workplaces to engage with employee health and wellbeing.

To find out more about the BHAWA, visit www.yourworkplacehealth.co.uk - find out more about PCP at www.pcp.uk.net

Photo: BHAWA Team 2, L-R: Luke Liddell, Becky Gustard, Carol Gaskarth, Bobby Hewitson, Karen Stubbings, Amy Johnson.

Five Acres Commemorate D-Day

This project was the brainchild of Lauren Mouatt, a Learning Mentor at Five Acres, who is from a family of Ex British Servicemen, she wanted to Honour our War Heroes by making an amazing piece of Artwork.

Over the last few weeks Five Acres produced 4,414 poppies from upcycled plastic bottles to commemorate each life lost on D-Day. We replicated a 'poppy field', similar to the display at the Tower of London, and it was showcased at our Day Centre which is located within ROF 59 – which was, ironically, a Royal Ordnance Factory during the War.

The poppies were hand crafted by Five Acres Staff and our Champions with help from a group of Students from the local UTC College, a work experience student Polly Collins from St Johns RC School with help from local businesses including: Husqvarna, Workshop Supplies and Gestamp who have also supported us by providing plastic bottles and red paint.

We held our D-Day Event last Wednesday, 5th June, and were joined by Parents & Carers, Family & Friends including Veterans from SSAFA, Mike Donne, the former MP for Sedgfield Paul Howell, The Deputy Mayor &



Consort of Newton Aycliffe, Joanne & Neville Jones, all laid wreaths of remembrance. We would like to thank Ruth Wright and Arthur for playing the bagpipes, Don Walkers Butchers, Tracey from the Co-op, Nikki from Bentleys, Carrie Howarth from Newton News, Shirley (Tesco's Community Champion) for the refreshments. Wendy Etheridge (volunteer). Tiaba (BBC Radio Tees & BBC TV) was also present for the event - those wishing to listen to see the footage please go on to Five Acres Community Garden Facebook site and follow the link. It was a truly brilliant, emotional day for all.

Team Bewick Race for Life



On Sunday 9th June, 26 staff including GP Partners, Nurses, Managers and Admin staff, took part in Darlington 5K Race for Life in aid of Cancer research. This was in support of one of the team Gill, who was diagnosed with cancer in July 2023 and after surgery

and treatment she is now cancer free and back working at our Heighington surgery. In total we raised £3631.79 from the donations made from our patients and from the staff's members of family and friends, thank you.



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RUNNING CLUB NEWS

What a week it has been for members of Aycliffe Running Club with some amazing achievements and determination shown this week. Starting off with three members travelling to South Shields for the monthly South Shields mile on Wednesday 5th June. Representing the club were Angela Sutheran (with a new PB of 6:53), Dave Stothard (6:58) and Ian Stothard (12:10).

On the same day, one member took part in the Whorlton Fell race, set in the North Yorkshire Moors and included 427 metres of climbing along a course of 6.8 miles including one pretty steep incline. Martin Turnbull represented the club finishing in a time of 55:14.

On Saturday 8th June, two members took part in a unique challenge termed as the Lake District Ultra. This saw runners start at Kendal, before continuing on an astonishing 100km anticlockwise loop taking in a couple of tough hills, the Garburn Pass, historic Ambleside, a half way point by Lake Windermere, forests and nature reserves, before a huge welcome and celebration back at basecamp after a momentous journey. It also included an ascent of in excess of 2,500 metres. Ste Dunn and James Cooper completed the event in an excellent time of 17:27:46. This was made even more remarkable with one of our members suffering with a knee injury from 40km and suffering ankle ligament damage from 79k and having to strap it up just to keep going. Amazing determination by both of them to keep each other going to complete the challenge. On the same day, eight members travelled to Swaledale for one of the toughest trail marathons about. This saw runners complete a course of approximately 24 miles, taking in a huge 1,258 metres of climbing, including some pretty steep inclines from the beginning. Nearly all of the members taking part had some sort of set back in the run up to the race, be that from injury or illness. It shows the strength of character from each of those, with just getting round, let alone with the times they achieved. Matt Heron (4:24), Martyn Knox (4:51), Michelle Dixon (4:57), Paul Dalton (5:36), Carley Cooper (6:33), Sandrine Hewitt (7:00), Nici Ingman (7:03) and Rob Nicholson (7:28).

On Sunday 9th June, two members took part in the Swansea Half Marathon. Mikey Taylor (1:17:48) and Richard Trowles (1:19:03), both set new personal bests for a half marathon, both finishing in top 50. On the same day, five members took part in the famous Blaydon Races. A total of 5.8 miles from Newcastle to Blaydon. Representing the club were Kieron O'Connor (37:05), Karl Hume (38:22), Trish Kay (51:02), Sam Harding (56:30 and new personal best and beating her previous time by over one minute) and Jayne Rudd (58:21).

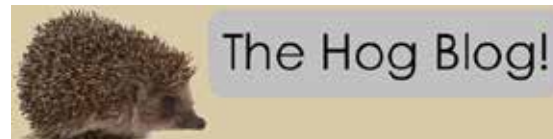
Also, a huge well done to all our Juniors who took part in their regional County Championships at either Monkton Stadium or York University including Henry, Elizabeth, Hannah, Abbie and Charlotte. Going forward, from the club to represent DCSAA County Durham at Inter-county final in Gateshead Stadium are Elizabeth Clay (100m) and Charlotte Clay (300m).

On Saturday 8th June, 35 members started their weekend with a parkrun. At Eastleigh, Lou Mann (32:38) completed the course for the first time. At Whitley Bay, Dave Stothard (26:39) and Ian Stothard (38:10) both completed the

course for the first time.

At Hackworth, Karl Hume (21:14) finished third, with Bernadette Cooper (23:32), first female. At Hartlepool, Angela Sutheran (23:13) finished as third female. Richard Trowles (21:08) completed the course at Swansea Bay for the first time. At Thorp Perrow, Jean-Pierre Hupin (29:57) and Em Flynn (33:50) both completed the course for the first time before supporting other runners.

If you are feeling inspired and are interested in joining the club, you can turn up for one of our sessions. More information is available on our website: www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk - or our Facebook page. If you would like to chat with someone, then you can email: ayclifferunningclub@gmail.com - If interested in the Junior Section you can email: juniorsection@gmail.com - Make this year the year you or your children get into running and join us to keep it going for many years to come.



What I thought I might do is rename this rescue because it is fast becoming a maternity ward! A few weeks ago I admitted a female from Grange Vets because she was grabbed by a dog. On Sunday 9th and Monday 10th I had such a struggle to settle her, well my suspicions were confirmed, bless her, she gave birth here in rescue to maybe three or four hoglets. Nothing could prepare me for what happened on Tuesday 11th, at cage clean time 5.45am, another hoggie was also giving birth to hoglets, from what I have seen, she lost two, but has maybe another two in there with her. They will be here for a few weeks, releasing them or even moving them is not a option.

To ensure that these mums don't reject or eat their babies I have to leave them well alone for the first week. I have to covertly refresh food and water, nothing else. It's a worry admittedly, but I still have other poorly prickly ones that need care including the lovely hoglet that was orphaned, baby Foxglove is doing very well and weighed in at 53 grams tonight (Tuesday) she will soon be able to hear and open her eyes! I have been hand rearing her with four hourly feeds since she came in.

I want to thank the very kind gentleman who brought a donation to me over the weekend, any donation large or small is put to good use for food and medical supplies. Not a penny is wasted. Thank you all.

I am still attempting to do a raffle, as you can probably gather I have had my hands full, Donella, Wally, Wendy and Mandy at Grannies Choice have a raffle tickets, I have some lovely prizes and vouchers on offer. I would like to draw the raffle in time for the school holidays in July.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society's telephone number is 01584 890801. My email address is: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com - Please don't email me for emergencies.

My Facebook page is: Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel.

Be Respectful

To maintain a fair and respectful discourse within the Newton News, letter authors should adhere to specific guidelines regarding the content we publish for the forthcoming elections.

1 - No Criticism of Opponents: We will not accept or publish letters or statements that criticise or disparage other politicians or political parties.

2 - Focus on Own Manifesto: Candidates are welcome to submit statements, but these must strictly adhere to discussing and promoting their own manifesto and policies. Statements should be constructive and focus on the candidate's vision, plans and proposals without referencing the opposition.

3 - Content Quality: Submissions should be clear, concise and free from inflammatory language. We encourage candidates to highlight their key policies, explain the benefits of their plans, and how they intend to implement them with a word limit of 300.

4 - Verification: All statements will be reviewed for adherence to these guidelines before publication. Candidates should ensure that their submissions are accurate and truthful.

5 - Respectful Discourse: We are committed to fostering a respectful and informative political discussion. By focusing on what each candidate brings to the table, we aim to provide our readers with valuable insights into the choices available to them.

6 - Submission Process: Candidates can submit their statements via email to: paul@newtonnews.co.uk - Please include your full name, the position you are running for, and contact information for verification purposes. Thank you for helping us maintain a positive and informative political dialogue.

We look forward to publishing thoughtful and policy-focused statements from candidates. Editors decision is final and no further correspondence will be entered into.

HEADS UP!!

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Wheelchair Push / Walk



Bethany House organised a fundraising Wheelchair Push / Walk to raise funds for Parkinson's Disease. On 11th June, residents, their families, friends and staff, all wearing something blue, had a lovely morning raising an amazing £523.00 for this worthy charity. Thank you to Parkinson's UK for supplying the balloons and posters. Sponsorship money came from the Woodham Christian Centre Ltd, thank you for your kind donation and to Sue for the delicious cup cakes. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event.

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Great North Swim

Congratulations to dog training instructor, Gill Crawford, who raised over £1400 for The Lost Dog Trapping Team. Gill, who co-owns K9 Pursuits on Aycliffe Business Park, took part in The Great North Swim in Windermere on Saturday 8th June and said that the response from people who donated was amazing. Over 6000 swimmers took to the lake. K9 Pursuits are a collection point for food used to help trace and track dogs across the country, but Gill wanted to raise money to put towards a drone for the team. A big thank you to everyone who donated for this great team of volunteers.




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N.A.F.C. JUNIORS



Under 11's Blacks entered their first ever tournament, playing in the lower league Tees Valley Cup. Aycliffe had a tough group, but managed to finish top and progress to the final Gold Mini League with goals from Alfie S (2), Jarrod and Jack B. The Gold Mini League was to prove much tougher, seeing Aycliffe finish third overall with a goal coming from Hughie. A very tiring day for the team, who all enjoyed themselves. POTT was awarded to goalkeeper Liam B for some outstanding saves.
Under 13's Juniors played in their first 11v11 tournament, after taking a couple of games to get going, the team eventually found their groove, going on the win the plate final on penalties.
Under 14's had a successful weekend, winning the Redcar summer cup. The team played awesome throughout, losing only one group game and winning the final on penalties. In what proved to be a long day, it was more success following the teams promotion last season.

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St. Francis' Juniors Visit Washington Wetlands

What an outstanding day we all had at Washington Wetlands! The children were an absolute dream. It was mentioned by the staff, at Washington Wetlands, how amazing they were throughout the day. As always, each


child embraced the day with excitement and with an eagerness to explore. Throughout the day, the children used their resilience and team work to complete challenges to help Ava, an amazing girl with wings and feathery feet, who needed our help to discover who she is and what she needs to do. The animals around the wetlands had clues and nature activities for us to complete. With the use of a 'translator phone', which Ava gave us, we were able to listen to what the creatures were saying and discover what we needed to do to show the animals that we really care about them and the natural world. Only then did they reveal their secrets that we had to return to Ava's nest to help her migrate to the South to find her family and discover the Guardians of the Wild, a great council of creatures that look after nature.

they stay safe in the wild. It was an amazing learning experience for everyone! We finished off the day with a play on the park where we were joined by a very hungry crow!

The County Council of Durham
 (A167 and Ricknall Lane, Newton Aycliffe)
 (Temporary Central Crossover Closure, Prohibition of Right Turn, U Turns, Footway Closure and Speed Restriction) Order 2024

The Council proposes to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit and restrict all vehicular and pedestrian traffic from proceeding on the following lengths of road in the manner described **Crossover Closure** the central reserve crossover area of the A167 opposite the Ricknall Lane Junctions. **Prohibition of Right Turn** prohibit turning right from the A167 Northbound into Ricknall Lane and from turning right from Ricknall Lane into A167 northbound. **Prohibition of U Turn** Prohibit U-turns on A167 between the Central Avenue junction and 40 metres south of the nose of the dual carriageway splitter south of the St Cuthberts Way junction approaching Aycliffe Village **Temporary 30 mph speed restriction** Prohibit vehicular from travelling at a speed in excess of 30 miles per hour along a 2.1 km length of A167 from immediately north of the St Cuthberts Way junction to a point 235 metre north of the Central Avenue to A167 northbound slip junction. **Footway Closure** an 855 metre length of footway of A167 between its junction with Moore Lane and extending northwards to outside number 55 Welbury Grove on Central Avenue to enable highway improvement works to be undertaken. An alternative route will be available to a. vehicular traffic from the western side of the restriction from A167 northbound to and around A689 Rushyford Roundabout and returning southbound on A167 to the Ricknall Lane junction to the eastern side of the restriction; b. vehicular traffic from the eastern side of the restriction from A167 southbound to and around B6444 St Andrews Way Roundabout and returning northbound on A167; c. Vehicular traffic from the western side of the Ricknall Lane closure from A167 southbound to the junction with Lime Lane then north easterly to the junction with Ricknall Lane leading to the eastern side of the closure, and vice versa; d. Pedestrian traffic from A167 footway at the south eastern side of the closure onto Moore Lane then northerly via footpaths of Kenny Walk onto Mellanby Crescent and then easterly leading to Ross Walk then northerly to Welbury Gove to the north western side of the closure, and vice versa. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence on 18/6/2024 and are anticipated to be completed in 6 to 7 months. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

Dated: 14/6/2024

 **Helen Bradley**
 Director of Legal & Democratic Services
 County Hall, Durham

We also got to meet many animals. We got a real treat and witnessed the Asian short-clawed otters having their lunch, unfortunately the otters had had a bit of a disagreement so had been separated until they had made up, we still got to see Buster enjoy his lunch. We then had our lunch before exploring the Wetlands more, we spent time searching for many species of ducks Did you know there are around 120 different species of ducks in the world that reside at the Wetlands? We spotted many different ducks, geese and their offspring, observing how



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16th June	England v Serbia (8pm KO) Restaurant Special: Beef Roll and Chips
19th June	Scotland v Switzerland (8pm KO) Restaurant Special: Beef or Haggis Burger & Chips

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Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024

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The staff were shocked at the size of the bonnet, it was so huge the council works staff had to help us with transportation!

If you would like your child to join us, we accept both funded (children who are in receipt of two year funding/three year funding) and paid hours. Pre-school places are still available for September 2024.

Two year places (tots in the park) have limited availability for September 2024.

Our hourly rate is £5.25 per hour.

Our Pre-School was rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in January 2023.

To book a show around to our tots in the park / pre school facility, please contact Julie, (Pre-School Manager) on 07968 379009 alternatively email: julie.gale@great-aycliffe.gov.uk



Great Aycliffe Town Council



FUN IN THE PARKS

Day	Date	Park
Wednesday	24th July 2024	Town Centre Park
Friday	26th July 2024	Moore Lane Park
Wednesday	31st July 2024	Woodham Park
Friday	2nd August 2024	St Oswald's Park
Wednesday	7th August 2024	Oak Leaf Sports Complex Field
Friday	9th August 2024	Horndale Park
Wednesday	14th August 2024	Aycliffe Village Park
Friday	16th August 2024	Simpasture Park

These events are aimed at children between 3 to 8 years, except the Adventure Park at Woodham, this park is aimed at 8 to 14 years. The fun starts at 11 am – 3 pm.

The event is organised by Great Aycliffe Town Council and provides free entertainment to families.

There will also be body art, side stalls, food vans and ice cream vans which will incur a fee.

For the full schedule go to www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

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Annual Report on the Council's Finances 2023/24

1. Introduction

Welcome to this annual report on the Council's finances which we hope you will find informative and of interest. This report sets out the Council's spending plans for this year; 2024/25, whilst also providing a summary of the Council's actual income, expenditure, and financial performance over the last year; 2023/24.

2. The Council Budget

The Council Budget is an estimate of the resources that the Council will require to be raised from council tax to fund all of the services it provides for the year ahead. The Budget covers the financial year which runs from 1st April to 31st March. The Council needs to set a Revenue Budget and a Capital Budget each year. The Revenue Budget funds the day to day running costs of the Council's services such as salaries and goods and services, and the net cost, after deducting any income receivable from fees and charges and grants, is met from the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax. The Capital Budget funds major one-off investment in the Council's fixed assets such as its buildings, vehicles and play areas and is funded from the Council's Balances and Reserves and any external grants that may be available.

3. 2024/25 Revenue Budget

The 2024/25 Revenue Budget was prepared in line with the key principles from the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan, which are:-

1. Continuing to provide all Council services, facilities and events and maintaining current standards of service.
2. Identifying and delivering efficiency savings where possible.
3. Safeguarding a prudent level of balances and reserves.
4. Implementing an increase in council tax that finds a balance between the cost-of-living difficulties being faced by local taxpayers and dealing with the budget pressures faced by the Council in terms of pay awards, inflation, and the need to maintain services valued by the local community.

The Town Council faced significant financial challenges in setting the 2024/25 Revenue Budget with significant unavoidable inflationary increases in costs, and increases in staff pay costs linked to increases in the National Living Wage. In addition to this, it was announced by Durham County Council that the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) Grant would be cut by 50% over a period of three years, which added a further significant pressure to the Revenue Budget.

These increases were offset as far as possible from the identification and delivery efficiency savings and increases in income, particularly at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex, pre-school, driving range and golf shop. In setting the budget the Council had to find a balance between delivering value for money to local taxpayers, whilst ensuring that all services, facilities and events can continue to be provided to the standards expected by residents, maintaining a firm foundation and some surplus resources to meet the budget challenges that lie further ahead, and enabling the continued replenishment of balances and reserves.

In overall terms, the Council's 2024/25 Net Revenue Budget, as represented by the Precept was set at £1,974,773 which is an increase of £84,034 or 4.4% on 2023/24.

The 2024/25 Revenue Budget is considered to be a robust and prudently set budget, that will ensure all services can continue to be provided to the standard expected by the residents of Great Aycliffe during the year, continue to provide a firm foundation and some surplus resources to meet the increase in running costs that lie further ahead, and allow the Council to continue to replenish its balances and reserves moving forward.

The table on the following page provides a summary of the Council's 2024/25 spending plans:-

2024/25 Revenue Budget Summary

Service Area	2024/25 Budget £
Members and Civic Expenses	81,250
Finance Section	99,850
Administration Section	98,900
Corporate Section	294,000
St Oswald's Pre Schools	330,550
Works	247,250
Depot	40,350
Capital Financing Charges	30,450
Community Events	219,250
Sports Complex	928,050
Sports Pitches	26,500
Golf Course	250,750
Driving Range and Golf Shop	171,500
Parks and Play Areas	230,200
Environment and Open Spaces	123,800
Street Equipment	8,900
Cemeteries and Church Works	135,600
Allotments	34,850
Contingency Sum	13,500
Total Cost of Town Council Services	3,365,500
Capital Programme Investment Assets	156,350
Contribution to Capital Reserves	75,000
Total Planned Revenue & Capital Spending	3,596,850
Less Income	
Council Tax Support Grant	(172,177)
Pre-School Funding and Fees	(267,300)
Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(554,400)
Golf Course Fees and Charges	(140,700)
Driving Range, Golf Shop Fees & Charges	(176,850)
Cemeteries, Church Works Fees & Charges	(68,550)
Sports Pitches	(8,550)
Allotments Fees and Charges	(9,150)
Feed in Tariff Income from Solar Panels	(12,250)
Other Income	(10,800)
Investment Income	(45,000)
Total Income	(1,465,727)
Less Use of Council Balances Capital Programme	(156,350)
Net Budget Requirement / Council Precept	1,974,773

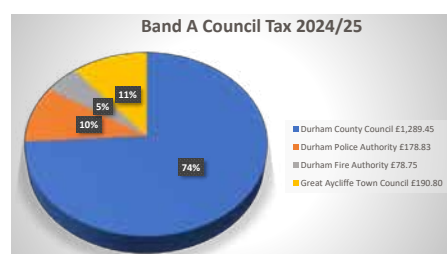
4. 2024/25 Council Tax

The 2024/25 Band D Town Council Tax is £286.21 per year. This is an increase of £12.02 a year or 4.38% on the 2023/24 Council Tax.

However, it is important to note that this increase was made up of a core Town Council increase of 2.65%, plus a further 1.73% as a direct consequence of the cut in the LCTRS Grant by Durham County Council. It is also important to note that nearly six out of ten of the properties in Great Aycliffe fall within Council Tax Band A and therefore pay only two thirds of the Band D Council Tax.

The 2024/25 Band A Council Tax increased to £190.80 per year which equates to around £15.90 per month or £3.67 per week.

A breakdown of the 2024/25 Council Tax is shown below demonstrating that 11p in every £1 of the total Council Tax comes to the Town Council:-



5. 2024/25 Capital Programme Budget

The Council will continue to make capital investment in order to deliver the Council's Asset Management Plan and invest in community assets.

The Capital Programme Budget for 2024/25 was set at £156,350.

The budget includes provision for various building works, replacement machinery, information technology improvements, footpath repairs, play area safety surfacing replacement, and tree works.

The budget has been prepared on the basis of essential investment only linked to the need to closely control

capital spending to help maintain and protect the Council's balances and reserves for as long as possible.

There were a large number of delayed capital projects in 2023/24, totalling £304,250, which have been carried forward to 2024/25.

This results in a total 2024/25 Capital Programme Budget of £460,600.

In order to continue to control capital spending, a review of this programme of works will take place to determine which projects go ahead and which are to be retained as provisional sums or deferred to a future year. **The Capital Programme Budget will be funded from the Council's Earmarked Capital Reserves which are set aside for this purpose.**

6. Council Balances and Earmarked Reserves

The Council's Balances and Earmarked Reserves stood at £1.993 million at the end of March 2024.

This is better than forecast in the Medium-Term Financial Plan and is as a result of the higher-than-expected savings delivered on the Council's Revenue Budget, lower than expected spending on the Capital Programme Budget, receipt of a significant leisure service VAT claim and various capital grants last year. During the 2024/25 financial year, after accounting for the funding of the 2024/25 Capital Programme Budget and ongoing revenue capital commitments carried forward from 2023/24, providing for the £75,000 contribution to capital reserves, and assuming that there will be no use of Revenue Budget Contingency Sum next year and no savings on the 2024/25 Revenue Budget, Council Balances and Earmarked Reserves would fall to around £1.404 million by the end of 2024/25.

This is considered to be an adequate level of reserves to fund capital spending commitments for the medium term and to provide some protection against future revenue budget pressures and possible cuts to funding. However, the forecast reduction in the level of balances and reserves over the longer term remains a key financial issue for the Council and will be assessed and reviewed in the forthcoming update of the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

7. 2022/23 and 2023/24 Actual Revenue Spending

A summary of the Council's actual expenditure in 2022/23 and 2023/24 in running its various services, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2022/23 £	Service Area	2023/24 £
67,117	Members & Civic Expenses	67,829
90,999	Finance Section	95,293
73,622	Administration Section	73,333
262,463	Corporate Section	281,046
261,634	St Oswald's Pre Schools	323,876
226,444	Works Department	283,503
33,055	Depot	37,749
28,727	Capital Financing Charges	26,601
196,618	Community Events	203,269
805,361	Sports Complex	874,658
20,806	Sports Pitches	21,950
220,452	Golf Course	243,908
159,702	Driving Range and Golf Shop	156,279
144,310	Parks	145,865
62,470	Play Areas	59,931
98,431	Environment and Open Spaces	94,392
8,090	Street Equipment	10,678
95,916	Cemeteries	96,892
12,850	Church Works	12,850
29,994	Allotments	30,538
-	Contingency Sum	2,330
2,899,061	Total Cost of Running Council Services	3,142,770
	Less Income	
(191,681)	Council Tax Support Grant	(204,911)
(237,593)	Pre-School Funding and Fees	(294,681)
(503,622)	Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(583,471)
(122,090)	Golf Course Fees and Charges	(125,677)
(142,714)	Driving Range Fees and Charges	(157,679)
(65,557)	Cemeteries Fees	(56,769)
(8,189)	Allotments Rents	(8,872)
(6,886)	Sports Pitches	(8,642)
(8,155)	Other Income	(24,274)
(23,482)	Investment Income	(91,343)
(13,205)	Feed in Tariff from Solar Panels	(13,396)
(1,323,174)	Total Income	(1,569,715)
(10,893)	Less Use of Reserves	(23,538)
1,564,994	Actual Net Cost of Council Services	1,549,517
181,875	Contribution to Balances / Savings	341,222
1,746,869	Council Precept / Council Tax	1,890,739

The financial position and spending of the Council is continuously monitored and controlled in order to help achieve the most efficient use of public resources and as can be seen above, this prudent management of the Council's spending has resulted in savings being achieved in both 2022/23 and 2023/24. Spending in 2023/24 was £341,222 or 18% under the level of Precept.

The main reasons for this saving were the budgeted contribution to capital reserves, limited use of the contingency sum, substantial savings on gas and electricity budgets due to a significant reduction in wholesale costs, savings on fuel costs due to a reduction in prices, substantially higher than budgeted investment income as a result of the significant increases to interest rates and higher than expected balances, savings in staffing costs as a result of vacancies during the year, significantly higher than budgeted income at the pre-school as a result of better-than-expected attendance, substantially higher than budgeted income at the Sports Complex as a result of increases in usage and VAT changes, and higher than budgeted income at the driving range and on golf shop sales.

All savings achieved on the Revenue Budget are set aside in the Council's Earmarked Reserves to provide for further investment in Council and community assets for the benefit of the tax payers of Great Aycliffe over the coming years.

8. 2022/23 and 2023/24 Actual Capital Investment

A summary of the Council's capital investment in Council and community assets in 2022/23 and 2023/24, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2022/23 £	Investment Area	2023/24 £
55,560	Building Works & Improvements	40,521
53,166	Replace Vehicles, Machinery & Equip	32,868
3,820	Information Tech and Office Equipment	41,781
10,571	Parks and Play Area Improvements	100,280
17,630	Infrastructure (Drains, Footpaths, Trees)	42,851
27,542	Bus Shelters, Seats, Bins, Fencing)	28,750
168,289	Total Capital Investment	287,051
	Funded by:-	
139,960	Use of Council Balances & Reserves	197,150
28,329	External Funding	89,901
168,289	Funding of Capital Investment	287,051

9. Annual Return and External Audit Report

The Council completes an Annual Return each year comprising its Accounting Statements, Annual Governance Statement and Internal Auditors Report.

The Annual Return is reviewed by the Council's external auditors and an opinion is provided on whether the Council has prepared the accounts and governance statement in accordance with statutory requirements and proper practices for town and parish councils.

The Council is pleased to report that the external auditors did not raise any issues of concern in respect of the 2022/23 Annual Return.

The 2022/23 Audited Annual Return to the Council is available to view at the Council Offices or on the Council's website, along with the 2023/24 Unaudited Annual Return.

Committee Members

Chairman / Vice-Chairman
Municipal Year 2024-2025

**COUNCILLOR JOHN CLARK (MAYOR),
COUNCILLOR JOANNE JONES (DEPUTY MAYOR)**

Council: All 30 Members (Currently 1 vacancy)

RECREATION COMMITTEE

(25 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors: Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Sandra Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Sandra Kirby, Brian McAnaney, John Moore, [Carl Robinson](#), Ken Robson, [Michael Stead](#), Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

(25 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors: Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, George Gray, [Ian Gray](#), Brian Haigh, Sandra Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Sandra Kirby, Brian McAnaney, John Moore, [Carl Robinson](#), Ken Robson, [Michael Stead](#), Anne Woodward and [John Woodward](#).

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(27 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors: Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, [Arun M. Chandran](#), John Clark, Neil Collinson, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Sandra Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, [Jed Hillary](#), Wendy Hillary, Simon Hocking, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Sandra Kirby, Brian McAnaney, John Moore, [Carl Robinson](#), Ken Robson, [Michael Stead](#), Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

from the Policy and Resources Committee

SERVICE REVIEW SUB COMMITTEE

(12 Members + Mayor + Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors: Eddy Adam, Martin Ashcroft, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Brian Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, [Carl Robinson](#), [Michael Stead](#) and John Woodward.

PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE

(10 members plus the Mayor as ex-officio member)

Councillors: Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Ian Gray, Sandra Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Sandra Kirby, Brian McAnaney and [Carl Robinson](#).

PERSONNEL APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE

(4 Members + Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors: Eddy Adam, Lindsey Aston, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary and Joanne Jones.

GENERAL APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE

(Members chosen as necessary from appropriate Committee)

AUDIT, RISK AND G.D.P.R. SUB-COMMITTEE

(5 Members + Mayor + Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors: Lindsey Aston, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Brian Haigh, Joanne Jones, Brian McAnaney and [Carl Robinson](#).

ASSET MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE

(13 Members + Mayor + Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors: Eddy Adam, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Brian Haigh, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Joanne Jones, John Moore, [Carl Robinson](#), [Michael Stead](#), Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

PRE-SCHOOL SUB-COMMITTEE

(7 members plus the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio members)

Councillors: Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Sandra Haigh, Jed Hillary, Sandra Kirby, Joanne Jones, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

MEMBER APPEALS PANEL

(Members chosen as necessary from Personnel Sub-Committee)

SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

from the Recreation Committee

GOLF COURSE WORKING GROUP

(8 members + Chair and Vice Chair of Recreation)

Councillors: Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Arun M. Chandran, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Neville Jones, [Carl Robinson](#), [Michael Stead](#) and John Woodward.

EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

(12 members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio members)

Councillors: Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, Sandra Haigh, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Sandra Kirby, [Carl Robinson](#), Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

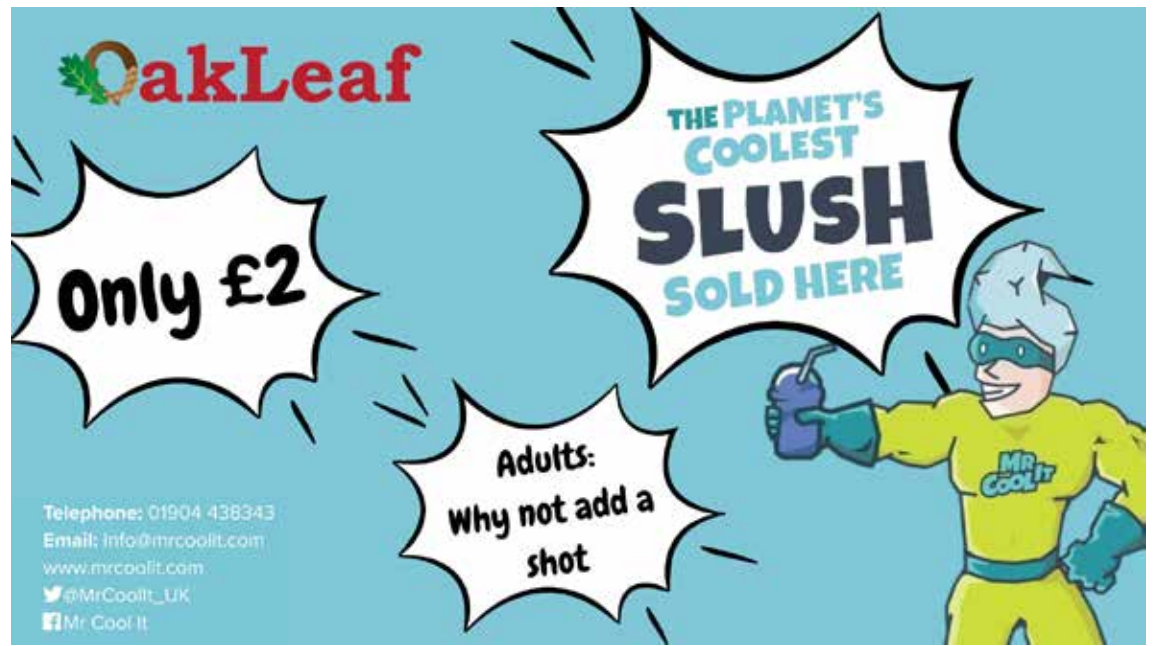
SUB-COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS

from the Environment Committee

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

(8 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Joanne Jones, Brian McAnaney, [Carl Robinson](#), Anne Woodward and John Woodward.



Council Meetings 2024/25

29 May 2024	Recreation	7pm	27 Nov 2024	Recreation	7pm
29 May 2024	Environment	7pm*	27 Nov 2024	Environment	7pm*
05 June 2024	Policy and Resources	7pm	04 Dec 2024	Policy and Resources	7pm
12 June 2024	Full Council	7pm	11 Dec 2024	Full Council	7pm
10 July 2024	Recreation	7pm	15 Jan 2025	Recreation	7pm
10 July 2024	Environment	7pm*	15 Jan 2025	Environment	7pm*
17 July 2024	Policy and Resources	7pm	22 Jan 2025	Policy and Resources	7pm
24 July 2024	Full Council	7pm	29 Jan 2025	Full Council	7pm
04 Sept 2024	Recreation	7pm	26 Feb 2025	Recreation	7pm
04 Sept 2024	Environment	7pm*	26 Feb 2025	Environment	7pm*
11 Sept 2024	Policy and Resources	7pm	05 Mar. 2025	Policy and Resources	7pm
18 Sept 2024	Full Council	7pm	12 Mar. 2025	Full Council	7pm
16 Oct 2024	Recreation	7pm	09 April 2025	Recreation	7pm
16 Oct 2024	Environment	7pm*	09 April 2025	Environment	7pm*
23 Oct 2024	Policy and Resources	7pm	16 April 2025	Policy and Resources	7pm
30 Oct 2024	Full Council	7pm	23 April 2025	Full Council	7pm

* The Environment Committee will commence immediately after the Recreation Committee Meeting.

WEDNESDAY, 14th MAY 2025 - COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING – 7.00pm.

WEDNESDAY, 21st MAY 2025 - PARISH MEETING – 7.00pm. (*)**

The Public and Press are cordially invited to attend. The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings.

Members Attendances

17th May 2023 - 24th April 2024

Councillor	Council			Policy & R			Special P & R			Recreation			Environment			Sub Committee Totals			Working Groups Totals			TOTALS		
	Att.	Apois.	Poss.	Att.	Apois.	Poss.	Att.	Apois.	Poss.	Att.	Apois.	Poss.	Att.	Apois.	Poss.	Att.	Apois.	Poss.	Att.	Apois.	Poss.	Att.	Apois.	Poss.
Adam E	10	1	11	6	2	8	1	0	1	5	3	8	5	3	8	2	1	3	6	2	8	35	12	47
Armstrong T	8	2	11	6	2	8	0	0	1	8	0	8	8	0	8	3	1	4	2	0	2	35	5	42
Ashcroft M	9	2	11	7	1	8	0	1	1	7	0	8	7	0	8	4	0	4	8	0	8	42	4	48
Aston L	9	2	11	8	0	8	1	0	1	6	2	8	5	3	8	4	2	6	2	0	2	35	9	44
Atkinson J	6	5	11	4	4	8	0	1	1	6	2	8	6	2	8	0	1	3	2	1	4	24	16	43
Bergg P	9	1	11	5	2	8	0	1	1	4	4	8	4	4	8	6	1	7	0	0	0	28	13	43
Bowman D	4	6	11	4	3	8	0	0	1	2	5	8	2	5	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	19	37
Chandran A M	11	0	11	8	0	8	1	0	1	8	0	8	8	0	8	10	0	10	8	0	8	54	0	54
Clark J	10	1	11	7	1	8	0	1	1	8	0	8	8	0	8	5	1	9	2	0	2	40	4	47
Collinson N	8	3	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	8	5	3	8	4	1	5	0	0	0	22	10	32
Fleming B	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	4	4	8
Gray G	10	1	11	7	1	8	1	0	1	8	0	8	8	0	8	3	0	4	5	3	8	42	5	48
Gray I	11	0	11	8	0	8	1	0	1	8	0	8	8	0	8	6	0	6	0	0	0	42	0	42
Haigh B	10	1	11	5	1	8	0	0	1	7	1	8	7	1	8	5	1	7	4	1	6	38	6	49
Haigh S *	2	6	8	0	6	6	0	1	1	1	5	6	0	3	3	1	3	4	0	0	0	4	24	28
Hawkins P	5	6	11	4	3	7	1	0	1	2	1	3	2	1	3	3	1	6	2	2	4	19	14	35
Hill A	7	4	11	6	2	8	1	0	1	8	0	8	8	0	8	3	0	3	5	1	6	38	7	45
Hillary J	10	1	11	8	0	8	0	1	1	7	1	8	7	1	8	1	0	1	6	2	8	39	6	45
Hillary W	6	5	11	3	5	8	0	1	1	3	2	5	5	3	8	0	0	0	1	3	4	18	19	37
Hocking S	7	3	11	3	4	8	0	0	1	3	2	8	3	2	8	0	1	1	0	1	4	16	13	41
Jones J	3	8	11	4	4	8	0	1	1	6	2	8	6	2	8	1	1	4	0	0	0	20	18	40
Jones N	9	2	11	5	3	8	1	0	1	7	1	8	7	1	8	1	0	4	0	0	0	30	7	40
Kirby S	6	4	11	4	3	8	1	0	1	5	2	8	4	2	8	1	1	2	0	0	0	21	12	38
Mc Ananey B	5	1	6	4	0	4	0	0	1	3	1	4	3	1	4	1	2	3	0	0	0	16	5	22
Moore J	10	1	11	8	0	8	0	1	1	8	0	8	8	0	8	0	0	0	5	1	6	39	3	42
Robinson C	11	0	11	7	1	8	1	0	1	8	0	8	8	0	8	11	0	11	4	2	6	50	3	53
Robson K	9	2	11	8	0	8	1	0	1	7	1	8	7	1	8	5	5	11	0	4	5	37	13	52
Sparrow A *	3	5	9	2	4	6	0	0	1	3	1	6	4	1	6	1	3	3	6	2	8	19	16	39
Stead M	9	2	11	7	1	8	1	0	1	8	0	8	8	0	8	3	2	5	1	1	2	37	6	43
Woodward A	11	0	11	6	2	8	1	0	1	8	0	8	8	0	8	2	0	2	2	0	2	38	2	40
Woodward J	11	0	11	6	2	8	1	0	1	8	0	8	8	0	8	6	0	6	0	0	0	40	2	42

*Adjusted for dispensations
Where apologies are not received, the entry will be left blank

MEET YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

AYCLIFFE CENTRAL



Jim Atkinson - Lab



Jed Hillary - Lab



Joanne Jones - Lib Dem

WEST



Eddy Adam - Lab



Martin Ashcroft - Ind

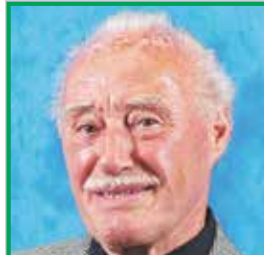
WOODHAM



Anne Woodward - Lib Dem



Neil Collinson - Ind



George Gray - Ind



Simon Hocking - Lab



John Moore - Ind



Sandra Kirby - Lib Dem



Arun Chandran - Ind



Ken Robson - Ind



Sandra Haigh - Ind



Michael Stead - Lib Dem

BYERLEY PARK, HORNDALE & COBBLERS HALL



Peter Bergg - Ind



Dorothy Bowman - Ind



Lindsey Aston - Lib Dem



John Clark - Lab

SIMPASTURE



Ian Gray - Lab



John Woodward - Lib Dem



VACANCY



Andrew Hill - Ind

Members Allowances

Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the Council's Elected Members during the financial year 2023/24 in line with statutory requirements as set out in the Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2004.

Surname	Forenames	Title	Total Payment	Member's Allowance	Subsistence	Mileage Claim
Adam	Eddy	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Armstrong	Tony	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Ashcroft	Martin	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Aston	Lindsey	Mrs	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Atkinson	James	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Bergg	Peter	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Bowman	Dorothy	Mrs	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Chandran	Arun	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Clark	John	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Collinson	Neil	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Fleming	Robert	Mr	£363.18	£363.18	£0.00	£0.00
Gray	George	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Gray	Ian	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Haigh	Brian	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Haigh	Sandra	Mrs	£932.67	£932.67	£0.00	£0.00
Hawkins	Phillip	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Hill	Andrew	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Hillary	Jed	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Hillary	Wendy	Mrs	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Hocking	Simon	Mr	£1,210.60	£1,210.60	£0.00	£0.00
Jones	Joanne	Mrs	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Jones	Neville	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Kirby	Sandra	Mrs	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
McAnaney	Brian	Mr	£635.99	£635.99	£0.00	£0.00
Moore	John	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Robinson	Carl	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Robson	Kenneth	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Sparrow	Anita	Ms	£988.94	£988.94	£0.00	£0.00
Stead	Michael	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Woodward	John	Mr	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Woodward	Anne	Mrs	£1,329.96	£1,329.96	£0.00	£0.00
Total Member's Allowances			£38,710.34	£38,710.34	£0.00	£0.00

SHAFTO / ST. MARY'S



Tony Armstrong - Ind



Brian Haigh - Ind



Wendy Hillary - Ind



Brian McAnaney - Lib Dem

NEVILLE



Phillip Hawkins - Ind



Neville Jones - Lib Dem



**Great Aycliffe
Town Council**

A/VILLAGE



Carl Robinson - Ind

Thank You

Steve & Lisa Brady

3rd June 2024
Would like to thank family and friends for their love and congratulations on our recent wedding in Kalymnos, Greece. We had the most magical day. Now looking forward to a celebration with you all.

Wanted

Household Furniture Bought
Tel. 07860 560295

Birthday Remembrance

Shane Smith

16th June 1989
Thinking of you today on your 35th birthday, our amazing Son. We love and miss you so much. Forever in our hearts, Mam and Dad xxx

For Sale

Folding walker on wheels with brakes, seat and basket, £45. Tel 01325 494201

Opticians

K. McGuinness Opticians
Town Centre
Newton Aycliffe
Tel: 316600

Father's Day Remembrance

William Sowerby

We love you, 'til we meet again.
From Daughter Joanne and Grandson Ben

Job Vacancy

Experienced Sewing Machinist Wanted.
Part and Full Time Available.
For more details please call Dave on **07497 176492**

Personal

BVA Foundation

FREE Confidential Post Abortion Counselling available



Telephone: 01642 616077

Hairdressing

LYNN'S MOBILE HAIRDRESSING
Over 25 years experience.
For a friendly, reliable service call Lynn on **07904 219997**

For all your print requirements

Newton Press
300212

Pets

K9 Pursuits
Day Care Puppy Package
£86 for puppies up to 16 weeks
This exciting new service includes:
• Four x1 hour play sessions including:
• A puppy swim with a dry and spritz
• A pick up and drop off service within a four mile radius of DL5 6YN
50p per mile thereafter
email k9pursuitsltd@hotmail.co.uk
Tel 01325 301177
for more details

Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report

Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, were hammered by nine wickets in a very poor performance at home to Marton 2nd XI in the NYSD second division. After being asked to bat first, Aycliffe were skittled for just 103 after 30.4 overs. Matty Atkinson, who was playing his first game for nine years, top scored with an excellent 38 off just 31 balls, including seven boundaries and a six. Joe Teasdale was the only other batsman to reach double figures when he was dismissed for 19 off 21 balls. In reply, the visitors hurried to victory after just 18.4 overs with Atkinson taking the only Marton wicket to fall, which now sees Aycliffe sitting at the bottom of the 2nd division table.



The second team lost an extraordinary game by just 11 runs, away at Skelton Castle 2nd XI in the NYSD fourth division. It was Skelton Castle's first home game of the season, due to flooding on the ground, and it was clear before the start that the wicket was still very soft and so, unsurprisingly, Aycliffe captain Dan Weldon had no hesitation to bowl first after winning the toss. Fast bowler Jai Sander (sponsored by Armstrong Building Services) made the most of the bowler friendly conditions to finish with career best figures of 5 for 30 and he was supported well by Tez Smit (4 for 6) and Matty Greaves (1 for 5) to help dismiss the homeside for just 45 after 18.1 overs. In reply, Aycliffe also struggled badly, losing their last eight wickets for only 11 runs and were skittled for just 34 off 15.1 overs with no player reaching double figures.

The club's Ladies team had a big win by 95 runs, away at Hutton Rudby in the Hambleton League, to move to joint top of the table. The homeside batted first and were pegged back by some excellent bowling from both Louise Jackson (3 for 17) and Addison Jones (3 for 19). When Aycliffe replied, Tina Masterman again dominated the innings, top scoring with a powerful 34 from 18 balls and Annelise Myers also batted well scoring 12 not out off 12 balls faced.

Our U17's put in an excellent performance to beat both the weather and Darlington by 61 runs at Feethams in the first round of the NYSD Plate. Electing to bat first, Aycliffe got another superb start as captain Tom Dearden smashed 50 (retired not out off 37 balls) and fellow opener Leo Stout hit 35 off 38 balls. Liam Scott (16 off 13 balls) and Will Dearden (12 off 16 balls) helped push the visitors to 140 for 6 from their 20 overs. In reply, Darlington were restricted to 79 for 6 thanks to some good bowling from Ramzan Hussain (3 for 14), Tom Norman (2 for 13) and Leo Stout (1 for 13).

The U13's won for the first time this season when they came out on top in a terrific performance by six wickets away at Darlington RA in the NYACC League. RA batted first and scored 99 for 4 in their 20 overs thanks to some good bowling and fielding by the Aycliffe youngsters. In reply, Aycliffe captain Freddie Lawler scored 30 (retired not out) off 31 balls and he was supported well by Trent Telford (22 off 14 balls) and Jack Collingwood (12 off 20 balls). In a very tense finale, Addison Jones (7 not out off 10 balls) and Thomas Towler (4 not out off 12 balls) held their nerve to see their side to their winning target with only four balls on the innings remaining.

The U11's lost by 72 runs at home to Northallerton in the NYACC League. There were, however, some good performances with the ball by captain Harvey Palmer (2 for 18) and Carys Myers (1 for 15) and Nial Hadland top scored with 10 runs in the Aycliffe innings.
Photo: Our victorious U13's team after their nail biting victory.

Housing Issues

Dear Sir,
All the political parties are promising affordable mortgages for the first time buyers, during their manifestos.

Instead of bluster and being dictated to by the huge building companies, the next ruling party should ignore threats of job losses and financial losses and refuse most of the future planning permission applications. Unless the application includes a much higher percentage of starter homes.

The housing crisis and rip off rents is due to the fact that planning permission is granted based on a tiny percentage of starter homes or social housing being included in the application.

What is more powerful, business, or local government?
Paul Haigh, Heighington

Obituary

Elsie Robinson
(nee Simpson)

Newton Aycliffe, formerly of Craghead. Peacefully at home on 2nd June, Elsie, aged 78 years. A loving Wife, Mam, Nana and Sister. Friends please meet for funeral service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 18th June at 12.30pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be given to Marie Curie and Macmillan as you leave the crematorium.

In Memoriam

Pauline Pybus

17th June 2023
Our dear friend Pauline, sadly missed, never forgotten. Love, Pat, Jean, Dave, Steve xxx
Missed at bingo by all.

Pauline Pybus
(nee Allison)

17th June 2023
Treasured memories of a loving daughter. Sadly missed by Mam and Dad. Forever in our hearts.

Doris Heseltine

Died peacefully on 21st May, after a short illness. Much loved mum to Ian and beloved sister of Liz; a dear mum-in-law to Angela and special sister-in-law to Cris. You are missed more than we can say. By Doris's request there is no funeral. Should any friends wish to do so, donations to the following charities please: Cats' Protection, Dogs Trust or Shelter.

Pauline Pybus
(nee Allison)

17th June 2023
Not a day goes by when you are not loved and missed. Held in our hearts forever. Love from Shirley, Maureen, John, Angela, Catherine and Andrew xx

Pauline Ann Pybus

17th June 2023
Sadly missed, never forgotten. Dave xxxxx

Licensing

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

James Whittaker & Stewart Whittaker trading as Aycliffe Pallet Services of Newton Aycliffe Truck Stop, 1 Spring Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6AJ is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To add an operating centre to keep 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers at Newton Aycliffe Truck Stop, 1 Spring Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6AJ.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

14-6-2024

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Chosen Charity



Nikki Dawes, from Bentley's, visited Five Acres Community Garden and had a tour of the site, as well as meeting some of our Champions, she made the decision she would like to put us forward as a chosen charity at Bentley's and the Three Peak Challenge fundraiser was formed. A team of eight staff from Bentley's, MMB Mott Macdonald Bentley, decided they would like to take on the challenge and the fundraising began. On Saturday 8th June the seven staff, who have decided to walk the 24.5 miles, and one member of staff who has decided to run it, all started the challenge, together they hoped to achieve this within twelve hours. The team were staying over at The Netherwood Hotel on Friday 7th, so they were as local as possible to the start of the walk. The staff at the hotel were also the guides for the walk, and they did a great deal for them so all the money can go to the charity and the company are paying for the expenses. If anyone would like to donate to Bentley's collection pot go to: <https://app.collectionpot.com/pot/3225287> The staff and the champions are so grateful for all the support Nikki and the team at Bentley's have given us.

Neville Parade Methodist Church

Were your children christened there? Or did you attend the iconic 'Meth' in your younger days? Have you heard rumours that the church is closing? To clarify the situation at Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church (Neville Parade) please take the time to read on... The church (sanctuary) is closed due to the disrepair of the roof making the building unsafe. BUT, there are still services each Sunday at 11am. Weddings, christenings and funerals are all going ahead using the lounge space. There are lots of groups using the premises and being welcomed with open arms. These include craft, art and dance groups, a ladies group and Girl Guiding (Rainbows & Brownies). So, what next? Get behind the repairs, improvements or ...? We would love to hear your thoughts on how to continue to use the site. The cost of a new roof is beyond the reach of the church members, at a minimum of £120,000. What happens in the future will be very different, but the people of the church are committed to continuing to provide a space for worship and community use at Neville Parade for many years to come. Comments on the above can be sent to the minister: Reverend David Payne, email: david.payne@methodist.org.uk

WI Meeting

The next meeting of Aycliffe Village Women's Institute will be held on Wednesday 19th June in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. Sophie Lovell Kennedy from Durham University will be giving a talk entitled 'Eyes on the Baby'. Refreshments are provided. Please feel free to come and join us at the meeting or, if you are interested in joining our WI, come and find out what we do. For all details contact President Anne Brown via email: aycliffevillageWI@durhamwi.co.uk

Coffee Morning

Aycliffe Village WI are holding a 'Green Day Coffee Morning' on Saturday 15th June in Aycliffe Village Hall from 10am. There will be cakes and refreshments to purchase, plants on sale or bring some along to swap. We will also be having a Clothes Swish - where nearly new clothes can be brought along and swapped for 'new' items. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

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Greenfield Tennis Club



With summer upon us, the French Open last week and Wimbledon in a few weeks' time, readers may be interested to know that the town has an LTA affiliated tennis club - Greenfield Tennis Club, based at Greenfield Academy (DL5 7LF) - and the Club is keen to attract new players. Membership rates are very reasonable.

The Club also run junior classes for youngsters aged 5 to 9 and 10 to 16 on Saturday mornings. These are also very reasonably priced at £4.00, but the first session is FREE.

The Club is proudly sponsored by SG Petch car dealership. Google search the club website for details or call John on 01325 311407 (adults) or Paul (juniors) on 07723 037718.

Bold New Era for Newton Aycliffe RUFC



Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club has been a hive of activity this off-season, with exciting developments both on and off the pitch. Building on the successes of the previous campaign, the club has undertaken major investments to improve training and changing room facilities, ensuring players have a top-class environment to prepare for the rigours of the new season.

However, the most eye-catching change is the unveiling of a dynamic new visual identity that ushers in a bold new era. This comprehensive rebrand represents a transition focused on shaping the club's long-term future while paying respect to its proud rugby heritage.

At NARUFC, the mission is to continually inspire the local community through rugby success. To achieve this lofty ambition, the branding overhaul ensures the club's identity matches its soaring aspirations and reflects the professional demands of the modern game. This is a statement of intent, a commitment to constant improvement as the club aims to reach new heights.

Driving our ambitions this season, Newton Aycliffe RUFC has bolstered the coaching ranks with a wealth of elite experience and proven pedigree.

Paul Ellis, Active Club President and NARUFC legend, has joined the coaching staff. A former 1st XV captain and multiple players' player of the year winner, Paul commands immense respect after 25 years with the club. His vast experience and embodiment of the Aycliffe spirit will be invaluable assets.

Bob Malvern retains his position and looks to build on the momentum of the last two seasons. A former player for Aycliffe, as well as various regiments and clubs across Yorkshire, Bob has experienced multiple codes at the highest levels. His decades of expertise will provide crucial guidance. Matt Rowe steps up as a player-coach after two years with the club. Matt's prestigious 35-year career includes representing clubs across Devon, playing infantry rugby at elite levels, and winning the Army Premiership with the Scots Guards who he represented for over 13 years. His championship pedigree is a major coup.

Jeff Hodgson joins as a player-coach focused on the front row. For 17 years, Jeff has been an Aycliffe stalwart and was integral to league and cup-winning campaigns. His technical knowledge and character make him an outstanding mentor.

David Gibson returns home as the new rugby development lead. After starting at Aycliffe at age 16, Dave went on to play for multiple Durham/Northumberland 1 sides while earning North East regional caps. The club is proud to have one of our own back to nurture the next wave of talent.

With pre-season now underway, we are actively recruiting more players to join our rapidly expanding ranks and be part of something truly special at Newton Aycliffe RUFC. We encourage new faces of all abilities to get involved - come down, find out what we're all about, and immerse yourself in this proud club.

Training is on every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 6.45 pm on the pitch at Moore Lane Sports Club. To stay in the loop, follow our Facebook page: @ayclifferugby.

Emily's Double

Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club would like to give a great big congratulations to Emily Denham, National Schools Champion 2024, Emily and team arrived at Northumbria University Sports Centre in Newcastle to defend her schools title from 2023. In 2023 Emily beat Inola Smith from Manchester in the National Final at Guildford in Surrey and in May 2024 had a successful defence against Ruby-Jo de Santos from Islington Amateur Boxing Club London. Emily trains very hard to get this far in her boxing career with the support of her family and coaching staff from Aycliffe Amateur boxing club, if anyone would like to join the classes at the club the age groups are Kid Gloves, 4 years to 9 years, 4.30pm to 5.15pm Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays. Junior Classes for 9 years to 15 years, 6.00pm to 7.00pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays, Senior Classes, 7.00pm to 8.00pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays at Acorn House, Durham Way North, Aycliffe Business Park DL5 6HP.

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