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PCP Receives Queen's Voluntary Service Award

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) was delighted to be awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service on Friday 2nd June, one of only 2 organisations in County Durham, and one of 6 across the whole of the North East!

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service was created by Her Majesty in 2002 and is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK for outstanding work done in their local communities for

the benefit of others. This prestigious UK honour sets the national benchmark for excellence and is the equivalent of an MBE.

The Award celebrates how, for the past 18 years, PCP Trustees have demonstrated foresight and vision with the ambition to foster the growth of a highly-successful, wide-ranging and well-respected health and wellbeing organisation. It acknowledges the real difference PCP has made for literally thousands of people every year, and the Award recognises the energy, hard work and persistence of the whole staff team, led by a Chief Executive and Senior Management Team who provide unequivocal passion, drive and commitment.

Personal congratulations and best wishes were received from H.M. Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, Mrs Sue Snowdon, who said, "You are very worthy recipients. Your organisation has made a real difference to the lives of others, and this recognition is so well deserved, and I thank you most sincerely for all you do."

Carol Gaskarth, PCP's Chief Executive said, "We are all absolutely thrilled and



C.E.O. Carol Gaskarth

very proud to receive such a marvellous accolade for our work. PCP hugely values the contribution volunteers and staff make supporting local people to improve their health and wellbeing. We've grown from a local Newton Aycliffe based charity and now deliver services across County Durham, Tees Valley and Sunderland. It is very apt that the Award winners are announced in Volunteers Week as we celebrate the fantastic contribution millions of volunteers make across the UK. PCP really couldn't be the success it is without local people dedicating their time to volunteer. We look forward to The Lord-Lieutenant visiting to present our Award signed by The Queen."

If you would like to hear more about PCP or if you are interested in supporting us as a volunteer please get in touch by email enquiries@pcp.uk.net or call 01325 321234.

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YOUR VOTE COULD BRING £50K TO AYCLIFFE AUTISM CENTRE



Leah Hodgeson from Newton Aycliffe

Forget Britain's Got Talent – the North East Autism Society needs your votes! We've made it to the finals of Jewson's Building Better Communities Competition with a chance to win up to £50,000 to go towards building new residential accommodation for children with autism.

But it won't be possible without your help. Click the link below to find out more – and most importantly – vote! The eight new children's apartments will be based on the North East Centre for Autism site in Newton Aycliffe and will provide bespoke accommodation for young people up to the age of 18. Chief Executive, John Phillipson, said: "This really will be a life changing amount of money because it will help us create state-of-the-art homes for young people who need specialist care and living space – changing the lives of all those who will call this home. We are incredibly grateful to Jewson and for getting to this stage of the competition. Now we are relying on our friends and families to help us.

"Please vote, share it on social media and spread the word! The North East Autism Society needs you!" The news that NEAS had been shortlisted came just this week so now it's time to pull out all the stops before judging begins on June 19th.

To cast your vote please go to www.ne-as.org.uk/vote or through North East Autism Society's Facebook page.

Sue's Kitchen

at Moore Lane Sports Club



Freshly made roast dinners served every Sunday in a family friendly environment where everybody is welcome. Only the best locally sourced meat and vegetables are used and all meals are made with care. Walk-ins and bookings are welcome, but bookings are preferred.

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[SuesKitchenMooreLane](https://www.facebook.com/SuesKitchenMooreLane)

Grants Available from The Big GAMP Project Callout!

Are you part of a group that works in the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) area? Do you have a project idea that requires funding? Could your project help GAMP address its priorities for the area? If so, grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 are available to groups which support our key priorities.

GAMP has an Area Budget of £100,000 available to fund projects within the Great Aycliffe and Middridge village areas. There is £33,333 available within each of the 2017/18 GAMP priorities; and projects should address at least one of the following priorities and the specified key issues:

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES
Projects are invited which help improve positive outcomes to support children, young people and their families from the GAMP area to live a happier and healthier life. Projects must address at least one of the following key issues:

~ Risky behaviour, including alcohol/drugs/smoking/crime
~ Provision of activities/things to do for 12-15 year olds

~ Children's physical, emotional and mental health

OLDER PEOPLE

Projects are invited which help support older GAMP residents to live a happier and healthier life (older residents are defined by Age UK as 50 years +). Projects must address at least one of the following key issues:

~ Mental health, dementia, depression, access to social activity

~ Access to activity; facilities, transport, welfare/money issues

~ Social support; having regular contact with friends, family or neighbours

EMPLOYMENT, ENTERPRISE AND TRAINING

Projects are invited which aim to help improve positive outcomes for GAMP residents to gain employment and/or access to training. The key issues of particular interest are:

~ Apprenticeships

~ Gaining work experience

~ Careers advice

Funding can be spent on either capital or revenue costs, but projects which include a specific element of capital spend are encouraged.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the GAMP Team for an application pack. You can also contact the team if you are unsure if your project fits with our priorities.

Application packs are available now. All applications must be returned to the GAMP Office by the closing date, 5.00pm on Friday 28 July 2017.

HELP IS AVAILABLE

As part of the project callout the GAMP team will be running an advice session to take you through the application process, and to give you some hints and tips to help you complete your application. We strongly recommend that you book a place at the session:

Thursday 22 June, 3.00pm - 5.00pm at Woodham Community Centre

If you are unable to attend the advice session please contact the GAMP Team to arrange an alternative appointment.

To request an application pack, book a place at the advice session or to find out more about the GAMP project callout, please contact the GAMP Team:

Email: gampaap@durham.gov.uk

Telephone: 01325 327 441

VOTE "YES" IN TOWN PLAN REFERENDUM

Dear Editor,
Now that the General Election is over the people of Aycliffe will be asked to go to the polls once again in the form of a Referendum, many people in the pubs and clubs are asking, "What's it all about" they have received no communication, yet several places have copies of the "Neighbourhood Plan", which has taken 3 years to develop and consult on, with steering group discussions. The final draft is now available in several locations for people to read before the 22nd June 2017 - earlier if you are a registered postal voter. The decision that people will make will affect the people of this Town for years to come when planning applications are put before Durham County Council's Planning Committee. If people want to preserve open green spaces and improvements to parking and many more issues, then you will need to consider voting 'Yes'. If you are not bothered then a 'No' vote will do. The best thing would be to read the document in the Library, Leisure Centre, Newton

Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre, opposite Tesco, or online at Durham County Council. I am led to believe that Councillors are not allowed to give advice on this so you have

to form your own opinion.

As a non-councillor I can offer advice and would say, read the document and vote 'YES'. Last week's Newton News gave the locations of where the Plan can be read. Vince Crosby

Vital to Vote for Town Plan says Town Residents' Association

Referendum - 22nd June

On Thursday 22nd June the residents of Great Aycliffe will be asked to vote in a referendum on whether or not to adopt the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan (GANP for short). Planning matters can be dull and boring except to those whom they affect. Nonetheless this Document forms a very important part of the overall planning policies of Durham County Council.

If adopted, it will have the force of law and in so far as Great Aycliffe is concerned provides details of what we want to see and not see in our Town.

It is not the answer to everything, but it is a powerful planning tool, useful to our community, and the Planners at County Hall in trying to keep our green open spaces, ensure adequate parking provision and the need for bungalows and affordable housing. It was led by you the residents, on how you wanted to see our Town develop. With the local elections and the general election, voters might be a little fatigued, but it is important that you give this Planning Document your vote in the referendum, which is required by law before it can come into full effect. On behalf of all Residents

Associations in Great Aycliffe we fully recommend the GANP and ask you give your support by voting to adopt it. It will be noble in motive and far reaching in purpose. **Arun Chandran** Secretary Great Aycliffe Residents' Association.

Walworth Birds of Prey



Hazel Robinson artist and former teacher at Vane Road Primary School has donated one of her soft pastel paintings to the Birds of Prey Centre.

The photograph shows the picture being presented by herself and her Grandson to Tori who with David runs the centre in Walworth Castle grounds.

Having spent very enjoyable days there with William she decided to paint her favourite Barn Owl Nan. The picture is to be displayed in Nan's Workshop.

Mrs Robinson hopes that children who go to this exceptional centre will be inspired to paint their own pictures in whatever medium they choose. The centre is open 10.30 - 4pm daily except Tuesdays.

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Saturday 17th June - "Norgaards"

For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

No Building on Greens says Town Council

The Town Council has a policy opposing any building on greens in Great Aycliffe in an effort to maintain the town's pleasant environment. They were successful recently in getting a planning application refused by Livin to build on a green at Armstrong Close. Livin have appealed against the decision and the argument will be considered by a Government Inspector.

A request from a resident to extend their property onto an adjacent green received an objection from the Council at last week's meeting.

The leader Bob Fleming said as a general principle, in line with the proposed Town Plan, there can be no building on greens in Newton Aycliffe.

Brexit Minister David Davis Visits Roman



left to right - David Osborne, Managing Director of Roman, David Davis and Dehenna Davison Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Sedgefield

Leading international shower designer and manufacturer, Roman, had a visit from David Davis the Secretary of State for

Exiting the European Union with Dehenna Davison the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Sedgefield.

With only two days until Election Day, David Davis and Dehenna Davison were visiting prominent companies in the North East. They toured Roman's manufacturing plant speaking with employees about their roles at Roman and their views on the election.

David Osborne, Managing Director of Roman discussed the company's manufacturing capabilities, International trade, the Made in Britain Organisation and future plans. Roman's vast range of products has made the brand increasingly strong in key International Markets. They supply products for Projects in over 50 markets across the world from Aycliffe.

Roman was recently highlighted by the FT as one of the 1000 fastest growing Companies in Europe and recently won the Queen's Award for International Trade. Roman have shown substantial and sustained increase in export earnings over three consecutive 12 month periods, to a level which is outstanding. The Queen's Award for Enterprise is the most prestigious corporate accolade a UK business can win.

David Osborne, commented: "It is great to discuss the issues around International trade and existing tariffs around the World with the Secretary of State leading the Brexit negotiations and a great honour to welcome him to our headquarters."

Variety Show by Youth

If it's a good mid week night out you would like, then look no further than the Youth Variety Show, at the Civic Hall, Shildon, next Thursday 15th and Friday 16th June, at 7.30pm.

A spokesperson said "Over 70 young people aged between 6 and 25 years will be performing for 2 hours, with various types of entertainment such as skating, singing, dancing, playing instruments, comedy and many other forms of enjoyment.

As an annual event you will know what they are like. If not then you are in for a treat so please come along and support the young people whilst having an enjoyable evening out".

Tickets priced £5 for Adults and £3 Children, are payable on the door both evenings

COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICERS AT WORK



Community Police Officers Daniela Jones and Mike Welch were in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre on Saturday 3rd June between 10am-2pm engaging with the shoppers and offering free bike marking.



Raising Awareness of Cervical Screening

Cervical screening saves lives as every year in the UK, 3,000 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer - the most common cancer in women age 35 years and under. Bewick Crescent Surgery has joined with other surgeries on the town to hold an awareness stall in Tesco on Wednesday 13th June from 9am - 5pm with a nurse in attendance.

This is a proactive event to encourage women to have cervical samples taken and to discuss any concerns. It is also hoped to educate the population about cervical screening.

We are arranging this with Peaseway Surgery and plan a nurse to be available throughout the day from 9-5pm.



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LOSS OF GREEN SPACE The Future of Our Town is in Your Hands - Please Vote

Dear Sir,
I read with apprehension that once again the possibility of our green spaces could be threatened in this part of the Town, depending on what Durham County Council planning allow. We already have the Gleeson development and although prior to planning consent being approved, we raised strong objections with respect to increased traffic flow, stating the need for improving the local road infrastructure and drainage, as well as

increased health and safety and environmental issues. This was ignored and planning granted without a whimper from our local and county councillors as well as our MP who were approached and we have seen the chaos this has caused and yet here we go again only much worse this time. Obviously, those residents affected by the proposal have already been canvassed for their opinions but it does not just impact on them and their quality of life in retirement but on the

wider Community including our children who are the future. At the very least we need to be informed as to what extent our open green spaces, enjoyed by many, would be affected; and secondly what improvements are proposed to deal with the extra traffic including access to and egress from St. Cuthbert's Way and the A167. The local elections are over as is the General Election! If this issue had been in the public domain as far as the local elections was concerned I wonder what the prospective candidates' responses would have been! I can only hope that now elected they support the people they were elected to SERVE!!

As far as Phil Wilson is concerned - ("I am for the people of Newton Aycliffe...") and bearing in mind previous approaches for help and support which came to nothing, I hope this time he stands up to be counted and keeps his election promises to help us protect our open green spaces, before Lord Beveridge's vision for Newton Aycliffe is completely destroyed and becomes a heartless concrete jungle.
Kath Allen
Travellers Green

Dear Editor

By now, I suspect most folk have had just about enough of politics, what with the local elections in May and the snap General Election. A new Government is being formed and life goes on. As residents of Aycliffe, we will be affected directly and indirectly by government policy and elements of these policies will filter down through Durham County Council and to a lesser extent, even down through Great Aycliffe Town Council. On 22nd June 2017 you will be asked to go to the ballot box once more. This time it will be to say a simple 'Yes' or 'No' vote in a referendum. The passing or rejection of this referendum will affect all residents of Aycliffe, now and well into the future. For the past four years, Great Aycliffe Town Council has been working with residents, businesses and community groups to create a Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan sets out the vision

for the Parish and seeks to: protect and retain the traditional green areas, open spaces and environment for the community; to alleviate the existing, overwhelming parking problems whilst allowing grass to be retained as the dominant finish; to retain and protect the green and leafy character of our area; to protect Aycliffe Village from urban sprawl and maintain the traditional village feel; to ensure future developments meet objectively assessed need, including the needs of residents and are of good design; provide affordable housing; to ensure developers provide sufficient suitable older persons' accommodation; to support the development of more two bedroom accommodation; to ensure sufficient parking and storage is included in new developments; to ensure all new developments include sufficient green open space to maintain the garden city framework of the 'Beveridge vision'; to ensure all new developments are built to the highest possible energy efficiency standard; to facilitate and encourage improved retail provision for Newton Aycliffe; to support and encourage local jobs for local people; and to ensure Parish needs are considered first when community infrastructure levy and '106'

monies is available from future developments. The Neighbourhood Plan has gone through a number of stages including considerable public consultation, countless project meetings and scrutiny by an independent planning official on behalf of the Department for the Environment. At a DCC planning meeting on 16th February 2017, the Town Council successfully argued the case for rejection of a planning application concerning development of green open space. The basis of the objection to the planning application was underpinned by the

Neighbourhood Plan. This demonstrates the significant importance of the Neighbourhood Plan, even before formal adoption. The referendum on 22nd June is the final stage for the Plan and will signal its adoption or rejection. It could possibly be the single most important decision you will be asked to express an opinion on, for some time. I would urge everyone eligible to vote to do so, be that a postal vote or by going to their polling station, to support the Neighbourhood Plan and vote in the referendum.
Cllr Jed Hillary
Mayor 2016/17.



It has been a busy week! Please find full articles about the headlines below online on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB76

COUNCIL INFORMATION

- New rules for dog-owners.
 - Continuing problems with grass-cutting.
 - GATC Policy & Resources Committee.
 - Our MEP speaks out about the Spanish 'Stolen Babies' scandal.
 - Latest roadworks information.
- ## COMMUNITY NOTICES
- Police Drink- and Drug-Driving Campaign launched.
 - Healthwatch County Durham newsletter published.
 - What's on in June at the PCP?
 - Please support the North East Centre for Autism funding bid.
 - Please support the S&DR planning application.
 - Planning application for a new school at Vane Road.
 - Urgent warning about the teenager dating app MyLOL.
 - DVLA phishing scam.
 - Getting married? Beware of Wedding Services Frauds.
 - Last week's Friends of the

S&DR meeting.
• Well done PCP on achieving the Queen's Award.

THINGS TO DO NEXT WEEKEND

- Guided Walk (2.5 miles) – Durham's Industrial Past; meet Londonderry Statue, Durham, 6.30pm, Wednesday 14 June.
 - 'Cab it!' Guides will be at the Locomotion Museum, Shildon, 10am-4pm, 17-18 June.
 - Aycliffe 3k Fun Run (starts 9.15am) and 10k Road Race (starts 10am), Sunday 18 June (temporary road closures).
 - Dad's Den Building, Hardwick Park, 10am and 1pm, Sunday 18 June, £10 (advance booking: 03000 262845).
- ## LOCAL ECONOMY NEWS
- Congratulations to Diamond Commercial Cleaning.
 - Tekmar Energy wins an offshore contract in the Baltic Sea.
 - Trade kitchen and bedroom supplier PWS submits expansion planning application.
 - Hitachi submits planning application for huge new post-production building.

Water Authority Drains Cause Dirty Park Lakes

At a recent council meeting Arun Chandran, Independent Town Councillor, questioned the Environment Manager, Steve Cooper, on discussions held with Northumbria Water on work required to keep West Park Lakes clean. Northumbria Water have numerous surface water drains feeding into the lakes and the Council feel they should take some responsibility and fund any scheme to improve the water quality. Arun was insistent Northumbria Water should provide the funds and after presenting details of the build up of silt from drains requested Steve Cooper continue requesting the water authority's involvement.

Corbyn - An Honest Man

Dear Sir,
I was so angry when I read the letter from Phil Wilson in your paper before the election saying he does not support Jeremy Corbyn even though he is a Labour M.P.
In my opinion he was promoting himself rather than the policies of the Labour Party - no change there, I can think of a few Labour councillors who do the same.
I think Jeremy Corbyn is an honest man who has our best interests at heart but he has a mountain to climb when his own M.P.s are stabbing him in the back.
Ann Dryden,

School Helps Town Charity

Sheena and Yvonne would like to thank the staff and parents of St Francis C. of E. School in Newton Aycliffe for their continued support. They have recently donated nappies, baby wipes, shampoo, baby bath, nappy bags and baby sponges. Previously they have donated children's clothes, car seats and a travel system. We are really grateful for these donations as they go to helping needy families in and around Newton Aycliffe. Thanks so much.
Sheena Stephenson
Baby Basics Manager
Lifeline Community Action
M: 07594 297462

We're hiring

We are recruiting for a number of **Residential Child Carers & Family Support Activity Assistants**

- Full time and part time permanent positions available.
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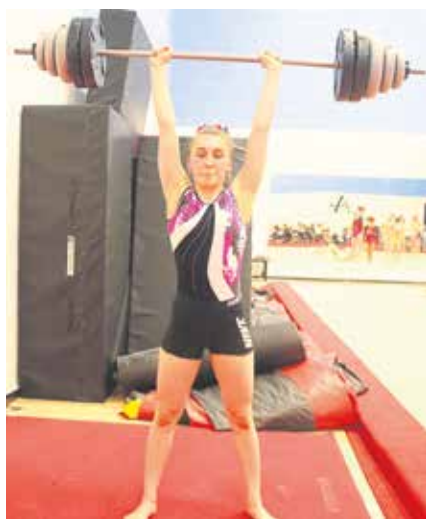
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40% GROWTH FOR ATHENA



To coincide with an upcoming National competition, Athena Sports Academy gymnasts welcomed parents and local Councillor Kate Hopper to spectate their final warm-up event before making the trip to Saltney, Chester. Eleven partnerships dazzled the audience with their amazing Acro routines, leaving the competing gymnasts buzzing with excitement and expectation! Athena have been in their new hall at the Leisure Centre just over a year and had a special sprung floor installed just 9 months ago thanks

to support from County Councillors' neighbourhood budget funding! They had a Disco to celebrate the 1st year anniversary last month and held a competition practice last Thursday, attended by relatives, which was really spectacular. The club had 2 spotting rigs installed last month, another piece of equipment which means the club can grow and progress. This was funded by County Durham Community Foundation who recognised Athena's phenomenal growth to 280 registered members. Thanks to the backing of Aycliffe councillors Athena has progressed into a very successful club, since moving to their designated facility in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, which has provided a much-needed home to all involved. By offering many new recreational sessions catering for ages 18 months to 18 years, they have seen the number of gymnasts increase by over 40%

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS ARRIVING TOO LATE!

Children from Gala Theatre Stage School (GTSS) have been taking part in final rehearsals for their latest production. Young people aged between three and 12 years old will take to the stage on Friday in Animaniacs, a musical show featuring songs from classic children's films including The

Lion King, Frozen and Mary Poppins.

The stars of tomorrow, who have previously taken part in shows including The Wizard of Oz and Seussical the Musical, are now spending their half-term getting prepared for Friday's two performances.

Kate Sorahan, who manages GTSS, said: "The juniors have been working hard in the lead-up to the show and we are now all looking forward to the performances at the end of the week."

"The show is a perfect opportunity for the younger students to showcase their talents in our wonderful theatre before the seniors and Ensemble star in the musical RENT later in the summer."

The stage school, which teaches children from the age of three to 21 was set up in 2002 and now performs to sell-out audiences on an annual basis.

From Saturday, 29 July to Saturday, 5 August, GTSS will present the rock musical Rent, telling the story of young artists struggling to survive in New York City's East Village in the days of Bohemian excess.

Animaniacs takes place at Gala Theatre on Friday, 2nd June at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 or £8 for concessions and can be bought by visiting Gala's website, calling the box office on 03000 266 600 or visiting the box office in person.

AYCLIFFE SWIMMERS MAKE NINE FINALS

The North Eastern Regional Age Group Championships were held at Sunderland Aquatic Centre on the 20th & 21st May and the 27th & 28th May.

Three Aycliffe swimmers competing were Leah Smith, Niall Coulthard and Jamie Darton. Between them they competed in twelve events and qualified for nine finals.

Leah was placed 4th and 5th in the 50 and 100 Breast stroke. Niall was placed 6th and 9th in the 200 and 50 Butterfly. 4th and 7th in the 100 and 50 FS. 4th in the 200 Individual medley 5th in the 100 Breast stroke.

The outstanding swim of the Championships for the club was the 200 FC. Niall's entry time was 2:07 well behind the swimmers from Scunthorpe, Derwentside and Leeds.

He posted a time of 2:05 in the heats and went 2:03 in the final to take the title and the gold medal. A truly great performance.

Editor: We print this story knowing full well some content is out of date, but just to highlight to readers how inefficient the County Council is in disseminating information.

For years I have been complaining about receiving press releases on a Thursday, after our deadline has passed, with news on events happening at the weekend or the following week.

This is unfair denying our readers the opportunity to participate in County organised events. Another instance was when the Council decided to offer free swimming sessions. It arrived on Thursday after our newspaper had gone to press, so again our readers were unaware of the offer for that weekend.

The story above is a good example and you can't tell me they do not know what is happening at the Gala Theatre just a few days before the actual performance.

This happens regularly and I have asked our local County Councillors to register my discontent. It would appear the Council are still in the age of Daily newspapers with declining circulation.

Free weekly community newspapers, like ours, are more popular, are avidly read and when delivered to each household certainly have greater coverage. A shake-up and review of press information is clearly required at County Hall.

NEWTON NEWS

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£3,550 to Repair Bus Shelter

The Town Council will vigorously prosecute vandals who destroy council property including bus shelters.

The current spate of mindless destruction is to be tackled following a recent attack where every pane of glass was knocked out at St. Clare's Bus Shelter.

The cost of repair was nearly £3,500 which comes from Council Tax which we all pay.

Should the vandalism persist against glass bus shelters the Council will need to make them more secure by building brick ones.

If you see vandals at work please call the police on 101.

Thanks from Prayer Hub

Churches Together in Great Aycliffe thank Bryan Haldane, the Town Centre Manager, for the use of the empty shop unit for our Prayer Week. Also, thanks to The More Store at the Blue Bridge who provided tables, chairs, sofas, etc., to furnish The Hub which made it look very welcoming. Thanks also to Greggs, "Love Thy Cup Cake" and Coffee Pronto for the refreshments they provided each day – they were much appreciated and very welcome.

TOP LIVE SHOW AT SCOUT CENTRE

Newton Aycliffe Scout Centre Social Club are hosting 'Years Gone By' on Saturday 17th June. Unfortunately this show was cancelled last year due to one of the band members breaking his hip so we are pleased to say they are now back on the road with something for everyone Rock and Pop, a tribute to the 60's, 70's, and 80's with some fun. YEARS GONE BY are one of, if not the premier duo in the North of England. They bring you the very best in hits from the 60's to the 90's, along with audience participation and a sprinkling of real cabaret comedy. The show features tributes to Elvis and Freddie, they also include props and costume changes and an excellent light show to deliver classics from the biggest acts to go on stage

including The Beatles to Bryan Adams, The Shadows, Meatloaf and many more. Best duo and guaranteed to deliver an awesome night's entertainment. We'd love to see you here at 7:30pm. Tickets are £4 adults and £3 for children. Later this month we will also be hosting a small Classic Car Show organised by The Northern Bygones Society on Tuesday the 20th June from 5pm. This is free to enter so come along and see the cars on display - food will be available to purchase kindly prepared by 1st Newton Aycliffe Scouts. If you have a classic, vintage or interesting vehicle just turn up on the night. Or contact Paul Jackson 01325 312183 for more information.

Balloon Lands Near Aycliffe



Dear Sir,
I have always wanted to see a hot air balloon close up and while driving to Darlington to drop my Mam off at work we both noticed one in the sky near Burtree Road. It was quite high at this point, but on the way back I drove down near Coatham Mundeville, on the A1 and could see the air balloon quite low, so went into the service station to get a better view. To my amazement it got closer and closer to me and landed about 30 metres away. I was first there among many who came running over to see this rather spectacular sight.
Iain Lee

UKIP Meeting

Our next meeting is on 14th June, delayed a week due to the General Election where John Grant from Aycliffe was the UKIP Candidate. The meeting will be held at The Oakleaf Centre, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QZ at 7pm. The venue has facilities for the disabled, ample parking, a well stocked Bar and excellent Meeting Room, all part of the experience. We are reviewing our meetings to involve our members and supporters more. Anyone else who would like to attend is most welcome. It will be an opportunity for the public to question John on any Local or National issues and will be open to the floor.



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OFSTED quote: "Playday Nursery offers an outstanding provision with high quality teaching provided by highly qualified staff."



MRI SCANNER APPEAL

If you would like to make a donation to our MRI appeal or get involved:

- Visit the 'justgiving' website at www.justgiving.com/cddft
- Send a cheque to: Cashiers, Darlington Memorial Hospital, Hollyhurst Road, Darlington, DL3 6HX. Please make cheques payable to: Co Durham & Darlington NHS FT Charity.
- Pick up a donation envelope

with more information, from one of our waiting areas or wards.

- Text **SCAN02 £10** to 70070 to donate £10 to CDDFT.
- To discuss fundraising or for more information, ring 01325 743786 or email: cddft.charity@nhs.net
- Follow us on twitter: @CDDFTCharity
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Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER



9th June 2017

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ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

Foreword by the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Jed Hillary

This has been a wonderful year for me to represent the Town Council of Great Aycliffe in my role as Mayor. I had the pleasure to attending 131 engagements in addition to the formal civic duties. Meeting so many residents, some of who were celebrating special occasions, is one of the things that I enjoy the most about being the Mayor. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone



who helped me raise £5,200 for my nominated charities:- The Rifles Care for Casualties, Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre and Aycliffe Village Hall Association. This included a generous donation from Barclays Bank. This annual report provides a brief summary of some key achievements from the past year and an overview of financial information.

SOME KEY THINGS WE DID LAST YEAR

The Council made **capital investment of nearly £221,000 in 2016/17** and the main capital works completed are listed below:

- Conversion works to St Oswald's pre-school office building.
- Golf complex and Moore Lane Heating Systems replaced.
- Replacement office computers, photocopier and telephone system.
- Replacement of Park Patrol vehicles and works machinery.
- Replacement play equipment in West Park and Byerley Park play areas.
- A new Scoot Track at Horndale Park.
- The purchase of wild flower meadow machinery.
- Play area safety surfacing repairs and footpath repairs.

Further details on the Council's recent capital spending and capital investment plans for the future are provided in the 2017/18 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and the 2017/18 Budget and 2016/17 to 2020/21 Medium Term Financial Plan.

In addition to the capital works the Town Council:

- ✓ achieved £213,500 savings across all service areas;
- ✓ once again achieved a clean bill of health with our finances and received an unqualified audit;
- ✓ provided and managed a wide range of special community events such as Fun-in-the-Parks; Santa Tours, Senior Citizens' Excursions; Christmas Lights; Firework Display and the Aycliffe Festival;
- ✓ assisted and supported other event organisers – 10K race; 3K Fun Run; Remembrance Parade and Community Enhancement Awards;

A message from the new Mayor, Councillor Wendy Hillary

It was an honour and a privilege to be appointed Mayor of Great Aycliffe at the Town Council's Annual General Meeting on 17 May 2017. I have chosen to raise funds for the MRI Scanner Appeal at Darlington Memorial Hospital and Bishop Auckland Hospital. My husband Jed and I are

looking forward to supporting and representing the town, businesses and community. If you would like me to attend any special event or occasion, please contact Sharna Stretch at the Town Council offices on 300700.

The **Capital Programme Budget for 2017/18 totals £255,500** and some of the key planned projects are:

- Widening of the Town Park access gate.
- Play area surfacing replacement (first year of a rolling programme of full replacement).
- Replacement roller door and separation tank cleaning at the depot
- Three replacement works vehicles; a multi-use mowing machine, compact tractor and a wood chipper.
- Computer replacements and website development.
- Replacement festive lighting (first year of a new rolling programme of full replacement).
- External lighting replacement for the driving range.
- Replacement of the small flat roof at the sports complex;
- Provision for ongoing drainage repairs at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.
- Replacement of the bar service lift at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.



Public Referendum PLEASE VOTE - Thursday 22 June

The **Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan** will proceed to public referendum on Thursday 22 June. It is important that residents of the parish vote - a simple 'yes' you agree to the Plan and the policies contained within it, or 'no' you do not, is all that is required. The Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory planning document which sets out the local policies which will govern the future development of the town and parish. The policies relate to key areas identified by parish residents as important, including landscape, environment, housing, heritage, retail provision and parking.

The Plan is viewable at <http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/info/neighbourhood-plan-4/> or at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3285/Neighbourhood-Plan-submissions>

COBBLER'S HALL PROJECT PROGRESSING

The Town Council has completed negotiations to transfer the current play site to the Town Council by way of a lease.

This will enable the refurbishment of the play area to proceed.

Arrangements to obtain tenders, from appropriate suppliers, is our next step.

Following receipt of the schemes the public will be invited to view their proposals and give their preference.

- Internal CCTV improvements at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.
- Replacement shutters for the Oak Leaf Sports Complex function room door.
- An air conditioning unit for the Oak Leaf Sports Complex function room.
- New leisure equipment including bubble balls, targets and foam fencing equipment for use at the sports complex;
- Additional drainage works at Stephenson Way Cemetery.
- Refurbishment of the Remembrance Garden at West Cemetery.
- Provision for the on-going programme of footpath repairs.
- Further investment at St Oswald's pre-school (changing the office building into a possible second pre-school setting) including an outdoor play area fencing and surfacing.
- A provisional sum for the possible conversion of two squash courts into one multi-purpose room which could also be rented out to local fitness, dance or martial arts organisations.

We also continue to provide our usual services such as:-

- ✓ An environmental centre at Moore Lane
- ✓ Held another successful Town Pride Environment Week working with the Youth Council, local schools and volunteers
- ✓ Manage 9 parks, all with play equipment and provide additional play areas at Scott Place, School Aycliffe and the Oak Leaf Sport Complex
- ✓ Continue to provide 6 football pitches, Mini-soccer and six-a-side pitches
- ✓ Continue to run the Oak Leaf Sports Complex - indoor bowls, sports hall, squash courts, bar and catering, children's holidays courses, indoor/outdoor sports activities
- ✓ Continue to run the Oak Leaf Golf Complex – 18 hole golf course and an 18 bay floodlit driving range
- ✓ Continue to provide a limited supply of free dog poo bags
- ✓ Continue our partnership working with Durham County Council
- ✓ Worked with a range of partners to deliver a variety of events and services
- ✓ Manage Stephenson Way Cemetery and West Cemetery and provide grounds maintenance and burial service at St Andrew's Churchyard
- ✓ Provision and maintenance of Aycliffe Angels Memorial Garden
- ✓ Maintenance of war memorial and flagpole
- ✓ Run a pre-school play setting at St. Oswald's Park – with a 'good' Ofsted rating
- ✓ Provide a range of civic events
- ✓ Provide 212 allotment plots in 5 different locations. Inc. 2 allotment sites with pigeon or poultry facilities
- ✓ Employ a Town Pride Team and a team of Park Patrol Operatives
- ✓ Provide public seats in many locations
- ✓ Provide a number of bus shelters with litter bins
- ✓ Grounds maintenance and environmental management at a number of key sites
- ✓ Assist Aycliffe Youth Council
- ✓ Provide a lorry park
- ✓ Encourage Community Empowerment through Customer Panel, Consultation and Open Days
- ✓ Provide small grants to local voluntary organisations
- ✓ Continue to support the preparation of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan
- ✓ Comment on planning applications

Town Council Targets for 2016 to 2017

AIM 1 - TO PROVIDE GOOD QUALITY GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL

1 Publish a Town Council Service Delivery Plan by 31st May each year

2 Publish an Annual Report

3 Provide a Member and Town Clerk training programme

4 Undertake an annual review of the Council Constitution, Financial Regulations and Council Policies to ensure compliance with current legislation

5 Undertake a review of all records and filing systems annually to comply with Data Protection and Freedom of Information Act

6 Improve advertising of Council facilities and services by targeting a service area in each publication

7 Improve use of all media, including social media, to advertise the Council’s services and facilities

8 Undertake research where appropriate for new policies and procedures

9 Keep up to date with any changes in legislation and report to council as and when required

10 Continue to monitor energy consumption and reduce usage where possible

11 To continue the annual Performance and Development Appraisal Scheme for all staff with a view to being complete by September each year

AIM 2 - TO MANAGE THE COUNCIL'S FINANCES AND ASSETS IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER

12 Produce annual statement of accounts by June each year

13 Achieve an unqualified external audit opinion

14 Achieve an unqualified audit opinion of the Accounts by 30.9.17

15 Ensure the Medium Term Financial Plan is approved by 30th June each year

16 Deliver the Internal Audit Plan Schedule of Work and report to Council

17 Manage the financial impact of the localisation of support for council tax (LCTSS) and any future cuts to LCTSS funding

18 Ensure compliance with the Transparency Code/ Openness of Local Government Regulations

19 Delivery the work set out in the Asset Management Plan via the capital programme and, a six monthly review is undertaken with Officers and Member Asset Management Group.

20 Quarterly budget control reports are presented to Policy and Resources Committee

21 Budgets/Precepts approved by 31st January 2018

22 Undertake a review of all Council risks every March and report to Council

23 Continue the programme of financial reviews of all

service areas

24 Undertake an annual update of the Asset Register including the schedule of expected life and replacement costs for buildings, plant and machinery.

AIM 3 - TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE LEISURE FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

25 Deliver the Council’s programme of special events

- Fun in the Parks
- Aycliffe Festival
- Senior Citizens Trips
- Firework Display
- Santa Letters
- Santa Tours
- Christmas lights

26 Undertake a review of the Santa Tours to ensure volunteers and members of the public are safe and as much, as possible, of the Town has a visit from Santa

27 Help co-ordinate and deliver the Aycliffe Festival, providing assistance, financial support if required, training and publicity and undertake a review as soon as possible following the event

28 Construct a new play area at Cobbler’s Hall, subject to lease being completed

29 Undertake a review of activity usage and explore the possibility of any new activities that could be implemented at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex

AIM 4 - TO PROVIDE PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AS APPROPRIATE IN GREAT AYCLIFFE

30 Ensure the continuous improvement of the service and obtain at least a ‘good’ and aiming for ‘excellent’ Ofsted Inspection

AIM 5 - TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OF AYCLIFFE BY MANAGING AND DEVELOPING PARKS, PLAY AREAS AND GREEN SPACES

31 Works & Environment Manager to arrange to work with local schools and community groups to develop volunteer opportunities

32 Undertake the works arising from the survey of trees on Town Council land in accordance with the Tree Policy and prioritise any work needed

33 To continue to monitor the health and condition of the trees on Town Council land

34 Commission The Groundwork Trust to undertake a Hydrology and Ecology report on the lakes at West Park and investigate ways and means to implement any recommendations

35 Undertake landscaping improvement works as required

36 Works and Environment Manager to organise and help deliver public countryside events

37 Complete at least 5 targeted Himalayan Balsam removing

working parities along The Burn

38 Improve and increase the planting, including additional plant species, in the wildflower meadows

39 Undertake maintenance and management of specific Durham County Council environmental areas as per the management agreement

40 Undertake a limited snow clearing and gritting service for Durham County Council (DCC) as per the winter maintenance agreement for the benefit of residents

41 North Agnew Plantation – to undertake footpath improvements if/when woodland transferred to GATC

AIM 6 – HELP AND ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO IMPROVE THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE

42 Support and encourage Aycliffe Youth Council (AYC) by:

- Organising the election process –
- Holding at least 8 meetings a year -
- Helping to organise at least 1 project a year

43 To continue partnership working with DCC and build on the existing initiatives

44 Work with the Youth Council, schools, community and voluntary groups to hold a Town Pride Environment Week

45 The Works and Environment Manager, the Town Pride Team and Park Patrol Officers to work with DCC Officers

46 The Works & Environment Manager and Town Pride Team to work with DCC Officers and Tidy Britain to ensure that the Great Aycliffe Parish has a targeted **Anti-Littering campaign**, in addition to the work already scheduled by DCC

47 Work in partnership with residents and friends groups to improve our parks, play areas and environment areas

AIM 7 - ENCOURAGE THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LOCAL DEMOCRACY

48 Hold an aims and target meeting each March to discuss progress on existing targets and new targets with the Customer Panel Group

49 Hold a budget setting consultation meeting with the Customer Panel

50 To promote the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan and vote in the referendum

51 Hold a Parish Meeting

52 Hold an Allotment AGM

53 Hold 4 allotment representative meetings

54 Hold or take part in at least 2 events to inform residents about Town Council services

AIM 8 - TO RESEARCH INFORMATION AND MAKE THE CASE FOR GREAT AYCLIFFE

55 Produce timely responses to all major consultations carried out

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

31st May 2017	Environment	7.15 p.m.	29th Nov. 2017	Environment	7.15 p.m.
31st May 2017	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.	29th Nov. 2017	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
7th June 2017	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.	6th Dec. 2017	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.
14th June 2017	Full Council	7.15 p.m.	13th Dec. 2017	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
12th July 2017	Environment	7.15 p.m.	17th Jan. 2018	Environment	7.15 p.m.
12th July 2017	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.	17th Jan. 2018	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
19th July 2017	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.	24th Jan. 2018	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.
26th July 2017	Full Council	7.15 p.m.	31st Jan. 2018	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
6th Sept. 2017	Environment	7.15 p.m.	28th Feb. 2018	Environment	7.15 p.m.
6th Sept. 2017	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.	28th Feb. 2018	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
13th Sept. 2017	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.	7th Mar. 2018	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.
20th Sept. 2017	Full Council	7.15 p.m.	14th Mar. 2018	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
18th Oct. 2017	Environment	7.15 p.m.	11th Apr. 2018	Environment	7.15 p.m.
18th Oct. 2017	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.	11th Apr. 2018	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
25th Oct. 2017	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.	18th Apr. 2018	Policy & Res.	7.15 p.m.
1st Nov. 2017	Full Council	7.15 p.m.	25th Apr. 2018	Full Council	7.15 p.m.

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

16th MAY, 2018 - COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - 7.15 p.m.
23rd MAY, 2018 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 p.m. (*)**
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”.
(***) (N.B. – this is not a meeting of the Town Council but a meeting of local government electors in the Council’s area. Any queries about the Parish Meeting can be made to the Town Clerk on 01325 300700).

REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2017/18

- (a) **Youth Council** - Councillors J. Atkinson and D. Atkinson together with the Corporate and Policy Officer.
(b) **County Durham Association of Local Councils** - Councillors R.S. Fleming, M. Iveson and the Town Clerk.
(c) **Aycliffe Village Community Association** - Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp.
(d) **Woodham Village Community Association** - Councillors K. Henderson and Mrs. B.A. Clare.
(e) **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils’ Committee** - Councillors J.P. Hillary, B. Hall and the Town Clerk.
(f) **Larger Local Councils’ Forum** - Councillors R.S. Fleming and M. Iveson and the Town Clerk.
(g) **Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre** - Councillor J.D. Clare.
(h) **Newton Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society** - Councillor I. Gray.
(i) **Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve** - Councillor I. Gray.
(j) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway** - Councillor D. Hardaker.
(k) **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** - Councillors J. Atkinson, I. Gray, B. Hall and the Corporate and Policy Officer.
(l) **Crime and Community Safety Task Group** - Councillors M. Iveson and M. Ashcroft.

GRANTS / DONATIONS

The Council considered applications for Grants and the following were agreed and paid out over the year 2016/17.

• Oakleaf Golf Section	£300	• Great North Air Ambulance	£200
• County Durham School Benevolent Fund	£200	• Durham Cathedral - Holocaust Memorial	£200
• Learning Library	£200	• Great North Childrens Hospital	£64
• Oakleaf Golf Club	£50	• Durham Cathedral	£250
• Rotary Club - Model Railway Exhibition	£100	• Newton Aycliffe Sports Club	£500
• Rotary Club - Sponsored Community Jaunt	£100	Total	
• Woodham Village Association	£600		

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017 / 2018

Members on
Committee

COUNCIL (All Members) Councillor Wendy P. Hillary (Mayor), Councillor John Clark (Deputy Mayor)

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (26 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors E. Adam, M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, D.G. Atkinson, Kathryn Beetham, P.J. Bergg, B. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, D. Hardaker, K. Henderson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, K. Robson and P. Symons.

RECREATION COMMITTEE (26 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors E. Adam, M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, D.G. Atkinson, Kathryn Beetham, P.J. Bergg, B. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, D. Hardaker, K. Henderson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, K. Robson and Mrs. S.A. Symons.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE (26 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors E. Adam, M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, Kathryn Beetham, P.J. Bergg, B. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, D. Hardaker, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, K. Robson, P. Symons and Mrs. S.A. Symons.

SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS from the Policy and Resources Committee

SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP (8 Members)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, A.M. Chandran, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and K. Robson.

GENERAL APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (Members chosen as necessary from appropriate Committee)

MEMBER APPEALS PANEL (Members chosen as necessary from Personnel Sub-Committee)

PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE (14 Members + Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, Kathryn Beetham, W. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. B.A. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, D. Hardaker, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and K. Robson.

APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (4 Members + Deputy Mayor as ex-officio) Cllrs J.D. Clare, J. Clark, G.C. Gray, J.P. Hillary and P. Symons.

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE (8 Members + Mayor as ex-officio) Councillors M. Ashcroft, Kathryn Beetham, P.J. Bergg, A.M. Chandran, G.C. Gray, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

ASSET MANAGEMENT MEMBER WORKING GROUP (11 Members) Councillors M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, A.M. Chandran, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and P. Symons.

CHARGES WORKING GROUP (Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Environment, Recreation and Policy and Resources Committees plus the Mayor and Deputy Mayor) Councillors M. Ashcroft, J. Clark, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, B. Hall, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary and M. Iveson.

REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE (6 Members) Councillors A.M. Chandran, J.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and K. Robson.

PRE-SCHOOL SUB-COMMITTEE (5 Members + Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Policy & Resources) Councillors M. Ashcroft, Kathryn Beetham, R.S. Fleming, Mrs. S. Haigh, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. S.A. Symons.

WORKING GROUPS from the Recreation Committee

GOLF COURSE WORKING GROUP (1 Member + Chair and Vice-Chair of Recreation)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, D.A. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, J.P. Hillary and M. Iveson.

SPORTS COMPLEX WORKING GROUP (Members chosen as necessary)

FESTIVAL WORKING GROUP (3 Members + Chair & Vice-Chair of Recreation)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, Kathryn Beetham, B. Hall, D. Hardaker and J.P. Hillary.

SANTA TOURS WORKING GROUP (1 Member + Chair & Vice-Chair of Recreation and Policy)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, J.P. Hillary and M. Iveson.

SUB-COMMITTEE from the Environment Committee

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE (11 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor)

Councillors P. Bergg, A. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J. Clark, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, D. Hardaker, J. Hillary, Mrs. W. Hillary, M. Iveson and K. Robson.

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the Council's Elected Members during the financial year 2016/17 in line with statutory requirements as set out in the Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2004.

Surname	Forenames	Title	Total Payment	Allowance	Subsistence	Mileage Claim
Adam	Edward M.	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Ashcroft	Martin	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Atkinson	Derek George	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Atkinson	James	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Bergg	Peter John	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Blenkinsopp	William M.	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Bowman	Thomas R.	Mr	£88.30	£88.30		
Chandran	Arun	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Clare	John Duncan	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Clare	Barbara Anne	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Clark	John Joseph	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Collinson	Neil	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Dalton	Maria	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Dalton	Michael	Mr	£0.00	£0.00		
Davies	Peter Lewis	Mr	£854.90	£854.90		
Fleming	Robert Stuart	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Gray	George C.	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Gray	Ian	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Haigh	Sandra	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Hall	Brian	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Henderson	Keith	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Hewitson	Irene	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Hillary	Wendy P.	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Hillary	Jeremy Paul	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Iveson	William	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Iveson	Sarah Jane	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Iveson	Malcolm	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Kjenstad	Paul Einar	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Raw	Valerie M.	Mrs	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Robson	Kenneth	Mr	£1,059.60	£1,059.60		
Wheeler	Christopher A.	Mr	£706.40	£706.40		

Any subsistence figures are for Conferences – As per approved Members Allowance Scheme

MEMBERS ATTENDANCES

5th MAY 2016
TO
4th MAY 2017

Councillor	Att.	Apol.	Poss.
Adam E	39	0	39
Ashcroft M	48	3	53
Atkinson DG	24	7	31
Atkinson J	56	3	63
Bergg PJ	28	10	39
Blenkinsopp W	32	5	39
Chandran AM	50	1	51
Clare Mrs BA	33	9	43
Clare J	33	6	39
Clark J	32	14	48
Collinson N	32	7	39
Dalton Mrs M	50	3	54
Dalton MA	42	14	58
Davies PL	11	0	12
Fleming RS	56	5	61
Gray GC	45	1	46
Gray I	44	0	44
Haigh Mrs S	31	11	46
Hall B	66	2	68
Henderson K	18	1	40
Hewitson Mrs I	24	11	39
Hillary JP	43	7	50
Hillary Mrs WP	44	4	49
Iveson M	46	16	63
Iveson Mrs SJ	29	21	51
Iveson W	31	8	39
Kjenstad P	23	2	32
Raw Mrs VM	46	3	51
Robson K	45	6	53
Wheeler C	14	28	48

BYERLEY PARK, HORNDAL & COBBLERS HALL WARD



John D. Clare
Lab - Tel. 318333



Ian Gray
Lab - Tel. 313770



Brian Hall
Lab - Tel. 314105



Dorothy Bowman
Ind - Tel. 308094



Irene Hewitson
Ind - Tel. 318763



Peter J. Bergg
Lab - 07432 070717

WOODHAM WARD



Barbara A. Clare
Lab - Tel. 318333



Paul Symons
Ind - 07496 180442



Mary Dalton
Lab - Tel. 320499



Sally Symons
Ind - 07495 705413



Sandra Haigh
Ind - Tel. 318303



Keith Henderson
Lab - Tel. 319542

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLOR

AYCLIFFE CENTRAL WARD



Jim Atkinson
Lab - Tel. 310791

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE



Bill Blenkinsopp
Ind - Tel. 788893

SIMPASTURE WARD



Valerie M. Raw
Lab - Tel. 311447



David Hardaker
Lab - Tel. 314442



John Clark
Lab - 07972 170190

WEST WARD



Eddy Adam
Lab - 07900 701966



Kate Hopper
Lab - 07837 917138



Arun M. Chandran
Ind - Tel. 313224



George C. Gray
Ind - Tel. 314934



Martin Ashcroft
Lab - 07811 403986



Ken Robson
Ind - 07443 046804

SHAFTO / ST. MARY'S WARD



Robert S. Fleming
Lab - Tel. 310025



Wendy Hillary
Lab - Tel. 313273



Malcolm Iveson
Lab - Tel. 319759



Derek Atkinson
Lab - Tel. 301395

NEVILLE WARD



Jed P. Hillary
Lab - Tel. 313273



Sarah Iveson
Lab - Tel. 319759

Annual Report on the Council's Finances

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; 2017/18, whilst also providing a summary of the Council's financial performance over the last year; 2016/17, including the outcome of the annual audit inspection.

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 bill.

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. 2017/18 Revenue Budget

The 2017/18 Revenue Budget was developed on the principle of maintaining services whilst keeping the required increase in council tax as low as possible.

Additional budget provision needed to be made for the following:-

- The 2017/18 local government pay award and increases at the lower end of the salary scale linked to the National Living Wage;
- An increase in the employer's pension contribution rate for all staff in the Local Government Pension Scheme;
- Increases in business rates arising from the 2016 revaluation;
- The cut to the Council Tax Support Grant funding;
- A fall in golf membership and sports complex income;

Service Area	2017/18 Budget £
Members and Civic Expenses	70,850
Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	457,750
Capital Financing Charges	30,900
St Oswald's Pre School	153,000
Community Events	127,350
Sports Complex	661,650
Golf Course and Driving Range	239,100
Environment and Open Spaces	86,750
Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	221,450
Works and Depot	202,500
Street Equipment	6,850
Cemeteries	77,100
Allotments	22,300
Contingency Sum	45,500
Total Cost of Running Town Council Services	2,403,050
Capital Programme Investment in Council Assets	255,500
Contribution to Capital Reserves	25,000
Total Planned Revenue and Capital Spending	2,683,550
Less Income	
Council Tax Support Grant	(191,750)
Pre-School Funding and Fees	(92,750)
Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(415,000)
Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(180,000)
Cemeteries and Allotments Fees and Charges	(45,500)
Feed In Tariff Income from Solar Panels	(11,000)
Other Income	(10,800)
Investment Income	(2,750)
Total Income	(949,550)
Less Use of Council Balances - Capital Programme	(255,500)
Less Use of Council Balances - Council Elections	(25,000)
Net Budget Requirement / Council Precept	1,453,500

This increase in the Precept will ensure that all services can continue to be provided to the standard expected by the residents of Great Aycliffe next year, whilst continuing to provide a firm foundation, and some surplus resources, to meet the challenges, spending commitments and funding cuts that lie further ahead.

The above table provides a summary of the Council's 2017/18 spending plans:-

4. 2017/18 Council Tax

The 2017/18 Band D Town Council Tax is £221.89 per year.

This represented an increase of 1.99% on the 2016/17 Council Tax.

However, it is important to note that more than half of the properties in Great Aycliffe fall within Council Tax Band A and therefore pay only two thirds of the Band D Council Tax.

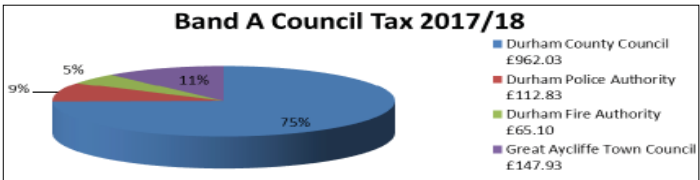
The 2017/18 Band A Council Tax is £147.93 per year which equates to £12.32 per month or £2.84 per week. This equates to an increase of £2.89 per year.

A breakdown of the 2017/18 Council Tax is shown here demonstrating that only **11p in every £1 of the total Council Tax comes to the Town Council:-**

5. 2017/18 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 2017/18** has been **set at £382,500** and includes provision for building maintenance works, replacement works vehicles and machinery, computer hardware, improvements at the sports complex, footpath and safety surface repairs, and a new park in Cobblers Hall.

The Capital Programme Budget **will be funded from the Council's Earmarked Capital Reserves and external capital grants and contributions.**

6. Council Balances and Earmarked Reserves

The Council's Balances and Earmarked Reserves stood at £1.145 million at the 31st March 2017. This is better than anticipated and is as a result of the savings delivered on the Council's Revenue Budget last year, as well as a land sale and lower than expected spending on the Capital Programme Budget.

This is considered to be an adequate level of reserves to fund capital spending commitments for the foreseeable future and to provide some protection against future revenue budget pressures and possible cuts to funding.

7. 2015/16 and 2016/17 Actual Revenue Spending

A summary of the Council's actual expenditure in 2015/16 and 2016/17 in running its various services, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2015/16 £	Service Area	2016/17 £
62,867	Members and Civic Expenses	62,944
416,010	Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	384,991
19,997	Neighbourhood Plan	1,318
29,872	Capital Financing Charges	30,478
173,206	Pre Schools	146,491
111,682	Community Events	114,542
615,806	Sports Complex	638,365
237,594	Golf Course and Driving Range	237,728
204,326	Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	207,915
251,897	Environment, Works and Street Equipment	241,772
72,831	Cemeteries	85,995
21,454	Allotments	23,989
4,000	Contingency Sum	7,999
47,507	A167 Lights Commuted Sum	-
21,718	By Elections	7,376
2,290,767	Total Cost of Running Council Services	2,191,903
	Less Income	
(228,899)	Council Tax Support Grant	(220,765)
(7,521)	Neighbourhood Plan Grant	-
(141,765)	Pre Schools Funding and Fees	(96,628)
(420,083)	Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(416,771)
(185,774)	Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(179,883)
(24,450)	Cemeteries Fees	(35,473)
(6,292)	Allotments Rents	(6,248)
(25,204)	Other Income	(24,340)
(81,701)	Use of Balances	(8,694)
(6,644)	Investment Income	(5,375)
(1,128,333)	Total Income	(994,177)
1,162,434	Actual Net Cost of Council Services	1,197,726
186,116	Contribution to Council Balances / Savings	213,424
1,348,550	Council Precept / Council Tax	1,411,150

in Council and community assets for the benefit of the tax payers of Great Aycliffe over the coming years.

8. 2015/16 and 2016/17 Actual Capital Investment

A summary of the Council's capital investment in Council and community assets in 2015/16 and 2016/17, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed here:-

2015/16 £	Investment Area	2016/17 £
25,737	Council Building Works and Improvements	42,693
45,120	Replacement Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment	45,054
31,972	Information Technology and Office Equipment	19,500
72,966	Parks and Play Area Improvements	80,179
18,983	Golf Course Safety and Irrigation Improvements	-
6,710	Infrastructure Works (Drainage, Bridges, Footpaths)	30,153
-	Street Equipment (Bus Shelters, Bins, Fencing)	3,478
201,488	Total Capital Investment	221,057
	Funded by:-	
29,042	Capital Contributions	24,500
172,446	Use of Council Balances	196,557
201,488	Funding of Capital Investment	221,057

1. Statement of Accounts

2. Annual Governance Statement

3. Value for Money

The Council is pleased to report that it has again received a clean bill of health on all aspects of the audit inspection in 2016/17.

This means that the external auditors consider that:-

- The Council's Statement of Accounts presents fairly its financial position;
- The Council is well managed and governed with sound strategies, policies, procedures, systems and internal controls;
- The Council's finances are in good order and it is well placed to meet the challenges that lie ahead;
- The Council secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money and delivers value for money services to the local community.

This was a very positive Audit Report for the Council and has been achieved as a result of the hard work and commitment of all councillors, management and staff.

9. Annual Audit Report

The Council is subject to an annual audit by its external auditors and the overall opinion on the financial standing of the Council is set out in an Annual Audit Report.

The auditors looked at three main areas of the Council finances last year:-

Join Your Local Roller Skating Club



Spectrum (North East) Roller Skating Club took part in "Pass on your Passion" Sunday on 4th June 2017. The nationwide campaign is designed to help women get into coaching sport. Currently in the UK only 30% of sports coaches are women. Spectrum Roller Skating Club decided to get involved with the campaign as it reflected what the club is all about. "As a coach, it is my job to inspire others to get involved and pass on their knowledge, cultivating and promoting - artistic roller skating.

Coach Tracy Stevens said "I felt it was important to nominate my helpers Karen Austin, Jo Loring, Andrea Vasey, Nicola Stevens and Leah Toms as they are such a fantastic support. I want them to be recognised for helping others and also empower them to develop their skills further." County Durham Sport came along to our club session today and brought a 5ft inflatable baton.

Thanks to Outlaw Productions for their support with video footage - This will be available on social media soon. During the week of 12th-18th June Sports Clubs all over County

Durham will be encouraged to pass on the baton. A great opportunity to get active and get involved in sport. Spectrum Roller Skating Club now skate at Shildon 2.30-3.30pm both Saturdays and Sundays, £4 per hour. You can see footage of the campaign and keep up to date with Spectrum Roller Skating Club on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

CARE HOME OPEN DAY

Dear Sir,
Residents at Defoe Court would thank all local businesses that supported their Fundraising Event held on Saturday 27th May, 2017 at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club.
Our residents would also like to invite everyone to the HC-One Big Lunch on National Care Home Open Day on 16th June, 2017 between 2pm and 4pm at Defoe Court Care Home. There will be entertainment, refreshments and various stalls. Everyone is welcome to join us.
Sue McMichael (Admin)

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store lost by 6 wickets away at Bedale 1st XI in the NYSD 2nd division. Asked to bat first Aycliffe scored a challenging 235 all out after 48.5 overs, thanks to excellent innings from Jack Slatcher (sponsored by Mr & Mrs Greaves), who top scored with 62, Subhan Christudas (31 runs) and 25 each from both Adam Gittins and Tom Wickins. In reply the homeside also batted well and despite a couple of wickets each from Luke Telford and Patrick Howe, Bedale reached their winning target after 48.1 overs.

The 2nd team were well beaten by ten wickets at home to promotion chasing Maltby 2nd XI in the NYSD 4th division. Electing to bat first, Aycliffe were bowled out for a disappointing 123 after just 25.3 overs. Ryan Patrick (sponsored by Business Club Durham) top scored with 29 and other contributions came from Dave Richardson (23 runs) and Dave Wright (14 runs). The visitors rushed to victory after just 20.3 overs without losing a wicket.

The u15's game away at Blackhall was marred by a nasty facial injury to captain Lucas Pilling who was struck by the ball when fielding and

required a visit to hospital after the game. The home side scored 127 for 4 in their allotted 20 overs with David Robinson again bowling well taking 2 for 18. In reply, Leo Mercy top scored with 13 runs, but Aycliffe were restricted to 71 for 9 from their 20 overs, falling short by 56 runs.

The u13's put up a gallant fight and were unlucky to lose by just 8 runs at home to Barnard Castle. The visitors batted first and scored 102 for 5 in their 20 overs with David Robinson the pick of the Aycliffe bowlers taking 2 for 7 from his 3 overs. In reply opener Harry Wright batted superbly scoring 32 not out off just 34 balls, including six boundaries. He was supported well by captain Iain Robson, who chipped in with 11 runs, but Aycliffe fell just short of their target finishing their 20 overs on 94 for 8.

The u11's had a brilliant 48 run win at home to Blackhall in the NYACC Junior league. Aycliffe's Harrison Pearson (3 wickets for 2 runs) and Thomas Dearden (3 wickets for 4 runs) bowled superbly and Daniel Heaton (15 not out) and Harrison Pearson (10 not out) batted equally as well in the Aycliffe innings. **Photo of the victorious u11's team with their Coach, Adam Gittins.**



Roller Derby Comes to Aycliffe Leisure Centre



Roller Derby, one of the fastest growing sports in the world, has a massive following in the North East, where teams in both the Men's and Women's leagues are ranked amongst the best in Europe. Saturday July 1st sees newcomers Durham City Rolling Angels host their first game in the British championships and welcome teams from Grimsby, York and Mansfield to Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. But what is Roller Derby? I hear you ask? Roller Derby is a full contact sport that pits two teams against each other. The game is fast and furious and full of adrenaline - once you see it you'll be hooked.

Durham City Rolling Angels are a female run team with over 30 skaters on their squad. "We are a group of fierce, strong women, who are more like a family than just teammates.

We train three times a week, around our work and family commitments. We will also be recruiting new skaters this summer to be a part of our league" explains Claire Turner aka 'Clairely Psycho,' part of the training team for Durham City Rolling Angels.

She explained the journey it has taken to be ready to compete. "We have trained so unbelievably hard now for nearly 2 years to be ready for our first year in the British Championships. This first season has brought many challenges, but no matter what we will always give 110% in every game we play."

In their last British Championship game DCRA narrowly missed out on a victory, and being so close to their first win has made

them even more determined than ever.

Tickets for their home game are available from just £5 per adult and children aged 12 and under are free of charge. Contact the Angels through their Facebook page or Website to reserve your tickets and support your local roller derby team.

Web: <http://www.durhamcityrollingangels.co.uk/>
FB: www.facebook.com/durhamcityrollingangels
Email: durhamcityrollingangels@gmail.com

Fashion Show & Fizz!

Brafferton Village Hall is playing host to a charity fashion show on Tuesday 13th June in aid of Alzheimer's Society. There will be a fun and informal fashion show featuring the summer collection from French company Captain Tortue, and a selection of stalls for you to browse including Scentys, FM perfumes, DoTerra essential oils, Phoenix cards and Usborne books. Or you can treat yourself to a hand massage from Relax with Sam or a mini facial by Tracey using Arbonne products.

Doors open at 7pm and entry is £3 which includes a glass of fizz and entry into a free prize draw. All proceeds, including those from a charity raffle, will be donated to Alzheimer's Society as part of their Alzheimer's Awareness Day later that same week. We are still looking for real life models, size 10/12/14 to take part on the night; doing so gets you free entry! If you would like to model or require further information please contact Sam on 07710 478583. Further details can be found at www.facebook.com/brafferton_vha



GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Customer Panel Meeting

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on:

TUESDAY, 20th JUNE 2017

commencing at 6.00p.m. The Panel meet in the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

The meeting will be to give an update of the Council's Aims and Targets and general updates.

We are always looking for new members. If you would like to know a little more about us and our work this would be a great meeting to attend. The group are informal and quite often have lively debates about a wide range of Town Council matters.

Why not come along and join us at this meeting - we look forward to seeing and meeting new members.

Further information can be obtained from Christine Walton on 01325 300700
e-mail: Christine.Walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Football Club are an ambitious and ever-growing local club and we are currently seeking partners and sponsors for the coming season to support our continued rise. The First XV are set to challenge for the Durham Northumberland 2 title, having won their 1st league with only 1 defeat in 24 games, and the Newtonians (second XV) were crowned Tees Valley Social League champions and will look to repeat this excellent achievement. The 2017-18 season promises to be an exciting one for the club and you could be a part of it. We have created three exciting sponsorship packages to suit all budgets with some great benefits that could increase your brand awareness both locally, and across the region. We think sponsors should be rewarded for their support, so we go the extra mile to help you gain as much recognition as possible through our pitch side advertising, exposure to our large online following and invitations to our sponsors day. If you think your business could benefit from increased exposure and awareness, why not get in touch to discuss our great sponsorship packages.

National	Championship	Premiership
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My wife and I think very little thought has gone into the proposal by Livin to demolish the bungalows in Clarence Green and Travellers Green area.
There are over 30 prefabs mainly occupied by elderly and disabled in the past and they are to be replaced with just ten. The rest of the land will have 2 bed apartments, 2,3 and 4 bedroom houses most of which will be for private sale, bringing in great profit for Livin. When asked where they intend to re-house existing tenants the reply was they would be given priority on the housing list to move anywhere they wished on the town.
All tenants are 70's and 80's, many with mobility problems because of their age. This is a very worrying situation for us and we would like some assurance that we will be re-housed in bungalows with the same space.
Some have very nice gardens they have nurtured for 25+ years and it is hoped the new bungalows offered will include an acceptable landscaped garden as part compensation for the upheaval.
We have all been interviewed separately and told there would be another meeting in July with the planners.
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Newcastle Pick 12 year old Newtonian



Tyler with Andy Collett

Woodham Academy student Tyler Dickinson, aged 12, has been picked to play for Newcastle United's under thirteen development squad. After just two seasons playing football and a few months at Andy Collett's keeper training at Woodham Academy as well as playing for the school team, he has been scouted by Newcastle.
Tyler who plays goalkeeper has worked incredibly hard including competing in and becoming the most recent Keeper Kombat champion, a competition that pits goalkeepers from all over the north east against each other. Tyler's mum Nicky said, 'I'm extremely proud of Tyler's achievement because he's worked so hard and put in huge amounts of effort because football is his passion and it's great that his dedication is starting to pay off'.

CHARITY GOLF DAY

The OAKLEAF GOLF CLUB holds a Charity Match on Saturday 29th July 2017 in aid of Great North Air Ambulance Service.
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Wellbeing for Life Volunteers Week

1-7 June marked National Volunteers Week and the Wellbeing for Life service held events across County Durham to recognise the invaluable contribution that volunteers make.

The team are keen to support any individuals who would like to give a little of their time to make a big difference so invited people along to various venues to chat about how volunteering can benefit them. The Wellbeing for Life service works with people to address the factors which influence their health and build their capacity to be independent, resilient and maintain good health for themselves and those around them. Wellbeing for Life currently has 300 active volunteers of which 94 are trained Community Health Champions and they support the team of staff who work with groups and individuals in County Durham supporting them to take those difficult first steps to a better quality of life. Julie Form, Wellbeing for Life's manager says "The service simply wouldn't exist without the support of volunteers. For some, volunteering offers the



chance to give something back to the community or make a difference to the people around them. For others it provides an opportunity to develop new skills or build on existing experience and knowledge. The wellbeing approach goes beyond looking at a single issue and instead aims to take a whole-person and community approach to improving health. The service hopes to create sustainable groups and activities in local communities across County Durham and volunteers are essential in making this happen."

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Council Welcome Plans to Revive Aycliffe Show

Organisers bidding to relaunch the Great Aycliffe Show have been given a major boost after Aycliffe Town Council broadly welcomed the plans. In an initial meeting between organisers

and Great Aycliffe Town Council, members welcomed the idea, but asked to see more details before progressing discussions. Newtonian Russ Gibson has already assembled a team of

people, with three of them meeting Council leader Bob Fleming, deputy leader Malcolm Iveson and head of recreation Brian Hall this week, and while it's still very early days, they were broadly

supportive.

Mr Gibson impressed council members with a positive case to relaunch the Great Aycliffe Show, which is estimated would cost around £50,000 to fund. Russ already has a solicitor, an accountant and a local marketing firm on board, and he's also held talks with experienced events organisers about getting involved in elements of the show.

He said: "We're delighted with our progress so far. The meeting with Aycliffe Town Council was very positive and we're delighted they have welcomed the idea in principle.

"We need to put together a more detailed plan, with our ideas of what sort of attractions we're proposing and the provisions those ideas will need.

"We also need to commercialise the event so that it's financially viable, while making sure the community remains at the heart of the show. We're under no illusions as to how much work will be involved to bring this idea to fruition, but we've already assembled a small management team and between us we're all very passionate and driven."

Almost 1,000 people have already followed Mr Gibson's Facebook page, set up less than two months ago, and he's appealing for people to show their support by going to www.facebook.com/greataycliffeshow

Any businesses interested in supporting Mr Gibson can email him at greataycliffeshow@gmail.com

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Aycliffe Dancer Wins £27,000 University Scholarship

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Lisa Robinson, a current year 11 student is a prime example of this. Not only is she surpassing her academic targets in a range of subjects, she also has outstanding behaviour and 100% attendance. Lisa is a role model and inspiration to younger students. Lisa has been a member of Woodham Sports Academy since she first began at Woodham Academy. This has allowed Lisa to develop her skills and confidence as well as grow as a person. When she



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2 BEDROOM terraced house to let in Butler Road, Newton Aycliffe. Tel 01325 300212 (office hours)

isn't studying, Lisa devotes her time to dance, a sport that she loves. Lisa attends a local dance school, 'Stepping out with Clare Walton', which has given her a wealth of opportunities including working with and meeting her role models.

Lisa has worked hard in preparing for and performing in the annual Dance Showcase at Woodham Academy. She performed a stunning solo piece and really displayed her talent in the group pieces. Not only has Lisa been preparing for this, she has also been working towards other performances including with Clare Walton.

As well as maintaining her high grades within school, Lisa has attended a range of conventions and workshops along with others from her dance school. She attended the annual 'Move It' convention in London where she experienced great success, getting through to the finals. She also performed on the freestyle stage. This required Lisa to improvise a performance to a piece of music, showing her amazing creativity and emotion in dance. All of her hard work paid off as she was placed 3rd overall after performing to a huge audience. Lisa was also spotted by specialists during lectures and awarded other prizes.

On Monday 1st May, Lisa attended another important event in the North East. Set up by Clare Walton and run

by Viva Prom, was the 'Rising Stars Dance Convention'. This huge event, which is in its second year allowed dancers from all over the country to attend different workshops and lectures.

There were even scholarships in place for dancers that were seen to perform at the highest level. During the day Lisa danced her heart out. She put on an amazing performance as she always does. Her efforts were recognised and towards the end of the day Lisa was offered a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Lisa was spotted by a range of different companies and she has been awarded a University Scholarship. Lisa now has a university place at Addict Dance Academy in Leicester. This is a three year course worth the sum total of £27,000. Lisa is continuing her studies and plans on attending one of the local colleges to study A Levels before taking up her scholarship. Director of Woodham Sports Academy, Hannah Kent, says "Lisa is an asset to Woodham Academy and will be truly missed when she moves on. We wish Lisa the best of luck for her future endeavours and we are sure she will be a star."

High Tea & Prosecco

To mark National Care home Open Day, Rose Lodge Care Home is opening it's doors to the local community as they hosts a 'High Tea and Prosecco' afternoon.

This will take place on Friday 16th June from 12:30pm to 2pm. Guests can look forward to a selection of delicious cakes and sandwiches served on afternoon tea cake stands, as well as a selection of beverages and refreshments. The open event will also tie into the Eden project's 'The Big Lunch' which aims to bring together neighbours for a weekend celebration of community, commonality and connections. Seating is limited so book now by calling the home on 01325 271301 to avoid disappointment.

Family History Session on Electoral Registers

Amateur historians can find out how to use electoral registers and trade directories to trace their family tree at a talk this month.

The session is part of Durham County Record Office's 'Branching Out' programme, where people can pick up tips and advice on unearthing information about their ancestors. This month's talk takes place twice - on Tuesday, 13 June from 6pm to 8pm, and on Thursday, 15 June, from 10am to noon.

Costing £10 per person, the sessions are aimed at people who have already begun tracing their family tree or who have attended one of the Record Office's beginners' courses.

To book, or for more information, call 03000 267 626.

Congested Streets



Dear Editor.

To the residents and visitors to Sheraton Close, I would like to ask the question: Do you think it is OK to park your vehicles in such an indiscriminate way as shown in the photograph? How do you expect an emergency vehicle to access the street when you park in such a manner? The other question is how do you expect someone who is in a wheelchair or is pushing a pram to negotiate the street when you have blocked the footpath? Come on people, spare a thought for others and use your driveways to keep the street clear.

Resident, name & address supplied.

EDITOR: This is a constant complaint covering many Aycliffe streets and the problem is worse where houses have no driveways. Car owners are aware they may be blocking access to vehicles and mount kerbs, forgetting they are forcing pedestrians onto the road.

Town Marks Armed Forces Week

To mark the beginning of 'Armed Forces Week' the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Wendy Hillary, will be raising the Armed Forces Flag at St. Clare's Church on Monday, 19th June 2017 at 11 a.m. Members of the public are cordially invited to attend.

The Mayor will be assisted at this annual event by Officers from 102 Battalion (REME) together with their Standards. A short Service will be conducted by Revd. Andrew Bryer. Tea / Coffee and biscuits will be available in the Church Hall at the conclusion of the proceedings.

Armed Forces week was first held in 2009 when it was an opportunity for local communities to be able to show their appreciation to the men and women of the Armed Forces from serving personnel to service families and from recruits and veterans.

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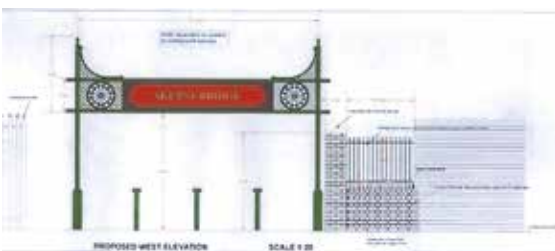
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GEM OF RAILWAY HISTORY Skydive in Aid of Epilepsy Research

Hidden down a back lane in Darlington is one of the gems of railway history – the oldest railway bridge in the world to remain in continuous use. Co-designed (not without some friction) by George Stephenson and the County Bridge Surveyor Ignatius Bonomi, its foundation stone was laid in July 1824. It appears in many of the drawings and paintings of the opening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1825, and the Company was clearly very proud of it because it featured on its share certificates.

More recently, it appeared on the back of the old £5 note – unfortunately, back to front! When you next go to the Head of Steam Museum in Darlington, it is only a short walk away and well worth a visit.



As part of the preparations for the bicentenary in 2025, Darlington Borough Council are completely regenerating the area around the bridge (which was in a terrible state) and developing it as part of a cycleway – although not yet finished, the result will look fabulous.

As part of this, they plan to erect a feature gateway to the cycleway entrance. You can view the application online by entering the application reference 17/00344/FUL at: bit.ly/SDRGE RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL

The Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway welcome the development, but they are asking for two small changes to the gateway as proposed:

• First – so as to keep a coherent approach along the entire length of the line for the 2025 bicentenary – they

want the text “S&DR1825” using a Times New Roman or Baskerville Old font to be added somewhere on the gateway.

• Second, they want the S&DR colours of vermillion or yellow for the gateway, and that the sign might reflect the requirement in the 1823 Act of Parliament for ‘large White Capital Letters and Figures on a Black Ground’.

YOU CAN HELP by submitting a comment (quoting the reference number) to the Darlington Planners by: E-mailing: planning.enquiries@darlington.gov.uk or writing to Planning Services, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT.

Of course you can say whatever you want, but please support the application, and also the Friends’ suggestions as to font and colour. You MUST get your comments to DBC by Monday 12th June.

Leanne Bowman is shown here flying the flag for Epilepsy Research UK in a Tandem Skydive to raise vital funds for the only national charity exclusively dedicated to funding research. Leanne wanted to do something a little bit different to raise funds as her brother has suffered from epilepsy for over 10 years so it’s something close to her heart. She wishes to thank everyone who has supported her by their kind donations. Epilepsy rarely hits the headlines and yet in the UK

alone an estimated 600,000 people are living with the condition. That’s 1 in every 103 people!

A spokesperson said: “ERUK is working tirelessly to support ground-breaking research across the UK. Some of the projects currently funded include; investigating new techniques to diagnose and treat epilepsy, using cutting-edge methods to improve outcomes in brain surgery. Developing new strategies to improve quality of life for people with epilepsy, and



exploring ways in which sudden unexpected death might be prevented. Our efforts are making a real difference, but we need help to continue.

Research is funded entirely through voluntary donations and we are hugely appreciative of the efforts made by our supporters to fundraise on our behalf. Without the support of people like Leanne, our work will stop. If you would like to contribute to our research, please visit Leanne’s sponsor page at www.justgiving.com/Leanne-Bowman's-Tandem

Skydive.

Alternatively, you can make a donation to ERUK by visiting www.epilepsyresearch.org.uk, emailing info@eruk.org.uk, or writing to Epilepsy Research UK, PO Box 3004, London, W4 4XT.

Leanne lives in Chilton and works in Newton Aycliffe at Creations Hair salon in the Thames Centre. She said: “I would like to thank all our customers at the shop for their very kind donations. I’ve raised around £1,000, and can’t thank you enough for supporting me through my crazy adventure. My Skydive was an absolutely amazing experience”.

For Sale

RENT a washing machine only £3.99 per week, no deposit, fully maintained. Bargain Buys, Shafto Way, 01325 321 678

“**ALL SORTS**” Charity Shop at the side of St. Clare’s Church is open 10am to 1pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. On sale is a huge selection of bric-a-brac, toys, household goods, jewellery, electrical goods . . . the list is endless. All items are perfect and at low prices. All money raised will continue to be given to good causes. All Sorts is a charitable project run and funded solely by Godfrey Bennett.

TARN LEATHER 3 seater and 2 seater G-plan sofas, 6 months old from Barkers in Northallerton. Collection only £400 ono. Tel 07801 097354

4ft WIDE electric bed, nearly new, £100. Tel 01325 491165

LADIES Hotter Gore-Tec type walking boots, size 5. £40 ono, Tel 01325 317657

LARGE and small filing cabinets, fridges, cookers, furniture, beds (contents of a 20ft storage container). Tel 01325 317716

SINGLE massage mattress, brand new, never used with built in massage unit for total body massage. Cost £490 new, accept £250 for quick sale. For more details call Colin 07791 652029

4 MAN weathermaster tent, as new, never used, only £200, no offers. Contact Colin 07791 652029

BRAND NEW double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can arrange delivery, £120. Tel 07789 113343

MANS large ski jacket with hood, black and yellow, £20. Tel 01325 310885

CAST IRON fire surround with inset decorated tiles, £50. Tel 01325 310885

NEXT mixed blue/aqua print king size duvet covers x 2 plus pillow cases and matching lined curtains, 64” x 90”, £25, all new. Tel 01325 310885

HEAVY ornate gilt mirror, 40” x 28”, £40. Tel 01325 310885

PNEUMATIC Henry vacuum cleaner, £25. Tel 01325 310885

ASTON DRAKE porcelain dolls, Mary Queen of Scots, The Little Musician, Sunshine and Lollipops, Special Delivery New Born, Fresh from the Patch Baby doll plus lots more. From £25 each. Tel 01325 309028

IKEA BED SETTEE on wheels, used twice, black check and pillow. Cost £345 new, bargain for £170. Tel 01325 954308

Danger of Camp Fires



Dear Editor

While walking though the Burn with my son and dog I came across what looked like a make-shift camp site where someone had a bonfire and as you’ll see from the wine bottle and can which there was a few more scattered about, some people had been having a good time on a summer night.

While this can be fun I would just like to point out the hazards of doing this at this time of year. 1. the ground is very dry. 2. This is a heavy wooded area with lots of very

large trees. 3. If an accidental fire were to break out it would be very difficult for the fire brigade to access this area.

All I’m asking is please don’t light fires in woodland or any grassed area at this time of year as you could be putting yourself and others in serious harm if you don’t ensure the fire is put out.

Dry leaves and grass catch fire and spread extremely quickly and leaving glass bottle about not only end up getting smashed but if the sun gets hot enough it can start a fire by reflecting the sun, putting everyone in danger.

The firemen would need to reach the area and local residents may have to leave their homes until it was safe to return.

Please stay safe this summer and remember every action has a reaction. I removed the bottle and cans and disposed of them in the bin about 20 feet away.

Sally Symons
Town Councillor

Greenfield Students Raise LGBT Awareness

On Monday 29th May 2017 twenty two students from Greenfield Community College attended Durham Pride which was held at ‘The Sands’ in Durham City Centre.

The students were very keen to take part because they believe that it is important to raise awareness and educate the public about the issues and difficulties affecting the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people in and around County Durham.

Students from both the Sunnydale Campus and Aycliffe site spent weeks designing and creating fabulous banners for the occasion which were proudly displayed on the day. The LGBT+ colours had special meaning as they represent the flags for the different identities. “Greenfield are strongly committed to celebrating Equality and Diversity and we are very proud of our students who gave up a day of their holidays to support this cause” said Assistant Headteacher Dianne Davis.

FLOWERS (non-fresh) FOREVER FESTIVAL

Readers are invited to participate in a Flower Festival at St. Elizabeth’s Church Woodham as part of Great Aycliffe Festival.

Entries of floral displays using any medium other than fresh flowers. Flowers can be made of paper, embroidery, card, photos, rug art, silk, paintings, engravings, china knitting, sugar craft, or any other art form.

The Festival is on Friday & Saturday 21st & 22nd July from 10am - 2pm. Items may be left at the Church on Thursday 20th July from 9am - 12 noon or by prior arrangement with Milly on 313819.

Free entry for adults and children to the Festival and everyone is welcome. Refreshments available.

Film Show

The “FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW” at St Clare’s Church on TUESDAY 13th JUNE features DISNEY’S 2016 remake of the epic adventure “THE JUNGLE BOOK” It still has great songs like “Bare Necessities” “I Wanna be Like You” and “Trust in Me” and uses the voices of stars like Bill Murray, Ben Kingsley and Scarlett Johansson. It also won an Oscar for Best Visual Effects. You’re never too old for Disney, so why not come and get cheered up. Tea and coffee is served at 1pm, included in the £2. The film starts at 1.15pm. A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company. EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

Unwanted School Uniforms

Dear Sir,
I looking for donations of school uniforms children have grown out of so I can help families that are finding it hard to purchase new uniforms for the new school year. I am able to collect if people would like to phone /text me 07495 705413 or they can e-mail me their address for collection

I would like to point out none of what I collect will be sold, they will be given to help local families. I hope to be able to contact all schools as well as asking for a letter to be put round as it is uniforms for every school in Aycliffe I will be collecting for. Sally Symons - symons039@hotmail.com - Councillor GATC

In Memoriam

Francis Sweeney (Frankie)



Died 11th June 2016

In loving memory of a much loved and sadly missed Husband, Father and Brother. “Those we love don’t go away, they walk beside us every day”. In our thoughts always and forever. Teresa, Claire and Tara

JEAN FRANKLIN. 15/6/2016 Mam. You left us beautiful memories. Your love is still our guide. And though we cannot see you. You’re always at our side. Our love always, Bob, Liz, Vicky, Kev, Elisha and Emily xxx

RITA ANN CHAPE (nee Lawson). 12th June 2006. 11 years since you passed away. Still miss you. Love, Vaughan

SYLVIA HUBBARD 13th June 2007. Missed so much and thought of every day. Love you still, always have and always will. Derrick xxx

DENNIS HESLOP passed away on 11th June 2008. It’s been years since you left us Dennis, but the pain is still as fresh. You are in our hearts and minds always and we love and miss you forever. From Eileen and family.

FREDERICK DODDS ARCHER. Died 12th June 2016. To a much loved and sadly missed Father, Grandad and Uncle. Through much of your later life you suffered a lot of pain, but never complained.

You inspired us all with your strength and fortitude. You were always there for us and kept us together. The family can never thank you enough for all your love and support you gave us. Now you are pain free and together again with our Mam (Peggy) and Brother (Dennis). Love always, from all the family.

Birthday Remembrance

ROBERT WAITES 7th June. Memories of happy times on your birthday. Thinking of you always. Love, Ruth

PEGGY DICKINSON 12th June. Your first birthday without us. Today would have been such a special day. But now it brings sadness and sorrow. If we could share just one more day; there was one more tomorrow.

But memories of more happier times, in our hearts will stay. We will treasure each and every one, till we meet again some day. So we will say goodbye for now, and blow a kiss to heaven above. To wish you a happy birthday and send you all our love. Thinking of you every day Mam. Love, Susan, Brian, Alan and all your family xxxxx

KENNETH INNES Birthday wishes on 13th June also Fathers Day on 18th June. Remember you always, forget you never. Your loving Wife Brenda and all the family

Congratulations

Andrew & Sandra Mason



25th Wedding Anniversary
Congratulations on your 25th Wedding Anniversary. From Mam and all the family

TO MY wonderful Husband. Love you loads. Happy birthday. Lots of love, Lyn

TO OUR special Grandad. Happy birthday. Love you always from Michael, Tyler, Jamie and Ruby

HAPPY birthday to a special Dad. Love, Paul, Emma and Lyndsey

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2nd BIRTHDAY OF AYCLIFFE TAEKWONDO CLUB



Team Warrior Taekwondo Club from Aycliffe Village celebrated their 2nd Anniversary on Sunday 4th June. A few families were away on holiday, but it was still well supported, playing a couple of games of ten pin bowling at Planet Leisure. Big thank you to the staff at Planet Leisure for helping the afternoon run smoothly. This

family friendly Club has steadily grown over the past 2 years.

It is a great way to keep fit and learn the martial art of Taekwondo. The lessons are held twice a week, Monday and Wednesday, 6 - 7pm at Aycliffe Village School hall. For more information contact Michelle 07789 502173 or Chris 07572 614466.

GIRLS TEAM WIN BLACKPOOL FINAL

Newton Aycliffe Youth Under 12 Girls travelled to a sunny and hot Blackpool to take part in their prestigious Youth Tournament, to compete against girls from all over the North Of England. A tough set of group matches gave us wins against Sheffield United, Redcar and Wallsend. A draw against Blackpool and a defeat against local rivals Bishop Auckland meant the girls continued in the plate competition on goal difference. The semi final against Redcar was dominated by the girls with 2 goals in each half giving them a 4-0 win. On to the final to meet

Sheffield United who they had beaten earlier in the day, but Sheffield were determined to get to the final. A great team goal put Aycliffe up 1-0 but 2 rare lapses in defence and they found themselves 1-2 down going into the final minute. As the ball was put into the Sheffield box a hand ball gave us a penalty which was put away to level the match and take the game into the dreaded penalties. The girls came out on top in the shoot out winning 3-1 and lifted the plate to the delight of the large following of parents who had come down to support.



RUNNING CLUB REPORT

On Wednesday 24 May the 2nd of the Summer Tees Trail 5k races took place at Tees Barrage. This was an interesting venue with a lot going on including kayaking and people just out walking enjoying the evening sunshine. The course entailed one lap around the Tees Barrage area before heading off towards Middlesbrough so far, then returning through the woods to complete one more lap around Tees Barrage. First home for the club was



Dez Fielden

Dez Fielden, who finished 2nd overall in a time of 18:15 and 1st in his age category of male over 45. He was followed by Dave Blewitt, 36th in 21:39; John Burnside, 45th in 21:59 and 1st in his category of male over 60 and Peter Smith, 46th in 22:01. First female home for the club was Trish Kay in 77th position in 25:27, followed by Susan Clark, 129th in 31:22 and Ray Todd, 139th in 33:19. On 29 May four club runners took part in the Whitsun Wynyard Trail. First back for the club was Dez Fielden in 42.28, and 18th overall; next Peter Milburn in 44.12, placing him 23rd overall and 1st in his age category of over 55; the Dave Blewitt in 49.31 in



Sue Milburn

55th position and Sue Milburn in 57.54 and 89th overall and placing 1st in her age category of female over 55.

Sue Milburn also competed in the Penshaw Hill Monument race on 31 May. She was the only Aycliffe club runner competing in this very tough event. She placed 61st and 1st in her age category of female over 50, in a time of 26.33.

Aycliffe Running Club's annual 10K race and fun run takes place on Sunday 18 June. Entries are open and selling out fast. Find out more and sign up at www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk/

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