



CHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor's Report on behalf of the Town Council – 10th March 2026



A flipping good night!

1st Chilton Scout Group showed off their culinary skills to Chilton Mayor Cllr Sue Reece and a pancake supper in St Aidan's Church Hall.

Cllr Reece said "I would like to thank Shane and the group for inviting me to join them; there were some really impressive fryers, flippers and decorators. I am so pleased that the Chilton Town Council Community Grant awarded in July last year was able to help provide the equipment and support Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to work towards a new badge.

The team are looking for the next intake of Beavers (age 5-7yrs) Cubs and Scouts (age 7-14yrs) to find out more about great the activities that the group offer and how to join contact:

Chilton@bishoppauklandscoouts.org.uk



Chilton Mayor's Charity fundraiser raises further £1000 for this year's charities.



Mayor Cllr Sue Reece and members of Town Council would once again like to thank the Chilton community, businesses, and civic guests from across the County for supporting Blood Cancer UK (Durham and Darlington Haematology Dept) and the Chilton Bikes Boards and Brushes Project.



The event held in Chilton Sports, Community and Social Club on Friday 6th March added £1000 to this year's charity fundraising, with generous donations from The Chilton Coffin Dodgers, All Round Ground, Nera's Ltd, Richard Hooper & Chilton Juniors Football Club. Rewards Dog Training, Jimmy and Joy Houlihan and numerous local residents. Guests were entertained by the Fabulous Oli Patto who had everyone on the dance floor and food was supplied by Chef David Hetherington, who gave up his time to cater for the guests.

Sue Reece said "It was a fantastic evening, and I am as always overwhelmed by the support received from residents, fellow council members, family friends and civic guests, the generosity of our community to support local charities and activities for young people is second to none"

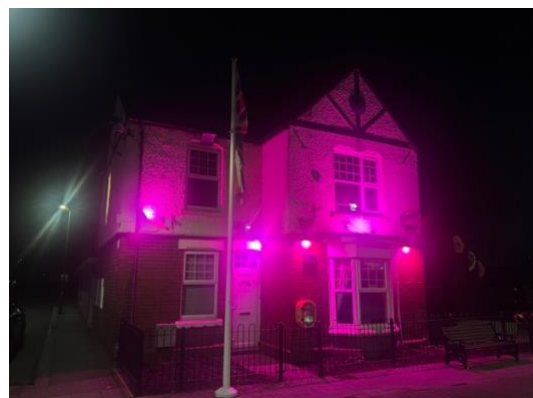
There will be a further fundraising raffle in support of the Mayor's Charities on County Durham Day, once again the community is donating some brilliant prizes!

Hutton House Lights-up for Brain Tumour Awareness Month

March is Brain Tumour awareness month, and Chilton Town Council joined with organisations across the UK to light up their buildings and **#ShineALight** to show support for everyone affected and to remember the loved one lost.

For more information on brain tumour research visit

www.braintumourresearch.org or
www.macmillan.org.uk



Community

Helping to protect two of Chilton's important heritage buildings

Chilton Town Council is bringing forward its application to list **St Aidan's Church** and the **Miners Welfare Pavilion** as non-designated heritage assets based on residents'

feedback in the community consultation for the Chilton Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and associated sources, which has placed significant importance on preserving our heritage for future generations.



Local heritage plays an important role in creating and being part of our collective sense of place and the National Planning Policy Framework (2023) which is used as a basis for developing both Local and Neighbourhood Plans gives great weight to the protection of heritage assets and their significance.

Early discussions with DCC and the attendance of a member of the Planning Team at the Chilton Neighbourhood Plan public meeting have provided positive signals that we should progress with the applications.

If awarded non-designated heritage status for St Aidan's Church and the Miner's Welfare Pavilion (unlike formal listings) it does not impose additional planning restrictions on the building, but it does impose a need for planning officers, when assessing a planning application to have a regard to the scale and harm or loss of the significance of the heritage asset. As such unless there are demonstrable public benefits to a development, which would outweigh the harm, the following types of development affecting the building would normally be resisted:

- Total or substantial demolition
- Inappropriate alteration or extension
- Development that would have a detrimental impact on the setting or context of the asset
- And plans for the long-term maintenance and future restoration will be encouraged.

Given the current situation with the proposed closure of St Aidan's and work that is currently ongoing to look at options, the Town Council has agreed that it is important that we act quickly to action practical solutions to ensure that the church building remains a key heritage landmark in Chilton.

Chilton Digital Confidence

Want to get to get the most out of your smart phone and tablet?

Following last month's Elevate Pop Up Hub, Chilton Town Council are working with Durham Learn to host a Digital Confidence Workshop on Tuesday 17th March 9:00am - 12:30pm in Hutton House.

The session will be short, fun and interactive and help residents make to get the most out of their hand-held devices, whether it is understanding the NHS App, booking tickets or navigating fake news the session will have something for everyone!

The workshop is **FREE** but needs to be booked in advance by



Miners Welfare Recreation Ground:

Chilton Skatepark transformed with Street Art

South Durham Professional Street Artist Lewis Hobson from Durham Spray Paints has worked with Chilton's young residents to spray paint creative designs on the Skatepark located on the Charlie Wayman football ground.

As part of the Chilton "Bikes, Boards and Brushes" project, funded by Banks Community Fund and the Miners' Welfare Recreation Ground



Charity Trust, Lewis spent the week preparing the site and then worked with two groups of young people ages 7- 15years to design and create their own piece of artwork.

Lewis said "this is a great way of getting the community involved, developing a sense of ownership in the skatepark, particularly the name wall as people are just so appreciative and happy to see their name in a place they use and see on a regular basis"

Lewis also spruced up the changing room block with a quote inspired by the heritage funded project, Chilton, Our People, Our Place, Our Heritage and there is also a spot for the Chilton FC logo as the club's home venue.

Sue Reece Chair of the Trust said "It has been great to work with Lewis on this element of the project, he has a great rapport with young people and an ability to engage and inspire them. We are delighted that he has agreed to be involved in promoting the next phase of the project to encourage more of our community to take up boarding, scooting and biking on the park. Watch out for further details of our boarding challenge completion."

Coming up – events

County Durham Day – Raising our flag



Chilton Town Council is asking residents to come out and celebrate our county's rich heritage and how we strive for a positive future. Celebrated annually on 20th March the day recognises the regions proud industrial past including mining and farming.

The official flag of County Durham has a special meaning for Chilton; the blue and gold background centred with St Cuthberts Cross was designed by local residents Jimmy Moffatt and his twin daughters Katie and Holly, winning the public vote as part of a county wide competition.

The Town Council is inviting the community to join them in "raising the flag" outside of Hutton House on the morning of the 20th March, Official proceeding will be opened by the Town Crier, Norman Strongman and the flag will be raised by Chilton Mayor Cllr Sue Reece and Jimmy Moffat, accompanied by Piper Adam Jenkins. This will be followed a performance from Chilton Academy Pupils and the cutting of a celebration cake. Hutton House will be open throughout the day for refreshments and small exhibition of mining history from the Chilton Heritage Project archive.

Residents are asked to show their support by decoration their windows in blue and gold/yellow, put up the bunting and raise the flag and joining us for the celebration!

Cllr Sue Reece 10th March 2026