



# Ducktown Echo



Spring 2019

The Aylburton Community Newsletter

Issue 35

## Aylburton Parish Council

Chair: Steph Lord Parish Clerk: Meg Humphries 07850 476235 aylburtonclerk@outlook.com www.aylburton.net

The Council met on 12th February, 2019.

### Upper Common Telephone Kiosk

Effort is being made to ensure safety standards are met regarding electrical wiring at the site. Funding for the restoration of the kiosk has been secured.

### Lydney Cycle Link

The GCC propose an interconnected link for cyclists throughout Lydney to facilitate improved communications and accessibility for the public. Cllrs Harrison and Blamey held a site meeting with Cllr Prest and a Highways representative to discuss issues arising for Aylburton and pointed out several problem areas where safety might be a factor.

### Cross Monument

Historic England have signified their approval for the restoration of the *base* of the Cross but importantly not for the *replacement* of the Cross as this runs counter to their policy regarding the preservation of the historical timeline. Cllr Harrison will be pressing HE to review their decision.

### Aylburton Housing Needs Survey

Forest of Dean District Council has created a new strategic programme for undertaking housing needs surveys, which GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council) has been appointed to carry out.

A number of parishes were identified within phase 1, including Aylburton Parish.

Since 1923 GRCC has provided Gloucestershire's communities with expert advice and guidance in respect of the current issues, affordable housing included. GRCC is undertaking this survey as an independent and neutral organisation.

Every household in Aylburton Parish will receive a paper survey questionnaire, hand-delivered alongside the next edition of the Ducktown Echo in early July. Everyone is encouraged to complete and return the questionnaire in the pre-paid envelope provided. Information received in response to the survey about Aylburton housing needs may be used to influence future development.

The survey questionnaire does not ask for people's names and contact details. The outcome report will be published later this year with anonymous statistics and information, and it will be made available on Aylburton Parish Council website.

If you have any queries about the survey please contact Martin Hutchings at GRCC on 01452 528491 or martinh@grcc.org.uk

### Parish Website

This has been created afresh and is live.

## Flower & Vegetable Show Help needed

For the show to continue in any format the event needs new people at the helm. The existing committee are standing down and without new help the show will not continue.

The show has given pleasure to a lot of people over the years and it would be great to see it continue with a new approach and fresh ideas. If you are interested in keeping the show going and can find the time to make things happen then the show structure of cups, bank account and goodwill is ready to take over.

If you can help please contact Ray Woodward on 01594 845090 or email linandrayw@hotmail.com to talk about any questions that you might have.

## Keep the Parish Flowering

Over the years, the attractive plant tubs that provide colour and interest around the parish, have been looked after by just a few people. We are grateful to the nearby households that have adopted a tub. They have been kept well-watered and free of weeds.

Some others still require a good caretaker though and the council needs more willing volunteers to help look after them. The tubs will continue to be planted up and maintained by the council but we do need your help to keep them all watered during dry spells.

If you have a planter near your house and you are willing to keep it watered please email the parish clerk to let her know which planter you are happy to look after.

**| Adopt a planter | Keep the parish flowering |**

**Carnival Day & Dog Show Saturday 13th July**

In December, Aylburton WI will be celebrating their Centenary. This is an outstanding achievement, as only three institutes in the Gloucester Federation have already celebrated their 100 years.

The first committee meeting was held at Kingston House in Aylburton on 8th December 1919. Here it was decided to call the institute the 'Aylburton Institute'. The General meetings would be held on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm in Aylburton School. The first elected President was Lady Bertha Bledisloe, Vice President Mrs S Way, Miss Martie Parker as Secretary, and Miss Ada Gillham, the school teacher, took on the role of treasurer.

The first meeting was advertised for young ladies married or single and over 21 years of age. It is understood several underaged young women gatecrashed the first meeting as it was such a novelty to have a *women only* event. The first book club was formed, with books being loaned free to members. At meetings each member contributed 1d towards the cleaning of the School which was used as WI headquarters.

Moving on to the 1920s, the Memorial Hall was built and the WI have met here ever since, although now we meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm. Through valiant efforts a piano was presented to the Hall for village organisations to use.

As war broke out in 1939, the WI set about making copious amounts of jam and preserves and sent them to the Red Cross and other charities. Members joined the Linen Guild and helped in billeting evacuees and nursing.

In 1953 a seat was purchased by the WI to celebrate the Coronation and was positioned on Milling Green. Television was a novelty during this era, so a large screen was installed in the School for the villagers to follow the Coronation service.

At the beginning of 1957, 14 members wrote a book 'The History of Aylburton' but found the cost of printing too expensive, so this was put on hold until 1985 when the late Mrs June Legge, Mrs Bayliss and Mrs E Wolridge approached Whitecross School to ask for help. The book was duly printed and in a short time 250 copies were sold at £1.50 each. Thanks to these ladies we still have a copy of this today.

This is only a brief look at the beginning of Aylburton WI. There are many long standing members with some attending for over 40 years. At present our longest-attending member is Kathleen Harris, who has held

President and Secretary positions in the WI.

More recently the WI has flourished and helped to support many charities, including Great Oaks Hospice, Lydney Hospital, the Salvation Army and Forest Food Bank.



A group of founder members of the Aylburton Women's Institute at the 30th anniversary party of the branch. In the front row are Mrs. T. Haddock, Mrs. W. Tucker, Mrs. B. Emery and Mrs. A. Hopkins (back row): Mrs. A. Haddock, Mrs. H. Tucker, Mrs. L. Charles, Mrs. B. Turner and Mrs A. Jones  
Gloucester Journal Saturday 23rd September 1950

On Saturday 31st August we will be holding a Showcase in the Memorial Hall to present memorabilia and crafts from past and present members. You can also learn more about all the forward thinking women who made this WI such a huge success.

If you have any photos of family members who may have attended the WI between 1919–2019 can you please forward them to Sandra Rickards 01594 841041. They will be greatly appreciated.

Today we are still grateful for the support of everyone, especially at our recent Soup and Pudding Lunch. We were able to send a £200 donation to The Great Oaks Hospice. On Saturday 1st June we will be holding a Cream Tea in the Memorial Hall, all are welcome. More details will be circulated at a later date.

In July we will be leading the Aylburton Carnival & Fete and running the usual stall on the field selling jams, cakes, preserves and pickles just to replicate the 1919 WI era.

We know the WI is changing with good IT skills needed to keep up with the modern world. Although crafting, knitting and cooking are still very relevant, we welcome fresh ideas, to keep us celebrating more years ahead. If you would like to try an evening, please come along, enjoy some company with a good speaker and then a chat over tea or coffee afterwards.



Aylburton WI meeting at Lydney Park in 1920

## Aylburton C of E Primary School

Head: Rachel Dare Office: 01594 842426 admin@aylburton.gloucs.sch.uk www.aylburtoncofe.co.uk

We are about to begin a year of celebrations to mark a century and a half of education in the village school. The buildings date back to 1869 and the school was officially opened in 1870 on land donated by the Bathurst Family. We are interested in hearing your family memories in connection with the school and seeing any photographs from years gone by. Everyone will be welcome to visit a display in the village on the day of the carnival.

Mrs Pam Bendall is retiring after 29 years working as the School Administrator during which time she has seen many changes both of staff and children. We thank her for all that she has done for the school over all these years and wish her well in her retirement.

Class 3 visited the STEAM museum, Swindon in January. They had a great trip and all went dressed as evacuees but were pleased to return home at the end of the day. Members of the school choir joined together with Lydney C of E Choir and represented the Severn Federation at the Young Voices concert at the NEC in January. They had a brilliant time once again.

A Team was entered for the netball tournament held at Dean Academy in March and did very well. A team also

entered the recent Quiksticks hockey tournament in March and were third equal in their group with Lydney C of E School which is not bad for such a small school.

On World Book Day in March all children came to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. Another celebration was Red Nose Day when everyone wore something red or spotty. £100 was raised from donations and a raffle.

The whole school has just taken part in a 'Healthy Me Week'. This covered a range of topics including being active through exercise, balanced diets, mental wellbeing and the school nursing team held workshops on dental hygiene.

Class 1 have visited Blaise Castle, near Bristol as part of their topic on castles. Class 2 went on a trip to St. Fagans in April where they took part in an Iron Age workshop as well as looking around the museum.

Term ends at 3:15pm on Friday 5th April with the annual Easter Service at 9:15 followed by coffee and hot cross buns in school and a chance to say farewell to Mrs Bendall.

## Aylburton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Michelle Ireland 01594 833247 www.aylburtonmethodistchurch.co.uk

Church Treasurer: Elizabeth Day 01594 840123

Community Room booking: Amy Reece 01594 369383 thecommunityroom-amc@outlook.com



facebook@aylburtonmethodist



### 82nd Women's Fellowship Rally

A wonderful time was had by all and £175 given to Mrs. Margaret Gardner, guest speaker, for the ongoing work among children in The Gambia.

### Messy Church

At our last Messy Church, the theme was 'The Good Shepherd'. We made sheep, looked for lost sheep, shared the story of the sheep that was found after he wandered away, and how the shepherd who was just like Jesus, was so happy (so was the sheep!).

The Ducktown Echo gives us the opportunity to say 'thank you' to many of you who through the year have contributed to some of the causes we as a Church support.

We thank those of you who through the year, and at Christmas, gave generously to Action for Children, where this year we sent £557 (Gail and Bob Braithwaite organised this) and The James Hopkins Trust £110 (for which Brian and Marlene Morse are responsible). Throughout the year many of us collect small coinage with which we support Water Aid. This is often thought of as a Lent Project and last year we were able to send £165. We will be collecting in any contributions at the monthly Coffee Morning on 18th May. Should you feel you would like to contribute to Water Aid (or any of the above mentioned causes) come along on that day and offer your donation.

In the Church year we are now in the season of Lent, and will soon be celebrating Easter. Before that we shall travel through Holy Week where there is much to reflect upon, it is indeed a time when we think deeply about the sacrifice Christ made for us all on the cross.

We look forward to one of our best loved services of the year on Maundy Thursday when we hold in candlelight a reflective time of meditation and praise as we come together and share a simple meal remembering the supper Jesus had with His disciples.

*May you all know the joy of Christ's glorious resurrection in your hearts and homes this Easter. God Bless You*

Our next session will be on Monday 15th April when we will sensitively remember some of the events that led up to Easter and, of course, the joy of Easter Day. It is great to see young people from Aylburton School and young people from outside Aylburton – all are welcome.

## What's On

### Parish Council

Full council meetings are held in Methodist Community Room at 7pm on second Tuesday of each month except January and August. There is a public forum session at each meeting. Forthcoming meeting agendas are posted online and on the village notice boards about a week beforehand.

Tuesday 9th April	PARISH ASSEMBLY
Thursday 2nd May	Local Elections
Tuesday 14th May	ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 11th June	Full council meeting
Tuesday 9th July	Full council meeting

### St. Mary's Church

Rev Nina Summerfield has been appointed Assistant Curate of the new Benefice of Lydney, Woolaston, Alvington and Aylburton. Churchwarden: Aylburton - Mary Court 01594 843651 Aylburton Common Mission Church - Jane Hale 01594 843917 Whilst we are without a regular Priest, contacts for the parish are: Weddings - Rev Pat Cox 01594 843842; Baptisms - Sue Rickards 01594 529281; Funerals - Alan Robinson 01594 529551. Any other questions should be put to Mary Court.

Services each Sunday at 10:30am except where indicated For services in the other churches in the parish please see the schedule on the notice board at St. Mary's.

#### April

Sunday 14th	PALM SUNDAY Holy Communion Aylburton Common
Sunday 28th	Morning Praise St. Mary's

#### May

Sunday 12th	Morning Praise Aylburton Common
Sunday 26th	Holy Communion St. Mary's

#### June

Sunday 9th	PENTECOST Holy Communion St. Mary's
Sunday 23rd	Morning Praise St. Mary's
Sunday 30th	Morning Praise Aylburton Common

### Special Services in the Parish

#### April

Thursday 18th	MAUNDAY service St. Mary's, Lydney at 7pm
Sunday 21st	EASTER DAY Woolaston at 10:30am

#### May

Sunday 30th	Ascension Day Woolaston 7pm
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### Methodist Church

Services each Sunday at 10:30am unless otherwise stated A warm welcome awaits you anytime you wish to join us on a Sunday or at our other events

#### April

Sunday 14th	PALM SUNDAY
Monday 15th	<b>Messy Church</b> 10:30-12:30pm All welcome, children to be accompanied by an adult
Thursday 18th	MAUNDAY THURSDAY 7pm Service of reflection held in candlelight where a simple meal is shared
Sunday 21st	EASTER DAY Communion service

#### May

Saturday 18th	<b>Christian Aid Coffee Morning</b> 10:30am with St. Mary's Church
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#### June

Sunday 9th	104th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE Rev Vernon Godden Faith lunch after service
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### Meetings each month

Craft, Knit & Natter - first Wednesday from 2pm  
Coffee Mornings - third Saturday at 10:30am

### Community Room

If you are planning a family gathering this year, need a venue or need a room to host an event our Community Room is available for hire. Contact Amy Reece on 01594 369383 or email [thecommunityroom-amc@outlook.com](mailto:thecommunityroom-amc@outlook.com)

**Forest Exiles CC** Dan Keddle 07713 760591 [daniel.keddle@sky.com](mailto:daniel.keddle@sky.com)

#### April

Saturday 6th	Cricket Force community day from 11am to get the playing field ready for the season Junior registration and the first training session at 9:30-11am
Saturday 27th	First senior match in the CGF Premier division At home against St. Briavels starting 1:30pm

Come along and meet us to see what we have to offer

**TAURUS CRAFTS**

EASTER

# ANTIQUES & VINTAGE FAIR

**Easter Sunday  
21<sup>st</sup> April, 10am-4pm**

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**FREE ENTRY**

**Stalls with antiques, vintage,  
memorabilia and collectables.  
Plus live music, food & drink.**

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Taurus Crafts, Lydney, GL15 6BU - 01594 844841  
[tauruscrafts.co.uk](http://tauruscrafts.co.uk) - [enquire@tauruscrafts.co.uk](mailto:enquire@tauruscrafts.co.uk)  
Taurus Crafts is part of The Camphill Village Trust Ltd

**LYDNEY  
SWIMMING CLUB  
AT FREEDOM LEISURE LYDNEY**

**ESTABLISHED 2000**

## FINISHED SWIMMING LESSONS? TIME FOR A NEW CHALLENGE?

Our coaching team would like to welcome new swimmers 7 years and older who would like to develop their skills. We cater for all levels of swimmer, both competitive and non-competitive. Email [membership.secretary@lydney.org.uk](mailto:membership.secretary@lydney.org.uk) to arrange a trial today.

**WWW.LYDNEYSC.ORG.UK**

### Ducktown Echo

Editor: Virginia Ridley 01594 841294  
[ducktownecho@gmail.com](mailto:ducktownecho@gmail.com)

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