



# Ducktown Echo



Winter 2019

The Aylburton Community Newsletter

Issue 38

## Aylburton Parish Council

Chair: Steph Lord Parish Clerk: Meg Humphries 07850 476235 [aylburtonclerk@outlook.com](mailto:aylburtonclerk@outlook.com) [www.aylburton.net](http://www.aylburton.net)

### A Neighbourhood Development Plan

Kate Baugh (GRCC) will be attending a planned meeting on 11th February and will be present at the full Council meeting on that day. Further consideration will be given to this next year. There may be a financial benefit to the village if such a plan was formulated but various factors need to be taken into account.

### Planning

Several applications were considered. With regard to applications for the removal of trees, the council in general favours the preservation of healthy specimens for environmental and character-retaining aspects, but it is sympathetic in cases where trees and/or branches present a hazard and need to be removed.

### Grass Cutting

Thanks were given to Cllr. Mark Topping for presenting a proposed programme of verge management that would enhance the habitat and promote pollinating insects. The timetable for implementation will be for future discussion, but likely no sooner than 2022.

### Bus Shelter Repair (Sandford Road)

This has been inspected again and clearly some work is needed. Three quotations for the work will be needed for a proper procurement processes.

### Flooding

Pressure will be maintained on Two Rivers Housing to make sure Milling Brook is regularly and comprehensively cleared of weeds.

### Conservation Area

Mark Topping and John Harrison will study the Conservation Area guidelines and will also seek to identify any serious existing concerns. Any useful information could be circulated to residents through the Ducktown Echo.

### Gravestone Safety Standards

A rota will be established to ensure the stability of tombstones in the churchyard.

### Housing Needs Survey

Consideration of this will be postponed, pending a forthcoming visit by GRCC and possibly Savills Estate Management.

### The Cross Monument

No response regarding an interpretive plaque has been received yet from Historic England.

### Facebook Page

The new Facebook site for the Council is now up and running: visit [www.facebook.com/aylburtonpc](https://www.facebook.com/aylburtonpc) and follow us for helpful updates and information.



## An Interview with the new Vicar, David Gardiner August 2019

### Introducing the new Vicar, David Gardiner

The Revd David Gardiner, who is currently Chaplain to the Bishop of Gloucester, the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, will take on the role of Vicar of the United Benefice of Lydney, Woolaston with Alvington and Aylburton. He'll be starting his ministry at the end of November, as the Advent season begins and is looking forward to his first Christmas in Lydney.

David is 38 and married to Sarah. His soft Scottish accent betrays his northern roots, but with family in Tutshill, he feels a strong connection to the Forest area.

The Diocese asked him some questions to help you get to know him better before he takes up his new role.

### How do you feel about your new appointment?

"I think surprise is a good word to describe it. We hadn't expected to be called on to something new at quite this time, but as so often happens with God, it's come in a way that makes a lot of sense when you're looking back at it, even if it was unexpected at the time. Bishop Rachel and I had agreed from the start that we were aiming for 3-5 years for my time as chaplain, and at the start of this year had said it would be good to keep our eyes open."

Lydney was somewhere that I was already connected to as the church where I was confirmed by Bishop David Bentley. When I went there with Bishop Rachel we noted how good it felt to be there, and I think even said it was a pity it had come up for interview before too soon in my time in Gloucester. It's energising to be going into something fresh and new, and to a place that has such a wealth of possibility as Lydney, Woolaston, Alvington and Aylburton."



David and Sarah

Diocese of Gloucester

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

### What struck you most about the local community?

The whole benefice has quite a vibrant energy to it. The villages have made the important decision to worship together as one church, using each of their four distinct church buildings in turn for Sunday worship. This is a place of growth and change, and it is going to be exciting to be part of that.

### What are you most looking forward to?

A combination of stability and creative liveliness. Although being a Bishop's Chaplain is an amazing privilege, I do miss walking alongside and worshipping with the same people week by week. There's a lot of

exciting things going on in the schools in the benefice, both primary and secondary, and I'm really keen to get back into the occasional offices, particularly baptisms.

### What three words would best describe you?

Loyal. Listener. Creative

Sarah and I already feel very warmly welcomed in the benefice. We were delighted to meet those we had a chance to chat to at the licensing service on Sunday 24th November, and look forward to getting to know everyone as we live and worship alongside them over the coming years.

David

## Letters to the Editor

### Dr Charles Scott-Garrett's fossils

Dr Charles Scott-Garrett lived at Aylburton from 1930 until the 1960s. His main interest was the history and archaeology of the Forest of Dean. The book *Archaeology in Dean* by Cyril Hart is a tribute to his work.

He was also interested in geology and made several unusual finds. These included a fossil ichthyosaur (a carnivorous sea-living reptile) at Awre and the fossilised tracks of an ancient amphibian, called a labyrinthodont, in rock at Tump Hill, Aylburton.

I am trying to find out where these specimens are now. It is possible that Dr Scott-Garrett gave them to local friends before moving to Ross on Wye, where he spent his later years.

I would be grateful for any information.

David Mullin  
The White House  
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HR9 7LQ  
01989 750593   david@longorcharld.plus.com

## Waste and Recycling

01594 810000   www.fdean.gov.uk

In the event of severe weather disrupting services, please visit the 'Disruption to waste and recycling services' on our website or call our dedicated helpline number 01594 812666 for a recorded message.

December 2019			
Th	Th	Th	Fri
5	12	19	27

January 2020				
Fri	Th	Th	Th	Th
3	9	16	23	30

Recycling + Garden
Recycling + Refuse
Recycling only
Recycling + Garden + Christmas trees

## Aylburton Memorial Hall

Secretary: Beth Goldsworthy   01594 842912   aylburtonvillagehallbookings@hotmail.com   www.aylburtonvillagehall.org.uk

As previously mentioned in these pages, the Memorial Hall (and playing field) is managed and maintained by a group of volunteers known as the Trustees. Each year the Trustees have an AGM at which officers etc are elected.

We already know, that unfortunately, at our next AGM on Tuesday, February 18th our Chairman, Bob Berryman and our treasurer Sheila Berryman are standing down. Both have offered sterling service for many years and together have helped transform the facilities of the Hall, the finances of the organisation and with Roy Thomas, oversaw the renovation and renting out of the hall cottage. They will both be greatly missed.

## Collections over the holiday period

Please recycle your real Christmas tree. Leave it at the kerbside to be collected on Thursday 16th January. Larger trees should be reduced to sections about 1.5m (4ft) long. This service is available to ALL households.

No committee or organisation can operate without a treasurer particularly. We are no different and we need more support from the community. If you enjoy village life and facilities it still possesses, please attend our AGM and offer your services.

Beth Goldsworthy recently joined us and has proved what a fresh face with fresh ideas can achieve. She has been a revelation and we need more people like her. PLEASE do not hesitate to contact me (01594 841732) or Beth for more information.

Mark Sargent

# Aylburton C of E Primary School

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

1869 — 150 Years — 2019

We currently have 68 pupils on roll. Parents with children due to start in September 2020 should have received admission packs by now from Shire Hall (if not, please contact them directly).

Class 3 Cake Sale in October raised £191 for school funds. Many thanks to all those who attended or contributed. The Christmas Bazaar is being held on Friday 13th December from 2:30–3:15 in school and all are very welcome to come and join in the fun. Children will also be wearing their Christmas Jumpers on this day with donations being raised for *Save the Children*.

On Armistice Day Class 3 pupils read the names of the Fallen at the service outside the Memorial Hall.

The school choir took part in the Village Carol Service this year on Monday 2nd December at St Mary's Church. They will also be singing at Taurus Crafts on Saturday 14th December from 12:45–1:30. During the rest of the term, there are the usual pantomime visits and Christmas parties. This year the whole school will be going to see *Cinderella* at The Savoy Theatre in Monmouth.

The school Christmas production for parents and families is on Wednesday 18th December at 2pm and 6pm in St Mary's Church.

*Please do not park at The George for these performances.*

The end of term school Christmas service is also a Christingle this year. It will be taking place at St Mary's Church on Friday 20th December at 9:15am, followed by coffee and mince pies in school.



Class Three cake sale — raffle

School starts back on the 6th January 2020 and some members of the choir will be taking part in the Young Voices Concert in Birmingham on Friday 17th January.

## 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



**It is** now Advent. This is the period when congregations prepare for Christmas Day and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

The candles on the Advent wreath which we light on each of the four Sundays in December represent Hope – Peace – Love – Joy. On Christmas Day we light the central candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We wish to thank all those who have contributed towards the remedial work needed on the tower. Resilient Energy have given a grant of £3000. Many others have supported us in our recent events: Fish & Chip Supper & Dance, Autumn Sale and Gift Service. Together these have raised £1100.

The ladies of the *knit and natter* group continue to make scarves, gloves and hats. Thanks to Diane Reece twelve boxes have been sent to the Samaritans' Shoe Box Appeal.

The Remembrance Sunday service was well attended and we welcomed back as our preacher Wendy Hugonnet. Kristyann Symonds again played her cornet so beautifully during a very moving service.

A new venture *Movement through Dance*, led by Lawrance Blatchly, was an enjoyable time shared together recently. Everyone was amazed at what they achieved and are looking forward to the next session in December.

Do come along and join the services over the Christmas period.

*'Come and join the celebration, it's a very special day'.*

May you all enjoy special times with family and loved ones this Christmas.



Dance Night & Supper with Lawrance Blatchly (left)



Barry Jessop

Rev Michelle Ireland thanks Brian and Marlene Morse, and Vernon Vaisey for their many years service as Church Stewards

# What's On

## Parish Council

Full council meetings are held in the Methodist Community Room at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month except in 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 12th November	Full council meeting
Tuesday 10th December	Full Council meeting
Tuesday 11th February	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 10th March	Full Council Meeting

## St. Mary's Church

Parish Priest: Rev David Gardiner [admin@lydneyparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@lydneyparish.org.uk)  
Associate Priest: Rev Nina Summerfield 01594 842997  
Churchwarden: Aylburton – Mary Court 01594 843651  
Aylburton Common Mission Church – Jane Hale 01594 843917  
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 are at 10:30am except where indicated  
A full list of services in the Parish is displayed on the church notice board

December	
Sunday 22nd	<b>Carol Service</b> Aylburton Common at 3pm
CHRISTMAS EVE	<b>Midnight Mass</b> St.Mary's Lydney at 11:30pm led by Bishop Rachel
January	
Sunday 12th	Holy Communion Aylburton Common
Sunday 26th	Morning Praise St.Mary's
February	
Sunday 9th	Morning Praise Aylburton Common
Sunday 23rd	Holy Communion St.Mary's
Wednesday 26th	Ash Wednesday TBA
March	
Sunday 8th	Holy Communion Aylburton Common
Sunday 22nd	Mothering Sunday St.Mary's
Sunday 29th	Morning Praise Aylburton Common
Other services and events	
December	
Sunday 8th	<b>Carol Service</b> St.Andrews Woolaston at 6pm
Christmas Eve	<b>Crib &amp; Christingle</b> St.Andrew's Woolaston 4pm
Christmas Day	Holy Communion Primrose Hill 10:30am
Sunday 29th	<b>Parish Songs of Praise</b> St.Andrew's Alvington

## 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.

December	
Sunday 15th	<b>Christingle</b> at 3pm
Sunday 22nd	<b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b> in candlelight at 6pm with dedication of Action for Children lantern boxes
CHRISTMAS DAY	All Age Worship with Rev Michelle Ireland 10:30am

## Meetings each month

Knit & Natter — first Wednesday from 2:30pm  
Movement through Dance — third Wednesday at 2:30pm  
Coffee Mornings — third Saturday at 10:30am

### \* FOR DECEMBER ONLY

Knit & Natter — Wednesday 11th from 2:30pm
in the Community Room
Movement through Dance — Wednesday 11th at 2:30pm
in the Church
Coffee Morning — Saturday 14th at 10:30am

## Christmas Floral Art

with Mary Court

Friday 6th December at 7pm £4  
in the Methodist Community Room  
Christmas nibbles coffee raffle  
A Joint Church Event

## WI

Meetings are held in the Memorial Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm. Various speakers entertain us with interesting and witty talks. Come along and join us for tea or coffee or just some company and a chat.

January 14th	<i>Forest Talk</i>
February 11th	<i>Life and Songs of Victoria Wood</i>
March 10th	<i>Easter Crafts</i>

## The George Inn

01594 842163	<a href="mailto:info.millingbrooklodge@yahoo.co.uk">info.millingbrooklodge@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Christmas Eve	Food 12-2:30pm Drinks 12-11pm
Christmas Day	Drinks only 11:30am-1:30pm close Evening Closed
Boxing Day	Food 12-4pm Drinks 12-11pm
New Years Eve	Food 12-2:30pm 6-7:30pm Drinks 12pm-1am Karaoke 9:30pm-12 midnight
New Years Day	Food 12-2:30pm Drinks 12-11pm

*The George Inn would like to wish all their customers a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Thank you for all your support throughout the year — have a great 2020.*

## taurus crafts christmas markets

7th+8th and 14th+15th December

Arts, crafts, gifts, toys, food and drink

### Pop-up Festive Showcase

20th+21st December

Featuring live musical performances, festive food and drink, pop-up stalls from local artists and children's activities

10-5pm Free entry and parking

### The area's largest Christmas markets

High quality Christmas trees, cut fresh from local suppliers. You choose, then we net for you using 100% biodegradable netting



01594 844841 [enquire@tauruscrafts.co.uk](mailto:enquire@tauruscrafts.co.uk)  
[www.tauruscrafts.co.uk](http://www.tauruscrafts.co.uk)

## Ducktown Echo

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*A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers*