



Ducktown Echo



Winter 2020

The Aylburton Community Newsletter

Issue 42

Aylburton Parish Council

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

Councillor Vacancies

As you may have seen on our Facebook page and notice boards, we are in the process of recruiting a new councillor. By the time you read this, applications will have closed, but there will be another vacancy next spring, so if you're interested, take a look at our application pack and contact the Clerk to express interest.

Hope for Flood Improvements

The area's flooding engineer has been working hard to bring about a scheme of work which would enlarge the brook's culvert under the A48, to help tackle flooding of households nearby (such as that seen in February 2020). The Lead Local Flooding Authority will probably lead this. It's early days, but it does seem that it will go ahead, though given the scale it will take time to plan and carry out.

Planning

All FoDDC residents are welcome to comment on two consultations, which are open until near the end of January 2021 for Preferred Options for the FoDDC Local Plan - (www.fdean.gov.uk/LocalPlanPreferredOption) and Chepstow Transport Study public consultation event - (<https://virtualengage.arup.com/chepstow-transport-study/>).

There is also a consultation on which specialist services should be housed at the new Forest hospital at - (<https://getinvolved.glos.nhs.uk/>)

Wild flower verge

The main purpose of a wild flower verge is to improve biodiversity. In other words, improve the variety and abundance of wildlife there; that's everything from the soil itself, the plants that grow in it, the insects that live on the plants, and the birds and mammals which depend on the insects.

In this first year of letting our village wild flower verge grow in spring and summer 46 varieties of wild flowers and grasses were identified there. The verge was cut in August and has been mown regularly ever since. Volunteers have raked off the cuttings (or 'arisings') every time. Removing the arisings is done to remove nutrients from the verge since wild flowers generally don't thrive in nutrient-rich soil.

Volunteers also sowed the verge with seeds from a local wild flower meadow at Flaxley.

Aylburton Remembers

We were sad to have to cancel our regular Armistice Day event last month, but spirits were lifted by the WI's incredible poppy display on the Cross monument – see page 5, as well as beautiful decorations at the school and Methodist chapel. We hope you found a quiet moment to remember in your own way.

Road Safety

Regarding a new flashing speed sign, we are waiting to see if our funding bid to the turbine fund has been successful and are crossing our fingers for good news in December. Police continue to operate speed checks in the village regularly, and community Speedwatch continues to be active. We are looking at buying some 30 mph stickers for High Street residents to stick on their wheelie bins and 20 mph stickers for Church Road residents. Please email your address to the Clerk for a set.

Sharing History

Aylburton Cross monument now has its own historical plaque, which the parish council installed in November – see page 3. It describes the monument's history, why it is important and how it has been the centre point of village life since it was erected in the 1300s. The project was led by Cllr John Harrison and funded by Lydney Park Estate, Gloucester Cathedral Masons, Dean Heritage Centre, Forest Prints and the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. Special thanks to John and all involved.

The wild flower verge is part of a trial the parish council is conducting during 2020/21. It gets its first cut in late summer, but neat edges are mown regularly throughout the season.



Volunteer rakers at work

Conversations on Conservation

The Cross Inn

Councillors were pleased when the Cross Inn sold last winter to a local buyer. It is an impressive, distinctive building and one of the key parts of Aylburton, and hopefully, it will house a thriving pub again soon.

In September, a planning application came through for the replacement of windows and doors in the Cross. The parish council voted (though not unanimously) to send an objection to an element of the application, as the proposal meant that the distinctive multi-paned style of window would be replaced with much larger panes in a more modern style. A majority of councillors took the view that it would be a shame to lose them. Several individual parishioners also sent objections.

The conservation advisor for the district appreciated our point of view but countered that the multi-paned windows were not the original style, as the building has been there since the 1600s, but the windows were only put in as part of extensive renovations in the 1800s and therefore are not part of the original. The parish council pointed out that the style had been used for well over a century and had influenced the style of nearby buildings and that the multi-paned windows were a big part of what gives this part of the village its character therefore the style should remain.

Due to the building's importance, the application was brought to the FoDDC Planning Committee in November, and committee members were divided by the different arguments. In the end, planning permission was granted, with five votes for, three against and three abstaining.

It's often not easy to balance improvements and conservation. Still, it's an important conversation to have, and the parish council does its best to represent its parishioners when being consulted on each planning application in the parish.



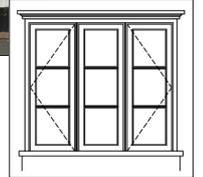
The Cross Inn c1930

Gloucestershire Pubs



The Cross Inn September 2020

Inset: Replacement window facing High Street



Recent Planning Applications

Removal of x 1 conifer tree from Ivy Cottage

Ivy Cottage 3 Cross Farm Close

Ref. No: P1879/20/TCA

Received: Wed 11 Nov 2020

Status: Pending Consideration

Erection of a first floor side extension with ground floor additions and associated works

6 Upper Common Aylburton

Ref. No: P1878/20/FUL

Received: Wed 11 Nov 2020

Status: Pending Consideration

Applications can be inspected electronically at the FODDC Council Offices, High Street, Coleford GL16 8HG during office hours or through the Council's website at www.fdean.gov.uk using the P reference number above.

Waste and Recycling

FODDC 01594 810000 www.fdean.gov.uk

Collections over the holiday period

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.

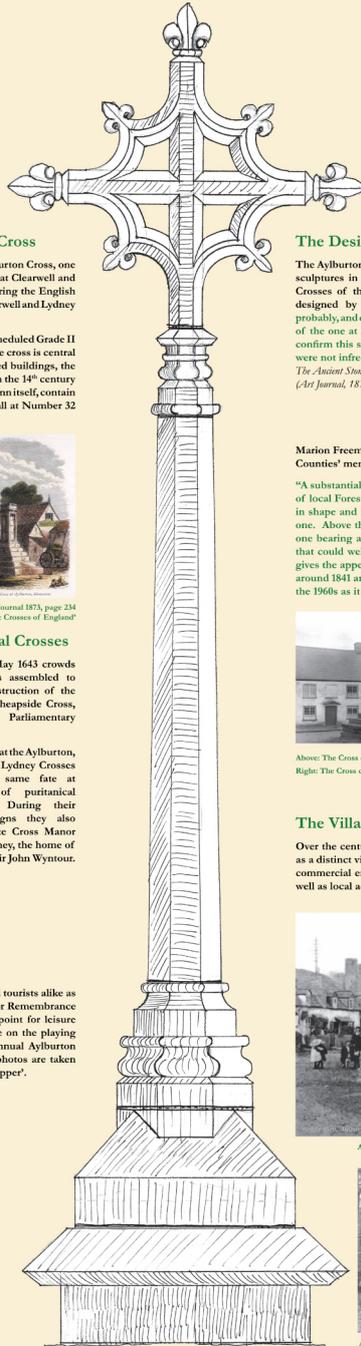
Please recycle your real Christmas tree. Leave it at the kerbside to be collected on Thursday 14th January. Larger trees should be reduced to sections about 1.5m (4ft) long. This service is available to ALL households.

December 2020				
Th	Th	Th	Th	Th
3	10	17	24	31

January 2021			
Th	Th	Th	Th
7	14	21	28

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

THE AYLBURTON MEDIÆVAL CROSS



The Significance of The Aylburton Cross

What you see beside you is all that remains of the Aylburton Cross, one of three unique mediæval crosses, the other two being at Clearwell and Lydney. All three crosses were deliberately toppled during the English Civil War (1642-1651) by the Parliamentarian forces. Clearwell and Lydney were restored during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Aylburton Cross is an ancient preaching cross, a scheduled Grade II listed historical monument of national importance. The cross is central to a conservation area containing several Grade II listed buildings, the nearest being the Cross Inn, which takes its name from the 14th century cross. Many houses in Aylburton, and indeed the Cross Inn itself, contain mediæval and earlier elements including a mediæval hall at Number 32 High Street and another building at 34 High Street.

The Aylburton Cross is one of several types of crosses erected during the mediæval period, from the 9th to 15th centuries. They served the function of reinforcing the Christian faith amongst those who passed the cross, and of reassuring travellers.

The crosses marked the routes between settlements or served a more symbolic religious function, such as identifying pilgrimage routes. They also provided a meeting place where religious sermons were preached.



The Art Journal 1873, page 234
"The Ancient Stone Crosses of England"

The Destruction of English Mediæval Crosses



Above and Below:
Destruction of Crosses and "Decorations" during the 17th century English Civil War.



On the 2nd May 1643 crowds of Londoners assembled to watch the destruction of the 13th century Cheapside Cross, organised by Parliamentary soldiers.

It is thought that the Aylburton, Clearwell and Lydney Crosses suffered the same fate at the hands of puritanical Roundheads. During their local campaigns they also attacked White Cross Manor House at Lydney, the home of the Royalist, Sir John Wyntour.

The Present Day

The cross is still recognised by villagers of all ages and tourists alike as the focal point of the village. It provides a backdrop for Remembrance Day celebrations and is a key meeting and rallying point for leisure pursuits, such as the football matches that take place on the playing fields on the other side of the village and for the annual Aylburton carnival. Villagers congregate around the cross and photos are taken for competitions and occasions such as the 'salmon supper'.



Above: The Cross Today
Below: Aylburton Darts Team c.1967



The appearance of the upper shaft and Latin cross as it might have been in the 14th century (Line drawing by Gloucester Cathedral Masons)

The Design of The Cross

The Aylburton Cross may have featured sculptures in each of the four niches. Crosses of this type could have been designed by foreign artists, "Italian probably, and certainly the heavy corners of the one at Aylburton would seem to confirm this supposition. Italian artists were not infrequently employed."

The Ancient Stone Crosses of England
(Art Journal, 1873).



Marion Freeman in her book 'Ancient Crosses of the Three Choir Counties' mentions the Aylburton Cross:

"A substantial cross of mixed styles is situated near The Cross Inn. Built of local Forest stone, the main structure stands some 9ft high, is square in shape and is topped by a flat stone on which is a further chamfered one. Above this a further square stone is topped by another chamfered one bearing a repeat stone. In each side of the cross are large niches that could well have held full-sized sculpted figures. The whole rather gives the appearance of a sort of square shrine. The cross was repaired around 1841 and was moved back a few yards from its original position in the 1960s as it had become a traffic hazard."



Above: The Cross c.1900
Right: The Cross c.1910



The Village in Former Times

Over the centuries the Cross has helped Aylburton to retain its identity as a distinct village which, in the recent past, was still a hive of rural and commercial enterprise with a dairy, thriving shops and several inns, as well as local activities such as cider making.



Above: The Wood's General Store in Aylburton c.1912



Above: Cider Making at Aylburton c.1912

Researched by John Harrison for the Aylburton Parish Council 2020

Supported by Lydney Park Estate

Gloucester Cathedral Masons

GLoucester CATHEDRAL

Tesco

Forest Print

Dean Heritage Cent

DEAN

Design: P. Harrison (see 04007 71946)

census 2021

Ready, steady, census

The decennial census is almost upon us. Households across Aylburton will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request.

Census day is 21 March 2021

For more information, visit: www.census.gov.uk

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



November seems to have been the month for scaffolding in Aylburton – finally we have been able to have a beautiful new cross placed back on the tower – a symbol that stands tall in the village and represents our hope in Jesus, a hope which carries us through these difficult times. We are so grateful to Brian Reece who used his wonderful skills to make the cross and we would like to express our thanks to all those who gave so generously to enable this work to be carried out.



Brian Reece

You may recall that, in September, we were glad to announce that Sunday worship had resumed in the chapel, and although very different, with no singing and everyone two metres apart, it was great to be back. However due to the recent government rulings we have made the difficult but considered decision not to re-open in December. Yes, we will miss the Christmas services, but we have a duty of care to one another, and we will still continue to worship in our homes and contact each other.



The new cross is made from seasoned oak from Lydney Park Sawmill and finished with an ebony stain. The old one was installed in 1975.

Brian Reece

Christmas, the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is NOT cancelled so from Aylburton Methodist Church we pray that you will have a blessed Christmas and that you will know God with you – Immanuel.

Finally, to use the phrase that I shared with you last time:

*Best of all, God is with us
With you, with me, with us
This Christmas time and forevermore*

Rev Michelle Ireland

Taurus Crafts

01594 844841 www.cvt.org.uk/communities/taurus-crafts



Throughout December things are going to get festive at Taurus Crafts.

“Our traditional Christmas markets are taking a break this year, so we are focussing our attention on a warm welcome and festive cheer and a safe shopping experience as an alternative to the high street and city centres.” – Tom Haverly, Marketing Manager.

During the December weekends leading up to Christmas the dedicated team of staff and supported people will be highlighting the good work that The Camphill Village Trust does, selling their own made decorations, sweet treats, mulled drinks, local Christmas trees, and delicious festive fayre.

Weekdays will feature festive traders who will make guest appearances alongside the ever present artisan and craft businesses, gift shop, Christmas shop and home and fashion shop which will all be open for business promoting their unique gifts, crafts and seasonal accessories.



Taurus Crafts are pulling out all the stops to create a welcoming environment so visitors can enjoy the Christmas atmosphere, shopping for special gifts while feeling safe and unhurried.

The festivities on the weekends will run 5th–6th, 12th–13th and 19th–20th December with late opening evenings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Full details are on the Taurus Crafts website and Facebook page.

Aylburton WI

Secretary: Sandra Rickards 01594 841041

This has been such a challenging year for the WI but thankfully most of our members have remained well and active.

The recent Remembrance display at the Cross monument was an outstanding achievement, considering we have been unable to meet for the last eight months. Huge thanks to Lisa Dunlop and Caroline Rickards for inviting us into their shop, *Beauty, Balance and Fitness*, in Lydney. This allowed six members to make arrangements in a warm dry room, before the second lockdown which was very much appreciated.

Members and villagers helped produce the beautiful poppies and other items, while Brian Rickards made the silhouettes of the kneeling



soldiers. The help on the day was once again restricted to six people, but with some determined ladies and men-folk we were able to produce a truly fitting tribute for Remembrance Day. There were many compliments from locals, passers-by and Facebook messages.

The Forest of Dean Council recorded their Remembrance service in front of the display as all the parades were cancelled at short notice.

Our book *High Teas & Rough Seas* is now on sale thanks to a very generous local sponsorship, which covered the printing costs. This really was a wonderful opportunity for members to stay in contact during lockdown and have some fun. The book costs £5 with a percentage going to local charities – so if you need a stocking-filler for Christmas please contact Sandra Rickards.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and good health over the coming winter months with high hopes for a promising New Year.



Cllr Nick Evans, Member Champion for the Armed Forces

What's On

Parish Council

Parishioners can get in touch with us at any time via email or phone to raise any concerns, questions or comments. Council meetings are now held at 7pm on the second Monday of each month except in January and August. They take place remotely using Zoom with as much information as possible available online.

You can view all available meeting documents as soon as they are finalised on our Agenda and Minutes pages at www.aylburton.net Future meetings will be on

Monday 15th February 2021

Monday 8th March 2021

The best way to stay updated day-to-day on council news is to follow www.facebook.com/aylburtonpc for the latest news on the council and parish-level activity during the pandemic.

Community helpers for the challenges presented by the COVID-19 outbreak are:

Mark Topping: mark.topping@fdean.gov.uk 01594 840086

Stephanie Lord: steph@molyneuxassociates.com 01594 845561

and parishioners can also get support from Mary Court on 01594 843651

St. Mary's Church

Parish Priest: Rev David Gardiner 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 13th	Eucharist	St. Mary's Lydney
Sunday 20th	Morning Praise with carols	St. Andrew's Alvington
CHRISTMAS EVE	Midnight Mass	St. Andrew's Woolaston 11:30pm
Sunday 27th	Eucharist	St. Mary's Aylburton

Subject to Lockdown rules, the recent pattern of alternating Communion and Morning Praise will continue. Until Covid has ended, we cannot hold services in ACMC as Social distancing cannot be achieved.

Week 1	St. Andrew's Woolaston
Week 2	St. Mary's Lydney
Week 3	St. Andrew's Alvington
Week 4	St. Mary's Aylburton

Methodist Church

The church is now closed for worship and all other activities during this extremely challenging time. Rev Michelle produces *Thoughts for the Day* from members and these are delivered by email or by hand.

Six of the Church members have formed a phone support group and we have made



Liz Day with Jaidan and Ezra contributing to a YouTube service from the Chapel

sure that our Chapel members (and many others too) have been phoned and chatted to throughout these past weeks. It's been a very good way of communicating, especially for those who live alone. Jane 01594 843883 and Liz 01594 840123 are always available on the phone if any of you feel like a chat and catch up.

Ducktown Echo

Editor: Virginia Ridley 01594 841294
ducktownecho@gmail.com

Published by the Aylburton Parish Council

Copy deadline for the Spring edition is
Sunday 21 March 2021

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

SOME USEFUL NUMBERS

District Councillor

Cllr Mark Topping
01594 840086
mark.topping@fdean.gov.uk

Glos. County Councillor

Cllr Alan Preest:
01594 564668
alan.preest@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Mark Harper
01594 823482
mark.harper.mp@parliament.uk

Glos County Council

01452 425000

FOD District Council

*Planning, waste, recycling,
nuisance, licences, street
wardens, dog warden*
01594 810000

Local Police Team

01452 753800
Non-Emergency 101

GCC Highways

08000 514514

Neighbourhood Watch

FoD Chrissie Parkes
01452 753784

Snow Warden

Colin Newman
01594 842532

Community Wellbeing Agent

(formerly Village Agent)
Richard Skinner
01594 812447 or 812399
07927 051328
richard.skinner@fdean.gov.uk

Lydney Doctors

Severnbanks Surgery
01594 845715
The Lydney Practice
01594 842167

Hospitals

Lydney
0300 4218722
The Dilke
0300 421 8640
Gloucestershire Royal
0300 4222222

Pharmacists

Lloyds Lydney
01594 842847
Lydney Co-op
01594 843443

NHS Dentists

0300 330 1348

All Emergency Services

Western Power (enquiries)
0800 404090
Western Power (power cuts)
105
Severn Trent Water
0800 783 4444

Dial-A-Ride

01594 843809

Cinemas

Coleford - Studio
01594 833331
Cinderford - The Palace
1594 822555

Leisure Centre, Lydney

01594 842383

Libraries

Lydney 01594 842769
Chepstow 01291 635730

NHS Direct

111

National Rail Enquiries

03457 484950

Travel Line

08712 002233

Airports

Bristol 0871 3344444
Cardiff 01446 711111
Gatwick 0344 8920322
Heathrow 08443 351801