



# Ducktown Echo



Summer 2021

The Aylburton Community Newsletter

Issue 44

## Aylburton Parish Council

Chair: Frankie Evans Parish Clerk: Meg Humphries 01594 719245 aylburtonclerk@outlook.com www.aylburton.net



### New Council Chair

Cllr Frankie Evans is our new Chair for this civic year. Frankie has been Vice Chair for several years and has served as district councillor too, so she has a good working knowledge of what local councils can do for the community. Welcome to Frankie and huge thanks to our outgoing Chair, Cllr Steph Lord, for all her hard work.

### Litter pick up Church Road on 17th July

A date for your diaries if you have a little spare time. Meet at the Cross monument at 9am to go as far up Church Road as we can manage – even beyond Heaven's Gate to the parish boundary at the top by Priors Lodge. Bring gloves, sturdy footwear, high visibility waistcoats if possible. Sacks to be provided.

### Opportunity is Calling

Are you interested in owning an old-style phone kiosk? The phone box on Upper Common is looking for a new owner. With the dissolution of Aylburton Upper Common Association, the group's proposal of moving and renovating the Upper Common phone kiosk will no longer be going forward. A refurbishment would take public money away from causes which would much better serve the community in other ways, and so the council voted to sell the kiosk by inviting offers, with proceeds going to a local cause. You can find our sales pack at [shorturl.at/zAJNY](http://shorturl.at/zAJNY), via our website, or a hard copy can be requested from the Parish Clerk.

The kiosk in the High Street is in good condition and will remain in place. It will continue to house the defibrillator.

### Tub TLC

The summer flowers are now planted in their tubs and are looking great. As always, we are very grateful for anyone who can spare a moment to give their local tub a little deadheading, or some watering in hot, dry spells.

### Meetings

While our Zoom meetings luckily didn't feature anything like the chaos that made Jackie Weaver famous earlier this year, members enjoyed the return to face-to-face meetings at the end of May. As always, parishioners are very welcome to attend any meeting. If you have a question or comment for the council you are very welcome to give this in person or you can send it to the Parish Clerk who can ensure it's read out at the next meeting. Our next meeting dates are on page 4.

### Public Rights of Way – Don't Lose Your Way

Do you use the parish's footpaths (public rights of way)? It's thought that many historic paths aren't officially mapped, which means in future they could be lost altogether. How you can help? Take a look at the county's definitive map at [shorturl.at/luHMO](http://shorturl.at/luHMO) and check that the paths you know of are already there. If they aren't, contact Gloucestershire County Council (or the Parish Clerk if you'd like the parish council's help in approaching the county council). Read more at the Ramblers' Association campaign page: [shorturl.at/nszQ1](http://shorturl.at/nszQ1)

### Annual Return

We once again had a good audit report for 2020–21. From 16th June to 28th July inclusive, members of the public have the right to inspect the parish council's audited accounts. View the public rights notice and all audit documents on our finance page at <https://aylburton.net/parish-council/finance>. Alternatively, contact the Parish Clerk.

Aylburton  
Community Litterpick  
Sat 17th July  
9 am - 12 pm

Provisional route: Church Road -> Upper Common -> Lodge Lane -> Prior's Lodge. Contact Mark on 840086 for more info.

### 25 Years of Campaigning for a Crossing

It has now been a quarter of a century since the community first started lobbying for a pedestrian crossing. At various times we've come quite close but have never been far enough up the priority list, it seems. Speeding and traffic volume are major concerns for the village, with the majority of residents wanting a crossing, so the Road Safety Group and the council continue to push for a crossing. We will be increasing the pressure on the county council so we can have the best chance of this happening. If you'd like to join the Road Safety Group, please contact the Parish Clerk.

## Wildflowers and Verges

The unusually wet weather in spring meant it wasn't possible for the verges to be cut as often as usual – though that did mean we were treated to some, now quite rarely seen, ragged robin wildflowers on the verge by Taurus, plus a good cluster of cuckooflower (lady's smock or milkmaid) on the bank at the other end of the village and a fantastic display of celandines in Stockwell Lane. Although both our wildflower verges were a bit churned up by the fibre broadband work, there is plenty to see on both (by the cherry trees and the corner of Stockwell Lane).

## A Plaque for our Historic Medieval Cross

Many of you may have noticed the mysterious appearance of a white plaque beside our historic medieval cross. The plaque was researched by Cllr John Harrison on behalf of the Parish Council and an article referring to it appeared in the *The Forester* newspaper on 23rd December last year. It was funded by several local bodies including the 'Tesco Bags of Help Scheme'. The plaque contains old photos of village life and puts the Cross in its historical context. The plaque was designed by John and made by a local design company.

Do have a look when you have time.

## Aylburton Nature Watch

Thanks are due to David Crabbe for producing this welcome addition to the Echo. Its objective is to raise awareness of the rich diversity of wildlife in and around the village and the need to protect it. If you would like to contribute to this project then please email David [aylburtonnaturewatch@gmail.com](mailto:aylburtonnaturewatch@gmail.com)



Lady's smock (milkmaids or cuckooflower) among the celandines on the A48



Cllr John Harrison at the installation of the information plaque last November

## Aylburton WI

President: Jane Tovey Secretary: Sandra Rickards 01594 841041

The WI has not held a meeting for 17 months, but now with some restrictions lifting we are preparing for the first get together at the end of July. Fortunately, we are in a sound position at present, with all our members re-joining for the coming year. The committee would like to thank them all for continuing to show their support. There is still room for more, if you have a couple of hours on the second Tuesday of each month and would like to come along and enjoy a good speaker with tea or coffee afterwards, we meet in the Memorial Hall at 7:30pm. The first two meetings are free for new members, if you wish to continue there is a yearly joining fee attached.



'High Teas & Rough Seas' our book written during the lockdown, has proved to be a great success. The proceeds from sales are going to be donated to local charities. There are a few copies left at £5 each. Our President, Jane Tovey, recently handed a cheque for £100 to the Children's Opportunity Centre in Coleford to help buy books for the children with learning difficulties.



Stephanie Lord

Many will have seen the yarn bombing displays on the Cross throughout the lockdowns. The response from villagers, passers-by and on Facebook has been phenomenal. Thank you all, you have inspired us to create more in the future. Our idea has been to make everyone look, smile and feel a sense of joy and happiness, especially after the winter lockdown. Aunt Bessie and her pet sheep 'Sheila' have both become firm favourites. Some people offered to take them home. Sheila has now returned to some lovely grazing pasture waiting for her next outing. Aunt Bessie has gone back to her spot in the garden to scare off the pigeons!

We have agreed to support the Road Safety Group, as we have done in the past. Any hope of getting a safe crossing in the High Street must be a step in the right direction.

## Forest Exiles CC

Secretary: Dan Keddle 07828 577914 forestexilescc@gmail.com



It's great to be back enjoying some local sport again. We have made a very successful return to the cricket arena and at the midway point of the League season, we have won four and lost two. We are very lucky to be able to play our home matches in the idyllic setting of Aylburton.

We are always looking to attract new members. If you would like to get involved in playing, umpiring, scoring, mowing or simply spectating, please get in touch.

### Forthcoming Home Fixtures

Sat 17 July Stanway - 1st XI 1:30

Sat 31 July Woodmancote - 2nd XI 1:30

Sun 08 Aug Primrose Hill - Friendly XI 2:30

Sat 14 Aug Andoversford - 1st XI 1:30

Sat 28 Aug Aston Ingham - 2nd XI 1:30

## 1st Aylburton and Lydney Scout Group

Mark Westwood aylburtonandlydney@forestofdeanscouts.org  
www.firstaylburtonandlydney.uk

1922 — 100 Years — 2022

We are the oldest scout group in the Forest of Dean and one of the oldest continuous running groups in the UK.

We started as two separate groups, Lydney Boy Scouts and Aylburton Boy Scouts over a century ago. The two troops merged and the group was formally registered as 1st Aylburton and Lydney Scout Group in 1922. In the run up to the centenary of registration, to help our scouts understand something about the history of the group, we are looking for memories from anyone who was a former Wolf Cub, Cub, Boy Scout or Scout in Aylburton or Lydney. If you know anyone who would be happy to talk to one or two scouts then please contact us.

At 1st Aylburton and Lydney, every week girls and boys from 6 to 14 years old take part in socially distanced scouting (until the rules are relaxed).

We're hoping to start a new section for 4-6 year olds in the autumn. Squirrels is new to the Scout Association and if we are allowed to start will enable us to offer a scouting experience from age 4 to 14. If we have places, we take young people into our sections (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts) in January, April and September, from 4 years old, and they stay with us moving automatically through the group as Beavers, Cubs and then as Scouts until about age 14. We run a joining list and you can put your name down from any age. Don't wait because if you leave it



until joining age you will be lucky to get a space. Occasionally we have spaces for new joiners into Cubs and even as Scouts, so it's always worth asking.

Visit [www.firstaylburtonandlydney.uk](http://www.firstaylburtonandlydney.uk) to see what we've been up to and use the 'Register your child' button to put your child's name on the waiting list or to ask for further information. If you have been thinking 'I'd like to know what scouting is about', feel free to contact me.

## Aylburton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Michelle Ireland 01594 833247 [www.aylburtonmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.aylburtonmethodistchurch.co.uk)  
Church Treasurer: Elizabeth Day 01594 840123  
Community Room booking: Amy Reece 01594 369383 [thecommunityroom-amc@outlook.com](mailto:thecommunityroom-amc@outlook.com)



Since the last edition we have been pleased to meet again for Sunday worship. We have been following the government regulations in order to keep everyone safe, and we pray that it won't be too long now before we are able to worship more freely.

We are planning two get together afternoons when we can share a cup of tea and catch up with each other. These will be on Tuesday 20th July and Thursday 19th August, both at 2pm. We would love to see you. Please come and make the afternoon special.

It is our plan to begin coffee mornings and messy mornings when appropriate, so watch out for posters. It will be the season of Harvest in September and our Harvest Thanksgiving will be on Sunday 26th September,

with either a lunch that day or a supper the following day. More details nearer the time. I end with a verse from a hymn which suits this beautiful time of year.

Summer suns are glowing  
Over land and sea,  
Happy light is flowing  
Bountiful and free.  
Everything rejoices  
In the mellow rays,  
Earth's ten thousand voices  
Swell the psalm of praise.

Rev Michelle Ireland

## What's On

### Parish Council

Full council meetings are held in the Methodist Community Room at 7pm on the second Monday 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.

Monday 12th July	Full council meeting
August	No meeting
Monday 13th September	Full Council Meeting
Monday 11th October	Full Council Meeting

### 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  
A full list of services in the Parish is displayed on the church notice board.

### 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.



### CARNIVAL

Sadly this year's Carnival has had to be cancelled because of the ongoing Covid restrictions. Hopefully there will be one next year on Saturday, 9th July.

If you would like to help with the Carnival planning and organisation then please email Mark Sargent marksargent8@hotmail.co.uk



To report an issue related to: potholes; lights, signals and signs; damage to pavement or kerb; road markings and stud issues trees, hedges and vegetation; drainage and flooding; spillages or obstructions on the road and PROW - public footpaths & bridleways (not pavements) see:

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/)

If a highways issue poses an immediate danger to public safety please call our emergency number 08000 514 514

## Recent planning applications

*Conifer overhanging boundary cut back to allow light and air flow around guest accommodation*

George Inn  
Ref. No: P0604/21/TCA  
Received: Thurs 25 March 21  
Status: Decided

*Spruce fell due to being overbearing and canopy starting to thin, suggesting poor health. To be replaced with ornamental Acer (variety to be confirmed)*

10 High Street  
Ref. No: P0608/21/TCA  
Received: Thurs 25 March 21  
Status: Approved

*Erection of a two storey extension. Demolition of existing single storey extension*

38 Sandford Road  
Ref. No: P0875/21/FUL  
Received: Thurs 6 May 21  
Status: Pending Consideration

*Two storey side extension to create home office and enlarged bedroom*

97 High Street  
Ref. No: P1005/21/FUL  
Received: Wed 26 May 21  
Status: Pending Consideration

*Two Storey Extension, Barn Conversion and Loft Amendments*

28 Stockwell Lane  
Ref. No: P1142/21/FUL  
Received: Mon 21 Jun 2021  
Status: Pending Consideration

Application forms, plans and supporting information 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](http://www.fdean.gov.uk) using the P reference number above.

You can make comments on any application by using this site, sending an email to [planning@fdean.gov.uk](mailto:planning@fdean.gov.uk) or by sending a letter to the Planning Office. Any comments submitted that make representations for or against an application will be taken into account when the Council reaches its decision.

## Ducktown Echo

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It's good to be back in print again. Looking at something on the screen is never the same as reading from a page is it?

As always we welcome contributions, letters and photos from the community.

Copy deadline for the Autumn edition is Sunday 12th September

## SOME USEFUL NUMBERS

### District Councillor

Cllr Mark Topping  
01594 840086  
[mark.topping@fdean.gov.uk](mailto:mark.topping@fdean.gov.uk)

### Glos. County Councillor

Cllr Alan Preest:  
01594 564668  
[alan.preest@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:alan.preest@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

### Member of Parliament

Mark Harper  
01594 823482  
[mark.harper.mp@parliament.uk](mailto: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

Richard Skinner  
01594 812447 or 812399  
07927 051328  
[richard.skinner@fdean.gov.uk](mailto: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  
01594 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