



# Ducktown Echo



Autumn 2021

The Aylburton Community Newsletter

Issue 45

## Aylburton Parish Council

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



### Armistice Day 2021

This year it falls on Thursday 11th November. There will be an act of remembrance outside the Memorial Hall on this day, commencing at around 10:45 am, with two minutes' silence at 11 am. Two poppy wreaths will be placed on the memorials in the usual tradition. The act will be led by the Rev. Michelle Ireland, minister for several local Methodist churches including Aylburton.



### Thank you to our tub-tenders

We are very grateful for anyone who spared some time to water and deadhead a nearby flower tub or two. The flowers in the tubs will continue until the first frost, so if you've been doing some deadheading, keep going!

### Calling green-fingered businesses

We're putting out 2022-24 grass-cutting/weed control contracts out to tender very soon. There will be three contracts: village mowing and flower tubs, Upper Common mowing, and village weed control. If you'd like to receive the information packs for any/all of these please get in touch using the contact details given above.

### Road safety

We are looking to draw up a comprehensive plan for road safety in the village. As well as continuing to push for a pedestrian crossing, we are looking at lobbying Highways for options such as a reduction to 20 mph and an ANPR camera. We will be asking for your views on the plan to make sure it focuses on what the community wants.

### Remember not to lose your way

In case you missed it last time, we're mentioning it again. It's thought that many historic footpaths aren't officially mapped, which means in future they could be lost altogether. But you can help by taking a look at the county's definitive map at [shorturl.at/luHM0](http://shorturl.at/luHM0) and checking 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)

### Flooding improvements where are we at?

It's now been just over a year since Gloucestershire County Council committed to taking action to reduce flood risk from Milling Brook. It's a complex process as it involves large scale engineering under a main road so it won't happen overnight. We are keen to ensure that it keeps on moving forward and are liaising regularly with the county council.

### Aylburton's wildflower verges

Some of Aylburton's verges have been buzzing with life this last spring and summer, and in places have been very colourful.

A close inspection is usually rewarded with the sight of bees, butterflies and other pollinators, plus a host of grasshoppers, ladybirds and numerous other insects. It is hard to calculate the benefit to wildlife. Each variety of wildflower allowed to grow can support dozens of different invertebrates. (White Clover supports 98 species, Yarrow supports 141 species.) Small mammals such as bank voles, wood mice and shrews will also have benefited by providing food and habitat.

Last year the County Ecologist recorded 46 varieties of grasses and wildflowers on one verge.

Next year, our wildflower verges will get an *extra cut* – and they will be *cut sooner* at the end of the season. The first cut will be in March, to reduce the dominance of grass on the verges, and give wildflowers more of a chance to get established. They will be cut again in



August when most of the flowers will have gone to seed, but before it starts to get too overgrown.

The council is looking to manage some other stretches of verge in a similar way next year, as part of our response to the biodiversity emergency.

Sandford Road bus shelter verge in April

## Aylburton WI

President: Jane Tovey Secretary: Sandra Rickards 01594 841041

The *Welcome Back* afternoon tea in July was greatly appreciated by all the members. As this was the first time we had met for many months, it was lovely just to chat and enjoy each other's company. The committee served an array of sandwiches and cakes with a glass of wine. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all. We must give thanks to the Hall committee for the newly refurbished kitchen, it's roomy and fresh. This was a lovely surprise for the ladies to use.

Lockdown release has allowed us to have two meetings in the Hall, the first in August was well attended with six new visitors. Mary Court presented a very entertaining flower arranging evening, with many looking forward to her returning in the future.

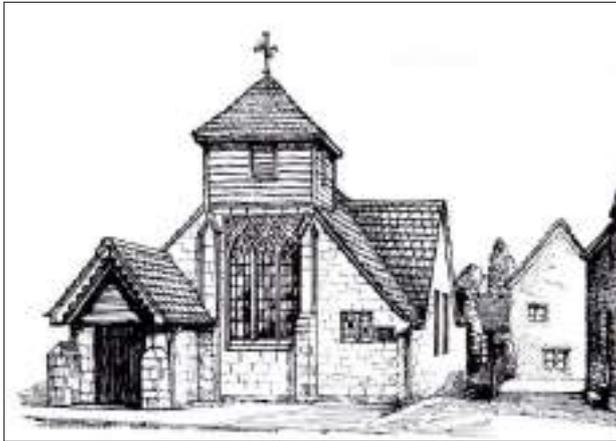
For the September meeting the speaker, Kirstie Bingham, presented a talk *About Tudor swearing, sex & loos*. This was most amusing, as many spent most of the evening laughing. As you can see, we are not all 'Jam and Jerusalem'.

On 23 October at 11 am, we have a table sale organised, which will take place in the Hall. There will be cakes, plants, glass ware, bags, cards and clothes, plus other stalls with items available to purchase. Please come along and support us, as the proceeds will be donated to the Memorial Hall funds. There will be posters around the village nearer this date.

We recently welcomed four new members which is very encouraging.

## Aylburton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Michelle Ireland 01594 833247 07906 431919 [www.aylburtonmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.aylburtonmethodistchurch.co.uk)  
Church Treasurer: Elizabeth Day 01594 840123 07710 137159  
Community Room booking: Amy Reece 01594 369383 07938 075233 [thecommunityroom-amc@outlook.com](mailto:thecommunityroom-amc@outlook.com)  
Property Steward: Brian Reece 01594 842307 07712 733820



Eric J Rice

It's a new year for the Methodist Church. This is when ministers retire or move on and new ones come in their place. We are pleased that Rev. Michelle Ireland, will now remain with us until at least 2027, as we appreciate the ministry she gives in and around the community.

It is harvest time again and our Thanksgiving service was on Sunday 26 September. We decorated the Chapel

on the Thursday with gifts of flowers, fruit and vegetables. The Chapel was decorated on the Thursday as the pupils and staff from the Primary School held their Harvest service on Friday. Our service was followed by a *Bring and Share Lunch*.

Messy Church has of course been on hold throughout the pandemic but we are hoping to start this going again in the near future – watch out for posters!

We as a Church have had various discussions and decided to resume some of our normal monthly activities, so please check the details in the What's On section on page 4 for things going on at Chapel.



View of the village from Chapel Hill taken in the summer of 2018

Picture by Jon Howell

## Forest Exiles CC

Secretary: Dan Keddle 07828 577914 forestexilesc@gmail.com



### Forest Exiles comeback!

With no cricket played in 2020, it was always going to be a big challenge for us to get the ball rolling again. Well I am very proud to say, we have had an amazing all round response, with several old and new faces pulling together to once again enjoy some local sport.

We managed to fulfil all our CGF league fixtures and won nine of our fourteen Premier league matches, finishing a creditable third in a competitive league.

We also had a very exiting Sunday away day at Tintern, with local lads Olly Huntley and Sam Hunt-Clark starring in a high scoring thriller.

Another highlight was our first ever President's Match in August against Primrose Hill CC. Several past and present players came together to give club stalwart Paul 'Waspie' Rigby a well-deserved send off. We have plans to make this an annual fixture and play for a President's Cup.

We have just completed our end of season renovations on the cricket square. This will give us the perfect start when we return to Aylburton next spring



Exiles team for our first-ever President's Match

We couldn't wish for a better place to enjoy our cricket. As ever, we are always looking for new members to come and join our family friendly club. If you are interested in playing, umpiring, scoring, ground works or just spectating please feel free to get in touch.

## Aylburton C of E Primary School

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

## The Severn Federation Academy Trust

The last academic year saw significant changes taking place within our schools; not only have we had to cope with another lockdown and the implications of having to live with the coronavirus, but we have also converted our three schools (Aylburton, Lydney and Bream) to academy status and set up a multi-academy trust to run them – The Severn Federation Academy Trust.

At the end of last term, having managed a nearly full year of covid disruption, we had to close the class 1 'bubble' at Aylburton after five confirmed cases in addition to a number of pupils isolating. Remote learning began on the first day of national lockdown and IT equipment and food parcels were made available to families as required. Thankfully the new term has started on a better footing, but we still have to live with absences due to isolation. Despite this, attendance, either in person or remotely, held up well with a rate of 97%. For the new school year there are 73 pupils on roll and we were, once again, heavily oversubscribed for entry into the reception year.

The pupils continue to achieve good standards of learning. There were no SATs last term, so achievement was assessed by the staff. The results were encouraging and up to at least the expected standard, particularly in Good Level of Development in Early Years, Key Stage 1 Reading, Writing and Maths and similarly for Key Stage 2. As there were no official tests this year there are no comparisons available with national figures.

There have been some staff changes. Mrs Brice moved across to Bream School as the Academy Head and already she has made a significant impact there, with a very positive feedback from our School Improvement

consultant. Mrs Riach decided to retire from teaching at the end of last term and we all thank her for her many years of effort on behalf of our children. Her place in class 2 has been taken by Miss Gaunt, who participated in our School Direct teacher training programme. She will take her place alongside Mrs Isaac in class 1 and Miss Larkham in class 3. Mrs Dare remains as the Executive Head for Aylburton and Lydney. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Durbin from our 'Listening Post'. We wish her well in a new role within her church.



A recent Mini-Olympics afternoon for the whole school was followed by ice creams provided by Friends of the School

## 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.

Mon 11 Oct Full Council Meeting  
Mon 8 Nov Full Council Meeting  
Thurs 11 Nov Remembrance Service 10:45  
at the Memorial Hall  
Monday 13 Dec 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.

*Knit & Natter* 2pm  
Wed 6 Oct  
Wed 3 Nov  
Wed 1 Dec

*Coffee Mornings* 10:30am  
Saturday 16 Oct

*Soup Saturday & Autumn Sale*  
Saturday 20 November 12-2.30pm

### 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.

12 Oct *Cotswold Perfumery* with Pam Slater  
9 Nov Annual Meeting with bingo later  
14 Dec *American Supper* sing along with Rob  
2022  
11 Jan *Belly Dancing* with Erica Sheppard  
8 Feb *Severn Free Wheelers*  
8 Mar *Birds & Animals in the Forest of Dean*  
with Barrie Mills

If you would like to come and try a taster evening and do not want to arrive on your own, please give me a call and I will meet you on arrival at the Memorial Hall for the 7:30pm start.  
Sandra Rickards 01594 841041

## Recent planning applications

*Erection of a single storey rear extension (general permitted development extension).*

17A Upper Common  
Ref. No: P1281/21/GPDE  
Received: Mon 12 Jul 21  
Status: Approved

*Clear failed part of willow and remove remainder of tree in order to make safe. Remove 2 damaged conifers in back garden to prevent future failure. Pollard willow over entrance to playing field and trim back mahonia in order to prevent obstruction to access road. Remove lawsons cypress in back garden in order allow replanting and prevent shading. Replanting to be with heritage apple varieties, mulberries and fig trees (15 in total).*

Rockleaze 73 High Street  
Ref. No: P1401/21/TCA  
Received: Thu 05 Aug 21  
Decision: Granted Permission

*Loft extension to existing bungalow property to provide a new first floor level with accommodation.*

*Modernisation of the existing elevations, internal configurations and a single storey rear extension providing a new living room space.*

18 Upper Common  
Ref. No: P1450/21/FUL  
Received: Mon 16 Aug 21  
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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The Echo reports on the work of the Parish Council but it is also a community newsletter. It highlights issues, interests and activities within the village. Contributions from our readers are always welcome - please send us your articles, comments, ideas, letters, pictures, poems, whatever. This is your newsletter.

The Echo is distributed free to every household in the village.

Copy deadline for the winter edition is Sunday 21st November.

## 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