



# Ducktown Echo



Winter 2021

The Aylburton Community Newsletter

Issue 46

## Aylburton Parish Council

Chair: Frankie Evans

Parish Clerk: Meg Humphries 01594 719245

aylburtonclerk@outlook.com www.aylburton.net

### Armistice Day 2021 - Remembering Together

On Thursday 11 November dozens of you gathered outside the Memorial Hall for the act of remembrance. Reverend Michelle Ireland led the event, and the Year 6 students from Aylburton Primary School did a brilliant job of reading out the names, as well as performing their own impressive poems on the topic.

Huge thanks to those who served refreshments in the Methodist Community Room after the event too, a fantastic way to warm up, as well as catch up with each other. We think you'll agree they're excellent. The road crews even stopped the traffic for the two minutes silence.

### Roadworks

By the time you're reading this, the A48 roadworks will be finished, or close to being over. It's been a very challenging time for those living on or using the High Street, and we've discussed the issues with Highways to try to make things as tolerable as possible. We've added signage to encourage queuing motorists to be considerate by turning their engines off and stereos down while waiting, to reduce noise and air pollution.

### Green-fingered Businesses - time to get your quotes in

Please pass it along - any local gardening businesses (including sole traders) can now find contract information at [www.aylburton.net](http://www.aylburton.net):

- Village mowing
- Flower tubs planting
- Upper Common mowing
- Village weed control.

You can quote for as many of the four as you want to. If you'd like to receive the information packs in hard copy in the post, or if you have any other queries, please get in touch using the contact details given above.

### Road Safety - Public Meeting Date for Your Diaries

Hopefully by now, you've seen the flyer in this edition about the road safety public meeting on Tuesday 11 January. This is a chance to come together, consider what the parish council aims to do and why, and share your thoughts. We will also be at the coffee morning in the Methodist Community Room on 15 January and you might see us out and about elsewhere too. Please put it in your diary - it takes a whole community to make this sort of change.

### Flooding

Gloucestershire County Council continues their study on the culvert that takes Milling Brook under the A48. We have been in touch with Lydney Park Estate about several areas of waterways that seem congested.

FoDDC has donated two packs of FloodSax to the parish, which we have placed with the two households with the worst history of flooding. If you're interested in obtaining some FloodSax please get in touch so we can give you the details/make enquiries with FoDDC.

*We wish you all  
a cosy and safe winter  
and a very Merry Christmas*

## Forest Exiles CC

Secretary: Dan Keddle 07828 577914

[forestexilesc@gmail.com](mailto:forestexilesc@gmail.com)

**Forest** Exiles cricket club finished off another successful year at Aylburton with their annual awards day in November.

This season's winners were (L to R)

Club person of the year: Julie Hunt

Players' player: Joe Worgan

Top senior bowler: Harry Barnett

Most improved senior player: Connor Brackpool

Top senior batsman: Ross Keddle

Duck award: Alex Burt



## Aylburton Memorial Hall

Chair: Simon Rutherford [chairmanaylburtonhall@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanaylburtonhall@gmail.com) Bookings: [aylburtonvillagehallbookings@hotmail.com](mailto:aylburtonvillagehallbookings@hotmail.com)

### Your Aylburton Memorial Hall needs YOU

The Hall's centenary was during the Covid-19 lockdown, and we plan to celebrate this at the next year's Aylburton Carnival on Saturday 9 July 2022.

Our carnival sub-committee welcomes any helpers, and you don't have to become involved in the admin. Hall operation is largely funded by the carnival and your contributions are essential, so please come and join in.

Sadly *Carols around the Cross* is postponed until 2022.

People like Aylburton because it is a friendly place and our Hall contributes to community cohesion. We are run entirely by volunteers and welcome additional help, so please contact us to see what you can do.

Despite limited fund raising, we kept the playing field open and maintained to a high standard (special thanks to the Exiles CC) throughout 2020/21. The Hall has been open for much of 2021, subject to restrictions.

We used lockdown to repair the building, improve the insulation and renovate the kitchen – again special thanks to our volunteers. Feedback has been extremely positive.

Hall maintenance is always ongoing. In 2022 we shall be tackling damp caused by road wash and restoring the 1939–45 memorial gates. We are now investigating improvements for disabled access, playing field parking, and storage.



View through the serving hatch to the new kitchen area

We are open for bookings £10 per hour and children's party rate £25 for 3 hrs.

## 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



The Remembrance commemoration was a poignant occasion. We were delighted that the Year 6 pupils from the school read the names of those from our village who sacrificed their lives for us along with poems that they had composed. Rev Michelle Ireland led the two minute silence, which was made all the more special this year as the workmen controlling the traffic lights, set the lights on red for those minutes and the drivers switched off their engines and observed the time as well. After the service, refreshments were shared back at the community room, where the thoughtfully decorated chapel was open for people to reflect. The time of Remembrance was then completed with a Sunday service.

Our Soup Saturday and Sale was a great way to start and we are thankful to all who supported this event.

Advent comes first in the Church calendar - what does that mean to Christians? It describes the period in the Christian calendar where congregations prepare for Christmas Day and celebrate of the birth of Jesus Christ.

As we light the candles on our Advent ring in Church over each of the four Sundays in December we will bring to mind Hope – Peace – Love – Joy culminating on Christmas Day when we light the central candle by remembering the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and give thanks.

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

*May you seek and find Jesus in your lives throughout the New Year.*

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



## Aylburton Milestone

This sits half-buried in the grassy verge between nos. 5 and 7 High Street. In surprisingly good condition, the village milestone still has its cast iron plate showing 8 miles to Chepstow. The distance indicated was measured from the Beaufort Arms Hotel, Chepstow.

Milestones are relics from the era when the county first had passable roads. The Chepstow and District Turnpike Trust, established in 1756, was responsible for the road between Gloucester and Chepstow. From 1767, mileposts were compulsory on all turnpike roads, not only to inform travellers of direction and distances, but to help coaches keep to schedule and for charging for changes of horses at the coaching inns.

## 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

It has been an exciting start to the new academic year. 10 new pupils joined us in Reception and we have also welcomed a number of pupils in other year groups. We currently have 69 pupils on roll with a few spaces available. Applications for Reception 2022 are now open and Mrs Isaac, the new Academy Head, would be delighted to give potential new families a tour of our wonderful school.

COVID restrictions had initially relaxed in September and the children were able to enjoy mixing together again at playtimes and for Collective Worship.

Parents were able to attend the Harvest Service at the Methodist Church, where the children read poems and sang songs. All of the food that was donated was taken to the Forest Foodbank. Thank you Reverend Michelle for organising this.

Our Year 6 pupils represented the School at the Remembrance Service. The pupils read poems that they had written and read the names of the fallen soldiers.

The Friends of the School are working hard, fundraising for the benefit of the children. They will be selling raffle tickets at the Taurus Craft Christmas market and have arranged a special Christmas treat for the school.

### Remembrance Day

Year 6 at Aylburton Primary School

Red blood splashed as the dead and dying  
crashed to the floor.

Every time a soldier dies a poppy was  
soon to grow.

Many lives were feeling blue as they were  
homesick and wished not to die.

Even if they missed home, they had to  
keep fighting for their lives.

More and more bombs crashed  
killing many lives.

Broken hearts of families as they hear the  
news of a loved one's death.

Rapid breathing of men who have been  
wounded and feeling worried for their life  
and if they will see their loved ones again.

Aggressive men trying to push their way to  
victory, not knowing if they will win.

Near children's father, who were  
fighting in the war, worried if they would  
get back to their kids.

CRASH! BANG! BOOM! The bombs  
crashed to the ground killing tons of lives.

Every life that was lost gives us hope for a  
better future with peace.

## Aylburton WI

President: Jane Tovey Secretary: Sandra Rickards 01594 841041

The October table sale held in the hall was not as well supported as we expected, but we feel this may have been due to Covid figures on the rise once again. There were many quality items for sale and with sterling efforts from the members, we have now donated £200 towards the Memorial Hall funds.



With the proceeds of sales from our book *High Teas & Rough Seas* we have donated £75 to each of the following charities: The Victoria Centre Lydney, Gloucestershire Air Ambulance, SARA and Forest Mobile Meals, not forgetting an earlier donation of £100 to the Children's Opportunity Centre at Coleford. Thank you to everyone who has purchased a copy.

We do hope you have a moment to look at the display on the Cross monument. Thanks must go to our knitters and helpers, including two of the husbands. Also, the road workers who kindly moved all the signs, so it could be viewed to its best advantage. We have had some wonderful comments and know how much you appreciate the effort put in; we feel honoured to be part of such an occasion.

At the recent Annual Meeting, Jane Tovey was elected as President for the coming year. We now have 36

members enrolled with two others attending for a taster evening. With membership growing this is encouraging for the year ahead. Members of the committee are now busy organising speakers for the coming year, which is proving challenging, as most are charging more for mileage due to recent fuel price increases. If anyone knows of local people who give witty, lively and informative talks at a reasonable cost please let me know.



'Once again members have created a fitting tribute for Remembrance Day'

Helpers were L to R:  
Iris Gregory, Janice Crabbe,  
Jane Tovey, Sandra Rickards,  
Denise Goode

This month the *Lunch Club* enjoyed a meal at the Orepool Inn, Coleford. The last meeting of the year is an American Supper, with members providing a plate of food to enjoy with mulled wine and musical entertainment.

*Aylburton WI would like to take this opportunity to wish you all good health for the coming winter months, and a joyful Christmas and New Year.*

# 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 14th December Full Council meeting 2022

January	No meeting
Tuesday 8th February	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 8th March	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 except where indicated  
A full list of services 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.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Numbers may need to be limited at some services so please ring Liz on 01594 840123 to check.

Sunday 12th\* CHRISTINGLE at 3pm  
Children can make their own Christingles  
Sunday 19th\* LESSONS & CAROLS in candlelight at 6pm with dedication of Action for Children lantern boxes  
CHRISTMAS DAY All Age Worship with Rev Michelle Ireland 10:30am

\* No morning service on these dates

## Meetings each month

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

## FOR DECEMBER ONLY

Knit & Natter - Wednesday 1st from 2:30pm in the Community Room  
Coffee Morning - Saturday 4th at 10:30am

## 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.

## Aylburton Acorns

Baby and Toddler Group meets each Friday in the Memorial Hall 9.30-11am

A chance to meet other parents and enjoy a cuppa, whilst children play and learn together

Jane Penny, Community Family Minister, cfmydney@gmail.com

07856 679387 01594 563803  
December sessions: 3, 10 and 17  
Group restarts on 14 January 2022

## The George Inn & Millingbrook Lodge

01594 842163 info.millingbrooklodge@yahoo.co.uk

Christmas Eve	12-9pm with food 1-2pm
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	12-8pm with food 2-4pm
New Year's Eve	12pm-midnight
New Year's Day	12-8pm with food 12-2pm

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 2022

## taurus crafts



4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021  
10.00am-5.00pm Free entry and parking

"Arts, crafts, gifts, toys, food and drink, hundreds of fresh cut Christmas trees create the area's largest Christmas markets"

Taurus Crafts, Lydney, GL15 6BU - 01594 844841  
www.tauruscrafter.co.uk - enquire@tauruscrafter.co.uk  
@tauruscrafter #tauruscrafter



## Ducktown Echo

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

## WANTED

SOMEONE NEEDED TO WORK ON A SMALL REPAIR TO DRIVEWAY  
Please telephone John on 01594 368439  
Email: intaglios@tiscali.co.uk