



# Ducktown Echo



Summer 2022

The Aylburton Community Newsletter

Issue 48

## Aylburton Parish Council

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

### Aylburton's lively community life

A big thank you to the rich variety of groups and clubs who gave updates as part of the Annual Parish Assembly on 17 May. All updates appear in the meeting's minutes at [aylburton.net/parish-council/minutes](http://aylburton.net/parish-council/minutes)

### A fond farewell to three longstanding councillors

We wish the very best to three hardworking volunteer councillors who have stepped down in the past few months: John Harrison, who worked on the Cross Monument information plate, Steph Lord, who was Chair for several years and was always quick to volunteer to help out on a number of matters. Last but by no means least, David Bayliss stepped down in June. Dave has given many hours to keeping the churchyard looking good - whether trimming back hedges and vegetation, sweeping, weeding and re-gravelling the garden of remembrance. Though he won't be a regular at meetings any more, he's committed to giving the churchyard some TLC, which we know is appreciated by so many, including the council. We wish them all a good 'retirement'!

### Welcome (back) to two new(ish) councillors...

Welcome to our two new councillors, Fiona Dean and Ray Woodward. In May the council co-opted them following Steph and John's resignations. Ray has served on the council previously, and both Ray and Fiona bring a range of skills and knowledge to the table, as well as a lot of passion for ensuring Aylburton is a great place to live.

### ... and a councillor vacancy

Cllr David Bayliss stepped down at the end of June, so there is a vacancy for a councillor. To find out more visit our website or contact the Clerk, and why not come along to our July Meeting to get a feel for what we do.

### Tree-planting opportunity for the parish

Do you have any ideas for areas that could be planted with trees to boost the tree population following ash dieback losses? The County Council has asked local communities to suggest pieces of land that might be suitable. This can be public land, private land or Highways-owned land. Any suggestions can be sent to the Clerk via [aylburtonclerk@outlook.com](mailto:aylburtonclerk@outlook.com)

### Appeal for information after birds of prey are found dead in Aylburton.

Police officers are seeking information after two birds of prey were found dead near the bus stop on the A48, opposite the Sandford Road turning. They were found by a member of the public on Monday 25 April.

One was a Goshawk, which was just under 17 years old when it died, and X-rays confirm that it was shot with a shotgun. The cause of death of the other bird, a sparrowhawk, is unknown at this time.

Information can be submitted by completing an online form [www.gloucestershire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/cor/tell-us-about-existing-case-report/](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/cor/tell-us-about-existing-case-report/) or by calling 101. In both cases quote incident number 130 of 25 April.

### Tub heroes assemble!

It's that time of year when we ask parishioners to keep an eye on a flower planter nearby. Watering in a dry spell, and even some deadheading of spent blooms, will help them keep looking beautiful for longer. Thanks in advance to all our heroes! If you have any queries please do get in touch. NB: We're aware that a few tubs are deteriorating, and we will be looking to replace some over the winter.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer,  
Aylburton Parish Council

**AYLBURTON  
CARNIVAL  
SATURDAY 9TH JULY**

### PROCESSION AT 2PM

The traffic between Taurus and Sandford Road will be delayed between 2-2:30pm while the procession moves through the High Street

## Speed Camera

The Parish Council has chosen its favoured speed camera after getting three quotes. The camera would work 24/7 and record the details of speeding vehicles on both sides of the carriageway.

We have successfully applied for £3,400 from the Build Back Better Fund. We're still waiting for a decision after making applications to the Police Commissioner's Fund and the GCC/OPCC Community Speedwatch Fund.

## Zebra Now!

*More campaign events will take place in the coming months.*

We had a fantastic turnout for our protest event on 11 June as part of our campaign to get a pedestrian crossing. More than 90 Aylburton residents, many with banners, gathered at the cross monument and crossed the A48 to the Memorial Hall and back, time and again, with a gap in between to allow traffic to pass.

The event was reported in the Review, The Forester, BBC Radio Gloucester and Points West.

Our local Gloucestershire County Council councillor, Alan Preest, will be presenting our petition for a pedestrian crossing in Aylburton at the next GCC full council meeting on July 6th.

More campaign events will take place in the coming months.

## Wildlife Verges

These will be mown in late summer, then raked by volunteers to remove clippings. This should reduce the soil fertility and lead to more flowers next year. For more information please contact [aylburtonpc.fiona@gmail.com](mailto:aylburtonpc.fiona@gmail.com) or look in this month's issue of Aylburton Nature Watch.



Mass crossing of the High Street

# Wildlife Verge Raking

from 2pm Saturday 27th August

Register in advance by emailing [aylburtonpc.fiona@gmail.com](mailto:aylburtonpc.fiona@gmail.com) for a chance to win a FREE wildlife tour for two from [fodwildlifetours](http://fodwildlifetours.com)

Organised by Friends of Aylburton Wildlife

Don't forget to bring a rake

## Aylburton Water

Acting Chair: Simon Rutherford c/o Jacuzzi Towers [aylburtonwater@gmail.com](mailto:aylburtonwater@gmail.com)



### Ducktown Water – the best kept secret in the village

Aylburton Water supplies approximately 70 properties on High Street, Church Road and Stockwell Lane. There is no truth to the rumours that we have been fluoridating the water or encouraging wild swimming at the sacred spring during lockdown.

There may be instances where Gigaclear works may have disturbed pipework, or Severn Trent are charging for a supposed unmetered supply, so keep an eye out.

Aylburton Water comes from a capped spring feeding small tanks on Church Road, and it relies on gravity, hence the low pressure. The water committee are all volunteers, and it has been running as a charitable co-operative for the last ten years (since the introduction of the Private Water Supply regulations), trying to build upon the work of our esteemed predecessors. The last major works to the supply pre-date 1931, and much of the pipework is now buried beneath extensions. We can give tours of the supply at the least provocation.

The supply has never failed, and we have had much less planned isolations than a major water company. We try to help when householders disrupt the supply with building work (pickaxe) or vehicle traffic breaking pipes.

We also try to assist with advice on water treatment and low pressure plumbing. We are often consulted by conveyancing solicitors on the purchase of a property connected to our water supply.

Aylburton Water is now normally tested in random domestic and commercial premises by ERS Publica on behalf of the FoDDC. The periodic testing schedule has lapsed during Covid-19.

We have a written commitment from Quality Inns that the refurbished Cross Inn will connect to the Severn Trent supply before re-opening. There is not considered to be a sufficient daily volume of water to supply a modern pub connected exclusively to Aylburton Water.

We normally collect our water rate door to door, and in 2022 we will be requesting the arrears that we were unable to collect in 2020 and 2021.

We do have plans to improve the supply and constitute as a Community Interest Company, but we do need additional support. There is also potential disruption to supply if we do undertake building works.

We are always keen to welcome any new volunteers to the Committee.

## Forest Exiles CC

Secretary: Dan Keddle 07713 760591 forestexilecc@gmail.com

### Home grown talent

We have been playing cricket in the village since 2016. From those early days, we have always had one young Aylburton lad who's shown lots of interest. Ollie Huntley started to get involved, when we ran our junior team. He's now thirteen and has made the step up to our adult team. Ollie made his debut recently, in our first league win of the season against Woodmancote CC. He's a terrific lad who really enjoys his cricket and can never do enough to help out.

Unfortunately, we have noticed an increase on the field with dog mess. Lots of people use the field for general play, sports, or simply walking. I am sure you wouldn't want to step in a pile of poo. Please pick it up and use the dog waste bins provided by both field entrances.



Ollie is centre in the front row

Forest Exiles cricket training is every Wednesday from 6:30pm on the playing field. Come and join us.

## 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)

We were so pleased to be able to hold our Easter services this year, with an opportunity to sing so many of the wonderful hymns. A wonderful ray of hope that Christ is risen!

Our Chapel is a special building, the only Methodist church on the A48 between Gloucester and Chepstow, and many remark on its character as they pass by. We are pursuing the decoration of the outside of the chapel, particularly the windows.

Crossing the road to the chapel, can sometimes be quite tricky, we are very grateful for the times when we can park in the field. A number of us joined in the mass

crossing, organised by Cllr Mark Topping. We do pray that this will nudge hearts and minds of those who make decisions about the safety of our roads so that they will implement a form of crossing that will be beneficial to all.

In a few months' time it will be Harvest. We will have a service on Sunday 25 Sept. at 10:30 and then a Harvest Supper with short reflection on Monday at 7pm. This year our focus will be WaterAid, a wonderful charity that supports those who don't have clean water. We in Aylburton are so blessed with a plentiful supply.



### CARNIVAL DAY SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY FAMILY FUN DOG SHOW

Just come along and enter on the day

Classes £2.50 per entry

Judging starts at 2pm

Classes

- 1 Cutest pup (less than 12 months)
- 2 Most Handsome Dog
- 3 Prettiest Bitch
- 4 Best Crossbred
- 5 Best Pedigree
- 6 Best Rescue
- 7 Best Junior Handler (under 12)
- 8 Best Fancy Dress
- 9 Best Trick
- 10 Best in Show

Also Scurry £3 — timed event

Socialised dogs welcome  
Water and poo bags will be available



Annette Gray

Luna — an 8 year old Japanese Spitz  
Winner of Best in Show at the 2019 Carnival

## 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 12 July	Full Council Meeting
August	No Meeting
Tuesday 13 Sept	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 11 Oct	Full Council Meeting

### St. Mary's Church

Parish Priest: Rev David Gardiner admin@lydneyparish.org.uk  
Churchwarden: Aylburton - Mary Court 01594 843651  
Aylburton Common Mission Church - Jane Hale 01594 843917  
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.

#### HARVEST SERVICES

Sunday 25 Sept	HARVEST FESTIVAL service at 10:30am
Monday 26 Sept	HARVEST SUPPER at 7pm

### Meetings

Coffee Mornings — third Saturday each month 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.

July 12 The History of Teddy Bears



Richard Field

Bench at Colliers Brook in fond memory of Mrs Chris Field 1942-2018

# AYLBURTON CARNIVAL

## SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Procession starts 2pm

**BRASS BAND**  
**FAMILY FUN DOG SHOW**  
**PUNCH & JUDY**  
**BAR**  
**AFTERNOON TEAS**  
**GRAND DRAW**  
**LASER CLAY SHOOTING**  
**BUNGEE TRAMPOLINE**  
**CHASE ICE CREAM**  
**PIG ROAST**  
**CHILDREN'S RACES**

Late afternoon live music from  
**'DAMAGED GOODS'**

Ample Parking  
Proceeds in aid of Memorial Hall and Playing Field

### Carnival Help

Why not come and join us? We are always looking for volunteers. Whether it's help setting up on Carnival morning, being a procession marshal or just generally helping out.

If you can help please contact Mark Sargent on 01594 841732 or email marksargent8@hotmail.co.uk

### Ducktown Echo

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ducktownecho@gmail.com

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### 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

Richard Skinner  
01594 812447 or 812399  
07927 051328  
richard.skinner@fdean.gov.uk

#### Lydney Doctors

Severnbanks Surgery  
01594 845715  
The Lydney Practice  
01594 842167

#### NHS Dentists

0300 330 1348

#### Hospitals

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

#### Pharmacists

Lloyds Lydney  
01594 842847  
Lydney Co-op  
01594 843443

#### 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

# Aylburton WI

President: Jane Tovey Secretary: Sandra Rickards 01594 841041



The Forester

## WI Ladies-in-Waiting

L to R: Clare Bloomfield, Denise Goode, Denise Voyce, Iris Gregory, Sandra Rickards, Jane Tovey, Margaret Edwards and Janice Crabbe

Many of you will have seen our display at the 'Cross' monument, celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Considering this significant, historic occasion, we decided it had to be something very special. For several weeks work was carried out, two white horses and a carriage appeared, made by Brian and Sandra Rickards, with the ladies making the beautiful bunting and flowerpots arranged by Jane Tovey. The Queen herself was dressed by Iris Gregory and Pauline Ball. With the help of our enthusiastic helpers, Graham Goode, Steve Tovey and Brian Rickards we managed to create an eye-catching display – it certainly slowed the traffic down.

Huge thanks to all the fantastic comments and photographs the public placed on Facebook, and many villagers who have told us how much they appreciated the effort we had put in. Even visitors from Australia and Portugal stopped to take photos and congratulated us on the splendid display.

Unfortunately, the display had to be removed earlier than planned due to the disappearance of our 'Queen', who was taken from her carriage. Although this is the first time something of this nature has occurred, sadly, this does put future displays in jeopardy, hopefully it was just a silly prank.

Members were invited to a Jubilee picnic which was held on the playing field. The theme was red, white and blue, and of course a prize for the best hat. This

glorious sunny afternoon saw us enjoying some good old-fashioned games, which included an egg and spoon race, hook-a-duck, hoopla and throwing a dog biscuit to the corgi, all arranged by the President Jane Tovey, with the committee members making sure the rules were followed! All the winners received a small prize. Strawberries and cream were served afterwards, followed by a little mellow music and a good chit chat.

Many of the members turned out to support Aylburton's Pedestrian Crossing event organised by the Parish Council, as they know a zebra crossing would be a huge help in getting them safely across this very busy road. We do hope they achieve their aim soon.

We will be supporting the upcoming carnival with our usual stall, selling home-made cakes, jams, pickles, also produce and plants. Let's all hope for a fine, sunny day.

Membership has reached 40 and continues to flourish as others are coming along to see what we are all about. Denise Voyce produces an excellent newsletter each month to keep the members informed of dates and times of all the events we organise. If you wish to come, the first two meetings are free, with a fee payable if you wish to join after. The speaker for the July meeting will be Gillian White speaking on the 'History of Teddy Bears'. We look forward to seeing you.

## Comments

That's wonderful, well done Aylburton WI, you have done our little village proud.

Amazing well done.

Looks amazing! Thank you xx

Well done Aylburton WI, brilliant display x

It's absolutely fabulous, well done Aylburton WI.

What a great effort by all you girls. You should be rightfully proud.

Very pleased and proud to live in Aylburton x

This is brilliant, well done

Thank you everyone for the fabulous comments regarding the Aylburton Jubilee Display. It was hard work but well worth it, and thanks to all our members and men-folk who helped make it outstanding.  
Sandra Rickards



Jon Howell

Park Row, a terrace of eight houses that nestles halfway up the hill between Lower and Upper Common, was built in the 1850s as workers' cottages. There is one attic common to all the cottages.



Park Row shown on 1888 O.S. map

**I have** always had a soft spot for Park Row. It was unfairly nicknamed 'Bugs Alley'. My gran and grandad lived here at no. 5. When I was born I lived there as a baby and also stayed with my grandparents when my mother was having my baby brothers and sisters. I sort of became their favourite grandchild. Also a lot of friends of my age lived there.

Park Row is a terrace of eight local stone built houses reaching half way up the hill towards Upper Common but to reach them there was this steep narrow cobble stone lane that was actually small flat sandstones, worn on the edges by horses and people walking up there over a long period of time. When heavy goods had to be delivered there the local farmer, Mr Davis, allowed them to use the gate opposite 'Ramblers' where Les and Jane

Hale now live. This went diagonally across the field and came out through another gate at the top of the cobbled lane.

From here you went across to Park Row, passing on your left a stone quarry. The stone was used to build (sometime in the 1850s) the eight houses plus many more local cottages around. You can still see a hollow in the ground where the quarry was filled in. Two of the residents had chicken houses in the quarry.

Further on was a grass slope about 20 yards wide and the full length of the eight terraced houses. It was here I remember many more chicken houses of different sizes and shapes, made from old materials but mostly tin. Then there were the long washing lines with white sheets sparkling and to the envy of each neighbour. This was strictly out of bounds for playing on by us children!

At the back of the terrace was the long row of washhouses that each had a coal-fed boiler, coal store, toilet, some wood and a few tools. In between the washhouse and the houses there was a double row of flagstones with a gutter down the middle. The soapy washing water was used to scrub down the walkway and God help any man or boy who wore dirty boots leaving a trail of muddy footprints behind them.

There were only two outside water taps to feed all eight houses, the water coming from Holywell Springs in Ferneley Wood on Upper Common.

Park Row was its own small community with each family looking out for the other. In those days no one locked their door. One family's problem was always the neighbours' as well. On such family was Mrs Pauline Price. She had no children of her own so everyone else's children were her family.

One family moved into no. 1 — the Morgans. There was Irene, Bill and their father Donald, who was in the Merchant Navy. One day on his leave he brought back home a monkey. We had never seen anything like it. He could get up into their attic. The trouble was that there were no partition walls to the other people's attics so he had the run of all the eight houses. It became a nuisance and a bit frightening to be woken up first thing in the morning with the monkey running along the ceilings. They were the first family to have a black and white television but he pee'd on it and it blew up! Soon after this the monkey disappeared but I have been told that his ghost can still be heard as it roams from attic to attic.

The houses at each end of the terrace had pig cots. Fern from the Common was cut and used for the pigs' bedding as well as for their neighbours' chickens.