

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

TALK TOWN

Issue 67 March 2015

of the

'Helping make Dunstable a Better Place'

New! Grove Skate Park

Focus On Eleanor's Cross

How We Spend Your Council Tax

Upcoming Events

Plus lots more...



www.dunstable.gov.uk



DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

Meet the Councillors

CENTRAL WARD



Cllr V Fildes
Willowcroft,
Byslips Road,
Studham LU6 2ND
01582 278281



Cllr P E Russell
44 Mayfield Road
Dunstable LU5 4AP
07717 192398



Cllr P Staples
Priory Lodge
Friars Walk
Dunstable LU6 3JA
01582 666703

ICKNIELD WARD



Cllr T C Colbourne
70 Crabtree Way
Dunstable LU6 1UR
01582 666910



Cllr J Kane
2 Ripley Road
Luton LU4 0AT
01582 510048



Cllr G Martin
70 Crabtree Way
Dunstable LU6 1UR
01582 666910



Cllr T A W Stock
8 Hollivick Road
Dunstable LU5 4RA
01582 665377



Cllr N Warren
41 Lowry Drive
Houghton Regis
LU5 5SJ
01582 864396

MANSHEAD WARD



Cllr R Pepworth
28 Great Northern Rd
Dunstable LU5 4BP
01582 538414



Cllr N Reynolds
57 Half Moon Lane
Dunstable LU5 4AB
07963 377087

NORTHFIELDS WARD



Cllr J Anklesaria
Shemavaz
12 Sunbower Avenue
Dunstable LU6 1UQ
01582 662974



Cllr J A Chatterley
36 Roslyn Way
Houghton Regis
LU5 6JY
01582 867536



Cllr J Freeman
77 Hillcroft
Dunstable
LU6 1TT
01582 756060

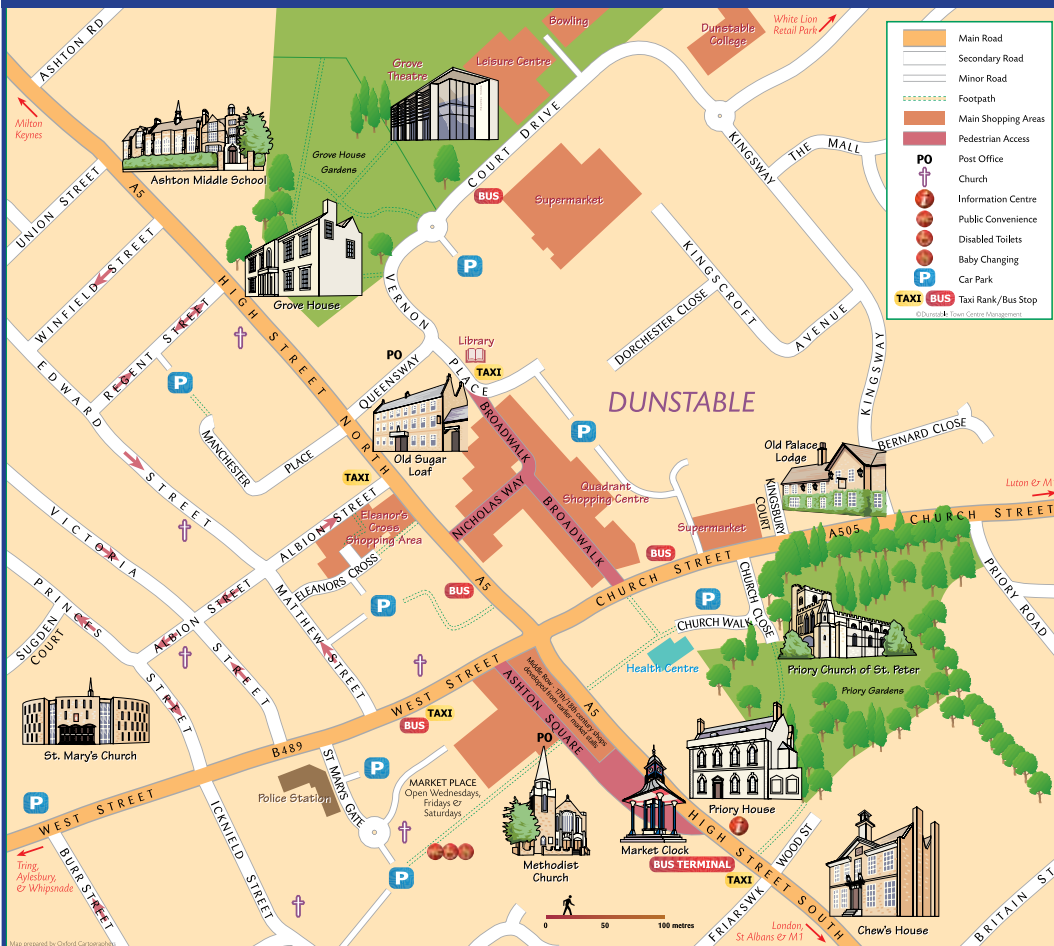


Cllr J A Harnett
8 Ashcroft
Dunstable
LU6 1DX
07842 791109



Cllr J Murray
8 Westgate Court
204-206 West Street
Dunstable LU6 1NZ
01582 690500

DUNSTABLE TOWN CENTRE



WATLING WARD



Cllr M J P Mullany
49 West Hill
Dunstable LU6 3PN
01582 667797



Cllr B Whayman
Birch House
32a Bull Pond Lane
Dunstable LU6 3BJ
07905 100932



Cllr P N Hollick
1 Carlisle Close
Dunstable LU6 3PH
01582 665133



Cllr L Jones
82 Jeansway
Dunstable LU5 4PP
01582 472044



Cllr C E Meakins-Jell
11 Bernard Close
Dunstable LU5 4HL
01582 526104

Welcome



David Ashlee

Town Clerk and Chief Executive

This is always a very important time of year for the Council as it is the period in which it agrees the annual budget. This year the Council has had to manage a range of unavoidable increases in costs of running the town's services, but the Council has also enjoyed the benefit of a rise in the Dunstable tax base (which is essentially a rise in the number of houses that now have to pay Council Tax). This – along with the identification of a range of efficiency savings and additional income opportunities – has meant that the Council has been able to set a budget that relies on a 0% increase on the Council Tax payable by residents to Dunstable Town Council for 2015/16.

If you live in a Band D property in Dunstable you will pay an annual charge of £171.78 to Dunstable Town Council which is the same charge as was set for 2014/15. An illustration of the services provided by the Council is given later in this edition of Talk of the Town and I am pleased to announce that the Council's range of services provided has been increased with the addition of the brand new £250,000 Grove Skate Park. Please watch out for full details of the grand opening of this new park planned for 21 March 2015.

The spring sees the launch of the Council's events programme and this year things will be kicking off with three events in April and May. St George's Day will be celebrated with an improved range of activities centred in Priory Gardens and our history event entitled 'The 1600s and All That' will help celebrate Dunstable's rich heritage. The Dunstable Beer and Cider Festival will be held at the end of May and will be bigger and better than ever, so please take the opportunity to sponsor a beer if you want to get involved. Details on all these events are given later in this edition. The Council will also be staging the annual Town Meeting on 30 March at Creasey Park Community Football Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that elections will be taking place this year at national, district and local level. I encourage everyone to go out and vote on 7 May.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Talk of the Town and please feel free to comment on any of the Council's services using the comment form at the back of this edition, by visiting our website www.dunstable.gov.uk or following us on Twitter and Facebook. Happy reading!

David Ashlee

Dunstable Town Clerk and Chief Executive

Dunstable Town Mayor's Upcoming Charity Events

Sunday 22 March 2015

Civic Service, Priory Church of St Peter, 3.00 pm

Saturday 18 April 2015

Charity Ball, The Chiltem Hotel, 7.30 pm
£45 per person

For more details please contact Michele Markus on 01582 891404 or email michele.markus@dunstable.gov.uk

NOTICEBOARD

COME n GROW



First Saturday of every month

11.00 am to 1.00 pm

Katherine Drive, Dunstable LU5 4NP

Details of each month's action plan will be published on Incredible Edible Dunstable's event page on Facebook nearer the time. We hope you can join the fun!

Next sessions dates are 4 April and 2 May.

For more info email incredibleedible395@gmail.com call 07905 116623 or find us on Facebook:

'Incredible Edible Dunstable'

Contact Your Town Council

Address

Grove House
76 High Street North
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU6 1NF

Telephone

01582 513000

Fax

01582 890606

Email

info@dunstable.gov.uk

Website

www.dunstable.gov.uk

Opening Hours

9.00 am to 5.00 pm
Monday to Friday



Visit the Dunstable Town Council website using your smartphone. Simply download a 2D barcode reading app and hover your phone over the pattern to the left.

Sponsor an Ale or Cider



Dunstable Town Council, along with Barworx, is once again organising their annual Beer and Cider Festival on Friday 29, Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 May. Local businesses, organisations or even individuals – for a birthday or anniversary – can get involved and sponsor an ale or cider. For further details on the packages available visit www.dunstable.gov.uk or ring Ollie Kay on 01908 274226.

Put a note in your diary – don't forget to vote on Thursday 7 May in the national and local elections.

This year you will be asked to make three votes – National Government, Central Bedfordshire Council and Dunstable Town Council – so your trip to the polling station or your postal vote really is important both nationally and locally. Make sure you have your say!

Social Media Links

You can follow Dunstable Town Council on Twitter and Facebook using the details below:

'Like' us on Facebook:



[Facebook/dunstablecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/dunstablecouncil)

[Facebook/grovecornerdunstable](https://www.facebook.com/grovecornerdunstable)

Follow us on Twitter:



[@dunstabletc](https://twitter.com/dunstabletc)

[@dunstableevents](https://twitter.com/dunstableevents)

[@dunstabletown](https://twitter.com/dunstabletown)

[@creaseypark](https://twitter.com/creaseypark)

[@prioryhouse](https://twitter.com/prioryhouse)

DUNSTABLE TOWN MEETING

To be held at
CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL
CENTRE, CREASEY PARK DRIVE,
(OFF BREWERS HILL ROAD), DUNSTABLE
LU6 1BB

MONDAY 30 MARCH 2015

AT 7.30 PM

All electors for the town of Dunstable are entitled to attend the Town Meeting and speak on any town affair.



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

DESTINATION DUNSTABLE

Keeping you abreast of town centre news, initiatives and developments



Eleanor's Cross A Royal Jewel in Dunstable

Nestled behind High Street North, you will find a traditional, intimate shopping experience. Filled with small independent retailers, Eleanor's Cross Shopping Precinct is a bijou haven of niche shops, away from the bustle of the High Street. Named after a 13th Century cross – one of 12 built marking resting places along the route of Queen Eleanor's funeral procession – today there is a statue to commemorate the fact that the Royal Queen's body rested in Dunstable overnight in December 1290.

This quaint arcade houses vintage inspired fashion, ladies clothing and designer fragrances. You can also indulge in hair and beauty treatments, stock up on craft supplies, have something to eat and drink, order a bespoke cake and pick up some groceries to take home! On-site parking is provided by the Matthew Street Car Park and, being just off the high street, getting here couldn't be easier whether you are driving, walking, cycling or using public transport.

Businesses you can find in Eleanor's Cross include the following...

Gladrag

Quality, modern, stylish and individual ladieswear at fantastic prices.

4 Eleanor's Cross

www.gladragfashion.co.uk

Hetty Spaghetti

Ladies' clothes chop... dresses, separates, playsuits, accessories, shoes and more. Vintage-inspired fashion for a modern world.

6 Eleanor's Cross

www.hettyspaghetti.com

Eclipse Perfumes

Ladies and gents fine fragrances, gift sets, candles and candle holders, jewellery boxes, aromatherapy oils and more! New in.. electric oil lamps (no candle required) and light changing humidifiers.

9 Eleanor Cross

www.eclipsefragrances.co.uk

Eden

Hair Salon.

10 Eleanor's Cross

Shades Tanning

Salon & Beauty.

12B Eleanor's Cross

shadestanning.webs.com

The Cross Café

Everything homemade!

15 Eleanor's Cross

Michael's

Men's hairstylist/Barbers.

17 Eleanor's Cross

The Handy Crafters

Independent craft and gift shop. Quality and value for money, handy crafts and craft supplies.

21 Eleanor's Cross

www.thehandycrafters.co.uk

The Footclinic

For all your footcare needs.

Dunstable Practice, Staples House,
Eleanor's Cross

www.ruthrosechiroprapist.co.uk

Diva Dresses

Dresses for any occasion. Shoes and accessories also available.

12a Eleanor's Cross

www.divadress.co.uk

Polish Market

Baked goods, cooked meats, dairy produce, fruit and veg, drinks and alcohol.

3 Albion Street

Cakes by Claire Kelly

21 Eleanor's Cross

Opened on 6 December 2014, 'Cakes by Claire Kelly' is the newest addition to Eleanor's Cross. Talk of the Town went along to meet Claire to find out more...

What is your business?

We make fantastic cakes for any occasion.

How did the business start?

I started out making cakes for my niece and nephews birthday's and my sister would get asked; 'where did you get those cakes?'

What were you doing work wise at the time?

I was working as a hairdresser and started doing cakes here and there and took the decision to quit my job and focus on the cakes. That was about two years ago. Initially I started the business at home, but as the orders grew, I had to grow my business with it. Plus I was starting to get cabin fever!!!

How did you learn to make such fabulous cakes?

I took a night-school class in the beginning to learn the basics but the rest has been self-taught, with a bit of help from You-Tube!

What made you decide to open a shop in Eleanor's Cross?

Eleanor's Cross is such a nice community and has a great community spirit. I was familiar with the area as I used to shop here. We all socialise together.

How has business been since you moved in?

I did have second thoughts back in December as to whether I had made the right decision but since the beginning of January, business has really taken off!

So if people would like to order a cake, how do they go about it?

Just come in and visit or telephone us. We provide a friendly and welcoming service and can produce a cake for any occasion. We also make cupcakes that you can purchase for £1 if you visit the shop and there is a different flavour cupcake every week!





DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL



GROVE SKATE PARK



- Quarterpipe 2.4m high x 5.5m wide
- Blend from 1.4m QP to 0.9m FB
- Hipped Street QP 0.4m - 0.75m (R1.8)
- Manual Pod 0.2m high x 3m long
- Ledge with 0.3m face x 4m long
- Hipped Flatbank 0.9m high
- 360° Rollover 0.45m high
- Flatbak Hip 0.75m high
- Curved Ledge 0.45m high
- 0.4m Curved Ledge & 0.35m Rail
- Flatbank 1.4m high (R2.3) with Ledge
- Steps 0.75m high 500 - 1200 Box Rail
- Quarterpipe Hip 1.2m high
- Quarterpipe Ledge 1.65m high
- Steps 1.2m high with In-set Bank
- Flatbank 0.45m high / 500 Pole Jam
- Free Standing QP 1.5m high x 2.4m
- Flatbank 0.45m high
- Bowl / Mini Ramp 1.2m deep
- Bowl Corner Extension 1.9m high
- 0.7m Waterfall with Hips
- Deep End 2.1m deep (R2.3)
- 2 x Benches
- Flatbank 1.2m high
- 2 x Bins & Link Path

PARK DIMS 35.3m x 26.5m



Dunstable SKATEPARK VISUAL 3

maverick industries 2014 ©



GROVE SKATE PARK

Dunstable gets its own skate park to rival others...

After years of dedication from the skating community working tirelessly for a skate park for Dunstable, the time has come to officially unveil not just any old skate park but a £250,000 skate park that would make many a town envious. This month Maverick Industries have completed this concrete skate park complete with street course and bowl located at the back of Go-Bowling. As an open access skate park it is FREE for all to use, all year round with flood-lighting enabling maximum use even during the darker nights.

This partnership project between Dunstable Board Riders, Dunstable Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council has seen a close collaboration between the users and the two Councils, with the users assisting with the design of the park, as well as designing the logo and its name.

To celebrate this new facility there will be a FREE launch event on Saturday 21 March from 12 noon to 4.00 pm. As well as being among one of the first to ride the park there will be lots of free giveaways, music and competitions for scooters, BMX and skateboards with prizes to be won. There will also be a chance to see what tricks and stunts the pros can do on our new park with Scott Hamlin (pro BMXer) and James Threlfall (sponsored skateboarder). Sponsors for the event include VANS, Animal, MADD, Customer Riders, Wethepeople, Mongoose, Nass, Coyote, MGP, Rock Solid, iD2 and Z-Flex. It's sure to be a great afternoon.

Dunstable Town Council would like to thank the local skaters and BMX'ers for their involvement in this project; as without this we would not have such an impressive skate park.

Check it out and let us know what you think.



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Young DUNSTABLE

News for the young
in our community

Drop-in & Hang Out!

If you want indoor space that is light and bright with free pool, free table football and free computers with free internet to enjoy with friends, then Grove Corner could be the place for you. Grove Corner is open Monday and Wednesday evenings 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm and Friday evening 8.00 pm to 9.30 pm for 13 to 18 year olds.

You can buy drinks and snacks from the café area, the music is good and the company even better. Staff are on hand every night with a wealth of knowledge and experience on issues you might be experiencing or interested in, and if they don't have the information to hand they will find it for you! So, if your social diary is not already full, then drop in and give it a try.

Not old enough for the drop-in? Don't worry. If you are aged 10 to 13 then Junior Youth Club could be just the thing. You can still chill-out with friends and do all of the above, but you can also do other things too such as arts and crafts, play board games and take part in special events. Junior Youth Club is open Fridays 6.00 pm to 7.45 pm. Hope to see you there!

For more details contact Jacqui Groom-Tully
Email: jacqui.groom-tully@dunstable.gov.uk
Facebook: 'Grove Corner'
Tel: 01582 891408.

CPCFC Easter Egg Hunt

Come join the Easter Egg hunt at Creasey Park Community Football Centre for some Easter fun and to meet the Easter bunny on Friday 3 April from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

You can have fun searching Creasey Park for Easter eggs for £1 and see if you can find our golden egg for a special prize. There will also be a colouring competition (50p to enter).

Have fun with the family and join in many activities, have a bouncy time on the bouncy castle, get your face painted or see who's the best at our penalty shoot out.

For more information call 01582 891433
or visit www.dunstable.gov.uk/cpcfc

Easter Family Fun

Are you looking for things to keep the children entertained over the Easter holidays that don't involve chocolate? Then come along to one or both of Dunstable Town Council's free family fun arts and crafts sessions. Get creative with the kids before the sugar rush with Easter-themed activities and to keep spirits high after the event, join us for some St George-themed arts and crafts.

Monday 30 March at The Mayfield Centre

Friday 10 April at Creasey Park Community Football Centre

All sessions will run from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm. There is no need to book, just turn up and start creating. Please note: activities are suitable for the over 5s. Younger children are welcome, but must be supervised by a parent/carer at all times.

If there are any enquiries please contact Sandy Coyle on 01582 891408 or email sandy.coyle@dunstable.gov.uk

Summer Activities

With summer just around the corner, planning for this year's four-week summer activities programme is well underway. The 2015 programme will start on Monday 27 July and finish on Friday 21 August. Not to be missed dates for the diary:

Wednesday 5 August – National Playday

A free fun-packed day for all the family, from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm at St Augustine's School playing fields.

Friday 14 August – Sports Spectacular

From Archery to Aerobics, Dance to Darts and Fencing to Football, this day should have it all and more. A free family event at Beecroft School playing fields 11.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Friday 21 August – Inflatable Day

Children can bounce the day away and adults can enjoy the time in the award-winning Grove House Gardens 12 noon to 4.00 pm.

The activities programme will be on www.dunstable.gov.uk from June and updated when new activities are confirmed. Keep looking and book early to avoid disappointment!

If there are any enquiries please contact Sandy Coyle on 01582 891408 or email sandy.coyle@dunstable.gov.uk

Let's Celebrate!



Creasey Park Community Football Centre is the perfect place for a celebration. Be it a landmark birthday, engagement party, wedding anniversary or company outing, Creasey Park is here for you. Creasey Park can host functions to suit any party size from 20 to 100.

- Fully licensed bar
- Comfortable chill-out area with soft mood lighting
- Internal music system or hire a DJ
- Varying room sizes for 20 to 100 people
- Friendly, welcoming staff
- Ample parking up to 90 spaces
- Flexible options to create the function you really want
- Three buffet menus to choose from for catering from £5 per head

Creasey Park Drive, Dunstable LU6 1BB

[Twitter@CreaseyPark](https://twitter.com/CreaseyPark)

[Facebook.com/DunstableCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/DunstableCouncil)

Call us for information on 01582 891433

Email: cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk

www.dunstable.gov.uk/cpcfc

How do we spend your money?



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

What do you get for the annual charge of **£171.78 pa** that you pay to Dunstable Town Council?



Town Ranger

Town Ranger scheme sorting out a range of environmental issues.



Town Centre Regeneration

Delivering schemes to help regenerate the town centre and management of the town centre toilets, some bus shelters and street furniture.



The Mayfield Centre

Management of The Mayfield Centre providing advice, guidance and support for all the community.



Grove Corner

Town centre young people's venue, providing services for young people with drop-in sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.



Peter Newton Pavilion & Downside Community Centre

Ownership of community facilities: Peter Newton Pavilion and Downside Community Centre.



Older People's Service

Providing lunch clubs, entertainment and social activities for older people at CPCFC and Beecroft Community Centre.



Priory House Heritage Centre

Management of Priory House and Tea Rooms, including: Tourist Information Centre, gift shop, exhibition space, meeting and function room.



Creasey Park Community Football Centre

Management of Creasey Park Community Football Centre including function suite, bar, catering, ATP, 8 grass pitches and a BMX track.



Parks, Recreation Grounds and Open Spaces

Management and maintenance of 15 parks and open spaces including 11 play areas and 17 sports pitches and maintenance of Priory Churchyard.

As well as providing a democratic voice for the residents of Dunstable, Dunstable Town Council manages and delivers all of these vital, quality of life services in the town. The 2015/16 council tax charge made by Dunstable Town Council for an average band D property is £171.78, which is no increase on the previous year. This equates to just £3.30 per week and ensures that the Council collects £2,024,137 for the year from the Dunstable council tax payer.



Dunstable Cemetery
12 acres of managed burial space.

Dunstable Town Council through your Council Tax?



Allotments

6 allotment sites providing 250 plots at: Meadway, Westfield, Catchacre, Pascomb, Hillcroft, Maidenbower.



Public Events Programme

Provision of large scale events programme including; Fireworks, Party in the Park, Summer of Music, Beer & Cider Festival, Band Concerts, History Day and Classic Motor Rally.



Representing Our Residents

Preserving the history, heritage and identity of Dunstable, promoting the Town Mayor and representing all residents.



Dunstable Market

Management of Wednesday, Friday and Saturday Dunstable Street Market.



Activities For Families, Children and Young People

A 4-week programme during the summer aimed at children and young people in Dunstable. Free half term family fun sessions.



Grants to Voluntary Groups

Annual grants scheme to support for local voluntary groups.



Grove Skate Park (Opening March 2015)

£250,000 open access, flood-lit skate park, featuring a bowl and street course.

For further information on Dunstable Town Council Services visit www.dunstable.gov.uk

For Council Tax enquiries call Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8000



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL



PRIORY HOUSE
HERITAGE CENTRE



Tea Time Tales at Priory House

Every other Thursday at Priory House you can enjoy a series of Tea Time Tales presented by some of the town's most notable historians and experts.

Tea Time Tales are interesting and educational talks of local and national interest and your £4.75 entry fee includes refreshments.

All the Tea Time Tales start at 2.30 pm and last for an hour and a half. The series is presented and organised by the Dunstable Town Guides on behalf of Dunstable Town Council.

The next six Tea Time Tales will be as follows:

19 March
Women of the Special Operations Executive
by Bryony Norburn

2 April
Guild Life and the Mystery Play
by Nigel Wright

16 April
The History of Luton and Dunstable Hospital
by Janey Graham

30 April
The Beauty of Butterflies Near and Far
by Wilf Powell

14 May
Sinking of the Lusitania - Bigger Than The Titanic?
by Kay Kempster

28 May
A Bull in a China Shop
by Alan Campbell

For further information call Priory House Heritage Centre on 01582 891420 or email prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk



PRIORY HOUSE

Enjoy Chocolate Afternoon Tea

This Easter at Priory House Tea Rooms

Available from 23 March to 25 April 2015

Enjoy a traditional Afternoon Tea with a *chocolaty twist*. Delicious chocolate treats and cakes and your very own hand decorated Easter Egg.

Prices from
£17.50
per person

£8.50
for children
under 12

Advanced booking is advisable to avoid disappointment

A 20% non-refundable fee will be taken at the time of booking to hold the reservation.



@PrioryHouse



Dunstable Town Council



DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

To book or for more information on our Tea Rooms please ring 01582 891420, email: prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk or visit our website: www.dunstable.gov.uk

Become a Friend of Priory House and Gardens



The Friends were formed in March 2012 by a small group wishing to support Priory House and its gardens; to raise money to pursue various projects which would enhance the house and gardens. We work closely with the Council in deciding which projects need our support.

During a very busy three years a considerable amount has been achieved. A Heritage Lottery bid was won to conserve the Jacobean wall paintings displayed in Priory House. A number of talks have taken place – 'The Story of Priory House', 'The Development of Priory Gardens', 'Around the World in Eight Wines', 'Put That in Your Pipe and Smoke It' and 'Why Poisonous Plants Make Good Medicines'. Coffee Mornings and a Festive Tea have also raised money. Friends have had a stall at many of the Town's events.

An Educational pack has been produced and sent to all the schools in the area offering talks, tours and other activities about Priory House itself, the wall paintings, the gardens and Priory Church. We look forward to many more schools taking an interest in Dunstable's important heritage.

A Physic Garden, along with an interpretation board, has been planted on the north side of the gardens, designed by Deborah Anne Bird, as part of the commemoration of the 800th anniversary in 2013 of the dedication of the Priory.

History Day in 2015 will see the culmination of a considerable amount of work to bring together various arts and craft activities of the period suitable for all the family, under the title 'The 1600s and all that'.

The Friends involvement has contributed to the award of a Green Flag for the Gardens – the flag acknowledges a well maintained open space for public use with positive plans for its future sympathetic development.

Future talks may include one about hunting around Dunstable in bygone days and another about tea. A visit has been arranged to the Medicinal Garden at the Royal College of Physicians in London in early August.

We thank particularly our Chairman, Brenda Boatwright; Secretary, Sue Turner, and Treasurer, David Turner for their leadership of the Friends as well as the Committee Members who bring historical knowledge, enthusiasm and a volunteering spirit.

For further information about the friends and events please go to www.friendsofprioryhouse.co.uk or www.dunstable.gov.uk – Your Council – click F (alphabet), then Friends of Priory House and Gardens or email secretary@friendsofprioryhouse.co.uk or phone 01582 608318

We look forward to welcoming more Friends to help conserve these historical treasures in our town. We have 81 members – let's make it 100 in 2015!

UPCOMING EVENTS



The St George's Day Celebration in Priory Gardens starts the 2015 Dunstable events programme. Come and join us on Saturday 25 April between 11.00 am to 4.00 pm for a free family fun-filled day. There's a lot to see and do this year; come and face the mighty climbing wall, meet St George and his friendly dragon, take part in arts and crafts and you can even help find the dragons in our annual town hunt. If all that adventuring tires you out then stop by our arena and stage where you can catch some live music and entertainment. Witness ye olde English guillotine in our mini stage show adventure – you might even be chosen to pull the sword from the stone! Take part in maypole dancing or relax and listen to a classic brass band. Plus, on top of all this, Punch and Judy will be there to entertain as well, along with other local groups and organisations.

Visit www.dunstable.gov.uk/events for more information and to see the latest activities and schedules.

'The 1600s and all that'

Saturday 16 May 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Priory House & Gardens, Dunstable

'The 1600s and all that' is our imaginatively titled history event for 2015 and it will be a fun-filled day for all the family, including demonstrations of the arts and crafts of the period, along with various other interesting and exciting activities. The day will be centred around the early 17th century wallpaintings which are located in the Meeting Room at Priory House, as a finale to the conservation and preservation project.

This has been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and undertaken by the Friends of Priory House and Gardens. These paintings are considered by the experts to be of not only local importance, but indeed of national significance and it's vital they have been preserved for future generations. So come along and learn more about this fascinating period in Dunstable's history. There's something for everyone at this free, fun, family day out!

For lists of schedules and activities as they are released please visit www.dunstable.gov.uk/events

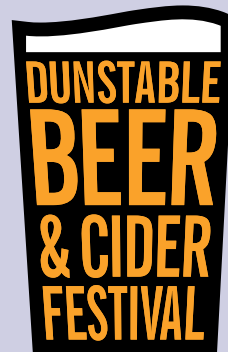


Dunstable Beer & Cider Festival

Friday 29 – Sunday 31 May
Grove House Gardens

Dunstable Town Council, along with Barworx, is once again organising their annual Beer and Cider Festival on Friday 29, Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 May. The planning stages of this year's event are already underway and now is the time to get involved if you'd like to have a presence at the beer festival in more than just standing at the bar. All of the beers are available for companies, teams, groups and individuals to sponsor at very reasonable rates and you can also promote your message to the hundreds of festival-goers by taking advertising space within the main festival arena.

For further details on the packages available visit www.dunstable.gov.uk or ring Ollie Kay on 01908 274226.





We help residents of Central Bedfordshire to find the best local advice on a wide range of topics



Your Open Door to Advice in Central Bedfordshire

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-  **Education**
-  **Communities**
-  **Disabilities**
-  **Legal**
-  **Relationships**
-  **Debt**
-  **Immigration**
-  **Housing**
-  **Health & Care**
-  **Consumer Rights**

Free & Confidential
Access information easily in the way that suits you best. If you need more help we will arrange for you to speak to a specialist advisor selected to meet your needs.

 **0300 303 66 66**

 **www.AdviceCentral.org.uk**

 **info@AdviceCentral.org.uk**

Provided by



Free & Confidential

Priory House Tea Rooms

Meet Darren West, Chef at Priory House Tea Rooms...

Tell us a little about yourself.

I am married with two young children and enjoy any time spent with my family. I am a keen football fan and have been supporting Arsenal for as long as I can remember.

Who does the cooking at home?

My wife, Natalie. She guards the kitchen well!

What do you enjoy most about working at Priory House Tea Rooms?

Being able to work somewhere I am encouraged to use my initiative and be creative in developing menus and ideas, so I can serve customers good homemade food. I have also enjoyed being able to develop the Priory Pantry range of homemade preserves and cakes. I loved seeing them come together at Christmas last year, when we were able to put together hampers and gift packs of our goodies for the first time. Although, by the end of November I was stirring chutney in my sleep!

What's your proudest achievement whilst working at Priory House Tea Rooms?

Definitely being accepted into the Tea Guild in 2012 and winning their Award for Excellence in 2013. I am also really happy that the Tea Rooms won a Highly Commended Award in the local business awards in November 2014.

How did you feel when you found out that Priory House Tea Rooms had won the Excellence Award from the Tea Guild?

It was fantastic news. As a team we had worked so hard to turn around our approach to serving Afternoon Tea, and I felt really proud that we got that sort of national recognition for all the hard work we put in.

What's the most popular item on the menu?

That's a bit difficult in a way as it really is seasonal and the items on the specials

board vary each week. The homemade pies and stews go down really well in the winter, the homemade scotch eggs and homemade soups are always popular, and, as a mid-morning snack, it's the scrambled egg on toast.



What would you recommend from the menu?

Since I love making the different pies in the winter and my turkey and leek pie was the best seller at Christmas, I would have to go with a good hearty homemade pie. But I am going to be making homemade burgers in the summer, so look out for my personal favourite which is pork and chorizo.

For anyone who hasn't visited Priory House Tea Rooms, tell us why you think they should visit?

The menu is varied. We don't serve fast food, we serve good homemade food as quickly as we can. This can mean a wait at busier times, but everything is prepared and cooked to order, so that you know it's fresh.

We also cater for different dietary needs as standard and our menu is labelled to help you. We make the majority of our cakes and pastries in-house and we use local suppliers for our produce.

We have a beautiful setting in The Undercroft. That part of the tea rooms dates back to the early 1200s and has a stunning stone ceiling. In the summer people can choose to sit outside and enjoy the award-winning gardens.

Priory House is rated in the top 10 on Trip Advisor for eating establishments in Dunstable and comments suggest your afternoon tea rivals those at top hotels and restaurants. What makes Afternoon Tea at Priory House an experience not to miss?

I think there are several things which make us stand out from the crowd. Our location overlooking the beautiful Priory Gardens, the stunning setting in the Undercroft where afternoon tea is usually served and the fact that everything is freshly made as you arrive. Plus, our scones, cakes and strawberry jam are all homemade. We also have very attentive staff, but I think the one thing we have at Priory House that is very different is our own range of tea.

Dunstable Tea is a range of 20 top-quality loose leaf teas and infusions named after important local places and people. The staff know the teas well and are able to guide you by checking if you prefer strong, light, black, green, white or fruit tea. What's even better is that if you find a tea you have really enjoyed you can buy some to take home.

What are your plans for Priory House Tea Rooms in 2015?

I am going to be adding to the Priory Pantry range with at least three new preserves, which is exciting for me. I love researching traditional recipes and recreating them with a twist of my own. There will be at least one new tea added to the Dunstable Tea range this year and, in the summer months, I am hoping that you will all be able to find them on Dunstable Market once a month as well as in the Priory House gift shop.



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Dunstable's Green Spaces

'BEE' Successful With Dunstable in Bloom

2015 will be the sixth year that Dunstable in Bloom has entered the regional Anglia in Bloom competition and this year the theme will be bees. These insects are a vital part of our country's food production and it is estimated that one third of the food that we consume each day relies on pollination mainly by bees.

Promoting Dunstable, in partnership with Dunstable Town Council is encouraging people to plant pollinator-friendly flowers and wild flowers to support bee colonies and other pollinating insects.

This year Promoting Dunstable, in partnership with the local Wildlife Trust, schools and community groups, has planted over 100 young fruit trees. Fifteen of these trees have been planted in a Community Orchard, funded by Dunstable Joint Committee, on Blows Down Nature Reserve and the remaining trees have been planted in school grounds and parks and open spaces. The trees include the apple 'Hambling Seedling' raised and grown by Colonel William Hambling locally here in Dunstable. Aylesbury prunes have also been reintroduced. They were used extensively during the late 1800's for dyeing straw used in the local hat trade. It is good to see the return of these trees which of course all need plenty of pollinating insects including bees to produce fruit and thrive.

Help Make Dunstable Front Gardens Bloom in 2015

The Best Front Garden competition is back again in 2015 with Promoting Dunstable and the Town Council working together to run the competition.

This year the categories are Best Front Garden, Best Container Display in a Front Garden, Best Hanging Basket in a Front Garden, Tallest Sunflower Competition, Best Licensed Premises Floral Display, Best Allotment and Best School Garden.

Entrants are encouraged to include the 'Bee' theme in their planting and design. Judging will take place from mid-July onwards and the winners will be announced and presented with trophies at an evening award ceremony on 16 September 2015. Winners will receive shields and certificates.

You can enter more than one competition and if you would like to take part please return the feedback slip at the back of Talk of The Town. Please fill in your name, address, telephone number and email address and mark the slip with the name of the competitions that you wish to enter. Alternatively, you can enter by emailing your information to john.crawley@dunstable.gov.uk.

The closing date for entries is 5.00 pm on Friday 10 July 2015.

LifestyleHub

A healthier approach to lifestyle - not just for the New Year!

The LifestyleHub is coming to Dunstable. Join us in helping us to help you make positive steps towards a healthier lifestyle. The LifestyleHub is a free central point of contact to support you in making healthier choices to do with your health; this may be healthy eating, getting more active or maybe some more advice about alcohol and stopping smoking. Positive results have come in from people just like you.

What are people saying...

"...I feel the LifestyleHub is an excellent programme to help people get fit and healthy. And not only that but to know you have someone to give you support and advice is really motivating."

"Julia was referred to Slimming World and during a follow up appointment detailed that she was losing weight and further to the meeting with the LifestyleHub advisor had increased her physical activity also."

What Is LifestyleHub?

An informal chat. That's it. You can sit down and have friendly chat with your Lifestyle Advisor about some things you want to change or may wish to change in the future. Our advisor can offer guidance on how you can make these changes and support you in doing so. You are under no obligation to attend any of the programmes.

Booking In

You must first book an appointment with your Registered Nurse or GP and ask for a referral to the LifestyleHub. You will be given an information leaflet. You can then call the LifestyleHub to book your first appointment on 07920 823194 or email us at LifestyleHub@bedfordhospital.nhs.uk



If you have any general queries you can contact Alistair, LifestyleHub Coordinator for Dunstable, on 07827 272196.

Where Do I Need To Go?

Appointments are held at the following locations:

- Tuesdays at The Mayfield Centre - 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm
- Wednesdays and Thursdays at Dunstable Leisure Centre
Wednesdays - 3.00 pm to 7.00 pm
Thursdays - 9.00 am to 2.00 pm
- Fridays at Dunstable Travel Choices Hub - 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

Does It Cost Anything?

No. The LifestyleHub is free to attend. Some of the programmes and services we may refer you to are free and some have a subsidised fee. Work closely with your Lifestyle Advisor to choose the right programme for you. Together you can create goals that you can achieve to get the best results for you. The LifestyleHub works because we know that your success only comes if you want to do it and not because someone else thinks you should. All you have to do is show up for a 30 minute appointment.

For More Information

Contact Alistair Bucknall,
Lifestyle Hub Coordinator
and Advisor for Central
Bedfordshire & Dunstable
Telephone: 07827 272196



Council and Committee Meetings

Copies of the agendas for all meetings are available for inspection 3 days beforehand at Grove House, Priory House (Tourist Information Centre) and Dunstable Library or via the Council's website www.dunstable.gov.uk. All meetings commence at 7.00 pm and are held at Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable unless otherwise stated, and all are open to the public. Members of the public are welcome to ask questions about matters being considered at the meetings. Advance notice is required by the previous working day and further information is available from the Council's Head of Finance and Support Services at rosemary.osullivan@dunstable.gov.uk.

Forthcoming meeting dates are listed below:

30/03/2015	Town Meeting (Creasey Park CFC) 7.30 pm	21/05/2015	Accts Sub-Committee 5.30 pm
07/04/2015	Plans Sub-Committee	01/06/2015	Community Services Committee
23/04/2015	Accts Sub-Committee 5.30 pm	08/06/2015	Grounds & Environmental Services Committee
	Personnel Sub Committee 7.00 pm	09/06/2015	Plans Sub-Committee
27/04/2015	COUNCIL	15/06/2015	Finance & General Purposes Committee
28/04/2015	Plans Sub-Committee	18/06/2015	Accts Sub-Committee 5.30 pm
07/05/2015	ELECTIONS	25/06/2015	Dunstable Joint Committee (Watling House)
18/05/2015	AGM (Venue TBC) 7.30 pm	29/06/2015	COUNCIL
19/05/2015	Plans Sub-Committee	30/06/2015	Plans Sub-Committee

Our Place

Downside 'Our Place' Latest

Over the last few months officers from Dunstable Town Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and a variety of voluntary organisations have been working with the residents of Downside on the Our Place programme.

With the Operational Plan being signed off at the end of March, the partnership has developed plans for further work post April. The community has decided that it would like to create a more local solution to service delivery through the creation of some form of social enterprise.

It is still early days to say what this may look like – with ideas including a handyperson service or childcare and young people's activities – and it is this further research and work within the local community that residents, the voluntary sector and the Town Council will be working on. For the latest news and information visit www.dunstable.gov.uk/downside-our-place-.htm

If you would like to be involved in the Our Place programme then please either email info@dunstable.gov.uk or telephone 01582 513000.



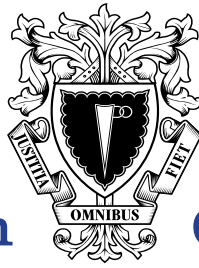
Feedback from 'Talk of the Town' Survey

Thank you to those of you who took the time to participate in the online survey of Talk of The Town that we carried out at the end of last year. The Town Council produces the magazine for its local residents, to keep them informed of the services and activities that the Town Council is involved in. It's really important for us to ensure that you find the magazine useful, interesting and that it contains the things about the Town Council that you want to know.

We were pleased to hear that 65% of those who responded always read Talk of The Town and that 61% find the magazine informative.

Each edition always lets you know what events and activities the Town Council will be running over the forthcoming months. For many of those who responded you said that finding out about upcoming events was important, and we will continue to include these in future editions. A number of respondents also said that they would like stories from local businesses and the town centre, so in this edition you can find out about the independent businesses in Eleanor's Cross.

It's not too late to have your say. We are always open to feedback, ideas and suggestions for future editions of Talk of the Town. So should you have any other comments please either email them to info@dunstable.gov.uk or complete the feedback form on the back page of this edition.



Services Dunstable Town

Council Provides For You

Grounds and Environmental Services

Cemetery Management

Maintenance of grounds, grave preparation, burial and memorial arrangements
Dunstable Cemetery, West Street, Dunstable LU6 1PD
01582 891426 | cemetery@dunstable.gov.uk

Parks and Open Spaces

Maintenance of grounds, sport pitches and skate park, litter picking, dog bins, grass cutting
Freephone 0800 013 0350 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Allotments

Plot lettings and maintenance of sites
01582 891426 | allotments@dunstable.gov.uk

Play Areas

Maintenance, inspections and cleansing
Freephone 0800 013 0350 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Town Centre Maintenance

Maintenance of raised beds, grassed areas and floral displays
01582 513000 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Maintenance of Priory & Grove House Gardens

Grounds maintenance, litter picking, dog bins
01582 891413 | john.crawley@dunstable.gov.uk

Town Ranger

Cleaning up the public places in Dunstable
Freephone 0800 013 0350

Mayoral and Democratic Services

Remembrance Day Parade and Service, Mayor's Charity Events, Civic Services, Democratic Representation
01582 891404 | michele.markus@dunstable.gov.uk

Main Council Reception 01582 513000

For more information visit www.dunstable.gov.uk

Community Services

Town Centre Management

Economic regeneration, Christmas lights, Ashton Square public toilets and Dunstable Market (Market operates Wednesday, Friday and Saturday)
01582 891405 | clare.brett@dunstable.gov.uk

Events Programme including:

Dunstable Live, Fireworks, Party in the Park, Dunstable Rocks!
01582 891406 | events@dunstable.gov.uk

Priory House

Heritage Centre, TIC, functions, tea rooms and gift shop
Priory House Heritage Centre, 33 High St South, Dunstable LU6 3RZ
01582 891420 | prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk

Grove Corner Young People's Centre

76a High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF
01582 891434 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

The Mayfield Centre

Community drop-in, learning opportunities, advice, information and guidance, homework drop-in
Mayfield Centre, Mayfield Road, Dunstable LU5 4AP
01582 670695 | jack.adams-rimmer@dunstable.gov.uk

Voluntary Sector Support (grants)

01582 513000 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Older People's Support Service

Good Companions day care, dan, CPCFC Lunch Club
01582 513000 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Creasey Park Community Football Centre

Artificial/grass pitches, function room, licensed bar, BMX track
Creasey Park Drive, Dunstable LU6 1BB
01582 891433 or 07712 861618 | cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk

Peter Newton Pavilion (Managed by Beds FA)

Century House, Skimpot Road, Dunstable LU5 4JU | 01582 565111

Downside Community Centre

Licensed to the Seventh Day Adventist Church
Suffolk Road, Downside Estate, Dunstable | 01582 666403

For any queries relating to Council Tax, Housing Benefits, Refuse or Highways please contact Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8000 or email customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

TALK TOWN

of the 

Feedback Form

We would appreciate your comments on the services we provide.

Please enter your comments in the area to the right and return your slip to Grove House or fax to 01582 890606.

Return your comment slip to:
Dunstable Town Council, Grove House,
76 High St North, Dunstable,
Bedfordshire LU6 1NF

Your comments:

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Please enter your details so that we may respond to your comments:

Name:
Address:
Telephone:
Email:

Thank you for submitting your comments, the information will be used by Dunstable Town Council for developing services and marketing purposes and will not be sold to any other organisation. Your details are strictly confidential. The data protection act 1998 guarantees that the information you have provided will only be used for the correct purposes. If you do not want to receive any additional information from Dunstable Town Council please tick this box.



Tot167/March 2015