

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

TALK of the TOWN

Issue 71 March 2016

Spring is here!

Let's look forward to an event-filled year

'Helping make Dunstable a Better Place'

St George

CELEBRATING
IN DUNSTABLE
Saturday 23 April



www.dunstable.gov.uk



DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL



Meet the Councillors

CENTRAL WARD



Cllr Patricia Russell
44 Mayfield Road
Dunstable LU5 4AP
07717 192398



Cllr Lisa Bird
124 Chiltern Road
Dunstable LU6 1ET
01582 478078



Cllr Pat Staples
Mandelay
10 The Paddocks
Dunstable LU6 3FQ
01582 650018

MANSHEAD WARD



Cllr Des Moffatt
16 Borough Road
Dunstable LU5 4DA
01582 241867



Cllr Eugene Ghent
1 Fox Dells
Dunstable LU6 3LD
01582 703036



Cllr Jessica Castle
39 Sunbower Avenue
Dunstable
LU6 1UQ

ICKNIELD WARD



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



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



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



Cllr Sid Abbott
29 Holliwick Road
Dunstable
LU5 4RA
01582 660457



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

NORTHFIELDS WARD



Cllr Emma Simmons
27 Pipers Croft
Dunstable
LU6 3JZ
01582 933591



Cllr Terry Colbourne
70 Crabtree Way
Dunstable
LU6 1UR
01582 666910



Cllr Jeannette Freeman
77 Hillcroft
Dunstable
LU6 1TT
01582 756060



Cllr Julie Harnett
8 Ashcroft
Dunstable
LU6 1DX
07958 682433



Cllr Gemma Le Surf
7 Linwood Lodge
96 Chiltern Road
Dunstable LU6 1ES
07739 183322

WATLING WARD



Cllr Peter Hollick
1 Carlisle Close
Dunstable
LU6 3PH
01582 665133



Cllr Liz Jones
82 Jeansway
Dunstable
LU5 4PP
01582 472044



Cllr Claire Meakins-Jell
11 Bernard Close
Dunstable
LU5 4HL
07583 888001



Cllr Ann Sparrow
23 Staines Square
Dunstable
LU6 3JG
01582 602386



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

Dunstable Town Council Committee Membership

Finance and General Purposes

Councillors Liz Jones (*Town Mayor*)
Peter Hollick (*Deputy Town Mayor*)
John Kane (*Chairman*)
Terry Colbourne (*Vice-Chairman*)
John Chatterley
Eugene Ghent
Julie Harnett
Gemma Le-Surf
Gloria Martin
Claire Meakins-Jell
Des Moffatt
Patricia Russell
Ann Sparrow
Pat Staples
Nigel Warren
Andy Whayman

Community Services

Liz Jones (*Town Mayor*)
Peter Hollick (*Deputy Town Mayor*)
Pat Staples (*Chairman*)
Claire Meakins-Jell (*Vice-Chairman*)
Sid Abbott
Lisa Bird
Jessica Castle
John Chatterley
Jeannette Freeman
Eugene Ghent
Julie Harnett
Gemma Le-Surf
Patricia Russell
Emma Simmons

Grounds and Environmental

Councillors Liz Jones (*Town Mayor*)
Peter Hollick (*Deputy Town Mayor*)
Gloria Martin (*Chairman*)
Nigel Warren (*Vice-Chairman*)
Sid Abbott
Lisa Bird
Jessica Castle
Terry Colbourne
Jeannette Freeman
John Kane
Des Moffatt
Emma Simmons
Ann Sparrow
Andy Whayman

Dunstable Town Council

Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF
Tel 01582 513000 Fax 01582 890606
Email info@dunstable.gov.uk Web www.dunstable.gov.uk
Opening Hours 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday

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@dunstabletown
@prioryhouse

@dunstableevents
@creaseypark

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Welcome



Dunstable Town Mayor

Councillor
Liz Jones

Welcome everyone to this edition of Talk of the Town. By the time you read this saying 'Happy New Year' will be rather "old" – but I do sincerely hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

I am now into the home straight of my Mayoral year and it has been a fantastic experience so far. Both Iain and I have enjoyed the wide variety of events we have attended, meeting a lot of people from different backgrounds, and supporting some that have needed some additional help along the way. We continue to look forward to the events we have booked in for the remainder of our term of office and do encourage you to invite us along to your organisations, businesses or schools, etc, if we have yet to make it.

My main charities this year are Kids In Action, Dunstable Girl Guiding and Luton & Dunstable Hospital Renal Care Unit, who have been supporting me at my own events. My Golf Day, Charity Ball, Coffee Mornings, Christmas and New Year Pudding Nights have already made a significant amount of money for my charities, and with a few more events planned it is hoped we can continue in the same way. All of my events have gained wonderful support from yourselves as attendees and from our town businesses, with contributions of excellent raffle and auction prizes. My sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed in some way.

The Town Council's events programme is now in the final planning stage and you will see that we will once again be holding our Classic Motor Rally, Summer of Music, Sunday Band Concerts (amongst others) and for this year – having listened to your feedback – we will also be showing the Last Night of the Proms in Priory Gardens in September; a new event which we hope many of you will enjoy. Our annual Beer and Cider Festival will be held in September this year and promises to be better than ever before – with a new name, new layout and additional range of drinks – it won't just be beer and cider!

We continue to see new businesses arrive in our town, and it is really pleasing to see these get involved in the community. Throughout my year, I have sought to positively promote Dunstable and can see the changes happening. Together we can achieve great things, we need your help in making Dunstable a better place for us all, so please do take part in the activities across our town, take a visit to the Market on a Wednesday, Friday or Saturday and spend time in our town centre supporting our retailers.

Please contact Michele Markus on 01582 891404 or Michele.markus@dunstable.gov.uk if you would like me to attend any event you may be planning. As always feel free to follow my year on facebook via the page Liz Jones - Community.

Councillor Liz Jones
Dunstable Town Mayor



David Ashlee

Town Clerk and
Chief Executive

Welcome to the spring edition of Talk of the Town. This is always a very important time of year for the Council as it is the period in which the Council agrees its annual budget. This year the Council has been able to set a budget that will enable a bid to be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council for a grant to fund a range of projects that will benefit the town centre under their Market Town Regeneration Fund programme. At the time of writing this introduction the bid is still being prepared but the Council is confident that a strong case for funding will be made, so fingers crossed!

If you live in a Band D property in Dunstable you will pay an annual charge of £175.21 to Dunstable Town Council which is just a £3.43 increase on last year's charge. An illustration of the services provided by the Council is given later in this edition of Talk of the Town, and a full article will be presented on the Market Town Regeneration Fund in the next edition once the Council knows if it has been successful with its bid.

The spring sees the launch of the Council's events programme and this year the Council will be kicking things off with two events in April and May. St George's Day will be celebrated with an improved range of activities centred in Priory Gardens and May sees the return of the very popular 'Around the World' event that will again take place in Priory Gardens. Please note that the Beer and Cider Festival will take place at a later date in September this year but it will once again be bigger and better than ever. The Council will also be staging the annual Town Meeting on 11 April at Creasey Park Community Football Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please use the calendar of events contained in this edition to plan which of the many and varied events we are staging this year you want to come along to.

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 or 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

NOTICEBOARD

Will Your Front Garden Bloom in 2016?

Dunstable in Bloom is organising the Best Front Garden competition again in 2016. The categories this year will be:

- Best Front Garden
- Best Container Display in a Front Garden
- Best Hanging Basket in a Front Garden
- Best Licensed Premises Floral Display
- Best Allotment
- Best School Garden

Entrants are encouraged to include a transport 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 in September.

You can enter more than one competition. To take part, please return the feedback slip at the back of Talk of The Town providing 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 8 July 2016.



Winner of Dunstable in Bloom's 'Best Front Garden 2015' award

DUNSTABLE TOWN MEETING

to be held at
CREASEY PARK
COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE,
CREASEY PARK DRIVE
(OFF BREWERS HILL ROAD), DUNSTABLE
MONDAY 11 APRIL 2016
AT 7.30 PM

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

SPECIAL SATURDAYS!



The Dunstable Joint Committee has funded a series of activities and events that are taking place once a month on a Saturday, in the Methodist Church Hall on The Square.

The next event is a Wellbeing event on 9 April 2016. For more details on this event visit www.dunstable.gov.uk/town-centre-events

Further events will take place on the first Saturday of every month 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, until December.

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

'Like' us on Facebook:

 Facebook/dunstablecouncil
 Facebook/grovecomerdunstable

Follow us on Twitter:

 @dunstabletc @dunstableevents
 @dunstabletown @creaseypark
 @prioryhouse



DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL



Queensway & Queensway Parade

As part of our regular feature introducing you to the businesses in our town centre, this edition features the shops and services you will find in Queensway and Queensway Parade.

Queensway

Age UK

Charity shop for the country's largest charity dedicated to helping everyone make the most of later life.

1-3 Queensway
01582 668990
www.ageuk.org.uk

Amplifon Hearing Centre

Hearing Aid Specialist

5 Queensway
01582 853595
www.amplifon.co.uk

Barnet Fayre

Hair & Beauty

7 Queensway
01582 663703

Classic Nails

Nail Salon

9 Queensway
01582 477747

Kazmicks Café and Karen Graham Catering

Family run café serving a wide range of hot and cold food and beverages and also provides catering.

11 Queensway
01582 606401
www.kazmicks.co.uk

Post Office

Providing Post Offices services including postal services, passport check and send, documentation certification services, vehicle tax, foreign currency, travel insurance, lottery, current accounts, ATM, saving application forms and more.

13 Queensway
www.postoffice.co.uk

Queensway News

Newsagent, confectionery, lottery, cards, papers & magazines.

15 Queensway
Tel: 01582 472168

Rings 'N' Things

Jewellery

17 Queensway
01582 662325

Queensway Parade

Big Stuff

Men's clothing stocking a wide range of clothing in larger sizes.

4 Queensway Parade
01582 666678
www.bigstuffshop.co.uk

Łasuch

Polish Supermarket

5b Queensway Parade
01582 966024

It's a Knockout

Discount shop

6 Queensway Parade
01582 609128

Market Town Regeneration Fund

Back in November, Central Bedfordshire Council launched the £4m Market Town Regeneration Fund to help improve market towns, inviting town councils to bid for a share of the capital funding. Dunstable Town Council has therefore submitted a bid for a share of these funds for the town and hopefully we will know if we have been successful by the time this edition of the Talk of the Town comes out!

As part of work on the application for the funds, a town centre benchmarking exercise was undertaken. The purpose of the research was to develop baseline data about Dunstable but also to get your opinion and that of our visitors and business as to what is good and bad about the town and your ideas to improve it.

So thank you for taking the time to assist with this research. We had a good return on the visitor's survey with over 360

people participating. Respondents expressed support for shop front improvements and felt that the appearance of the town centre was a negative. However, Priors House was viewed as an asset to the town, along with the parks and gardens.

Keep a check on our website for the result of the application.

Want to know more about what is happening in Dunstable Town Centre?

Follow the Town Centre Manager's Blog <https://dunstabletowncentreblogger.wordpress.com/> or read the column every two weeks in the Dunstable Gazette!

If you are a business wanting to share information, get in touch and let us know about your new premises, product lines and business birthdays.



CREASEY KICKZ
FOOTBALL PARTIES



BAR & FOOD



FUNCTION
HIRE



CLUB
PRESENTATIONS



PITCH HIRE



CORPORATE

Award-winning Creasey Park Community Football Centre

Creasey Park Community Football Centre is pleased to announce its success in achieving Second Highest Performing Mystery Visit 2015 from Quest, a national quality assessment scheme in association with Sport England.

Last July, Creasey Park CFC retained its Quest Accreditation for the third year running, after rigorous assessments on the centre's performance. Quest accreditation is a highly commended quality assurance scheme that is designed particularly for the management and development of facilities within the sports and leisure industry in the UK. Part of the assessment is to respond to 'Mystery Shopper' type enquiries, such as telephone calls, emails and visits – and Creasey Park CFC scored top marks! Remarks from Quest examiners included: "Extremely quick response. Super-efficient and helpful. I got a real sense that the staff were keen to provide the best possible service they could."

The Council's Chairman of Grounds and Environmental Services, Gloria Martin, commented: "It's a fantastic achievement by all the staff at Creasey Park CFC and again demonstrates the Town Council's commitment to providing excellent, customer focused services".

What makes receiving this award super-exciting and impressive is that Creasey Park CFC came joint second out of over 635 Quest assessed centres across the UK. It's a huge achievement for such a relatively new sports centre. Representatives from Creasey Park CFC are due to accept this prestigious award in February at the Quest Conference in Leicestershire.

EASTER FUN DAY

Friday 25 March
10.00 am - 12 noon

Hot Cross Buns
Easter Egg Hunt
Arts & Crafts

Come along and join in for
a great family day of fun



Book your function here and get your MONEY BACK!

If you're looking for a venue that can hold up to 100 people, provide catering, a fantastic fully stocked bar and has on-site parking, then check out Creasey Park Community Football Centre! And the added bonus is that we'll even give you your venue hire money back if the bar generates the following income:

£750 - £999	£50 refund
£1,000 - £1,499	£100 refund
Over £1,500	£200 refund

With this fantastic offer there is no excuse not to book your function at Creasey Park Community Football Centre.

CALL 01582 891433
EMAIL cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk
VISIT www.dunstable.gov.uk/cpcfc



Creasey Park Drive, Dunstable LU6 1BB

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

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

T: 01582 891433

E: cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk

W: www.dunstable.gov.uk/cpcfc

Meet George

An interview with George, aged 14 and a Grove Corner regular

George, why do you come to Grove Corner?

As it is a time to catch up with friends and socialise.

What is the best thing about coming?

Everyone is treated equally and we get to have fun.

At Grove Corner we run different activities, what has been your favourite so far?

There was a Talent Show in November which I got to host.

How did you hear about Grove Corner?

I heard about it as my friends came and I saw a leaflet that advertised it.

Anything else you would like to say?

You should come and try Grove Corner out if you are the correct age as it is good fun and everyone gets along.



★ C A M P



RUBICON ★

Dunstable Town Council is delighted to announce that Team Rubicon are coming to town.

Team Rubicon has 10 years experience in Active Sports coaching and provides skateboarding lessons and demos across the UK. So, if you have ever wanted to skateboard but don't know how; know the basics but want to improve or want to do tricks but need the know-how, then Tuesday 31 May is your lucky day!

This FREE event will take place at and around Grove Skatepark (behind Go Bowling) thanks to funding received from EE after they used the skatepark in a recent advert. There will be an opportunity for 5 to 12 year olds to book onto either one of the two free coaching sessions; 10.00 am to 11.15 am or 11.30 am to 12.45 pm. There are only 15 places per session, so booking early is advised. All equipment will be provided.

Two experienced coaches will be on hand for the afternoon drop-in 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm. This is for skaters of any age who want to improve their skills and confidence or for those wanting to learn new tricks.

To book your place or for further information contact info@dunstable.gov.uk

Young DUNSTABLE

News for the young
in our community



GroveCornerDunstable



"We get to listen to music, chill out, eat, meet new people and see our friends."
Rowan aged 18 and Laura aged 16

Mondays and Wednesdays

7.00 pm to 9.30 pm for 13 to 18 year olds

Fridays

6.00 pm to 8.00 pm for 10 to 13 year olds
and 8.00 pm to 9.30 pm for 13 to 18 year olds

Indoor space to hang out, make new friends and have access to free internet. As well as free pool, free table football arts, crafts and a tuck shop. Each term we run a variety of themed evenings, including a talent show. We have a topic of the month, informal conversations, debates and guest speakers on relevant issues young people may face.

Come along and join in!

For more information please contact Senior Community and Young People's Officer Gill Briggs by email on gill.briggs@dunstable.gov.uk or telephone her on 01582 891434

2016 DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS YEAR PLANNER

	M	T	W	TH	F	S	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S	SU	M	T	W
January					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
February	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
March		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
April					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
May							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
June			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
July					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
August	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
September				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
October						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
November		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
December				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

- 1 Celebrating St George**
Priory Gardens, Saturday 23 April,
10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Free St. George's Day event with
entertainment for all of the family!
- 2 Around The World**
Priory Gardens, Saturday 14 May
10.00 am to 4.00 pm
A family fun day featuring dance, music
and workshops from countries around
the world
- 3 Dunstable Classic
Motor Rally**
Priory Gardens, Saturday 11 June
10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Every year, Priory House hosts the
classic Motor Rally where people get the
chance to look at vintage cars and bikes
along with some charity stalls
- 4 Dunstable Live**
Grove House Gardens, Saturday 18
June, 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm
Five hours of the best 80s tribute acts
- 5 Dunstable Town Band**
Grove House Gardens, Sunday 26
June, 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm
- 6 Bradwell Silver Band**
Grove House Gardens, Sunday 3
July, 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm
- 7 Heath Band**
Grove House Gardens, Sunday 10
July, 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm
- 8 Party in the Park**
Grove House Gardens, Saturday 16
July, 12 noon to 8.00 pm
Eight hour family fun event including
music, stalls and entertainment
- 9 Milton Keynes Brass**
Grove House Gardens, Sunday 24
July, 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm
- 10 Welwyn Garden City Band**
Grove House Gardens, Sunday 31
July, 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm
- 11 National Play Day**
St. Augustine's Playing Field,
Wednesday 3 August, 11.00 am to
3.00 pm
- 12 Grimsdyke Brass**
Grove House Gardens, Sunday 7
August, 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm
- 13 Fit 4 Fun**
A family Day at Beecroft Playing
Field, Wednesday 10 August,
11.00 am to 3.00 pm

For all enquiries about any of these events, please contact the Events Team on 01582 891406



TH	F	S	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S	SU	M	T
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29								
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
TH	F	S	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S	SU	M	T



- 14** **It's a Knock Out'**
Downside Recreation Ground,
Sunday 14 August, 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
- 15** **Chiltern Hill Brass**
Grove House Gardens, Sunday 14
August, 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm
- 16** **Inflatable Day**
Grove House Gardens, Friday 19
August, 12 noon to 4.00 pm
- 17** **Dunstable Rocks!**
Grove House Gardens, Saturday 20
August, 2.00 pm to 9.00 pm
7 hours of non-stop local music with a main
headline act. There will also be food stalls
and a bar to enjoy
- 18** **Art Attack Day**
Priory Gardens, Thursday 25 August,
11.00 am to 3.00 pm

- 19** **Priory Proms in the Park**
Priory Gardens, Saturday 10
September, 7.00 pm
Giant screen broadcasting live Last
Night of the Proms
- 20** **Brewed For Dunstable**
Grove House Gardens, Thursday 22
- Saturday 24 September
Three day beer and cider festival set in
a closed off marquee in Grove House
Gardens with entertainment
- 21** **Fireworks**
Creasey Park Community Football
Centre, Friday 4 November
Large fireworks display at Creasey Park
with food and funfair
- 22** **Christmas Carols and
Torchlight Procession**
The Square, Friday 2 December,
7.00 pm
Torchlight procession through Priory
Gardens and carol singing

- 23** **Christmas Cracker**
Priory House, Saturday 10
December, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Come down and meet Santa in his
grotto and have some fun making
Christmas crafts



Get Involved With 'Men in Sheds'

Men in Sheds is a project started by AgeUK aimed specifically at men aged 50+. It looks to bring men together to put their practical skills to good use and encourage them to be more socially active. It provides a space to develop a hobby workshop where men can work together on a range of practical activities. This could focus on wood-working, horticulture or metal work, however new project ideas are always welcome.

Members can put their skills to good use, share their knowledge, learn new skills and generally put the world to rights over a cup of tea. Members can come from a wide variety of backgrounds ranging from highly skilled to those with little or no experience, but all work together and there is a role for everyone!

It gives men the chance to make new friends, experience the camaraderie of working with other men, put practical skills to good use and also share them with others, try something new and learn new skills, support their local community and learn about other activities and services in the area.

Would you be interested in supporting a Dunstable Men in Sheds group? We are looking for volunteers to drive forward the development of The Shed with the support of Dunstable Town Council and the Royal Voluntary Service.

If you are interested and would like more information please contact Jack Adams-Rimmer by telephone on 01582 513000 or by email at Jack.Adams-Rimmer@dunstable.gov.uk



Find out more
www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk

Or call us on
Call 01604 720969

'Becoming a Beanstalk reading helper is the best thing I have done since retiring —the children are a delight and I know I am making a difference' Sue, Reading Helper

Beanstalk
Read • Grow • Succeed

Would you like to make a lasting difference to a child's life in Dunstable?

If you are retired and looking for a rewarding role within the community and would love the opportunity to support children one-to-one, apply today to become a Beanstalk Reading Helper!

- Two sessions during school hours
- Primary School Based
- Training and Support Provided



New Beginnings

As the Mayfield Centre finally closes its doors on 31 March after 13 years, Dunstable Town Council is looking forward to continuing serving the local community in a different way. This decision was taken following a long series of consultations as part of the 'Our Place' programme where residents continuously said they wanted more family orientated activities and projects on and around the estate. Council Officers have already been working with local residents and other partners in supporting existing projects and activities such as The Big Lunch and have played a role in the creation of new activities such as the bi-yearly litter picks. Other activities supported include 'Bark in the Park', National Play Day, environmental improvements to the Southwood Road roundabout and the wonderful Christmas Pantomime. The Council also feels that this is the right approach to take across all of Dunstable so if you have an idea for a project that would benefit your local community then we would love to hear from you.

For further information call Sandy Coyle on 01582 513000 or email sandy.coyle@dunstable.gov.uk

Good Companions Club

Users of the Good Companions Club have been quite busy over the last few months.

As always, Christmas was a very hectic but enjoyable time. The children of Westfield Nursery School visited to perform their Christmas nativity play, local entertainers Last of the Summer Ukeles came and performed lots of Christmas songs and the year was rounded off with a traditional Christmas lunch and entertainment from musician James Goff.

Along with all the light hearted events, the group has also been able to take advantage of hearing and sight tests which proved to be very beneficial.

The group are now looking forward to an array of speakers talking about a variety of topics including Dunstable Market and keeping safe. Other activities including boccia, dominos, fun quizzes and not forgetting Easter celebrations will also be provided.

As you can see, there is always lots going on at the Good Companions Club so if you are over 75 and feel you would like to get out, socialise and make new friends why not give us a call.

Please contact Elaine McGarrigle on 01582 513000
elaine.mcgarigle@dunstable.gov.uk



Exciting Events (Old & New) For 2016

As the new year of events gets under way in Dunstable, we look forward to the return of old favourites, some rebranded, some returning and the odd brand new event in 2016...



St George CELEBRATING IN DUNSTABLE

The St George's Day Celebration in Priory Gardens kicks off the 2016 Dunstable events programme. Come and join us on Saturday 23 April between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm for a family fun-filled day. Come and try your hand with a bow and arrow in our archery range or crawl through a network of tunnels in our caving experience. Do you have a head for heights? Then clamber your way up our seven metre climbing wall! Meet St George and help him find the dragons in our annual town dragon hunt and don't forget to stop and create your own arty creation. If all that adventuring tires you out then stop by our arena stage and catch some live music and entertainment. The programme includes brass bands, Maypole Dancing, Punch & Judy and more. Plus witness Ye Olde English Guillotine in our mini stage show adventure and see if you are chosen to pull the sword from the stone. All of this is set just behind Priory House, where you can stop for some award-winning cream teas with homemade scones and homemade strawberry jam, served with lashings of fresh cream in Priory House Tea Rooms. An ideal way to spend a fun-filled Saturday. **Visit www.dunstable.gov.uk for more information.**



Our 'Around The World' event is back!

Due to your overwhelming feedback from the event in 2014 we have brought it back for good. Travel the world in one day on Saturday 14 May 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Come to Priory Gardens to listen to world music, have a go at traditional dance and experience cultures from countries across the globe. Attractions will include Steel Band, Traditional Dhol Drummers, Samba Percussion and Dance Group, Bollywood Dancing, Didgeridoo Workshops, Reptile Show, Chinese Lion Dance, Maypole Dancing and Circus Skills and much more. There will also be a full programme of arena demonstrations, so bring all the family down for this truly fun and unique day. Visit www.dunstable.gov.uk for all the details of acts, demos and showcases on throughout the day. Want to get involved? There is still plenty of time to be a part of this wonderful event, if you are part of a club, group or you have a hobby you want to share then get in touch. **Contact lisa.vincent@dunstable.gov.uk or ring 01582 891406**



Formerly Dunstable Beer and Cider festival, back for 2016 with a new name, new date and an exciting new concept. Brewed will take place on Thursday 22 to Saturday 24 September in Grove House Gardens. This year we will have a fantastic selection of at least 40 ales and 20 ciders to choose from, new for 2016 will be the RETOX bar serving cocktails and Pimms, couple with live music throughout the whole three days in a fantastic new Tri-cone marquee.

SPONSOR AN ALE: Be part of this exciting event by sponsoring an ale, either for a friend's birthday, to promote your business or celebrate an anniversary. Sponsor an Ale for only £60! You will receive your name/logo on the cask and in the programme, 4 weekend tickets, a link to your business on Facebook and DTC website and 4 x souvenir glasses. This is a truly unique opportunity to get involved in making 2016 Brewed! the best beer festival in the area.

More information on Brewed will be in the next edition of Talk of the Town or visit www.dunstable.gov.uk



New and exciting for 2016, in Priory Gardens on Saturday 10 September come down to watch Last Night of the Proms on a giant screen, being shown live. Get in the spirit of this British tradition. More details will be announced nearer the time, it is definitely one for your diaries.

For information on all the other amazing events happening in Dunstable this year please visit www.dunstable.gov.uk
Follow all the latest news on our events via our facebook page www.facebook.co.uk/dunstabletowncouncil



PRIORY HOUSE HERITAGE CENTRE BRINGS YOU THE

DUNSTABLE CLASSIC

MOTOR RALLY

SATURDAY 11 JUNE 2016

10.00 am - 4.00 pm • Priory Gardens

- Prizes awarded in six categories
- A variety of charity and craft stalls
- Refreshments available
- Visit www.dunstable.gov.uk for more information or to download an entry form

FREE EVENT

A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT!



DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

Priory House Heritage Centre
33 High St South, Dunstable LU6 3RZ
Telephone: 01582 891420
prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk
www.dunstable.gov.uk



PRIORY HOUSE HERITAGE CENTRE

Easter Afternoon Tea

A seasonal twist on our classic Afternoon Tea from £18.50 per person

Start your experience with our homemade lamb and rosemary pasties, a mini scotch egg and a selection of freshly made sandwiches. Follow this with two of our homemade scones, served warm or cold with whipped cream and homemade strawberry jam. The finale is a trio of homemade simnel cherry tart, carrot and cream cheese cupcake and a chocolate tiffin Easter nest. All this with as much of our Dunstable Tea range of loose leaf teas or speciality filter coffee as you can drink. Why not make the experience extra special for an extra £4 by adding a glass of Prosecco or Pimms?

For more information or to book call 01582 891420 or visit www.dunstable.gov.uk/prioryhouse



Dunstable's Green Spaces

Keep Dunstable Tidy

Dunstable Town Council has teamed up with Promoting Dunstable and local volunteers to form a Keep Dunstable Tidy group to campaign to deter littering in our town. The campaign is still in its infancy and we will bring you more information about what is happening and how you can help in future issues.

Keep Dunstable Tidy is planning to work with a number of organisations and groups as well as local authorities, schools, local businesses and residents to reduce litter in the town, improve local places, inspire and educate the next generation and encourage waste producers to better manage litter and waste. The group will also be encouraging enforcement against those who litter and fly tip in our town.

To set the ball rolling and, in honour of the Queen's 90th Birthday, Keep Dunstable Tidy has been encouraging schools and community groups to take part in the nationwide 'Clean for the Queen' event in the run up to her Majesty's birthday on 21 April 2016.



If you have taken part in 'Clean for the Queen' in Dunstable we would like to hear your experiences and receive your photos to show what is being achieved by local people. Information, ideas and photos can be forwarded to john.crawley@dunstable.gov.uk or h.garrod@ntlworld.com. If you would like more information about the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign please go to the website www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk



Wheelie Fantastic!

Last year, 16 groups decorated wheelbarrows as part of the Dunstable in Bloom project and they were rewarded for their efforts with a certificate from Anglia in Bloom and a gold medal for the Town. This year we would like to build on that success and thanks to the Costain/Carrilian partnership, who are building the A5-M1 link road, we have an extra 20 wheelbarrows to decorate and plant with a theme of transport. So if you are part of a group such as a school, social or activity club or neighbours working together and would like to be involved in brightening up your area by planting and displaying a barrow, please contact sandy.coyle@dunstable.gov.uk or call Sandy on 01582 513000



Bereavement Services

Cemetery Manager – Mary Dobbs

In this edition of Talk of the Town we shine the Spotlight on Mary Dobbs. Mary is the Cemetery Manager at Dunstable Cemetery and has worked there for one year. The Cemetery was built in 1861 and has been in use for over 150 years. Let's shine the spotlight and find out more about what it is like working in such a unique place and providing such an important service.

You have been in post now for one year, how are you settling in?

I am settling in very well. I enjoy coming to work every day. I was in my previous employment for a number of years, my only regret is that I did not join the bereavement service before now. I also feel very lucky that my office is located in a converted chapel in the grounds of the Cemetery.

Can you give us an idea what a working day is like for you?

I am in the Cemetery office from 8.00 am until 4.00 pm, Monday to Friday. My days are varied and no two days are the same. I greet all funerals that come into the Cemetery and accompany them to the graveside. I liaise with Funeral Directors to arrange dates for burials that are to take place in the Cemetery. I meet with members of the public, take telephone enquiries relating to grave searches, administration queries and genealogy searches.

Dunstable Cemetery is introducing a number of new services and options for the residents, could you give more details on these?

We have just finished preparing our new Cemetery extension and have taken the opportunity to introduce hand-crafted, solid granite ashes sanctums and memorial kerb blocks. Ashes sanctums are above ground burial chambers, large enough to receive two standard-sized ashes caskets with a granite plaque on the front. The memorial kerb blocks are made of polished granite and come in blocks of three. This means that they could be used as either a dedicated family block or as three individual blocks.

You must have some difficult days, how do you like to relax and unwind?

I do not have many difficult days, because I enjoy my job so much, I do not see them in that way. I do enjoy reading and going for long walks. I love visiting stately homes and country parks. If my day has been particularly difficult, I just like going home and having some quiet time.

Dunstable Cemetery has a lot of history from War Graves to the former Mayors of Dunstable being buried there. Can you share any other interesting facts?

Yes, there are many interesting people buried in Dunstable Cemetery – William Hambling was born in Snape in Suffolk. He was Master of Chews Charity School from 1856 -1880. He did much for the town of Dunstable; he was Church Warden at the Priory Church, he founded the Dunstable Rifle Corps, was a Town Magistrate and Mayor of Dunstable from 1880/82 and 1887/90. He was also the leader of Hambling Seedling and developed a new strain of apple which was named after him, he died in 1898. Saplings of Hambling apple trees have recently been planted around the town to mark the Chew's anniversary.

Do you have any plans or projects for the future?

We have recently completed a refurbishment of the Chapel and are currently resurfacing a number of our pathways. Both Priory Gardens & Grove House Gardens have been awarded the Green Flag. We are working towards obtaining a Green Flag for the Cemetery.

In your job role what skills and traits do you require?

To be compassionate, a good listener and be able to empathise is very important. To have an interest in helping people. From an administration point of view, attention to detail is very important and to be able to work in an organised way. The job role also demands that you have an ability to work to fixed procedures and legal requirements.

What do you enjoy the most about your role?

This particular time in someone's life can be very distressing. I get a lot of satisfaction from being able to do all that I can to help. I enjoy being in the Cemetery grounds and meeting visitors. A member of the public once said to me how much they appreciate a welcome when they visit the Cemetery.

Is there anything people might not realise about the Cemetery that you can share?

The first burial took place in Dunstable Cemetery on 22 October 1861 and was that of James Turney, the four-year-old son of a local groom who lived in Church Street. The Cemetery is also home to wildlife such as green woodpeckers, kites and badgers. There are also many notable trees including a group of Scots Pine, known as the 'Drovers Pines'.

And finally, if you were Prime Minister for the day what would you do?

If I was Prime minister for a day I would abolish VAT for that day.



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

How do we spend your money?

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 2016/17 council tax charge made by Dunstable Town Council for an average band D property is £175.21. This equates to just £3.37 per week and ensures that the Council collects £2,117,238 for the year from the Dunstable council tax payer.

What do you get for the annual charge of **£175.21 pa** that you pay to Dunstable Town Council through your **Council Tax**?



Town Ranger

Town Ranger scheme sorting out a range of environmental issues.



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.



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.



Town Centre Regeneration

Delivering schemes to help regenerate the town centre and manage the town centre toilets.



Grove Corner

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



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.



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.



Community Projects

Supporting communities of Dunstable to achieve their goals.



Peter Newton Pavilion & Downside Community Centre

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



Grants to Voluntary Groups

Annual grants scheme to support local voluntary groups.



Grove Skatepark

Open access, flood-lit skate park, featuring a bowl and street course.



Allotments

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



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.



Dunstable Cemetery

12 acres of managed burial space.



Events Programme

Provision of large scale events programme including: Fireworks, Party in the Park, Sunday Band Concerts, Dunstable Rocks and Classic Motor Rally.

For further Town Council Services information visit www.dunstable.gov.uk
For Council Tax enquiries call Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8000



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:

21/03/2016	Finance & General Purposes Committee	25/04/2016	COUNCIL
23/03/2016	Accts Sub-Committee 5.30 pm	26/04/2016	Plans Sub-Committee
05/04/2016	Plans Sub-Committee	16/05/2016	AGM 7.30 pm (All Saints Academy)
11/04/2016	Town Meeting 7.30 pm (Creasey Park CFC)	17/05/2016	Plans Sub-Committee
20/04/2016	Accts Sub-Committee 5.30 pm	18/05/2016	Accts Sub-Committee 5.30 pm
21/04/2016	Personnel Sub-Committee		



PUTTING THE HEART BACK INTO DUNSTABLE

Dunstable Market operates in the Ashton Square area, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Visit Dunstable market for:

- A range of quality goods, including local produce
- A friendly, unique and personalised shopping experience
- Excellent value

Play your part in reviving Dunstable's history and shaping it's future by shopping local and supporting your market.

For further information and to keep up to date with events and promotions visit:

www.dunstable.gov.uk

Follow the Town Centre on Twitter:

@DunstableTown

Telephone: 01582 513000

Email: info@dunstable.gov.uk



Dunstable Town Mayor's Forthcoming Events

Civic Service

Sunday 17 April 2016

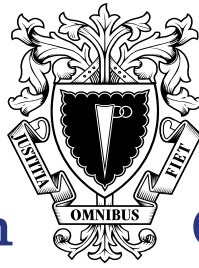
Priory Church, Dunstable
2.30 pm

Coffee Morning

Saturday 7 May 2016

Council Chamber, Grove House, Dunstable
10.00 am to 12 noon, £3.00

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



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 at Grove House – 01582 513000

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

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

For more information visit www.dunstable.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.



TotT71March2016