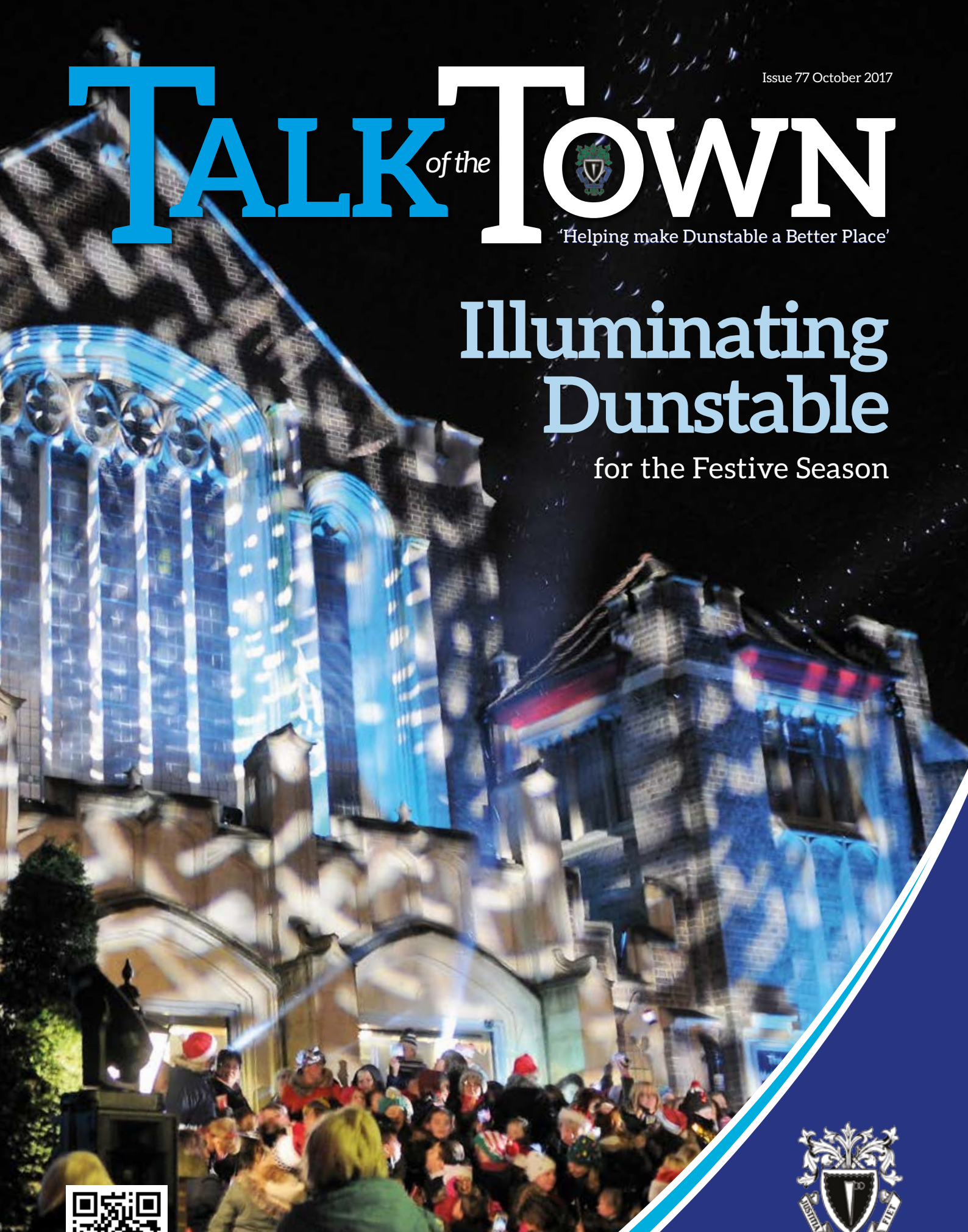


TALK of the TOWN

'Helping make Dunstable a Better Place'

Illuminating Dunstable for the Festive Season



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
44 Longfield
Harpenden AL5 1QF
07947 221156



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



Cllr Jessica Castle
c/o Dunstable Town
Council, Grove House,
76 High Street North,
Dunstable LU6 1NF

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
3 The Paddocks
Friars Walk, Dunstable
LU6 3FQA
01582 947345



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 Steve Elliott
43 Beech Green
Dunstable
LU6 1EB
01582 639241



Cllr Anne Kennedy
25 Leyland Road
Dunstable
LU6 1FF
01582 260526

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
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 Gloria Martin (*Town Mayor*)
John Kane (*Deputy Town Mayor*)
Andy Whayman (*Chairman*)
John Chatterley (*Vice-Chairman*)
Sid Abbott
Terry Colbourne
Eugene Ghent
Peter Hollick
Liz Jones
Anne Kennedy
Claire Meakins
Des Moffatt
Patricia Russell
Ann Sparrow
Pat Staples
Nigel Warren

Community Services

Councillors Gloria Martin (*Town Mayor*)
John Kane (*Deputy Town Mayor*)
Pat Staples (*Chairman*)
Steve Elliott (*Vice-Chairman*)
Lisa Bird
Jessica Castle
John Chatterley
Terry Colbourne
Jeannette Freeman
Eugene Ghent
Anne Kennedy
Claire Meakins
Patricia Russell
Emma Simmons

Grounds and Environmental

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

Dunstable Town Council

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Welcome



The Mayor's Welcome

Councillor Gloria Martin



David Ashlee

Town Clerk and Chief Executive

I have been extremely busy since I last wrote to you in the Talk of the Town, carrying out a wide variety of engagements in and around the Town and by the time you read this half of my Mayoral year will have passed. I, and my consort, have enjoyed attending many groups, schools and voluntary organisations at award events, special occasions or Annual General Meetings. Through these visits I have met many of you who give that something extra to make our town so vibrant.

During the summer there has been a lively feel to the Town with new shops opening, frontages being painted and improved and a noticeable reduction in the noise and pollution from heavy goods vehicles passing through, thanks to the opening of the A5/M1 and Woodside link roads.

I have also been busy attending the wide variety of activities and events that have been run by Dunstable Town Council for the benefit and delight of all ages. A large number of the events have enjoyed good weather, but I did host a Band Concert where a thunderstorm caused a lively 15 minutes, but fortunately in the interval. I was really impressed by the audience who put on raincoats of all shapes and sizes and opened umbrellas, as the band played on, only the British would do such a thing!

Our new event, Priory Pictures, was very successful and very popular with the families that I spoke to on both occasions. The change of date for the Beer and Cider Festival also proved popular, with most of the ciders selling out before the end.

The most pleasing event for me was the official opening of Bennett's Splash and the Splashside Cafe, on which the sun shone and the children had fun and got very wet! A good time was had by all.

I was also very proud to raise a third Green Flag at our cemetery, a recognition of the hard work by the staff there to achieve this award in making it a more pleasant and relaxing place when visiting.

By the time you read this we will know just how successful the Town's, community groups and the "In Bloomers" entries for Anglia in Bloom have been. I hope that all of the hard working community groups and our own Grounds Team and Officers achieve the success that they richly deserve.

I am sure that many of you will be looking forward to our Fireworks Display at Creasey Park Community Football Centre on 3 November, which is a free event this year.

The Christmas events will start with our traditional Torchlight procession, Carols and the lighting of the Christmas tree on 1 December. This will be followed by various events in Priory House and other parts of the town during December. I look forward to seeing you there.

Finally may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and an enjoyable 2018!

Councillor Gloria Martin
Town Mayor of Dunstable

Welcome to the winter edition of Talk of the Town. This edition features heavily on all that the Town Council is doing in the run up to Christmas and can I please encourage all readers to "shop local" and take advantage of everything that Priory House and the Market has to offer.

It seems incredible that the summer is over already but I am very pleased that all of the Council's summer events and activities were well received by local residents and visitors to the town. The new Bennett's Splash and Splashside Café proved to be very popular when the sun was shining. All of the Council's summer events attracted huge crowds including the Beer and Cider Festival and Party in the Park. This year's summer activities programme for young people proved to be our most popular yet with record crowds enjoying activities such as Inflatable Day and Art Attack. As I write this introduction, I am looking forward to our second 'Proms in the Park' which is being repeated following the success of last year's event.

The Council has also received a lot of very positive feedback for our floral displays in and around the town centre and Priory and Grove House Gardens. At the time of writing, judging for the town's 'In Bloom' entry had not taken place but I am sure we will do well and my thanks to all the community groups that contributed to this year's competition entry.

This Halloween and Christmas will see the Town Council staging a full programme of activities and attractions in the town centre. Not only is the traditional Christmas tree lights switch on with Torchlight Procession and Carol Service being again enhanced by a lighting extravaganza; the Council, in partnership with the Dunstable Joint Committee, is also providing an improved synthetic ice rink on Ashton Square, during December for one week. This attraction proved very popular last year, so the Council will be making sure that this year's rink is even better than last year's.

There is no doubt that the town centre is benefiting from the Town Council working in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council through the Market Town Regeneration Fund initiative. I am looking forward to the first of many retail units receiving a full shop front makeover as part of this scheme with the first shops being completed (hopefully) before Christmas.

Priory House is also featured in this edition and I would strongly urge all those readers that want to have 'Tea or Breakfast with Santa' to book early this year. This popular annual event gets sold out very quickly. Priory House Tea Rooms is becoming more and more renowned for its magnificent afternoon tea offer and for those that might want to do something different for the office party or buy vouchers for a special Christmas gift, then please visit Priory House or the Council's website to see what this extraordinary Dunstable asset has to offer.

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
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

NOTICE BOARD

News, Announcements and Items of Interest for Residents of Dunstable

DUNSTABLE REMEMBERS

Dunstable remembers the men and women of the town who have suffered or died in war. This year's Remembrance Parade and Service will be held on Sunday 12 November 2017.

The parade of the town's ex-service and uniformed organisations will assemble in Grove House Gardens (at the rear of Grove House) at 10.15 am and will then march to the War Memorial in Priory Gardens, via High Street North to the crossroads and traffic lights, then down High Street South (A5) to Priory House where the Town Mayor will take the salute. The parade will then form up at the memorial for the Act of Remembrance and wreath-laying ceremony at 11.00 am. At the end of the ceremony everyone is invited to attend a short Service of Remembrance in the Priory Church.

There will also be a short service at the War Memorial to mark Armistice Day on Saturday 11 November at 11.00 am.

Members of the public are most welcome to take part in Dunstable's Act of Remembrance. Dunstable Town Council is once again keen to involve as many young people of the town as possible and would like to encourage representatives from schools in the town to take part in the parade and wreath laying.

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



Be Trolleywise!

ASDA and Sainsbury's have signed up to the Trolleywise scheme. Should you see one of their trolleys abandoned please report it on 0800 316 1241.

If you have a smartphone you could also download the Trolleywise app www.trolleywise.co.uk/trolleywise-app/

You can also try reporting it directly to the stores:

ASDA 01582 697000

Sainsbury's 01582 477082 (option 5)



Spooky Halloween Fun

Family fun and spooky crafts will be on offer this October Half Term at Creasey Park Community Football Centre on Tuesday 24 October 10.00 am to 12 noon. Create your own mask to finish off your creepy costume, make a horror handbag for your sweet treats and design magical monsters to scare your friends.

For a howling Halloween make sure you don't miss out on this free event. No need to book, we will see you there.



Town Rangers 'Go Social'

The Town Ranger service has a Facebook page @dunstabletownranger. This page is for you to report issues, receive updates and see what the Rangers have been working on around the town. Please like and share the page and let's work together to help make Dunstable A Better Place!



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Dunstable Town Council and Committee Meetings



Copies of the agendas for all meetings are available for inspection three 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 rosemary.osullivan@dunstable.gov.uk.

Forthcoming meeting dates are listed below:

06/11/2017	Community Services Committee	02/01/2018	Plans Sub Committee
13/11/2017	Grounds and Environmental Services Committee	08/01/2018	Community Services Committee
14/11/2017	Plans Sub-Committee	15/01/2018	Grounds and Environmental Services Committee
20/11/2017	Finance and General Purposes Committee	18/01/2018	Personnel Sub-Committee
22/11/2017	Accounts Sub-Committee 5.30 pm	22/01/2018	Finance and General Purposes Committee
23/11/2017	Dunstable Joint Committee Watling House	23/01/2018	Plans Sub-Committee
04/12/2017	COUNCIL	24/01/2018	Accounts Sub-Committee 5.30 pm
05/12/2017	Plans Sub-Committee	25/01/2018	Dunstable Joint Committee Watling House
20/12/2017	Accounts Sub-Committee 5.30 pm		



Dunstable Market operates on the Ashton Square area every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

Pay a visit to Dunstable Market for...

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

Play your part in reviving Dunstable's history and shaping its future by shopping locally and supporting your market



For further information visit www.dunstable.gov.uk
Follow Dunstable Town Centre on Twitter [@DunstableTown](https://twitter.com/DunstableTown)
Telephone **01582 513000**
Email info@dunstable.gov.uk





CREASEY KICKZ
FOOTBALL PARTIES



BAR & FOOD



FUNCTION
HIRE



CLUB
PRESENTATIONS



PITCH HIRE



CORPORATE

Dunstable Town FC *A Club for the Community*

Dunstable Town Football Club has a long and proud history dating back to 1883. It has been part of the town's vibrant community having played in a number of locations, notably Kingsway and now at Creasey Park just off Brewers Hill Road. The club currently plays in the Southern Premier League. Notable England internationals such as Jeff Astle, Tony Currie and Kerry Dixon have played for Dunstable Town.

The club has been the centre of national attention on two key occasions. In 1974, when the then manager, Barry Fry, persuaded his old friend, the legendary George Best to turn out for the club, including in a friendly against Manchester United. Then it became part of the select group of English football clubs called "Invincibles" along with Arsenal and Preston North End, as the club went unbeaten in the 2012-13 season on the way to winning the Spartan Premier League Championship.

In May of this year, the club was taken over by the supporters and can truly be called a Community Club. Due to the support of the community, local businesses and the Dunstable Town Council, the club is once again thriving with a vibrant young team that is hungry for success.

Importantly, there is more to the club – it has a thriving Youth Section with fifteen teams for youngsters aged 6-15 and a Development Team, that is currently top of the Suburban Central League.

Additionally, the club runs an exciting Community Education project where it engages with schools in the town and surrounding areas. Weatherfield Academy is the club's Community School of the Season for 2017-18. The project is supported by Dunstable Library, which has formed a partnership with the club to run educational workshops and encourage young people to use its many facilities.

These are exciting times for the club and we encourage the community to come and support us. More information about forthcoming matches, activities and events can be found on our website, twitter and facebook. We look forward to seeing you.

Alex Alexandrou *Chairman*

@DunstabletownFC
<https://www.dunstabletownfc.co.uk/>
www.facebook.com/pages/Dunstable-Town-FC



Dunstable Town Football Club Squad 2017

Success For AFC Dunstable

AFC Dunstable will find it extremely difficult to eclipse the 2016-17 season, as they picked up 6 Bedfordshire County Cups. Being one of only three FA Charter Standard Community Clubs in Bedfordshire, the club currently runs 34 teams. They range from 4-year-olds to their men's and ladies first teams. All genders and abilities are catered for.

Back to the season just past and what a season it was. Having made 5 County Cup finals, it looked like it would be a tall order to win all 5.

First up was the club's men's first team, who won the Senior Cup 2-0, beating local rivals Dunstable Town. It was followed up by the Under-21s who were triumphant in the Intermediate Cup. Then it was the turn of the Under-18 Sunday team with a 1-0 win over Arlesey Town.

The Under 14s made it 4 as they defeated Biggleswade Town 1-0 and the Under 16, Girls team put in an amazing performance to win 3-0 against Kempston Rovers. The sixth triumph came, as the 1st team, winners of the Senior Cup, were invited to play Luton Town in the Premier Cup. A 2-0 win at the end of July saw a sixth County Cup success.

AFC Dunstable will hold their Community Status for a ninth successive season. The FA Charter Standard programme is a kitemark, which recognises and rewards high quality levels of provision in club and league football.

So, if you fancy coming down to Creasey Park Community Football Centre to take in a 1st team game, for a limited period only, AFC Dunstable are offering free membership to all local Dunstable residents. The benefits include half price admission to games. Email afcdunstablecommercial@gmail.com for more information.

In the Community

Dunstable Town Council news and community updates



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Dunstable Town Mayor's Forthcoming Charity Events

Dinner (Best of British Theme)

Thursday 23 November 2017

Hospitality Central, Central Bedfordshire College, Court Drive, Dunstable
7.00 for 7.30 pm

Valentine Dinner & Dance

Saturday 17 February 2018

The Incuba, Brewers Hill Road, Dunstable
7.00 pm

The Shambles Music Evening

Saturday 10 March 2018

The Methodist Church, The Square, Dunstable
7.00 pm

Town Mayor's Civic Service

Sunday 22 April 2018

The Methodist Church, The Square, Dunstable
2.30 pm

All welcome. If you would like to attend any of these events please contact Michele Markus Tel: 01582 891404 or email: michele.markus@dunstable.gov.uk

Autism Bedfordshire Opens Shop in Dunstable

Local charity Autism Bedfordshire is opening its first shop, on Lowther Road in Dunstable this October. The organisation provides a range of social opportunities and skills groups where people with autism can 'be themselves' and access activities that are designed and run by specialist trained teams. They are the only specialised independent charity in Bedfordshire to provide these services. Over 1,000 members look to them for quality support every year and in July they achieved their second Ofsted Outstanding grading for their summer holiday schemes.

The charity needs 20 volunteers to help run the shop - there is no age or ability limit, just a few hours a week to help sort and prepare stock for sale, maintain the shop floor and assist with sales. Training and general guidance will be given.

Good quality donations are key, explained Ali Draper, Funding Officer. It will significantly reduce our start up costs, of which we are already dipping into reserves - but also in on going sales. For example, anything from a shop till to new goods with tags/designer wear will enable us to open and keep our customers coming back for more! Donations can be dropped off at the shop from 1 October.

Please see our Facebook page or website, www.autismbeds.org for more information about our other up and coming events.

DTC Older People's Services

In July, members of both the Good Companions Club and the Creasey Park Community Football Centre lunch club enjoyed a wonderful day out on the river.

The group boarded a specially adapted coach which allowed our less mobile users to join us, and travelled to Windsor.

It was a glorious day and members really enjoyed being able to relax during the two and a half hour boat trip and take in the beautiful scenery along the way. A tasty lunch was served during the trip and a great day was had by all!

In August both groups enjoyed their annual summer parties with lots of food, good entertainment, fun and plenty of laughter.



There was also a special 100 birthday celebration for one lovely member of Good Companions Club. Yvonne Smith received her birthday card from the Queen and the Mayor dropped in to share the occasion with all her friends at the club. Both groups have plenty to look forward to in the coming months. Creasey Park Community Football Centre over 55s lunch club will celebrate their 5th anniversary with a special Halloween party in October and both groups are looking forward to a visit to the Pantomime at Grove Theatre in December. Oh, yes, they are!

Volunteers Needed

Of course none of this would be possible without the help of our wonderful volunteers and we are always keen to welcome new people who want to lend a hand. If you would like to find out more about becoming a regular volunteer at one or both of the clubs, or have a special talent that you would like to share on occasions then we would love to hear from you. Please contact Elaine McGarrigle on 01582 891414 or email elaine.mcgarrigle@dunstable.gov.uk for more details.

Coffee Mornings

This year, Dunstable Town Council is offering 10 free coffee mornings/afternoons to those aged over 55 in the Dunstable area. Six have taken place so far at different locations around the town. There are four more planned between now and March so keep a look out for venues and times and pop along for a cuppa and a chat. There will be a number of activities available at these events such as a computer drop-in session, hand massages and a visit from Bedfordshire Fire service offering help and support with home safety. If you would like more information on these or any other activities for older people in the Dunstable area, please contact Elaine McGarrigle on 01582 891414 or elaine.mcgarrigle@dunstable.gov.uk

Dunstable

FIREWORKS

Display

Dunstable's Annual Firework display is back at Creasey Park Community Football Centre

...and it's **FREE!!!**

On Friday 3 November, Creasey Park Community Football Centre will host the annual spectacular FREE fireworks display in Dunstable! This year, you and your whole family can enjoy the funfair rides, food stalls, meet a Minion and see the fantastic fireworks display choreographed to music and don't forget to look out for the special flames extravaganza that will set the night sky alight! Creasey Park Community Football Centre will also be serving food and the bar will be open. To celebrate Guy Fawkes Night do not miss out on this fantastic FREE event! Gates open at 5.00 pm with the display at 7.00 pm.

For further details about our fireworks display, visit www.dunstable.gov.uk or you can also contact Lisa Vincent by telephone 01582 891406 or email at: lisa.vincent@dunstable.gov.uk



young

DUNSTABLE

Grove Corner

Grove Corner is a Young People's Centre in the middle of Dunstable that welcomes all young people aged 10 to 18 years old.

At Grove Corner there is FREE pool, FREE table football, FREE wifi, comfy chairs to hang out with friends, a big screen to watch films or the latest sports on tv and not forgetting an affordable tuckshop, selling drinks, burgers, chocolates and more.

Each month at the Centre there is a themed evening giving a chance to take part in debates, gain new information on different issues young people may face and often get some freebies.

Grove Corner is open Monday and Wednesdays from 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm and Fridays from 8.00 pm to 9.30 pm for those aged 13 to 18 and from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm every Friday for those aged 10 to 13 years old.

Coming up at Grove Corner between now and Christmas there is lots to look forward to. There will be a chance to showcase your talent at a show for both groups, some optional craft evenings, a 'make a cake in a mug' night and not forgetting the annual Christmas party with FREE food, games and movies.

Youth Workers are always interested in hearing from those who use the Centre about their thoughts and ideas on activities they want to be held, and where possible will try and facilitate these. There's no need to sign up, if you want to visit Grove Corner, just turn up on your preferred evening, sit back and relax and enjoy all that the centre has to offer! Workers look forward to meeting you soon.

For more information call Gill, Senior Community and Young People's Officer on 01582 891434 or text 07595 067708 or like 'Grove Corner Dunstable' on Facebook.

St Augustine's Junior Wardens

Junior Wardens has been running now for well over a year and the group are going from strength to strength. Dunstable Town Council has been working well in partnership with St Augustine's Academy to run the project. For this to continue, officers were looking for volunteers to support and eventually take over the project.

Rigerta Ahmetaj and Clare Copleston both directors of Meaningful Education, a community interest company based in Central Bedfordshire specialising in mental health, have spent some months and volunteered each week getting to know the Junior Wardens and the staff at St. Augustine's Academy. They have now officially taken over as the leading activity providers with the support of Dunstable Town Council

Clare Copleston says "Both Rigerta and myself feel it is such a privilege to be volunteering at the Junior Wardens, we pride ourselves on inspiring, motivating and educating the younger generations within our communities and we feel we can add value, fun, and education that will not only encourage and empower the Junior Wardens but for them to be the lead by examples within the community".

Planning ahead, in October the Junior Wardens are taking part in a dignity art competition. The winners selected will have their art work show cased in a dignity art gallery event on Global Dignity day which is taking place on Wednesday 18 October.

The aim of the Global Dignity Day is to educate the Junior Wardens on the importance of preserving dignity and teach about hate crime prevention. A presentation event is being held on Wednesday 18 October, whereby the Junior Wardens will receive a special visit from the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, and Bedfordshire Police at St Augustine's Academy. They will be presented with certificates where they will become dignity champions and hate crime ambassadors.



PRIORY HOUSE
HERITAGE CENTRE



Christmas Pudding Nights

Why not grab a few friends and join us at Priory House for one (or more) of our ever popular Pudding Nights? There will be a selection of different delicious puddings available both hot and cold. You choose. Want more than one? We will be happy to oblige. Liqueur coffees are also available as well as Wine, Prosecco and Mulled Wine. The Pudding Nights this year are on for three Thursday nights in December, 7, 14 and 21. Tables must be booked and you can even pre-book your favourite pudding (recommended if you are in a group). We will be open from 6.00 pm to 10.00pm with last orders at 9.30 pm. If you visit our website in December www.dunstable.gov.uk/priory-christmas-pudding-nights.htm you will be able to see the tasty treats that will be available.

Please call a member of the Priory House Team on 01582 891420 or email prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk

Local Ghost Walks

It's Halloween, the time to celebrate all things spooky and what better way to do so than by going on a ghost walk. Enjoy a fun evening with ghost stories around Dunstable alongside the Dunstable Town Guides. There are 3 walks in total:

Family Ghost Walk *Saturday 28 October at 5.00 pm*

This walk is for all the family. Children over 8 years, with an accompanying adult, are welcome to try out their trick or treat outfits and come along in costume. The more dressed up, the better!

Traditional Ghost Walk *Saturday 28 October at 7.00 pm*

This walk is for all, with a slightly spookier twist.

Halloween Ghost Walk *Tuesday 31 October at 8.00 pm*

For those that want to spend actual Halloween hearing all things ghostly in Dunstable.

If you can't make one of the Halloween walks, don't despair, you can walk off the Christmas Pudding with another Traditional Ghost Walk on Friday 29 December at 7.30 pm.

To book your place on one of these walks, contact Priory House Heritage Centre on 01582 891420. Tickets are £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children.

Fancy a different day out?

If you fancy going to a Christmas market why not try out Theobolds or Three Star Coach tours? We are agents for them and would be delighted to help with your coach travel arrangements. What else? For something different why not spend a day out in The Lanes in Brighton. We sell an Adult Day Return ticket for only £20 and an Accompanied Child ticket is only £2. You can go direct from any station on the Bedford to Brighton line. Conditions apply. We are also the local agents for National Express coaches, so if you want to go further afield this Christmas pop in and book your tickets with us. One of our Team in the Tourist Information Centre is always on hand. www.dunstable.gov.uk/tourist-information

Please call a member of the Priory House Team on 01582 891420 or email prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk

Christmas Gift Shop

Christmas has arrived at Priory House Gift Shop so why not shop local?

As always there will be a fantastic selection of Christmas present ideas in our Gift Shop. From biscuits to books, jams to jewellery you are sure to find something that is a little bit different. We also have very unusual Christmas decorations from glass baubles for the tree to a lit up wooden train. We have ornamental reindeer and mini ceramic choirs.

Our stock is always a little bit different to other shops on the high street. In our Dunstable Tea range we now have over 20 different loose-leaf teas as well as a selection of tea bags. The jam we sell is part of the Priory Pantry range that is made in-house by our chef. The range also includes Christmas chutney, marmalade and luxury mincemeat. You can even take home a free gift box if you buy any three of the Priory Pantry range.

Don't forget we also have our local crafters selling their wares in our Showcase Shelving scheme. This gives local people the chance to sell their goods on the High Street. A really good opportunity for them and some unusual gifts for you.

This November in our Showcase Shelving scheme we have Lisa Connelly, Sue Garrett, Lesley Ashley and Helen McCarthy. In December we have Cherish the Memory and Norman Designs at the time of going to print. What are their wares? You will have to visit us to see, we are sure you will be delighted with the different gifts and decorations available.

We also have other local crafters in the shop including wood turner David Marsden, Hand knitted clothes for both children and adults by Mary and Gemmosaic art by Christine amongst others.

As well as all the fantastic local crafts you will also find confectionery by Churchill's presented in some wonderful tins. A lot of places "say" they are different, at Priory House Gift shop we really are. We look forward to seeing you in the near future.

**www.dunstable.gov.uk/priory-house-gift-shop
www.dunstable.gov.uk/christmas-at-priory-house1**



Christmas Afternoon Tea

This year Christmas Afternoon Tea with its usual seasonal flare and fare will start on Monday 20 November.

Prices have been held this year to the same as last year so you can still enjoy our Holly Afternoon Tea for just £18.50. This includes delicious warm savouries made in-house, freshly prepared sandwiches with seasonal fillings to be followed by fresh scones, either warm or cold, you choose. Scones are served with freshly whipped cream and homemade preserve. Your Christmas Afternoon Tea is then finished off with some delicious homemade cake. We have over 20 different Teas and Infusions for you to enjoy as well. Not enough for you? Then why not try our Ivy Afternoon Tea, which has all of the above goodies plus a glass of Prosecco or Mulled Wine for just £22.50. For the under 12s the Little Berries Afternoon Tea is just £10.00.

Dietary requirements can usually be accommodated with notice so please advise staff at the time of booking. Priory House Tea Rooms will be open for pre-booked Christmas Afternoon Tea on Sunday 3, 10 and 17 of December.

A perfect Christmas Gift. Do you fancy treating someone else to an Afternoon Tea in the New Year? You can purchase an Afternoon Tea voucher online at www.dunstable.gov.uk/christmas-afternoon-tea1.htm

Please call a member of the Priory House Team to book your Christmas Afternoon teas on 01582 891420 or e-mail prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk



TEA WITH SANTA

Once again Santa has agreed with us that the children of Dunstable have been particularly good this year and he will come and have Afternoon Tea with them at Priory House, and as an extra treat, he is going to come for a special Breakfast too.

On Wednesday 20, Thursday 21 and Friday 22 December Santa will be at Priory House at 2.00 pm to read a story or two and let you into some of his secrets over a lovely Christmas themed Afternoon Tea. As you know he is very busy and will have to leave by 3.30 pm.

On Saturday 23 December Santa will be at Priory House at 8.30 am for Breakfast and to read stories before he begins his trip around the world. He will have to fly by 10.00 am. The Tea Rooms will also be open for grown-ups with a breakfast special available from 8.30 am.

Tickets are £10.00 and include a gift from Santa and **MUST** be booked in advance. Mum and Dad please note this is for children aged 4 and over and parents will **NOT** be accompanying them during the tea or breakfast.

Contact Priory House on 01582 891420 or prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk for further information or to book your tickets.

Tickets are non-refundable once booked.



Illuminating Dunstable for the Festive Season

The Christmas lighting scheme has an important role in helping to encourage residents and visitors alike to visit our town centre in the pre and post Christmas period. The 2017 lighting scheme will be illuminating Dunstable from the week commencing 20 November 2017. Furthermore, the giant town Christmas tree will be back in pride of place on The Square providing a delightful traditional centrepiece for the town and the venue for the Christmas Tree Carols and Torchlight Procession.

Calling All Residents and Town Centre Businesses...

The Dunstable Joint Committee have noticed that you all make a fabulous effort with your homes and businesses for the festive season. To celebrate and encourage even more people to light the way to Christmas, the Joint Committee is hosting a Christmas Lights competition. If you are a resident, please send in pictures of your own Christmas Lights display (external only) and be in with a chance to win vouchers for a town centre shop of your choice.

Festive Front Shop Competition

If you are a town centre business, sign up to have your Christmas window display judged and you could win a FREE advert in the Talk of the Town (March Edition), worth £210!

For more information on how to enter either the residents or business competition, visit www.dunstable.gov.uk. Join in with the Dunstable Joint Committee and together let's shine a light on Dunstable

Dunstable Christmas Tree Carols & Torchlight Procession Friday 1 December, 7.00 pm, The Square

Nothing says Christmas more than singing carols around a Christmas Tree with Santa. Come and join the school choirs from Dunstable as we celebrate the start of the festive season along with, late night shopping, refreshments and the opportunity to meet the man himself... Santa! Plus a spectacular light show finale. Not to be missed! This Christmas will really go with a bang! This event is part-funded by the Dunstable Joint Committee.



Central
Bedfordshire

Don't miss out on this
Fantastic FREE Event

Mistletoe MAGIC



Reindeer and Glitter at Priory House
Saturday 9 December 11.00 am to 3.30 pm

Back by popular demand the Reindeer and Santa are coming to Priory House Heritage Centre! Come and see Santa's real reindeer on the lawn as they are resting and preparing for the hard work at Christmas. You can visit Santa in his grotto for free, or send him a letter in the special post box. Why not jump aboard Santa's Sleigh for a free festive photo opportunity? For just £2, join the craft workshop in Priory House where you can write your letter to Santa and make some lovely glitter covered decorations to take home. Enjoy a special Christmas Menu in the Priory House Tea Rooms. On the Lawn we will have toasted marshmallows and some homemade Christmas treats for children and adults alike.

www.dunstable.gov.uk/mistletoe-magic

Themed Markets

Dunstable Town Council has been promoting a series of themed and craft markets on the second and third Saturday of each month since April. As we head towards Christmas this is a great way to pick a unique gift for a loved one or a little treat for yourself. The remaining themed markets are:

Craft Market

Saturday 21 October

Food & Drink Theme

Saturday 11 November

Craft Market

Saturday 18 November

*including Santa's Grotto
on the Market*

Christmas Theme

Saturday 9 December

Craft Market

Saturday 16 December

Markets take place between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm in Ashton Square area alongside Dunstable's regular market. If you are interested in having a stall, you can trade for only £15 per stall!

For more information please contact Dunstable Town Council.

DUNSTABLE
market



Scan the QR
Code to find
out more!

Get Your Skates On!

Are you a budding Torvill or Dean? Then, get your skates on and come down to The Square. For one week only, skate your way into the festive season.

Following the success of last year's rink, Dunstable will be hosting a synthetic ice rink as part of our Christmas festivities. This year the rink will be bigger than before, with lights, music and a snow machine provided to enhance your skating experience. So, make sure you take advantage of this skatetastic facility and the chance to practise your pirouettes! The ice rink will be open 11.00 am to 7.00 pm from Friday 15 to Friday 21 December.

Skate sessions last for 45 mins and tickets are £3 per person. Children under 14 yrs must not be left unaccompanied. This activity is not suitable for children under 4. Skating aids are available.

Tickets must be purchased in advance by visiting our website www.dunstable.gov.uk.

The synthetic ice rink has been part funded by the Dunstable Joint Committee.



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For further details visit www.dunstable.gov.uk or contact Lisa Vincent by telephone 01582 891406 or email at: lisa.vincent@dunstable.gov.uk

Dunstable's Green Spaces

Dunstable's Flower Power

Dunstable wins another gold at the Anglia in Bloom Awards

The Town Mayor of Dunstable, Councillor Gloria Martin and her Consort, Councillor Terry Colbourne, attended the Anglia in Bloom Awards Ceremony in Gorleston, near Great Yarmouth on 14 September along with members of Dunstable in Bloom and they were delighted to collect a number of awards. The Town achieved the following successes:

- An overall gold medal for the town
- A gold medal and 'best in class' award for Dunstable Cemetery (best cemetery in the Anglia region)
- A gold medal for Priory Gardens
- A 'best in class' award for Priory View (best sheltered housing garden in the Anglia region)
- A bronze medal for the Glider Pub
- Best in class nominations for Blows Down (conservation area category), Grove House Gardens (public open space category) and Joyce West and Andy Godly for best individual floral display



Commenting on this success, Councillor Gloria Martin, Town Mayor of Dunstable, expressed: 'how proud and delighted she was to be representing Dunstable at the awards ceremony. This success is so very well deserved by all the partners that took part in this year's Dunstable in Bloom campaign'. The Chairman of Dunstable in Bloom, Hugh Garrod, who also attended the award ceremony said: 'We are delighted to have retained our gold standard for the town with a sixth gold medal in eight years. Our community worked well together again in 2017 and we are very much looking forward to next year's campaign'.

The local Dunstable in Bloom Awards, organised by Dunstable in Bloom with support from the Town Council, took place on Tuesday 19 September at Weatherfield Academy and trophies were awarded for the Best Front Garden, Best Container and Hanging Basket, Best School Project, Best Allotment, Best Licensed Premises and Best Floral Wheelbarrow.

Wheelie Fantastic 2017

This year's 'Flower Power' theme was a big hit with those taking part in the Dunstable In Bloom wheelbarrow competition. There were over 20 entries from nurseries, schools, residential homes and community groups. The standard was so high that the judges had a really hard job of choosing the top three, so they included two highly recommended as well! The top prize went to Westfield Road Nursery for their 60s inspired VW wheelbarrow with Tudor House and their tribute to the decade coming a very close second. Thanks must also go to local businesses who donated money to purchase barrows, soil and flowers to enable more groups to take part. It really was the season of love.

If you would like to take part in next year's Wheelie Fantastic as a group or an individual, or if your company would like to sponsor a wheelbarrow please contact Sandy Coyle on 01582 891408 or sandy.coyle@dunstable.gov.uk to register your interest.



A Green Flag for Dunstable Cemetery

Dunstable Cemetery has been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as one of the very best in the world. The cemetery is among a record-breaking 1,797 UK parks and green spaces that have received a prestigious Green Flag Award – the mark of a quality park or green space.

Dunstable Town Council is extremely pleased and proud to have secured Green Flag status for Dunstable Cemetery. This is the third Green Flag site that the Council maintains and manages, having already secured Green Flags for Priory and Grove House Gardens.

The award is a sign to the public that the town's Cemetery boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is well maintained by the Town Council and has good visitor facilities.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Gloria Martin, raised the flag at a special ceremony on 7 September accompanied by fellow councillors, cemetery and grounds staff and partner organisations.

Councillor Liz Jones, Chairman of the Council's Grounds and Environmental Services Committee, said: 'I and my fellow Town Councillors are extremely proud of this latest award which shows what a fantastic job all our staff do in delivering great services to all of the towns residents'.

Friends of Dunstable Cemetery

Dunstable Cemetery is a wonderful area steeped in history and tradition. A place of reverence, remembrance and reflection with a deep connection to people and place. It is also a haven for wildlife with ancient trees and varied habitats and visitors enjoy this often quiet oasis in the heart of a busy urban environment. There is much to see, hear and learn, much to do and much to treasure. If you have an interest in this special place and would like to meet other likeminded people to form a Friends of Dunstable Cemetery then please contact Sandy Coyle on 01582 891408 or email sandy.coyle@dunstable.gov.uk or Mary Dobbs on mary.dobbs@dunstable.gov.uk or 01582 891428.

Spotlight

John Crawley

Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

In this winter edition, we shine the spotlight on the service and person who helped make Dunstable Bloom with flowers, beautiful green grass and winning awards for Dunstable over the summer. John Crawley is Head of Grounds and Environmental Services and has worked for Dunstable Town Council for 8 years.

How did you become Head of Grounds and Environmental Services?

Growing up in Welwyn Garden City, we always had a big garden at home and my father was a keen gardener and vegetable grower. I helped out a lot in the garden and decided to train as a horticulturist at Writtle College near Chelmsford. Armed with my new qualification, I moved to Lancashire in 1986 to begin my 30 year career in local Government. I was fortunate to work in various parks departments including Burnley, Blackburn and Preston and in 1997 I moved back south, with my young family, to take up the post of Parks Manager with Stevenage Borough Council. In 2009 I took up my current position with Dunstable Town Council.

What is your favourite plant and why? And do you know the name in Latin?

My favourite is the Indian bean tree – *Catalpa bignonioides* – It is a deciduous tree with a wonderful spreading habit, handsome large leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers in

late summer, followed by slender bean-like seed capsules. I have one in my garden and it provides great shade in the summer, it looks a bit exotic and the 'beans' are a very unusual thing to see on a tree. I guess I like it because it's a bit different.

In your role you manage football pitches, the cemetery and burials, playgrounds, parks and the flower displays but also you get involved in projects like the restored gateway in Priory Gardens. Are you working on any exciting projects at the moment?

With next year being the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War I am excited to be working with a number of community groups and organisations to refurbish the town's War Memorial in Priory Gardens. It is a privilege to be involved in helping to make sure that those who have sacrificed their lives in conflict continue to be honoured in the most fitting way.

Your job is very varied, what do you enjoy the most about your role?

The sheer variety of the work. No two days are the same. I am working with the community one day, managing budgets the next and then later maybe designing a new landscaping scheme. I get to work on many different projects as well from historic restorations, digitising the cemetery records going back to 1865 or building a new splash park. Life is never dull.

What is your biggest achievement, whilst at Dunstable Town Council?

I am probably most proud of leading our grounds team to achieving Green Flag status for three of the town's most prestigious open spaces; Priory Gardens, Grove House Gardens and this year adding Dunstable Cemetery. The Council works very hard to maintain and manage these spaces to a high standard so that they can be enjoyed by local people and the town's many visitors.

Do you have any hobbies you like to do outside of work?

As you may have realised, I enjoy gardening and in particular raising young plants from seed and cuttings. I am currently tracing my family history and have discovered that my great grandad was a nurseryman and

florist which was a nice surprise. I have also recently taken up running and completed a Couch-2-5K course running my first 5K Parkrun in Bedford in July. I now have my sights set on running a 10K race.

You have been at Dunstable Town Council for 8 years, what is the biggest change you have seen in Dunstable?

My office window looks onto the A5 High Street North and it is pleasing to say that there is a lot less traffic and noise on the High Street now that the A5-M1 link road and Woodside connection are open. I am particularly looking forward to seeing the plans to improve the High Street come to fruition over the next couple of years.

I hear you like globetrotting...what is your favourite holiday destination?

I am not one for sitting too long on the beach or by the pool and I really enjoy exploring and photographing new places. More recently my favourite destination has been Oslo in Norway and in particular gliding slowly up the fjords to reach Oslo harbour. The fjord landscape is just stunning.

If you could change one thing that affects your service what would it be and why?

I find it very frustrating that people think it is acceptable to drop litter and cigarette butts on the ground. The Council collects and disposes of many tonnes of waste each year and it would be great if people took more responsibility for disposing of their litter in the bins provided.

I've heard that you like a biscuit or two... if you could create your dream biscuit, what would it be?

It would be a biscuit with a soft caramel centre that could take a good dunking in a hot cup of tea without falling to the bottom of the cup. Some kind of super hobnob I guess. If the biscuit makers could add subtle cheese, onion and chili flavours as well that would make my dream biscuit.

And finally....if you were a superhero what would your powers be?

I would love to have the super power to influence people's thoughts and actions to stop them dropping litter.





DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL



Services Dunstable Town Council Provides For You

Main Council Reception 01582 513000

For more information visit www.dunstable.gov.uk

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 & Town Centre Ranger

Cleaning up the public places in Dunstable
Freephone 0800 013 0350

Grove Skate Park

01582 513000 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Bennett's Splash & Splashside Café

01582 891433 | james.slack@dunstable.gov.uk

Mayoral and Democratic Services

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

Events Programme *including:*

Dunstable Live, Fireworks, Party in the Park, Proms in the Park
01582 891406 | lisa.vincent@dunstable.gov.uk | 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

Older People's Support Service

Good Companions day care, 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 | cpcfcd@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:

.....
.....
.....

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.