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# AYLESHAM GARDEN VILLAGE NEWS

## THIS IS **YOUR** VILLAGE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2018

**Welcome** to the March issue of Aylesham Garden Village News. We hope you braved the worst of the recent bad weather and are looking forward to spring time. We have more details about the forthcoming Aylesham Community Exhibition and who has been chosen for this year's carnival court.

### GROUPS SIGN UP FAST FOR COMMUNITY EXHIBITION

#### 2018 AYLESHAM COMMUNITY EXHIBITION

Tuesday 20 March 3pm-7.30pm

St Peter's Church, Dorman Avenue North, Aylesham CT3 3BL

**Drop in to find out more  
about important community projects**

- The new skate park, teen shelter and outdoor gym
- The new park and play area
- Conversion of the MUGA to a 3G artificial surface at the leisure centre and plans for the refurbishment of the grass pitches
- Purpose built village hall led by the community.

#### Your village needs you!

Come and find out about the excellent volunteering opportunities in Aylesham and the benefits they offer.



Local organisations have been rushing to sign up for stands at the Aylesham Community Exhibition to be held at St Peter's Church on Tuesday 20 March.

Open between 3pm and 7.30pm, more than 20 groups and clubs have so far put down their names for a chance to promote themselves, recruit new members and volunteers to help with community projects.

The event will provide an ideal chance for residents – both established and newly arrived – to discover more about what local groups can offer them as well as

opportunities to join in a wide range of activities.

The growing list of exhibitors includes Aylesham Ladies Choir, Aylesham4Aylesham, Aylesham Bowls Club, Aylesham Parish Council, Pie Factory, Hawkinge Hurricanes running club, Beech Grove, Kent Libraries, Freedom Leisure and Bechange.

The parish council will be giving more detail about how money allocated under the Section 106 agreement connected with the Aylesham Garden Village Development will see the creation of a new skate park which is planned to open in June.

A newly formed village hall establishment committee will outline how it plans to take proposals forward for a new venue in Aylesham.

Aylesham Welfare & Leisure will set out the details of its scheme to provide new and updated facilities in the months ahead.

You will be able to find out more about local youth groups, including Beavers and Cubs as well as Army Cadets and the weekly sessions offered by Pie Factory. For the young at heart, both the village men's and ladies choirs will be attending, ready to welcome new singers to their ranks.

Bechange Community Hub will be providing details around its activities and support services. It has wide practical experience in offering free advice for families to help with budgeting, benefit entitlements, debt management and finding work. It also needs volunteers to help handle a growing workload.

The event is being facilitated by Dover District Council. Aylesham community development officer Emily Barnes said: "The event offers new and established residents an ideal opportunity to get involved with their village, make new friends and learn new skills. It's inspiring to see so such a wide variety of local groups wanting to take part too."

If your group has been sent a booking form and it hasn't yet been returned, please ensure that happens soonest! Completed forms can be sent to Emily Barnes via [emily.barnes@dover.gov.uk](mailto:emily.barnes@dover.gov.uk) or council press officer for Aylesham Nick Evans via [nick.evans@dover.gov.uk](mailto:nick.evans@dover.gov.uk)

### VILLAGE HALL GROUP UPDATE

Aylesham's Village Hall Establishment Group has received more than £2,000 during February to help with its campaigning work for a new venue in the village.

The parish council agreed to award £1,200 at its monthly meeting and a further £1,000 has been granted by the Aylesham Project Trust.

Village hall group secretary Lawrence Knight said: "This money will enable us to produce leaflets and promotional materials setting out the case for a new venue and we expect to have the first of that available at the community exhibition on Tuesday 20 March.

"We look forward to hearing residents' ideas for facilities at that event.

"Most recently the group has been exploring avenues of funding as well as exploring with Dover District Council ideas for possible sites for a new village hall!"

### RESIDENTS WARM WELCOME TO THE GATEAU



Residents who have moved house to Aylesham in recent times are especially welcome to a coffee morning at Jam and Roses in Cornwallis Road on Sunday 25 March.

The doors will be open between 10am and 2pm for the event which, says proprietor Adina Plews, is aiming to encourage new and established people to meet each other.

Adina said: "Aylesham has a very strong community spirit and I want to show that off to its best at the coffee morning. Everyone is welcome to come along and say hello, whether they have lived here for a few weeks or for 30 plus years!"

During the afternoon, visitors to Jam and Roses will have the chance to meet members of the Village Hall Establishment Group, find out more about the project and offer ideas about the facilities to include.

For those who need an incentive, there will be plenty of Adina's delicious home made cakes available too . . . .

## NICOLE IS AYLESHAM'S CARNIVAL QUEEN



Aylesham's carnival court was chosen at a packed event in late February when 12 year old Nicole Milton, one of last year's princesses, was crowned Miss Aylesham 2018.

She was one of six to enter the senior selection and they included 14 year old Ellie Chown and 15 year old Charlotte O'Sullivan who become this year's princesses.

Kira Holt, Hunni Richards, 8, and Zara Mitchell, 11, were chosen to be Aylesham's junior court with Kira taking the junior queen title.

Carnival association chairman Alan Watson said a busy year lay ahead for the girls and the volunteer helpers who take them to and from events.

"They will be going to around 40 events between now and October. The first engagement was attending the selection of the Ramsgate court, while their first carnival will be at Lydd in June.

"All the associations try to support one another so we were pleased to welcome several to our selection which included both groups from Dover as well as Deal, Sandwich, Margate, Ramsgate, Sheppey, Sittingbourne and Teynham to name but a few," said Alan. "It was great to see St Finbarr's Church so busy."

One of the decisions yet to be made is the theme for this year's float. The court is asked to come up with ideas before being unveiled at Lydd carnival. It is kept carefully under wraps until then as a surprise both to the girls and other groups, Alan explained.

Anybody who is able to volunteer time or runs a business able to offer sponsorship is welcome to phone Alan on 01304 840482 or email him via [info@ayleshamcarnival.co.uk](mailto:info@ayleshamcarnival.co.uk).

This year's carnival in Aylesham will be held on Saturday 22 September and this will be preceded by a fete in Market Place earlier in the day.

## GARDEN VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

New homes on the Aylesham Garden Village development continue to be built and sold quickly by both developers, Barratt Homes and Persimmon Homes.

Barratt reports that, to date, it has completed a total of 230 properties and has another 80-95 under construction at any one time, numbers vary according to progress on site and weather conditions.

Some 94 of the homes built in phases one and two have been purchased using the government's Help To Buy scheme, which enables first time buyers to borrow money from the government to cover part of their total mortgage.

While many buyers purchase after viewing the developers' websites, a growing number are doing so on recommendations from friends or family who have already bought a property at the development, say Barratt Homes.

According to social media, residents moving in to their new homes have been made to feel very welcome to the area by their neighbours and others across the village.

## GENTS – GET ON SONG WITH YOUR VILLAGE CHOIR

More voices are needed to swell the ranks of the Snowdown Colliery Welfare Male Voice Choir which has exciting plans looming this year and next.

Preparations are well in hand for a concert at London's Royal Albert Hall in May when the choir will join many others, mainly from Wales, to take part in a massed Welsh choir concert of 1,000 voices. Later this year, choristers will travel to Belgium to perform well known songs at the Menin Gate in Ypres, as part of events marking the centenary of the end of the First World War.

The choir meets for practice and rehearsals every Monday evening in Aylesham at St Finbarr's Church in Market Place. During February the singers were put through their paces by Dr Alwyn Humphrys, of the Morriston Orpheus Choir, from Swansea, to assess members' readiness for the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 19 May. Happily, the choristers passed with flying colours! They were able to give a rousing rendition of Rachie for the conductor and this can be enjoyed on the choir's Facebook page.

Next year, the choir will be celebrating its 90th year. One of the events planned is a joint concert, in Wales with the Morriston Orpheus Choir.

Peter Cosier, the choir's press officer, said: "We present more than 20 concerts a year and also volunteer monthly in a Silver Song Club to promote social inclusion. We also run schools workshops aimed at sharing with children how a choir works, helping to maintain an awareness of male voice tradition and - who knows - sowing the seeds of interest in potential future members?"

"We are currently actively recruiting and extend an invitation to all local gents over 16 to come along on a Monday night at 7.30pm St Finbarrs Church, in Aylesham to give us a try.

"No auditions, but be assured, a suitable section for your voice will be found, be it high or low! One thing is certain, a very warm welcome from the existing members and a hobby that could see you singing all over the country and Europe."

**More information from Peter on 07342 960927.**



## TEMPORARY OFF-PEAK ROAD CLOSURES IN AYLESHAM

Off-peak closures of part of Ratling Road, Aylesham, are planned from Monday 19 March for up to five days between 9.30am to about 3.30pm each day. Ratling Road will be closed between the junctions with Burgess Road and Ackholt Road.

Access to the rest of Ratling Road continues from Adisham Road direction to where the road is actually closed. The alternative route for through traffic is via Cornwallis Avenue, Dorman Avenue North, B2046 Adisham Road, Cooting Road, Spinney Lane and Ackholt Road, back to Ratling Road.

The closures are to allow safe access to underground structures to enable phone cabling work to be carried out by BT Openreach. It's possible the work may overrun for such reasons as adverse weather conditions or unforeseen engineering difficulties.

## Aylesham Garden Village News

is produced by Dover District Council and edited by PR & Communications Officer Nick Evans who can be contacted via [nick.evans@dover.gov.uk](mailto:nick.evans@dover.gov.uk)

Full information about the council and its services can be found online at [www.dover.gov.uk](http://www.dover.gov.uk)

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Fly-tipping and dog fouling issues can be reported to the district council via 01304 872289.

You can email civil enforcement officers via [envcrime@dover.gov.uk](mailto:envcrime@dover.gov.uk)