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AYLESHAM GARDEN VILLAGE NEWS

YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR THE WHOLE VILLAGE - MARCH 2021

STARS OF THE VILLAGE RECOGNISED BY THE COMMUNITY



**Thank you to our Community Stars
(not all names are listed):**

Alison Mansell, Amanda Carr, Billy Oliver, Carena Crowhurst, Carina Jarvie, Carla Richardson-Chown, Christopher Hyndman, Eduardo Cordero, Gemma Richardson, Heather Ratcliffe, Ian Thomas, Jamie Pout, Jasmine Cox, Jo Cartledge, Jon Nee, Jordan Spicer, Kay Sutcliffe, Keith Mansell, Kerrylyn James, Lawrence Knight, Lee Prescott, Lisa Downes, Mallory Sauniere, Marilyn Burrows, Mark Morgan, Mark Townsend, Natalie Musgrove, Nick Ratcliffe, Nicky Cox, Pauline Owen, Philip Sutcliffe, Rebecca Hansell, Richard Beer, Robert Dunkley, Ronnie Hill, Rowan Helen-Louise Neame, Sam Pout, Sara MacCallum, Shane Scott, Stephen Williams, Su Hill, Sue Bott, Terri Hughes, Valerie Thomas

Over 70 people were nominated as 'Community Stars' by fellow villagers in December, and some of their names were revealed on social media throughout the Christmas month. The social media posts developed an excellent following with all the "Mug Shot" posts receiving between 300 and 1000 "likes".

Community Stars is a way to say thank you to those residents who make Aylesham village a better place to live. The scheme celebrates how the village has come together over the years to support one another and recognises those individuals who have given their time voluntarily and gone the extra mile to help others in our community. Anyone who received two or more nominations earned themselves a Community Star Certificate, commemorative mug, and an online 'Thank you' on behalf of everyone in the village.

"It was a really positive project to be involved with and great that it captured the festive spirit." said Emily Barnes, DDC's Community Development Officer. "I would really like to thank all those who took the time to nominate the Community Stars and for the brilliant local partnership that enabled it all to happen. It has been great to hear all the positive comments coming in and hearing about all the hard work of Aylesham villagers to help other villagers".

The partnership involved Aylesham Hub and the Aylesham Co-op team who delivered the project with the support of Emily Barnes the DDC Community Officer. None of it could have been done without the project funders, Aylesham Parish Council and Aylesham District & Community Workshop Trust who were quick to offer their support to the project.

"This came as a real surprise; I have always been happy, along with many other volunteers in the community, to work on projects to help make the village a great place to live and I feel overwhelmed with the appreciation shown in this gesture."

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW



Dover District Council has published the first draft of its new Local Plan setting out the vision and framework for development in the district to 2040.

Local residents, businesses, community groups, and statutory consultees are invited to review and comment on the draft Local Plan during the first round of public consultation, which launched in January and runs until 17 March.

A dedicated Local Plan website www.doverdistrictlocalplan.co.uk has been developed, as well as online events. Recordings of previous Teams Live Events are available to view.

Please contact the team with any questions or queries by emailing localplan@dover.gov.uk or calling 01304 872244, 10am-12 noon, Mon-Thurs.



A bold vision for 2040

CENSUS 2021

census 2021

Census day is on March 21 - households will now be receiving letters with online codes explaining how they can complete their forms.

If you don't get one in the next couple of weeks, please get in touch with the census contact centre. You can also request a paper questionnaire if you'd prefer to complete your census that way.

Local census support centres will be open while the census is happening. Staff will offer help for people not confident online, who don't have a computer or need help completing on paper.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, except in 1941. For more information, and to find out how to get help, please visit www.census.gov.uk or call the contact centre on 0800 141 2021

AYLESHAM CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION

The Carnival Association is busy planning their community events. The much-loved Carnival is planned for Saturday 18 September and December's Christmas Lantern Parade will be back bigger and even better this year with 300 kits to be given out and some large focal point lanterns added to the spectacle. The theme will most likely be 'Miners Lanterns'.



AYLESHAM BUSINESS NETWORK

The business group meets every 2nd Thursday in the month (currently online) at 8am. Please email sara@slswillsandmore.co.uk if you would like to attend.



Spring is in the air and the green shoots of all the different elements of the ASPIRE project are starting to grow. The focus group, made up of local people and those with expertise in the areas of wellbeing, food, horticulture, employment and training, are meeting monthly to act as a sounding board for the project plans. Smaller groups are looking in more detail at the various activities that will be offered to people who join the project to help them to live healthily, lose weight and learn new skills to get back to employment.

ASPIRE will be providing a programme of activities that will enable participants to improve their health and wellbeing, lose weight (through being more active and eating more healthily), learn new skills and improve their employability by gaining qualifications and undertaking work experience and volunteering.

ASPIRE is working with referral partners to ensure that everyone in the Dover district who could benefit from taking part in ASPIRE will have the opportunity to do so. As well as being referred to the project from agencies such as NHS One You, Job Centres and GP's social prescribers, people will also be able to apply direct themselves. If you meet the criteria of being overweight or obese and/or unemployed (or in insecure part-time work) and would like to take part, you will be able to apply to join the project – please contact Bechange if you are interested (details below).

The garden at Bechange is being transformed. Kitchen garden expert, Rachel Clark (who managed the beautiful kitchen garden at Walmer Castle Gardens for many years), has drawn up a wonderful design for the kitchen garden which will have all the facilities for growing a wide variety of fruit and vegetables. There will be a polytunnel to extend the growing season, space for outdoor learning, wheelchair-accessible raised beds and much more. We will be sharing photos of the landscaping as it starts to take shape.

We are delighted that two ASPIRE Project Coordinators – Anna Nicholls and Rowan Neame – have been appointed to join the team in early April. Based at Bechange, they will be helping to shape the project and working with participants to guide them through their ASPIRE journey.

If you would like to get involved in ASPIRE at Bechange, either by volunteering your time or by taking part in the project to improve your health and wellbeing, lose weight and gain new skills, please contact Angela Doggett at angela.doggett@bechange.org.uk or call 01304 840134.



Aylesham4Aylesham

The group has recently held its Annual General Meeting and re-elected a full committee with Ronnie Hill as Chairperson. The team continues to roll out the defibrillator project and is also planning this year's free community events including the Summer Fayre currently planned for 24 July as well as the Christmas Choir Concert and Xmas Market in December.

VOLUNTEER FOR ASSWS AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Aylesham & Snowdown Social Welfare Scheme (ASSWS) is looking for three enthusiastic volunteers to come on board.

The charity is looking to recruit a Treasurer, Secretary and Minute Secretary to help support the Trust. Please contact Derek Garrity MBE derek@aylesham.org.uk if you are interested/for a job description. Closing date for applications is 28 March 2021.

ASSWS is responsible for Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre (AWLC) and the Aylesham Spinney Lane sports pitches. The centre is run on a day-to-day basis by Invicta Community and Leisure which is part of the West Faversham Community Association, a registered charity.

The new operators have refurbished the gym and family-friendly bar, as well as introducing a new café area downstairs. A popular new Sunday youth club was also introduced before lockdown. The team look forward to developing new services for the local community, and welcome new members.



AYLESHAM HEALTH CENTRE USED TO VACCINATE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE STAFF

Thousands of health and social care staff have received the Covid vaccination at Aylesham Health Centre.

The centre was open from the end of December to the first week in February as part of the vaccination programme in Kent and Medway. Aylesham was a 'hospital hub' site – meaning mainly for pre-booked NHS, care home and hospice staff (patient-facing only).

The site closed in February as staff were needed to be deployed elsewhere and the centre will open once again in mid-March for the second doses.

Around 100 members of staff worked there while the vaccinations took place: vaccinators, administrators, pharmacists and volunteers. Around 400 people were vaccinated a day between 8am and 7pm.

For further information about the covid vaccination programme, visit www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk



CHILDREN'S PLAY PARKS



Aylesham's new play park equipment has now been completed in the park on Central Boulevard and includes swings, a slide and a roundabout.

Work has now also begun at Hill Crescent Park where temporary fencing has been installed so that the new park landscaping can begin. The whole area will be landscaped with grasses and shrubs with some wildflower areas and then a zip wire and new play equipment will be installed.

With the exception of some seasonal planting, the area is expected to be complete within 5 months.

NEWS FROM BECHANGE

If the roadmap out of Lockdown continues as planned by the government, we hope to open properly again from 12 April, and will provide our drop-in support sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am -12 noon.

Local people can then drop in and see a support worker to discuss a range of matters including benefits, employment and skills, wellbeing, family difficulties and housing following Covid secure guidelines (hands, face, space).

We will also continue to provide services over the telephone or virtually so if you don't feel comfortable coming into the hub, you can call us on 07484 221970 or 01304 840134.

We hope to re-start a programme of Bechange activities in the spring so please keep an eye on our Bechange Community Hub Facebook page as we release more information about clubs and workshops at the Hub.

During the pandemic we have regularly picked up "still good to eat" food from our local supermarkets; Co-op and Tesco's for local people to pick up, saving the food from going into landfill. Last autumn we received funding from DDC to start a community fridge and we are really excited to get this going once the lockdown finishes. We are sure it is going to be very popular with our community who recognise the importance of stopping good food going to waste.

We have been providing keeping healthy and mindfulness packs to families with primary school children. The packs include: creative ideas and practical activities. If you are interested in receiving one, we will be covering themes such as Mother's Day, Easter and spring, please contact us for more information.

We have also been providing creative craft packs for adults; there is a closed Facebook group where you can access videos and instructions on how to make activities, or we can send you instructions in the activity pack.

We continue to work closely with Deal Area Foodbank. If you, or someone you know, are struggling with being able to afford food and need foodbank parcels, you can contact us. The foodbank will deliver food direct to your door.

Our online Annual General Meeting is on 22nd March at 1pm over Zoom. If you would like to attend, please email enquiries@bechange.org.uk for the meeting link.



Emily Barnes

**Community Development
Officer for Aylesham.**

Community meetings are held
monthly online. All welcome.

Contact Emily for more information
and the meeting link.
emily.barnes@dover.gov.uk
07834 148 409

YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Aylesham and Snowdown form part of Dover District Council's ward of Aylesham, Eythorne and Sheperdswell, represented by three councillors. They are:

Cllr Linda Keen, Labour,
01227 830790

cllr-linda.keen@dover.gov.uk

Cllr Peter Walker, Independent,
07768 106009

cllr-peter.walker@dover.gov.uk

Cllr Charles Woodgate, Labour,
cllr-charles.woodgate@dover.gov.uk

Further details about their individual
council responsibilities can be viewed on the
Dover District Council website
www.dover.gov.uk

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY DATES FOR THE DIARY (restrictions permitting!)

COMMUNITY NETWORKING MEETING
Wednesday 24 March, 2pm-3pm
Email: emily.barnes@dover.gov.uk
for the Zoom link

SUMMER FAYRE
Saturday 24 July

AYLESHAM CARNIVAL PARADE
Saturday 18 September

LANTERN PARADE
December – date tbc

Useful phone numbers and emails

Please help Kent Police and Dover District Council maintain Aylesham's record of low crime by reporting directly to them anything suspicious you may see or hear. The more detail you can provide, the better.

You can report antisocial behaviour of any kind by simply phoning Kent Police on 101 and leaving a voice message or calling Dover District Council's Community Safety Unit on 01304 872220.

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

For incidents at the railway station or on the tracks, please text the British Transport Police via 61016, call Eyewitness on 0330 095 8444 or email eyewitness@southeasternrailway.co.uk

For after sales support on the Aylesham Garden Village development, Persimmon Homes customers can contact local site manager Aaron Bhat on 07990 004640.

Persimmon's out of hours team (4.30pm–9am Monday to Friday and 24 hours a day at weekends) can be reached on 08700 605520.

For customers of Barratt Homes, please call 01304 841214 who will be able to arrange help and advice.

You can also email the district council's planning enforcement team via planningenforcement@dover.gov.uk and in emergencies only 07864 608817.

Aylesham Garden Village News

Follow Aylesham Garden Village on Twitter @ayleshamgarden and subscribe to Aylesham updates at www.dover.gov.uk/keepmeposted for up to date news. Aylesham Garden Village News (www.ayleshamgardenvillage.co.uk) is produced by

Dover District Council and edited by the Communications Team.

Full information about the council and its services – which include bin collections and planning applications – can be found online at www.dover.gov.uk