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AYLESHAM GARDEN VILLAGE NEWS

YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR THE WHOLE VILLAGE - JULY 2021

BOOK A LOCAL JOURNEY ON A STAGECOACH MINIBUS



Aylesham will soon welcome a brand-new minibus service that will complement existing bus services and bring a 21st century travel solution to the expanding village.

These smaller buses will transport passengers efficiently around the local area, and link in with other bus and rail service interchanges. The minibuses can travel easily along smaller roads.

Rides can be booked directly from the passenger's smartphone by selecting their preferred pick-up and drop-off location.

This is how it will work:

- The passenger will use an app on their smart phone to book a journey whenever they want – the service won't run to a fixed timetable
- It does allow for telephone bookings too for those without a phone or internet access
- The app is optimised to pick up other passengers who want to head in the same direction
- The service will connect with Stagecoach buses into Dover and Canterbury from either Whitfield or Aylesham
- The service will run from 0700 to 1900 Monday to Friday and 0900 to 1700 on Saturday
- The two minibuses will complement existing bus services
- There will be space on the minibuses for push chairs and wheelchair access
- The app will display the price and time of each journey as well as track your journey

The map shows the boundary within which the minibuses will operate.

They will serve all current marked bus stops in this area as well as additional "virtual" stops which will be strategically located to provide conveniently located bus stops for as many people as possible.

This service will be a pilot scheme and developed over time as Stagecoach begins to understand more about customers' travel needs/and how they use the service. The various icons on the map show:

- Points where people can interchange on to other bus services to Canterbury and Dover (green dots)
- Key destinations - Tesco, Leisure Centre and the Council Offices (purple pointers)
- Railway stations (orange)

Stagecoach invites the local community to come up with ideas for a name/brand for the new service and the colour(s) to be used. A specialist vehicle livery designer can then ensure that the design will set the right tone whilst being practical, robust and easy to maintain.

The photo shows what the minibuses will look like (colour will be white). More details about the scheme will follow.

AYLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEW WEBSITE

Aylesham Parish Council has recently launched its newly designed website. Grab a cuppa, and visit www.ayleshampc.co.uk which has plenty of useful information for local residents and lists all the scheduled council meetings. The Government has advised that all councillors must now meet face-to-face, however, Aylesham Parish Council are encouraging residents to still attend meetings virtually. The office is still closed for now due to works required at Aylesham House, so the parish clerks are working from home and they can be contacted via email at:

ayleshamparishcouncil@btinternet.com

or by calling 07830 312500 (Parish Clerk) or 0730 353872 (Assistant Clerk).

COMMUNITY EVENTS

• 24 July

The Fair on the Square

12 noon until 9pm. Come along and enjoy good food and licensed refreshments, local craft and community stalls, live music, dance and DJs in Aylesham Market Square. For more information, contact aylesham4aylesham@hotmail.co.uk

• 21 August

The Aylesham Community Project Open Day

10am-6pm. Welcoming everyone to join us and see what our local businesses on site have to offer. The Aylesham Heritage Centre is running tours around the main building and exhibitions in the main hall together with friends from Elvington & Eythorne Heritage Group. Other groups are welcome to exhibit in the main hall.

Partners - Aspire and Bechange - will be on site showcasing their projects and services they have to offer while entertainment and activities will take place in the rear car park. There will also be a short thanksgiving service.

For more information contact: derek@aylesham.org.uk and/or lisa@aylesham.org.uk



The ASPIRE mission is to deliver an inclusive programme that develops healthy, skilled and working communities.

Summer is here and the ASPIRE hub at Bechange is ready for participants to join the project. If you are unemployed or in temporary, insecure work and would like to start leading a healthier life and lose weight but don't know where to start, ASPIRE is here to support you. The friendly team will explain the project and help you plan your ASPIRE pathway, whether that's coming along to volunteer in the garden, taking part in some of the activities, doing work experience or training courses or taking part in everything on offer. You choose what you would like to do.

The kitchen garden is starting to take shape but there is still plenty to do – come along and help to create a wonderful community space. Get involved either as a volunteer to help with planting and maintenance or to learn from scratch from others. Rachel Clark, who used to run the kitchen garden at Walmer Castle Gardens, will be running sessions on Mondays from 10am-2pm, where she will share her knowledge on everything you need to know about growing. They'll also be running other sessions in the garden, from planting up pots to take home, to gardening for wildlife.

ASPIRE cooking sessions start in August, but they are planning a couple of outdoor cookery pop-ups in late July. Keep an eye on their social media pages for details and come along for a taste of what will be on offer.

Making big lifestyle changes depends on having strong foundations and personal wellbeing is a large part of this. They will be running sessions to combat anxiety, boost self-confidence and support people to be more active. Participants will be able to access the NHS One You Weight Loss and Healthy Lifestyle programmes working with One You staff at the hub and ASPIRE coordinators Anna and Rowan will support people throughout their time with ASPIRE.

To get involved and take part in ASPIRE, please call 01304 840134 or email enquiries@bechange.org.uk

Follow on Facebook: @AspireProjectEastKent Instagram: @aspireeastkent Twitter: @AspireKent

POP UP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Emily Barnes, the Community Development Officer for Aylesham has been out and about with members from Bechange and the Aylesham Hub at various sites in the village. The team has been sharing information on what is happening across the village as services, clubs and groups open up! Look out for the blue Dover Gazebo and pop over for a chat.

More dates are planned for August.

The flyer features a background image of a rural landscape with a blue sky and green fields. At the top right is the Dover District Council logo. Below the image are four speech bubbles containing the words 'HI!', 'WELCOME', 'HELLO', and 'YES!'. The main text reads: 'If you are new to Aylesham, just curious, want to know what Aylesham has to offer or you would like to get more involved why don't you . . . DROP IN AND MEET US!'. Below this, it lists a series of pop-up events: 'MONDAY 5TH JULY 2-4pm Skate Park', 'TUESDAY 13TH JULY 12-2pm Market Square', 'MONDAY 2ND AUGUST 2-4pm Skate Park', 'TUESDAY 10TH AUGUST 12-2pm New Park', and 'WEDNESDAY 18TH AUGUST 2-4pm Market Square'. A note states: 'These are outdoor events so will be held weather permitting. Please contact Emily to confirm if you are unsure.' At the bottom, it provides contact information for Emily Barnes: 'Emily Barnes - Community Development Officer, Aylesham Email: Emily.Barnes@dover.gov.uk Phone: 07834148409'.



NEWS FROM THE BECHANGE COMMUNITY HUB

Working in partnerships with Kent Enterprise Trust and Kent Adult Education, Bechange Community Hub has restarted educational activities and workshops to help adults gain new skills.

These include the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS), Emergency First Aid, Food Safety and Health and Safety in the Workplace.

In addition, the popular Food 4 Thought course, funded by Kent Community Foundation is being delivered virtually with participants receiving ingredient and following instructions via YouTube from our Senior Support Worker, Nicky.

Following the Government announcement on 19 July, Bechange hopes to be able to start more informal activities again such as the popular Busy Bees upcycling and craft club. For families with children aged 5-9, family group workshops will start in the school holidays and include fun activities to do together (sessions will include a light lunch).

Bechange's support team also provides individual sessions for families who need help with a range of issues that are challenging for family life, please contact Nicky or Rachel for more information.

Bechange continues to provide drop-in sessions every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning 10am to 12pm, if you need support with matters such as benefits, employment and skills, wellbeing, family difficulties, finance or housing call in for an initial chat with one of the team. Alternatively, you can contact a support worker for an initial discussion on the phone.

If you are struggling and need food, you can now access the Foodbank at Bechange Community Hub on a Thursday morning from 9am to 11.30am. You can speak directly to one of the Foodbank volunteers and do not need to have a foodbank voucher beforehand. If you need food before a Thursday, please contact Bechange or alternatively Deal Area Foodbank on 01304 374333 for assistance.

Bechange volunteers continue to pick up "still good to eat" food from local supermarkets and are particularly grateful to Tesco, Whitfield and Co-op, Aylesham. From Tesco alone, Bechange has picked up 3666kg of food (the equivalent of 8729 meals) over the last 15 months.

Food collected from the supermarkets is then made available to local people at the Bechange Community Hub. Please watch out for availability of food which is announced via our Facebook page.

With the help of funding from a Dover District Council Community Grant, Bechange also has a Community Fridge, which is available weekdays 10am-2pm. The scheme aims to encourage local businesses and people to share surplus food items, whilst helping residents to access nutritious food, save money and reduce waste.

BECHANGE LAUNCHES THE 'PINK BAG' SCHEME

Period poverty affects one in every 10 women in the UK. If you, or somebody you know, are unable to afford essential sanitary items, pop into Bechange. All staff are familiar with the scheme so simply ask a member of the team for a 'Pink bag' and you will be given a bag containing sanitary items.

If you need more than one bag or are collecting for a friend, that is ok too. Bechange welcomes donations of sanitary items to support this scheme.

Bechange Community Hub is a Covid secure centre. People visiting the hub should follow guidelines. Bechange regularly updates their social media pages with information on activities and services.

You can follow Bechange on:

Facebook: @supportbechange1

Instagram: @bechangecommunityhub20

Twitter: @supportbechange

Phone: 01304 840134, 07484 221970 or 01304 840134

REOPENING OF THE CAFÉ



Lulu McMahon is the new proprietor of the Sunshine Café. Lulu plans to rebrand the café with her already established business name 'Cooked with Love'.

Everyone who knows Lulu has been congratulating her on the Aylesham and District Trust Facebook page. In response, Lulu said "Thank you everyone for your kind words and best wishes. I cannot wait to open! The opening date will be posted soon."

"In the meantime, if you haven't already, please follow 'Cooked with Love' on Facebook as all cafe updates will be published here."

Photo courtesy of Aylesham and District Workshop Trust

JOIN THE AYLESHAM BUSINESS NETWORK



Aylesham Business Network is a group of like-minded business owners of Aylesham who meet once a month to support each other and to give something back to the community of Aylesham. They are currently meeting on Zoom, but once able to go back face to face, they will be meeting at Aylesham & District Workshop Trust.

They are a not for profit organisation and charge a small annual fee. They will support the local community via various community activities in the district and any excess funds will be donated back via the Aylesham Parish Council.

So if you are a business owner, operating in Aylesham and District (includes Nonington, Snowdown, Adisham up to Marshborough (border with Sandwich)), and would like to join in on the second Thursday every month at 8am for about 40-60 minutes, then please contact Sara (sara@slswillsandmore.co.uk) to find out more.

Follow us on Facebook: @AyleshamBusinessNetwork

NEXT AYLESHAM COMMUNITY NETWORKING MEETING

Local Clubs, groups and charities are invited to attend the next Networking meeting which will be the first anniversary celebration of the zoom sessions. The networking meetings have been really successful since moving online in July 2020 and are open to representatives to join and share information with one another about activities and services they offer, and to provide a space for mutual support. Please email Emily.Barnes@dover.gov.uk for further information.

REMEMBERING JULIA



It has been an extremely difficult time for the family and friends of local Aylesham resident, PCSO Julia James, who tragically lost her life in April while out walking with her pet dog, Toby.

Such a senseless act has meant that the life of a much-loved lady has been cruelly taken, and the community has struggled to understand the reason why. Julia's family said "There are no words to adequately describe the void left in our lives by the death of our mum. She was so much to so many people; a wife, mother, daughter, nanny, sister and a friend. Mum was fiercely loyal, she loved with her whole heart and nothing was too much trouble for the people she cared about."

They added: "Her loss will be felt by us every moment of every day. She will be so sorely missed. As a family we are trying to understand how we will navigate our lives without her, it seems an impossible task."

Dover District Council, the Parish Council and the local churches would like to pledge their continued support to Julia's family and the wider Aylesham community.

Drop-in outdoor community sessions have taken place in Aylesham and its surrounding villages, and the dedicated Community Officer, Emily Barnes, is working closely with local partners including Kent Police, the Aylesham Hub, Bechange, AspireKent and Aylesham's Welfare team to support community activities and events over the summer.

Churches in Aylesham continue to open for reflection, and to provide a quiet space to sit, pray, or light a candle from 11am – 2pm on:

- Tuesday at Aylesham Baptist
- Wednesday at St Finbarr's
- Thursday at St Peter's.

Julia joined Kent Police in 2008 as a crime reduction PCSO and more recently had supported victims of domestic abuse, based at Canterbury police station. As a dedicated PCSO, a policing award has been named in her honour by Kent Police. A memorial will be planned for Julia by her family when the time is right.

A person has been arrested in connection with her death and has been remanded in custody. A provisional date for the trial has been scheduled for 29 November 2021.

LOCAL PLAN – NEXT PHASE



Dover District Council is thanking everyone for getting involved and sharing their views and is now publishing the responses to a key consultation on the draft Local Plan, which sets out the vision and framework for development in the district to 2040.

The Council is reviewing all the comments and deciding what changes will be needed to address issues that have been raised. It is also updating the evidence base and carrying out assessment of sites submitted through the targeted call for sites.

Local residents, businesses, community groups, and statutory consultees were invited to review and comment on the draft Local Plan earlier in the year. The consultation included public and online events, and a dedicated Local Plan website was set up.

It is intended that an amended draft (called a Regulation 19 draft) will be ready for further consultation in early 2022.

For more information, please see the dedicated Local Plan website at www.doverdistrictlocalplan.co.uk/ and sign up to planning updates at www.dover.gov.uk/keepmeposted



A bold vision for 2040

BARRATT'S CHARITY OF THE YEAR

Children's charity the NSPCC has been nominated as Kent housebuilder Barratt David Wilson Homes' Charity of the Year. The housebuilder, who is behind the Aylesham Village development in Aylesham, has donated a total of £25,000, and will be continuing to fundraise throughout the rest of the year to support the charity's vital services, which have been more in demand over the past year due to lockdown.

Staff have been fundraising hard with activities including climbing Mount Snowdon and taking on this year's Tough Mudder in London.

PERSIMMON'S BUILDING FUTURES £1 MILLION SCHEME TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S HEALTH, SPORT, EDUCATION AND ARTS

Persimmon Homes is delighted to have joined forces with Team GB - the British Olympic Association - to give away over £1 million to help projects for young people aged under 18 across England, Wales and Scotland.

Building Futures will offer three major prizes to fund projects for children in education & arts, sport and health. Each category has a first prize of £100k, second prize of £50k and third prize of £20k.

Alongside the top prizes, they also have smaller individual prizes of £1,000 each to give away from now through to August 2021, and 87 shortlisted finalists who do not win one of the main prizes will receive £5,000 as a runner-up.

Simply complete Persimmon's application form on their website at www.persimmonhomes.com/building-futures telling them why your group or organisation deserves funding and what you will spend the money on should you be lucky enough to win.

THE KENT MINING MUSEUM AT BETTESHANGER PARK



The Kent Mining Heritage Foundation (KMHF) is working in partnership with Betteshanger Park and the Kent coalfield mining heritage centres to collect, care and promote the fascinating and unique story of Kent's mining heritage.

The KMHF was established in 2016, is a charitable incorporated organisation (Charity No. 1165403), and the aims of the project are:

- To collate and conserve the stories and collections of the Kent mining communities, in an exciting and engaging new museum
- To enable a wide range of people to participate in, and learn about, Kent's mining heritage
- To conserve the heritage for present and future generations to experience and enjoy
- To celebrate the coalmining industry in Kent and its wide economic and social impact
- To bring together the Kent mining communities, their stories and collections
- To achieve Museum Accreditation within two years of operation.

SUBMIT YOUR MEMORIES

Did you live in one of Kent's coal mining communities? Do you have memories of miners in the local community? Are you from a mining family? Or perhaps you worked in the coal mining industry?

The Kent Mining Museum is off to a great start with building a memory collection, but they need more stories, your stories, and would really like you to get involved. Please get in touch - they would love to hear from you.

www.kentminingmuseum.co.uk/get-involved/

VOLUNTEER AND BE A PART OF THE HISTORIC MINING CENTRE

Every volunteer offers invaluable support to the Kent Mining Museum and, once open, they will be grateful of any additional help and support you can give. Volunteering provides an opportunity for you to bring your skills, experience, and enthusiasm to a broad range of tasks while also becoming part of a supportive team and community and learning new skills. Whether it be cataloguing objects, delivering learning programmes, conserving artefacts or giving a talk, you will be helping visitors to enjoy their experience at the Kent Mining Museum.



AYLESHAM HERITAGE CENTRE

(AYLESHAM HOUSE, DORMAN AVENUE SOUTH)

Aylesham Heritage Centre is open to the public every Wednesday from 10am- 2pm. It is a well-used community resource, run wholly by volunteers, mostly ex-miners and people who have a mining connection in their family. The centre tells the story of the village since its green field birth in 1927 and of the colliery it was built to serve, Snowdown.

The Aylesham collection is centred on the people of the village. It includes a large collection of school photos dating from the early 30's, and importantly school records from the same period.

The team has exhaustively researched the men who died at Snowdown Colliery, and have constructed a memorial garden in their memory which can be seen at the Heritage Centre.

The collection also includes a lot of Snowdown Colliery and sporting memorabilia reflecting the development of Aylesham as a vibrant community.

PUPILS AT ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL RAISE £500 FOR CHARITY

Every Lent the children at St. Joseph's raise money for a chosen charity and, although they had to do things differently this year, the school continued with their fundraising efforts. It was a real community effort as many local businesses kindly offered their support through the donation of prizes.

This year, the school's chosen charity was Place2Be and after a very exciting raffle draw, a quick tally found that the school community had raised an astounding £500. The school also had some very excited children consuming a large amount of chocolate!





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



Rebecca Dyer
Community Development
Team Leader

rebecca.dyer@dover.gov.uk
07891 821 051



Samantha Stanley
Community Development
Officer (Aspire)

samantha.stanley@
dover.gov.uk
07547 714 655

YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Aylesham and Snowdown form part of Dover District Council's ward of Aylesham, Eythorne and Shepherdswell, 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

KEEPING INFORMED

To keep up to date with local Aylesham news, sign up to the council's Keep Me Posted Service and select Aylesham from the list.

There are over 70 topics to choose from.
Visit www.dover.gov.uk/keepmeposted

For Aylesham residents on Twitter, please follow us at @ayleshamgarden for regular posts and retweets of local news and activities going on in your local area.

Local Aylesham groups all have their own Facebook pages too. Search 'Aylesham Facebook' and they will pop up for you to visit/follow.

Please email pr@dover.gov.uk if you have anything you wish to include in the next Aylesham Garden Village News.

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