

AYLESHAM

IN TOUCH

SPRING 2022 Series 2 No. 3

**Spring
is in
the air!**

VILLAGE GUIDE

Essential listing
of local groups,
organisations
and businesses

Bechange at 25



New column by

**Money
Saving
Expert**



Martin Lewis



DENISE CALDWELL

Hair & Beauty

“We are friendly
it's just the way we
are! We want all of
our customers to feel
welcome and at ease.”

**Unit 1, Ackholt Road,
Aylesham CT3 3AJ**



find us on Facebook



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AYLESHAM

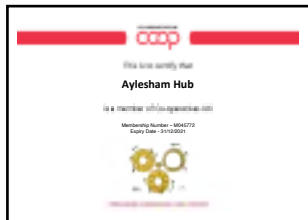
SPRING 2022

IN TOUCH

Incorporating the Aylesham & District Community News

Aylesham In Touch is delivered **FREE** to **3,000** letterboxes in Aylesham. If for some reason we have missed you, OR if you would rather not receive the magazine in future please email ayleshamintouch@gmail.com

This edition of Aylesham In Touch was put together by **Carina Jarvie** and **Jon Flaig**



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Ltd
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Thank you to all these organisations for help and support



AYLESHAM
District Community
Workshop Trust
www.awt.org.uk

Aylesham Community Project, Ackholt Road, Aylesham, Kent CT3 3AJ ☎ 01304 842826

- **Conference/Training Rooms for hire**
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All offices come with fast internet and natural light. some with lovely rural views. Ample car parking, easy walking distance from Bus Stop and Train Station. Competitively priced with easy in easy out tenancy.

For more information please call Lisa on 01304 842826

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Community Groups in Aylesham, Elvington, Tilmanstone, Betteshanger and Mill Hill Deal are invited to apply for grants from the Kent Coalfield Community Fund.

This money is available in partnership with The Coalfield Regeneration Trust.

For more information call Lisa on 01304 842826

snowdown CANARY

taking a birds-
eye view.



SUNSHINE CORNER



DESPITE reports in local media, and a listing on the KFC website as a 'target location' there is no drive-thru coming our way right now.

The website lists 'A2 Aylesham, Kent' as a location on their wish-list of new facilities.

FRIED

When *Snowdown Canary* approached the fried chicken chain, a spokesperson sent us this statement:

"Sorry KFC fans of Aylesham, we hate to disappoint, but this list is only speculative – no current plans to open a new restaurant in your area. But as the list proves, we're always on the lookout for new sites so who knows what the future holds!"

MINIBUS SEEKS NEW ROLE

THE Aylesham Minibus has been a great success and has been used by numerous local voluntary organisations including Aylesham Carnival Committee, Snowdown Rugby Club, Betteshanger Bowls Club and many others.

It has travelled all over England, Wales and the continent including the Durham Miners Gala, down to Wales and the Green Howards Association has had numerous trips to world war battle sites in France and Belgium.



The Workshop Trust Board has concluded that it has passed its useful life for the Trust, but may be of use to one of the local voluntary organisations.

If your group would like more information, please contact the Workshop Trust:

Tel: 01304 842826

email: lisa@aylesham.org.uk

Mascot makes home run



AYLESHAMMER John Vincent with his mascot outfit at the Heritage Centre

THREE years ago, one John Vincent walked in to Aylesham Centre and introduced himself, John was carrying a Large suitcase inside was his family history.

His father was Romeo Vincent a Canadian soldier who came over to England to serve in WWII. Many people may remember him forming the baseball team in Aylesham.

Romeo married into a Aylesham family when he married Lucy Foster and lived in Queens Road.

Recently John came back to the Heritage Centre to see what we had done with the memorabilia he donated three years ago.

John who is 77 years old was the baseball team mascot when he was 7 years old so we were delighted to show him the baseball uniform he wore 70 years ago.

Dou you have an extraordinary family story to tell? Get in touch with us at ayleshamintouch@gmail.com

INDEX

	PAGE
SPRING EVENTS	7
TAKE A WALK on the wild side in Spinney Woods	8 - 9
BECHANGE AT 25	10 - 13
MONEY SAVING EXPERT Martin Lewis	14 - 15
ASPIRE - a new you for '22	16 - 17
BACK IN THE DAY how we partied in 2002	18 - 19
IMHO - Pout on Planning	21
SNOWDOWN PARK project update	22 - 23
CARNIVAL COURT line-up for 2022	25
DRAT! IT'S A RAT	26 - 27
RUGBY CLUB NEWS	29
CORONATION YEAR IN THE VILLAGE an excerpt from Keith Owen's history of Aylesham	35 - 36

VILLAGE GUIDE

Essential listing of
local groups,
organisations and
businesses

33 - 35

VILLAGE EVENTS **SPRING** SEASON

MACS CARS

Family Business Est. 2016

PRIVATE HIRE

•
**LOCAL AND
LONG DISTANCE
SPECIALISTS**
•

**"Many thanks to the community in
Aylesham and surrounding villages
for your support"**



07594 998 468

NAJ

Indian Takeaway

Opening Hours

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5pm to 10pm

CLOSED MONDAYS

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Canterbury CT3 3EY

www.najtakeaway.co.uk

FREE DELIVERY

On orders over £15.00
3 mile radius

10% DISCOUNT

On collected orders
over £15.00

NEW Baby Club

This is for parents and carers of babies up to the age of
6 months old.

There will be an opportunity to chat to the team about
topics such as breast feeding, weaning and sleep, with
the chance to meet and talk with other new parents, all
in a relaxed environment over a cuppa.

Starting on - Friday 25th February

09.30 - 11.00



Bechange Community Hub

Ackholt Road

Aylesham

Booking Essential - 01304 840134



Slimming World

with **Clare** ♥

★ **Tuesday's** ★

4:30pm & 6:00pm

No need to book, just come along!

**St Peter's Church
Aylesham** ★

text/call:

07884 123 407

Slimming
WORLD
touching hearts, changing lives

VILLAGE EVENTS **SPRING** SEASON

Make a date: JUNE 5th

THE Aylesham4Aylesham group is planning a **Community Picnic in the Market Square to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on June 5th.**

People will be asked to bring along their own food and drink, chairs, blankets etc. There will be a stage with live music throughout and it should be a great day to bring the community together.

Full details of the event will be published as soon as they have been confirmed.

STREET PARTIES

Dover Council have made it simple for street committees to organise their own celebrations. To make an application, go to www.dover.gov.uk and search for Jubilee.

SUNSHINERS

The Sunshiners over 50s group is organising a lot of great social events.

For more information or to book transport contact us through *Sunshiners* on Facebook or on 07852451073

New Cinema Club feeling sheepish ...

Having had to cancel the Christmas Kids' film show, they are getting ready to screen the great Shaun The Sheep: Farmageddon. It is best to book in advance, and all the details are on page 27

New Friday Lunch Club

'Light Bites at Bechange' is launching Friday 4th March 12:30-2pm, it is open to all members of the community and

there is no set price you simply pay what you can afford. What could be better than having a bite to eat while chatting to old friends and new.

Some examples of lunch that they will be offering are Toasties, Jacket Potatoes, Sandwiches, Soups, Ploughman's lunches, and salads.

Bechange Staff will be supporting volunteers to run this service, and they are always looking for helping hands, so if you are interested let them know.

There is no need to book, but places are limited.
Bechange, Ackholt Rd, Aylesham. Telephone 01304 840134 if you require more information.

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www.tolumittfp.com

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One on one Class <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sewing machines available• Experienced tutor• Choose your time• Choose your course• Sessions from 1hr	Creative Kids <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 participants/class• Develops fine motor skills• Social creative outlet for kids• Develops creative imagination	Beginners Intermediate levels <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sew it yourself• 6 participants/class• Learn pattern drafting• Day classes• Evening classes

Other services we offer:
Custom clothes, Prom dresses, Alterations and Bridal wear

Call us now:
07424807439

Studio Address: 5, Aylesham Business Park, Ackholt Road, Aylesham, CT3 3AJ

aylesham on foot

Walking is great for Mind, Body and Spirit

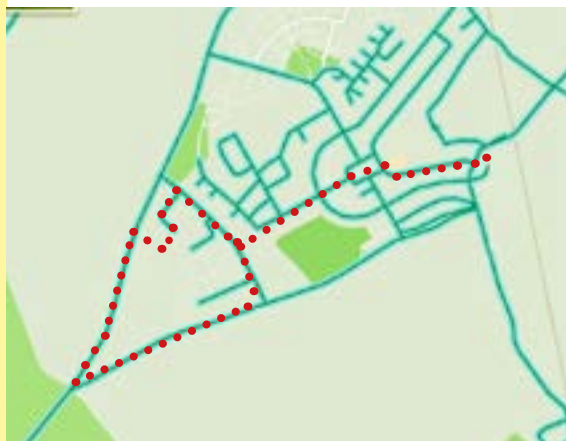
You don't have to go far, but just taking a brisk ten minute walk a day can help you greatly.

Some of the benefits of walking are: it helps you burn calories, strengthen the heart, eases joint pain, improve your mood and boost your energy.

Getting healthy, starts with the first step. Even if its walking around the house!

Carina

Spinney Woods walk



AYLESHAM ON FOOT ROUTE 2

- Start at Bechange on Ackholt Road
- Down Queens Road, past the Health Centre and around Market Place, left at Boulevard Courriers.
- Find your way into the woods and you will find paths around and through the site.
- In spring, look out for primroses as the woods start to come alive

Managed by White Cliffs Countryside Partnership on behalf of Aylesham Parish Council

Aylesham Walkie Talkies

Meet every Wednesday at 4pm in the Market Square.
We walk for about 1 hour, nothing strenuous. Everyone welcome.

Please find us on
Facebook or call
07766 406 020 for
more info



SHAPED BY HISTORY: brought down in the 1987 gales



A WAY INTO THE WOODS: from Spinney Lane, with helpful guide



WAITING FOR SPRING: Feb 2022

WALKING GROUPS

Aylesham Dog Walkers

Find us on Facebook - We meet every Saturday & Sunday at 11am by the show homes in Aylesham, and sometimes evenings during the week.

We have a wander together, usually over the fields or the woods and we try to go to areas the dogs can be off lead for a bit. Sometimes we're a large group, sometimes just a few of us.

All shapes and sizes from new pups learning how to socialise to grumpy old pooches. Everyone is welcome.

Aylesham Walkie Talkies

Meet every Wednesday at 4pm in the Market Square.

We walk for about 1 hour, nothing strenuous. Everyone welcome.

ASPIRE HEALTH WALK

Get walking and join our small team on short 30 mins stroll, it's free simply turn up and join in

- 11am for 11.15am start



'ON FOOT' EVENT THIS SUMMER

Aylesham In Touch will be calling a meeting soon for all interested in helping with a village event this year. Contact us:

ayleshamintouch@gmail.com



Aylesham's home grown charity that always delivers

BECHANGE was established 25 years ago this Spring. Then known as the Aylesham Neighbourhood Project, the organisation quickly became a family and community support organisation that has withstood the test of time and changes in the village.

Angela Doggett has worked at the centre for the past 12 years and for 6 as manager. She believes that the past two years have been amongst the most challenging in the charity's history.

"When Covid hit and the lockdown began two years ago we were faced with a choice: wind down the facility, apply for furlough and keep our fingers crossed that the crisis would soon pass, or to adapt and continue to offer crucial services to Aylesham and the villages.

"Our staff stayed working throughout the pandemic, sometimes from home but often in the kitchen and the hall organising alongside our wonderful volunteers, the crisis food project.

NECESSITIES

"More than 17,000 oven ready meals were delivered to peoples homes who had problems getting food and personal necessities from other sources. We were able to take on more staff and our expert benefit advisers helped families access help and support at a time when incomes were cut.

"But we realised early on that we had to prepare for the work we would need to do after the crisis, and we put together a three year project to bring vital funding and resources to Aylesham.

"We secured funding from the National Lottery that would keep many of our services going, and we were so pleased to be chosen by the Kent Community Foundation as the Dover area charity to receive core-funding support as part of its project to celebrate their twentieth anniversary.

"I should also say we have received support from the Swire Charitable Foundation and from Aylesham Parish

Council, Dover District Council and so many generous donations from the public - both during the crisis, and of course over the last 25 Years.

The Workshop Trust (ADCWT) stepped up with funding at the start of the pandemic and we worked closely with Aylesham Hub and Deal Area Foodbank

A hand-up in tough times

A key part of Bechange's service is help and advice with securing entitlements to government and council help and support when it needed. Uniquely in the area, they will work along side you and help find your way through the sometimes bewildering array of support available, and stay with you on the journey until you get a decision – see page 13.

ASPIRE at Bechange

Bechange was selected as the location for the ASPIRE project - a major programme to help and support people into health and employment (see page16). This was a great fit for the continuing work of Bechange.

BABY CLUB

Angela explains: "We now have a busy timetable of projects at our community hub. Some are offered and led by the ASPIRE team, and some are part of our regular activities. New ones are coming along, such as the Baby Club and Lite Bites Community Lunch, and new community groups are sprouting up - including the popular Arts Club and Up-cycling sessions. And anyone who has dropped into one of the popular 'Camerados Public Living Room' weekly social gatherings will appreciate the friendly atmosphere the centre has.

"And one big change you will see if you visit the centre is the wonderful new garden. ASPIRE has led the project to clear, plan, plant and grow on the over-grown area behind our building. It now has safe pathways, storage, fencing and has been designed to allow access for all.

"It is a great place to come and pick up some tips, make friends and enjoy helping things grow. It will be a great resource left in the village once the ASPIRE project ends in the next year or two."



Community Matters – a new mobile foodbank

FROM 1st March, Deal Foodbank will launch a new mobile service called Community Matters that will serve the villages of Aylesham and Elvington.

Having raised enough money to specially commission a large van, the Foodbank will now be able to reach villages where public transport is scarce.

Deal Foodbank Project Coordinator, Sheila Ward comments, "All our foodbanks operate to help and support those in the most need.

"Now with this mobile service we will be able to reach those who wouldn't be able to reach us otherwise".

Community Matters was backed by a number of funders including a generous grant from Kent Coalfield Community Fund.



Healthy, affordable and sustainable food

At Bechange there is a very well equipped kitchen that is a great space for showing beginners how to cook great meals, introduce people to skills needed in the hospitality sector, and to prepare and cook community meals.

Alongside the kitchen, they operate as the contact point for Deal Area Foodbank. Staff can help with vouchers and starting in March, Bechange will be the venue for the food bank's new mobile centre which will be visiting twice a week (see column, right).

And every Thursday Bechange is the distribution point for Fareshare - the project that cuts food waste by 'making still good to eat' food from local farms and supermarkets available to the community with no need for vouchers. Fareshare times are 9.30am until the food is gone.

You might also see in the Bechange reception, the Community Fridge where anyone can drop off 'in date but not needed' food for others to make use of. And of course people can pop in and take home anything in the fridge that they can put to good use.

Celebrating 25 years

This successful Aylesham charity is planning a number of events throughout 2022 - its Silver Jubilee year. They plan to develop and promote the great things that happen in the Community Hub and continue to reach-out to the rural community around the village.

IN AYLESHAM:

EVERY TUESDAY 9.30am – 10.30am
at Bechange, – Ackholt Rd

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU:

- A paper voucher or e-voucher issued to you
- Carrier bags to take your food away

WHAT YOU'LL GET:

- A food parcel featuring three days of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food

How to get a voucher:

Bechange Aylesham - 01304 840134
Citizens Advice Deal - 01304 202442
Deal Foodbank - 01304 728428

If you have any questions, do give us a call on 01304 72842

The Bechange Weekly Diary

● MONDAY ●

DROP-IN SERVICE

Our experienced team can offer assistance on a range of matters inc Benefits, Debt, Housing and Employment - **10am - 12pm**

ASPIRE GROW YOUR OWN

Learn more about gardening and the Aspire project - **10am - 2pm**

ASPIRE HEALTH WALK

Get walking and join our small team on short 30 mins stroll, it's free simply turn up and join in - **11am for 11.15am start**

If you would like a slightly longer walk, you can join a group of regular walkers, lead by Su and Sue. They set off from the Market Square at 10am on a Monday and get back to Bechange for 11am, in time to join the Health Walk or for refreshments.

NHS ONE YOU WEIGHT-LOSS group sessions - please telephone and speak to Teela or a member of the ASPIRE team to book.

● TUESDAY ●

ASPIRE - GET WORKING

plenty of support to get you started, gain skills and move towards employment **12.30pm - 2.30pm** call 01304 840134 and speak to the Aspire team about joining this group

ASPIRE COOKERY COURSE

9.30am to 11.30am Learn to cook healthy meal Please ring to book your place must be over 18

AYLESHAM ARTS CLUB

- Meets fortnightly. No experience necessary, no need to book - First session £2.00 and an easy membership scheme. Materials included.

Call 01304 840134 for dates - **3.30pm - 5.00pm**

● WEDNESDAY ●

DROP-IN SERVICE

Our experienced team can offer assistance on a range of matters inc Benefits, Debt, Housing and Employment - **10am - 12pm**

ASPIRE LEGS, BUMS & TUMS

is it time for a new you in the New Year? Join our FREE legs, bums & tums sessions with a weight loss drop in straight after your class. Ring 01304 840134 for more info or to book a place. **09.30am - 10.30am**

ASPIRE GROW YOUR OWN

- learn more about gardening and the Aspire project - **10am - 2pm**

ASPIRE COOKERY COURSE

10am to 12am Learn to cook healthy meal Please ring to book your place must be over 18

● THURSDAY ●

ASPIRE GROW YOUR OWN

Learn more about gardening and the Aspire project - **10am - 2pm**

KNIT AND NATTER

Love knitting, crochet or would love to learn? Knit and snitch while you have a cuppa and chat with this friendly group. Please ring 01304 840134 to book - **10.30am - 12pm**

GAMES & PASTIMES

- (Bridge) All welcome from beginners to experienced players-

10.30am - 1pm

LIFESTYLE SUPPORT

with NHS OneYou - **9am - 1pm** phone and speak to the Aspire team for information

ASPIRE GROW YOUR OWN

Learn more about gardening and the Aspire project - **10am - 2pm**

ASPIRE BEEKEEPING

course **2pm to 4.15pm** telephone the ASPIRE team for more information

● FRIDAY ●

DROP-IN SERVICE

Our experienced team can offer assistance on a range of matters inc Benefits, Debt, Housing and Employment - **10am - 12pm**

CAMERADOS

Come and join us in a public living room, a no agenda space, be yourself alongside others, a warm & welcoming place where you can just sit and chat to other people - No need to book **10am - 12pm**

"LITE BITE" LUNCH

- **12.30pm - 2pm** Starting in March Open to all members of the community and there is not set price, pay what you can afford. No need to book but places are limited.

LIFESTYLE SUPPORT

with NHS OneYou - **9am - 1pm** phone and speak to the Aspire team for information

ASPIRE LEGS, BUMS & TUMS

Join our FREE legs, bums & tums Ring 01304 840134 for more info or to book a place. **9.30am - 10.30am**

We try to stick to this timetable, but sometimes things happen beyond our control, so event details may change.



“How can Bechange help me?”

THERE are no specific criteria that you need to meet to access support from Bechange – you just need to live in Aylesham and surrounding areas.

Our support is available to all, and we can help you with your issues no matter how big or small. The friendly support team pride themselves on their extensive knowledge and expertise. Our Family Support Worker and Senior Support Worker have many years of experience to support your individual needs.

“So, how can we help you?”

Benefits

Are you claiming your correct entitlement? We can do a benefit check to ensure you are receiving your full entitlement, and support with any applications and assist with gathering the correct evidence to support a claim.

Don't understand the online Universal Credit Journal, or how to keep your commitments? Here at Bechange we can support you to use and understand your online journal, how to make entries and upload evidence.

Been turned down for a benefit? Our support staff can assist you every step of the way with mandatory reconsiderations, appeals and tribunals.

Do you need to change to a different benefit, but are worried how you will cope financially during the waiting period? Support can be given to access advances and how to budget until you receive your first new payment. We also work closely with Deal area foodbank and can issue e-vouchers for food and household items to help you during this time.

Finances

In debt and don't know which way to turn? Our support workers can assist with negotiating manageable

repayment plans and look at reducing your outgoings.

Are you struggling to make your money last? We can support you to budget and make changes, so that you can make your finances last longer.

Housing

Have you fallen into rent arrears and are frightened of losing your home? Our support workers can assist with contacting your housing provider, and negotiate repayment plans to help manage your arrears and secure your housing.

Is your current home unsuitable for your needs? We can help you with an application to the housing register, upload your supporting evidence and negotiate the bidding system.

Need help with family matters?

Our designated family support worker can help you with issues you may face including providing can provide advocacy for school meetings and with support plans, help implement rules, routines, boundaries and establish practical reward systems.

We offer mindfulness and health living workshops for families with children aged 4-11 years, and a baby club for parents and carers with new babies up to 6 months old

As well as all this we can offer Foodbank vouchers, assist with applying for emergency grants and financial support. We also have a community fridge and weekly Fareshare food availability.

If you are experiencing Domestic Abuse, we are here for you. We can help you access the appropriate services and support required.

Still not sure if we can help? All you need to do is ask! You can telephone 01304 840134 or come to one of our drop-in sessions for a chat Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am-12pm

MoneySavingExpert

Beat back the price hikes!

“ IT’S NOT JUST energy bills, council tax and National Insurance: sadly, huge price hikes are hitting the BROADBAND and MOBILE PHONE market too. There is a sliver of a silver lining though, as some can and should use this as an opportunity to radically cut your bill.

FIRST, let’s go through the price rises... many BT, EE, Plusnet and Vodafone customers will see 9.3% rises, TalkTalk 9.1%, Shell 5.4% and Virgin Media £56/yr. Your exact rise depends on your package, so it can be less than this (my team’s compiled the info at mse.me/PriceHikes2022). Thankfully though those on the special social tariffs for those on low incomes will generally not see price rises.

Why this may be an opportunity to cut bills

These firms have millions of customers who are out of contract and have simply been rolled on to (often pricier) tariffs. And that means you’re holstering a serious consumer weapon – the ability to leave – which gives you a powerful negotiating position.

For those who are in-contract, which means you actively signed up to a new tariff within the last year or possibly two (do check), then the price rise was likely a term of the contract, so there’s little you can do until the contract lapses – at which point follow the info below.

Option 1: SWITCH & save...

In most cases, the biggest savings come from moving your custom elsewhere, to a firm that is salivating to win your business. Here’s how to bag the best deal as a newbie...

● HALVE YOUR BROADBAND & LINE COSTS.

Many are paying £30-£45 a month on standard packages. Yet the best deals come from short-lived promos you can’t get direct from firms, involving cashback or vouchers – they’re on comparison sites.

We try and compile the best ones at broadband.



moneysavingexpert.com. It’s tough for me to list them here as they change so often. But as a range: for basic 11Mb broadband and speed prices can be as low as £13/mth once you’ve factored in the vouchers (eg, Amazon or a prepaid Mastercard) or you could get fast 63Mb broadband for £16-£20/mth incorporating the sign-up incentives.

● **MOBILE COSTS ARE SHRINKING** – why pay more than £10/mth? If you’re happy with your phone, then you can save big by switching your Sim – the little chip in your phone that gives it its identity. Prices for Sims with 4GB data – the average used per month – have virtually halved since 2016.

Yet in my recent Twitter poll, around 30% said they pay more than £30 a month. Fair enough if you’re repaying a handset, roaming or have credit issues and don’t qualify for cheaper deals. But many are overpaying for no good reason – if that’s you, especially if you’re out of contract, do a Sim check to cut your bill. A few quick tips:

■ It’s easy to keep your number. Just text PAC for free to 65075 – then give that code to your new provider.

■ Lots of firms use the same signal. There are only four networks in the UK (EE, O2, Three, Vodafone). All the rest piggyback on their signals: for example, GiffGaff uses O2, Smarty uses Three, Plusnet uses EE. Find who else uses your preferred network’s signal and it should be similar (though do check Wi-Fi calling, 5G and tethering as these can vary).

■ Top deals are fast moving. As I write there are deals for as little as £4ish a month over 12 months



MARTIN LEWIS – new regular column in Aylesham In Touch

(factoring in incentives) for unlimited minutes, texts and 5GB data; or £7/mth for 12GB data. Use a comparison site including my www.moneysavingexpert.com/cheap-mobile-finder/ to find one for you.

● **SLASH DIGITAL TV COSTS** – can you save £100s a year? It can be harder here if you've bespoke channel packages you want to keep (so haggling, which I cover below, can often beat switching).

But it's worth checking a comparison site for new customer deals – though always work out what channels you really watch first and be willing to ditch the rest.

If you've different providers for your broadband, line and TV, check if you can save by combining them – play each provider off against the other.

Option 2: **STICK & save...**

If you're out of contract and free to move, but like the firm you're with, then try to make them want you as much as they want switchers. To do that you need to haggle – a bit of fiscal flirting, if you like. In my last poll on this, of those who tried to haggle, there were success rates of 70%+ for BT, EE, O2, Plusnet, Sky, TalkTalk, Three and Virgin (and a still decent 50% for Vodafone).

It's always more art than science, but Andrea's email shows how well it can work: "At the end of my BT contract, I called and used Martin's haggling tips, preparing myself with a list of comparable deals. After a lengthy call I shaved a cool £318 off my package. Just proves that by doing some prep, being patient and politely persistent, that it pays off."

Thanks, Martin.



"Here are some quick tips..."

● **BENCHMARK** the cheapest price elsewhere. It's not accidental that I put switch savings first here – as you need that as a starting point to haggle with.

● **CALL UP** – and be polite and charming. Aggression isn't nice or productive. Use chutzpah, cheek and a smile. You're asking for a discount, and your provider's as much within its rights not to give one as you are to leave. Explain that you've seen it cheaper elsewhere, or it doesn't fit your budget or you think it's too expensive, but you'd prefer to stay.

● **IF THAT DOESN'T WORK**, ask to be put through to disconnections. Internally that's called 'customer retentions' and it has the real power to keep you with more room to manoeuvre.

● **DON'T PANIC** if it calls your bluff. If it says it'll disconnect you my easy 'get out of jail free' card is the phrase: "Hold on, I'll call you back on that. I'd like to check with my wife / husband / dog / goldfish first."

AND IF IT REALLY WON'T PLAY BALL, vote with your feet, and consider leaving. Sometimes providers can give in at this stage and offer a stonking discount in last-ditch effort to keep you.

Martin Lewis is the Founder and Chair of MoneySavingExpert.com. To join the 7.5 million people who get his free Money Tips weekly email, go to www.moneysavingexpert.com/latesttip

TIME FOR A NEW YOU!

MAKING lifestyle changes to benefit your health and wellbeing can be very hard to do without support and encouragement.

Many of us struggle with any kind of change and signing up for a course or going along to something new is a big step. Here at ASPIRE, we know how hard it is to step outside of a comfort zone, but we know that if you do, you won't regret it.

NHS ONE YOU

We are lucky to have dedicated NHS One You advisers, Karen and Teela, who are experts at helping people look after their health and lose weight. Experienced personal trainer Laura runs our LBT classes and Couch to 5k, as well as guiding people through the rest of the programme, along with Rowan, Elaine and Ivan.

If getting a job or starting your own business is your goal, Fi, Ed and our team of employability experts are on hand to offer 1-2-1 support, group sessions and detailed advice. Look out for our accredited courses – details will be on our Facebook page over the coming weeks – and for other opportunities to gain qualifications.



FINDING WAYS INTO WORK with Fi and the expert Employability team



HEALTHY FOOD with Rowan and the ASPIRE kitchen team



GROW YOUR OWN with Rachel, Sandro and the garden team



STEPPING OUT with Teela on the ASPIRE Health Walk with NHS One You

Beautiful spring bulbs are starting to peek through the soil in the garden and the polytunnel is full of veg seedlings ready to be planted out.

GROW YOUR OWN

The garden is an inspiring place to spend time and Rachel and Sandro can show you all you need to know about growing food – no previous experience is needed. Our chef tutors, Liza and Julia, will give even the most kitchen-shy person the confidence and know-how to cook delicious healthy meals from scratch.

ASPIRE is here in Aylesham for one more year and we want to make sure that anyone who could benefit from taking part gets the opportunity to do so.

All our activities are free of charge, and it's on your doorstep. If you, or someone you know, needs a nudge towards a brighter future, please get in touch.

POP INTO AN OPEN DAY

We'll be holding Open Days on:
Monday 28th March 10am-2pm
Monday 25th April 10am-2pm

TO TAKE PART, or to find out more about what ASPIRE offers, please phone 01304 840134

Email: Aspire@bechange.org.uk



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ASPIRE is for you if:

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- you are either unemployed, a job-seeker, in temporary insecure work or on a zero-hours contract
- you would like to improve your health and wellbeing.

Contact our team today and find out how **ASPIRE** can help **you**
aspire@bechange.org.uk 01304 840134



BACK IN THE DAY

Party like it's 2002

"Aylesham Family Fun Day

The Aylesham Events Committee would like to thank everyone who helped and everyone who came to the Family Fun Day on the Jubilee weekend. We

were encouraged by the number of families who came and enjoyed the event and were pleased that it ran so smoothly.

Our Committee is dedicated to putting on events in Aylesham that the community would like to see. Please contact us if you would like to join in as we are open to all.

Once again many thanks for your support."

Littlebourne War Memorial Hall
ickham Village Hall

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"Vale View Street Party

Carole and Angela would like to thank Jane, Donna, Sara and Tracy, the Committee, for all their hard work in helping with the street party.

Also Clive's Window Cleaning Services for his very kind donation, Vic, George, David and Clive for all their support in hanging flags and running about and for all those who kindly cooked for us. It was a lovely day."



JULY 2002

AYLESHAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWS

www.ayleshamnews.co.uk



Issue 13

JUBILEE STREET PARTIES



Coniston Drive Party



Burgess Road Committee



Vale View Committee



Coniston Drive Committee



Burgess Road Childrens' Entertainment



Vale View Fancy Dress



Sheldon Close Committee



Sheldon Close Party



Cornwallis Avenue
Fancy Dress



Left: Cornwallis Avenue Committee, Middle: Can't Stop Dancing Now
and Right: Pony Rides



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'In My Humble Opinion'



by parish
council
member
Jamie Pout
writing in
a personal
capacity

LOCAL PLAN – delayed yet again

SO HERE WE ARE. The next draft of Dover District Council's Local Plan, due out in November 2021, delayed until February 2022, is delayed for a further 2 months.

Everything surrounding the Local Plan is “confidential” so it's unclear exactly what the hold up is, but what's clear is the constant shifting of goal posts makes public consultation almost impossible.

Without keeping a keen eye on new dates, members of the public could easily miss the short consultation period and fail to have their voices heard.

Rumour has it, the North Aylesham development (along B2046 Adisham Rd down to the train line) has been removed from the plan: the exact reason again is confidential. But don't hold your breath: the housing allocation is likely have to go somewhere.

In more recent revelations, the end of 2021 meant the government released its Housing Delivery Test (HDT) numbers. Each local authority across the country is given a ‘score’ based on how many of its allocated houses it has managed to build. It would seem that the East and South East has not fared well. Many authorities in London, Sussex, Essex and Kent have fallen short of their targets.

<https://content.knightfrank.com/blog/2022/1/cff5e76c-baf2-4c4a-9573-14c967680a8a/updated-provisional-fixedthumb2.jpg>

For Dover, we fall into the “action plan” category. The district council built 80% of its target: not too far short.

This means the local authority has to produce a

plan outlining how it will increase and improve to claw back some of these missed homes.

As the Local Plan is due for adoption in 2023 this is likely to be fairly straight forward and bring about few surprises not already in the local plan. The district has likely got away with minimal intervention.

More worryingly is the fate of neighbouring Canterbury. The city council only met 65% of its target, putting it comfortably within the worst performing 51 local authorities in the country.

They needed to meet a threshold of 75% to avoid serious penalty. So what does this mean? These authorities trailing behind targets must now make “presumption in favour of sustainable developments” in terms of planning applications. Canterbury City Council have already started the process of making its case for missing its targets: the pandemic (although this was already accounted for); water quality issues at Stodmarsh; and horrendous targets in the first place. It's unlikely the government will be willing to budge.

In practice, any development that can be seen to be “sustainable” gets a free pass from the planning authorities for the next 12 months. This puts areas such as Adisham Woods and other green spaces at serious risk of development - and hastily produced plans at that!

It means that campaigners and local councillors are less likely to have a say over quality of build, safety, overdevelopment and road safety as these plans favour developers before they're even brought to the table. So houses may soon be popping up all over the boundary between Canterbury and Dover district. Maybe the additional burden on Aylesham is no longer needed?

We will wait with bated breath to see what the future holds.

Do you have an idea for a story, or would you like to comment on what you've seen in the magazine? Write to us via email: ayleshamintouch@gmail.com

SNOWDOWN PARK

“We’d like to thank everyone that attended the Snowdown Park Ltd Engagement Events last year. Your feedback and impressions were greatly appreciated and will be taken into consideration as the project develops.

SNOWDOWN Colliery site, located between Dover and Canterbury just off the A2, has been disused since the closure of the mines in 1987.

The site is currently held in a long lease between the Plumpton Trust and the Coal Authority.

DESTINATION

The Plumpton Trust, the Coal Authority and Snowdown Park Ltd, have been working together for the past 7 years to bring forward a scheme for the redevelopment of the site, to make a unique destination that has something for everyone.

The incredible ecological value of a number of aspects of the colliery site has influenced much of the thinking behind the Snowdown Park development.

WILDLIFE

We want to ensure that the ideas and solutions proposed compliment and fit around the local wildlife and landscape, this is hugely important to us.

We look forward to getting started on the project in the near future and working with the local communities to create a unique and eco-friendly, family destination.



Watson & Bell Funeral Service

Watson and Bell funeral service is an Independent family business serving Aylesham and surrounding areas.

We pride ourselves on offering a personal, professional and compassionate service to bereaved families.

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For more information please don't hesitate to contact us on

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What are the plans?

- 1. Breathe new life into the existing buildings.
- 2. Create new jobs.
- 3. Preserve and enhance the ecology.
- 4. Create fabulous leisure and business opportunities.

Remember to follow us on social media or visit our website to stay up to date with the project.

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- AUDITORIUM (B)
- LEISURE (B)
- WEDDING CENTRE & CAFE (B1)
- BUSINESS UNITS
- RESEARCH AREA
- BOG ACADEMY
- EVENT SPACE





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HI! **WELCOME** **HELLO** **YES!**

COMMUNITY CATCH UP SESSIONS

#chatwithacoffee

These sessions are hosted by Marvin Fisher, DDC Community Development Officer and PCSO Emma Carmichael. You can share any local issues you may have and get advice, discuss ideas or simply just pop in to meet us. There will also be information about the local support that is available. The kettle is always on, and you are promised a friendly welcome.

Last Friday of each month 8-11am
Future dates for your diary:
• Friday 28 February • Friday 25 March
• Friday 28 April • Friday 27 May

Bechange Community Hub is located on
Ackholt Rd, Aylesham, CT3 3AJ
(in the site of the Aylesham Community Project)



Saint Finbarr's Roman Catholic Church

Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ
Phone: 01304 206766

MASS TIMES
Wednesday 10.15am.
Sundays 11.15am



*Our parish
priests are*

Fr Jeff,
Fr Leo,
and Fr Jamie

Aylesham Carnival Association



AYLESHAM Carnival Association held their carnival selection afternoon on Sunday 13th February, at Aylesham Bowls Club. We thank the bowls club for letting us use their wonderful facilities.

The event was well attended and we are pleased to say that we had a large number of entries for the junior and senior court. This does mean that quite a few entrants were left disappointed - to all of those girls: Please come back it was lovely to see so many want to be involved, some girls enter quite a few times before they manage to get on the court. It really is worth it!

We are proud to announce our court of 2022:

Miss Aylesham - Ella Richardson

Senior Princesses - Toi Gerrard, Courtney Ferguson

Junior Miss Aylesham - Bonnie-Rae Sennett

From left to right: Ellie, Courtney, Phoebe, Ella, Bonnie-Rae, Ruby, Toi, Poppy

Junior Princesses - Phoebe Stevenson, Ruby Kemp

Deputy Miss Aylesham - Ellie Chown

Deputy junior Miss Aylesham - Poppy Kemp

Very well done to all of the successful court members, we cannot wait to see all that you achieve representing Aylesham over the next year.

We also said our farewells to the court of 2021, they all were wonderful ambassadors for the village.

Our first event with the court of 2022 is within a week of being selected, our court will hit the ground running! They will have opportunities visiting towns and villages around the county making friends with the other local courts and having lots of fun.

**Aylesham's Carnival
will be on Saturday 17th
September 2022**

Aylesham – we have a problem ... and it's RATS

By David Britnell, Aylesham Hub

Rats are a fairly common sight around areas of farmland but something that is becoming more and more apparent is that the village is slowly getting a larger population.

There are multiple reasons for the increase of rats around the village, the pandemic has obviously had an impact as the rats would congregate around places such as schools and offices due to the amount of waste that's normally produced there but with their closure the rats have had to start foraging further afield for food.

Another reason is the amount of litter that is left

lying around in the village. Be that unsecured wind-blown litter from bin bags left out and bin lids left up, to items that are dropped by careless individuals.

Here are a few facts about rats that you may, or may not, know.

Rats have strong teeth that can chew through glass, cinder block, wire, aluminum and lead.

Two compatible brown rats can produce 15,000 rats in only 1 year. They become fertile at 3 weeks old and can breed till the age of 2 years old with the average litter being between 6-20 babies.

Rats are what is known as neophobic, meaning they are afraid of trying new things. This makes it difficult to introduce a trusted food source to them as a lure or bait.



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Rats themselves are incredibly clean, even more so than cats. This does not mean that they don't carry illness inside though.

A rat's teeth are constantly growing so to prevent them overgrowing rats must constantly gnaw away at things.

Rats seem to suffer from a form of kenophobia, which is a fear of empty or wide-open spaces.

Rats have bad eye sight but a really good sense of smell.

So, with this in mind, what can we do to reduce the risk of rats moving into gardens and out buildings in the search for new homes and sources of food? Actually, there's quite a few things you can do to help and the first of this is to make sure you secure all your rubbish properly, particularly food waste and encourage others to stop littering.

If you feed birds avoiding doing it later in the day when its less likely to be finished, this too can attract rats. You can leave food out in open spaces where it's easy for birds to see but a rats kenophobia will make it unwilling to go into them.

Maintaining gardens and property can also help as rats like to run from cover to cover, so mowing the lawn and disposing of old fixtures and furnishing limits places to hide.

If you already have a rat issue then doing things that disturb them such as clearing around holes and filling them in can encourage them to move, added to this they hate spicy scents so things like cayenne pepper and chilli powder can be highly off putting. ■



Above: MAKING AN ENTRANCE: a typical rat hole
Left: ROLAND RAT: eighties superstar

UPCOMING EVENTS

RATLING SOCIAL CLUB



March

Friday 11th Smiler 20:30pm
 Sunday 20th Joe Scott 20:30





April

Good Friday 15th Word of Mouth 20:30
 Easter Sunday 17th 6 Shades of Gray 16:00
 Saturday 23rd Hypnotist Night 20:30
 Sunday 24th Andy Lawrence 20:30
 Friday 29th Andy Mills 20:30





May

Sunday 1st Red Catz 16:00
 Kevin Iverson 20:00
 Friday 27th Paul Messenger 20:30





June

Friday 3rd Queens jubilee celebrations from 16:00
 Saturday 4th 6 Shades of grey 20:30





Non Members Welcome

CT3 3HL

Website: www.ratlingclub.co.uk





Easter Dates

EVENING REFLECTIONS

– Mon to Wed 11, 12 and 13 April
7.30pm

MAUNDY SUPPER

– Thursday 14 April 6.30pm

HOUR AT THE CROSS

– Friday 15th April 2pm

EASTER CRAFTS

– Saturday 16th April 10am -12.00

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

– 17th April 10.30am

DIARY DATES

TABLETOP SALE

– Saturday 12 March 10am – 12.00

CHOCOLATE BINGO

– Saturday 19 March 6.30pm

AFTERNOON TEA FOR MOTHERS

– Saturday 26th March 3.30pm

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RUGBY CLUB NEWS



**COME and get some fresh
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the only fields we have left
in the village.**

Join up for rugby and play for the only mining rugby club left in the country.

What ever your ability is, contact player or touch, please let's not let adult sport fade from our community.

If you're moving or moved to Aylesham for its history and community spirit and love of sport, then come along.

Let your kids run free in the knowledge that everyone will make sure they are safe.

We at Snowdown rugby club will be looking into touch rugby for girls and boys this year, with help from England RFU and Kent RFU who have shown our club great support this year.

**With our village growing we want people to
volunteer and help expand our club.**

If you're interested in helping our club please email me and I can forward your details on.

Our aim is to make families welcome and keep providing a space for our future generations, to carry on playing sport, and keeping our great village of Aylesham the best village to live in and bring our children up!

With activities that help them grow, and learn about what it's like to work in a community as a team!

Sport brings everyone together making life long friendship and most of all respect for each other.

COMING UP:

12TH MARCH - AWAY - THANET WANDERERS II

26TH MARCH - AWAY- DOVER II

2ND APRIL - HOME - DEAL AND BETTS II

**NEW AND OLD PLAYERS/SUPPORTERS
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Thinking about extending...

A regular column by Keith Mansell of Manse Designs

Class A - Enlargement – Rear Extensions

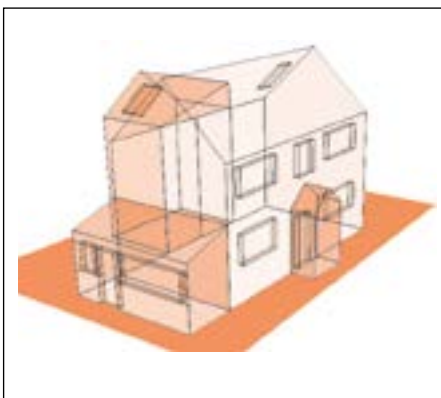
CLASS A rights deal with both *side* and *rear* extensions, but for this article I will just be dealing with your Permitted Development rights for a rear extension.

For a single storey you can go out up to 4 metres from the rear wall of a detached house and up to 3 metres for a terrace/semi-detached property. however, the total area of the extension must not cover more than **50 per cent** of your garden.

The width of the extension can go the full length if you like. With regards to the height of a single storey extension, it is a maximum height is 4 metres and must not be higher than the ridge-line of the main house.

If the extension is within 2 metres of a boundary then the eaves height can only be a maximum of 3 metres measured from ground level.

The eaves must also be no higher than the eaves on the original house. This is an important requirement to note because this is the reason why a flat roof extension on a bungalow would not fall within PD rights. As described within the Technical Guidance



a flat roof eaves will be higher than a pitched roof eaves.

The other condition which could impact if your extension requires planning permission is if you already have an extension on your home. If so then that must also comply with Permitted Development rights, even if it has already had planning permission before.



For a two storey rear extension you can only go up to a maximum of 3 metres from the rear elevation. The extension must also be over 7 metres from the rear boundary but remember that the maximum

eaves is 3m within 2 metres of any boundary. This has been done to prevent two-storey extensions close to your neighbour's boundary.

For the next article I will discuss your PD rights for *side extensions* under Class A. If you have any questions then please feel free to get in touch.



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VILLAGE GUIDE

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

■ AYLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Aylesham House, Dorman Avenue South, Aylesham
CT3 3AD

Chairman Mark Townsend

Vice Chair Jamie Pout

Parish Clerk & RFO Kate Robinson

clerk@ayleshampc.co.uk

07830 312500

Assistant Clerk Demi Jenkins

assistantclerk@ayleshampc.co.uk

07897 593030

Administrator Nicola Purcell

admin@ayleshampc.co.uk

07830 353872

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday's 09.00-15.00

Website: www.ayleshampc.co.uk

■ 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

cldr-linda.keen@dover.gov.uk

Cllr Peter Walker, Independent,

07768 106009

cldr-peter.walker@dover.gov.uk

Cllr Charles Woodgate, Labour,

07427 517498

cldr-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

CHURCHES

■ AYLESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Dorman Avenue South CT3 3AA

• Sunday Services 10.30am

• Renew61 - A shared space where it's ok to not be ok - Mondays 10am -12

Contact - ayleshambaptist@gmail.com

find us on facebook search 'Aylesham Baptist'

www.ayleshambaptistfreechurch.co.uk

■ **ST PETER'S CHURCH** We are the Parish church of St Peter's Aylesham in the Church of England. Our hall is available for private hire.

Phone: 07535 999482.

Facedbook: [stpetersaylesham](https://www.facebook.com/stpetersaylesham)

Email: stpetersaylesham@gmail.com

Web: www.stpetersaylesham.co.uk

Dorman Avenue North CT3 3BL

Email: stpetersaylesham@gmail.com

■ ST FINBARR'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ

Phone: 01304 206766

■ AYLESHAM BUSINESS NETWORK

Local businesses supporting each other and the community in Aylesham District. Please contact our chair, Sara Sheppard, on 07951 736021 for more information.

www.ayleshambusinessnetwork.co.uk or follow us on

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

HEALTH SERVICES

■ AYLESHAM MEDICAL PRACTICE

Aylesham Health Centre, Queens Rd, Aylesham, Canterbury CT3 3BB

Phone: 01304 840415

■ AYLESHAM HEALTH CENTRE

Queens Rd, Aylesham, Canterbury CT3 3BB

01304 843783

COMMUNITY GROUPS

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Tel: 01304 840134 enquiries@bechange.org.uk

VILLAGE GUIDE

■ AYLESHAM HUB

Community Co-Operative
ayleshamhub@gmail.com

■ ADCWT - WORKSHOP TRUST

Ackholt Road, Aylesham CT3 3AJ
Tel: 01304 842826

■ AYLESHAM MAJORETTES

We are the local Majorette and take part in carnivals, fetes and do displays of what to show off our talent
Email: ayleshammajorettes@hotmail.com
Mob: 07709314680

■ AYLESHAM WELFARE LEISURE CENTRE

Spinney Ln, Aylesham, Canterbury CT3 3BE:
Phone: 01304 840661

■ INVICTA COMMUNITY & LEISURE

Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre, Spinney Lane, Aylesham, CT3 3BE
Phone Number: 01795537321
Email c.rowe@westfavershamca.org

SCHOOLS & LIBRARY

■ AYLESHAM LIBRARY

Ackholt Road
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■ AYLESHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Phone: 01304 840392

■ ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ackholt Road, CT3 3AS
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1953: AYLESHAM'S £2,000 CELEBRATIONS

OVER £2,000 had been raised for the coronation celebrations, which included plans for street teas and sports. The rain, however, was a spoilsport, but somehow everyone managed to get cover for tea.

The streets were lavishly decorated, Sheldon Close taking the first prize; 2nd was Burgess Road, "well done Bill Reddish". The under 5s were given a coronation mug, and others up to age 16 a 5/- piece. In the evening residents of Spinney Lane went by bus through the villages of East Kent to Ramsgate to see the decoration and the firework display.

Hyde Place used the school canteen for the children's tea, with a buffet in the street for the adults. Each child received 5/-, a coronation cup and saucer and chocolates, the old age pensioners were given 10/- each.

Clarendon Road staged their party in the Welfare pavilion. Each child received a coronation 5/- piece and the old age pensioners 10/-. Later the children were taken to London to see the decorations.

Milner Crescent had two parties, one at the Greyhound, where tea was served. All children received a coronation cup, and saucer and plate and tumbler filled with sweets. Old age pensioners were given bottles of spirits, and the oldest lady received a cardigan and the youngest baby a silver spoon.

The prefab estate held their tea in the Jubilee Hall, with a coronation cake in the form of a prefab house. Each child received a coronation cup, and saucer and plate. Dancing and singing took place in the street. The old age pensioners were given souvenirs

Atlee Avenue occupied half of St Peter's church hall, and served a meat tea, and the children were given brooches and tumblers of sweets and on Sunday were taken to Dymchurch for an outing. The old ladies were given brooches and one old man was given cigarettes. • Dancing and games were held in the hall.

Cornwallis Avenue airy type houses were also in St Peter's church hall for tea. The under 8's received crown money boxes, and the older children were given pens. All received coronation tumblers of sweets. The children were taken to London to see the decorations,

the old age pensioners were given £1 each, and the newest baby also received a gift. .

Another section of Cornwallis Avenue held their party at the W.M. Club. Each child up to eleven years received a cup, saucer, plate and spoon, boys over eleven years coronation wallet, and the girls a snapshot album. All had toffees.

The third part of Cornwallis held their party at Old Park Farm barn. Tea was followed by a fancy dress parade. Winners: 1st D. Harris; 2nd P. Hellier; 3rd S. Dawson; 4th A. Donn. Singing, sports and a puppet show followed. Each child received a 5/- piece

Kings Road had the use of the Glynn Vivian Mission for tea, with two coronation cakes. Dr and Mrs Pole were guests. Each child received a coronation cup and saucer and a present according to age. Old age pensioners received 10/-. The best decorated house winners were: 1st Mrs Roycroft, 54, Kings Road; 2nd Mrs Carman, 24, Kings Road. Mrs Pole who cut both cakes was presented with a bouquet.

Burgess Road filled the Mission hall as Kings Road left, and at tea an elaborate Coronation cake was cut; it was made and decorated by Mr W. Reddish. Children were given coronation cups, saucers, and plates, and sweets. Old age pensioners received 10/-, and every married woman a surprise gift. During the evening the Crazy Gang gave a concert.

Every street had a coronation cake. The day commenced with a film show given by Mr Chipper. The W.M. Club gave 500 tins of coronation sweets and the Social Club gave 500 children coronation mugs filled with toffees.

Queens Road held their tea at the Greyhound, and their Queen was Miss Sylvia Thornton, crowned by Miss Maxam. Each child received a 5/- piece and old age pensioners 10/- each. The competition was won by Mrs Knight, and Mr Hetherington.

Bell Grove and Ackholt Road held their tea at the Catholic hall, with the cutting of the cake by Mrs C V Garner. Each child received a cup, saucer, and plate, 5/- piece, tumbler of sweets and chocolates; and the old age pensioners 5/- pieces.

Ratling Road and Sheldon Close occupied the Mission hall for tea, with a coronation cake. The under 2's. were given a spoon and chocolates, the older children a coronation cup, saucer, and plate, and the old age pensioners 10/-.

Thanks to Keith Owen – see back page

CORONATION YEAR

1953 and Aylesham was set to throw its biggest party ever. Queen Elizabeth 2nd was to be crowned on June the 2nd 1953. Aylesham was mobilised into action; every street had an organising committee and were left to make their own arrangements.

On the big day every street would be decorated with bunting and patriotic flags; there was a competition for the best decorated house and the best decorated street.

Aylesham had raised £2,000 and that was used for the Coronation festivities and every street would have a street party.

Bill Reddish in Burgess Road had all us kids involved in decorating the street, going up to Spinney Lane woods and coming back with arms loaded with yellow bracken to decorate all the lamp posts in Burgess; it was good fun.

When the big day arrived it poured down. Emergency plans were put into operation. Street parties were held in church halls and the Legion Club and



The Coronation Queen and Maids

Greyhound hotel. Those lucky enough to have television could watch the coronation on TV. A television would set you back £80 in those days, eight times the average weekly wage.

Aylesham Senior School had chosen our coronation Queen and maids of honour for the coronation gala and sports day put on by the Aylesham Parish Council and held on the welfare ground on the 12th June.

The afternoon started off with the crowning of Aylesham's Coronation Year Queen, Miss Sheila Owen of Burgess Road, by Mrs Woodhouse, wife of Admiral Woodhouse,

Chairman of the south eastern division of the N.C.B. After the crowning ceremony, the Queen and her maids of honour, Miss June Roberts of Milner Crescent, and Miss Pauline Vosper, of Aylesham Road: Snowdown made a triumphant journey through the village.

There was a huge carnival procession consisting of fifty floats. Mr. C.E. White, the Manager of Snowdown Colliery and Mrs White presented the carnival prizes; there was a display by the Aylesham Rego marching maids who received a huge ovation. For those that wanted to remain after the sports there was a fair.

See page 35 "Aylesham's £2,000 celebrations"

This is an excerpt from Keith Owen's classic local history book: Aylesham Through the Years 1927-1987



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