

# AYLESHAM

AUTUMN 2023 SERIES 2 NO. 7

**IN TOUCH**

The season  
of mists and  
mellow  
fruitfulness

**Aylesham  
Carnival  
16 September**



**16 - 23 September**  
A week of community  
activities at Aylesham  
Community Trust

# Aylesham Home & Pet Supplies



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**Phone: 01304 447767**



## This magazine is produced for the village by volunteers

**WELCOME to the latest edition – now in its current form since 2021.**

In this edition we are pleased to publish a what's on during We Are Aylesham week at the Aylesham Community Trust.

We are looking forward to this programme of community events, and the Aylesham Carnival on 16 September.

The village made a national newspaper - the *Daily Mirror* - when they covered the problems of accessibility at the railway station, and the closure of ticket offices.

We print details of the range of activities and services run from *Bechange Community Hub*, a round up of some local clubs, and the Village Guide appears towards the back of the magazine. Do contact us if your club, society or group would like a report in the next edition.

### **NEXT EDITION: November 2023**

**LEFT: "LIFE ASSERTS ITSELF"** as some of the last green space in the village goes under construction. These three brave souls emerge victorious. For now. *Pic: Sue Bott*



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



Published by  
**Aylesham Hub Ltd** ©2023  
[ayleshamhub@gmail.com](mailto:ayleshamhub@gmail.com)

Hosted by



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## ayleshamintouch.com

*Thank you to all these organisations for help and support*





# snowdown CANARY

taking a  
birds-eye  
view



# Summer



## 2023 -2024 FIXTURES

16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – AWAY – THANET WANDERERS II

23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER – HOME – RYE I

30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – AWAY – MEDWAY IV

14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – AWAY – ASH I

21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER – HOME – DOVER II

4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER – HOME – CANTERBURY IV

11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER – HOME – EAST PECKHAM & PW I

18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER – AWAY – FOLKESTONE II

2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER – AWAY – GILLINGHAM II

9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – HOME – AYLSEFORD II

16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – AWAY – RYE I

6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – HOME – MEDWAY IV

20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – HOME – ASH I

27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – AWAY – DOVER II

3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY – AWAY – CANTERBURY IV

17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY – AWAY – EASY PECKHAM & PW 1

2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH – HOME – FOLKESTONE II

16<sup>th</sup> MARCH – HOME – GILLINGHAM II

23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH – AWAY – AYLESFORD II

6<sup>th</sup> APRIL – HOME – THANET WANDERERS II

NEW AND OLD PLAYERS/SUPPORTERS WELCOME

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

snowy ruggers @snowdowncfc –

Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre CT3 3BE

## THE HORSES

(right) - a popular feature of village events proved popular with people of all ages!

## A CHEEKY RUM

(below) - great local band stepped in to get the music going

**All is Fayre on  
the Square!**



## CROWDS GATHERED

(below) - but then the rain came



**Aylesham4Aylesham**

Organisers would like to thank everyone involved, and special thanks to Truloo for the donation of the facilities, Parish Council for the site, and Alan from One Call Electrical for all his help.

# Snapshots



**Aylesham & Rural is the  
100th Your Local Pantry**



**ABOVE:** Angela Doggett, Bechange Manager; Sue Bott, ACT Chair; Cllr Gordon Cowan, Chair of Dover District Council; Emily Barnes, ACT CEO, in the Bechange garden



**ABOVE:** Chef Miguel cooks up a tasty meal

**RIGHT:** The Trust's Main Hall looks stunning



## **A day of fun, cake and cooking in July at the Aylesham Community Trust**

To mark the century for this innovative cost of living project, one hundred guests attended a special meal at the Trust. MIGUEL BARCLAY aka "The £1 Chef" was invited to the celebration to demonstrate how it is possible to cook tasty, nutritious meals for around a pound. *For more details about the Pantry, see page 15.*

## **Be part of the AYLESHAM IN TOUCH Team**

VOLUNTEERS invited to help build on the success of the village magazine. There are lots of avenues, including design, photography, writing, organising etc. Great work experience and skill development.

EMAIL: [ayleshamintouch@gmail.com](mailto:ayleshamintouch@gmail.com)  
or write to AIT c/o Aylesham Community Trust,  
Ackholt Road, Aylesham CT3 3AJ

## **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**

## **RATLING SOCIAL CLUB BAR OPENING HOURS**



**Monday 12:00 - 21:00**

**Tuesday - Closed**

**Wednesday - Closed**

**Thursday 18:00 - 23:30**

**Friday 14:00 - 23:30**

**Saturday 12:00 - 23:30**

**Sunday 12:00 - 23:30**

**Last orders will be called 15  
minutes before the bar closes**

**The club will close 30 minutes after**

**Website: [www.ratlingclub.co.uk](http://www.ratlingclub.co.uk)**



# COMING UP: village events



aylesham4aylesham@hotmail.co.uk



## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND TREE LIGHTING

Saturday 2 December

– details to be announced

## CAROLS on the SQUARE 2023

Saturday 23 December

– details to be announced

# CARNIVAL

Saturday 16th September 2023

**PARADE**

from 5pm

**STALLS**

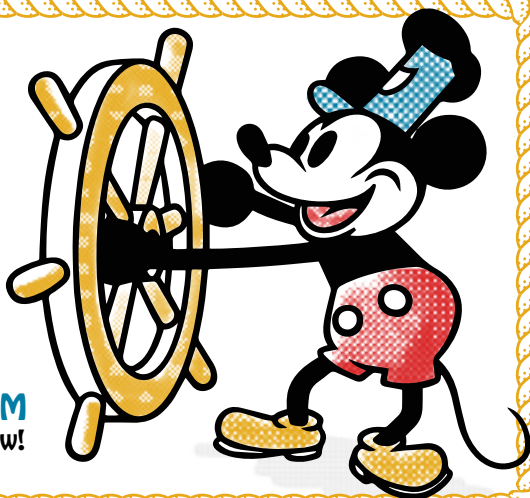
available to book

**FETE**

from 12pm in the Square

**PRIDE OF AYLESHAM**

make your nominations now!



[www.ayleshamcarnival.co.uk](http://www.ayleshamcarnival.co.uk)  
[aylesham.carnival@hotmail.com](mailto:aylesham.carnival@hotmail.com)





## Aylesham Community Trust site events

Ackholt Road, Aylesham CT3 3AJ

### TUESDAY 19 SEPT

#### Aylesham Arts Club ART SPLASH

Come along and have a go at Bechange Community Hub  
2.00pm - 4pm

### FRIDAY 22 SEPT

#### CAMERADOS ShinDig

Come for a Cuppa and Stay for Lunch!

Front Lawn (or Hall if weather is bad)

Aylesham Community Trust 12pm-3pm

### FRIDAY 22 SEPT

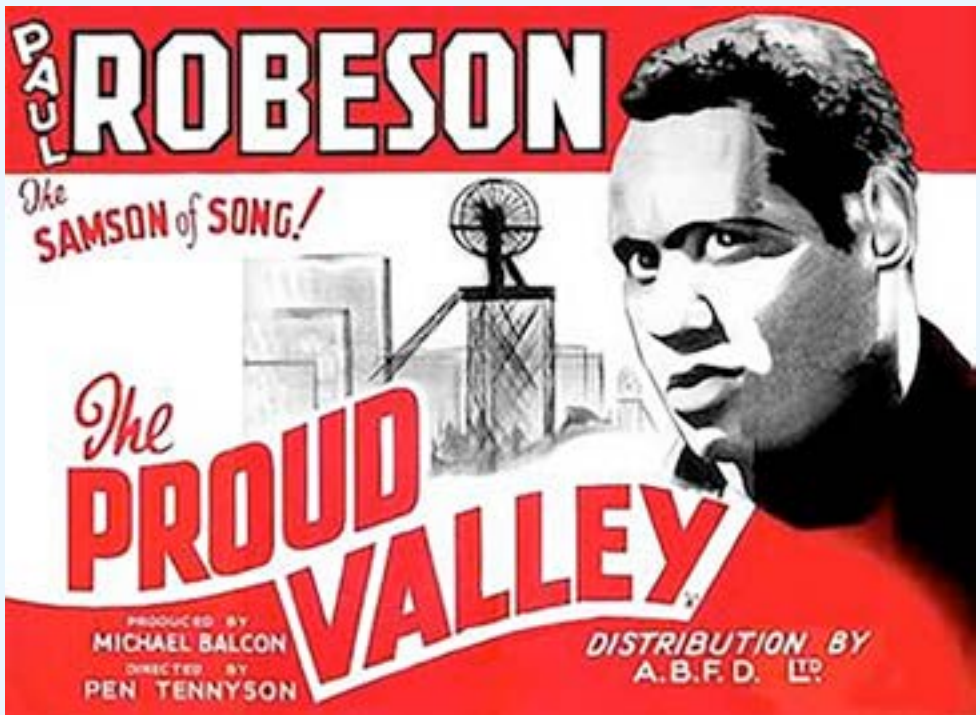
Free Classic Film Screening at 3pm - Aylesham Community Trust

## SATURDAY 23 SEPT

Main Hall - Aylesham Community Trust

**QUIZ NIGHT**  
SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023  
DOORS OPEN 6:30PM - QUIZ STARTS 7PM  
AYLESHAM WORKSHOP TRUST - ACKHOLT ROAD  
AMERICAN SUPPER STYLE - (BRING YOUR OWN FOOD & DRINK)  
ALL PROCEEDS TO SNOWDOWN COLLIERY WELFARE MALE VOICE CHOIR

£5 PER PERSON  
TABLES OF NO MORE THAN 6  
BOOK TICKETS WITH QR CODE  
OR 07758 698542





# A week of community events on the **Aylesham Community Trust** site

**Ackholt Road, Aylesham CT3 3AJ**

**THIS YEAR** our annual “We Are Aylesham” event in September will be a week-long celebration of fun, running from Saturday 16th to Saturday 23rd September on the Aylesham Community Hub site on Ackholt Road.

There will be something different to do every day and we welcome you to come and see what is happening at what was once the village secondary school.

On Saturday 16th September the brilliant Aylesham Carnival event will take place as advertised (*see page 6*) by the carnival team. We are looking forward to welcoming the Carnival Court to our Main Hall for the private function that takes place as part of this traditional event.

Our clubs and groups run all year round and whilst some are always free, others may require a subscription to join. But all of them will be offering a FREE drop in and taster session during the “We Are Aylesham” event week.

**So, why not take a look at the timetable on the right, and see if anything takes your fancy?**

There will be opportunities for taster sessions with all of the clubs that use our spaces including the very popular Aylesham Amateur Boxing Club, the Karate Club, Yoga and the Aylesham Majorettes.

For those in search of a more relaxed or creative experience the clubs based at Aylesham Library, and Bechange Community Hub will

be offering Bridge, Scrabble, Crafting, Sewing, Knit and Natter as well as the Shed Club who are developing their next big project. Aylesham Arts Club are presenting an Art Splash event on Tuesday 19th - come along and find out about their projects.

New parents are always welcome at the Baby Club at Bechange, and the famous and very busy Snowdown Welfare Male Voice Choir are offering men the rare chance to drop in on one of their regular rehearsal days for a relaxed opportunity to meet the gang and to have a go at joining in.

There will also be some special events taking place during the week, on Friday The Aylesham Community Trust and Bechange will be hosting the Camerados “ShinDig” out on the front lawn when our Camerados “Public Living Rooms” will move outside and host an *al fresco* Community Lunch.

The Aylesham People’s Cinema Club are hosting a special afternoon matinee film screening of ‘The Proud Valley’. The Aylesham Library will present a special exhibition of some of their Aylesham related local history archives. You can drop in to see this and explore their archives whenever they are open. Lots of free fun for all!

The Snowdown Welfare Male Voice Choir will bring the week to a close with their Quiz Night fundraising event in support of the choir. All are welcome to take part and tickets are available - *see the advert on page 9*.

See (*right*) for the full timetable and further details of all the activities including any contact information.

Or email us on [info@aylesham.org.uk](mailto:info@aylesham.org.uk) for general enquiries about the event.

**Further details about events in the KCC Library, see page 17.**

**For information about events at Bechange Community Hub see pages 14 & 15.**



## MON 18<sup>TH</sup>

### Pilates Taster

Bechange Community Hub

10am - 11am

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### Yoga

Drop In Taster Session

Studio, Aylesham Community Trust

10am (Call 01304 842826 before attending)

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### Snowdown Welfare Male Voice Choir

Drop In Evening & Taster Session

Main Hall, Aylesham Community Trust

7pm - 9.30pm

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## TUE 19<sup>TH</sup>

### Aylesham Arts Club

#### ART SPLASH

Come along and have a go at Bechange

2.30pm - 4pm

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### Bridge Club

Aylesham Library

10am - 12.30pm

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### Yoga

Drop In Evening & Taster Session

(Call 01304 842826 before attending)

Studio, Aylesham Community Trust

7pm 8.30pm

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## WED 20<sup>TH</sup>

### Sewing Club

Bechange Community Hub

10am - 12pm

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### Come and meet ...

#### Aylesham Business Network

Common Room, Aylesham Community Trust

10am - 12pm

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### Karate

Drop In Evening & Taster Session

Main Hall, Aylesham Community Trust

5pm - 9.30pm

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## THU 21<sup>st</sup>

### Knit & Natter

Bechange Community Hub

10am - 12pm

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### Games & Pastimes

Bechange Community Hub

10.30am - 1pm

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### Majorettes

Drop In Evening & Taster Session

Main Hall, Aylesham Community Trust

5.30pm - 7pm

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## FRI 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Just Craftin'

Bechange Community Hub

10am - 12pm

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### Shed Project

Bechange Community Hub

9.30am - 3.30pm

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### CAMERADOS ShinDig

#### Come for a Cuppa and Stay for Lunch!

Front Lawn (or Hall if weather is bad)

12pm-3pm

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### Aylesham Cinema Club:

#### THE PROUD VALLEY

Common Room, Aylesham Community Trust

3.30pm FREE screening See page 7

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### Aylesham Amateur Boxing Club

Drop In Evening & Taster Session

Boxing Club Gym, Aylesham Community Trust

6pm - 7.30pm

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## SAT 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Snowdown Welfare Male Voice Choir

#### Quiz Night Fundraiser

See the advert on page 7 for details

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# Aylesham in

# DAILY Mirror

THE effective closure of Aylesham railway station ticket office and the difficulties this poses for all, but especially disabled travellers, was picked up by the *Daily Mirror* in August. Here is some of what they printed:

“**T**he Kent station used to have a full-time ticket office employee, but since Jan retired (everybody knew her by name), she has not been replaced.

Southeastern trains, owned by the Government after it took back the franchise in 2021, says if someone can't buy a ticket at the station, they can buy one from an on-board manager or conductor. Yet in January the £20 fine for being caught without a ticket went up to £100, plus the price of your journey. Worrying.

Apparently, staff will be moved to be out and about on the platforms instead. But it begs the question: why take staff out of ticket offices where the public knows it can find them and instead let them play Where's Wally? How is a visually impaired person supposed to know where a randomly positioned member of staff is?

## CONNECTION

How is somebody living with chronic pain, learning disabilities or autism meant to wander around until they find somebody? It's going to leave many people feeling unable to travel. Sue says there was a sense of community at Aylesham when Jan was here. Human connection matters. Mental health has been in crisis since the pandemic and automating ticket offices will make it worse. It is actively disabling.

I'm wondering how I'm going to get across the tracks when I come back to Aylesham. I



**ABOVE:** Journalist ANNA MORRELL with Aylesham resident, SUE BOTT  
**RIGHT:** Sue with guide dog BERRY

Images: Phil Harris

can't manage stairs and often use the Passenger Assistance app to book help. But I have to do this two hours before. I also wonder if some disabled people will be able to identify whether people on the platforms are who they say they are.

Southeastern said it is looking into this, adding: “Station help points and CCTV will form part of this process.”



*The industry consultation on ticket office closures ended on 1 September, having been extended following public pressure.*

**The RMT trade union looks set to continue calling for the plan to be scrapped with concerns for jobs and passenger safety.**



# Aylesham Heritage



**BANNER BRIGHT:** some members of the Heritage team with the Kent Area NUM banner

**T**HIS 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.

Our Heritage Centre 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.

*Aylesham Heritage Centre is open to the public every Wednesday between 10am and 2pm.*

**Aylesham Heritage Centre, Aylesham House, Dorman Avenue South, Aylesham.**

The family of the late

**George (Rab) Mossie**

would like to thank everyone for supporting them at this sad time.



All the messages, cards, and flowers, we are truly thankful. We would like to thank everyone who helped us give our dad the send off he deserved. Family who came from Scotland and Burton. Watson & Bell, Aylesham Heritage for arranging the flag,

Sian at, Village Flowers and Dove release, Hetty's and the team at the Leisure centre. Thank you all.



**Support our Centre in the Dover Lotto**

Scan the QR code with the camera app on you phone or tablet for details

**I**t has been three years since the start of the Aylesham Arts Club, and it has been an amazing time with plenty of creative artworks produced and exhibited.

New members are always welcome feel free to come along to one of our open sessions which run on Tuesdays at the Bechange Community Hub, Ackholt Road (next to the Library). Costs start from just £3 per session which includes all materials and equipment used in the session).

Or full membership costs £10 per month, which includes the weekly materials PLUS on joining, a complete basic sketching set and art box with sketch book.

We will soon be opening our own art supply shop offering basic materials and a range of professional quality mediums.

## COMING SOON:

We have been given a permanent Exhibition Space in the entrance to Aylesham Community Trust. We will be showing local artists work; themed exhibitions and hope to attract touring displays.

We are currently starting work on a project called SEASIDE and would like to capture local memories and experiences of days out to the east Kent coast. Do get in touch with photos and stories.

[www.ayleshamartsclub.org.uk](http://www.ayleshamartsclub.org.uk)

**■ We meet Tuesdays, 2pm to 4pm at Bechange Community Hub, Ackholt Road, next to the Library. All welcome.**



Scan the QR code with the camera app on your device, to find the Arts Club web site.

## IMPRESSIONS of the masters

The club did an interesting collaboration recently where a classic painting was divided up and members took a piece each to reproduce in a different medium and style.



ABOVE:  
"Cafe Terrace at Night" created by the group

LEFT:  
the original by Van Gogh



ABOVE:  
"Boating Party" created by the group

LEFT:  
the original by Renoir



# Bechange Community Hub

## Shedding success



A GRANT cheque for £2500 from 'Kent Minds' kicks off the Shed project. Pictured above: Brian; Stephen and Mark.



First project completed: a potting table for the Baptist Church. Mark is shown handing it over to Laura Moncaster.

*To find out more about the Shed project, call in to Bechange or call 01304 840134*



## DROP-IN Support & Guidance

If you need support, then please get in contact - there are a number of ways you can do this.

**DROP-IN SESSIONS:** We have three sessions a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 10am to 12pm when you can drop in and talk to one of our support team.

No need to make an appointment. You can talk through your situation with the team and discuss the next steps.

If we are not able to help you with a specific area that is concerning you then we will help you to access assistance from other agencies.

You can also telephone us or call in at our hub to make an appointment to see one of our team.

**Please call 01304 840134**

## AYLESHAM ARTS CLUB

Meets weekly at Bechange on Tuesdays.

No experience necessary, no need to book.

First session £3 and an easy membership scheme.

Materials included.

**Call 01304 840134**

**for details**

**2pm - 4pm**

## AYLESHAM SHED PROJECT

**Every Friday**

**9.30am - 3pm**

Come along and join the Shed Project, where like minded people meet up weekly to work on DIY Projects.

*Bechange Community Hub*  
FREE and open to all adults

**For more info please call:  
01304 840134**

## 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.

**THURSDAYS**

**10.30am - 12pm**

**Please ring 01304 840134  
to book**



# Ackholt Rd, Aylesham CT3 3AJ

Find us on the Aylesham Community Trust site

## Monthly AFTERNOON TEA DANCE

Brought to you by Bechange, the Aylesham Community Trust and Your Leisure

If you like to dance and enjoy good music and good company then look no further. Our monthly Tea Dance is the perfect way to enjoy everything about dance.

The afternoon will be made up of:

- A 45-minute structured session with a professional tutor
- Break for refreshments & cakes
- Closing with an open floor for you to practice what you have learnt or to polish up those steps

Please come along and join us for a relaxed afternoon of dancing

**- 2nd Monday, monthly**

**- 1.30pm - 3.30pm**

**in the Main Hall, Aylesham Community Trust.**

**£5.00 per session**

**OPEN TO THOSE AGED +55**

**Booking required please call:  
01304 840134**

## SEWING CLUB at BECHANGE every Wednesday

Join us on a Wednesday for our new sewing club.

Come along and join our fun group, where like minded people meet up weekly to work on sewing projects, from novice to the more experienced, our members are happy to share their knowledge and skills.

**10am - 12.00pm**

**OPEN TO ALL**

**Booking not required**

## JUST CRAFTIN' AROUND Every Friday

Come along and join our fun group, where like minded people meet up weekly to work on crafting projects. So if your feeling crafty come and join us.

**10am - 12.00pm**

**OPEN TO ALL**

**Booking not required**

## 'LITE BITES' community lunch COMING BACK SOON

Lite Bites has proven to be a real success since it started. All the monies raised goes straight back in to the project to enable us to continue to deliver this service to the community.

**STARTING AGAIN  
SOON!**

**Keep a look out  
for details**

**FRIDAYS 12.30pm-2.00pm**

**OPEN TO ALL**

**Booking not required**

## PILATES Mondays

**Mondays 10:00 am - 11:00 am**

In the hall at Bechange.

Weekly sessions suitable for all levels of fitness.

Helps improve general fitness and all over wellbeing

## BABY CLUB Fridays

This group is for parents/ careers and their babies up to age 10 months. There will be a chance to talk to the team about topics such as breastfeeding, weaning, sleep, and play.

**Call Bechange to book a place  
- 01304 840 134**

## Monthly 'MEMORY CAFE'

### THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

1.30pm to 3.30pm in the main hall at Bechange. Please contact Debbie on 07821 636980 for details. Run in collaboration with *Dementia & Me*.

## See the Beautiful Trees at Fredville Park Nonington

**S**tart your walk on Ratling Road, Aylesham. Head east over the railway line and past the Yodel depot to the crossroads. Go straight across Palm Tree Lane and take the footpath on the corner of Palm Tree Lane and Chapman Hill. Follow the path across two fields.

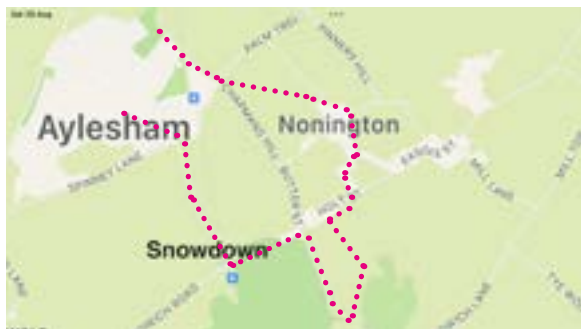
Coming out on to the road walk down towards St Mary's Church Nonington. The church dates back to the 13th century and is worth a look around if it is open. Go through the churchyard on to the corner of Pinner Lane and Vicarage Street.

On your right have a look in the cemetery where there is a large gravestone headed 'Two Roads'. The gravestone is a memorial to the life of John Payn who died in 1872 aged only 22. It was erected by the vicar of Nonington, Revd. Douglas. It's unclear why but maybe John led a life of questionable morality and the vicar wanted to teach his parishioners a lesson.

From here walk up Vicarage Street and turn into Church Street on your right. Take the footpath on your left in between Nonington primary school and Cornerways House. At the end of the path you will come out on to Holt Street. Cross the road and turn left walking along the pavement past the cricket ground. At the end of the cricket ground turn right past a cottage to the cattle grid into Fredville park. There is a gate at the side of the cattle grid for easier access. Once in the park you will need to keep any dog on a lead as there will be sheep.

Fredville Park has many ancient oak and chestnut trees. I like to stop and look at the trees thinking about how much history they have seen over the years. One of the trees, which unfortunately cannot be seen from the path, is mentioned in the Guinness Book of Records. It is known as the Majesty and is at least 400 years old. It is the largest maiden oak in the country, even larger than any oak in Robin Hood's Sherwood Forest.

Continue along the roadway through the park. At the



**FAMOUS trees of Fredville Park**

top turn left and go through the side gate. Beware there will still be sheep so keep any dog on a lead. Follow the track round until you come to a white gate by the old gatehouse at Frogham. Go through the gate onto Nightingale Lane.

Turn right and continue along the lane until you reach the crossroads. Cross straight over Holt Street onto Butter Street. Walk along Butter Street until you

see Church Street on your right. Here you can either turn left and follow the footpath to Snowdown or carry straight on up Chapman Hill. Continue until you reach the crossroads from where you can walk back to your start point.

**The walk is approximately 6 miles and should take just over 2 hours, depending on how many blackberries you eat along the way!**



**GRAVE matters**



**Your Local Pantry**  
in the main building at the  
**Aylesham Community Trust,**  
**Ackholt Road, CT3 3AJ**



**Working together for Aylesham**

**Do you know of a catering business or food outlet that may have surplus stock?**

Aylesham Pantry always welcomes surplus food that might otherwise go to waste.

**Please give us a call and we can see if we can work together:**  
**01304 840134**

**We always welcome business sponsorship for this great community project**

We are a new project and would like to grow. Business sponsorship helps us plan ahead.

**Please give us a call and we can see if we can work together:**  
**01304 840134**

**We will soon be in a position to take on new members. Interested?**

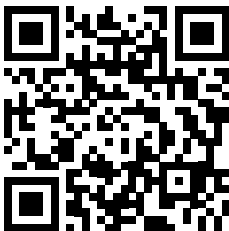
**Call in to Bechange Community Hub at the Ackholt Road site and we can explain the application process.**



**Give Today. Help Tomorrow.**  
**Donate exactly what is needed.**

Scan the QR code to reach the Bechange item donation shop!

Here you can browse and purchase the items that they need this month. The team at Give Today then make sure your donation is delivered directly to the Pantry.



**You can donate Pantry items straight to the shop or leave in the donation spots at Bechange or the Aylesham Community Trust**



**JOIN the Pantry Volunteer Team!**



There are various volunteer roles available. Some in the shop and others behind the scenes!

**Call in to Bechange Community Hub at the Ackholt Road site and we can explain the application process.**





**GAS & PLUMBING SERVICES**

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A QUOTE  
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**AYLESHAM  
COMMUNITY TRUST**

[\*\*www.awt.org.uk\*\*](http://www.awt.org.uk)

**Aylesham Community Trust, Ackholt Road,  
Aylesham, Kent CT3 3AJ 01304 842826**

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**COMMUNITY GRANTS**

**Community Groups in Aylesham, Elvington, Tilmanstone, Betteshanger,  
Snowdown 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**

# What's On at **Aylesham Library?**

## DISCOVER more about Aylesham's past

From Tuesday, 19 September. Browse our display of local history books and pictures, a celebration of Aylesham, as part of 'We are Aylesham' week.

If you're keen on bridge or Scrabble and you're looking for a friendly group to join, come along to Aylesham Library to find out more. Activities take place on the following days:



**BRIDGE GROUP** – Tuesdays  
(except the 2nd Tuesday of the month), 10 am – 12.30 pm

**READING GROUP** – 2nd Tuesday of the month

**CREATIVE WRITING GROUP** – One Thursday a month, 2 – 4 pm

**SCRABBLE GROUP** – Every Friday, 10 am – midday

To join in with any of the activities please call into the Library, telephone 01304 861200 or email [ayleshamlibrary@kent.gov.uk](mailto:ayleshamlibrary@kent.gov.uk) for details.

**Our location is: Aylesham Library, Ackholt Road, Aylesham, Canterbury, CT3 3AJ**

### OPENING HOURS:

*Monday Closed*

#### TUESDAY

9.30am – 12.30pm, 1.30 pm – 5pm

*Wednesday Closed*

#### Thursday

9.30am – 12.30pm, 1.30 pm – 5pm

#### FRIDAY

9.30am – 12.30pm, 1.00pm – 4pm

#### SATURDAY

9.30 am – 1.30 pm

Don't forget that you can book to use a computer via our website [www.kent.gov.uk/libs](http://www.kent.gov.uk/libs) or telephone 01304 861200

WiFi printing is available to use from your own device.

To find out more about Kent Libraries and Archives, please go to [www.kent.gov.uk/libs](http://www.kent.gov.uk/libs) or visit our Facebook page

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by Dover District Councillor, Jamie Pout writing in a personal capacity

# 100 Days and counting!

**DOVER District Council, the district authority which covers Aylesham, has a new administration in place since May this year. The ruling group comprises the Labour Party councillors, and the Conservatives are now the opposition group. There are some Green Party councillors too. Here, Cllr. JAMIE POUT one of the councillors that represents Aylesham, and Deputy Leader of the Council, reports on the first hundred days in office.**

**CC LABOUR'S new administration at Dover District Council (DDC) has been in charge now for just over 100 days. As your newly elected district councillor for the Aylesham, Eythorne and Shepherdsweil ward (alongside Cllr Maria Mamjan and Cllr Charles Woodgate), and being an Aylesham resident, I wanted to give an update.**

Typically, many plans will have been in place for months, if not years, and a new administration will be forced into seeing through these projects (for example Fastrack is due to complete in Early-2024). So what exactly have the new leaders and cabinet been up to?

Whilst inflation continues to be sky-high, and food inflation even higher, the cost of living for residents in the District remains an issue. A recent Cost of Living plan produced by the new Labour group, with council leader Cllr Kevin Mills explaining "our number one priority since taking control of the Council has been to put in place plans to help the most vulnerable through the cost-of-living crisis." There are many in our village that we know are struggling: those on the lowest incomes; with pre-payment energy meters;

parents and young families; unemployed and universal credit claimants; people in rented accommodation; and underserved populations. Residents of our District are worse off than Kent, on average, and so our plan is to target our efforts towards those who will see the biggest benefit.

The plan includes an £85k community impact grant, will see the council liaising with local organisations such as Bechange to provide targeted support and a new website to provide resources and advice to residents – a centralised catalogue of help.

The 'Summer Getaway', with thousands travelling through the Port of Dover (PoD) to access the continent, means the usual traffic chaos was expected in Dover this year. A plan was drafted for the Tory-leadership last year that was shelved in the hope that MP Natalie Elphicke would save the day. This year, as the cabinet member and deputy leader I have publicly criticised Kent Resilience Forum's (KRF) complacency that ultimately sees Dover gridlocked every school holiday. The media campaign, and work with PoD, meant that many more resources were seen across the town – at key junctions such as York Street, Woolcomber Street and Jubilee Way – that largely kept the town moving, with some isolated hotspots at time. KRF seem keen to protect Faversham and Folkestone at all cost, with a general acceptance that Dover and surrounding roads will experience wide spread jams. There's a way to go to ensure Dover is not Kent traffic's sacrificial lamb.

At July's full council meeting, Cllr Kevin Mills responded to a number of public questions highlighting that this council will take the environment and Climate Change much more seriously: we have recruited a Climate Change officer who will "look outwards as well as within" to make major changes in line with the council's Climate commitments, and Cllr Mills also tasked portfolio holder Cllr Sue Beer with appraising the usefulness of the council's Climate Change Project Advisory Group, to "look at the structure and representation" of the group and look towards "a much wider base". We hope to see support for the Climate and Ecology Bill at the next full council meeting: Aylesham

**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](mailto:ayleshamintouch@gmail.com)**

# Aylesham Farmers & Artisan Market

Email: lyddmarkets@gmail.com

**Saturday 9 September. St. Peter's Church Hall,  
Dorman Ave North. Aylesham. CT3 3BL**

The Market will be monthly. Door open 10 o'clock to 1 o'clock.

Parish Council supported this bill some time ago.

In a bid to increase public participation in local democracy, cabinet meetings have immediately been moved to the new 6pm slot (rather than during the day under the previous administration). This allows more members of the public to attend and observe meetings, keeping a careful eye on discussions and ensuring members are in check. This also means that cabinet members like myself, who have day jobs like the majority of our residents, can attend meetings more easily. We see this as a positive step for local democracy.

Since the May election, it's become evident that Kent County Council (KCC) are in dire straights: large financial overspends and corresponding budget cuts as well as internal leadership squabbles. The outcome of this is that our front line services used by the district's residents day after day are in grave danger: fighting to keep hold of bus routes for example will soon become the norm. The next service in their sights is Household Waste and Recycling centres – first Richborough near Sandwich was at risk, and now Deal too – as KCC attempt to make £86.3m worth of savings over

the coming year, with more bad news likely to be announced before the end of the year. DDC officers are clear that shortsighted decisions like closing tips, will ultimately cost our council as more people will fly tip – a burden felt by all. But don't worry: KCC are shuffling their cabinet members in an attempt to "focus on the challenges and opportunities facing [KCC]" according to KCC leader, Cllr Roger Gough – nothing to do with a looming leadership contest then!

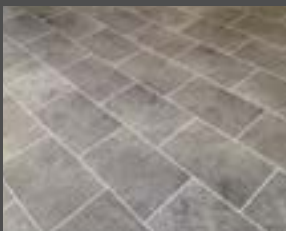
On a more local level, I have been working alongside our fantastic council officers to maximise what we get from the development in our village. With works going on near to the station, minor issues (dust, lorries and access) have been quickly rectified where residents and officers have kept in constant communication. We have also been awaiting a new sports hall, to be located at Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre, and so am working with officers and trustees to ensure this happens sooner rather than later.

As always, I will continue to work for, and campaign on behalf of, residents of the village and our ward." ■



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# IN TOUCH with BUSINESS



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**Please email [admin@aly-young-law.co.uk](mailto:admin@aly-young-law.co.uk) to confirm attendance.**

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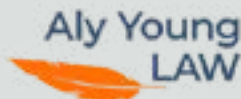
or email: [info@slswillsandmore.co.uk](mailto:info@slswillsandmore.co.uk)

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# IN TOUCH with FAITH

## Saint Finbarr's Roman Catholic Church

Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ  
Phone: 01304 206766

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Thank you!

St Peter's Church  
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AYLESHAM IN TOUCH welcomes  
notices from all faith groups in the  
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[ayleshamintouch@gmail.com](mailto:ayleshamintouch@gmail.com)

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**kentstonemason.co.uk**

## YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Aylesham and Snowdown form part of Dover District Council's ward of Aylesham, Eythorne and Shepherswell, represented by three councillors.



Cllr Shehrazade Mamjan  
07901 206582

cllr-shehrazade.mamjan@dover.gov.uk



Cllr Jamie Pout

07789 866772

cllr-jamie.pout@dover.gov.uk



Cllr Charles Woodgate

07427 517498

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](http://www.dover.gov.uk)

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# VILLAGE GUIDE

## LOCAL AUTHORITIES

### ■ AYLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**CHAIR:** Cllr Sue Bott

**VICE CHAIR:** Cllr Kay Sutcliffe

Aylesham House, Dorman Avenue South,  
Aylesham CT3 3AD

**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](http://www.ayleshampc.co.uk)

### ■ YOUR DOVER DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Aylesham and Snowdown form part of Dover District Council's ward of Aylesham, Eythorne and Shepherdswell, represented by three councillors. They are: Maria Mamjan; Jamie Pout; Charles Woodgate. Contact details on page 25.

## 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](mailto:ayleshambaptist@gmail.com)

find us on facebook search 'Aylesham Baptist'

[www.ayleshambaptistfreechurch.co.uk](http://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](mailto:stpetersaylesham@gmail.com)

Web: [www.stpetersaylesham.co.uk](http://www.stpetersaylesham.co.uk)

Dorman Avenue North CT3 3BL

Email: [stpetersaylesham@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersaylesham@gmail.com)

### ■ ST FINBARR'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ

Phone: 01304 206766

## 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

### ■ BECHANGE COMMUNITY HUB

At Bechange Community Hub we pride ourselves on our friendly approach and expertise in a wide range of support needs; from Benefits such as universal credit, PIP, DLA and Attendance Allowance, to Housing, Family Matters, Finances and Employment.

Our Support Team can work with you every step of the way, no matter how long or short your support journey. Not sure if your needs fit our support criteria? Get in touch to find out.

We offer Drop-In sessions Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am-12pm. Or you can contact us by telephoning 01304 840134 with an enquiry, to make an enquiry or referral.

Tel: 01304 840134 [enquiries@bechange.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bechange.org.uk)

### ■ FOODBANK

If making ends meet is hard for you at the moment, you may be able to get food and household goods from the Foodbank. Please contact Bechange on 01304 840134 or call in at one of their drop-in sessions if you need help.

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**FREE MEETING SPACE FOR  
COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS  
in the 'Community HQ' at the  
Aylesham Community Trust,  
Ackholt Road, Aylesham.**

*Conditions apply*

**Call for details: 01304 824826**

# VILLAGE GUIDE

## ■ AYLESHAM HUB

Community Co-Operative  
ayleshamhub@gmail.com

## ■ AYLESHAM COMMUNITY 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  
03000 413131

### ■ AYLESHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Address: Attlee Ave, CT3 3BS  
Phone: 01304 840392

### ■ ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCH

Ackholt Road, CT3 3AS  
Email: office@st-josephs-aylesham.kcsp.org  
Phone: 01304 840370  
Web: stjosephs-aylesham.co.uk  
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Twitter: @stjosephsai

## COMMERCIAL

### ■ 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

### ■ AYLESHAM POST OFFICE

Market Pl, Aylesham, Canterbury CT3 3DZ  
Phone: 01304 840457

### ■ AYLESHAM HOME & PET STORE

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## ■ NEIL SCRIVENER STONEMASON

Ackholt Road, Aylesham CT3 3AJ 01304 820882

## ■ SLIMMING WORLD WITH CLARE

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St Peters Church - Aylesham

Call/Text: Clare on 07884 123 407

## ■ SLS WILLS AND MORE LIMITED

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## ■ WATSON & BELL

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01304 840880

## ■ S D WEBB

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*Every effort is made to ensure listings are correct.  
Please let us know if something has gone wrong.*

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# **YOUR FOODBANK**

**DEAL AREA FOODBANK  
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struggling to make ends meet.**

We also know, that with the current rise in cost of living, that it is not just families with school aged children that are struggling. We understand that people's financial situations are harder right now, not just those with children.

As the cost of living rises and budgets are stretched, unexpected costs, such as a broken appliance, a large utility bill or an increase in petrol for essential journeys, can push households into crisis and debt.

**As well as supporting with food and essential household items, we may be able to help you, through the Household Support Fund, to meet some of these extra demands on your household budget.**

If you need help you are not alone, we are here to give you the support you need. We help people in many different circumstances, you do not need to be on benefits, you may be working or

retired, young or old. Whether you are living alone, as a couple or in a larger family unit. Everyone's circumstances are different, and we will treat you with respect and kindness, we know how tough things are right now.

## **How to get help from us:**

We are working with our partners Bechange Community Hub who are based in Aylesham.



**Bechange, Ackholt Road,  
Aylesham CT3 3AJ**

**Tel: 01304 840134**

You can give them a call on **01304 840134 or 07889 595426** between 9am and 5pm or call in to one of their drop-in sessions **Monday, Wednesday or Friday 10am -12pm.**

**You can also contact Deal Area Foodbank on 01304 728428 or 07926599439**

*If you don't get through straight away, please leave a message, someone will always get back to you*