



DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL
TALK **TOWN**
of the



Issue 70 November 2015

*'Helping make Dunstable
a Better Place'*

Tea with
Santa
at Priory House

PLUS...
Festive Football Fixtures
Christmas on the Market
Illuminating Dunstable
and lots more...



www.dunstable.gov.uk



**DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL**

Meet the Councillors

CENTRAL WARD



Cllr Patricia Russell
44 Mayfield Road
Dunstable LU5 4AP
07717 192398



Cllr Lisa Bird
124 Chiltern Road
Dunstable LU6 1ET
01582 478078



Cllr Pat Staples
Mandelay
10 The Paddocks
Dunstable LU6 3FQ
01582 650018

MANSHEAD WARD



Cllr Des Moffatt
16 Borough Road
Dunstable LU5 4DA
01582 241867



Cllr Eugene Ghent
1 Fox Dells
Dunstable LU6 3LD
01582 703036



Cllr Jessica Castle
39 Sunbower Avenue
Dunstable
LU6 1UQ

ICKNIELD WARD



Cllr John Chatterley
36 Roslyn Way
Houghton Regis
LU5 6JY
01582 867536



Cllr John Kane
2 Ripley Road
Luton
LU4 0AT
01582 510048



Cllr Gloria Martin
70 Crabtree Way
Dunstable
LU6 1UR
01582 666910



Cllr Sid Abbott
29 Holliwick Road
Dunstable
LU5 4RA
01582 660457



Cllr Nigel Warren
41 Lowry Drive
Houghton Regis
LU5 5SJ
01582 864396

NORTHFIELDS WARD



Cllr Emma Simmons
27 Pipers Croft
Dunstable
LU6 3JZ
01582 933591



Cllr Terry Colbourne
70 Crabtree Way
Dunstable
LU6 1UR
01582 666910



Cllr Jeannette Freeman
77 Hillcroft
Dunstable
LU6 1TT
01582 756060



Cllr Julie Harnett
8 Ashcroft
Dunstable
LU6 1DX
07958 682433



Cllr Gemma Le Surf
7 Linwood Lodge
96 Chiltern Road
Dunstable LU6 1ES
07739 183322

WATLING WARD



Cllr Peter Hollick
1 Carlisle Close
Dunstable
LU6 3PH
01582 665133



Cllr Liz Jones
82 Jeansway
Dunstable
LU5 4PP
01582 472044



Cllr Claire Meakins-Jell
11 Bernard Close
Dunstable
LU5 4HL
07583 888001



Cllr Ann Sparrow
23 Staines Square
Dunstable
LU6 3JG
01582 602386



Cllr Andy Whayman
Birch House
32a Bull Pond Lane
Dunstable LU6 3BJ
07905 100932

Dunstable Town Council Committee Membership

Finance and General Purposes

Councillors Liz Jones (*Town Mayor*)
Peter Hollick (*Deputy Town Mayor*)
John Kane (*Chairman*)
Terry Colbourne (*Vice-Chairman*)
John Chatterley
Eugene Ghent
Julie Harnett
Gemma Le-Surf
Gloria Martin
Claire Meakins-Jell
Des Moffatt
Patricia Russell
Ann Sparrow
Pat Staples
Nigel Warren
Andy Whayman

Community Services

Liz Jones (*Town Mayor*)
Peter Hollick (*Deputy Town Mayor*)
Pat Staples (*Chairman*)
Claire Meakins-Jell (*Vice-Chairman*)
Sid Abbott
Lisa Bird
Jessica Castle
John Chatterley
Jeannette Freeman
Eugene Ghent
Julie Harnett
Gemma Le-Surf
Patricia Russell
Emma Simmons

Grounds and Environmental

Councillors Liz Jones (*Town Mayor*)
Peter Hollick (*Deputy Town Mayor*)
Gloria Martin (*Chairman*)
Nigel Warren (*Vice-Chairman*)
Sid Abbott
Lisa Bird
Jessica Castle
Terry Colbourne
Jeannette Freeman
John Kane
Des Moffatt
Emma Simmons
Ann Sparrow
Andy Whayman

Dunstable Town Council

Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF
Tel 01582 513000 Fax 01582 890606
Email info@dunstable.gov.uk Web www.dunstable.gov.uk
Opening Hours 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday

[facebook/dunstablecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/dunstablecouncil)
[facebook/grovecornerdunstable](https://www.facebook.com/grovecornerdunstable)
[facebook/creaseypark](https://www.facebook.com/creaseypark)

[@dunstabletc](https://twitter.com/dunstabletc) [@dunstableevents](https://twitter.com/dunstableevents)
[@dunstabletown](https://twitter.com/dunstabletown) [@creaseypark](https://twitter.com/creaseypark)
[@prioryhouse](https://twitter.com/prioryhouse)

DISCLAIMER: Whilst every care has been taken in compiling this publication and the statements contained herein are believed to be correct, Dunstable Town Council cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies and do not endorse any particular products.

Welcome



Dunstable Town Mayor

Councillor
Liz Jones

Since the last edition of Talk of the Town I have attended many celebratory, community and civic events, as well as holding a number of charity events which have raised money towards my chosen charities. I have been extremely lucky to receive two unexpected donations to my charities, from Caritas Harmony and Waterway Estates Limited and I thank them for their very kind generosity. Support for my events has been fantastic and in particular thank you to the many local businesses who sponsored my golf day in October.

Iain and I had the honour of representing the town during a Royal Visit to the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) in Poynters Road, where we met HRH Duchess of Gloucester. It was a very special occasion and one that DRC staff, visitors and friends should be very proud of as it clearly demonstrated the achievements and transformation of their services in the 21 years of being open.

By working together Dunstable Town Council, the Dunstable in Bloom group and other community groups were successful in achieving an overall Gold for Anglia in Bloom for 2015. The community projects that are underway in our town certainly played a huge part in our achievements and I encourage new groups to come forward and to offer their assistance so that we can continue our "blooming good" success into 2016.

During September I attended the celebrations for the Tercentenary of Chews House. It was lovely to see residents and visitors to our town enjoying the new Georgian Exhibition in Priory House and taking part in the many activities arranged.

As we approach the festive season I ask you to support your local retailers and market traders as much as you can. It is a very busy time for us all, and it would be extremely quick and easy to buy our gifts online, but if we all just spent a couple of hours in Dunstable buying one or two gifts between now and Christmas that would make a big difference to some of our retailers.

The Town Council has a number of festive activities lined up for you including The Christmas Carols and Torchlight Procession on Friday 4 December and a range of Christmas Afternoon Teas and Tea with Santa at Priory House. Keep an eye on the Dunstable Town Council facebook page or our website www.dunstable.gov.uk where all the details can be found.

Whilst we as a town do have a number of challenges to overcome, it is clear that we all want one thing – to make Dunstable a better place. The Town Council continues to work closely with other partner organisations and voluntary groups to ensure we deliver best value at all times. I hope that you will continue to give feedback on the various services and activities the Town Council undertakes. You can do this via email to info@dunstable.gov.uk or via the online feedback form on our website.

May I finish by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and prosperous New Year.

Councillor Liz Jones
Dunstable Town Mayor



David Ashlee

Town Clerk and
Chief Executive

Welcome to the winter edition of Talk of the Town. This edition features heavily on all that the Town Council is doing in the run up to Christmas and can I please encourage all readers to shop local and take advantage of everything that Priory House and the Market has to offer.

It seems incredible that the summer is over already but I am very pleased that our efforts to brighten the town have once again been rewarded by Anglia in Bloom. The Council, in partnership with Dunstable in Bloom, have once again been awarded a gold medal and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts especially our very own Head of Grounds and Environmental Services, John Crawley, who received a special nomination from the In Bloom judges for his many years of contributing to the In Bloom campaign.

The Council has also received a lot of very positive feedback following the Summer of Music. All the music events were very well attended and 'Dunstable Rocks', which featured Aswad headlining, attracted possibly the largest crowd ever experienced at Grove House Gardens.

Creasey Park Community Football Centre is increasingly becoming a favourite for functions and whilst the facility is largely sold out leading up to Christmas, it is still available for anyone wishing to hold post-Christmas and New Year parties. The Centre will also be holding all of AFC Dunstable and Dunstable Town fixtures over the Christmas and New Year period including a Boxing Day fixture for those that want to come and support their local team as part of the Christmas period celebrations.

Priory House is also featured in this edition and I would strongly urge all those readers that want to have 'Tea with Santa' to book early this year. This popular annual event gets sold out very quickly. Priory House Tea Rooms is becoming more and more renowned for its magnificent afternoon tea offer and for those that might want to do something different for the office party or buy vouchers for a special Christmas gift, then please visit Priory House or the Council's website to see what this extraordinary Dunstable asset has to offer.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Talk of the Town and please feel free to comment on any of the Council's services using the comment form at the back of this edition or by visiting our website www.dunstable.gov.uk or following us on Twitter and Facebook.

Happy reading!

David Ashlee
Dunstable Town Clerk and Chief Executive

NOTICEBOARD

Keep Your Chimney Safe This Autumn

Now temperatures are falling people across Bedfordshire will begin lighting their open fires to warm their home. However, in the last three years there have been 168 chimney fires in Bedfordshire and generally they are caused by lack of cleaning of the chimney or flue, a blockage in the flue, caused for example by a bird's nest or overloading of the open fire. Chimney fires usually occur because not all the fuel (coal, wood etc) is burnt during combustion and leaves combustible particles in the chimney that can be ignited by high temperatures or flames from a very hot fireplace. To prevent this happening:

- Ensure your chimney is swept regularly by a professional chimney sweep.
- Between "sweeps" keep chimneys, flues and appliances clean and well maintained.
- Always use a fire guard to protect against flying sparks from hot embers.
- Store fuel away from the appliance so sparks do not set it alight.
- Ensure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Ensure good quality and appropriate fuel is used.
- Avoid blocking air vents or air bricks or interrupting the air supply.

Thomas Warner, Prevention Support Manager, said: "Keeping your chimney clean and free of debris helps prevent any build-up of combustible deposits that could catch fire. We recommend that you have a working Carbon Monoxide Detector in any room with solid fuel appliance. Under new laws which are due to come into effect from October 2015 Landlords are required to fit carbon monoxide alarms in rooms containing solid fuel appliances.

"Home insurance policies often state you should take reasonable care of your chimney and for thatched properties could specify how often your chimney is swept. Ignoring this could mean you are uninsured if your chimney catches fire, so check your policy and have your chimney swept.

"Even chimneys that have been lined still require regular sweeping and having your chimney swept also enables you to get advice from an expert about chimney safety. Why not remind your friends and family to get theirs swept as well?"

For further information on chimney safety, you can visit the association websites – www.nacs.org.uk / www.instituteofchimneysweeps.com.

Christmas is coming, time to get crafty

Do you need a little time to make personal cards for family and friends? Would you like to make something special for those closest to you? Want to brighten up your Christmas tree or make festive things for your room? If the answer is yes to any of the above then why not join us for a special arts and crafts session in Ashton Square (venue to be confirmed) on Saturday 28 November. The session will start at 11.00 am to 3.00 pm so just drop in anytime and join in the fun while the adults shop. Activities suitable for 8+ unaccompanied. Any under 8s must be accompanied by an adult.

For further details visit www.dunstable.gov.uk

Dunstable Ghost Walks

Any plans between Christmas and New Year? Wondering what to do? Why not come on a ghost walk? A popular and atmospheric walk led by a Dunstable Town Tour Guide with tales of ghostly goings on will be held between Christmas and New Year on Tuesday 29 December at 7.30 pm. Join us if you dare to hear about spine-tingling, nerve jangling ghost stories. The ghost walk will start at Priory Church car park. A torch and warm clothes are recommended and the ghost walk route is unsuitable for wheelchairs. **How to book: Tickets cost £5 each and need to be booked in advance from Priory House Heritage Centre 01582 891420, opening times 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Saturday (except Bank Holidays) 33 High Street South, Dunstable LU6 3RZ**

Local Wildlife Trust Events

Sunday 6 December 11.00 am to 2.00 pm
Luton Christmas Orchard Day

Help to plant an orchard, learn about their importance for wildlife and people. Try apple themed activities such as pressing and go home with a unique Christmas decoration for your tree at home. £2 per child.

Saturday 9 January 2016, 10.00 am to 12.30 pm
New Year Guided Walk at Houghton Regis Chalk Pit
A brisk walk around the reserve led by the Reserves Officer. £3 per adult, £2 per child.

Saturday 23 January 2016, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Willow Weaving Workshop
An introduction to some of the basic skills of willow weaving. £5 per person. To book call 01525 874317 or email toddington@wildlifebcn.org

Wednesday 17 February 2016
10.30 am to 11.00 am or 11.30 am to 12 noon
Wild Storytelling

A magical story telling experience that will awaken wildlife from its wintery sleep. Jane Lambourne is a celebrated local story teller who delivers a rich experience that everyone should have the chance to enjoy. £1 per child. Adults go free. To book contact Houghton Regis Library 0300 300 8058



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

DESTINATION DUNSTABLE

Keeping you abreast of town centre news, initiatives and developments



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL



DUNSTABLE market at Christmas

Dunstable Market offers a unique and traditional shopping experience located right in the heart of Dunstable.

Goods on sale include gifts, plants and flowers, clothing, jewellery, vaping products, bags, sweets, mobile phone accessories and more. A range of fresh fruits, vegetables and meats can also be purchased and you can even have your lunch on site!

If that isn't enough to tempt you to put the market top of your Christmas shopping destinations, to really put you in the festive mood, there will be Christmas themed music and entertainment from 28 November 2015, details of which you'll see to the right.

Please note that as Christmas Eve falls on a non-market day, there will not be a market provided by Dunstable Town Council. However, traders may choose to trade independently so please check with your traders if they will be trading on 24 December, if there is something you will want to purchase from them on this date. The market will operate as usual on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays over the festive period excluding Bank Holidays and excepting Saturday 26 December when it will be closed.

To find out more about Dunstable Market or to express an interest in trading, contact Andy Weare (Market Officer) on 01582 891402 or 07803 627544, visit www.dunstable.gov.uk or follow us on Twitter @DunstableTown

Day/Date	Performer/Act	Venue	Times
Saturday 28 November	Dunstable Ladies Choir	Dunstable Market and The Square	11.30 am to 12.30 pm
Saturday 28 November	Christmas Elf Trail, Arts and Crafts Activities	Ashton Square area	11.00 am to 3.00 pm
Friday 4 December	Christmas Carols and Torchlight Procession	The Square	From 7.00 pm
Saturday 5 December	Dunstable Community Church Choir & Present Wrapping	Dunstable Market	Times to be confirmed
Wednesday 9 December	Smiley Sam Christmas Float	The Square	10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Saturday 12 December	Dunstable Town Band	The Square	11.00 am to 12.30 pm
Wednesday 16 December	Queensbury Academy Band	Dunstable Market	12 noon to 2.00 pm
Saturday 19 December	Salvation Army Band	Dunstable Market	9.30 am to 1.00 pm
Saturday 19 December	Santa's Christmas Sleigh	The Square	Depending on his work schedule!



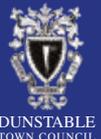
Every Wednesday,
Friday and Saturday

Visit www.dunstable.gov.uk Email info@dunstable.gov.uk



Find us on Facebook

follow us on twitter @DunstableTown



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Young DUNSTABLE

News for the
young in our
community



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL



New Senior Worker at Grove Corner

We have a new senior worker in Grove Corner. Gill Briggs started her role at the end of September and is keen to see more young people in Grove Corner so they can enjoy the space and facilities on offer.

Gill is also keen to hear the views of young people on how the senior drop-ins and junior youth clubs can grow and develop. If you have a hobby or passion you would like to share with others, or if you have an idea for an activity and would like help and support to make it happen then why not call in to Grove Corner on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday evening and talk it over with Gill.

Senior sessions for 13 to 18 year olds are on Monday and Wednesday evenings 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm and Fridays 8.00 pm to 9.30 pm. Junior youth club is on Friday evenings 6.00 pm to 7.45 pm.

For enquiries contact Sandy Coyle at sandy.coyle@dunstable.gov.uk follow us on Facebook/grovecornerdunstable or telephone on 01582 513000.

Food Vendor Opportunity



Grove Skate Park (located behind GoBowling) is a £270,000 new flood-lit skate facility which attracts hundreds of users each week from across Bedfordshire and further afield. This state-of-the-art skate park includes a purpose-built concession space ideal for a trailer or small van, and we are currently looking for a food concession to utilise this space. Whilst the facility is open 7 days a week 52 weeks a year, until 10.00 pm every night, the operating hours can be determined by the trader.

If interested please email info@dunstable.gov.uk with all catering and food hygiene certificates, together with your pricing proposal; or, for an informal chat, contact Becky Wisbey or John Crawley on 01582 513000.



**CREASEY KICKZ
FOOTBALL PARTIES**



BAR & FOOD



**FUNCTION
HIRE**



**CLUB
PRESENTATIONS**



PITCH HIRE



CORPORATE

Festive Football Fixtures at Creasey Park Community Football Centre

Come on down to Creasey Park Stadium to support your local team's first team league games. Creasey Park is the proud home to local teams Dunstable Town FC, currently in the Southern League Premier Division, and AFC Dunstable, a contender in the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division. Saturday kick-off is at 3.00 pm (every week), whilst Tuesday evening kick-offs are at 7.45 pm.

Dunstable Town FC Festive First Team Fixtures

Saturday 21 November
Dunstable Town FC v Weymouth

Tuesday 1 December
Dunstable Town FC v Histon

Saturday 5 December
Dunstable Town FC v Bideford

Saturday 26 December
Dunstable Town FC v Hitchin Town

AFC Dunstable Festive First Team Fixtures

Tuesday 24 November
AFC Dunstable v Leverstock Green

Saturday 28 November
AFC Dunstable v Sun Sports

Saturday 12 December
AFC Dunstable v Tring Athletic

Saturday 19 December
AFC Dunstable v London Colney



**CREASEY PARK
COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE**

Christmas Opening Hours

Please take note that the following times and dates will take effect over the Christmas period. The Centre will be open as usual up until Wednesday 23 December, then the following opening times will be put into place.

Thursday 24 December	9.00 am to 2.00 pm
Friday 25 December	CLOSED
Saturday 26 December	12 noon to 8.00 pm
Sunday 27 December	CLOSED
Monday 28 December	CLOSED
Tuesday 29 December	9.00 am to 5.00 pm
Wednesday 30 December	9.00 am to 5.00 pm
Thursday 31 December	9.00 am to 2.00 pm
Friday 1 January	CLOSED
Saturday 2 January	12 noon to 8.00 pm
Sunday 3 January	CLOSED

On Monday 4 January we will return to usual opening hours.

New Year Money-Back Functions Offer

Why not take advantage of our Money Back offer for your event or party in the New Year?

We've recently launched a new promotion where you can book your function at Creasey Park Community Football Centre (availability is strictly for a Saturday night, 7.00 pm to 12 midnight) and earn up to 100% of your hire fee back!



Creasey Park Drive, Dunstable LU6 1BB

Twitter@CreaseyPark

Facebook.com/creaseypark

T: 01582 891433

E: cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk

W: www.dunstable.gov.uk/cpcfc



Bedfordshire FRS Wins Fire Service of the Year

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) was named as Fire Service of the Year in the national Spirit of Fire Awards that were announced in early October. The Awards are held annually to honour members of the fire and rescue services and the public, by recognising commitment and bravery within the fire community and dedication to The Fire Fighters Charity. Bedfordshire FRS continually makes a big contribution to the work of The Fire Fighters Charity and their strategic approach to fundraising has resulted in outstanding growth with them appearing in the top five FRS' in the UK in terms of income per head for two years running.

Having set itself an ambitious fundraising target of £70,000 for the Charity's 70th anniversary, Bedfordshire went on to raise a record-breaking £75,000 in 2013/14 and has since gone on to match that in 2014/15, bringing in income significantly above target.

Paul Fuller, Chief Fire Officer at BFRS, said: "I am honoured that Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has won Fire Service of the Year. This award is fitting recognition for all the hard work our firefighters and support staff put in every day to ensure we are ready and able to protect the public and reduce risks to their safety. We have an excellent record of supporting The Fire Fighters Charity and many other worthy causes and I'd like to commend everyone that organises fundraising and awareness events and thank the public for their continuing generous contributions. I'd also like to congratulate other nominees from Bedfordshire, our three Firefighters who were nominated for awards for their courage and bravery and our staff working with Cambridgeshire FRS who were nominated for Team of the Year."

For more news about the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service visit their website: www.bedsfire.com or follow them on Twitter: @bedsfire

St John's Handmade Christmas Gift Fayre and Santa's Grotto

28 November 2015 to 29 November 2015

at St Johns Hospice, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire

11.00 am to 5.00 pm: Craft Fayre; 11.00 am to 4.30 pm: Santa's Grotto

Join us as we prepare for the most wonderful time of them all - Christmas! St John's Christmas Craft Fayre and Santa's Grotto promises to be a fun-filled day for all the family, with a great selection of Christmas gift stalls, refreshments, and a special Santa's Grotto for little ones all under one heated roof! Bring your child to Santa's Grotto where they can enjoy 20 minutes making Christmas crafts in the same room as Santa before having a 10 minute talk with the man himself, asking him any question they can think of - be it how he delivers all those presents in one night or if they're on his naughty or nice list. Not to mention receiving a special pre-Christmas gift! Visitors are welcome to join us after the craft fayre for our Lights Of Love remembrance service, from 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm, where you can remember lost loved ones, sing some carols and light a candle in memory.

Tickets for this event can be found by visiting <http://www.sueryder.org/SJxmasfayre>

Priory House
Christmas Cracker

Saturday 12 December
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Snowman Tombola & Name the Reindeer
£1.00 per go run by the Friends of Priory House

Visit to Santa
£2.50 per visit with gift

Christmas Crafts
£2.50 per child

Christmas Shop
Local crafts and special Christmas gift display in the Priory House Shop

Christmas Menu
in the Priory House Tea Rooms

www.dunstable.gov.uk/christmas-cracker.htm
Priory House 33 High Street South, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 RZ
Tel: 01582 891420 email: prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk

Priory House
TEA ROOMS

PRIORY PUDDING NIGHTS

Book a table for 6 or more and receive a free bottle of sparkling wine

Make it a Habit!

Christmas Pudding Night

Thursday 3 December
&
Thursday 17 December
5.00 pm to 9.30 pm

Indulge in homemade winter puddings and festive liqueur coffees.

Must be booked in advance

For more information and to make a booking contact Priory House on 01582 891420 or email prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk

www.dunstable.gov.uk/christmas-pudding-nights.htm

Christmas

in Dunstable

Illuminating Dunstable

The Christmas lighting scheme is an important part of Dunstable Town Council's role, helping to encourage residents and visitors alike to visit our town centre in the pre and post Christmas period. The 2015 lighting scheme will be illuminating Dunstable from the week commencing 23 November 2015. Furthermore, the giant town Christmas tree will be back in pride of place on The Square providing a delightful traditional centrepiece for the town and the venue for the Christmas Carols and Torchlight Procession.

Christmas Carols and Torchlight Procession

The ever-popular Christmas Carols and Torchlight Procession event takes place on Friday 4 December 2015. The event will feature the massed choirs of local schools and choral groups who congregate in Priory Church before processing through Priory Gardens and onto The Square for the singing which involves traditional carols and Christmas songs. Come and join in with this Dunstable town tradition from 7.00 pm.



Dunstable Town Council Christmas Opening Times

Thursday 24 December	9.00 am to 2.00 pm
Friday 25 December	CLOSED
Saturday 26 December	CLOSED
Sunday 27 December	CLOSED
Monday 28 December	CLOSED
Tuesday 29 December	9.00 am to 5.00 pm
Wednesday 30 December	9.00 am to 5.00 pm
Thursday 31 December	9.00 am to 2.00 pm
Friday 1 January	CLOSED
Saturday 2 January	CLOSED
Sunday 3 January	CLOSED
Monday 4 January	9.00 am to 5.00 pm

(normal opening hours resume)

Christmas Afternoon Tea



From Monday 16 November you can indulge in a selection of freshly prepared seasonal sandwiches and homemade savouries, experience homemade scones with freshly whipped cream and homemade strawberry preserve, and revel in the delights of homemade seasonal cakes and slices. For a more decadent experience why not begin your Afternoon Tea with a glass of Prosecco or warmed mulled wine. Enjoy our selection of loose leaf Dunstable teas and infusions; which will be your favourite? From only £18.50 per person. For our younger customers we have our Little Berries menu, the same Afternoon Tea experience made to measure for our smaller guests, with a choice of teas, fruit juices, soft drinks and milkshakes. Only £9.00 per child under 12yrs.



Contact Priory House on 01582 891420, email prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk to book your Afternoon Tea or visit www.dunstable.gov.uk/christmas-afternoon-tea.htm



Ho Ho Homemade Christmas Hampers

Prices from £5

Just in time for Christmas, Priory House has launched a selection of hampers made up of homemade Priory Pantry goodies, prepared in house by the team at the Priory House Tea Rooms.

The ideal gift for the person who has everything, a Priory House Hamper jam packed with local Dunstable produce.

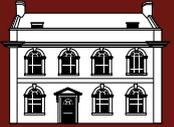
There are six different hampers to choose from and a Priory Pantry boxed gift set.

Gift Mug with Teabags	£5.00
Loose Leaf Tea with Caddy	£7.50
Teabags with Caddy	£7.50
Small Christmas Hamper	£10.00
Afternoon Tea Hamper	£12.50
Breakfast Hamper	£12.50
Large Christmas Hamper	£22.50

Pre pay for your Hamper or Gift Set and arrange with the Priory House staff when you would like to collect your hamper. Last day for collection will be Saturday 19 December

For any further information or to pre-order a hamper go to www.dunstable.gov.uk/priory-house-hampers.htm, email prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk or phone 01582 891 420





PRIORY HOUSE
HERITAGE CENTRE

Christmas has arrived at Priory House Gift Shop



As always there will be a fantastic selection of Christmas present ideas in our Gift Shop. From toffees to tea, jam to jewellery you are sure to find something that is a little bit different.

Don't forget we also have our local crafters selling their wares in our Showcase Shelving scheme. This gives local people the chance to sell their goods on the High Street. A really good opportunity for them and some unusual gifts for you.

This November in our Showcase Shelving scheme we have Hibiscus Lily, Ellemus Jewellery, Carol Painter and Anne Hoile. December we have Lisa Connelly, Uniquely Yours, Willow Fae and Cherish the Memory. What are their wares? You will have to visit us to see, we are sure you will be delighted with the different gifts and decorations available. We also have other local crafters in the shop including woodturner David Marsden, Handbags by Danuta and Gemosaic art, amongst others.

As well as all the fantastic local crafts you will also find confectionery by Churchills in some wonderful presentation tins and we have gifts from Heaven Sends. We stock Rex International, Sea Gems and British Fossils to name but a few. Priory House Gift shop really does do 'different' – pop in and see us.

If you fancy going to a Christmas market why not try out Theobolds Coaches, Tates Coaches or Three Star Coaches? We are agents for them all and would be delighted to sort your travel arrangements for you. We are also the local agents for National Express coaches, so if you want to go further afield this Christmas pop in and book your tickets with us.

Tea with Santa

Spend the afternoon with Santa at Priory House this December



**Monday 21, Tuesday 22 & Wednesday 23
December from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm
+ Thursday 24 December, 8.30 am to 10.00 am
for a special 'Breakfast with Santa'**

Listen to stories from Santa and enjoy some sandwiches and cakes. You will even take home a present.

Most suitable for children between the ages of 4 and 8 years.
Tickets must be booked in advance. £9.50 per child.

For bookings and information call Priory House on
01582 891420, email prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk
or visit www.dunstable.gov.uk/tea-with-santa1.htm



[dunstablecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/dunstablecouncil)

[@prioryhouse](https://twitter.com/prioryhouse)



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Event Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to everyone who filled in a questionnaire or went online to complete this year's Dunstable Town Council events survey. Your feedback is so important to the organising, preparing and planning of the Council events programme to ensure it meets the needs of the community. This summer has been fantastic with record crowds at Party in the Park and Dunstable Rocks, we hope this will continue next year. Here's what you had to say about Dunstable Town Council's events this year – and a few answers and explanations where necessary...

85%

of event attendees thought the events were well organised

Why did you choose to attend the event today?

- 64% because it was free entertainment
- 49% wanted to be entertained
- 43% liked the overall programme

DTC Response: The reasons people have stated really show to us that providing the community with free events is most important and Dunstable Town Council are proud to have such a varied and large programme of events which are mainly free to the public.

How did you hear about the Dunstable Town Council Events Programme?

- 59% Facebook
- 32% Talk of the town
- 31% Word of mouth

DTC Response: Dunstable Town Council tries to promote the events across various platforms to ensure we capture as many people as possible. It is very hard to ensure everyone in Dunstable reads Talk of the Town or looks at leaflets or posters, but we do advertise as much as possible. We are constantly looking at ways to improve advertising and this will still be a priority for the events programme next year.

81%

of respondents were satisfied with the 2015 events programme

Was there anything you particularly liked or disliked about any of the events?

"Dunstable Rocks wasn't rock music as per norm."

"I feel that the event towards the end of the night was not rock it was reggae which defies the Dunstable Rocks! Incentive."

DTC Response: There are always comments that Dunstable Rocks isn't rock music. This isn't a rock festival, it is general music festival that gets people in Dunstable 'rocking' and describes the feel of the town when the event is on and not the type of music.

"Rubbish left behind."

"Great idea handing out black sacks, we made sure our area got left tidy."

DTC Response: At all the music events Dunstable Town Council hires Biffa to provide waste bins and a refuse lorry to help with the litter issue, we had over 50 red bins at Party in the Park and Dunstable Rocks, but as with all music festivals there was still rubbish left. Everyone is encouraged to put litter away and we also hand out bin bags throughout the day. Unfortunately this is one of the effects of having thousands of people in the park enjoying themselves.

"Liked the separate family area"

"I loved the family area at Dunstable Rocks. It meant we could relax and enjoy the evening without having to worry about those who had drunk too much."

DTC Response: From your feedback after Party in the Park we created a family area at Dunstable Rocks with strict entry rules into this restricted area. We are pleased it was so well received and this is definitely something we will be planning on doing for the rest of the events.

"Rocks is too long. 10 hours is too long. The volume of drunks is too much. The family atmosphere is lost by 6pm."

DTC Response: There has been a lot of feedback and suggestions about the length of Dunstable Rocks. Dunstable Town Council has listened to all comments and has decided for next year the event will now start at 2.00 pm and finish at 9.00 pm. This will allow more time to clean up the park after and hopefully reduce anti-social behaviour.

Other general comments...

"All excellent!"

"The entertainment for children was brilliant!"

"Looking forward to the fireworks this year. Party in the park was great."

"The council work so hard and it really shows. Well done."

"Great quality of acts for free!"

"I like that there's always something for everyone to enjoy."

Are there any other activities, entertainment or themes of music that you'd like to see at future events?

"Love the local acts and the country music day was great- themed days might be popular— 60s music or 80s pop only event."

"Wouldn't mind a bit more of a dance music act or 80's music."

"Classical proms event."

"Maybe some sports inspired events"

"80s mania, Jazz in the park, Proms in the Park."

"Classic/Opera."

DTC Response: We will look at all the suggestions when choosing our acts for next year and planning the activities. What you suggest does matter and shapes the events programme, for example the Country music theme for Dunstable Live this year came purely through the results of last year's questionnaire.

It is not too late to give us your feedback and we'd love to hear from you. You can find the online survey at www.dunstable.gov.uk/events



Spotlight On...

Finance and Support Services

Head of Service - Rosemary O'Sullivan

Rosemary O'Sullivan is the Head of Finance and Support Services for Dunstable Town Council. She has worked for the Town Council for an amazing 30 years and is the longest serving member of staff. Rosemary's role is crucial to the Council and no day is ever the same. Let's shine the spotlight on her role and how the council has changed over the past 30



What interested you in working for the Town Council all those years ago?

I was working at Luton Borough Council as a secretary. That is where I met Richard Walden who had accepted the post of Town Clerk to the newly created Dunstable Town Council and was looking for a Secretary/Administrator. It was an opportunity to be in at the beginning of something new.

What was Dunstable Town Council like as a local council in 1985?

It was a very much smaller organisation. The Council was created in April 1985 and when I joined in November of that year the Council consisted of 16 members and a staff of 4: the Town Clerk, Mayor's Secretary, Receptionist (on Work Experience) and myself.

What are the biggest changes you have seen at the Town Council since you started in 1985?

There are always changes, with elections every four years and a new Town Mayor every year. I've met and worked with lots of different people, some of whom are sadly no longer with us.

The biggest change for me personally was Richard's retirement after working with him for 22 years and the appointment of David Ashlee as his successor in 2007, who for his sins inherited me! The other big change has been the size of the Council and the diverse range of services it now provides. The Council now has 21 members and a staff of 80 plus. We've moved home twice, starting life in a former residential property known as Charter House in High Street South, moving to The Friars on the corner of Friars Walk and High Street South in December 1985 and then to our present office base at Grove House in 1989.

The wide range of services now provided are delivered from a number of premises

that have either been renovated or newly built over the years, not least of which is Prioory House now home to a Heritage Centre and Tea Rooms and the newly built Creasey Park Community Football Centre.

New technology has also led to changes, when I think back to 1985 I was using an electric typewriter and was really excited by the introduction of a word processor which made my job so much easier. Now of course we have moved into the 21st century and enjoy the benefits of a network of computers and computerised systems.

What are the biggest changes you have seen in Dunstable over the last 30 years?

I can remember way back when, the then Town Clerk had been to a conference when the topic of the day was the nuisance of dog fouling - and I was back in the office taking a phone call about the possibility of a Luton-Dunstable rail link. The dog fouling issue is still one discussed today, not much change there, but although the Luton-Dunstable rail link didn't happen, the town now has the guided busway

The town and the Council have been campaigning for a Dunstable bypass for more years than the Council has existed but finally work has started on the A5/M1 Link Road, I hope.

One of the biggest changes for the town and the Council was the loss of the Queensway Hall which had been the venue for the Town Council's Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony as well as the annual Mayor's Charity Ball.

Other big changes have been the loss of industry being replaced by new housing developments and the out of town Retail Park.

What do you think the next 30 years have in store for Dunstable?

With the completion of the A5/M1 link I hope it's not another 30 years before we see a vibrant town centre, free from traffic.

What are your funniest memories from your time at Dunstable Town Council?

There have been many funny moments some of which I really can't share. I can say that many a happy time was had at a number of charity events held to raise funds for the Mayor's chosen charities. The most memorable of these was back in the 90s when Council staff and councillors took to the stage to put on a variety show known as "Fossey's Follies", which had a two year run as Reg Fossey served a two year term as Town Mayor. Family and friends were all involved in making scenery and writing sketches. Suffice to say a good time was had by all but I doubt very much if we would get away with it today.

What do you enjoy the most about working for Dunstable Town Council?

Every day is different, every service we provide is different, every person I meet is different, be they work colleagues, members of the public or members of the Council. What do I enjoy most? I think it's got to be the variety.

As Head of Finance and Support Services what does a typical day look like?

There really is no typical day other than every day is different. I could start the day dealing with payroll or preparing financial reports and then find myself dealing with an HR query or troubleshooting an IT problem. I could then answer the phone and find myself yet again talking about dog fouling! I could be organising redecoration work at Grove House and then take a call from a member of the public interested in attending a Council meeting. Never a dull moment at DTC.



Dunstable's Green Spaces



The winners at the Dunstable in Bloom awards ceremony

Dunstable in Bloom

Dunstable has had another successful year again in 2015 securing a fourth Gold Medal at the regional Anglia in Bloom awards. The Town Mayor, Councillor Liz Jones, attended the awards ceremony with Dunstable in Bloom volunteers in September to collect the award. Weatherfield Academy was also recognised for its bee themed garden in the young persons under-12s category and Incredible Edible was also recognised for the second year running for the community growing area created in Katherine Drive.

The local Dunstable in Bloom awards recognising the best front gardens, container and basket displays, allotments, pub displays and school projects in Dunstable were handed out by the Town Mayor at a special awards ceremony held at Weatherfield Academy. The awards ceremony was a great way to round off another successful 'In Bloom' year.

The Council and Dunstable in Bloom volunteers are already planning the 2016 Anglia in Bloom entry and next year's theme will be based on transport to celebrate and recognise the town's rich transport heritage.

Hugh Garrod, the Chairman of Dunstable in Bloom said: "We choose a theme each year to encourage local people, businesses, community groups and schools to get creative about how they can help improve their local environment. Ideas for projects might include planting along highway verges, themed floral displays such as planted bicycles or encouraging old coaching inn pubs to put up hanging baskets. If you have ideas that you wish to share or you are planning an environmental project that might fit with the theme we would love to hear from you."

You can contact either Sarah Woodruff, Secretary of Dunstable in Bloom sarah.woodruff@ntlworld.com 01582 696962 or John Crawley, Head of Grounds and Environmental Services at the Council, john.crawley@dunstable.gov.uk 01582 891413, with your thoughts and ideas.



Winner of Dunstable in Bloom's 'Best Front Garden 2015' award

Wheelie Fantastic!

All the groups who took part in the wheelbarrow project, as part of Dunstable in Bloom, were delighted to receive an award at the In Bloom celebrations in September. Sixteen groups took part in this colourful project with brilliant results. Many of the young people's groups displayed their barrows outside Grove Corner where they were admired and photographed by many Dunstable residents and users of the gardens. Couples getting married at the Registry Office also took full advantage of these unusual displays, to add something a little different for their special photos.

Matt, a member of Grove Corner and volunteer with Junior Youth Club said: "It was a great project and all our young people enjoyed taking part and were proud of the results, we hope we can do it again next year."



Dunstable Town Mayor Councillor Liz Jones with Dunstable in Bloom volunteers at the Anglia in Bloom awards

Council and Committee Meetings

Copies of the agendas for all meetings are available for inspection 3 days beforehand at Grove House, Priory House (Tourist Information Centre) and Dunstable Library or via the Council's website www.dunstable.gov.uk. All meetings commence at 7.00 pm and are held at Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable unless otherwise stated, and all are open to the public. Members of the public are welcome to ask questions about matters being considered at the meetings. Advance notice is required by the previous working day and further information is available from the Council's Head of Finance and Support Services at rosemary.osullivan@dunstable.gov.uk.

Forthcoming meeting dates are listed below:

26/11/2015	Dunstable Joint Committee (<i>Watling House</i>)	21/01/2016	Personnel Sub Committee
07/12/2015	COUNCIL	01/02/2016	COUNCIL
15/12/2015	Plans Sub-Committee	02/02/2016	Plans Sub-Committee
16/12/2015	Accts Sub-Committee <i>5.30 pm</i>	17/02/2016	Accts Sub-Committee <i>5.30 pm</i>
04/01/2016	Community Services Committee	23/02/2016	Plans Sub-Committee
11/01/2016	Grounds & Environmental Services Committee	07/03/2016	Community Services Committee
12/01/2016	Plans Sub-Committee	14/03/2016	Grounds & Environmental Services Committee
14/01/2016	Dunstable Joint Committee (<i>Watling House</i>)	15/03/2016	Plans Sub-Committee
18/01/2016	Finance & General Purposes Committee	16/03/2016	Accts Sub-Committee <i>5.30 pm</i>
20/01/2016	Accts Sub-Committee <i>5.30 pm</i>	17/03/2016	Dunstable Joint Committee (<i>Watling House</i>)
		21/03/2016	Finance & General Purposes Committee



Dunstable Town Mayor's Upcoming Charity Events

Pudding Night

Thursday 14 January 2016

Priory House, High Street South, Dunstable
7.00 pm, £12.50 per person

Bowling Night

Friday 5 February 2016

GOBowling, Court Drive, Dunstable
7.00 pm, £15.00 per person

Music Event

Saturday 12 March 2016

Peter Newton Pavilion, Skimpot Road
7.30 pm, Price to be advised

For more details please contact Michele Markus on 01582 891404 or email michele.markus@dunstable.gov.uk

Information on Grants for Dunstable's Voluntary and Community Sector

Dunstable Town Council's Community Grant Scheme for 2016/17 is now open for applications. We will fund grants from £50 to £1,000 to any community or voluntary organisation which meets the criteria and supports and benefits residents of Dunstable and in particular organisations that help to deliver the Council's priorities:

- Promoting the town.
- Preserving and enhancing the history and identity of the town.
- Improving and/or developing the green and open space in the town.
- Providing/improving services targeted at the town's communities.
- Developing neighbourhoods and/or the town centre.

Community and Voluntary groups who wish to apply must have the following:

- A constitution or set of rules.
- A bank account.
- Public liability insurance.
- Safeguarding policies, if working with children or vulnerable adults in any capacity.
- An equalities statement.
- An annual report.

The Council will not fund:

- Applications from profit-making organisations.
- Applications where those benefiting do not live in Dunstable.
- Organisations who predominantly support people outside of Dunstable.
- Organisations who have not fully completed their application form and submitted the required supporting documents.
- Projects that have already been completed or items already purchased.
- Building repairs.
- Trips/visits/meals out.
- Parties.
- Individuals.

Please note that grants will not be awarded until the end of April 2016, and therefore any requests for funding should not be for expenditure incurred before this time.

For an application form please go to www.dunstable.gov.uk, email info@dunstable.gov.uk or telephone 01582 513000.

Deadline for applications is Thursday 31 December 2015



Services Dunstable Town

Council Provides For You

Grounds and Environmental Services

Cemetery Management

Maintenance of grounds, grave preparation, burial and memorial arrangements
Dunstable Cemetery, West Street, Dunstable LU6 1PD
01582 891426 | cemetery@dunstable.gov.uk

Parks and Open Spaces

Maintenance of grounds, sport pitches and skate park, litter picking, dog bins, grass cutting
Freephone 0800 013 0350 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Allotments

Plot lettings and maintenance of sites
01582 891426 | allotments@dunstable.gov.uk

Play Areas

Maintenance, inspections and cleansing
Freephone 0800 013 0350 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Town Centre Maintenance

Maintenance of raised beds, grassed areas and floral displays
01582 513000 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Maintenance of Priory & Grove House Gardens

Grounds maintenance, litter picking, dog bins
01582 891413 | john.crawley@dunstable.gov.uk

Town Ranger

Cleaning up the public places in Dunstable
Freephone 0800 013 0350

Mayoral and Democratic Services

Remembrance Day Parade and Service, Mayor's Charity Events, Civic Services, Democratic Representation
01582 891404 | michele.markus@dunstable.gov.uk

Main Council Reception 01582 513000

For more information visit www.dunstable.gov.uk

Community Services

Town Centre Management

Economic regeneration, Christmas lights, Ashton Square public toilets and Dunstable Market (Market operates Wednesday, Friday and Saturday)
01582 891405 | clare.brett@dunstable.gov.uk

Events Programme including:

Dunstable Live, Fireworks, Party in the Park, Dunstable Rocks!
01582 891406 | events@dunstable.gov.uk

Priory House

Heritage Centre, TIC, functions, tea rooms and gift shop
Priory House Heritage Centre, 33 High St South, Dunstable LU6 3RZ
01582 891420 | prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk

Grove Corner Young People's Centre

76a High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF
01582 891434 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

The Mayfield Centre

Community drop-in, learning opportunities, advice, information and guidance, homework drop-in
Mayfield Centre, Mayfield Road, Dunstable LU5 4AP
01582 670695 | jack.adams-rimmer@dunstable.gov.uk

Voluntary Sector Support (grants)

01582 513000 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Older People's Support Service

Good Companions day care, dan, CPCFC Lunch Club
01582 513000 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Creasey Park Community Football Centre

Artificial/grass pitches, function room, licensed bar, BMX track
Creasey Park Drive, Dunstable LU6 1BB
01582 891433 or 07712 861618 | cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk

Peter Newton Pavilion (Managed by Beds FA)

Century House, Skimpot Road, Dunstable LU5 4JU | 01582 565111

Downside Community Centre

Licensed to the Seventh Day Adventist Church
Suffolk Road, Downside Estate, Dunstable | 01582 666403

For any queries relating to Council Tax, Housing Benefits, Refuse or Highways please contact Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8000 or email customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

TALK TOWN

of the 

Feedback Form

We would appreciate your comments on the services we provide.

Please enter your comments in the area to the right and return your slip to Grove House or fax to 01582 890606.

Return your comment slip to:
Dunstable Town Council, Grove House,
76 High St North, Dunstable,
Bedfordshire LU6 1NF

Your comments:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Please enter your details so that we may respond to your comments:

Name:
Address:
Telephone:
Email:

Thank you for submitting your comments, the information will be used by Dunstable Town Council for developing services and marketing purposes and will not be sold to any other organisation. Your details are strictly confidential. The data protection act 1998 guarantees that the information you have provided will only be used for the correct purposes. If you do not want to receive any additional information from Dunstable Town Council please tick this box.



TalkTownNovember2015