

TALK *of the* TOWN

Issue 69 July 2021

'Helping Make Dunstable a Better Place'

#WELCOME BACK Dunstable

We've missed you...



www.dunstable.gov.uk



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Silver

Meet the Councillors

CENTRAL WARD



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Dunstable Town Council Committee Membership

Finance and General Purposes

Councillors Gloria Martin (**Town Mayor**)
Liz Jones (**Deputy Town Mayor**)
Sid Abbott (**Chairman**)
Philip Crawley (**Vice-Chairman**)
Wendy Bater
Lisa Bird
Matthew Brennan
Mark Cant
John Gurney
Kenson Gurney
Peter Hollick
Cameron Restall
Lee Roberts
Johnson Tamara

Community Services

Councillors Gloria Martin (**Town Mayor**)
Liz Jones (**Deputy Town Mayor**)
Peter Hollick (**Chairman**)
Cameron Restall (**Vice-Chairman**)
Sid Abbott
Wendy Bater
Alan Corkhill
Greg George
Pamela Ghent
John Gurney
Lee Roberts
Gladys Sanders

Grounds and Environmental

Councillors Gloria Martin (**Town Mayor**)
Liz Jones (**Deputy Town Mayor**)
Lisa Bird (**Chairman**)
Greg George (**Vice-Chairman**)
Matthew Brennan
Mark Cant
Alan Corkhill
Philip Crawley
Pamela Ghent
Kenson Gurney
Gladys Sanders
Johnson Tamara

Dunstable Town Council

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

@dunstabletc
@dunstabletown
@prioryhouse
@dunstableevents
@creaseypark
@benettssplash

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.

The Mayoral Welcome

By the Town Mayor of Dunstable, Councillor Gloria Martin

I am honoured to have been chosen as your Town Mayor and I would like to thank Councillor Peter Hollick for his sterling work over the last 12 months.

As a country we have had a difficult time over the last 15 months and all is still not back to anything resembling normality, but we are getting there.

My year as Mayor will, I am sure, also be very different from past years with a lot of anxiety about planning too far ahead, so I am not going to make many fixed plans at this stage.

I do, however, look forward to Dunstable recognising the incredible work that NHS and frontline workers have achieved during the current pandemic, by celebrating NHS and Frontline Workers Day on the 5 July, please put this date in your diary now, details to follow on www.dunstable.gov.uk.

I thought I would share a little bit about myself, I am Cornish, having grown up in deepest West Cornwall. I left Cornwall to train as a nurse at Guys Hospital in London and first set foot in Bedfordshire when I started my training as a midwife at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital and have lived in the area ever since.

The majority of my working life was spent as a health visitor but I was a College Lecturer in Health studies for ten years when my daughter was at school. During this time I gained an Open University Degree and a Teaching Certificate. The last few years before retiring I spent most of my time involved with domestic violence and child protection cases, and training new health visitors.

It is for that reason that my charity for this year is Home-Start. Home-Start provides vital support services to families with young children in Central Bedfordshire and we have their base here in Dunstable.

It is one of the leading family support charities in the UK. Since 1984 the charity has been helping local young children and their families struggling to cope with...

- Disabilities and additional needs
- Domestic violence and abuse
- Poverty, financial issues and unsafe environments
- Mental ill health
- Bereavement
- Hunger, poor nutrition, neglect ...and more

It helps families to work towards increased confidence and independence by offering support, friendship and practical assistance. The support is often based directly in the family home as well as group work.

As a health visitor I saw first hand the work of the volunteers in this organisation and I know that this charity needs all the support that we can give it to continue its vital role.

Children are this country's future and the work with families, that Home-Start provides, helps to give them the best start possible.

I look forward to the year ahead.

Councillor Gloria Martin
Town Mayor of Dunstable



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL



Reflections on an Unusual Mayoral Year

Immediate Past Mayor of Dunstable

Councillor Peter Hollick

In 'usual' times the Town Mayor attends many social and civic occasions, either his/her own or accepting invitations from, amongst others, other Mayors. There may also be talks to various groups like Rotary, Scouts/Guides, Forces Cadet groups or schools. At social occasions raffles are held to raise money for the Mayor's chosen charities.

In 'extraordinary' times, (given the past pandemic year), there were no face-to-face events (coffee mornings, dinners, quiz/race night etc.) and there were no such civic events (Mayor Making, Remembrance Sunday and Civic Service etc.) and no raffles. There were just a few 'socially distanced' events, including Town Council Long Service Awards and a Thanksgiving Service for HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

So, what did I really do? I had to make something of my Mayoral Year and wanted to raise money for my charities.

My writing fortnightly articles in the Dunstable Gazette about local family businesses, was a regular and positive support for these important outlets in our town. These articles can also be found on the Town Council website.

I wrote a weekly diary about my engagements, also published on the website. For most days of each week, I was able to report on something I had done – attending briefings, virtual Council meetings and chairing full Council meetings; attending meetings of other bodies to which I had been appointed. Between lockdowns, accompanied by the Mayoress, Ann Sparrow, we welcomed shops re-opening and visited stallholders at the Town Markets. I visited all the town centre shops and those on the out-of-town shopping parades before Christmas. I opened some fourteen new shops and businesses.

It was particularly pleasing to present six long service awards to staff recognising 20 years and 10 years service.

The charities for my year were Hospice at Home, Air Cadets and Autism Bedfordshire (Dunstable projects). Not having any of the usual social events due to the pandemic at which monies would have been raised, I decided to hold a public Mayor's Charity Raffle. In a short time and after another lockdown, this raised £1,417. I am grateful to the shops, fellow councillors and others who sold tickets and gave raffle prizes. Together with proceeds from my Golf Day – the one social event I did manage to hold in October – the total raised was £1,688 to be divided equally between those three charities.

For people to say there is nothing in Dunstable is a disservice to all those working hard to provide services and everyday needs for the residents of Dunstable through the variety of shops and businesses we do have. It also demeans the work of the Council which provides services and leisure opportunities for local people – especially our Youth Service, lunches and coffee mornings for our elderly residents, our award-winning gardens, our skate park, cycle track, splash park, adventure play area and Creasey Park Community Football Centre. Other opportunities are available for the young, the elderly and when we can hold them, for the family at our celebrated events and markets.

It is pleasing that during the past difficult year many new shops and businesses opened: Coppersmith (recruitment), Kazmicks (relocated restaurant), Sundon Model Shop (relocated from Luton), Dariela Cakes and Café, Dariela Bakery, Shreeji International (Asian and African fruit, vegetables and other products), Cratita Vesela (Romanian café), Kumon (relocated English and maths tuition), The Coffee Pod (Coffee House and café), Red Thread Tailor (mending, tailoring, quilting, crafting, repairs and embellishment), Sperring Residential (estate agent), The Crown on Route 66 (refurbished Crown Public House), Neville Funeral Services and Blue Heart Clinics on Ashton Square (Health and Wellbeing – Physiotherapy, Acupuncture etc.). Soon to open is The Taste of Lahore in the Quadrant Centre. One recently opened business is already seeking new premises to expand. There is positive life in Dunstable!

I do thank my fellow Councillors (including those representing Dunstable on Central Bedfordshire) and officers of the Town Council for their support and, not least of all, I thank my Mayoress, Ann Sparrow, for her support.

My year ended on 17 May, so my support has now been given to our new Mayor and her Consort. I look back on my very different Mayoral year than that I had in 2016-17 with a feeling I have – in spite of the circumstances – been able to do something positive.

Councillor Peter Hollick

Immediate Past Town Mayor of Dunstable

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

NOTICE BOARD



Town Ranger Service

Did you know Dunstable has a Town Ranger Service tackling grot spots, graffiti removal, street cleaning and much more? If you see something on your street or around town then report it to the Rangers freephone 0800 0130 350 or message them directly via their Facebook page and like them @dunstabletownranger



Queensway Hall of Fame

Who remembers the iconic Queensway Hall? Which bands did you see there?

If you haven't already done so, head of over to our Facebook page @Queensway Hall of Fame and get voting for what music you want played in Grove Gardens.

We are also asking for your memories and photos of Queensway Hall, please email events@dunstable.gov.uk

Please see page 12 for details of our special Queensway Hall of Fame event.

Dunstable Town Council On Social Media

For further information and to keep up to date with all our services, follow us on:



@dunstablecouncil

@grovecornerdunstable

@creaseypark

@dunstabletownranger

@bennettssplash

@dunstableHSHAZ



@dunstabletc

@dunstabletown

@prioryhouse

@dunstableevents

@creaseypark

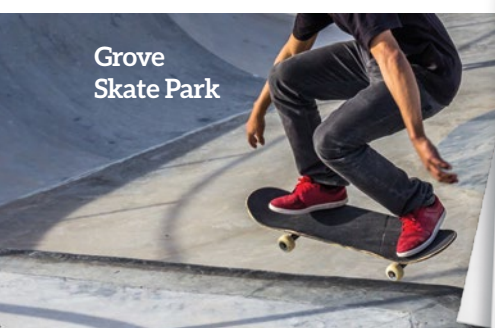
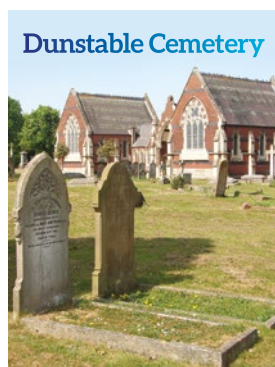
@bennettssplash



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

How We Spend Your Money

Did you know that of your total annual council tax bill, only £182.02 (Band D property) is paid to Dunstable Town Council? Dunstable Town Council manages and delivers the following services:



For further information on Dunstable Town Council Services visit www.dunstable.gov.uk

Grove Corner Youth
& Community Hub



Ashton Square
Public Toilets



Priory House Heritage Centre and Tea Rooms



Management of
Grove House



The Town Ranger and
Town Centre Ranger services



Summer activities programme



Peter Newton and Downside
Community Centres (leased to third parties)



Town Centre Christmas lighting



Assisting with town centre
management, regeneration and
community development projects



Older people's lunch clubs at Creasey
Park Community Football Centre and
Beecroft Community Centre



Co-ordination of Dunstable Mayoral
activity and civic functions such as
Remembrance Day and the Mayor's
Civic Service



A town-wide
events programme



High Street Heritage Action Zone - funded by Department
of Digital Culture, Media and Sport and Ministry of
Housing Communities and Local Government



For Council Tax enquiries call Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8000

Destination

Keeping you abreast of town
centre news, initiatives and
developments

DUNSTABLE

**Middle Row Markets are on the second
and third Saturday of the month.**

Join us each month for a wide variety of local crafts and
foods in Middle Row and The Square. As part of our
'Welcome Back Dunstable', this summer we will also
have free family events on each market day. Join us in
July for children's art week and for Ashton Square Day
in August.

Keep up to date with our social media pages on all
market events at www.facebook.com/dunstablecouncil

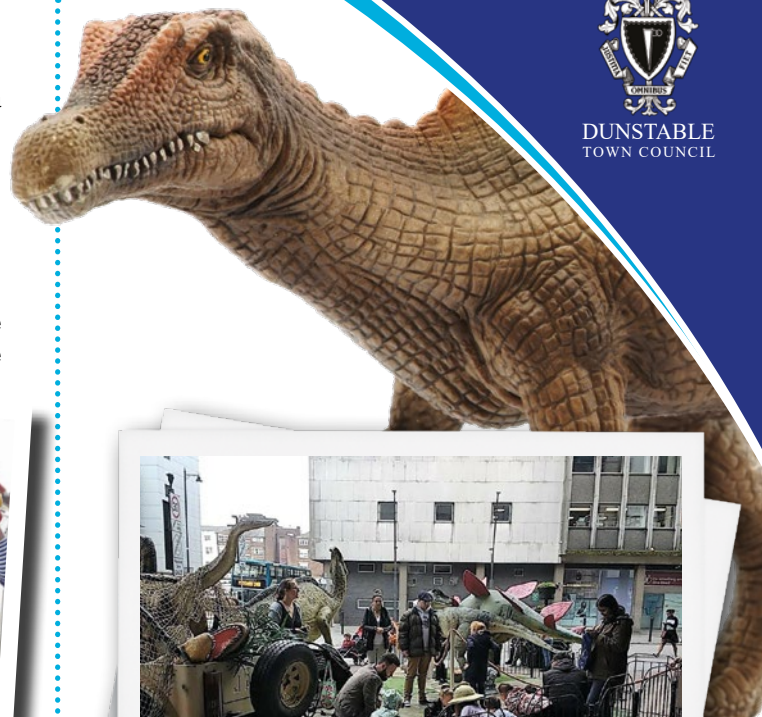
*Middle
Row*
MARKETS



Ashton Square Day

Saturday 14 August is Ashton Square Day, a tribute to the past, present and the future of Ashton Square. Markets have been in the area since Medieval times in Dunstable, so we have made them a big part of Ashton Square Day, selling local crafts and food. Middle Row was also home to the local whipping post and stocks, try the stocks and get an entertaining selfie. Come and try some food and see the recipes that were made in the 1960s with Bubbling Stove. Street entertainment and music will bring The Square to life as

we celebrate our Middle Row today and the events we have had over the last few years, we may even bring back the snow! Transport and the future of how we may get around our town can be tested with a mini course for the children to try.



#WELCOMEBACK Dunstable

With the shops all now re-opened, we are encouraging people back to shop local and support your local high street. Come into town over the summer and see some fun and unique enhancements throughout the town. Who knows what you'll see...



HM Government

Dinosaurs in the Quadrant!

Dinosaurs are coming to the Quadrant on Saturday 7 August as part of the Festival of Archaeology. Children can find fossils in the Dino Dig area, crafts and dinosaur stories from Dunstable Library. Dunstable Town Council will be hosting an archaeological treasure hunt which will bring a roar to the day with a dinosaur biscuit at the end of the hunt. Travel back in time and see what Dunstable used to look like with our art competition and craft activities.



Timeless Interiors

140 High St South, Dunstable, LU6 3HR

Peter & Sadie would like to thank all our customers and Dunstable for their support during the pandemic.

Revised Opening Hours

Wednesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm

Items can also be viewed through
thewindow and purchased by
calling 01582 674500

Central Bedfordshire Council



Central Bedfordshire Council want to create an environment which will encourage residents and workers to spend more time in their town centre and support local businesses

Artist's visualisation

You can watch a new 'fly-through' artist's impression of the High Street. This visualisation gives a bird's eye view of the expected end-result of the improvement works. To watch the short film and share on social media, visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/yourhighstreet.

Giving back your High Street

It's an exciting time for Dunstable High Street. Shopping in the town centre is no longer just about the 'butcher, baker and candlestick maker', people want a pleasant experience with a social aspect.

Central Bedfordshire Council want to create an environment which will encourage residents and workers to spend more time in their town centre and support local businesses. They want to reduce the sense of vehicles dominating the road, give greater priority to pedestrians and cyclists, and improve accessibility.

Over the last 18 months, the Council have been making improvements to Middle Row, Ashton Square, High Street South and Queensway, including improving the drainage to reduce the risk of flooding which the area has been prone to in the past.

Thanks to funding support from the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership with an allocation from the Local Growth Fund, High Street North will be remodelled, the traffic light timings changed, and a four-way crossing installed at Church Street, West Street and Dunstable High Street.

The High Street will also be revitalised, with broader pavements, improving the central reservation, with more plants, cycle parking and benches.

See the expected end result



Spread the word

Look out for communications in local venues and around the town. To stay in the know, please encourage your friends, neighbours and fellow businesses to sign up to the Dunstable High Street eBulletin at

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/yourhighstreet.

is investing in Dunstable

An Integrated Health and Care Hub and new homes for Dunstable, opening in 2023

Construction has started on a brand-new community-focused Integrated Health and Care Hub in Dunstable. Situated behind GO Bowling off Court Drive, this exciting development will bring together a mix of professionals to provide joined-up health and care services for the residents of Dunstable, surrounding areas and villages.

It will host a wide range of services including primary care services, community and mental health services and social care for children and adults. Central Bedfordshire Council is working closely with Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group and East London NHS Foundation Trust on the development to achieve its vision of improving the health and wellbeing of residents, through greater integration and partnership working.

This development includes 98 affordable new homes for older people looking to live in modern, town centre accommodation. The Council has an ambitious plan to increase the amount of affordable housing in Central Bedfordshire, and this development will provide one and two bedroom homes for over 55s, who will have all the benefits of the health and care services on their doorsteps.

As part of the development a special graffiti board will be in place near the neighbouring skate park, as an initiative to encourage budding local artists with a space for them to tag. Walking access to Dog Kennel Walk will also be maintained throughout the development of the site, which is expected to conclude in March 2023.

Find out more and sign-up for email updates at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/dunstable-hub.



SUMMER *Events* 2021

National Children's Art Week

Saturday 10 July, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

The Square

Get the children involved in messy hand and feet painting. Handprint painting on giant letters, which will be displayed around Dunstable in the future. Can you work out what the word will be? Come down and take part in this free activity.



Saturday 17 July, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

The Square

Tudor Rose Collage Have fun creating a Tudor Rose collage where adults and children can write on paper what they would most like to see in Dunstable, their favourite thing or shop, or their wants for the future.

Large Chalk Drawing Take part in a large scale chalk drawing directly onto the pavement in Ashton Square.

Festival of Archaeology

Saturday 24 July, 11.00 am to 4.00 pm

Priory Gardens

Visit Priory Gardens on Saturday 24 July and have a go at a variety of activities celebrating local archaeology. Activities will include Roman Coinage, storytelling, sandpit digs, plus much more.

Queensway Hall of Fame Day

Saturday 7 August, 12 noon to 6.00 pm

Grove House Gardens

Who remembers the iconic Queensway Hall? We are featuring the most remembered and celebrated artists who performed at the Queensway Hall. Visit Grove House Gardens on Saturday 7 August and listen to the albums of these icons, piped through speakers throughout the park, so grab your friends and a picnic and enjoy reminiscing on the good times of the Queensway Hall.

Did you see David Bowie, Level 42, Blondie or even AC/DC? We also want to hear your stories, memories and photos.

Please email events@dunstable.gov.uk. Find out the full day's schedule by liking our facebook page @ Queensway Hall of Fame



Classic Motor Rally & Living History Trail

Saturday 21 August, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Priory Gardens

Our annual Classic Motor Rally is back featuring heritage and vintage cars in the beautiful Priory Gardens plus a living history trail with historic characters, a fun and interactive history trail of Dunstable for all the family.

Please keep checking our Facebook and website for all updates on our events programme. At time of writing, all events are subject to change within national guidelines. Activities and events may be cancelled or changed depending on event regulations in relation to Covid-19.

Due to the pandemic our events programme this year has had to look a little different than usual. Make sure you come along and enjoy the free entertainment and activities.

Priory Pictures Weekend Special

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September
Priory Gardens

Our hugely popular Priory Pictures is back, including our fully accessible screening including subtitles, low volume, hearing loop, quiet space and disabled area. Showing 6 films over the weekend, bring your friends, chairs and blankets.

Check out our website and Facebook page for further details as they are confirmed.



Around the World

Saturday 18 September, 10.30 am to 4.30 pm
Priory Gardens

Not going on holiday this year? Then visit Priory Gardens and experience culture, music and entertainment from Around the World.




**PRIORY
PROMS
IN THE PARK**

Saturday 11 September, 6.00 pm
Priory Gardens

The live broadcast of Last Night of the Proms on a giant screen, with special effects, interval entertainment from Fiona Harrison and a fantastic fireworks finale. Bring your chairs, blanket and your Pimms and come down to this wonderful British event!

Sunday Band Concerts

We are thrilled to announce our much-loved programme of FREE Sunday Band Concerts is back! Come down to Grove House Gardens to enjoy the beautiful park setting and listen to some fantastic bands.

Sunday 1st August

11.30 am – 1.15 pm

Luton Brass Band

2.45 pm – 4.30 pm

Hitchin Band

Sunday 8th August

11.30 am – 1.15 pm

Chiltern Hills Brass Band

2.45 pm – 4.30 pm

Bradwell Silver Band

For all up-to-date information please visit www.dunstable.gov.uk

Remembering Queensway Hall

This article and photos appeared in the Yesteryear series in the Dunstable Gazette/Luton News in May. The series is compiled each week by John Buckledee, Chairman of Dunstable and District Local History Society.



Here's an unusual view of part of the splendid interior of Dunstable's Queensway Hall, taken in 1964. The hall had two spacious bar areas, with one situated at the top of the staircase seen here, well away from the noisy dance floor.

It created a sophisticated and civilised venue, ideal for the kind of event seen in this photo. Dinner-dances were once extremely popular, and the hall thrived until these fell out of favour.

But meanwhile the hall's auditorium had proved unsuitable for most stage shows and despite some very successful rock concerts (David Bowie famously appeared there as Ziggy Stardust) bookings fell away. One critic complained about a musical that it was well-nigh impossible to see what was happening from his seat at the back. In its final years, up to 2000, the hall was empty on most nights.

South Bedfordshire District Council faced with the looming cost of repairs to the hall roof, welcomed an offer from a supermarket to lease the site, with the money to be used to build a replacement entertainment venue. Today's Grove Theatre and Asda store are the result.

The smaller photo shows the exterior of the Queensway Hall as it neared completion in 1964.



The wait is finally over...

The wait is over... Bennett's Splash and Splashside Café are open again, just in time for summer!

If like most you are having a staycation this summer why not enjoy some of your time at Bennett's Splash. Come and cool down at the Splash Park which is open (weather permitting) seven days a week 10.00 am to 5.30 pm right through to Sunday 12 September.

Children once again can experience the 200m2 of wet play surface and 16 super soaking water features ranging from gentle mists, spray arches to tipping buckets plus spray shooter cannon. Bennetts Splash is designed to be used and enjoyed by children from 2yrs to 12yrs, those older than this are asked to act responsibly for the safety of all.

Remember to make it a healthy experience splash please observe all the health and safety notices displayed around the splash park and café.

Check us out on social media to keep up to date on our event days, especially our Love Parks week to see how you can keep your little ones busy this summer.

During your staycation at the park don't forget to check out the onsite Splashside Café which gives regular offers including our freshly made pizzas in our very own pizza oven or grab a milkshake whilst the kids are playing, then top it off with a 99 from the onsite Ice-cream van.

We look forward to seeing all our regulars after missing out last season so please do make a trip down and enjoy our beautiful British summertime staycation.



Please remember parking is at Ashton Square car park, with very reasonable rates, including free parking on Sundays, Public holidays and after 1.30 pm on Tuesdays.

Please note due to recent changes in Government restrictions the following Splash Park rules of use will be in place until further notice:

- Maximum 60 people within the splash park fenced area at any one time.
- 2-hour use at a time.
- Sanitise hand upon entry.
- Ensure social distancing.

Splash Park marshals will be on site ensuring these rules are adhered to during busy times.





Grove Corner Dunstable



@GroveCorner

www.dunstable.gov.uk

01582 891434

'THE SMALL, SMALLER AND SMALLEST' SUMMER OF PLAY 2021

MINI WORKSHOPS ACROSS
DUNSTABLE'S GREEN AND
OPEN SPACES!

Please check to see if workshops are bookable.
Under 8's must be accompanied by an adult.
All activities Covid secure!

BIG TOP CIRCUS

WORKSHOP

2 August 2021

11.00 am to 3.00 pm

Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground

£5.00 (No booking required)

PHOTOGRAPHY

3 August 2021

1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

Blows Downs

FREE (Booking required)

SMALL CIRCUS SKILLS

5 August 2021

2.30 pm to 4.30 pm

Grove House Gardens

FREE (Booking required)

ARTS AND CRAFTS

9 August 2021

10.00 am to 12.00 noon

The Square

FREE (No booking required)

DRAMA/DANCE

10 August 2021

10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Grove House Gardens

FREE (Booking required)

BOXING/BOXERCISE

12 August 2021

2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Downside Recreation Ground

FREE (Booking required)

MINI CAR RACING

16 August 2021

10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Ridgeway Avenue Park

FREE (Booking required)

MESSY PLAY

17 August 2021

10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Brewers Hill Recreation Ground

FREE (No booking required)

TREE DRESSING

19 August 2021

1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

Priory Gardens

FREE (No booking required)

ASSAULT COURSE CHALLENGE

23 August 2021

2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground

FREE (No booking required)

LARGE SCALE MODEL WORKSHOP

24 August 2021

10.00 am to 12.00 noon &

1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

Priory Gardens

Free (Booking required)

LEARN TO SKATE/ SCOOT

26 August 2021

1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

Grove Skate Park

Free (Booking required)



FREE ACTIVITIES IN LOCAL
PARKS ACROSS DUNSTABLE!

LOVE PARKS WEEK 2021

MONDAY 12 JULY 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOP

3.45 PM TO 5.00 PM

OLMA ROAD

FREE

MONDAY 12 JULY 2021

Xplorers challenge

3.45 pm to 6.00 pm

Grove House Gardens

FREE

TUESDAY 13 JULY 2021

OLDER PEOPLES

PAMPER IN THE PARK

10.30 AM TO 1.00 PM

PRIORY GARDENS

FREE

WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2021

OBSTACLE CHALLENGE

3.45 PM TO 5.45 PM

DOWNSIDE RECREATION GROUND

FREE

THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021

PICNIC IN THE PARK

10.30 AM to 12.00 NOON

BENNETT MEMORIAL

RECREATION GROUND

£1 per child (booking required)

FRIDAY 16 JULY 2021

GIN & TEA IN THE PARK

6.00 PM TO 9.00 PM

PRIORY GARDENS

FREE TO ATTEND

DRINKS CHARGEABLE



Dunstable Town Council



@DunstableTC

01582 513000

www.dunstable.gov.uk





young DUNSTABLE



Grove Corner is back open!

Grove Corner is a vibrant Youth and Community Hub in the heart of Dunstable; with a state-of-the-art gaming facility, Oculus Quest 2 VRs, pool, table football and an awesome entertainment system. Grove Corner is now back open and we are looking forward to welcoming you back. Here are the opening times and regular sessions:

Monday Drop-In Session

3.45 pm to 5.15 pm for 13 to 15 year olds

Tuesday Pokémon Sessions

5.00 pm to 6.30 pm for 8 to 13 year olds

6.45 pm to 8.15 pm for 14 to 18 year olds

Wednesday Gaming Sessions

5.15 pm to 6.45 pm for 13 to 15 year olds

7.00 pm to 8.30 pm for 16 to 18 year olds

Friday Junior's Session

6.00 pm to 7.45 pm for 10 to 12 year olds

Friday Drop-in Session

8.00 pm to 9.30 pm for 16 to 18 year olds

Drop-in sessions are for young people to do exactly that; to drop-in for as long as a young person wants to enjoy the Grove Corner facilities with friends, speak to youth workers and be involved in discussions and chat about current and emerging issues young people may be facing or know someone who is experiencing.

Pokémon This dedicated group is for playing and trading cards, being involved in Pokémon gaming and having a safe space to attend, catch up with friends and have Pokémon battles. Pokémon runs during term time only.



Weekly gaming sessions are specifically for young people to come and game using the gaming suite and facilities at Grove Corner. These sessions are open to beginners or those who are more advanced in their gaming. It is a chance to learn from one another and share knowledge and have fun and to contribute to what games should be purchased.

For information please call 01582 891434 or email grovecorner@dunstable.gov.uk

For more details please visit www.dunstable.gov.uk



PRIORY HOUSE

Weddings

UNIQUE FOR YOU

Centrally located in the heart of Dunstable, the beautiful Grade II* listed Priory House, set within the award winning grounds of Priory Gardens, is the perfect location to hold your dream wedding.

The Jacobean Room, with its stunning décor, is fully licensed for civil ceremonies and ideal for small intimate weddings. Come and meet our dedicated team to discuss your specific requirements and choose from a range of packages available to suit your needs.

From your initial enquiry, through to the planning, preparation and the wedding day itself, the professional team at Priory House will take care of you and your guests to ensure you leave with cherished memories.

To enquire contact us on: 01582 891420 or email prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk

Priory House Wedding Planner

Jacobean Room Capacity

Bride & Groom
28 special guests

(Capacity without social distancing restrictions)

1 videographer
1 photographer

Room Hire for Ceremonies £245

Our Menus

Canapés
Afternoon Tea
Themed Afternoon Tea
Bespoke packages for themed weddings can be arranged

The Registrar

The charges above apply to the hire of the room only. We are unable to book the registrar on your behalf. If you intend to use the Jacobean Room for your ceremony, you will need to contact the registrar directly with your preferred date.

Registrars Details:

Telephone: 0300 300 8089
Email: life.events@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
On the web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Write to: The Central Bedfordshire Register Office,
The Court House,
Woburn Street,
Amphill, MK45 2HX

Wedding Suppliers

We have a list of local suppliers including florists, bakers, photographers & bridal wear available on request which may be useful in the planning of your wedding.





PRIORY HOUSE
HERITAGE CENTRE

Summer Afternoon Tea

Summer Afternoon Tea is back again at Priory House from 1 July until 31 August.

Enjoy a summer inspired selection of savouries & sandwiches, followed by delicious home-made scones served with fresh cream and our own strawberry jam. Finish off with this year's selection of fresh home-made sweet treats - which will include your very own sandcastle!

All this and an endless supply of freshly brewed loose leaf tea from our Dunstable Tea range or choose a pot of one of our selection of speciality coffees.

A relaxing treat for only £18.50 per person. Better still, why not include a Pimms or a Prosecco for only £22.50 per person?

Although we do accept walk-ins, to avoid disappointment at busy times please book your table in advance by calling 01582 891420, emailing prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk or booking online at <http://www.dunstable.gov.uk/afternoon-tea>



Afternoon Tea Gift Vouchers

Did you know that you can buy gift vouchers for our Award Winning Afternoon Teas? No? Well.... you do now! Afternoon Tea for Two vouchers for both standard £37.00 and Prosecco £45.00 Afternoon Teas can be purchased from the Priory House Gift Shop or online via our website www.dunstable.gov.uk through the Priory House pages. The vouchers are valid for six months from the date of purchase and come with a gift card and envelope. The perfect gift for any occasion.



Summer Pudding Nights

We are thrilled to be back up and running our ever-popular Pudding Nights through the Summer so why not grab a few friends and join us at Priory House?

As a special treat we are running a Loyalty Card System. We will give you a free pudding in September if you visit us in June, July and August, so don't forget to grab your loyalty card on your June visit.

There will be a selection of different delicious puddings available both hot and cold. You choose. Want more than one? We will be happy to oblige.

Liqueur coffees are also available as well as Wine, Prosecco and Pimms. The Pudding Nights this year run for four nights through the summer.

We will be open from 6 pm to 10 pm with last orders at 9.30 pm on:

Thursday 22 July

Thursday 19 August

Thursday 23 September

Tables must be booked and a small deposit paid. You can even pre-book your favourite pudding (recommended if you are in a group). Prices from £5. We can also cater for dairy-free, gluten-free and vegan requirements, if ordered in advance.

This year we have our Jacobean Room available for larger groups, to enquire about use of this private function space please contact us.

For more details or to book please call a member of the Priory House Team on 01582 891420 or e-mail prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk



DUNSTABLE Hi! STREET

SAY Hi! TO THE Hi! STREET

We hope everyone has heard the good news about the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) but just in case you missed it- Dunstable is 1 of 67 historic high streets across England to have secured government funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as part of the HSHAZ programme. Until the end of March 2024 Dunstable Town Council will be working with Historic England and several other partners to deliver the HSHAZ programme with the hope of enhancing and revitalise our high street.

The HSHAZ programme involves building refurbishment, community engagement and a cultural programme.

The Cultural Programme will be designed and led by a local Cultural Consortium who have separate funding, working with Historic England in partnership with the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England. The Dunstable Cultural Consortium, (the Consortium) will be planning and delivering the cultural programme.

The Consortium would love to hear the views of Dunstable residents. What type of events interest you? What bits of Dunstable's rich history would you like to learn more about? Follow the link and have your say; it will only take a couple of minutes to complete DUNSTABLE'S HIDDEN HISTORY Survey (surveymonkey.co.uk). If you have any queries or suggestions, please contact the Consortium by email culturaldunstable@gmail.com



In Dunstable, the HSHAZ funding is almost entirely for the Building Refurbishment undertaking physical works to privately owned properties in the HSHAZ area. If you own or lease a property in the HSHAZ area your property is eligible for grant support if the improvement you require will enhance the historic character of the area.

Visit <https://www.dunstable.gov.uk/hshaz> for more information about the HSHAZ programme.

Is one of your favourite HSHAZ area shops in need of a bit of TLC? If so, why not encourage them to apply for a grant from the HSHAZ programme? Encouragement from a regular customer might be just the reason they need to see the benefits it can bring to their business!

HERITAGE ACTION ZONE



The building refurbishment includes Priory House. The Priory House project, led by The Morton Partnership has involved investigation works and specialist input which is ongoing with the main works hoping to take place in 2022.

The Community Engagement strand includes events and activities related to the HSHAZ, heritage, history and culture run by Dunstable Town Council. The Team at Dunstable Town Council have been planning community engagement for some months now, but we would love to hear your views. What events and activities would you like to see? Please get in touch via info@dunstable.gov.uk with any ideas and suggestions. Similarly, if you would like to get involved and steer the community engagement element of the HSHAZ programme we'd love to hear from you too. You don't have to commit lots of time.

Would you like to keep up to date with HSHAZ news?

Check out the HSHAZ Pages on DTC's website at <https://www.dunstable.gov.uk/hshaz> and the HSHAZ Facebook page: [@DunstableHSHAZ](https://www.facebook.com/DunstableHSHAZ) and follow the HSHAZ Instagram account: [@hazdunstable](https://www.instagram.com/hazdunstable)

If you want to know more about the programme or have any queries, please do get in touch with Michelle Collings (High Street Heritage Action Zone Programme Manager) via info@dunstable.gov.uk

SAY Hi! TO THE
Hi! STREET



Historic England



**CREASEY KICKZ
 FOOTBALL PARTIES**



BAR & FOOD



**FUNCTION
 HIRE**



**CLUB
 PRESENTATIONS**



PITCH HIRE



CORPORATE

New Artificial Turf Pitch

Creasey Park Community Football Centre new 3G Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) has already proved a great addition to Creasey Parks existing outstanding facilities. Successfully opened in April, the state-of-the-art ATP can accommodate not only football training and matches for all ages, but hockey too. The pitch is fully FIFA (Federation of International Football Association) and FIH (International Hockey Federation) accredited.



The new full-size ATP is environment friendly having LED floodlights, shorter artificial grass meaning less rubber crumb, and a rubber crumb migration barrier installed. The pitch is one of the first in the county to have Intelligent Play System to aid with pitch maintenance and provide accurate usage numbers.


While watching your team, don't forget to head to our 'Keepers Kitchen' and enjoy a variety of drinks and also delicious and freshly cooked food to eat in or takeaway.

Friday Night Happy Hour

We all deserve something to look forward to at the end of the week, so take advantage of our **Friday night happy hour between 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm** in our newly designed covered patio area. Creasey Park is a very child friendly environment especially as we are set back from the main road and the car park. What's more, if the ATP is available your children can play for free, whilst you sit back and relax. We also have regular offers and promotions, including our 4-pint beer pitchers, so don't forget to ask our friendly bar staff.

Please observe and adhere to all Covid-19 Government restrictions and guidelines in place.





This summer over the holidays why not take advantage of our casual 'Pay & Play' offer?

- Monday to Friday, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
- £2 per person
- Payment must be made at reception prior for wristband collection
- Offer subject to pitch availability
- Pitch space can not be guaranteed.



Functions at The Venue

Come down and celebrate all of your missed events and special occasions at 'The Venue' Creasey Park. The Venue is an extremely flexible function space offering a fantastic sound system which enables you to connect your phone or USB and integrated disco light system, to save you the cost of a DJ!

We offer adaptable flexible buffet options to suit your needs and dietary requirements. The licensed 'Crossbar' has a generous selection of beers, ciders, wines and our very own gin bar. The Venue is available to hire on a Saturday night starting from 7.00 pm to 12.30 am, which includes the set up which will be assisted by our helpful centre staff if you wish. Function hire is £230 for the night, so please do contact us to get your party booked and your dancing shoes out!

Don't forget to ask about our offers and promotions exclusive to Saturday functions hire and our cocktail menu at our bar.

Mention this article in Talk of the Town and receive 10% off your function room hire. (conditions apply).



Dunstable is in full bloom this summer

Left: Grove House Gardens Main image: The Square

Photographs: Justyna Tarnacka of Dunstable in Bloom





Dunstable's Green Spaces

Welcome to Katherine Doyle, our new Parks and Green Space Development Officer

Katherine Doyle joined the Council as the new Parks and Green Space Development Officer in February this year and has been busy getting to grips with a number of projects and initiatives that will benefit the town's residents and green spaces.

Katherine started her career in the fashion and textiles industry having obtained a degree from Brighton Polytechnic. In the 1990's she decided to change careers and studied horticulture at Capel Manor College in Enfield, specialising in organic gardening.

Katherine's first horticultural job was at Ryton Organic Gardens near Coventry (now known as Garden Organic) where she became Deputy Head Gardener. She then moved on to become Gardener-in-Charge at the National Trust Godolphin Garden in Cornwall. This was followed by taking up the position of Deputy Head Gardener at the well-known Chelsea Physic Garden where she worked closely with horticulture trainees, apprentices and volunteers.

In 2013 Katherine moved back into pure organic gardening as the Senior Gardener at a 70 acre private organic and wildlife garden in Oxfordshire. She has a passion for the natural world, people, animals and plants and has successfully managed gardens and estates to ensure that wildlife is protected and nurtured using sustainable organic gardening principles.

Katherine's role with the Council will see her undertake a wide range of green space projects over the next few years in line with the Council's Corporate Plan and the Council's desire to further improve its open spaces and build on the achievements so far. These projects will include:

- ★ **Tree planting initiatives and the creation of new woodland and hedgerows**
- ★ **Supporting Dunstable in Bloom**
- ★ **Wildflower planting**

- ★ **Improving play areas and creating activity areas for teenagers**
- ★ **Developing allotment sites**
- ★ **Involving local communities in caring for and developing local green spaces**

We asked Katherine how organic and sustainable principles can be introduced into local green spaces. She replied "Firstly it's about understanding how green spaces are used and how important they are to local people. And then it's about improving and managing green spaces so that everyone and everything benefits; people and wildlife. And finally taking a collaborative approach to change and implementation."

We hope that some of our readers will have a chance to work with Katherine in the future through volunteer days, community planting and community projects.



Katherine doesn't waste any time before jumping in and getting her hands dirty. Here she is getting to work at a memorial rose planting at Priory Gardens

Community Matters

Improving The Lives Of Others

Dunstable Town FC and Becoming a Social Enterprise, Community Benefits Society

Dunstable Town FC have an interesting history. Formed in 1883 the Club had several homes before finding permanent residency at Creasey Park in the post-war years.

Those of a certain vintage may have witnessed the mercurial magic of George Best when he graced the hallowed turf of Creasey Park in 1974, playing three times for the Blues as a favour to his old Manchester United teammate, Barry Fry, who was the Club's Manager. Fry, in his first job in football management went on to manage Barnet, Birmingham City & Peterborough Utd, where he is Director of Football.

Kerry Dixon is another former England International who started his career at Dunstable Town, before going on to play for Reading & then heading to the bright lights of London's Kings Road, where he scored 193 times for Chelsea making him the Club's all-time third most prolific goal scorer.

The global Covid pandemic wrought havoc and despair to the lives of millions. While the nation mourned the lives of countless thousands, many of the Club's commercial sponsors saw their own business' and livelihoods severely affected by lockdowns and the cessation of normal trading.

Dunstable Town became managed by the Club's fans in 2017. Many clubs, even at non-league level, rely heavily on the generosity of individual donors to keep their clubs afloat. As tenants of the Council and with no individual benefactors that is simply not an option for Dunstable Town.

Therefore in order to protect the Club's history and ensure a sustainable future we will now start the new season in August as a Community Benefits Society (CBS).

Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, the Club will operate as a social enterprise combining both traditional football activities with working in our local communities on improving the mental and physical health and well-being of individuals.

Supporters, and members of the general public, have the opportunity to become owners of Dunstable Town FC. By simply purchasing a maximum of one share per person a supporter automatically becomes an owner of Dunstable Town FC.

It's a scheme that has been championed by League clubs like AFC Wimbledon, Newport County, and Exeter City, it is the ultimate manifestation of fan power and the pinnacle of supporter commitment to become an owner of the Club you support. Owners automatically get voting rights on electing the Club's Board of Directors every year, choosing new kit and consulted on future plans for the Club.

For less than the price of a couple of cinema tickets and a bag of popcorn you can become an owner of Dunstable Town FC and support the great work we're doing with our partners improving the lives of others. Children's ownership is half price but has no voting rights until aged 16.

For details on how to own your local club, please visit our website at www.dunstabletownfc.co.uk



THANK YOU

Over the last year, many people have spent time helping others in one way or another and there will be many others who have helped their local community too.

Dunstable Good Neighbours have supported people with collecting prescriptions and shopping and without their valuable help, many may have not had the immediate support they required.

In these unforeseen circumstances, people have made a difference to others, by going the extra mile, being a listening ear, offering practical help and signposting people when needed

It has been great to see community at it's best despite the pandemic.

For more information on the Good Neighbours Scheme visit: <https://www.dunstablegoodneighbours.co.uk/>



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL



Dunstable Town Mayor's

Charity Golf Day 2021

Thursday 16 September 2021

Dunstable Downs Golf Club

Whipsnade Road, Dunstable, LU6 2NB

18 Hole individual stableford competition (played in fours)

For details contact Ian Reed 01582 891401

Email: ian.reed@dunstable.gov.uk

All proceeds to the Mayor's charity - Dunstable Homestart



Dunstable Town Council and Committee Meetings

Copies of the agenda for all meetings are available for inspection 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 Ian Reed, Democratic Services Manager ian.reed@dunstable.gov.uk

Forthcoming meeting dates are listed below. The full calendar of meetings for 2021 can be found on the Council's website www.dunstable.gov.uk

13/07/2021	Plans Sub-Committee	04/10/2021	COUNCIL
15/07/2021	Personnel Sub-Committee	05/10/2021	Plans Sub-Committee
03/08/2021	Plans Sub-Committee	14/10/2021	Personnel Sub-Committee
24/08/2021	Plans Sub-Committee	26/10/2021	Plans Sub-Committee
06/09/2021	Community Services Committee	01/11/2021	Community Services Committee
13/09/2021	Grounds and Environmental Services Committee	08/11/2021	Grounds and Environmental Services Committee
14/09/2021	Plans Sub-Committee	15/11/2021	Finance and General Purposes Committee
20/09/2021	Finance and General Purposes Committee	16/11/2021	Plans Sub-Committee



A Family &
Children's Charity

Supporting Families in Central Bedfordshire & Luton



**Central
Bedfordshire**

Home-Start are a local charity based on the Downside estate. We have been providing support services to children and their families in Bedfordshire who are struggling with issues such as disability, mental ill health, domestic abuse and violence and poverty since 1984.

We provide weekly one to one volunteer support to families and in addition other services such as domestic abuse survivor courses, a post-natal depression support group, a Parent Mentor project for families with children with special educational needs and disabilities as well as parenting courses and other services.

We are really excited to have been chosen as the Mayor's charity this year and look forward to working with her in raising funds that will be used to benefit local children.

For more details take a look at our website: www.home-startcentralbeds.org.uk

#WELCOME BACK Dunstable

We've missed you...

Your local high street traders are waiting
to welcome you back with open arms



Keep an eye on our social media pages and
website for details of our exciting upcoming
#WELCOME BACK Dunstable activities



your local
market



Ringcraft Boxing Gym - Downside Community Centre

Dunstable Town Council have a number of different buildings across the town located in the heart of different communities, one of them being Downside Community Centre. With the previous occupants moving on from this building, it left an opportunity for a new organisation to take this on. Ringcraft Boxing Gym moved into the Community Centre in May. Formerly based in another location in Dunstable, this community focussed boxing gym reached out for a new premises; and this is what they have created. Liam and Tanya Conroy are leading on this fantastic project and here is what their aspirations are for their thriving boxing gym:

We are Ringcraft Boxing Gym, we are a community based boxing gym now based in the Downside Community Centre in Dunstable. We run various sessions with ages starting at 6 years old right through to adults. Our goal has always been to make a difference in the surrounding community by providing a safe space for the young and old to come to. Boxing is a great way to keep fit, but it is a great stress reliever so in turn is great not just for your physical but also your mental health. It's a great way of boosting people's confidence, self-belief and self-worth.

We work with a lot of young people and also do 1-2-1 referral work with various organisations and we like to think that through our close bonds with them we can help and advise

them to choose the right paths in life!! But we are more than a boxing gym and intend to be a community hub. We have a small hall here that we are providing at a low hire cost and already have various bookings including karate, cubs/scouts, Ragdolly Anna's, Yoga just to name a few! We will also be starting a moving and stretching coffee morning for the older generation which will be completely free, a mums and tots fitness session etc etc. We are also in the process of collecting toys to set up a toy bank for those in need. So please, anyone who is interested or needs more info about us or the hall hire, do get in contact.

Liam 07794 692747
Tanya 07791 300541
Email conroyboxing@gmail.com



Rotary International has added a new area of focus for the first time in its 116 year history – the environment.

To mark this new area of focus, members of Rotary Dunstable have formed a Community Corps, for people who want to get involved in projects without becoming full members. President David Footitt said that: "The global pandemic has made everyone think differently, and there has been a huge increase in people wanting to put something back and make their town a better place". The new group, named Dunstable Wombles, recently blitzed Green Lanes, and Court Drive in the town centre. 14 Wombles collected 9 bags of litter in Green Lanes, and 3 bags in Court Drive. Chief Womble Zoe recently collected a crisp packet, and noticed the best before date was 1998! This shows the need to be mindful when disposing our wrappers. We are already planning our next Wombling session for early July. If you'd like to join us please contact the Rotary by emailing dunstable.rotary@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook @Dunstable Wombles.



Services Dunstable Town Council Provides For You

Main Council Reception 01582 513000

For more information visit www.dunstable.gov.uk

Grounds and Environmental Services

Cemetery Management

Maintenance of grounds, grave preparation, burial and memorial arrangements
Dunstable Cemetery, West Street, Dunstable LU6 1PD
01582 891428 | 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 & Town Centre Ranger

Cleaning up the public places in Dunstable
Freephone 0800 013 0350

Grove Skate Park

01582 513000 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Bennett's Splash & Splashside Café

01582 891433 | cpfc@dunstable.gov.uk

Mayoral and Democratic Services

Remembrance Day Parade and Service, Mayor's Charity Events, Civic Services, Democratic Representation
01582 891401 | ian.reed@dunstable.gov.uk

Community Services

Town Centre Management

Economic regeneration, Christmas lights, Ashton Square public toilets and twice-monthly markets
01582 891436 | annette.clynes@dunstable.gov.uk

Events Programme *including:*

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

Priory House

Heritage Centre, TIC, weddings, 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

Older People's Support Service

Good Companions day care, 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 | cpfc@dunstable.gov.uk

Peter Newton Pavilion (Managed by Beds FA)

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

Downside Community Centre

Licensed to Conroys Ringside Boxing Club
Suffolk Road, Downside Estate, Dunstable | 07794 692747

High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ)

michelle.collings@dunstable.gov.uk | 07593 553653

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

TALK of the TOWN



We Welcome Your Feedback

We would appreciate your comments on the services we provide and anything you have read in this edition of Talk of the Town. While our offices are not fully operational to accept the usual feedback form, we would encourage you to email your comments to info@dunstable.gov.uk using the subject reference: 'TotT 89 July 2021'.

