

TALK *of the* TOWN

Issue 95 March 2023

'Making Dunstable a Better Place'

A look ahead to

Spring

events

Anglia In Bloom 2023

The Big Lunch

Coronation Afternoon Tea

New Season at Bennett's Splash Park

Photo taken by Positive Pictures by Paulina Bera,
at Dunstable Town Council's Big Lunch 2022



www.dunstable.gov.uk



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Meet the Councillors

CENTRAL WARD



Cllr Lisa Bird
124 Chiltern Road
Dunstable LU6 1ET
01582 478078
lisa.bird@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Greg George
c/o Grove House,
76 High Street North,
Dunstable LU6 1NF
greg.george@dunstable.gov.uk

ICKNIELD WARD



Cllr Sid Abbott
3 The Paddocks
Friars Walk, Dunstable
LU6 3FQA
01582 947345
sid.abbott@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr John Gurney
45 Brandreth Avenue
Dunstable
LU5 4JP
john.gurney@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Kenson Gurney
122 Luton Road
Dunstable
LU5 4JW
01582 405741
kenson.gurney@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Gloria Martin
70 Crabtree Way
Dunstable
LU6 1UR
01582 666910
gloria.martin@dunstable.gov.uk

NORTHFIELDS WARD



Cllr Matthew Brennan
75 Westfield Road
Dunstable
LU6 1DN
01582 555957
matthew.brennan@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Alan Corkhill
36 Suncote Avenue
Dunstable
LU6 1BW
01582 253797
alan.corkhill@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Gladys Sanders
c/o Dunstable Town Council,
Grove House, 76 High Street
North, Dunstable LU6 1NF
07760501120
gladys.sanders@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Johnson Tamara
112 High Street North
Dunstable
LU6 1LN
07903 925875
johnson.tamara@dunstable.gov.uk

MANSHEAD WARD



Cllr Wendy Bater
97 Great Northern Road
Dunstable LU5 4BW
01582 757834
wendy.bater@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Mark Cant
c/o Dunstable Town Council,
Grove House, 76 High Street
North, Dunstable LU6 1NF
mark.cant@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Philip Crawley
36 Norcott Close
Dunstable
LU5 4AH
01582 515980
philip.crawley@dunstable.gov.uk

WATLING WARD



Cllr Pamela Ghent
1 Fox Dells
Dunstable
LU6 3LD
01582 703036
pamela.ghent@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Peter Hollick
1 Carlisle Close
Dunstable
LU6 3PH
01582 511426
peter.hollick@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Liz Jones
82 Jeansway
Dunstable
LU5 4PP
01582 472044
liz.jones@dunstable.gov.uk



Cllr Cameron Restall
c/o Dunstable Town Council,
Grove House, 76 High Street
North, Dunstable
LU6 1NF
cameron.restall@dunstable.gov.uk

Dunstable Town Council Committee Membership

Finance and General Purposes

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

Community Services

Councillors Liz Jones (**Town Mayor**)
Lisa Bird (**Deputy Town Mayor**)
Peter Hollick (**Chairman**)
Pamela Ghent (**Vice-Chairman**)
Wendy Bater
Alan Corkhill
John Gurney
Gloria Martin
Cameron Restall
Gladys Sanders

Grounds and Environmental

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

Dunstable Town Council

Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF
Tel 01582 513000
Email info@dunstable.gov.uk Web www.dunstable.gov.uk
Opening Hours 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday



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Mayor's Welcome

Councillor
Liz Jones

Since the last edition of Talk of the Town Dunstable has had a very successful festive period, with an excellent Torchlight Procession and Carols bringing together over 300 children from schools across the town, and a fabulous weekend of Twilight Markets. It was great to see so many people come to these events and take part, despite the very cold weather we had. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard in making this happen.

As Mayor, I have continued to be immensely proud of the work that voluntary organisations, local businesses and charities do to support our community. Through the events I have undertaken it is heart warming how together we have helped and continued to help so many individuals and families during the difficult financial crisis we are all challenged with. Donations to the local food banks have been gratefully received and have helped and continue to help those in most need. We need to do more around reducing food waste and I am keen to explore further opportunities with key partners on how this can happen in Dunstable. The introduction of Warm Hubs has also been welcomed and provides somewhere to go for those looking for company and the opportunity to build connections.

As we move forward into spring I'm looking forward to seeing the town come alive with colour. The In Bloom team - with help and support of volunteers, have planted hundreds of new bulbs across the town. The events programme for this year has now been launched by the Council and once again families will be given opportunities to come together and enjoy days out. It promises to be a great 2023!

My mayoral year is now heading towards its final weeks. I have raised a significant amount for charity and will be presenting cheques in early May to not only the three charities I announced at the beginning of my year, but to a number of smaller community groups that have gone over and above to help build the community and provide excellent facilities and support to the people of Dunstable.

We enter a period of change as a Council as we are now in the final year of this Council. There are elections in May which will see a number of existing councillors stand down and new councillors elected. I want to thank all of the councillors for their contributions over the last four years. As volunteers who receive no financial recompense for their roles, thank you for giving your time to helping shape Dunstable Town Council and the community.

I wish you all well and look forward to continuing my year and visiting as many organisations as possible in the coming weeks.

Councillor Liz Jones
Town Mayor of Dunstable

Paul Hodson

Town Clerk
& Chief Executive



Welcome to the spring edition of Talk of the Town. This is always a very important time of year for the Council as it is the period in which the Council agrees its annual budget. This year the Council has had to make extensive cost saving efficiencies to keep the increase as low as possible, in light of considerable increases in the cost of gas and electricity across our venues. I am pleased that these savings have been achieved without any significant impact on direct service provision and that there will only be a moderate increase in the Town Council element of the council tax charge. If you live in a Band D property in Dunstable you will pay an annual charge of £209.49, which is an increase of £21.83 per year, or 42p per week.

The spring sees the launch of the Council's events programme and this year we will be kicking things off with St. George's Day celebrations in Priory Gardens on 22 April. Details of all the Council's events planned for this year are given later in this edition.

Elections for the Town Council will take place on Thursday 4 May along with elections for Central Bedfordshire Council. Do use your vote! This year, for the first time, you will be required to show an accepted form of photo identification to be able to vote. The deadline for applications for Voter Authority Certificates is 5 pm on Wednesday 26 April. Information about what you need and how to register are included at page 15.

We are looking forward to celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III. Come down to Priory Gardens to celebrate and watch the coronation broadcast live on a large screen with on-site catering and an outdoor bar on Saturday 6 May. We will be putting up Union Flags and bunting in time for the weekend. Middle Row Markets will have a coronation theme on 13 May, with free crazy royal golf, arts and crafts and free face-painting.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Talk of the Town, and please feel free to comment on any of the Council's services, by emailing info@dunstable.gov.uk or by contacting us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Happy reading!

Paul Hodson
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

How we spend your money

The Town Council is funded through a small portion of the Council Tax known as a precept and by income it generates.

Did you know that of your annual 2023/24 council tax bill, only £209.49 (Band D properties) is paid to Dunstable Town Council? This will be an increase of £21.83 per year, or 42p per week from 2022/23. The increase is due to the rising costs of energy and salary cost increases.

Budget
£3,902,149

Council Tax Income
£2,791,245

Raised Income
£1,110,904



Central Costs £812,336

- Including £429,849 staff costs. The core running costs to enable the Council to deliver its services. This includes the Administrative Team and Support Services Staff, maintenance of Grove House and loan repayments for Grove House.

Grounds and Environmental Services £1,043,104

- Including £814,800 of staff costs.
- Six Allotment sites
- Cemetery
- 11 Recreation and Play Areas, Adventure Play, two Tennis Courts and a Skate Park
- Town Centre and Gardens
- Town Ranger Service costs
- Creasey Park Community Football Centre and BMX Track
- Bennett's Memorial Recreation Ground Splash Park and Cafe
- Capital and Projects (including loan charges)

Community Services £935,805

- Including £278,202 staff costs.
- Older People's Support Service
- Community Engagement (including Grants)
- Grove Corner
- Events Programme
- Priory House
- Town Centre Services
- Public Conveniences (Ashton Square)
- High Street Heritage Action Zone
- Community Capital and Projects (including loan charges)

Total Net Expenditure (Precept) £2,791,245

For a full breakdown visit:
www.dunstable.gov.uk/council-finances



Destination

Keeping you abreast of town centre news, initiatives and developments

DUNSTABLE



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Middle
Row
MARKETS

Award winning **Middle Row Market** returns on Saturday 18 March from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm for our Mother's Day market and event.

Children can make a **FREE** card and photo frame and give "Mum" some free flowers ready for her special day.



Decorate
AN
EASTER
HAT

SATURDAY 8 APRIL

Join us for our Easter Market and **FREE** event.

Decorate a hat and see it displayed along Middle Row in May together with a **FREE** Easter egg hunt and an entertaining juggling Easter Bunny.



SATURDAY 15 APRIL

History comes alive to Middle Row Market and The Square. From the cave person up to Roman times, we have plenty of hands-on history. Don't worry if you missed our Easter hat decorating on the 8 April, we will also be back on the 15 April to decorate hats.

SATURDAY 13 MAY

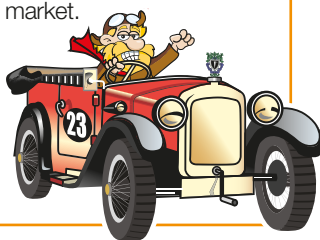
Our celebration of the King's Coronation. We have **FREE** crazy royal golf, arts and crafts and free face-painting.

SATURDAY 20 MAY

We will be joined by local artists in Middle Row and The Square for community art engagement.

SATURDAY 10 JUNE

Middle Row Markets will join with the **Dunstable Classic Motor Rally** for a town event and market.



Dunstable will host its second VEGAN MARKET SATURDAY 25 MARCH

10.30 AM TO 4.00 PM THE SQUARE

Since 2018 Ed Fowler has arranged street food events in various towns across Herts & Beds. Street Food heroes' events have a relaxed atmosphere which are family friendly with **AMAZING** street food, music and drinks.

This year they are coming to Dunstable with street vendors, a mobile bar and DJ. On the **16 March** they will be joining us on The Square for their first Street food event. As part of this event, we have a **FREE** soft play for the children to enjoy while you order your favourite street food.

Street Food Heroes will then return on the third Thursday of each month from March to September on The Square, 4 pm to 9 pm.

16 March

20 April

18 May

15 June

DUNSTABLE
Street
FOOD
HEROES



SPECIALISTS IN *making cake dreams a reality*



Call **01582 968500**,
or pop into the shop at
**15 ELEANORS CROSS,
DUNSTABLE,
BEDFORDSHIRE LU6 1SU**

or message us on social media

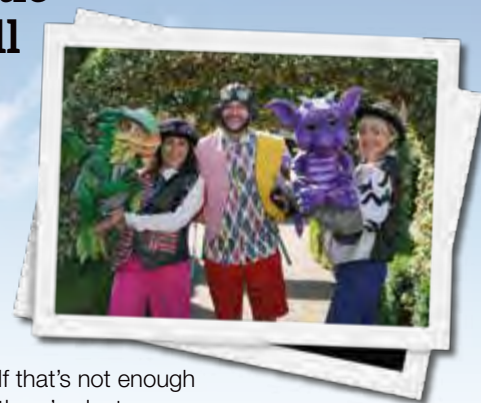
  **Cakes by Claire Kelly**



Based at Eleanors Cross, Dunstable. We have been established since 2010, making fantastic cakes for any special occasion. **CONTACT US TODAY TO DISCUSS YOUR BIG DAY**

FREE Events

We're hosting some fantastic events for all the family this year!



St George
IN DUNSTABLE
CELEBRATING

FREE!

Saturday 22 April,
11 am to 4 pm
Priory Gardens



The first of Dunstable Town Council's Events Programme starts off with the St. George's Day Celebration. There's a lot to see and do this year so come and join us in Priory Gardens for a **FREE** family fun filled day.

Take part in our knight school, watch the falconry display and enjoy Tiny T's Theatre's production of Tremendous Tails with magical dragon training stories!

There will also be the mighty climbing wall to face, making your very own swords and crowns before you go off around town to hunt for the dragons!

If that's not enough there's plenty more...

- **Punch and Judy**
- **Arts and crafts**
- **Teaching Talons Animal Encounter**
- **Dragon Town Trail**
- **St. George and the Dragon storytelling**
- **Shambles Big Band**
- **Medieval missions**
- **Medieval world games and activities**

King's Coronation (On screen)

Saturday 6 May,
Times TBC
Priory Gardens

FREE!

Come down to Priory Gardens on Saturday 6 May to celebrate and watch the live broadcast of the Coronation of King Charles III alongside Camilla, the Queen Consort.

The coronation is a formal ceremony taking place at Westminster Abbey which will reflect upon the Monarch's role at present and look towards the future, whilst being rooted in long-standing traditions and pageantry.

Bring your friends and family, picnic blankets and chairs, food and drink along for a once in a lifetime celebration. This live broadcast will feature a giant screen, on-site catering and an outdoor bar. Priory House will also be hosting a special VIP area where tables can be booked for this special event.

Make sure you don't miss this **FREE** event and keep an eye out on our website and Facebook for final event times once the broadcast has been announced.



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Monday 8 May The Big Help Out. There'll be local volunteering opportunities to mark the Coronation of King Charles III, if you'd like to promote your opportunity email info@dunstable.gov.uk Follow us on social media to learn about local opportunities.

Are you looking to **GROW** your business?

Events Sponsorship could be the way to go!

We have various exciting opportunities for event sponsorship for 2023. **For more information please visit** www.dunstable.gov.uk/whats-on/events-sponsorship-2023/ **or email** gina.thanky@dunstable.gov.uk

Dunstable Classic Motor Rally

Saturday 10 June, 10 am to 4 pm

Priory Gardens

This fantastic event will consist of a display of heritage and vintage vehicles situated in the beautiful grounds of Priory Gardens.

Alongside the display there will be live music performances, **FREE** children's activities, a food historian, Unbound Storytellers, Teaching Talons Animal Encounter, stalls, and on-site food concession.

A great family fun day out and not to be missed for all motor enthusiasts!

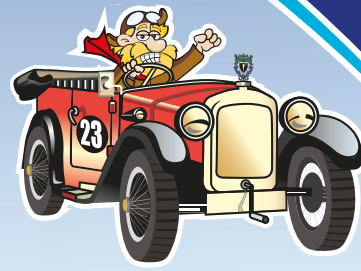
If you wish to enter a vehicle, you can now apply online at:

dunstable.gov.uk/event/motor-rally/

or please email for an entry form
events@dunstable.gov.uk

Sign up
to enter your
vintage
vehicle

FREE!



Dunstable Live

Saturday 24 June,

2 pm to 8 pm

Grove House Gardens

We are excited to announce that this year's theme for Dunstable Live is 'Back to the '80s'.

A survey was conducted via our Facebook page with over 2,000 votes received and the final line-up listed below.

2 pm Tasha Leaper as Madonna

3.30 pm Bon Giovi

4.50 pm '80s Hits

6 pm Marcia Lynnette as Whitney

7.15 pm Abba Inferno

Enjoy five hours of live music where there will be an outside bar, catering and small children's rides.

dunstable.gov.uk

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FREE!



Sunday Band Concerts



FREE!

**From Sunday 25 June,
12 noon & 2.30 pm**

Grove House Gardens

Our much-loved Sunday Band Concerts start off with Dunstable Town Band performing on Sunday 25 June.

The schedule consists of two traditional brass bands performing per day. Join us in Grove House Gardens to enjoy the beautiful park setting and listen to these fantastic bands.

25 June, 12 noon
Dunstable Town Band

25 June, 2.30 pm
Dunstable Salvation Army

16 July, 12 noon
Luton Concert Band

16 July, 2.30 pm
St. Albans City Band

6 August, 12 noon
South Beds Concert Band

6 August, 2.30 pm
Hitchin Band

Events later in the year!



EVENT AND VENUE

Party in the Park
Grove House Gardens

Around the World
Priory Gardens

Priory Pictures
Priory Gardens

Priory Proms in the Park
Priory Gardens

Christmas Carols & Torchlight Procession
The Square

DATE AND TIMES

Saturday 8 July
12 noon to 8.00 pm

Saturday 29 July
10.30 am to 4.30 pm

Saturday 12 August
From 12 noon

Saturday 9 September
Times TBC

Friday 24 November
From 7.00 pm



What's On at PRIORY HOUSE

There are some exciting events and activities planned at Priory House in the coming months. For further information or to book onto any of the activities featured here please visit our website at:

www.dunstable.gov.uk/prioryhouse

Sunday Afternoon Tea

Once a month Priory House opens its doors for delicious homemade Sunday Afternoon Tea

From only **£18.50** per adult **£9.50** per child

To find out all of the available dates and to book online visit

www.dunstable.gov.uk/prioryhouse/whatson



From only
£18.50
adult
£9.50
child



PRIORY HOUSE

Weddings

OPEN
DAY!

*Did you know Priory House
is also a wedding venue?*

Take a look at our stunning Jacobean Room overlooking the beautiful Priory Gardens.

We offer the perfect intimate wedding catering for up to 30 people

*Arrange to view Priory House on
one of our following open days*

Sunday 23 April | Sunday 25 June
Sunday 20 August | Sunday 29 October

12 noon to 3.00 pm

For further information visit www.dunstable.gov.uk/prioryhouse

Easter Pudding Night

Thursday 6 April,
from 6.00 pm

Celebrate Easter in the best possible way and join us for our themed Pudding Night.



£8.50pp includes a drink of your choice.

Easter Hopping Fun

Wednesday 5 April,
11.30 am to 1.00 pm
or 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Leave the children with us as they enjoy Easter crafts, biscuit decorating and a mini-Afternoon Tea. Then when finished, parents can get involved and go on an Easter egg hunt in Priory Gardens.

£15 per child (6 – 10yrs)



Tea Time Tales

23 March

Nirvana Lost: An Introduction to the History and Culture of Tibet

by Andy Gibbs

20 April

Luton Street Names

by Howard Chandler

11 May

Women in WW1 Code Breaking

by Bryony Norburn

25 May

The Great Fire of London

by Martin Attridge

15 June

Jewels in the Air: the wonderful world of Hummingbirds

by Wilf Powell

29 June

Glastonbury: Idealism, Hedonism and Methodism

by Kay Kempster

13 July

Women Code Breakers of Bletchley Park

by Bryony Norburn

How To Book a
Tea Time Tales

Tea Time Tales
ticket price **£6**

Tickets need to be booked in advance

**Call Priory House on
01582 891 420**

Tea Time Tales are currently being held in

**Grove House,
76 High Street North**

Eurovision Afternoon Tea

8 May to Saturday 13 May

Celebrate 24 years since the UK hosted the Eurovision with our special themed Afternoon Tea with tastes from Europe.

£20.50 per adult

£10.50 per child.

Eurovision Pudding Night

Friday 12 May

Get into the Eurovision spirit with our themed Pudding Night. Listen to classic Eurovision music whilst enjoying delicious puddings from different Eurovision countries.

Also get really into the spirit and come in fancy dress. Best costume wins their pudding for free!

£8.50pp includes a drink of your choice.



CORONATION AFTERNOON TEA

From 24 April

Celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III with our commemorative Afternoon Tea.

Be treated like a monarch and feast on our traditional British savouries, sandwiches, cakes and scones.

£22.50 per adult £12.50 per child

All guests will also receive a commemorative coronation teaspoon.

For more information, dates and to book visit
www.dunstable.gov.uk/prioryhouse



Father's Day Afternoon Tea

Sunday 18 June

Treat your dad this Father's Day with a delicious Afternoon Tea.

A delicious homemade menu especially for the dads.

£20.50 per adult £10.50 per child



G&T Evening

Friday 30 June, from 6.00 pm
Priory House & Gardens

By popular demand our G&T evening is back. Come to Priory House and sit outside on a summer evening in the stunning Priory Gardens to listen to live music, whilst enjoying a gin and tonic, or try one of our speciality cocktails. There will also be an amazing food menu to try.





DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Want a fun, affordable outdoor kids party?

TRY OUR BRAND NEW

Bennett's Splash Party Package

Included in this package



Kid's meal
boxes



Garden
games



Outdoor
gazebo



Tables &
chairs

New
Season

Bennett's Splash Park will be opening for the season on Monday 1 May.

Even better, that's a Bank Holiday! Join us for an opening party with music, garden games, balloon modelling and much more.

See details above of our new Party Package available this year via our webpage www.dunstable.gov.uk/grounds/bennettssplash/ and social media channels Facebook and Twitter @BennettsSplash Please check these for regular updates and offers available.

Bennett's Splash is a fun filled day out, where imaginations can go wild and a new adventure with every visit. While you're there why not treat yourself to a selection of refreshments from the Splashside Café?

Bennett's Splash and Splashside Café will be open from Monday 1 May to Sunday 3 September, 7 days a week.

For parking please use **Ashton Square Car park**, located on Bull Pond Lane.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Enquire with us now

Tel. 01582 891 433 E-mail. splashpark@dunstable.gov.uk



Scan here to
find out more



CREASEY PARK
COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE

WALKING FOOTBALL AT CREASEY PARK CFC

As a Community Benefit Society [CBS], Dunstable Town Football Club [DTFC] has formed DTFC Walking Football group, which is a **FREE** activity for the local community.

Dunstable Town FC Walking football is a non-contact, non-running and fun version of the game that we all love and is open to all irrespective of location, ability or gender. For safety reasons the sessions are for people over 18 years of age.

The benefits of Walking Football are three fold:

Health benefits – an excellent way of staying fit and healthy whilst deriving enjoyment which makes the participant more likely to continue.

Mental health benefits – whilst playing Walking Football high levels of personal reward and achievement give the participant psychological and mental health advantages and rewards.

Social benefits – Closely linked to mental health benefits, Walking Football will give you enjoyment, make new friends, form lasting relationships with like – minded people.

It will also introduce you to the Dunstable Town FC 'family' which can also lead to other benefits.

Dunstable Town FC Walking Football club is affiliated with The Walking Football Association and all players are covered by the DTFC insurance.

For further information or advice please contact Ian at
walkingfootball.dunstabletownfc@gmail.com



CREASEY KICKZ
FOOTBALL PARTIES



BAR & FOOD



**FUNCTION
HIRE**



**CLUB
PRESENTATIONS**



PITCH HIRE



CORPORATE

📍 Creasey Park Drive,
Dunstable LU6 1BB

☎ 01582 891433

✉ cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk

👉 www.dunstable.gov.uk/cpcfc

🐦 [Twitter@CreaseyPark](https://twitter.com/CreaseyPark)

📘 [Facebook/creaseypark](https://facebook.com/creaseypark)

DUNSTABLE HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE

The High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) is now at the end of its third year and the HSHAZ ends in March 2024. The HSHAZ programme involves building grants and refurbishment, community engagement and Cultural Programme led by the Dunstable Cultural Consortium (DCC) who have a Facebook page at [DunstableCulturalConsortium](#).

BUILDING GRANTS AND REFURBISHMENT IN THE HSHAZ AREA

An update on privately owned properties within the Dunstable HSHAZ area can be found on the HSHAZ pages on the Town Council's website.

REFURBISHMENT WORKS TO PRIORY HOUSE



Priory House is currently on Historic England's Heritage At Risk Register, primarily relating to the deterioration of the stonework in the Undercroft.

It is anticipated that this project, which is being led by the Morton Partnership (Conservation Accredited Structural Engineers) will allow for Priory House's removal from the At Risk Register. The repair work started on 12 September 2022.



For more information check out the Priory House Restoration section of the HSHAZ pages on DTC's Website dunstable.gov.uk/dunstable-hshaz/priory-house-restoration/



To see what is going on behind the scaffolding take a look at the online photo gallery dunstable.gov.uk/dunstable-hshaz/prioryhousegallery/

Community engagement - upcoming events

As 2023 will be the last full calendar year of the HSHAZ planning activities for 2023 is underway.

Keep an eye on the Town Council's Website at www.dunstable.gov.uk/dunstable-hshaz/events-activities/ to keep up to date.

We will be celebrating the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Festival of Archaeology and the Dunstable HSHAZ.

- **22 July 2023** | **Roar into Archaeology**
The Quadrant Shopping Centre. (times tbc)
- **29 July 2023** | **Around the World**
Featuring Dunstable Festival of Archaeology
Priory Gardens, **10.30 am to 4.30 pm**

There will be HSHAZ activities at several events and markets, including:

- **15 April 2023** | **Middle Row Market**
The Square and Middle Row, **10 am to 3 pm**
- **22 April 2023** | **St. George's Day**
Priory Gardens, **11 am to 4 pm**
- **13 May 2023** | **King Charles III Coronation Market**
The Square and Middle Row, **10 am to 3 pm**
- **10 June 2023** | **Dunstable Classic Motor Rally**
Priory Gardens, **10 am to 4 pm**
- **8 July 2023** | **Party in the Park**
Grove House Gardens, **12 noon to 8 pm**
- **19 August 2023** | **Ashton Square Day**
The Square and Middle Row, **10 am to 3 pm**
- **9 September 2023** | **Middle Row Market**
The Square and Middle Row, **10 am to 3 pm**

THERE IS JUST ONE SUMMER OF THE HSHAZ REMAINING!

We would also love to hear your views. What events and activities would you like to see as part of the HSHAZ during summer 2023 and up until the end of March 2024? Please get in touch via info@dunstable.gov.uk with any ideas and suggestions.

Would you like to keep up to date with HSHAZ news? Check out the HSHAZ pages on DTC's website for the latest news.

Also check out the HSHAZ Facebook page at [DunstableHSHAZ](#) and Instagram [@hazdunstable](#)

If you have any HSHAZ related photos including historic photos and photos from recent activities and events that you would be happy for us to add to our online photo gallery please do send them to us via info@dunstable.gov.uk. Or please share them on the HSHAZ Facebook page and Instagram tagging [@HistoricEngland](#) and [#HistoricHighStreets](#).



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Celebrating Dunstable's Green Spaces

Anglia in Bloom 2023

Following on from the blooming wonderful success in 2022, Dunstable Town Council and Dunstable in Bloom will again be participating in the 2023 Anglia in Bloom regional competition.

The Council will be working in partnership with Dunstable in Bloom, and other organisations, to showcase the best environmental projects that the town has to offer. The focus will be on demonstrating horticultural excellence, community participation, and environmentally friendly practices.

In the year of the Coronation of King Charles III, Dunstable in Bloom have adopted the theme of 'Grow Your Own' in recognition of the King's long held passion and support for organic gardening and growing.

This year we are asking for your support in a number of ways. If you are a budding

photographer and love to capture images of Dunstable's floral displays, trees, green spaces, or nature in all its glory then we would love to hear from you. You can take part by sending your photos to:

dib.public.photo@gmail.com

Please assign the photographer's name to each photograph and confirm that you are willing for Dunstable in Bloom to use your photos.

Get an idea of what we are looking for by viewing the Dunstable in Bloom 2022 portfolio **dunstableinbloom.wordpress.com/2022-dib-portfolio/**



Support Dunstable in Bloom
by volunteering



VOLUNTEERS WANTED



We are looking for volunteers who could offer their time to help with planting and deadheading the flower containers around Dunstable.

You can also help to plant and maintain seasonal containers and hanging baskets that Dunstable in Bloom provide for local shops and businesses.

Please contact us if you are interested!
Email: **dunstableinbloom@gmail.com**

A New Tiny Forest for Mentmore Recreation Ground

On Saturday 17 December 2022 Earthwatch Europe, in partnership with Dunstable Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council, held a community planting day to create a Tiny Forest at Mentmore Recreation Ground. The Tiny Forest is funded by the Local Authority Treespaces Fund and is the first of its kind to be planted in Central Bedfordshire!

Approximately forty local people helped to plant six hundred trees, along with the Town Mayor Cllr. Liz Jones, the Deputy Town Mayor and Chairman of the Grounds & Environmental Services Committee, Cllr. Lisa Bird, and CBC Cllr. Steven Dixon, Central Bedfordshire Council Executive Member for Sustainability and Transformation.

The Tiny Forest will be monitored over the coming years through volunteers from citizen science. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Tiny Forest Tree Keeper at Mentmore you can email: **tinyforest@earthwatch.org.uk** for further information.

Louise Hartley, Tiny Forest Program Manager at Earthwatch Europe, said:

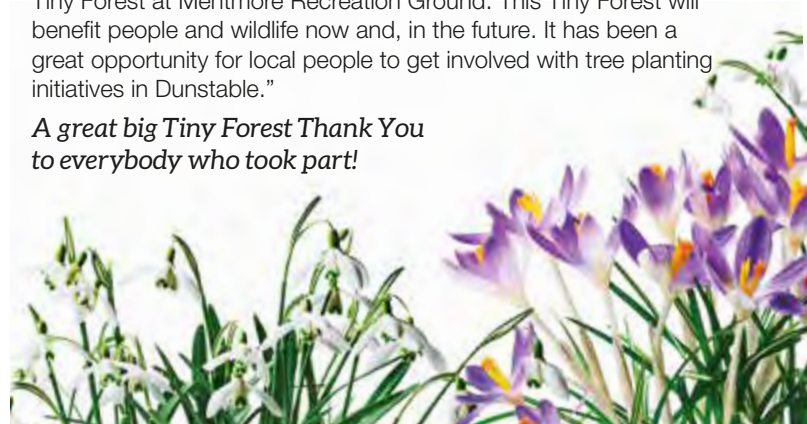
"Tiny Forests provide rich opportunities for connecting young and old alike with the environment and sustainability. It's vital that we give people the knowledge and skills to protect our natural world and inspire them to take positive action. We are delighted to be working with Central Bedfordshire Council and Dunstable Town Council to bring this inspiring space to Dunstable."



Councillor Lisa Bird, Chairman of Dunstable Town Council's Grounds and Environmental Services Committee said:

"Dunstable Town Council are proud to work in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council and Earthwatch Europe to deliver a Tiny Forest at Mentmore Recreation Ground. This Tiny Forest will benefit people and wildlife now and, in the future. It has been a great opportunity for local people to get involved with tree planting initiatives in Dunstable."

**A great big Tiny Forest Thank You
to everybody who took part!**



Young

DUNSTABLE



Grove Corner

Youth & Community Hub



Monday Drop-in

3.45 pm to 5.15 pm
13 – 15 year olds



Tuesday Pokémon

5.00 pm to 6.30 pm | 6.45pm to 8.15pm
8 – 13 year olds | 14 – 18 year olds



Wednesday Gaming

5.15 pm to 6.45 pm | 7.00pm to 8.30pm
13 – 15 year olds | 16 – 18 year olds



Friday Juniors

6.00 pm to 7.45 pm
10 – 12 year olds



Friday Drop-in

8.00 pm to 9.30 pm
16 – 18 year olds

FREE

Grove Corner is a Youth and Community Centre in the heart of Dunstable, offering free activities for young people aged 8 to 18 throughout the week.

Grove Corner has a state of the arts gaming suite, with six gaming PCs, 2 Nintendo switches, 4 Oculus Quest, 2 VR headsets, a pool table, table football, punch bags and many activities to enjoy!

- ✓ **Pool Table**
- ✓ **Table Football**
- ✓ **VR s**
- ✓ **Nintendo Switch**
- ✓ **Gaming Suite**

GroveCornerDunstable **@GroveCorner**

www.dunstable.gov.uk

grovecorner@dunstable.gov.uk

01582 891 434

Youth Central

Youth Central is a project run by Central Bedfordshire Council for 12 to 18 year-olds and runs every other Wednesday at Grove Corner, providing young people an opportunity to make a difference in their communities and to have their voices heard.

For more information visit

/centralbedfordshireyouthvoice

Community MATTERS

Keeping you abreast of community news and developments that matter to you

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. Forthcoming meeting dates are listed below.

The full calendar of meetings for 2023 can be found on the Council's website www.dunstable.gov.uk

27 March	Annual Town Meeting
28 March	Plans Sub-Committee
13 April	Personnel Sub-Committee
18 April	Plans Sub-Committee
24 April	Full Council
4 May	Elections
2 May	Plans Sub-Committee
15 May	Annual Council Meeting (7.30 pm)

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Dunstable Town Council (DTC) provides local organisations with Service Level Agreements (SLAs) which help to benefit the residents of Dunstable.

Over the last 12 months, DTC has issued 7 SLAs for the period of April 2022 to April 2026.

These have been awarded to:

- Hospice at Home
- Dunstable Town Band
- Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity
- Dunstable History Society
- Dunstable Town Guides
- Dunstable Citizens Advice
- Sorted Counselling Services



Sorted Counselling Services have been able to enhance the provision they facilitate due to their SLA. Sorted recognise that young people can face issues no matter what age they are and with this in mind are now able to offer 1 hour sessions for 19 to 25 year olds for up to 12 weeks.

If you would like to know more or feel that this could be something for you or a family member of yours then please contact Sorted on 01582 363 040

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH A SEEDCORN GRANT

Apply today to receive up to £500 to help make a difference in your local community. No deadline.

Application criteria:

- Individuals can apply but not receive direct funding
- Not for ongoing costs
- Benefits and based in Dunstable
- Cannot benefit one person
- New or emerging organisations to apply
- First come, first served
- For an event or activity

Apply today at dunstable.gov.uk/community-services





DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL



Dunstable Town Council is excited to announce that the Big Lunch will return for 2023!

This year, the theme will be set around the Coronation of King Charles III, taking place on **Tuesday 6 June**, there will be a free picnic afternoon tea, live entertainment and a raffle, along with local organisations providing information.

The Big Lunch is a free event for residents of Dunstable aged 65+ and tickets are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Tickets need to be pre-booked to attend.

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

A SPOTLIGHT ON THE MAYOR'S CHARITIES

Dunstable Salvation Army

As a Christian church we hold numerous community events for people of all ages. However, we are grateful to the public for helping us fund the following:

- **Three daytime drop-in sessions each week.** We issue vouchers for Dunstable Foodbank, or alternatively provide smaller food bags for those not entitled to vouchers. Free shower facilities are available.
- **Wednesday evening drop-in.** A team of volunteers work together to provide a meal, clothing, hot showers and a listening ear.
- **Debt Advice Service.** We offer free, confidential support to anyone living with debt. We negotiate with creditors and agree an affordable repayment plan to enable people in time to become debt free.
- **Christmas Hamper Project.** In 2022 we provided food hampers and gift packs to 343 families (including over 800 children) in the Dunstable area.
- **Christmas Day.** We offer Christmas dinner, entertainment, and gifts for those who would otherwise be alone.

Please contact us via
dunstable@salvationarmy.org.uk

Hospice at Home Volunteers

Hospice at Home Volunteers is a small local charity that supports people who have a life-limiting illness. We provide practical, social and emotional support to both clients and their carers.

Our volunteers offer a free service of practical help where it is needed providing strength and encouragement at a difficult time during the illness and beyond.

The support we provide is flexible depending on the individual client's needs; spending time with clients, offering companionship or accompanying clients on trips to the shops or a favourite venue. This support could enable their carers to have a two or three hour break.

If you or your carer would like more information either call

01582 666 996 or e-mail **hello@hospiceathomevolunteers.co.uk**

Disability Resource Centre

The Disability Resource Centre is a local charity and has been in Bedfordshire since 1994.

We are an organisation led by people with lived experience of disability; working with disabled people, and those with long term health conditions to empower them, their families, carers and health and the social care professionals who work with them.

The cornerstones to our services are professional, emotional and practical support and a shared understanding of the individual and family need. Please visit our website

www.drcbeds.org.uk or contact us via email **info@drcbeds.org.uk**

Voting

Elections will be held for all the Town Council seats on 4 May.

You can register to vote online at **www.gov.uk/register-to-vote**

For first time voters ID will be required to vote in all elections on the day.

More information is available from Central Bedfordshire Council's website

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Candidates

If you're interested in standing as a councillor, you can find more information on standing in local and parish elections on the Electoral Commission's website.

Nomination papers can be requested from **electoral.registration@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**

Nomination papers **MUST** be delivered by hand to **Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands SG17 5TQ.**

You can request an appointment for a pre-check to make sure that the information on your nomination paper is correct. Central Bedfordshire Council cannot accept nomination papers before 14 March 2023.

The deadline for handing in your completed nomination form is 4 pm on Tuesday 4 April.

For more information, please email **electoral.registration@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**

The Town Council has **NO** role in the election process.



Council services

IN DUNSTABLE

Central Bedfordshire Council Services

0300 300 8000
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

- Highways planning and maintenance
- Council tax collection
- Council housing and garages
- Street lighting
- Parking and blue badge parking
- Environmental health
- Waste collection, tidy tips, fly tipping, street cleansing and grit bins
- Arranging elections
- Leisure and libraries
- Schools and education
- Planning applications
- Building control
- Bus passes and information
- Trading Standards
- Registering a birth, death or marriage
- Social care (adults and children)
- Licenses, including taxi, premises and street trading
- Abandoned vehicles
- Benefits
- Community safety and anti-social behaviour
- Independent living and care homes

Dunstable Town Council Services

01582 513000
www.dunstable.gov.uk

- Dunstable Cemetery
- Open spaces, including recreation grounds and play areas
- Allotments
- Town Ranger services
- Grove Skate Park
- BMX track
- Bennett's Splash Park & Splashside Cafe
- Creasey Park Community Football Centre
- Events programme
- Christmas lights
- Ashton Square public toilets
- Middle Row Markets
- Older people's support service
- Mayoralty and civic functions
- Priory and Grove House Gardens
- Priory House Heritage Centre, Tea Rooms, and gift shop
- Grove Corner Young People's Centre
- Floral displays
- High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ)
- Town centre management



DUNSTABLE
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