

TALK *of the* TOWN

Issue 97 October 2023

'Making Dunstable a Better Place'

Christmas In Dunstable

Unwrap the *Magic* of Christmas...

Christmas Lights



Festive Markets



Seasonal Events



Celebrations



www.dunstable.gov.uk

INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



Green
Heritage Site



NABMA
the voice of markets

ICCM
Institution of Customer
Managers



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Meet the Councillors

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Dunstable Town Council Committee Membership

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Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor)

Peter Hollick (Chair)

Gregory Alderman (Vice Chair)

Mark Davis

John Gurney

Louise O'Riordan

Michelle Henderson

Johnson Tamara

Wendy Bater

Nicholas Kotarski

Richard Attwell

Robert Blennerhassett

Philip Crawley

Community Services

Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor)

John Gurney (Chair)

Robert Blennerhassett (Vice Chair)

Trevor Anthony Adams

Gregory Alderman

Alex Butler

Kenson Gurney

Louise O'Riordan

Matthew Neall

Wendy Bater

Nicholas Kotarski

Peter Hollick

Grounds and Environmental

Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor)

Matthew Brennan (Chair)

Richard Attwell (Vice Chair)

Trevor Anthony Adams

Gregory Alderman

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Opening Hours 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday



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Welcome



Mayor's Welcome

Councillor
Liz Jones

This year's Summer Activities Programme by Dunstable Town Council has provided opportunities for young people of all ages to engage in activities and learn new skills. It was wonderful to see so many enjoying the Zorb Football and the Inflatable Day in particular. Likewise, the excellent events held throughout the summer have been very well attended and enjoyed by thousands of residents.

Middle Row Markets go from strength to strength and continue to bring in new traders with varying craft items to increase the offering to our residents. Our Street Food Markets have been hugely successful and I look forward to them returning in 2024.

It's been another award-winning year with the council achieving a fourth Green Flag for Bennett Memorial Recreational Ground. The parks and gardens have been well maintained by the Council's Grounds Team and supported by the volunteers of Dunstable in Bloom. We were once again given a Gold Award for this year's entry to Anglia In Bloom, which is a testament to all the hard work and effort that goes into each passing year.

I've attended lots of events since starting my second term of office in May. It's been a pleasure to have given several talks at various locations on the History of Dunstable Mayors and Street Names, including two of the Town Council's Older People's Lunch Clubs. It was lovely to engage in conversation and help them take a trip down memory lane. I must thank John Chatterley for his "loan" of his talk on the history of Mayor's – his research goes right back to 1865.

I'm pleased to see the redevelopment of the Kingsbury Avenue Recreational Ground playground. There is a whole new range of equipment for all ages and abilities. Accessibility was an important design factor for the park and choosing the right equipment. Hopefully, you will agree, it looks fabulous. The kickabout Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) further enhances the park and provides additional facilities for young people to enjoy.

I've held three very successful charity fundraisers since the last time I wrote, and thank everyone who has attended, donated raffle prizes and sponsored my events. The Quiz Night in August was a huge success with 86 quizzers at Creasey Park Community Football Centre. The annual Golf Day was very well supported by local businesses and organisations and sponsorship alone raised more than £2000. A more sedate Ploughman's Supper evening took place in Grove House in October, and my last event of 2023 is at Vantage on the 30 November with a Twist of Abba to finish the evening off. It's been lovely to see new faces coming along to the events and taking part – thank you!

Looking ahead, we turn our minds to the festive season with the Annual Torchlight Procession, carols on The Square, and the well-established Twilight Markets Weekend. The lights switch on early in Town, to encourage visitors to support the traders in what is always a challenging time. Please do support the town and shop locally!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Councillor Liz Jones
Town Mayor of Dunstable

Paul Hodson

Town Clerk
& Chief Executive



Welcome to the winter edition of Talk of the Town. This edition features heavily on all the Town Council is doing in the run-up to Christmas. I encourage all readers to shop local as well as take advantage of everything that Priory House and Middle Row Markets have to offer. The Twilight Markets grow each year, so do put the 8, 9 and 10 December in your diary – all the details are on page 6.

Party in the Park marked my first 12 months in my role. I am incredibly proud of the Town Council; our hard-working staff and Councillors have continued to deliver an excellent range of services, facilities, and green spaces. I've been particularly impressed by the quality, number and range of events held in the town. These include our large town centre events, but also regular market activities, band concerts and the summer activities programme. Next spring will see the end of the High Street Heritage Action Zone project, which has enabled us to add all kinds of attractions and activities to our usual programme. We are already looking for ways to continue some of this added value in the years ahead.

The Town Council has deservedly been awarded a fourth Green Flag, this time for Bennetts Memorial Recreation Ground, alongside Priory Gardens, Grove House Gardens and Dunstable Cemetery.

The High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) project has provided much of the funding and the opportunity to carry out restoration works to Priory House. As work has progressed additional concerns have been identified. Council staff have worked hard, along with colleagues including from Central Bedfordshire Council and Historic England, to secure additional funding to ensure the long-term future of the building. I have been encouraged through this challenging process to see that Priory House is recognised as a building of national significance, and we are hugely grateful to Historic England for its tenacious support. The works will now continue well into 2024, however, do be assured that the end result will be a safe, restored and sustainable building that future generations will continue to enjoy. For now, Priory House remains open; look out for the new bottomless elevenses!

The Town Council is committed to engaging with residents and being as transparent as possible. We are now live-streaming Council meetings, and Councillors are holding monthly public meetings (surgeries) one ward at a time; more details are available on page 15.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Talk of the Town. Please feel free to share your thoughts with us on any of the Council's services by emailing info@dunstable.gov.uk or messaging us on Facebook @DunstableCouncil. Happy reading!

Paul Hodson
Town Clerk and Chief Executive



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Dunstable Christmas Carols and Torchlight Procession 2023

The Square, Dunstable | Friday 24 November, 7 pm



Christmas Panto FREE Prize Draw

Win two tickets to see Jack and the Beanstalk at the Grove Theatre on Saturday 16 December, 10 am.

To enter WhatsApp/text J&BS to 07580859962 or write to Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF with your name and telephone number.

charges may apply

Enter by 9 am, 24 November, one entry per person. Full T&Cs scan the QR code:



Christmas officially begins in Dunstable on Friday 24 November when the annual Christmas Carols and Torchlight Procession brings the community together!

Join us on The Square from 7 pm, where the school choirs of Dunstable will fill the air with joyous carols, meet Father Christmas and watch the switch-on of the Christmas Tree, accompanied by a fantastic light show finale!

Along Middle Row, there will be an array of food and drink stalls or visit Priory House Tea Rooms and Heritage Centre, which will be open late serving a festive menu. Make sure to come along as there is no better way to start this Christmas season.

This year, we are excited to announce that special guests from the Grove Theatre's Christmas pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' will be making an appearance. If you haven't already booked tickets, don't miss this fantastic show! Tickets can be booked online at the Grove Theatre's website.

Please be aware High Street South will be closed from the crossroads junction of West Street/Church Street/A5183 to Friars Walk from 6 pm to 9 pm, with a diversion in place for the Christmas Carols and Torchlight Procession.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

This event has been
sponsored by
Caremark Central
Bedfordshire



Christmas In Dunstable

Christmas at Priory House



There is an array of Christmas craft and food-related events to help get you in the perfect festive mood this year...



Christmas Afternoon Tea

Monday to Saturday
20 November to 23 December
plus Sunday 3 and 10 December
£25 per adult | £12 per child (under 12 years)



Celebrate the festive season with a delicious homemade Afternoon Tea! A selection of festive-filled sandwiches, homemade savouries and cakes, plus freshly baked scones with homemade jam served with whipped cream.

Dietary requirements can be accommodated including gluten-free, vegan and dairy-free. Please advise staff at the time of booking at least four days in advance.

We Bake, You Decorate!

Thursday 14 December, 6 pm

Take the stress out of baking a Christmas cake this year, instead just have fun decorating it at our workshop on Thursday 14 December from 6 pm. All dietary requirements can be accommodated. £40 per person (includes 9" cake, personalised recipe and all decorating material).

A Perfect Christmas Gift



Treat someone to an Afternoon Tea at Priory House Tea Rooms and Heritage Centre. Purchase an Afternoon Tea for two vouchers online at:
www.dunstable.gov.uk/product/afternoon-tea-vouchers

Special Bottomless Christmas Brunch

Sunday 17 December, 12 noon to 2 pm

Enjoy 2 hours of unlimited selected* drinks along with an item from our Christmas-themed brunch menu. Relax in the beautiful setting of Priory House surrounded by the stunning Priory Gardens. This is a perfect time to catch up with friends and family over the festive season.

**Drinks include Prosecco, Rose Spritz, Corona, Mimosas and non-alcoholic Prosecco and Beer.*

Charm Bracelet Workshop

Tuesday 19 December, 6 pm | £15 per person

Enjoy making a charm bracelet and gemstone earrings with friends and family! The Tea Rooms will be open, serving drinks and a festive menu.



Bottomless Elevenses

11 am till 1 pm
Monday to Saturday

Includes:

- Unlimited Prosecco or Mimosas
- Bagel served with either bacon/salmon or red pepper and cream cheese
- Crumpet with preserve
- Savoury muffin
- Cake

**£35
PER
PERSON**

Book any of these events online at www.dunstable.gov.uk/prioryhouse/whatson/
Alternatively, you can call 01582 891420 or email prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk

Destination

Keeping you abreast of town
centre news, initiatives
and developments

DUNSTABLE

Middle
Row
MARKETS

Festive fun to be found at our Twilight Markets

Friday 8 December 3 pm to 8 pm

Saturday 9 December 3 pm to 8 pm

Sunday 10 December 10 am to 3 pm

Join us at our popular three-day Twilight Markets on The Square and Middle Row for a magical array of Christmas stalls and festive entertainment. This year we will be joined by community groups and singers who will entertain you all weekend whilst you shop for those perfect Christmas gifts. Meet Father Christmas, ride the FREE children's carousel, indulge in mulled wine and browse the selection of food stalls. Join us for a truly magical weekend.

Christmas
In Dunstable

Are you looking to grow your business?
Events Sponsorship could be the way to go!

We have exciting opportunities for events sponsorship for 2024.
For more information, please email gina.thanky@dunstable.gov.uk or call 01582 891407.



Dunstable Vegan Market

Saturday 18 November,
9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Vegan Market Co is coming back to Dunstable! The Vegan Market will be joining Middle Row Market on Saturday 18 November from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. Come and indulge in a variety of vegan street food, artisan bakes and craft cheeses. But that's not all! There will be a handpicked selection of talented, ethical and sustainable businesses. Explore handmade cosmetics, ethical clothing, jewellery, arts and crafts and charity stalls.

Christmas Window Competition

We are asking all shops in Dunstable to enter our Christmas Window Competition! We had a fantastic response last year with three winners and the public vote winner. Make sure you let us know your favourite by keeping an eye out on our Facebook page:
@DunstableCouncil to vote for the best window in town.

Christmas Lights

Dunstable's three-year plan to replace the old Christmas lights is now complete. This Christmas we have added Court Drive, Eleanor's Cross, Queensway and a tree in Grove House Gardens. We will have two Christmas trees this year, Priory Gardens and The Square, which will be full of festive colour.

This year's Christmas tree on The Square is kindly sponsored by

Rotary
Dunstable





Over 50s Happy and Active Together

1 pm to 3 pm

Dunstable Community Halls

Manchester Place, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 1HT

As we're starting to approach a new year, a new project is coming into the town called Happy and Active Together which is organised by the Dunstable Town Council's Youth and Community Team. It is themed around physical, well-being and creative sessions aimed at those over 50. This project looks to engage, inspire, and connect individuals who may not currently access the local provisions available. The aim of this project is to encourage participation by providing a platform for individuals to explore new hobbies, stay physically active, promote well-being, and unleash their creativity. This project seeks to foster a sense of community and personal fulfilment.



JANUARY

Week 1

9 January

Line Dancing

Week 2

16 January

Line Dancing

Week 3

23 January

Line Dancing

Week 4

30 January

Line Dancing



FEBRUARY

Week 5

6 February

Meditation, yoga
and tai chi

Week 6

13 February

Meditation, yoga
and tai chi

Week 7

27 February

Meditation, yoga
and tai chi

Week 8

5 March

Meditation, yoga
and tai chi



MARCH

Week 9

12 March

Creative art

Week 10

19 March

Creative art

Week 11

26 March

Creative art

Week 12

2 April

Creative art

30 spaces
available

Activities must be booked
as a 4 week block

To book

**Email: [grovecorner@
dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:grovecorner@dunstable.gov.uk)**

Call: 01582 891434

**FREE TO
ATTEND!**



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Community MATTERS

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

FREE over 55s Coffee Mornings

The Youth and Community Team at Dunstable Town Council facilitate a variety of FREE over 55 coffee mornings across different locations in Dunstable. Attending a coffee morning can be a great opportunity to socialise, meet new people, and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea.

For those who may be feeling lonely or isolated, a coffee morning can provide a sense of belonging and a chance to connect with others. It can be a great way to learn about community events, services, and resources that may be of interest. Different organisations attend to give out free information, advice or guidance.

To find out the dates for coffee mornings, contact the Grove Corner team by telephone on 01582 891434 or email grovecorner@dunstable.gov.uk

Seedcorn Grants

Apply for a Dunstable Town Council Seedcorn Grant

Receive up to £500 to help make a difference in your local community. If you are an individual with a community idea or belong to a new and emerging community group, why not apply for a Seedcorn Grant: www.dunstable.gov.uk/community-services/grants-and-funding/

Service Level Agreements

If you're an established constituted community organisation for a project or service extension that brings a benefit to the residents of Dunstable, you can apply up to £2,000 for a four year's service level agreement.

Friends of Dunstable Cemetery

Meeting every first Tuesday and third Friday of the month from 10 am to 12 noon, a dedicated group of local volunteers help maintain the Cemetery grounds. Their tasks range from weeding to sweeping around graves with great care and sensitivity.

The Friends of Dunstable Cemetery are not only committed to preserving the physical aspects of the cemetery but also to fostering a sense of community among its members.

To express your interest in becoming a volunteer, simply contact Grove Corner on 01582 891434 or email grovecorner@dunstable.gov.uk

Bedfordshire Day

Saturday 25th November 2023



They Came to the Crossroads

FREE events at the Priory Church of St Peter

Buy the book at the reduced price of £14.95 and get it signed by the authors.

Morning events

10.00 am **The Sealed Knot Storm Priory church**

10.30 am **The book is launched by the Mayor, Cllr Liz Jones**

11.30 am **Talk 'Bess of Hardwick talks about her Cavendish family, Cardinal Wolsey, and their links to Dunstable' by Jean Yates**

Afternoon events

1.00 pm **The Sealed Knot Storm Priory church**

1.30 pm **Talk 'How Dunstable helped Narnia, and The Hobbit come to Life, told to us by a friendly Whipsnade Lion' by Stephen Williams**

Come and meet some of the people who came to the crossroads!

Bess of Hardwick, Elizabethan survivor,
Prior Richard de Morins, Dunstable's most influential Prior,
Amy Johnson, the famous aviatrix, with her glider!
Aslan, the Narnia lion, and
The Civil War soldiers who attacked the church.

There will be a coffee morning and light lunches at the church



Dunstable Town Guides
would like to invite you to

2023

Ghost Walks
Take a spooky walk around Dunstable!

Family Walk

Friday 27th October at 6.30 pm
Suitable for children over 8 years old accompanied by an adult. *Feel free to come in fancy dress and bring a torch.*



Crying child

Ghost Walk

Saturday 28th October at 8.00 pm

Catherine's ghost

Halloween Ghost Walk

Tuesday 31st October at 8.00 pm

Middle Row's children in a window

Christmas Ghost Walk

Friday 29th December at 8.00 pm

Not so friendly poltergeist

Cuthbert's ghost



The witch in a bottle

The walk starts outside Priory Church. Tickets cost £5.00 per adult and £2.50 per child & need to be booked in advance from Priory House Heritage Centre on 01582 891420.

Please check our website for details and any programme changes
dunstabletownguides.co.uk



Follow us on Facebook

Supported by Dunstable Town Council

Celebrating Dunstable's **Green Spaces**



New Kingsbury Playground and Multi Use Games Area

Dunstable Town Council is proud to announce the opening of its brand-new playground and kickabout Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Kingsbury Recreation Ground. This much-anticipated redevelopment of the play area and the installation of the MUGA now provides a great focal point for the local community. It offers an array of exciting equipment for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy.

Kingsbury Recreation Ground is located just off Luton Road in East Dunstable. The new playground features slides, swings, multi-play units and play panels. There is inclusive play equipment that caters to individuals of all abilities, including an accessible seesaw and roundabout. There are also designated picnic spots and seating areas. The kickabout MUGA has five-a-side goals, target games and basketball hoops.

The new play area and MUGA were officially opened by Dunstable Town Mayor, Councillor Liz Jones and she said: "I am really pleased to see the redevelopment of the play area and the installation of the Council's first kickabout MUGA. The inclusive play equipment that has been installed alongside many other pieces of equipment provides the opportunity for all to come together and enjoy outdoor play. It's been great to see people making good use of these new facilities and to have received such positive feedback. These new facilities demonstrate the Council's commitment to providing free-to-use high-quality recreational opportunities for local people."

The work has been partly funded through planning contributions from local developments secured by Central Bedfordshire Council. The design and installation were undertaken by Play Innovation who have successfully installed many such facilities in London and across the UK.



Dunstable's Green Flag Line-up Just Got Even Greener

Dunstable Town Council has secured a coveted fourth Green Flag for Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground, along with successfully maintaining the prestigious Green Flag for Grove House Gardens, Priory Gardens and Dunstable Cemetery.



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL



Dunstable Achieves Yet Another Gold at Anglia in Bloom

Dunstable was awarded another Gold at the recent Anglia in Bloom Awards held this year in Huntingdon. Dunstable Town Mayor, Cllr Liz Jones, attended the award ceremony with Dunstable in Bloom volunteers and Council staff to collect the awards.

Dunstable received yet another Gold award in the Large Town category, as well as thirteen other awards:

- ✿ *Nominated for the best Conservation/Biodiversity Project for Blows Down SSSI*
- ✿ *Nominated for the best Grow Your Own Project for Hillcroft Allotments*
- ✿ *Nominated for the best Local Authority Floral Display for Dunstable Town Centre*
- ✿ *Mike Ames certificate of recognition for the Dunstable Wombles for their outstanding work*
- ✿ *Gold and overall winner in the Nature/Conservation Category for Mentmore Recreation Ground Tiny Forest and Hedgerow*
- ✿ *Gold in Nature/Conservation Category for Blows Down – BCN Wildlife Trust – SSSI Site*
- ✿ *Gold in the Nature/Conservation Category for St Augustine's Academy Forest Garden*
- ✿ *Gold in the Cemetery/Crematorium Category for Dunstable Cemetery*
- ✿ *Silver Gilt in the Public Park Category for Priory Gardens*
- ✿ *Silver Gilt in the Public Park Category for Grove House Gardens*
- ✿ *Silver Gilt in the King's Coronation Display Category*
- ✿ *Silver Gilt and overall winner in the Assisted Living/Care Home Category for Priory View Independent Living*
- ✿ *Gold in the Pub/Restaurant/Shop Front Category for the floral shop display project*

When the judges, Julia Smith and Joan Gibson came to visit the town on 12 July, we took the opportunity to ask them a few questions about judging and the Anglia in Bloom campaign:

What do you feel are the benefits of the Anglia in Bloom Campaign?

Julia Smith: One of the key aspects of this initiative is to foster a sense of community engagement and encourage individuals to actively participate in environmental activities, particularly planting.

What is the strangest mode of transport you've been taken around in whilst judging?

Joan Gibson: During the judging process, I was pleasantly surprised when we were shown around in a classic Morris Minor.

What is a favourite or memorable project that inspired you while judging in the Anglia region?

Julia Smith: I think it's always the children that inspire us. Their curiosity never ceases to amaze me. In their presence, we are reminded of the importance of embracing life with a childlike sense of wonder and resilience.

What are the hallmarks of a Gold entry?

Julia Smith: We prioritise three core pillars, horticultural achievements, environmental responsibility, and community participation. These are essential in evaluating the success and impact of each entrant. Doing well in all three gives the highest results.

How long have you been judging? And What do you enjoy about judging?

Joan Gibson: I have been judging for about 5 years, and Julia has been judging for about ten years. We enjoy it because we love meeting people, and we also get ideas to take back to our own communities.

What is your favourite flower?

Julia Smith: Joan is a florist, so she must have lots and lots of favourite flowers. I think mine is nasturtiums because when I was a child, we used to have nasturtiums in our garden and my mum used to encourage me to go out and find the seeds and choose places to plant them the following year.

Dunstable Town FC

working with the

Community



Dunstable Town FC achieved Community Benefit Society (CBS) status on July 8 2021. This means that the club's purpose is to be a benefit to the local community. The club operates as a social enterprise and is one of only 46 semi-professional clubs registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to operate in this manner.

We belong to the Community Owned Clubs network of the Football Supporters Association (FSA) which oversees our governance and accountability.

The club has a new hub based at Creasey Park Community Football Centre (CPCFC) and runs a series of support groups every week as part of its programme to improve the lives of others. All our groups are free for people to join and participate in. We're a fan-owned club and use a proportion of each fan's membership payments to help provide community support for up to 140 people every week, which includes nine hours of mental health support for people with lived experience of mental ill-health and in recovery.

We run three mental health peer support groups every week and a support group for people who may be feeling lonely and socially isolated. The latter is a partnership with Titan PCN.

Additionally, we operate three Walking Football groups at CPCFC. One of which is a specialist group for Adults with Complex Needs and in September 2023, we will be providing Walking Football sessions for people living with dementia in collaboration with Tibbs Dementia Foundation.

For more information on all our Walking Football groups based at both Creasey Park and the Dunstable Centre please contact Ian at: walkingfootball.dunstabletownfc@gmail.com

Andrew Madaras

Chair & Secretary Dunstable Town FC



Become a Sponsor or a Club Owner!

Your help enables us to reach even more people with specific needs living in our community. We appreciate your kindness and generosity. Email: chair.dunstabletownfc@gmail.com

For more information visit:

www.dunstable.gov.uk/cpcfc/DTFCCBS

[@DUNSTABLETOWNFOOTBALLCLUB](https://www.facebook.com/dunstabletownfootballclub)

[@DUNSTABLETOWNFC](https://www.instagram.com/dunstabletownfc)



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

✂ @CreaseyPark
 📘 @creaseypark

DUNSTABLE HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE

The High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) is now in its final year and ends in March 2024. The HSHAZ programme involves building grants, refurbishment and community engagement led by Dunstable Town Council. It also involves a Cultural Programme led by the Dunstable Cultural Consortium (DCC). Make sure to follow them on Facebook @DunstableCulturalConsortium.

Building Grants and Refurbishment in the HSHAZ Area

During the fourth year of the HSHAZ, we are continuing to work with the owner of 21 to 23 High Street South. Conception Architects have been working away behind the scenes and a Section 73 Planning Application was approved for a new shopfront in July 2023, with a tender opportunity going out at the end of August 2023. It is hoped that the new shopfront will be completed as part of the HSHAZ by the end of March 2024. More information and other updates 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. The repair work started on 12 September 2022, and it was hoped that it would run for approximately nine to ten months. However, the repair work to date has revealed lots of hidden challenges and unknown issues which could not have been foreseen until the site work had commenced. It is now hoped that the site work will be completed by the end of summer 2024.

However, there are still some challenges and the Morton Partnership (Conservation Accredited Structural Engineers) and the project team are busy developing the ongoing repair methodology. For more information check out the Priory House Restoration section of the HSHAZ pages on DTC's Website www.dunstable.gov.uk/dunstable-hshaz/priory-house-restoration/. Also, take a look at the online photo gallery www.dunstable.gov.uk/dunstable-hshaz/prioryhousegallery/ to see what is going on behind the scaffolding!

Community Engagement: Events/Activities

2023 is the last full calendar year of HSHAZ events and activities. This year, we celebrated the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Festival of Archaeology and the HSHAZ for the final time at Roar into Archaeology on 22 July, Around the World on 29 July and Ashton Square Day on 19 August.

If you have taken part in any HSHAZ activities or community engagement since August 2020, we would love to hear your feedback.

Historic England HSHAZ Community engagement survey

If you have taken part or are taking part in HSHAZ community engagement we would love you to complete Historic England's feedback survey



www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HSHAZCommunityEngagement/

Keep up to date with HSHAZ news

Check out the HSHAZ Pages on Dunstable Town Council's website. Keep an eye on HSHAZ Facebook Page @DunstableHSHAZ and follow the HSHAZ Instagram @hazdunstable. If you have any HSHAZ related photos including historic photos or pictures taken from recent activities or events that you would be happy for us to add to our online photo gallery, please send them to us via info@dunstable.gov.uk, or please post them on your Facebook tagging @DunstableHSHAZ or Instagram tagging @hazdunstable. Please also tag @HistoricEngland and #HistoricHighStreets.



Historic England

Meet the Youth and Community Team



Jack Adams-Rimmer

What is your role at Dunstable Town Council?

As the Senior Neighbourhood Development Officer, I work with new and existing community groups across the town. I also run different projects in local schools and activities over the school holidays, plus support all the services the youth and community team run across all different age groups.

Why do you enjoy working with the Dunstable Community? The different people I get to meet and connect with. There are lots of different communities doing lots of great work or have an aspiration to do great things and I enjoy supporting them in making that happen.

What have you learned so far from working with the Youth of Dunstable? I have learned a new joke... 'How do you get a Pikachu on a bus?.... 'You Poke-him-on'

What do you love most about working with Young People in Dunstable? I love being able to make a difference, whether that's supporting them through any worries they might have, having conversations about their curiosity, or laughing at the terrible dancing the youth workers do at Grove Corner parties.... And of course, beating them at pool #champ

What 3 words would you use to describe yourself? Sport, dad jokes, food.



Gill Peck

What is your role at Dunstable Town Council?

I am the Youth and Community Manager at Grove Corner, dedicated to delivering services to young people, communities, and older people.

How long have you been doing this type of work?

I have been working in this field for nearly twenty years. I began as a young leader and went on to become a qualified Youth and Community Worker. I enjoy that no two days are the same and that I can make a real difference in people's lives.

What have you learned so far from working with the Youth of Dunstable? I have over 15 years of experience in youth work but you always learn something new. There are always new terms for me to learn, e.g. did you know the term 'sus' 'it's a bit sus' means suspicious!

What you love most about working with Young People in Dunstable? I love being that front-facing person that young people can come to if they ever want to have a chat about certain challenges or worries they might face. I aim to use my experience and current knowledge to be that listening ear whenever they need it. I also love the different activities we do especially face painting which is a big favourite of mine. So, if you ever want to practice your face-painting skills I'm always up for it!

What 3 words would you use to describe yourself? Bubbly, loud, terrible dancer.



Grant Walpole

What is the role at Dunstable Town Council?

I have been a Community Services Assistant for just over two years. I was previously part-time sessional youth worker at Grove Corner, so have been a part of the team in some capacity for around 12 years. I am also studying to complete my Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work.

What have you learned so far from working with the Youth of Dunstable? Thanks to one youth, I've learnt about the whole Marvel and DC Universe! My favourites are Batman and Wolverine.

What do you love most about working with Young People in Dunstable? What I love most is having the opportunity to be able to help make a positive impact on young people's lives, helping them find themselves and their right path. I also love learning new fashions and trends, which help keep me young.

What 3 words would you use to describe yourself? Extreme fitness fanatic!



Francine Paulina

Introducing our new Detached Youth Workers

Although part of Grove Corner, The Detached Youth Workers are based externally in the local community providing support, guidance and activities for young people 12-19 and up to 25 years with special educational needs (SEN). Anyone is welcome to join in activities or speak to the Detached Youth Workers, who will be at various locations around Dunstable. Keep an eye on our social media for more information.

Francine Compton

What made you get into Youth Work? I got into youth work because I have a passion for making a positive impact on young people's lives. It brings me joy to support them as they navigate through challenges and reach their potential.

What excites you most about your new role?

What excites me the most about being a part-time Community and Young People's Sessional Worker is the opportunity to connect with young people on their own turf. It is thrilling to be out in the community, engaging with them in a relaxed and informal setting. I love the chance to build genuine relationships, witness their growth, and be a positive influence in their lives.

What have you learned so far from working with the Youth of Dunstable? I have learned that during a crisis these young people turn into superheroes with capes made of teamwork and problem-solving skills. It's like watching a real-life Avengers movie but with even more laughter and creativity. They know how to lighten the mood and come up with the most unexpected solutions. It is truly a sight to behold!



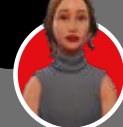
Paulina Bera

What made you get into Youth Work? I totally believe that through youth work I have a chance to help create the future. I love that I get to play an influential role in a young person's lives and stand next to them from day one and watch their journey to adulthood.

What excites you most about your new role? Youth workers are forever young, energetic and passionate. I can always be surrounded by people who are motivated, creative and are action-orientated. I just love being in their world and support them in their growth.

What have you learned so far from working with the Youth of Dunstable? Young people keep me on top of tech and trends.

What 3 words would you use to describe yourself? People-orientated, energetic and artistic.



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 one week before the meeting. All meetings commence at **7 pm** (unless otherwise stated) 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 democratic@dunstable.gov.uk. Forthcoming meeting dates are listed below. The full calendar of meetings can be found at www.dunstable.gov.uk

30/10/2023	Plans Sub-Committee 6 pm	14/12/2023	Dunstable Joint Committee 7 pm (Venue TBC)
30/10/2023	Community Services Committee 7 pm	02/01/2024	Plans Sub-Committee 6 pm
06/11/2023	Ground and Environmental Services 7 pm	08/01/2024	Community Services 7 pm
13/11/2023	Plan Sub-Committee 6 pm	11/01/2024	Personal Sub-Committee 7 pm
13/11/2023	Finance and General Purposes 7 pm	15/01/2024	Grounds and Environmental Services 7 pm
04/12/2023	Plans Sub-Committee 6 pm	22/01/2024	Plans Sub-Committee 6 pm
04/12/2023	Council 7 pm	22/01/2024	Finance and General Purposes 7 pm



Councillor Open Public Meetings (Surgeries)

Following the elections in May, your new Councillors have committed to engaging regularly with residents and ensuring the Council is as open and transparent as possible, by hearing what people in the community think and communicating the Council's actions and decisions.

Live-Streaming

For the first time, the Council is now live-streaming meetings. Details of how to watch live and play-back meetings are available on the Council's website at www.dunstable.gov.uk/council-meetings. Anyone wanting to ask questions can either attend in person or log in using Teams.

Councillor Surgeries

Town Councillors are now holding monthly surgeries, which are being circulated between the town's five wards. The surgeries provide an opportunity for all residents to meet their local Town Councillors, raise concerns, bring ideas, or ask for information.

Upcoming Surgeries

North Ward	18 November, 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm Beecroft Community Centre Westfield Road, Dunstable LU6 1DL
South Ward	27 January, 11.00 am to 1.00 pm Downside Community Centre Suffolk Road, Dunstable LU5 4ES
Central Ward	February 17, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm Bennett's Splashside Café Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground, LU6 3DE

Find the full calendar at: www.dunstable.gov.uk/council-meetings

Council services

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

Central
Bedfordshire

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

Citizens Advice Dunstable

The Dunstable Centre, Court Drive,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 4JD

Call 01582 670003

Monday to Wednesday 9.30 am - 3:30 pm
Thursday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Evening appointments available upon request

Or fill in the enquiry form at:

www.dunstablecab.org.uk/get-advice/email-us/

citizens
advice



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL