

# TALK of the TOWN

Issue 99 April 2024

'Making Dunstable a Better Place'

## SHAUN WILLIAMSON HEADLINING PARTY IN THE PARK 2024



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after reading

INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE



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Heritage Site



NABMA  
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DUNSTABLE  
TOWN COUNCIL

# Meet the Councillors

## DUNSTABLE EAST



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**Cllr Matthew Neall**  
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## DUNSTABLE CENTRAL



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## DUNSTABLE SOUTH



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**Cllr Nicholas Kotarski**  
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## Dunstable Town Council Committee Membership

### Finance and General Purposes

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  
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  
Mark Davis  
Kenson Gurney  
Louise O'Riordan  
Michelle Henderson  
Matthew Neall  
Johnson Tamara  
Philip Crawley

### Dunstable Town Council

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Opening Hours 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday



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## Town Mayor

Councillor Liz Jones

When you are reading this, there will only be a few weeks left of my Mayoral Year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the last two years. In particular, I must thank my husband, Iain, for giving up his wife for the last two years – I'm looking forward to spending some time at home, in the garden and catching up with family and friends.

I've attended over 400 events in the last two years and raised in excess of £30,000 for local causes. My focus throughout has always been recognising all in our community and supporting our local businesses who have invested so much into our town. It's been an honour to have undertaken this role.

The town continues to be impacted by the cost of living crisis and sadly our High Street is suffering like many others. As a Council, we are committed to doing what we can to help our traders, but in turn, we need you as residents to visit our town centre and support them. Our Middle Row Markets and themed activities on The Square returned in March, and whilst this alone won't solve everything,

it brings footfall to the town centre regularly and hopefully through the doors of local businesses.

The Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Susan Lousada, recently spent time in the Town with myself and the Deputy Mayor as we wanted to showcase the number of independent businesses we have as well as our award-winning parks and open spaces.

I've recently led a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner, and some of our town councillors, where we challenged him to provide a greater visible police presence in Dunstable. Please report anything you see happening in our community to Bedfordshire police online or via 101. Reports are essential to build case history leading to future outcomes.

The Town Council events programme commences with St George's Day activities and this year's Motor Rally once again coincides with the Truck Convoy. The summer of 2024 looks to be a fantastic reason to stay local, shop local and enjoy our local events!

Finally, I want to finish my last piece in Talk of The Town as Mayor by thanking the officers of the Town Council for their support during my terms of office. In particular Lisa, Georgia, and Rachel – thank you ladies for all your support!

*Councillor Liz Jones*

Town Mayor of Dunstable

## Paul Hodson

Town Clerk & Chief Executive



Welcome to the spring edition of Talk of the Town.

Councillors recently set the annual budget. This year the Council has made extensive cost saving efficiencies. 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 £219.93, which is an increase of £10.44 per year, or 20p per week.

It is disappointing that the Town Council will no longer be managing the Creasey Park Community Football Centre from 1 April. Central Bedfordshire Council has awarded the new contract to the Bedfordshire Football Association and we wish them well as they embark on a new era for the centre, building on the success that has been achieved in the last 13 years.

1 April will also mark the end of the fantastic High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) project. Details are on page 12. Dunstable is one of only two town councils to have received funding from the scheme, and we are proud of all the work the Town Council, the Cultural Consortium and our partners have done to promote the town's heritage, improve shop fronts, the public realm and begin work to repair Priory House.

As the Priory House repairs have developed, we have uncovered significant issues which require unforeseen work. Staff and councillors are working hard to ensure that all the necessary works are completed and where necessary further funding is applied for. In the meantime, do look at the HSHAZ section on the Town Council's website for the most recent photos of the works.

I am particularly proud that the Council has achieved a period dignity award in light of the free period products provided in the Ashton Square toilets.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Talk of the Town and please feel free to comment on any of the Council's services using the comment form at the back of this edition, by emailing [info@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:info@dunstable.gov.uk) or by contacting us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Happy reading!

*Paul Hodson*

Town Clerk and Chief Executive



# Destination

DUNSTABLE

**NEW!**

## FOR 2024 Young Traders Market

Dunstable will host its very first Young Traders Market on Saturday 6 July from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. We're looking for young traders who would like to be part of this special market, whether they make, bake or create, this is a chance to showcase talent and creativity.

This is part of a national campaign/competition with the National Market Traders Federation (NMTF) who are dedicated to fostering the growth of young entrepreneurs within a market environment.

Middle Row Market is offering those aged between 16 to 30 the opportunity to trade on a market stall on Saturday 6 July for just £10 for those who enter the NMTF Young Traders Market competition, alongside FREE public liability insurance and the opportunity to trade up to 6 times at Middle Row Markets for just £10 a stall from March to October.

If you are taking part in the competition you will need to register with NMFT via their website: [www.nmtf.co.uk/campaigns/ytm24](http://www.nmtf.co.uk/campaigns/ytm24) and book a market stall with our Town Centre Manager Annette Clynes by emailing [annette.clynes@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:annette.clynes@dunstable.gov.uk) or get in touch if you have any enquires.

The successful winners of the NMTF Young Traders Market competition could be in with a chance to trade at Portobello Road Market on Saturday 14 July and win a FREE stall at Dunstable's Twilight Market in December.

Young Traders who would like to take part in the Young Traders Market, but do not wish to enter the NMFT competition, can join us at the standard rate of £23 with FREE publicity liability and the opportunity to trade 6 times a year at Middle Row Markets as the standard rate from March to October.



Middle Row Markets are the second and third Saturday of the month 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. Join us on Saturday 20 April when Middle Row Market coincides with the St George's Day event and on Saturday 8 June when the Classic Motor Rally is in Priory Gardens and the Truck convoy heads through the town. The Square is a great spot! And don't forget Father's Day Market on 15 June for that unique individual gift. We can't wait to have you join us for these fantastic events.

Scan QR  
code to  
register



## DUNSTABLE STREET FOOD HEROES

Come down to The Square from 4 pm until 9 pm and indulge in a culinary adventure with The Street Food Heroes that'll tantalise your taste buds, accompanied by the sweet melodies of live music!

**Thursday 9 May**  
**Thursday 13 June**

**Thursday 11 July**  
**Thursday 8 August**  
**Thursday 12 September**

JOIN US FROM 4 - 9 PM IN ASHTON SQUARE



**Dunstable MARKETS** *Middle Row* **MARKETS** **2024 PROGRAMME**

**MARKET DATES IN 2024**

13TH / 20TH APRIL	11TH / 18TH MAY
8TH / 15TH JUNE	6TH / 20TH JULY
14TH / 21ST SEPTEMBER	12TH / 19TH OCTOBER
10TH / 17TH AUGUST	9TH / 16TH NOVEMBER

MIDDLE ROW ASHTON SQUARE **13TH 14TH 15TH / 21ST** DECEMBER MIDDLE ROW ASHTON SQUARE

DATES IN **ORANGE** ARE DAYS WHEN MARKETS AND EVENTS TAKE PLACE

For more information please e-mail [Annette.clynes@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:Annette.clynes@dunstable.gov.uk) or you can also visit us online at [www.dunstable.gov.uk/whats-on/markets/](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk/whats-on/markets/)

**Dunstablecouncil** **@DunstableTC**

**DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

**EFES BAR.B.Q.**  
TURKISH RESTAURANT & MEZE

**EFES BAR.B.Q.**  
TURKISH RESTAURANT & MEZE

**TEL: 01582 966 750**  
73 High St. N, Dunstable LU6 1JF  
[www.efes-dunstable.co.uk](http://www.efes-dunstable.co.uk)

**HALAL**

# Don't Walk, Dash...



...all the way to

# Bennett's Splash

**Re-opening Monday 6 May to Sunday 1 September! We can't wait to welcome you back.**

As the summer approaches, make sure to come down to our fantastic Splash Park and spend some quality family time at Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground. Let the Splash Park add a touch of magic to your summer holiday memories for free!

While at the Splash Park, head into the Splashside Café and indulge in delectable pizzas, tempting toasties, refreshing summer smoothies, delightful milkshakes, crispy chips, and an array of other delicious treats.

We are excited to announce that this summer we have two events at Bennett's Splash in conjunction with the Youth and Community Team.

**School's Out Party:** Friday 19 July, 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm

**Seaside Day:** Tuesday 13 August, 11.00 am to 2.00 pm

Please use Ashton Square Car Park, located off Bull Pond Lane. **FREE** parking on Sundays and public holidays. Please note that Bennett's Splash Park and Splashside Café may be subject to closure due to unforeseen circumstances.

For more information and updates visit:

**X** @bennettssplash **f** @bennettssplash



# DUNSTABLE

# Events

**FREE  
EVENTS**

Organised & funded by  
Dunstable Town  
Council



## St. George's Day

Priory Gardens

**Saturday 20 April, 11 am to 4 pm**

St George's Day is back kick-starting the events programme for 2024! There's lots to see and do this year, so come and join us in Priory Gardens for a FREE family fun-filled day. Get the chance to meet St George, watch the falconry display, enjoy performances from Punch & Judy, take part in the Maypole dancing workshops, and make your very own swords and crowns before you go off around town to hunt for the dragons! If that's not enough, there will also be the mighty climbing wall to face plus much more...

**Punch and Judy**

**Arts and crafts**

**Teaching Talons**

**Animal Encounter**

**Dragon Town Trail**

**St George and  
the Dragon storytelling**

**Dunstable Town Band**

**St George Showtime**

**Stilt Walkers**

**Circus Skills**

## PRIORY PICTURES

### Priory Pictures

Priory Gardens

**Saturday 25 May,**

**12 noon to 9.30 pm**

FREE outdoor cinema!

**12 noon: Wonka (PG)\***

**2.30 pm: Wonka (PG)**

**5.00 pm: The Goonies (12)**

**7.30 pm: Barbie (12A)**

Priory Pictures is back in the stunning grounds of Priory Gardens. Grab your drinks and snacks from our food concessions, bring your picnic blankets and chairs and join us for this FREE film day!

*\*Adapted screening with subtitles, hearing loop and low volume.*



## DUNSTABLE CLASSIC MOTOR RALLY

### Classic Motor Rally

Priory Gardens

**Saturday 8 June, 10 am to 4 pm**

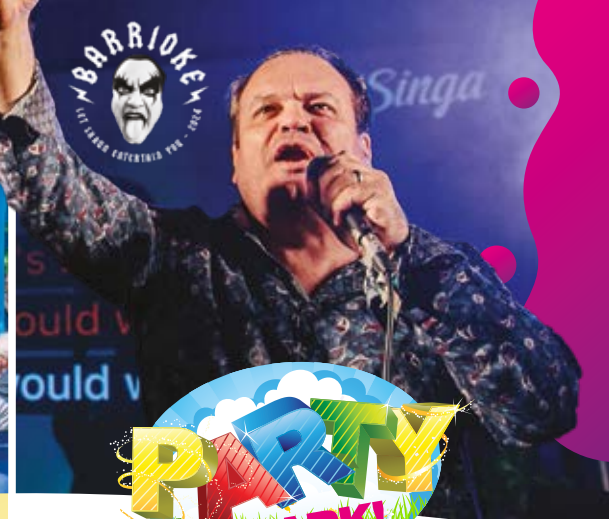
A fantastic display of heritage and vintage vehicles in the beautiful grounds of Priory Gardens. This year, we will be doing something a bit different to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. There will be live music performances, crazy golf, FREE children's activities, Teaching Talons Animal Encounter, stalls, and on-site food concessions. A great family fun day out – and an event not to be missed for all motor enthusiasts! Entries are now open – if you wish to enter a vehicle you can now apply online: [www.dunstable.gov.uk/event/classic-motor-rally](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk/event/classic-motor-rally). Alternatively, please email [events@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:events@dunstable.gov.uk) for an entry form.

**To commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day, Dunstable Town Council are seeking military vehicles for this event. If you would like to attend, contact [events@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:events@dunstable.gov.uk) or call 01582 891407.**

For further information about our events please visit [www.dunstable.gov.uk/whats-on](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk/whats-on)

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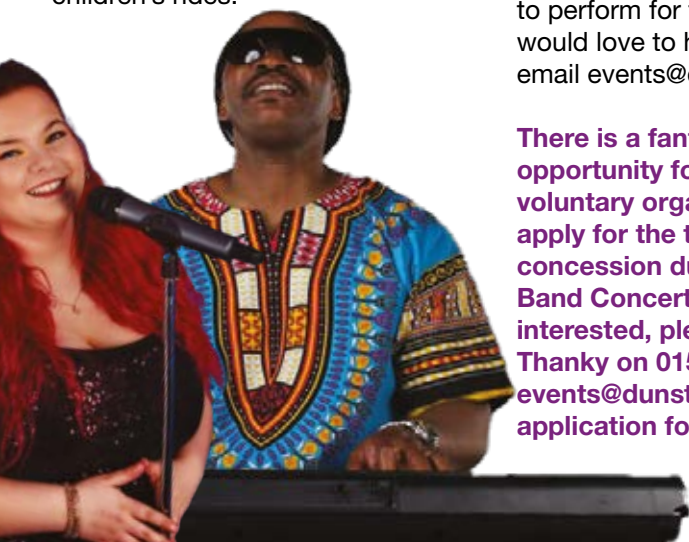
## Dunstable Live

Grove House Gardens  
**Saturday 22 June, 3 pm to 8 pm**

We are excited to announce that this year's theme for Dunstable Live is **'Soul and Motown.'** A survey was conducted via our Facebook page with over 1,500 votes received and the final line-up is listed below.

- 3.00 pm** Godfrey Gayle as Stevie Wonder
- 4.10 pm** Whitney vs Motown
- 5.00 pm** Sing Baby Sing: The Stylistics Tribute
- 6.10 pm** Marcia Lynette as Diana Ross
- 7.15 pm** The Classic Motown Show

Enjoy five hours of live music with catering, an outdoor bar and children's rides.



## Sunday Band Concerts

The Bandstand, Grove House Gardens  
12 noon and 2.30 pm

We are excited to announce that this year's Sunday Band Concerts will have a slight twist! Alongside the traditional brass bands, there will also be a variety of different styles and genres of music performed over the course of the programme.

**30 June, 12 noon**  
**Dunstable Town Band**

**30 June, 2.30 pm**  
**Dunstable Salvation Army**

**21 July, 12 noon**  
**Beati Vocal Ensemble**

**21 July, 2.30 pm** TBC

**18 August, 12 noon** TBC

**18 August 2.30 pm**  
**Shambles Big Band**

There are two remaining slots to be filled, so if you are part of a musical group or society and would like to perform for the community, we would love to hear from you! Please email [events@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:events@dunstable.gov.uk)

**There is a fantastic fundraising opportunity for charities or voluntary organisations to apply for the tea and coffee concession during the Sunday Band Concerts. If you are interested, please contact Gina Thanky on 01582 891407 or email [events@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:events@dunstable.gov.uk) for an application form.**

## Party in the Park

Grove House Gardens  
**Saturday 13 July, 12 noon to 8 pm**

Enjoy 8 hours of non-stop fun with live entertainment, a fantastic funfair and a FREE kidzone for under 16s. There will also be charity and craft stalls and an outdoor bar.

Be entertained by a mix of music and dance performances throughout the day from local groups and singers including **Dance Connexions, Crazy Dog** and **Josie Derland.**

The headline act for this year is **Shaun Williamson**, with his sell-out show **BARRIOKE!** Who doesn't love a little bit of karaoke? Join us from 7 pm for a sing-along!

*'There are icons of silver screen, there are Oscar winners, Bafta winners and Golden Globe winners, but are there any of these global stars that you would rather sing with on stage than the coolest man of TV - Shaun Williamson. The star of EastEnders, Extras, Life's Too Short and more recently a million viral videos, Shaun has now taken the music festival scene by storm, bringing BARRIOKE to thousands of music lovers.'*

The accessible viewing platform is back with space for 10 wheelchair users and one seated companion. And it's completely FREE to book!

Keep an eye on our website or Facebook to book a space or call 01582 513000.

This FREE event is sponsored by:



**Looking to grow your business?**  
**Event sponsorship could be the way!**

We have various exciting opportunities for events sponsorship for 2024. For more information please email [events@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:events@dunstable.gov.uk) or phone 01582 891407



# Community MATTERS

Keeping You In the Know,  
Where It Matters Most

## Make New Friends at Dunstable Over 55s Coffee Mornings

The over 55s coffee mornings will return this year on select days throughout April to December and are created specifically for those looking to make new friendships and avoid social isolation.

The coffee mornings are free to attend and provide a safe warm and welcoming space to meet new people. They provide an invaluable opportunity for people to share stories, exchange advice, and create cherished memories between new friends.

To ensure widespread accessibility, the coffee mornings will be held at different locations across the town of Dunstable. To stay informed about upcoming coffee mornings or any other activities we provide for the older community, sign up for our mailing or text message list by providing your details to [grovecorner@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:grovecorner@dunstable.gov.uk) or calling 01582 891434.

## Wheelie Fantastic 2024: Cultivating Community and Creativity with Dunstable in Bloom

Are you ready to unleash your creativity and be part of something truly blooming fantastic? Get ready for the return of Wheelie Fantastic!

The Youth and Community team are proud to announce their participation in the Dunstable in Bloom 2024 campaign once again. The theme for this year is 'Sowing the Seeds of Friendship.'

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or simply passionate about unleashing your artistic flair, this competition welcomes participants of all skill levels of individuals, community groups, schools, and businesses.

Wheelie Fantastic 2024 aims to bring people together. By decorating the outside and planting the inside of your wheelbarrow, you'll contribute to an incredible display that showcases the vibrant spirit of friendship.

For those entering the competition for the first time, a wheelbarrow and soil can be provided and if you've participated before, we encourage you to reuse your wheelbarrow and breathe new life into it.

Deadline for entries: Friday 28 June at 5 pm, FREE to enter. A guide is sent out to all participants with tips and tricks to support you along the way. Judging will take place in the first 2 weeks of July.

For more details call: 01582 891434 or email: [grovecorner@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:grovecorner@dunstable.gov.uk)



## A cleaner and greener town starts with each one of us

The Youth and Community Team continue to organise various litter picks across the town, supported by different schools and community groups to help make a positive impact one litter pick at a time.

Did you know we have a litter pick borrowing scheme? You can borrow up to 30 litter pickers, along with bin bags to facilitate your own community clean-up initiatives around the town.

In collaboration with local schools, the team is actively engaged in the informal education of future generations, emphasising the importance of caring for the community and instilling a sense of pride in their town.

Whether you're eager to actively participate in a litter pick or considering organising one with your local group or school, the Youth and Community Team can support those ready to make a positive difference.

To enquire about the scheme please contact Grove Corner phone: 01582891434 or email [grovecorner@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:grovecorner@dunstable.gov.uk)





# The Ultimate Safe Haven for Young People

**Grove  
Corner**

Youth &  
Community  
Hub

**FREE  
TO ATTEND**

Grove Corner is a safe space where young people can go to unwind, connect, and have fun. With its doors open four nights a week, young people can participate in various engaging activities that cater to their diverse interests and passions. From art workshops to themed sessions, Pokémon tournaments, parties and community projects, there is something for everyone to enjoy and much more! And the best bit of all, it's completely FREE to attend!



## **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**  
13 – 18 year olds

- ✓ **Pool Table**
- ✓ **Table Football**
- ✓ **Oculus Quest VR**
- ✓ **Nintendo Switch**
- ✓ **Gaming Suite**

📍 **76a High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1JF**

📱 **GroveCornerDunstable** 📷 **@GroveCorner**

🌐 **[www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk)**

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

☎ **01582 891 434**

## Dunstable's Detached Youth Workers: **Empowering Young Minds**

The Detached Youth Workers are actively present 5 times a week in different locations across the town engaging with young people in their 'own sense of space', such as local parks, green spaces and other areas young people may choose to meet after school, during the weekends or school holidays.

Through different sessions, the Detached Youth Workers interact with young people (ages 11 to 19 years old, up to 25 SEN) and support them in participating and engaging in an array of activities that capture their imagination and promotes personal growth. From interactive workshops to thrilling activities, there's always something new and exciting on the horizon.



**Francine Paulina**

Make sure to keep an eye on our social media @ grovecorner for future event details or contact the Detached Youth Team via WhatsApp on 07400561496

This work has been made possible through funding from Central Bedfordshire Council and Million Hours which Dunstable Town Council secured earlier this year for 2 year of Detached Youth work in Dunstable East until 31 March 2026.



Funded by  
UK Government

**Find out more at [www.dunstable.gov.uk/young-people](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk/young-people)**



# VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Are you passionate about gardening?

## We need you!

Dunstable In Bloom is seeking enthusiastic volunteers of all ages to help bring colour and life to our town through gardening.



## What You'll Do:

Plant and look after flower containers  
Help with deadheading the town centre planter displays  
Promote Dunstable In Bloom local competition  
Support your local community gardening projects

## Why Volunteer?

Make a difference in your community.  
Meet fellow gardening enthusiasts.  
Get outdoors and support your community - it's great for your health and well-being!  
Choose the amount of time you can give that suits you.  
No prior experience is required - just a love for plants and a desire to contribute to our town's beauty!

Interested? Contact us at: [dunstableinbloom@gmail.com](mailto:dunstableinbloom@gmail.com) Your time and skills can help Dunstable to bloom!

## Enter the local Dunstable in Bloom competition

### Dunstable in Bloom

#### Local Competitions Entry Form

This Year's Theme is  
**Sowing the Seeds  
of Friendship**

If you would like to enter the DIB local competition, you can either cut out this leaflet and send it to Dunstable Town Council, Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF, or email your details along with the competition category you would like to enter to [dib.competition@gmail.com](mailto:dib.competition@gmail.com)

Closing Date: **Friday 28th June 2024**

- ☐ Best Commercial Premises Floral Display (on public display)
- ☐ Best Decorated and Planted Wheelbarrow (Wheelie Fantastic)
- ☐ Best Care Home / Independent Living
- ☐ Best School Garden
- ☐ Best Community Garden
- ☐ Best Floral Container(s) incl. Hanging Basket(s) (on public display)
- ☐ Best Front Garden

*Please tick which competitions you wish to enter*

Name (as you would like it displayed on a certificate)

.....

Email address .....

Address .....

.....

Phone number .....



Supported by Dunstable Town Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and DLDD TRUST



# Celebrating Dunstable's Green Spaces



## Trees, Glorious Trees

On Thursday 7 March, thirty climate resilient trees were planted at Mentmore Recreation Ground in Dunstable. The trees were planted by local volunteers, Dunstable Town Council staff and Councillors, members of the Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) sustainability team and CBC Councillors.

Over the past two years, the Council have also planted twenty climate resilient trees to celebrate the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, a tiny forest, and a length of native hedgerow.

The latest round of tree planting marked the final phase of the wider tree planting project at Mentmore. The delivery of the project is intended to increase biodiversity, improve climate resilience, and enhance the quality of the park for visitors.

The Council would like to thank Central Bedfordshire Council's Sustainability Team for the CBC Tree Grant Funding.



## DUNSTABLE TOWN GUIDES PROMOTING DUNSTABLE'S HISTORY

### 2024 TEA TIME TALES

Tea Time Tales with refreshments are held on alternate Thursday afternoons between 2.30 pm and 4.00 pm Grove House, 76 High Street North while Priory House is being repaired.

**Thursday 25 April**

**159 Years of Dunstable Mayors, the stories behind the faces, surprises and prizes along the way** by John Chatterley

**Thursday 9 May**

**Life and Legacy: The Remarkable Jill E. Grey** by Andy Gibbs

**Thursday 23 May**

**Waddesdon in Wartime** by Carol Hardy

**Thursday 6 June**

**The Story of Grove House** by John Buckledee

**Thursday 20 June**

**Pig Tales down on the farm** by Pauline Richards

**Thursday 4 July**

**Wartime Whipsnade** by Kenneth France

**Thursday 18 July**

**SOE and the Tempsford Connection**  
by Bryony Norburn

### HOW TO BOOK

Tickets need to be booked in advance from Priory House Heritage Centre call 01582 891420. Priory House Heritage Centre is open from 10 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Saturday (except bank holidays).

### 2024 PUBLIC WALKS

**10.30 am – Sunday 19 May**

**Hidden Priory**

The Lost History of Dunstable's Priory  
Meet outside Priory House

**10.30 am – Sunday 23 June**

**Natter with Doreen**

A walk in wartime Dunstable  
Meet outside Priory House

**Tea Time Tales Tickets: £6**

**Public Walk Tickets: £5**





# Celebrating the DUNSTABLE HIGH STREET

**The High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ)** was a four-year government funded scheme which finished at the end of March 2024. Throughout its duration, HSHAZ played a pivotal role in supporting Dunstable Town Council with building grants, refurbishment initiatives, public realm works and community engagement at a range of Dunstable Town Council events, Town Centre events, Middle Row Markets, youth and community projects and many more! We would like to take the opportunity to recap on what the HSHAZ has achieved over the last 4 years...

## Building Grants and Refurbishment Projects

### 18 High Street South

Crucial roof repairs working the Sams Lofts and Opel Estates.

### 21-23 High Street North (Formerly Moore's)

Repair and restoration of the shopfronts working with Conception Architects, DJ Russell Builders Limited, Dunstable Laminates and Capital Developments Group.

### Methodist Church Public Realm Works

Newly planted features to improve the gardens around the Church designed and managed by the Town Council with very generous support and assistance from Henderson and Taylor.

### Clock Tower Refurbishment

Repainting the whole structure in its original colours, replacement of the central stone seat, replacing the coats of arms, renewing the lighting, re-glazing the clock faces, re-tiling the floor area and fixing the stone steps. The works were undertaken by David Nott and Sons Limited and overseen by Project Design Studio Limited.

### High Street South Maintenance

Cleaning and repairing gutters and rainwater goods from 2 to 38 High Street South working with Braiser Freeth and Hawkins Group Limited.

### 4 High Street South (Formerly Tillys Butchers)

Specialist structural survey work involving conservation-accredited architects and structural engineers, archaeologists, and other professionals to better inform about the building requirements for repair. Although the project did not continue after the extensive survey work, the building is now better understood and the investigations allowed Historic England to advise that the building remains of significance despite its current condition.

### Refurbishment Works at Priory House Heritage Centre and Tea Rooms

Priory House is currently on Historic England's Heritage At Risk Register, primarily relating to the deterioration of the stonework in the medieval Undercroft. The HSHAZ has funded repair works to the Undercroft and the front façade. The repair work started on 12 September 2022, with the hope it would run for approximately nine to ten months. However, since the work started, it has revealed hidden challenges and unknown issues, which could not have been foreseen until site work commenced. The Morton Partnership (Conservation Accredited Structural Engineers) and the project team are tackling the challenges ahead and are busy developing the ongoing repair methodology.

*The work to Priory House will continue beyond the HSHAZ with support from two Heritage At Risk Grants and a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant.*



Historic England





# HERITAGE ACTION ZONE

## Community Engagement

There have been many HSHAZ activities from April 2022 to March 2024. Thank you to all the third parties (too many to name) who delivered them and thank you to everyone who participated.



Dunstable Town Council want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the programme's accomplishments and a big thank you to Michelle Collings - the HSHAZ programme leader for all her hard work and dedication to the scheme.

## Priory House are proud stockist of Frenchic Paint®

Did you know you purchase takeaway hot drinks from the gift shop? Pop in after the school run, while shopping in town, or enjoy a leisurely moment relaxing in the award-winning Priory Gardens.

PRIORY HOUSE  
HERITAGE CENTRE  
GIFT SHOP  
**OPEN  
MONDAY  
TO SATURDAY**  
9.00 AM TO 4.30 PM

f prioryhousedunstable  
☎ 01582 891420  
✉ prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk



Please note, Priory House may be closed due to unforeseen circumstances.





DUNSTABLE  
TOWN COUNCIL

# End of an Era

After 13 years, Dunstable Town Council will no longer manage Creasey Park Community Football Centre

**Dunstable Town Council is disappointed to announce that after 13 years it will end its management of the Creasey Park Community Football Centre on 31 March 2024.**

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), the owners of the Centre, gave the Town Council notice last autumn. CBC then initiated a tender process for the management of the facility. CBC have been clear throughout that their priority was to raise more money for CBC funds from the Centre – no criticism has been made of the quality of service provided by the Town Council. The Town Council submitted a bid which would have ensured the centre raised more than enough money to keep replacing the artificial pitches as needed and further develop the centre. However, another bidder offered CBC more money than the Town Council, and so the Town Council's role will end on 31 March.

Dunstable Town Council is extremely proud to have developed the Creasey Park Community Football Centre since 2011 to the success it is now. The Town Council took the centre from bricks and mortar to a beacon of excellence for facility management and sports development. The Council's management has created an environment where clubs, teams, players, coaches and volunteers can flourish, develop and succeed both at semi-professional and grassroots levels.

Dunstable Town Council's mission was to ensure the 'community' aspect was always at the core of Creasey Park Community Football Centre. This has been achieved, not just through football, but via parent and toddler groups, long-standing weekly older people's lunch groups, free school holiday family fun days, pay and play sessions and community hires.

During the last 13 years Dunstable Town Council has invested £400,000 and worked closely with CBC to transform the facility with key additions such as a second Artificial Turf Pitch and full site irrigation system, along with stadium and building extensions. The centre has been recognised by The FA and Football Foundation as a model of best practice, and the centre garnered national acclaim, including National FA Groundsman awards, Quest accredited for 7 years, and has been Best Bar None accredited since 2015.

Creasey Park Community Football Centre will be under the new management of Bedfordshire FA (Beds FA) as of 1 April 2024. The Town Council will continue to deliver the older peoples' lunch club and Rock and Roll events at Creasey Park working with the Beds FA. Dunstable Town Council sincerely wishes the centre continued success, hoping it achieves the same level of accomplishment in the next 13 years as it has celebrated in the last.



**CREASEY PARK**  
COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE



**Photos (top to bottom):**

CPCFC management team receiving one of many awards

CPCFC's successful over-50s club was always well attended

Council representatives at the official opening of CPCFC

Team members receiving 'Overall Winner' at Dunstable Best Bar None awards

CPCFC Groundsman D Smith displaying his FA Awards





# Dunstable Town Council and Committee Meetings



Agendas for all meetings can be accessed on the Council's website one week before the scheduled meeting. Meetings are held at Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable (unless stated otherwise) and are open to the public. Questions regarding agenda items are encouraged, but advance notice is essential. Please contact [democratic@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@dunstable.gov.uk). The full calendar of meetings and agendas can be found at [www.dunstable.gov.uk/](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk/)

20/05/2024 Annual Council Meeting 7.00 pm

28/05/2024 Plans Sub-Committee 6.15 pm

03/06/2024 Community Services 7.00 pm

10/06/2024 Plans Sub-Committee 6.15 pm

10/06/2024 Grounds and Environmental Services 7.00 pm

17/06/2024 Finance and General Purposes 7.00 pm

20/06/2024 Personnel Sub-Committee 7.00 pm

24/06/2024 Council 7.00 pm

08/07/2024 Plans Sub-Committee 6.15 pm

05/08/2024 Plans Sub-Committee 6.15 pm

## Councillor Open Public Meetings (Surgeries)

**West Ward** 23 March 10.00 am to 11:30 am  
Splashside Café  
Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground, LU6 3DE

**East Ward** 24 April 7 pm to 9 pm  
Newland Church Dunstable  
Katherine Drive, LU5 4NT

**North Ward** 18 May 6 pm to 8 pm  
Beecroft Community Centre  
Westfield Rd, LU6 1DL

**South Ward** 21 June 10 am to 12 pm  
St Augustine's Church, Oakwood Ave, LU5 4AR

**Central Ward** 14 September 9.30 am to 4.30 pm  
Middle Row Market, Ashton Square LU6 3SN

## How Dunstable Town Council spends your money 2024/2025

£2,933,469  
Income from  
Council Tax

+

£1,292,502  
other raised  
income

+

£192,631  
contribution to  
budget from  
reserves

**Total budget  
= £4,418,602**

Council Tax contribution per Band 'D' property  
= £219.93 per year | £4.23 per week

**Corporate Services  
£844,408 / 27.01%**

Staffing | HR related costs | Health and Safety | Civic & Mayoral |  
Core running costs to enable the Council to deliver its services |  
Capital Projects (including loans)



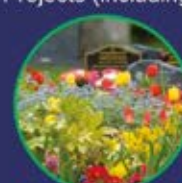
**Community Services  
£1,134,715 / 36.30%**

Staffing | Older People's Support Service | Community  
Engagement (including grants) | Grove Corner | Events  
Programme | Priory House | Town Centre Services |  
Ashton Square Toilets | Capital Projects (including loans)



**Grounds and  
Environmental Services  
£1,146,977 / 36.69%**

Staffing | Allotments | Cemetery | Tennis Courts, Skate  
Park | Recreation Grounds and Play Areas | Floral Displays  
Town Ranger Service | SplashPark and Cafe | Capital  
Projects (including loans)



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

# Council services

## Central Bedfordshire Council Services

0300 300 8000  
[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://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](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk)

- Dunstable Cemetery
- Open spaces, including recreation grounds and play areas
- Allotments
- Town Ranger services
- Grove Skate Park
- Detached Youth Work
- Bennett's Splash Park & Splashside Cafe
- 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
- 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/](http://www.dunstablecab.org.uk/get-advice/email-us/)

citizens  
advice



DUNSTABLE  
TOWN COUNCIL