

# Talk OF THE Town

Issue 104 July 2025

'Making Dunstable a Better Place'



**CRAIG CHARLES**

Dunstable's  
**Summer of Music**



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after reading

**40**  
DUNSTABLE  
TOWN COUNCIL

INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE





# Meet the Councillors

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## Dunstable Town Council Committee Membership

### Finance and General Purposes

Councillors Sally Kimondo (Town Mayor)  
Nicholas Kotarski (Chair)  
Johnson Tamara (Vice Chair)  
Richard Attwell (Deputy Mayor)  
Gregory Alderman  
Matthew Brennan  
Phillip Crawley  
John Gurney  
Kenson Gurney  
Michelle Henderson  
Peter Hollick  
Liz Jones  
Matthew Neill  
Louise O'Riordan

### Community Services

Councillors Sally Kimondo (Town Mayor)  
Matthew Neill (Chair)  
Kenson Gurney (Vice Chair)  
Richard Attwell (Deputy Mayor)  
Trevor Adams  
Gregory Alderman  
Wendy Bater  
Robert Blennerhassett  
Phillip Crawley  
Mark Davis  
Nicholas Kotarski  
Louise O'Riordan

### Grounds and Environmental

Councillors Sally Kimondo (Town Mayor)  
Peter Hollick (Chair)  
Michelle Henderson (Vice Chair)  
Richard Attwell (Deputy Mayor)  
Trevor Adams  
Wendy Bater  
Robert Blennerhassett  
Matthew Brennan  
Mark Davis  
John Gurney  
Liz Jones  
Johnson Tamara

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# Town Mayor's Welcome

I am deeply honoured to serve as your Mayor for 2025/2026. As someone who has made the UK, and especially Dunstable, my beloved home after moving here, previously faced challenges like domestic violence and discrimination. These experiences have only strengthened my commitment to supporting and uplifting our community.

I am proud to be the first black Mayor of Dunstable Town Council, and I stand with you in celebrating our town's vibrant diversity.

I established the Luton, Dunstable & Surrounding Kenyan Community Forum to foster a sense of belonging, unity and cultural exchange, while tackling issues affecting our youth, such as knife crime. Our youth represent our future. Through initiatives like the "Save a Life" card, we're empowering young people to address issues like knife crime, and I'm hoping to expand this programme throughout Dunstable.

Our diverse community is our greatest asset. Each unique culture adds to our richness, and by embracing our differences we create a more inclusive environment. I hope to inspire future leaders to chase their dreams and positively impact their communities. I am here to listen, learn, and work alongside you, respecting and honouring your way of life.

This year, I look forward to celebrating diversity with you through events. In June, I had the pleasure of attending Central Bedfordshire College's first inaugural Pride event.

Looking ahead to October, we'll honour Black History Month.

Together with every charity, business and community group, we can make Dunstable even better. I am excited to support CHUMS and Hospice at Home Volunteers in the Dunstable & Houghton Regis areas through fundraising events.

As we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Dunstable Town Council, let's honour our past and look forward to our future. We have a fantastic lineup of events, and I encourage everyone to get involved and share your thoughts. Keep an eye out for our events calendar as I would love to see you there.

I look forward to working with my fellow councillors to continue prioritising the needs of our residents.

Let's remember the power of kindness and understanding, especially as everyone faces their own challenges. Let's be considerate, even when we disagree, ensuring that differences lead to solutions rather than conflict.

Together, let's build a strong, inclusive, and thriving Dunstable. I look forward to meeting many of you at local events and welcome your invitations to community gatherings.

*Councillor Sally Kimondo*  
Town Mayor of Dunstable



# Town Clerk & Chief Executive's Welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of Talk of the Town, which marks the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the creation of Dunstable Town Council. The middle of this edition includes some highlights from the last 40 years. The 40th year began with the Annual Council Meeting in May. I am proud to say that at the end of the meeting the Council awarded the Honorary Freedom of the Town for the first time in 65 years.

The Council has also launched the Dunstable Community Lottery. This means local good causes have another opportunity to raise vital funds. You can play the lottery and support a local good cause at the same time by purchasing tickets online - see page 17 for details.

I'm delighted that that Council was able to support the town's marking of the 80th anniversary of VE Day with the beacon lighting on Dunstable Downs, lunch club events and by helping to fund street parties. The coming together as a community to recognise the contribution of others was a fitting mark of respect.

The events programme is now in full swing with the Council already having staged St George's Day, the Classic Motor Rally, and Dunstable Live. Party in the Park is imminent with Craig Charles bringing his epic Funk & Soul DJ set to headline this year.

I would like to extend my thanks to Councillor Louise O'Riordan for the passion, time and energy she has given to the town and the Council during her year as Mayor. I look forward to working with our new Mayor, Councillor Sally Kimondo, to support local groups and represent the town throughout this 40th Anniversary year.

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 contact details found on page two, or by visiting our website [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk) or following us on Instagram and Facebook. Happy reading!

*Paul Hodson*  
Town Clerk & Chief Executive





# Destination

Dunstable town centre  
news, events & initiatives

**DUNSTABLE**

## Dino Day

**Saturday 26 July**  
**9.30 am to 3.30 pm**

The Square and The Quadrant  
Shopping Centre

Join us for a dino-mite day packed with prehistoric adventure! Meet our adorable baby dinosaurs on The Square, walk among the giants as they parade through town, and catch the thrilling Dino Show in The Quadrant Shopping Centre. Take part in a FREE dinosaur egg hunt across Dunstable and test your skills with crazy dino golf on The Square.

While you're out exploring, don't forget to browse the stalls at Middle Row Market and enjoy fantastic local crafts and farmers' delights. It's a roaring good time for the whole family.

**FREE  
EVENT**



# DINO DAY

JOIN US FOR A DINO ADVENTURE

**DINO BABIES  
ON THE SQUARE**

**FREE  
DINO EGG HUNT IN  
MIDDLE ROW**

**FREE  
DINO GOLF ON THE  
SQUARE**

**12 NOON & 1.30 PM  
DINO SHOW  
THE QUADRANT**

**SATURDAY  
26 JULY**

**9.30 AM TO 3.30 PM**

**THE  
QUADRANT  
AND  
THE SQUARE**

**DINO WALKABOUT  
IN THE SQUARE**

**FREE  
FACE PAINTING  
& FREE CRAFTS ON THE SQUARE  
AND IN THE QUADRANT**

## Street Food Heroes and Ashton Square Evening

**Friday 15 August, 4 pm to 9 pm**

The Square

You asked for a Friday night Street Food Heroes — and we made it happen!

Join us for an evening of delicious street food, live music on stage, FREE children's rides, and the vibrant Middle Row Markets, all part of our two-day Ashton Square Day event on The Square.

It's set to be a fantastic family evening, full of food, fun, and community spirit!



## Ashton Square Day

**Saturday 16 August, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm**

The Square

The celebrations continue with Ashton Square Day, a vibrant event featuring a variety of market stalls set along Middle Row and The Square. Visitors can explore an array of local goods as well as enjoying live music throughout the day, with performances by talented groups from the community.

Families are in for a treat with a range of FREE activities on offer, including the excitement of bungee trampolines, the wonder of animal encounters, and captivating theatre performances that promise fun and entertainment for all ages. It's a day not to be missed!

*Middle Row*  
**MARKETS**

# Ashton Square Day

**Friday 15 August**

**4 pm to 9 pm**

**Saturday 16 August**

**9.30 am to 3.30 pm**

**STAGE | FREE BUNGEE TRAMPOLINES  
STALLS | LIVE PERFORMANCES**

**Friday Exclusive:**

**Street Food Heroes**

**Saturday Exclusive:**

**Animal Encounters  
Storytelling**



## Middle Row Market at Party in the Park

Saturday 19 July  
12 noon to 7 pm

Grove House Gardens

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Dunstable Town Council, Middle Row Market will be joining Party in the Park for the very first time! Come and explore a selection of delicious food and unique craft stalls from local traders.



## STREET FOOD HEROES

Don't miss the final few Thursday Street Food Events in The Square, from 4 pm to 9 pm. Join us on 17 July, 21 August, and 18 September for an evening filled with delicious street food, live music, and a great atmosphere the whole family can enjoy. It's the perfect way to spend a summer evening in the heart of Dunstable!



## Heritage Open Day

Saturday 13 September  
9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Join us as we celebrate Dunstable's rich heritage at Heritage Open Day, taking place in Middle Row Market and The Square. This special event offers a fantastic day out with FREE activities, delicious food, and a wide variety of stalls. It's the perfect opportunity to explore local history, enjoy the vibrant atmosphere, and come together as a community to celebrate everything that makes Dunstable unique.



## United Charities Day

Saturday 20 September, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Join us at Middle Row Markets as we come together to support and celebrate our local charities and the incredible work they do. The Square will be dedicated to showcasing a range of good causes that make a real difference in our community. Come along, show your support, and discover how you can get involved.



**Bennett's Splash** **Bennett's Café**  
& COMMUNITY HUB

## Summer at Bennett's Café and Splash Park

Bennett's Café and Splash Park is open daily Monday to Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm throughout the summer. Come and enjoy some FREE summer fun, splash around, relax or grab a bite to eat at our café (last orders 5.30 pm).

This year, we're bringing back private gazebo hire and party packages, perfect for special celebrations! For enquiries, email [splashpark@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:splashpark@dunstable.gov.uk) or call 07761 514467.

Due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, the Splash Park and Café may occasionally close. For updates, keep an eye on our social media.

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

Do not miss some great FREE events being hosted at Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground this summer by Dunstable Town Council's Youth and Community team!

### School's Out Party

Tuesday 22 July, 3 pm to 6 pm

Ages 10 and Under (advisory). DJ, Bouncy Castle and Giant Games.

### Seaside Day

Thursday 31 July, 11 am to 3 pm

Ages 10 and Under (advisory). A range of traditional seaside games and entertainment.

For more information on the above events email: [communities@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:communities@dunstable.gov.uk) or call 01582 891434

## Over 55 Breakfast Club

Tuesdays 9.30 am to 11 am at Bennett's Café.

It's a great opportunity to meet new people, participate in activities, and hear from guest speakers. Weekly cost £5 includes a range of breakfast options.

For more information and to become a member of the Breakfast Club email:

[communities@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:communities@dunstable.gov.uk) or call 01582 891434



# DUNSTABLE Events

**FREE  
EVENTS**

Organised & funded by  
Dunstable Town  
Council

**CRAIG  
CHARLES**

**PARTY  
IN THE  
PARK**

## Party in the Park

Sponsored by Penrose Estate Agents

Saturday 19 July

12 noon to 8 pm

Grove House Gardens

Did you know that this year marks Dunstable Town Council's 40th anniversary? Join us this year for the biggest Party in the Park yet – and it's completely FREE to attend.

Enjoy 8 hours of non-stop fun with live entertainment, a funfair and FREE Under 16s KidZone, as well as plenty of food and drink on site. For the first time, Middle Row Markets will also be part of the celebrations, adding even more to explore throughout the day.

While you're enjoying the event, be sure to visit this year's sponsor, Penrose Estate Agents. They'll be running a fun on-site competition with a chance to win a fantastic prize. Entries are just a small fee per guess, with all proceeds from this activity supporting the Dunstable Town Mayor's chosen charities CHUMS and Hospice at Home Volunteers.

*Middle  
Row*  
**MARKETS**



### Now, who's ready for a funky Party in the Park?

On stage, expect performances from brilliant local talent, including **Stardust Theatre Company**, **The Brooks Academy of Irish Dancing**, **The Limestones**, **Akshay Unikrishnan** and **Agnieszka Murchie**.

### Missed out on Oasis tickets this Summer?

Don't worry, we've got you covered, with the fantastic tribute band '**Definitely Could Be Oasis**' you can still sing your heart out to Wonderwall.

Then, from 6.30 pm for a whole 90 minutes, the legendary **Craig Charles** takes over with his high-energy Funk & Soul DJ set to keep you dancing into the evening.

An accessible viewing platform will be available for 10 wheelchair users, accompanied by one seated companion plus accessible seating. You won't need to book; however availability is on a first come first-served basis.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook for the full stage line-up.

[www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk) | [facebook dunstablecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/dunstablecouncil)

This FREE event is  
sponsored by  
Penrose Estate Agents

**penrose**  
ESTATE AGENTS



**Coalition Presents**

**CRAIG CHARLES**



### BALLOON CHALLENGE

19TH JULY 12PM – 8PM

STEP UP AND GUESS THE NUMBER  
OF BALLOONS PACKED INTO THE CAR  
– CLOSEST GUESS WINS A  
BRAND-NEW NINTENDO SWITCH!







## Sunday Concerts

12 noon and 2.30 pm

Grove House Gardens, The Performance Area

Save the dates for the last two Sunday Concerts of the year.

In addition to the traditional brass bands, this year's Sunday Concerts will showcase a variety of different styles and genres of music.



## Sunday 27 July

12 noon Last of the Summer Ukuleles

2.30 pm Dunstable Town Band

## Sunday 17 August

12 noon Luton Concert Band

2.30 pm Prestige Trio Jazz Band



## Dunstable's Soapbox Derby

Saturday 9 August, From 11 am, Priory Gardens

Celebrating 40 years of Dunstable Town Council, get ready for a thrilling day of fun, speed, and community spirit! This action-packed FREE family event is a chance to take part in something truly special and is ideal for all ages. Watch teams race their hand-built karts down our 100-metre custom track, all hoping to cross the finish line in record time. Each kart will be unique, with designs as wild and wonderful as the teams behind them – so there's plenty to cheer!

Don't worry about missing any of the action, a giant screen will show the races live throughout the day, so you can sit back and enjoy the show. And the fun doesn't stop there! After the derby, stay and relax with a special outdoor cinema film screening of 'A Minecraft Movie' to end the day in style. There'll also be food and stalls to browse, so whether you're cheering from the sidelines or soaking up the atmosphere, it's set to be a brilliant community celebration.

Join us in Priory Gardens for a day of fun, laughter, and high-speed thrills. For further details on this event visit:

[www.dunstable.gov.uk/event/dunstables-soapbox-derby/](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk/event/dunstables-soapbox-derby/)



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FJI	JECJ	LEJ	IRW	YHJ
FLJ	JNRI	LKJ	TNI	YVJ

## Priory Proms in the Park

Saturday 13 September,  
3 pm, Priory Gardens



This year, alongside the live broadcast of the Last Night of the Proms, we're excited to bring you a special sing-along screening of 'Wicked' in Priory Gardens at 3 pm.

Settle in with food and drink from our on-site bar and concessions, then stay for an evening of music and magic with the Proms shown on the big screen, complete with special effects, interval entertainment, and a spectacular firework finale.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook for final event times once the broadcast has been announced.

[www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk) | [facebook.com/dunstablecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/dunstablecouncil)

## Book an exclusive VIP table at Proms in the Park

Find more information on page 18.



For events enquiries contact

Gina Thanky on 01582 891407 or [events@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:events@dunstable.gov.uk)



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# Celebrating Dunstable's Green Spaces

## New Priory Gardens Pergola

The Council is delighted to announce that a new pergola has been installed in Priory Gardens that has replaced the old timber structure. Despite having been well maintained over many years the old pergola was in need of replacing.

The new pergola is a black metal structure, in the shape of an arch. The design has been chosen to reflect some of the features that are found within Priory Gardens, including the arches in Priory Church and Priory House windows. The title of 'A Walk-Through Time' has been suggested by The Friends of Priory House and Gardens and features on the entrance upright posts in laser cut text. The remaining posts describe key moments in the history of the site, dating from pre-historic to modern times.

There will also be the addition of a QR code at each entrance to the pergola. The QR codes will offer further information on the historic messages featured on the pergola that are associated with this important historic site.

The existing roses have been pruned back and when they regrow, they will be tied back on to the new pergola. More roses will be planted, and the supporting wires for the climbing roses will be added in due course.

The pergola project was undertaken in partnership with the Friends of Priory House and Gardens and we are very grateful to them for having raised a contribution of over £13,000.

## Dunstable in Bloom Community Floral Display Project

Each summer, we can all look forward to the stunning floral displays that brighten up our town. This year is no exception and thanks to the continued efforts of Dunstable in Bloom, in partnership with the Town Council, Central Bedfordshire Ward Councillors, and the Quadrant Shopping Centre, there are even more floral displays to enjoy.

In early June, Dunstable in Bloom volunteers got planting at the Quadrant, to create twenty fabulous summer floral barrels. A big thank you to the Quadrant for their generous donation towards the plants and for caring for the displays throughout the season – it is a real team effort.

The additional displays create a welcoming atmosphere for visitors who can enjoy a cuppa, or lunch outdoors, while admiring the flowers. And there is more to smile about – all the displays use peat-free compost and feature a mix of specially chosen annual flowers to attract pollinators.







**DUNSTABLE  
TOWN COUNCIL**

# *Celebrating* **1985 TO 2025** **40 YEARS**

## **A timeline of 40 years serving the people of Dunstable**

2025 marks forty years since Dunstable Town Council was inaugurated. In 1974 the government abolished Dunstable Borough Council and Dunstable became an unparished area with no council of its own. In 1984, residents of the town voted in a petition to establish Dunstable Town Council. Elections were held in March 1984 and the first meeting of the new Town Council was held on 1 April 1985. At that meeting, The Council's budget was set at £225,439. The Council took on the management of Grove House and Priory Gardens, the Cemetery, recreation grounds, allotments, public toilets and the War Memorial. Council meetings were held in the Queensway Hall, and the Council's first offices were rented at 82 High Street South.

Dunstable Town Council established following a local petition for it to be created. First Councillors elected



**1985**

New cemetery gates installed

Replica Elizabethan beacon erected on Dunstable Downs marking 400 years since the Spanish Armada

Peppercorn Park opens, with adventure play equipment

**1986**

Grove House Gardens and Priory Gardens, allotments, recreation grounds and the War Memorial to be maintained by the Town Council



**1988**

The Peter Newton Pavilion is dedicated to the late Cllr Peter Newton JP

**1989**

**40**  
DUNSTABLE  
TOWN COUNCIL



The construction of a new community centre in Suffolk Road, Downside as an extension to the existing changing rooms

Dunstable Cadet Units are granted the Freedom of Entry to Dunstable being the right to march through the town with 'drums beating and colours flying' for their services to the community

Dunstable Town Council starts its Older People's/ Good Companion service funded by the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB)

Launch of the BMX Track



**1991**

**2000**

**2001**

**2002**

Ashton Square Clock Tower inaugurated



Town Council takes on the management of the Ashton Square Toilets

Grove Gardens Performance area opened

Refurbishment of the War Memorial in Priory Gardens



Creasey Park Community Football Centre opens, managed by the Town Council

New open space and play areas opens at French's Avenue

First Green Flag awarded for Grove House Gardens

99 year lease signed with South Bedfordshire District Council for The Place (Grove Corner) for a term of 99 years. This being part of the agreement for SBDC to purchase Town Council land for the new theatre

**2011**

Town Council takes over the management of Dunstable Market and given the market charter

Grants awarded to 20 street parties to celebrate HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

New Lunch and Social Club for those over 55 years at Creasey Park Community Football Centre

First Green Flag awarded for Priory Gardens

New play area at the Mentmore Recreation Ground opened

**2012**

Launch of the Town Ranger Service

Olympic Torch relay comes through Dunstable



Dunstable's Skate Park opens, under a 25 year lease to the Town Council



Priory Gateway restored and new solid oak gates added

**2013**

**2015**

**2016**

Physic Garden is planted by volunteers on the north side of Priory Gardens as part of a medieval Dunstable initiative

First Proms in the Park held in Priory Gardens

Men in Sheds launched





# Celebrating 1985 2025 40 YEARS

Priory House bought as a Heritage Centre using a £1.1m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund

Opening of newly refurbished Children's play areas at Brewer's Hill and Grove House Gardens

## 2004

## 2005

## 2006

Part of Victoria Allotments in West Street purchased for an extension to the town's cemetery

## 2007

Grove House purchased by the Town Council

A woodland carving in Grove House Gardens presented by Cllrs Andy and Jenny Fairbairn

Wooden pergola installed in Priory Gardens

## 2008

£270,000 contract agreed for the supply and installation of new play equipment at five sites in Dunstable

## 2010

## 2009

Gold Medal in Anglia in Bloom competition and winner of best new entry

New Peter Newton Pavilion opened by Mayor Cllr Sally Newton

First Dunstable Classic Motor Rally



Dunstable's High Street Heritage Action Zone begins, funded with over £1million of Historic England money. Works to include the refurbishment of Priory House and 21-23 High Street South (Moore's) public realm works and a host of community engagement activities



First Green Flag awarded for the Cemetery

Dunstable's Middle Row Market established

Bennett's Adventure Play opened

## 2017

## 2018

## 2019

## 2020

Splash Park and Splashside Café opened in Bennett's Memorial Recreation Ground

War Memorial in Priory Gardens refurbished

First Rock and Roll event held for Older People

Council meets online for the first time

Covid pandemic – Events programme limited and facilities closed

The first Big Lunch held for 65 plus year olds and 10 free coffee mornings held for the over 55s

The Jacobean Room in Priory House opens as a Wedding Venue

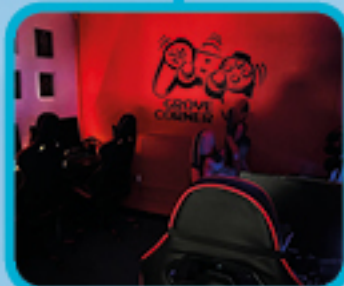


Grounds Team took on responsibility for the maintenance of the rain garden and Urbis planters in the Town Centre



**2021**

New gaming suite installed at Grove Corner



Outdoor gym equipment installed at Olma Road Recreation Ground and at Downs Road Recreation Ground

Planting of 20 trees at Mentmore Recreation Ground as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy initiative



Priory House undergoes continuing major repair works to restore the building to allow continued use for the future

**2022**

The Town collected a Gold Award at the Britain in Bloom UK finals as well as winning Best Large Town in the UK

Tiny Forest planted at Mentmore Recreation Ground

**2023**

Kingsbury Recreation Ground Multi Use Games Area opened

Council awarded £100,000 by the National Lottery's Million Hours Fund to be spent on detached youth work over two years



Refurbished Performance Area in Grove House Gardens opened

Beacon lighting on Dunstable Downs to recognise the 80th anniversary of D-Day

Red phone box restored with defibrillator



Installation of a new steel pergola in Priory Gardens to replace the wooden structure, featuring 'Walk Through Time' laser cut panels

First Green Flag awarded for Bennett's Memorial Recreation Ground

**2024****2025**

Dunstable Community Lottery launched

## Dunstable Town Council's Timeline 1985 - 2025

*40 years serving the people of Dunstable*

Councillor Peter Hollick has proudly launched a commemorative book marking the Town Council's 40-year journey. Remember the debates on the A5 bypass, Queensway Hall, or rail electrification in the '80s and '90s? The booklet also celebrates the Town Council's achievements in community services, environmental awards, and unforgettable moments, including a visit from HM Queen Elizabeth.

Email [democratic@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@dunstable.gov.uk) to reserve a copy for £7.

Contact Cllr Peter Hollick at [peter.hollick@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:peter.hollick@dunstable.gov.uk) for further details. Let's honour the past and look ahead to the future!



Dunstable Town Council's Timeline 1985 - 2025  
40 years serving the people of Dunstable





# YOUTH Summer PROGRAMME

Led by Dunstable Town Council's Detached Youth Team

Ages 11 to 19  
(up to 25 SEND)

**Thurs 24 July**

**Swim Party & BBQ** (11 to 14 year olds)

1 PM TO 4 PM | THE DUNSTABLE CENTRE

**Tues 29 July**

**Pizza, Chill & Retro Arcade**

3.30 PM TO 5.30 PM | GROVE SKATE PARK

**Fri 1 August**

**Climbing Wall & Games**

4 PM TO 6 PM | PRIORY GARDENS



**Wed 6 August**

**Super Sports**

5 PM TO 7 PM | KINGSBURY RECREATION GROUND



**Tues 12 August**

**Total Wipe Out and Trampolines**

4 PM TO 6 PM | BENNETT MEMORIAL  
RECREATION GROUND

**Mon 18 Aug**

**Swim Party & BBQ** (15 to 19 year olds)

1 PM TO 4 PM | THE DUNSTABLE CENTRE

**Thurs 21 August**

**Skate Jam**

12 NOON TO 4 PM | GROVE SKATE PARK



**Fri 29 August**

**Movie Night**

6 PM TO 8 PM | GROVE CORNER



All activities **FREE TO ATTEND**, just turn up!  
WhatsApp 07400561496 to book swim & BBQ

GC

Central  
Bedfordshire



COMMUNITY  
FUND



Funded by  
UK Government



DUNSTABLE  
TOWN COUNCIL



# Summer ACTIVITIES



Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult

Organised & funded by Dunstable Town Council's Youth & Community Team

## SCHOOLS OUT PARTY

Tuesday 22 July  
3 pm to 6 pm

Bennett Memorial  
Recreation Ground

Ages 3 to 10

FREE

## INFLATABLE DAY

Friday 25 July  
12 noon to 4 pm

Grove House  
Gardens

Ages 3 to 10

£6

to play  
all day

Playdaye

## SEASIDE DAY

Thursday 31 July  
11 am to 3 pm

Bennett Memorial  
Recreation Ground

Ages 3 to 10

FREE

## NATIONAL PLAY DAY

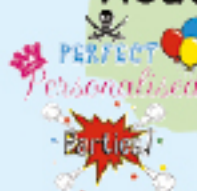
Wednesday 6 August  
11 am to 2 pm

St Augustine's  
Academy Playing Field

Ages 0 to 5

Sponsored by Perfect  
Personalised Parties

FREE



## ADVENTURE & ACTION

Thursday 14 August  
11 am to 2 pm

Priory Gardens

Ages 3 to 10

FREE



## SKATE SKILL SCHOOL

Thursday 21 August  
10 am to 11 am  
11 am to 12 noon

12 spaces available per session

Grove Skate  
Park

Ages 5 to 10

FREE



Please call to book a space for skate skill school, everything else just turn up on the day! 01582 891434 | [communities@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:communities@dunstable.gov.uk)



We aim to be inclusive. If your child has specific SEND needs, please contact us.





# Good Companions Lunch Club



Dunstable Town Council hosts a weekly lunch club for local residents aged 75 and over who are socially isolated. The club is held at Beecroft Community Centre, and transport can be arranged through South Beds Dial-a-Ride for an additional fee.

Sessions run every week on a Monday from 10 am to 2 pm and offer a welcoming environment filled with companionship, entertainment and a freshly prepared two-course hot meal. Activities vary each week and may include guest speakers, live music, or visits from local schoolchildren.

The cost is £13.50 per session with transport included, or £10.50 if you make your own way there.

To join or find out more, please call 01582 891434 or email [communities@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:communities@dunstable.gov.uk)



## Homecare you can rely on

**Our local team of care professionals  
can help with:**

- Meal preparation
- Medication administration
- Personal care
- Companionship
- Help around the home
- And much more...

**GoodOaks**  
Quality Care at Home

To find out more call or visit:  
01582 952951

[goodoakshomecare.co.uk/luton-dunstable](http://goodoakshomecare.co.uk/luton-dunstable)





Pictured: Councillor Sally Kimondo – Town Mayor of Dunstable, Sally Newton, John Buckledee and Paul Hodson – Town Clerk & Chief Executive

## Historic Honour Returns: Dunstable Awards Honorary Freedom of the Town for the First Time In 65 Years

Mrs Sally Newton and Mr John Buckledee were awarded the prestigious titles of Honorary Freewoman and Freeman of Dunstable at the Annual Council Meeting on Monday 19 May. This rare honour was last awarded in 1959 and recognises individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the community, embodying the spirit, resilience, and pride of Dunstable. The Town Council agreed the honours as part of the celebrations of the Council's 40th anniversary. The awards were made by the Town Council after the public were invited to nominate suitable, living, local candidates.

John Buckledee's award was made in light of his years of service to the town, including as editor of the Dunstable Gazette for many years, Chairman of the Dunstable Local History Society, and the driving force behind the town's annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. John's ongoing "Yesteryear" column for the Dunstable and Luton Gazette continues to educate and inspire, preserving our shared heritage for future generations. He has authored and edited numerous books on Dunstable's history, and his work has become a cornerstone of Dunstable's cultural identity.

Sally Newton is the first ever Freewoman of Dunstable and was applauded for her work as a Town Councillor over twenty-five years, as Mayor for the years 2000-2001, and as the Leader of the Council for several years. Sally was a registered nurse and worked across Bedfordshire schools as a school nurse until she retired.

Sally represented the Council on the Frances Ashton Almshouses and chaired the Trustee Group for several years, ensuring continual review and the upkeep of the flats in Bullpond Lane. She continued in this role beyond her retirement as a Councillor. Sally was a huge part of the community and as a Councillor was widely respected by her fellow councillors, by staff and throughout the town. Sally always represented the interests of Dunstable residents whole heartedly.

Both recipients were presented with scrolls, sealed in wax with the Town's historic seal. Their names are also on a dedicated new honour board in Grove House which lists all the recipients of the Honorary Freedom of the town.



# Dunstable Community Lottery

We're excited to have officially launched the Dunstable Community Lottery, with over 20 local good causes already signed up and ready for your support! Be in with a chance to win up to £25,000 every week, whilst supporting local good causes.



60p from every £1 ticket sold goes directly to an approved local charity, community group and not-for-profit organisation in Dunstable, helping them continue their amazing work. The rest of the money goes towards prize money, administration and VAT.

**Ready to play and support a local good cause in Dunstable?**

[www.dunstablecommunitylottery.co.uk/support/find-a-good-cause](http://www.dunstablecommunitylottery.co.uk/support/find-a-good-cause)

## Are you a local good cause?

It's not too late to sign up and start raising money for your group! It only takes 3 minutes to register! Benefit from boosting your fundraising efforts for your charity, community group and not-for-profit organisation. We're here to support you every step of the way as you rally your supporters to play the lottery to support your group.

Register today: [www.dunstablecommunitylottery.co.uk/good-causes](http://www.dunstablecommunitylottery.co.uk/good-causes)



# Proms in the Park VIP Tables

Make your evening extra special with our VIP experience at Proms in the Park! Enjoy the music in style with a prime viewing position right in front of the big screen in a cordoned-off area, exclusively reserved for VIP guests.

## VIP Table Package – £40

Reserved table for 4, a bottle of prosecco for the table, themed decorations and glows-ticks.

Why not add a picnic sharing platter to your table

## Picnic Sharing Platter – £50

Treat your group to a delicious, ready-to-enjoy platter for 4 people.

+ Add an additional person to your VIP table for just £10

+ Optional extra food portion available for £12.50 per person

Don't miss this chance to enjoy Proms in the Park with comfort, convenience, and a touch of luxury. Tables are limited – book now to secure your spot!



For more information call 01582 891420 or to book, visit [dunstable.gov.uk/prioryhouse](http://dunstable.gov.uk/prioryhouse)

Dunstable Town Guides invite you  
on a walk

## The Stories behind the Headstones



### West Street Cemetery Walk

Sunday 27th July at 10.30am

Meet outside West St Cemetery chapel



Dunstable Cemetery, photographed by Justyna Ramacka

Tickets cost £5.00 and need to be booked in advance from  
Priory House Heritage Centre on 01582 891420

 Follow us on Facebook

Supported by Dunstable Town Council

# Tea Time Tales

Tea Time Tales are organised by the Dunstable Town Guides and take place on alternate Thursdays from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm. Refreshments are included. Ticket price: £6 Tickets need to be booked in advance by calling 01582 891420.

**Thursday 17 July**

**The Thrings: A Dunstable Family**  
by Bryony Norburn

**Thursday 11 September**

**Growing Up in Luton 1956 – 1977**  
by Howard Chandler

**Thursday 25 September**

**The Victorian & Edwardian  
House Party**  
by David Deller

**Thursday 9 October**

**Birds of Paradise and  
the big Sing-Sing**  
by Wilf Powell

**Please note:** Priory House is temporarily closed for essential repairs. Until further notice, Tea Time Tales are being held at Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable, LU6 1NF.



Dunstable Town Guides invite  
you on a walk

## MEDIEVAL DUNSTABLE



Sunday 28th September 2025 at 10.30am  
The walk starts outside Priory House



The sights and smells of the early town

Tickets cost £5 and need to be booked in advance from

Priory House Heritage Centre, High Street South, Dunstable 01582 891420.

 Follow us on Facebook

Supported by Dunstable Town Council



# Dunstable Town Council and Committee Meetings

Members of the public are encouraged to attend meetings. Residents are welcome to speak to councillors at the start of any meeting on any subject relevant to the council or committee agenda. Agendas for all meetings can be accessed on the Council's website 10 days before the scheduled meeting. Meetings are held at Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable (unless stated otherwise). Meetings are livestreamed on the Dunstable Town Council's YouTube channel and are available to watch afterwards. If you are intending to speak at a meeting or ask a question, it can be helpful if you let us know beforehand to give councillors a chance to prepare an informed answer. Please email [democratic@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@dunstable.gov.uk) or call 01582 513000. The full calendar of meetings and agendas can be found at [www.dunstable.gov.uk/council-meetings](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk/council-meetings).

28/07/2025	Plans Sub-Committee 6.30 pm
18/08/2025	Plans Sub-Committee 6.30 pm
08/09/2025	Community Services Committee 7.00 pm
11/09/2025	Personnel Sub-Committee 7.00 pm
15/09/2025	Plans Sub-Committee 6.30 pm
15/09/2025	Grounds and Environmental Services Committee 7.00 pm
18/09/2025	Dunstable Joint Committee 7.00 pm
22/09/2025	Finance and General Purposes Committee 7.00 pm
06/10/2025	Plans Sub-Committee 6.30 pm
06/10/2025	Full Council 7.00 pm

## heritage open days

### Heritage Open Days Saturday 13 September

Dunstable Town Council is proud to be taking part in National Heritage Open Days in conjunction with local community groups, as part of the Council's 40th Anniversary.

Come and visit Grove House, see the Council Chamber, meet the Mayor and discover local history.

Wander into the Dunstable Windmill and learn about the Sea Cadets, enjoy the beauty and history of Priory Church, as well as visiting the special Heritage Open Days Market in Middle Row.



**Market: 9.30 am to 3.30 pm**  
**Grove House Tour: 11 am to 3 pm**

No booking required, just turn up

More information and updates will be on the Town Council's website and social media.





# 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 Café & Community Hub + Splash Park
- 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

40  
DUNSTABLE  
TOWN COUNCIL