Aylesham Parish Council newsletter

November 2026: Special Christmas Edition

Text version of the newsletter, including the information shown in posters and notices.

Christmas lights switch-on 2026

Saturday 28 November 2026, Market Square. Join us from 4.30pm; lights on at 5pm.

This is a free event and everyone is welcome. After Aylesham4Aylesham's Christmas Fayre, head over to Market Square for more festive fun, with special guests conducting the switch-on.

- Carols led by St Joseph's Primary School.
- Festive characters and a sprinkling of snow and Christmas magic, thanks to Event Volunteers of Swale.
- Create a bauble for a loved one, with donations to Aylesham & Rural Community Heart (ARCH) welcome.
- One Call Electrical Services will bring the village's beautiful festive illuminations to life.
- Bring your lanterns along to help light up Market Square.

We look forward to seeing you there to kick off the festive season.

Aylesham Christmas Fayre

Saturday 28 November 2026, 12 noon to 4pm, at St Peter's Church.

Centenary Forum and Aylesham4Aylesham. The fayre is followed by the Parish Council Christmas lights event.

Paint your own lantern

Get ready for the Aylesham lights switch-on on 28 November. Workshops are hosted by BeChange and Aylesham Arts Club, sponsored by Aylesham Parish Council.

Venue: BeChange, Ackholt Road, Aylesham, CT3 3AJ. Telephone: 01304 840134.

- Friday 13 November 2026: 10am to 12 noon.
- Tuesday 17 November 2026: family session, 3pm to 5pm.
- Friday 20 November 2026: 10am to 12 noon.
- Saturday 21 November 2026: 10am to 1pm at BeChange Christmas Fair.

Free for all and open to adults and children. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Lanterns and all materials are provided.

Community Roots: bringing support to your doorstep

Look out for Dover District Council’s Community Roots van, bringing friendly, face-to-face advice and support into local communities, including regular visits to Aylesham.

The team can help with a wide range of enquiries, including cost of living, education, skills and employment, family support and wellbeing, homelessness and support for veterans. They also work with voluntary and community organisations and support leisure and Pride in Place initiatives.

Need help completing an online housing application or accessing council services, such as waste collections? The team can help with that too, or point you towards another organisation offering the support you need.

You don’t need to wait for a particular themed session. Whichever officer is attending will do their best to help and can connect you with the right colleague if needed.

To check the calendar for upcoming visits, visit the Dover District Council website and search for “Community Roots Van”.

Aylesham House: temporary closure

From Monday 23 November 2026.

Aylesham House will be closed while final refurbishment works are completed. Council officers will be working from home and can be contacted as usual:

- Telephone: 07897 593030.
- Email: contact@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Aylesham Heritage Centre: temporary venue

Sessions will continue every Wednesday, 10am to 2pm, at Aylesham Community Trust, Ackholt Road, Aylesham, CT3 3AJ.

Thank you for your patience while these improvements are completed.

Supporting our community: recent grant awards

£6,727.59 in grants was awarded in the latest round of applications.

Aylesham Heritage Centre: £199.19

To cover the Centre’s annual insurance premium, supporting its work preserving and sharing Aylesham’s history.

Aylesham & Rural Community Heart (ARCH): £1,528.40

Towards Santa’s Grotto 2026, helping provide a festive experience for local children and families.

Snowdown Colliery Welfare Male Voice Choir: £2,000

Towards Snowdown Rising Voices, its new youth choir project, to help cover musical director fees, venue hire, refreshments and T-shirts for children, giving young people opportunities to enjoy singing together.

BeChange: £1,500 Centenary Grant

Towards a community quilt made from 100 fabric squares, Forgotten Skills workshops and a traditional community celebration, bringing generations together to share memories and skills, with free participation.

Aylesham Media Collective: £1,500 Centenary Grant

Towards the first edition of a professionally produced Centenary guide, planned for early 2027. Participating organisations will have free space to promote events, projects and facilities. The guide will be free to village households, with extra copies at venues in Dover and Canterbury.

Grants open for 2026/27

Aylesham Parish Council offers three grant programmes to support our community.

General Grants: up to £2,000

For local organisations and community initiatives that benefit residents of the parish. Applications are considered quarterly by the council.

Centenary Grants: Aylesham 100, up to £1,500

For projects and events linked to Aylesham’s 100th anniversary in 2027. Applicants must first liaise with and attend a meeting of the independent Aylesham Centenary Forum before submitting an application. Email: aylesham100@gmail.com.

Applications are considered quarterly by the council.

Aylesham Aspiration Fund: up to £150

For young residents aged 18 to 21 progressing into higher education, apprenticeships or recognised vocational training for the first time. Applications are considered monthly by Full Council.

Quarterly deadlines listed for 2026/27

- 6 July 2026.
- 5 October 2026.
- 4 January 2027.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Deputy Officer in the first instance for guidance before submitting an application. Email: deputyofficer@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk. Telephone: 07830 353872. Visit the Aylesham Parish Council website.

Witness appeal: Cornwallis Avenue bus shelter

Did you see or hear anything?

Damage was noticed shortly after **9.15pm on Monday 26 October 2026**. Aylesham Parish Council is asking residents to help establish what happened and when.

This is the second time the shelter has been damaged. On the previous occasion, footage shared by residents helped identify the vehicle involved and contact the company.

Can you help?

- Did you see a vehicle near the shelter, or hear a bang or scraping noise that evening?
- Did you pass the shelter and notice whether it was already damaged? An approximate time could help.
- Did you receive or see a shopping delivery? A delivery time from a confirmation, text or app could help narrow down the timing.
- Do you have doorbell, CCTV or dashcam footage? Vehicles passing or manoeuvring nearby could provide a useful clue, even if the incident itself is not shown.

Why your help matters

The shelter belongs to the Parish Council. If the vehicle cannot be identified and repair costs recovered, repairs may have to be paid for from parish funds that could otherwise support local services and facilities.

Even a small detail could make a difference. Please contact Aylesham Parish Council by email at contact@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk or telephone 07830 353872.

Keep up with what's happening at Aylesham Parish Council

Follow Aylesham Parish Council for quick, easy updates: local news, events, council updates and community information.

- Facebook: @AyleshamPC.
- Instagram: @ayleshamparishcouncil.

Give us a follow and help spread the word!

Contact Aylesham Parish Council

Aylesham Parish Council
Aylesham House
Dorman Avenue South
Aylesham
Kent CT3 3AD

- Email: contact@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk.
- Office telephone: 01304 840377.
- Website: www.ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Aylesham House is temporarily closed from 23 November 2026. During the closure, contact officers on 07897 593030 or use the email address above.

If you require this newsletter in an alternative format, please contact the Parish Council Office.