Aylesham Parish Council
Newsletter

Special Christmas Edition

November 2026



In this edition:

- **Christmas Light Switch-On 2026** ***(Full details on page three.)***
- **Find out more about the Community Roots Van**
- **Notice of temporary closure: Aylesham House**
- **Find out what grants have been awarded in the recent round**
- **Can you help? Witness appeal for bus shelter damage**

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

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.

Scan the QR code on the accompanying leaflet or visit www.dover.gov.uk and search "Community Roots Van" to check the calendar for upcoming visits.







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:

07897 593030 | **contact@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk**

AYLESHAM HERITAGE CENTRE – TEMPORARY VENUE

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

Thank you for your patience while these improvements are completed.

Bechange, Ackholt Road, Aylesham CT3 3AJ
Tel: 01304 840134

PAINT YOUR OWN LANTERN



Get ready for the Aylesham Light Switch-On in the Market Square - 28th November 26

LANTERN PAINTING SESSIONS AT BECHANGE

Friday 13th & 20th November
10.00am - 12.00pm

17th November Family session
3.00pm - 5.00pm

Saturday 21st November (Craft Fair)
10.00am - 1.00pm

Free for all
Open to adults and children
Children must be accompanied by a adult!

Lantern & all material provided



Christmas Light Switch-On 2026 Full Details:

After Aylesham4Aylesham's Christmas Fayre on 28 November, head over to Market Square for more festive fun!

✨ Free event – everyone welcome! ✨

Join us in Market Square on Saturday 28 November 2026 any time from 4.30pm, with the big light switch-on at 5pm!

Enjoy 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 ARCH welcome.

💡 One Call Electrical Services will be bringing the village's beautiful festive illuminations to life!

🏮 Bring your lanterns along to help light up Market Square!

Fancy making a lantern beforehand?

Workshops hosted by BeChange & Aylesham Arts Club, sponsored by Aylesham Parish Council:

📅 13th & 20th November, 10am–12pm
📅 Saturday 21st November, 10am–1pm at Bechange Christmas Fair

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

AYLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

£6,727.59 in grants awarded

In the latest round of grant 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. Supporting musical director fees, venue hire, refreshments and T-shirts for children, giving young people opportunities to enjoy singing together.



BeChange

£1,500 • Centenary Grant

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. Free space for participating organisations to promote events, projects and facilities. Free to village households, with extra copies at venues in Dover and Canterbury.

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:
contact@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk
07830353872