



PARISHNEWS

The Aldington & Bonnington Parish Newsletter

Next Meeting

Monday November 14
starting at 7.30pm in Aldington
Village Hall

Email Peter Setterfield:
clerk@abpc.org.uk
or tel: 07928 453208
(office hours 09.00-15.00hrs
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday)

or contact the Chair;
Cllr. Linda Harman
tel: 07802 776779
lindaharman@abpc.org.uk



Letter from the Chair

I don't know about you but I keep hoping for less eventful times, though they never seem to come....Summer is usually a time to slow down, enjoy the weather, nature, beaches and holidays. Not this summer! The weather challenged us all with record temperatures, hosepipe bans and a battle to save our gardens. Climate change is now high up everyone's agenda after witnessing wildfires and people losing water supplies which is, of course, very relevant to the discussions around the two solar proposals in our Parish and the development of the Otterpool Park new town. More on that later in this newsletter. We celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in July and mourned her loss in September. It feels as though we stand on the cusp of huge change but lack direction – which makes it even more important that we all engage in every consultation offered to make our opinions known.

Your opinion matters. Truly it makes a difference if expressed in the right channels. (Facebook isn't one of them!) See the article on the two solar proposals for how to get involved in the discussions on that topic.

On a lighter note, we had the Village Fete on 27th August, with a great turn out and enough sunshine to ensure a fun day. Enjoy the photos! Aldington WI and the Parish Council have jointly initiated Aldington Hub, a weekly meet up in the Village Hall that aims to bring people together for a chat, create a place to ask for support and to offer IT help to those that struggle with the digital age. The Hub is new and waiting to see what it will become, ready to morph into whatever the people who come want it to be; a place to exchange skills, help each other out, play cards or just chat. We hope it will appeal to anyone who is at home on a Wednesday morning.

The next events will be centred around Christmas, with a Carol Concert and the Christmas Fair already being advertised. Then 2023 will also be a busy events year, as we will have a Coronation to plan for! All dependent upon volunteers - so if you'd like to help us, please do let us know.





Summer Fun



What's not to love about a Fete? Following on from last years' success, there were stalls galore, donkey rides, the Dog Show organised for us by Linda and Bernadette, game stalls run by our wonderful volunteers and Mark Patterson in the Stocks, the WI doing cakes and hot drinks, Andrew Fear at his inimitable best on the tannoy, the amazing Aldington Fire Station crew with not one, but two, fire engines... and lots and food and drink! Your editor counts herself lucky to have not been photographed mid-Pimms, as I do confess to enjoying a couple! It was a marvellous day that left the organisers exhausted, but happy. Even more so when we counted the takings as we can confirm that £2200 was raised after costs to add into the Parish Council fund for improvements to Aldington Meadows Play Area.



As always the event was made possible by our wonderful volunteers. I don't like naming individuals, as everyone's contribution is hugely appreciated, from those that donate a cake to those who stay all day - suffice to say that you all know who you are.

And thank you from us all!



Dog Show

The judges and organisers wish to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all the sponsors who were incredibly generous, especially Martin and Wendy Wilkins (Martins Estate Agents and The Independent Mortgage Centre), Joe and Jane Mullane (The New Flying Horse, Wye) and Gefion Dog Training who donated all the lovely rosettes, a large sack of dog food prize and a huge tub of dog treats for every competitor so that nobody left the ring empty handed.



It was such a pleasure to have local resident Paul O'Grady to judge the class for Scriffiest Dog and to mingle with competitors and fete goers, adding his unique blend of humour for a short while.



Thank you also to Nick and Sarah of The Gather Photography, who took some amazing photos that really capture the happy mood of the show. You can find the entire collection online at: [thegatherphotography.zenfolio.com/p72290007](https://www.thegatherphotography.zenfolio.com/p72290007) where you will surely find one or two irresistible.

Thanks also to the judges Mrs Bernadette Restorick and Mrs Linda Perfect.



Solar Update

Our proximity to the National Grid and sunny south eastern location are the drivers for interest in using agricultural land around Aldington for solar farms. Here is the latest information on both proposals. Your Parish Council and Borough Councillor are fully engaged in responding to both applications.

The East Stour Solar proposal from EDF is in the Ashford Planning system as application ref: 22/00668/AS. The deadline for comments is left open until ABC are ready to make a recommendation to the Planning Committee. ABC have recently commissioned landscape consultants, which EDF have agreed to underwrite, and await their report. The consultants

will also be used by ABC to respond to the Evolution Power proposal. This week a separate application for the Pivot Power Battery Storage facility at the A20 end of Church Lane was received, application ref: PA/2022/2544. The deadline for comments is currently listed as 4th November. The Parish Council response to the EDF application can be viewed in the ABC portal and also on our own website, in the Planning section under 'solar'.

The Stone Street Green Solar proposal will be posting information leaflets through your doors regarding statutory consultation from 25th October – 29th November. All meetings that you have previously been invited to are considered 'informal', which the applicant says has informed the proposal to be revealed in this round of consultation. We are still in what is called the 'Pre-Application Phase'. At a recent Evolution Power (EP) briefing to ABC Councillors, it

was stated that there was little local concern, as only 90 people had attended the informal consultation sessions. This time, consultation is a statutory requirement. EP is required to engage with the community and demonstrate that it has done so to the Planning Inspectorate when it submits its application (expected to be late 2023, this will be the beginning of the formal process of consideration which then takes about 16 months). All comments received must be collated in a Consultation Report that can be requested by the Planning Inspector – so please make sure you do comment. If your responses are channelled by a restrictive questionnaire, ask how you can enter your comment in free form. Now is the time to make our voices heard. If you cannot make the Aldington event – please go to one of the others, or look on **www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk**, under 'Consultation' from 9.00am on 25th October.

Stone Street Green Solar Public Events

MERSHAM VILLAGE HALL

Friday 4 November, 3 – 7pm

ALDINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Sat 5 November, 11am – 3pm

SELLINDGE VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday 8 November, 2 – 6pm

BILSINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Wed 9 November, 1 – 5pm

In addition, there will be a public presentation in
ALDINGTON VILLAGE HALL
on Tuesday 8 November, 8.00-9.30pm

*Details in the developer leaflet asks for pre-registration,
however don't let that put you off.*

Action Group

Sara and Colleen are coordinating an action group.

To find out more email them at:
stopstonestreetsolar@gmail.com

Updates also being posted by Village Alliance on FaceBook as well as our own Aldington & Bonnington Parish Council page:

www.facebook.com/VillageAlliance-448123415252371

