

Around Spring/Summer 2025 Radlett 131





Chairman's Message

Welcome to the spring edition of Around Radlett. We have seen such a warm welcome to Phillies Café at Phillimore Recreation

Ground since it opened last year, and it has been such a wonderful asset, allowing one to have a warm meal or hot drink on a cold day. I imagine it will be even more popular as the weather improves. APC attempted to provide a new experience for our children with the recent installation of a Woodland Trail through Fir Spring Wood. It comprised of pictures of native creatures and children could fill out an accompanying activity sheet that could be picked up from Phillies, naming their new homes. Unfortunately, since the installation, the woodland trail has been subject to a campaign of vandalism. After restoring the trail multiple times, and once again finding it damaged, we had to make the difficult decision to temporarily remove it. We will be looking at ways we can bring it back in the near future.

APC has also set its budget for this financial year, and while we try to keep costs down as much as possible, sometimes raises are beyond our control – the rise in National Insurance has added 1%, making our precept rise 4.3% this year. County councils and Borough councils can claim this National Insurance increase back from the government, but unfortunately Parish councils cannot and so we had no choice but to include it in our budgeting.

One of the major expenses for the council in recent years has been fighting the speculative planning applications such as the Solar Farm, BESS and the land on Shenley Hill. While I was delighted that the Solar Farm and Shenley Hill were turned down by both Hertsmere and the Planning Inspector upon appeal, I am frustrated to see yet another application for both BESS and Shenley Hill. Minor

adjustments do not change the suitability of these sites and so we continue to voice our objection, and hope that Hertsmere once again refuses these applications.

Other events organised since our last issue include our annual Winter Fair and Christmas lights switch-on, which were, as always, a popular event. There was a wonderful selection of stalls, rides and Santa's Grotto, which had a queue for the entire event with lots of children eager to meet our VIP! We had a great turnout, especially for the light switch on, with Santa doing the honours, fantastically counted down by local legend, the delightful Dame Dotty.

Looking to upcoming events, we are once again bringing back our Summertime Activity Day at Phillimore Recreation Ground, which will see fun games, activities and taster sessions from local groups, all free! Joining our line up this year is a Films in the Park day, where two films will be shown for free, with hot food, ice cream and of course popcorn available to buy!

To help residents learn more about what APC does on a more regular basis, I have a Chairman's Blog that comes out monthly. You will find it on our noticeboards, website and social media pages, as well as in community centres such as churches and synagogues. If you are interested in receiving a

copy digitally, please contact the office on admincomms@ aldenham-pc.gov.uk.

As always, I would like to thank all APC staff for their hard work, without whom the smooth running of the Council and events could not happen.



Clir Helen Jones
Chair of the Council

Parish Council postal address and office: Aldenham Parish Council, 1st Floor, The Radlett Centre, Radlett, WD7 8HL. Tel: 01923 856433. All parish councillors can be contacted through the council office. Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 10:00am-1:00pm or alternatively by phone Monday to Friday 10:00am-2:30pm. Outside these hours, in case of emergency or to arrange an appointment, please phone 07833 251 115.

The officers' email addresses are:

Peter Evans Council Manager

Monika Duong Deputy Council Manager & RFO
Sarah Heighton Admin Officer - Open Spaces & Planning

Johanna Shearman Admin Officer - Communications

manager@aldenham-pc.gov.uk accounts@aldenham-pc.gov.uk adminos@aldenham-pc.gov.uk admincomms@aldenham-pc.gov.uk



ALDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

www.aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Each Aldenham Parish Councillor has their own email address as follows:



ALDENHAM EAST

Councillor Helen Jones -Cllr. Helen.Jones@aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Chair of Council

Member of Finance and General Purposes Committee

Member of Around Radlett Chair of APC Events working party

Member of Phillimore Recreation Ground Improvements - Phase 2 - Car Park Member of Devolution working party

*Aldenham Alms-houses



Councillor John Graham -

Cllr.John.Graham@aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Vice Chair of Council

Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee Chair of Allotments working party

Trustee of the Radlett Centre Trust



Councillor Estelle Samuelson -

Clir. Estelle.Samuelson@aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Member of Finance and General Purposes Committee

Chair of RNP – Community Projects - Cycling/Footpaths working party

Chair of RNP – RV2 – Medical Facilities

Member of Devolution working party
*Aldenham Country Park Advisory Panel
*Gravel Allotments Trust



Councillor Sandra Benjamin -

Cllr.Sandra.Benjamin@aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Member of Planning Committee

Member of RNP - RV2 - Medical Facilities



Councillor Romy Rosehill -Cllr.Romy.Rosehill@aldenham-pc.gov.uk



Councillor Sahil Ali -Cllr.Sahil.Ali@aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Member of Devolution working party

Radlett Youth Council





Councillor David Lambert -

Cllr. David.Lambert@aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Member of Allotments working party

Member of RNP-Community Projects - Cycling/Footpaths working party

*Chair of King Georges Fields Radlett Trust

*Aldenham Memorial Hall *Gravel Allotments Trust



Councillor Saleem Khawaja -

Cllr. Saleem.Khawaja@aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Chair of Planning Committee Member of Finance and General Purposes Committee

Member of Around Radlett working party Member of Phillimore Recreation Ground Improvements - Phase 2 - Car Park

Member of Devolution working party
* Trustee of the Radlett Centre Trust

Radlett Village Institute Management Committee



Councillor Anthony Butwick -

Cllr.Anthony.Butwick@aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Member of Finance and General Purposes Committee Member of RNP-Community Projects - Cycling/Footpaths working party

Member of RNP - RV2 - Medical Facilities

Member of APC Events working party



Councillor Carl Woolf -

Cllr.Carl.Woolf@aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Vice Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee

Chair of Around Radlett working party Member of Planning Committee

*Elstree Airport Consultative Committee *Trustee of the Platt Subsidiary Foundation

Councillor Stuart Howard -

Cllr.Stuart.Howard@aldenham-pc.gov.uk Chair of Access For All working party

Member of Planning Committee Member of RNP - RV2 - Medical Facilities

* Elstree Airport Consultative Committee



Councillor William Susman -Cllr.William.Susman@aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Chair of Devolution working party

Member of Planning Committee
Member of Phillimore Recreation Ground Improvements - Phase 2 - Car Park

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
You are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting to

be held at 8pm on Monday 12 May in the Douglas Hicks Room of the Radlett Centre.

All residents are welcome. To improve accessibility,

there will be the opportunity to join online. For

more details please contact Peter Evans -

manager@aldenham-pc.gov.uk

The above information is correct at the time of printing this magazine.

To view our Annual Reports 24/25 please check our website, or you can pick up a hard copy from our office.

Forthcoming Committee Meetings May 2025 – Nov 2025

May

6 - Planning

12 - APM 15 - F&GP

19 - Planning

27 - Council & **Annual Meeting**

2 - Planning

9 - Full Council

23 - F&GP

July

7 - Planning

21 - Planning

16 - Planning

14 - Full Council

August

4 - Planning 18 - Planning

September 1 - Planning

8 - Full Council

15 - Planning 29 - F&GP

October

6 - Planning

13 - Full Council

20 - Planning 27 - F&GP

November

3 - Planning

10 - Full Council

17 - Planning 24 - F&GP

The annual reports can be accessed online via www.aldenham-pc.go.uk. Please do let us know if you need a hard copy.

For Meeting details and time please see the website

Oliver Dowden, **MP for Hertsmere**

Your local MP Oliver Dowden holds regular surgeries around the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment then please email:

oliver@oliverdowden.com

Hertsmere Borough Council

Aldenham East

Councillor Brett Rosehill

Cllr.brett.rosehill@hertsmere.gov.uk Councillor Lucy Selby

Cllr.lucy.selby@hertsmere.gov.uk

Aldenham West

Councillor Caroline Clapper

Cllr.caroline.clapper@hertsmere.gov.uk

Councillor David Lambert

Cllr.david.lambert@hertsmere.gov.uk

Hertfordshire County Council

Councillor Caroline Clapper

Caroline.clapper@hertfordshire.gov.uk

DISCLAIMER

The articles contained in this edition are the authors' own.

No responsibility can be accepted for errors or omissions.

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What's On...

Remember to check our website for all up-to-date events & meetings.

www.aldenham-pc.gov

MAY

Saturday 10 May



Radlett Horticultural Society -Spring Plant Sale - 2pm - 3pm -Vision Hall Car Park.

Wednesday 21 May

Radlett Horticultural Society Green Gardening by Elizabeth Hamilton, 8pm, Vision Hall, Christ Church. Gardeners play a big part in helping the environment by providing a habitat for wildlife species. Entry fee £4.

JUNE

Monday 5 June



VE Day 80 Community Picnic Christchurch Field - bring your own picnic!

Tuesday 10 June

Radlett & District Museum, 7:30pm-RADLETT & DISTRICT 9:30pm, Church MUSEUM Hall, Christ Speaker Michael

Kushner shares stories about the secret life of infamous WW2 double agent Eddie Chapman. For tickets email events@radlettmuseum.com or call into the museum. £10 in advance or £12 on the door.

Saturday 28 June

Radlett Choir Summer Concert -

Radlett 4.30pm, Vision Hall, Christ Church. A selection of beautiful music for choir, featuring professional guest soloist -

www.radlettchoir.org.uk/ or @radlettchoir on social media.



JULY

Wednesday 23 July Radlett Horticultural Society -

A Blaze of Glory - by Timothy Walker, 8pm, Vision Hall, Christ Church. Learn how to

have colour in your garden right through the autumn until the first frosts. Entry fee £4.

Thursday 24 July -

Tuesday 2 September

Aldenham Country Park -

Summer At The Park - Join us for 6 weeks of fun this summer with a great day full of farm activities perfect for families! Book online at www.aldenhamcountrypark.co.uk to save £'s.

Monday 28 July



Aldenham Parish Council Films In The Park please see advert.

AUGUST

Monday 11 August



Aldenham Parish Council Summertime Activities please see advert.

Sunday 25 August & Monday 26 **August**

Bhaktivedanta Manor -Janmashtami, 11am - late

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 6 September

Radlett Horticultural Society -

Autumn Show & Exhibition 3pm -5pm, Vision Hall. Christ Church. The highlight of the growing year, with displays and competitive entries for anything

you have grown throughout the year. Admission £2.50, children free.

OCTOBER

Saturday 11 October - Sunday 2 November

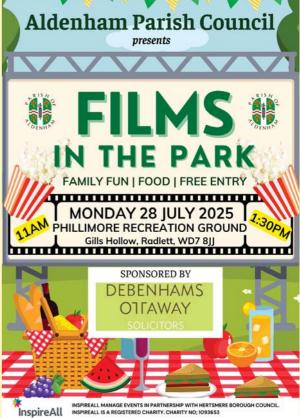
Aldenham Country Park - Spook Fest - Enjoy a spooky day out perfect for the whole family! Visit www.aldenhamcountrypark.co.uk for more details.

Radlett u3a meets on the 2nd flett & District Tuesday of every u3a month at 10:00am at the Metropolitan Sports

Centre, Aldenham Rd, Bushey WD23 2TR.

We welcome anyone who is retired and living in the Radlett/ Shenley/Aldenham area. Please contact chairman@

radlettu3a.org.uk for any information or look at our website



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Computers and a Cuppa at the Radlett Centre, 1st & 4Th Communities 1st Monday of the month, 10.30am-12.30pm.

Creative Community Café

at Phillimore Community Centre, Tuesday's 12-4pm.

Shopper Bus Leaving from Radlett residents' homes to London Colney Shopping Park on Thursdays. £6 return fare (£3 for a single), with accompanying carers charged at £2 (£1 for a single). Book by calling 01727 649980 or emailing

travel@communities1st.org.uk.

Day Trippers, Wednesdays from around 9am-2pm, collection from your front door to London Colney Shopping Park. Return fares cost £6, with £2 for accompanying carers.

Any questions email help@communities1st.org.uk or call 01727 649930.

citizens advice

Citizens Advice at The Radlett Centre every Tuesday from 10am to 1pm. Alternatively, you can call our Advice Line on 0800 144 8848, lines are open 9:30am to 4:30pm.



Phillimore Recreation Ground (The Rec)

With such a fantastic display of daffodils throughout The Rec, spring was definitely here! The hedgerows around the café have now established themselves and the beautiful blossom trees are in full bloom. A special thanks to the Open Spaces Team (OST) for their continued hard work to keep the grounds looking so wonderful.







New accessible entrance gates have been installed at The Rec, along with two new noticeboards, one displaying community news and information, and the other a detailed plan of the park.

A colourful woodland animal nature trail was installed in Fir Spring Wood, just in time for the Easter holidays. Unfortunately, due to continuous vandalism, the signs had to be removed. APC hopes to have the nature trail in place for all our upcoming



events but, at present, it is not possible for the woodland hunt to be a permanent feature, as intended.

This year has brought another surprise to Fir Spring Wood – frogs! It has been the best for frogs breeding and residents have spotted at least 50 individual frogs, many clumps of frogspawn and lots of croaking going on! The frogs are doing so well this year mainly due to the high groundwater levels keeping the pond suitably deep. The works by APC's OST to top some of the trees around

the pond have allowed the wetland grasses to develop, which frogs really like.

The number of frogs here has been very notable as the number of ponds suitable for breeding frogs has declined greatly in recent decades and with that, populations have reduced and been lost.

It is also a reminder of the importance to keep dogs out of the water to protect these delicate ecosystems. So, let's celebrate this local spring wildlife spectacle and ensure it will last for many years!



Phillies Café - Six Month Update!

What an incredible first six months it's been at Phillies! We've loved welcoming so many new faces while catching up with our wonderful regulars. With the sunshine bringing even more visitors to the park, there's been a fantastic buzz all around.



Exciting updates are on the way! As we head into summer, we'll be adding more tables to the terrace so you can enjoy the outdoors comfortably.

Plus, get ready to treat yourself - our delicious scooped ice creams are coming soon!



Looking ahead, we're revamping our menu for summer, and don't forget to check out our ever-changing specials board for something new and exciting.

If you haven't popped by yet, now's the time! Come say Hi to Tash and the team - we'd love to see you!

Alex Black

Opening hours - Mon-Sun 8am-5pm Tel - 01923 536850



To mark the 80 years since VE Day the Museum is putting on a display in the Apthorp Gallery, Radlett Centre during June and July, with a further display in the Museum itself. The story of the Parish during the War is more unexpected than you might think. Radlett and the surrounding area still had several large mansion houses and estates so with its proximity to London but relative safety, many of these were requisitioned. Most service personnel billeted here were RAF. Many were carrying out secret operations using radar to confuse the German bombers' navigational aids, but this was not discovered until long after the war ended. They were instrumental in keeping safe the



Aldenham Lodge 1915

nearby Handley Page site with its assemblage of Halifax bombers. The fascinating story of RAF No 80 Wing - the 'beam benders' - is told in the Museum display.

At the start of the war there were approximately 800 houses in Radlett. At its height, there were 21 RAF officers, and 200 other ranks billeted in the village and the impact on village life was considerable. Wall Hall housed the War Office Selection Boards which ensured an army presence as well. We are told that Radlett was a popular posting for servicemen because of the entertainment it offered – the cinema in what is now the United Synagogue, Saturday night dances with an RAF Band in the old Congregational Church Hall behind the Radlett Reform Synagogue and the local pub, The Railway (now Storia). Off duty time in Radlett was far more relaxed than at the average RAF camp or aerodrome.

The impact of the war was felt in many ways. As the threat of land invasion gave way to air so government policy shifted, and this Parish was close enough to London to feel the effect. Athlone House (then the Christ Church vicarage) and Battlers Green House became maternity homes for local and evacuated mothers-to-be, and Church Farm was used as a convalescent home for recovering officers. Shenley Hospital was repurposed to house POWs, some of whom in the latter years of the war provided a very



WW2 Siren Watling Street

labour necessary force for farmers in the area. Parts of Tabards Rugby Club and Porters Park Golf Club were ploughed and used growing crops. Radlett was subjected to the nationwide system of rationing - of food, clothes, petrol - which immediate had an impact. For duration, individuals volunteered to part of the extensive

military and civilian defence activities known as the Home Front or signed up to voluntary organisations providing infrastructure to keep services running.

Secret activity also took place, some of which can be verified and some of which is hearsay. Wall Hall is said to have been a centre of SOE activity. Aldenham House was taken over by the BBC, which assisted in secret broadcasts to organise D-Day operations. Of course, there were spies – reputedly. One was apparently apprehended and interviewed by MI5; another was a double agent.



War Memorial 2011

Then there were the sons and daughters of the Parish who signed up to defend their country in one guise or another. The War Memorials and the cemeteries at Radlett and Aldenham are testament to the many local heroes and the museum has been researching the stories behind the names. They make absorbing reading. We believe we are the only Parish in England to have 2 Victoria Crosses related to each other through marriage, and have written to the Imperial War Museum to suggest that they should recognise this in their records.

If you would like to contribute your own stories of the Parish in WW2, do please get in touch.

Email info@radlettmuseum.com

Radlett Museum is situated behind the Village Institute at 413A Watling Street, Radlett WD7 7JG.

It is open Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10am -12noon.

Free admission and free parking.





Girlguiding

continues to offer a safe space in Radlett where girls can explore, grow, gain confidence, and become role models of the future.

Rangers are aged 14-18 years. They learn to be 'Money Confident'; gain skills in cookery; enjoy fun wintry campfires and energetic table tennis and games sessions; enjoy being creative; undertake adventurous activities; and have opportunities to attend a range of residential events both in the UK and overseas. Many of our Rangers volunteer as Young Leaders with our younger girls.

Guides are aged 10–14 years. They too learn valuable life skills in a fun environment. This term they have enjoyed making a cost-efficient yet hearty vegetable soup; they have undertaken all sorts of team-based activities and learnt influencing skills so that they may take action and promote change for a better future. Guides are looking forward to once again taking part in the London Monopoly Run event in April and joining large-scale sleepovers for youth groups. Plans for camps and summer holidays are also well underway.

Brownies, aged 7-10 years, had great fun when they visited an indoor climbing centre. They learnt how to make videos during an Apple Store workshop and are planning a

visit to the local rugby club. They have a sleepover to look forward to in March and have been busy this term learning all sorts of skills to help them explore the world around them, even encompassing space!

Rainbows, aged 4-7 years, are our youngest section; they too have been exploring, thinking about keeping warm in winter, going out and about to spot local landmarks, and learning about lots of female explorers and the things they may have taken on their journeys. They had a great evening travelling through 'space' with planets and stars projected all around their meeting space. They too enjoyed indoor climbing and took their teddies on a virtual tour around the world, visiting the five World Centres of the Girl Guides and Scouts

Nearly one hundred girls from all sections and their leaders enjoyed an activity-packed day at De Haviland Aircraft Museum in February. Rainbow Emily enjoyed learning about all the different things that fly and "making my handprints into butterflies and rockets". Brownie Jodie told us, "I really enjoyed the day and learned a lot about the planes. Now I will know how planes work when I go on one." Guide Keira said, "I liked the Amy Johnson exhibit and learning all about the old planes".

Our girls are looking forward to Rainbow sleepovers, Brownie Holidays, and Guide Camps in the coming months. Some girls will be fortunate to have a Scottish Adventure this summer and might even be fortunate to experience an international trip in 2026!

Why not become a volunteer with us and share the fun? Or to give your daughter these fantastic experiences visit www. girlguiding.org.uk.

Phob Radlett Youth Club





meets once a month in the hall at St John's Church in Gills Hill Lane. We are new and growing, and are planning a whole host of fun and educational activities for our members to enjoy, like table tennis, badminton, Boccia, board games, and

crafting sessions. We will continue to expand our equipment with members requests of what they'd like to have on club nights.

We are a Phab Club, part of the Phab National Charity, that bring together young people with and without disabilities for social activities and events. Dates to look out for next meets are 23rd May, 6th June, and 11th July.

We have a Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/people/PHAB-Radlett-Youth-Club/61569404661739/

that we will update with future events.

We are looking for volunteers to join our joyous group. You can contact us via email at radlettyouthclub@gmail.com.

Our age group is year 11 to 18.

Sandra Huff

RADLETT YOUTH COUNCIL



Here at RYC, we are always looking for new recruits. That's why we need you!

If you're aged between 11-18, live in the parish of Aldenham and want to have a say in your local area, come along to one of our meetings where we try and tackle issues young people face today. There's also the opportunity to help at local events. You'll be provided with drinks and snacks, meet new people and have fun along the way!



Please call Johanna Shearman on 01923 856433 or email admincomms@aldenham-pc.gov.uk



Making Radlett more accessible for all

APC's Access for All working party has continued to work hard throughout another year, supporting inclusion, access and equity in our community.

Examples of this work include the successful coffee mornings held for SEND parents/carers, where APC offers a welcoming safe space for people to share their challenges and concerns in everyday life. We are fortunate



to be regularly joined by professional organisations offering support, signposting and advice where it's most needed. APC looks to continue hosting these gatherings throughout 2025, so please keep an eye out for the next one.

We are thrilled to have been able to install a new communication board in Phillimore Recreation Ground's children's playground. This ground-breaking communication board, one of many being installed across the UK, offers a composition of established autism friendly images to support communication by touching and pointing. Installing a communication board will not only make the park more accessible for non and pre verbal users, but will raise awareness of autism; encouraging all those who use the park to talk about and be aware of those who communicate in different ways.

The working party is committed

to our community becoming a positive example of inclusion and equity. We have continued to engage with local businesses to raise the issue of accessibility for all. As part of this we will endeavour to keep the issue of having step free access to Radlett Train Station at the forefront of people's minds and continually challenge local businesses and shops to consider what being inclusive and accessible means. We are particularly excited to see more ramps being used on the high street, as well as seeing increasingly positive attitudes and increased awareness around disability in action.

Our message to the community is clear. "If you are disabled or have a medical condition, are a carer, or have someone in your family living with the challenges of disability or age-related issues such as dementia or want to drive equality in our community for any reason – we would love to hear from you. You are not alone".



Improving Support for Children and Young People with SEND



SEND
O-25 years

Supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families is a top priority for Hertfordshire County Council. We are committed to ensuring that every child gets the right support to thrive.

We recognise that, in the past, the quality and speed of our SEND services have not always met the high standards that families deserve. This was highlighted in an inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission.

To address this, we have invested an extra £7 million in SEND services over the past year, increasing to £9 million next year. This funding is driving our 'Making SEND Everyone's Business' transformation programme which is focused on recruiting and training more staff, and supporting our new SEND Academy which was set up in January 2025 to promote training for SEND Caseworkers and Managers.

This approach is making a real difference. The Department for Education has acknowledged improvements, particularly in key areas identified in the inspection. Individual support plans for children and young people with SEND are now more timely and effective. Joint working with NHS partners has strengthened, and communication with parents and carers is clearer.

We are also expanding the number of specialist places in our schools, ensuring that children receive the right education in the right place at the right time. By the end of this academic year, we will have created 842 additional places in special schools - a 36% increase since 2018.

While we are proud of the progress made, we know there is still much more to do. Demand for SEND services is increasing, and we remain fully committed to improving support and achieving the best possible outcomes for children, young people, and their families.

For information on the support available in Hertfordshire, visit the Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer

If you are new to SEND services or recently received a diagnosis, this page is particularly helpful:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/new-to-send.aspx

Cllr Caroline Clapper Hertfordshire County Council



APC gives capital and community grants

Aldenham Parish Council (APC) offers grants to local groups and organisations, subject to availability of funds and the application meeting the set criteria. APC aims to operate a modest grant aid system each year to help promote a vibrant and active local community.

These grants are designed to support projects that benefit the community, such as those that enhance the local environment or provide services to residents. Applications are considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

There are two types of grants available to help local organisations:

- Small Community Grants up to £1,000
- CiL Capital Grants for capital projects up to £5,000

In 2024/25, CiL grants were awarded to Radlett Cricket Club and Aldenham War Memorial.

In addition to the above grants, APC provides funding to the Radlett Centre of £120,000 annually to ensure the continued operations of this excellent local resource.

Citizens Advice Radlett Outreach is also fully funded by APC.

For more information regarding the grants and to get an application form please contact:

Monika Duong at accounts@aldenham-pc.gov.uk



Citizens Advice Hertsmere Report for Aldenham Parish Council January 2025

We are grateful to Aldenham Parish Council (APC) for the funding to support parish residents. Many clients visiting the service have complex issues, and accessibility is a priority for them.

The cost-of-living issues presented the biggest challenges for residents in 2024. We are helping more people than ever before who can't afford to cover essential costs - like food, energy and housing. At the beginning of 2024, the number of people we helped reached record levels, as energy prices went up and private rents continued to rise. The numbers levelled off but are still at historically high levels. Single people, those with a physical or mental health disability and people from racially minoritised groups are more than twice as likely to be worse off. The number of people we help who are facing eviction or are homeless has soared.

In the last calendar year, we helped 283 residents in Aldenham Parish with 1682 separate issues. The main issues were:

- Welfare benefits including Universal Credit (32% of enquiries)
- Utilities (14% of enquiries)
- Debt (11% of enquiries)
- Housing (10% of enquiries)

Other issues that residents have contacted us for help with include employment rights, relationship issues, immigration, consumer goods and services, travel and transport, health and community care, education, tax, financial services and capability, and other legal matters.

11% of residents contacting us had no food or means to buy it on that day. We helped 32 vulnerable residents who were struggling to afford food obtain a total of $\mathfrak{L}1.700$ in food provision.

Several residents told us they chose to self-disconnect from their gas and electricity supply to save money for rent and food and struggle to pay their bills and consequently approach us for help with their debts. We provided support to 19 residents in fuel crisis by issuing them with British Gas emergency utility credit vouchers worth of £1,785, an average outcome of £93 per client.

We continue to help a record number of disabled people with cost-of-living issues and often find an underlying eligibility for a disability benefit which we can help them to claim. We have helped 10 residents to obtain disability benefits worth $\mathfrak{L}53,620$. Residents are often surprised to find they qualify for help through Universal Credit, and we are finding that more and more working families can claim some benefit which often gives them help with rent and childcare costs. Our advice helped 16 residents gain new and increased awards worth $\mathfrak{L}74,696$ – an average gain of $\mathfrak{L}4,668$.

Having an established outreach at the heart of the Aldenham community has been extremely helpful in enabling people to talk to us before their debts spiral out of control. The changes in bankruptcy law have meant we supported more residents to undergo debt relief orders (DROs) in 2024.

We supported 1 resident applying for a DRO for £33,871, freezing the debt for 12 months so interest and charges stopped being added and no payments needed to be made. If their circumstances don't change, they will be debt-free after a year and can have a fresh start.

In total we generated £213,241 in financial outcomes for our Aldenham residents in 2024

Radlett Cricket Club – lower ground project for growth 2024-2025

Radlett Cricket Club (RCC) has two grounds at its location on Cobden Hill. The lower ground, leased from Aldenham Parish Council (APC), provides a playing and training

facility for cricketers from the local community and RCC members of all ages. The ground is heavily used during the summer months but, after 50 years, the grass pitches need major attention to ensure they remain playable and safe for the next 50 years.





We have identified the major works which are needed to upgrade the playing surfaces and update the pavilion for us to grow participation at the club, particularly of young players,

girls and a women's team in the very near future.

Our 3-phase plan for the 'Project for Growth' started in 2024 and was set up to enhance and improve the cricket on offer to the local community and RCC, so a new non-turf pitch was installed and has

provided an excellent, safe match playing surface for our youngest players and has also improved training conditions for all players. This was phase I of the project and was fully funded by the club.

Phase II work is scheduled for early September 2025 and will involve replacing the top 50-70mm of the turf surface across the entire 10-pitch square with new loam, laser levelling and re-seeding. The ground will then be left to propagate through the winter and, in 2026, will provide much improved playing surfaces for both junior and senior players. This phase is also fully funded by the RCC.

Phase III defined the improvements needed to the lower ground pavilion and, thanks to a generous and timely grant from APC, a major upgrade of the male/female facilities; a deep cleaning operation of the whole pavilion was completed in March 2025.

The members and supporters of RCC are very grateful to APC for its financial and moral support for these vital changes to our lower ground facilities, and they will see us and the local community through the next period of our ongoing development.

Please contact the club website for any further information. www.radlettcc.com

Adult Day Centre for safe, fun activities

Bushey Mill Resource Centre is a day centre for adults with a learning disability/difficulty. Based in the lovely Aldenham War Memorial Hall, we opened our day centre at another location in 2011, moving to this location in January 2023.



Whilst independent and fully funded, we are recognised by Hertfordshire Country Council who we work closely with, and indeed have done so via various contracts since opening. We also work closely with

parents, carers, supported living locations, and importantly, our service users.

In what many people say is 'The' day centre, we offer a very wide range of activities. We are passionate in encouraging people to be able to live their lives to the fullest. Days at the centre are packed with outings and adventure, cooking, crafts, art, and

much more, encouraging development of life skills through fun. We also have access to a farm where we grow fruit and veg, and look after our chickens and horses for those who want to

be involved.

Bushey Mill Resource Centre has its own insured 17-seater

The centre is based in Letchmore Heath on Mondays and Thursdays, 10.00am - 3.00pm, with an additional outreach group on a Tuesday.

We have our own Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/891131051306175) where our members get to review each day with lots of pictures and interact with each other.

If you would like to know more about Bushey Mill Resource Centre, please contact Bernie Cochrane at Bernard.Cochrane@btinternet.com, mobile 07771 676 909 or Jenny.Cochrane@btinternet.com, mobile 07916 342919.

The landline number for Bushey Mill Resource Centre is 020 8950 1415.

British Heart Foundation

What is a defibrillator?

A defibrillator gives a jolt of energy to the heart. It helps get the heart beating again when someone is in cardiac arrest and their heart has stopped.

You might also hear it being called a defib, a PAD (public access defibrillator), or an AED (automated external defibrillator).

How to use a defibrillator

If someone is in cardiac arrest, call 999 and start CPR. If you're on your own, do not interrupt CPR to go and find a defibrillator. If it's possible, send someone else to find one. When you call 999, the operator can tell you if there's a public access defibrillator nearby.

The Circuit is the national defibrillator network

Registering your defibrillator on The Circuit ensures that ambulance services can locate your defibrillator and direct people to it in an emergency. When someone has a cardiac arrest, every minute matters.

To check where your nearest defibrillator is go to www.defibfinder.uk Defibrillators near you;

Radlett High Street — Harpenden Building Society, Radlett Reform Synagogue, Tesco Express

Phillimore Recreation Ground — Phillies Café

Christ Church Hall, Watling Street

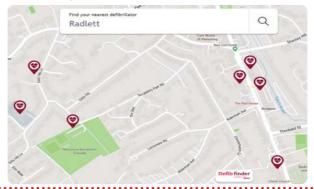
St John's Church, Gills Hill Lane

minibus for trips out.

Phillimore Community Centre, Phillimore Place

The Three Horseshoes, Letchmore Heath

The Three Compasses, Patchetts Green





The Quick and Easy Vegetable Plot

There are two easy questions you can ask yourself when deciding what to grow in a new vegetable plot. What do you want to eat? And what are your growing conditions? Whether you have a windowsill or a large garden, you can grow something edible.



Sunlight is a vital nutrient for growing vegetables, and most need plenty of it. Courgettes, sweetcorn, and cucumbers need a sunny spot. Leafy vegetables like kale, cabbage, broccoli, and salad leaves will cope with partial shade. Herbs like basil, coriander, rosemary, and thyme will grow beautifully on a windowsill and will enhance your cooking.

After assessing your growing conditions, the next step is to create healthy soil. To grow vegetables, you need plenty of organic material, such as homemade garden compost. Choosing not to dig is the best way to produce the healthiest soil. You can lay down sheets of cardboard on the ground, dampen the cardboard with water, and then cover with well-rotted organic matter, and vegetables can be grown quickly afterwards.

Growing from seed is the cheapest way of growing vegetables, but you can buy small plants from a garden centre or from the Radlett Horticultural Society plant sale on the afternoon of Saturday 10 May in the car park at Vision Hall. You never know what you might find, as most

of the plants are donated from Radlett gardeners and are sold at very reasonable prices.

Think about what you like to eat, and you can then grow it in Radlett. Vegetables like lettuce, cabbages, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, leeks, and radishes grow happily next to asparagus, peas, runner beans, and even pumpkins later in the season. It's easy, rewarding, and delicious.

I've found the easiest and quickest vegetable to grow is spinach. The leaves are packed with vitamins A and C, as well as iron, calcium, and antioxidants. They are an ideal crop for containers and can be grown as 'cut and come again' baby leaves to enjoy in salads and sandwiches. If you let the leaves mature, you can use them in cooking. Spinach likes full sun in the spring, but in the summer, it prefers a lightly shaded area as it will bolt easily and go to flower. Sow a few seeds every week so that you have a continuous supply of young leaves. Water well, especially when it's hot or dry. Harvest by picking individual leaves and only taking a few leaves from each plant so that the crop can keep growing. If the spinach begins to flower, remove and plant another batch of seeds so that you have a constant supply from early spring until late autumn.

If you would like to join the Radlett Horticultural Society, please come and see us in our store on Scrubbitts Park Road on the 1st, 3rd, or 5th Sunday of every month between February and November, 10am-12pm. Happy Gardening!

Anne Lean

Radlett Horticultural Society



Hertfordshire Health Walks



Happy 20th anniversary to the Radlett Health Walk Team and especially David Bagon who founded the walk. What an amazing milestone! The Radlett Health Walk originally started on 8th April 2005 from Battlers Green Farm on Common Lane with 5 walkers. The walk, which now averages 20 walkers a week, is now based in Aldenham, Friday mornings 10.30am, from opposite the Aldenham Parish Church.

Everyone is welcome! No need to book. Register as a new walker on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthwalks.

the WI Hertfordshire



WI Hertfordshire is a local ladies' group and part of the National Women's Institute, meeting every second Tuesday at 7.30pm at Aldenham preparatory school. Our monthly meetings have a diverse programme and include a raffle and refreshments. We are a small group with members' ages ranging from mid-30s to 80+.

Our monthly meetings are varied, with some having outside speakers covering a wide range of topics. In January we celebrated Chinese New Year, discovering the story behind the choice of the lunar animals, sharing a little about our own birth traits from the animal zodiac, taking a multiple-choice quiz, and, for a bit of fun, a game with chopsticks.

Last year our WI visited Knebworth House, and this year we hope to visit Bletchley Park.

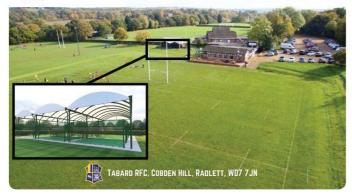
We are supported by the Hertfordshire WI Federation, based in Wheathampstead, who run courses, events, and trips for all county members to attend. They hold annual council meetings and have had some very interesting speakers. Last year we had

Esme Young from the Great British Sewing Bee, and this year it is Dick and Angel from The Chateau.

Aldenham WI has three sub-groups: craft and chatter, meeting monthly at a member's house; a walking group, which meets one Saturday a month; and a book club, where members meet approximately every 6 to 8 weeks.

We would welcome new members, so come along to this friendly group, or get in touch if you would like more information. thealdenhamwi@gmail.com County email and telephone number: office.herts.wi@gmail.com 01582 834 010

padelstars Padel Tennis is coming to Radlett!



PadelStars has partnered with Tabard Rugby Football Club to bring the UK's fastest-growing sport to Radlett

Pioneering padel tennis operator PadelStars, has teamed up with Tabard Rugby Football Club to launch Radlett's first padel tennis club, bringing the UK's fastest-growing sport to the heart of the community. The new facility will feature four premium covered courts, a club hut, and social area, ensuring year-round play and a welcoming environment for players of all levels.

Padel, often described as a mix between tennis and squash, is known for its fast-paced rallies, enclosed courts and social nature. Played mainly in doubles, the sport is easy to pick up, making it ideal for all ages and abilities. PadelStars CEO Andy Knee said, "The UK has embraced padel, and it's easy to see

why – fast, fun and inclusive. At PadelStars, we're dedicated to creating a vibrant and engaged playing community, offering coaching, open matches, social mix-ins and much more to ensure everyone can enjoy the game."

Philip Calnan, Director at Tabard Rugby Football Club, said: "We are delighted to be partnering with PadelStars to introduce padel to Radlett. It's a dynamic and sociable sport that we believe will quickly attract a strong following locally. Our thanks to Aldenham Parish Council for their support in helping to bring another exciting sport to the King George V Playing Fields."

Padel has taken the world by storm with high-profile fans including the Prince of Wales, David Beckham, Roger Federer and Stormzy. As its popularity continues to rise, PadelStars at Tabard RFC is set to make Radlett, subject to planning approval, a new hub for the sport.

For more information, email Phil Calnan on Phil@goodyer.co.uk or visit www.tabardrfc.rfu.club

Radlett Memory Café

If you are caring for a loved-one living with memory loss, please join us at the Radlett Memory Café.

Whether you are a carer, volunteer or a family member, you will be made most welcome. Don't face the strains alone. Remember, a stranger is just a friend you haven't met!

All refreshments are free and supporting carers is our number one priority. Your first visit will not be your last!



For more information, call Nick on 01727 895941 Mon-Thu, or email: nick.harrall@stalbans.homeinstead.co.u

The Café

The Café runs between 10:00am and 11:30am every two weeks. The venue alternates between Chirst Church Vision Hall & Radlett Reform Synagogue (see schedule opposite).

We will be providing various activities and tea, coffee, biscuits etc.

The Café is a comfortable social gathering that allows people experiencing memory loss accompanied by a loved one or carer to connect, socialise, and build new support networks. Please come and join us.

Café Schedule

The Café will be held at either: the **Radlett Reform Synagogue** 118 Watling St, Radlett WD7 7AA **or Christ Church Vision Hall** Watling St, Radlett WD7 7JJ

28/03/2025 (Fri) Reform Synagogue Please note: Oliver Dowden MP will be attending.

08/04/2025 (Tue) Christ Church 22/04/2025 (Tue) Reform Synagogue 06/05/2025 (Tue) Christ Church

20/05/2025 (Tue) Christ Church 20/05/2025 (Tue) Reform Synagogue 03/06/2025 (Tue) Christ Church

17/06/2025 (Tue) Reform Synagogue 01/07/2025 (Tue) Christ Church

15/07/2025 (Tue) Reform Synagogu 29/07/2025 (Tue) Christ Church

12/08/2025 (Tue) Reform Synagogue 26/08/2025 (Tue) Christ Church

Rosamund Gray, the Chair of Radlett Society and Green Belt Association, has been active for half a century in many aspects of Radlett communal life.



Rosamund first got involved in communal activities after moving here with her young family in 1975. Rosamund was invited to be a governor at her children's school. She ran the Christchurch toddler group, was involved with the Cubs and Scouts, and for nearly 50 years coordinated the Good Neighbours scheme. Rosamund was for many years a trustee of the Platt Foundation, which promotes the education of young people living in the area.

In recognition of her work for the community, Rosamund received a National

Volunteer of the Year Award from Sir Simon Bowes Lyon in Hertford for her commitment to the Parish of Aldenham in 2005, and in 2023 was presented with a Civic Award by Hertsmere Borough Council.



What do you think is the greatest achievement of the Radlett Society and Green Belt Association?

One of the areas I'm most proud of is ensuring so far as possible that Radlett maintains its character. I was very involved in pushing for the creation of the conservation area originally known as Cobden Hill, Loom Lane in 1988, now known as the Radlett South Conservation Area. I had become increasingly concerned that the driveways in Loom Lane had been widened and many trees had been cut down. It took 5 years after the formation of the conservation area

for tree orders to be put in place. In conjunction with the tree officer at Hertsmere, we plotted each tree from the top of Loom Place to Watling Street. Looking back, it was very much like a mini Radlett Plan.

What do you see as the greatest threats to Radlett?

I'm very concerned that the move to a new unitary area will have a detrimental impact as decision making is removed from a local to more distant level where decisions will be made by people who are less knowledgeable about the local area.

Of course, there is also the constant pressure on the Green Belt.

The Society is keen to maintain a mix of housing of all sizes in Radlett. A further concern is the risk to road safety of new developments by creating exits onto roads without adequate safeguards. This is particularly the case where new developments are on brownfield sites or back garden developments and are reliant on existing narrow or busy roadways.

How can people get more involved?

Even if you don't have time to join the Society, be concerned about the houses around you. It is unfortunate that there is now less notice given about proposed developments, so people may not always be informed about developments occurring in their local area. However, when you do get to hear of a planning proposal, do respond to applications by using the Hertsmere Council portal. The Radlett Society is not able to respond to every planning application.

You are such a busy person, Rosamund. As well as being chair of the Radlett Society and Green Belt Association, you are a member of a local choir, a keen tennis player, a very keen gardener and an allotment holder. How do you fit it all in?

Time management is key as is prioritising what needs to be done and when. I write lots of lists! I think my background as a nurse has taught me to prioritise what's most urgent. Also I have no difficulty in getting up early and pacing myself.

What 3 words would you use to describe yourself?

Practical, motivated, musical.

What has been the most rewarding thing you've been a part of?

Singing in St Paul's Cathedral, London, under the dome, with a brother and sister in an augmented choir for special occasions.

Favourite restaurant?

Tim's Table, Radlett.

Favourite spot in the area?

Phillimore Allotments.

Favourite place to visit?

Garter Day Annual Ceremony, St George's Chapel Windsor.

Favourite hobbies?

Sewing, upholstery, playing and watching tennis.



The Radlett Policing Team









Coffee with a cop at Phillies Café

Fraud and scam prevention at Radlett Library APC's Winter Fair

Hello from your local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Karen Gregson! Alongside proactive patrols and crime prevention, community engagement is a big part of the Neighbourhood Policing Team's (NPT) work. Engagement events allow us to meet with members of the public, to pass on advice and discuss any concerns.

In recent months, we've hosted 'Coffee with the Community' events at Phillies café and joined Hertfordshire Health Walks to chat to residents.

Regular fraud and scam prevention events have been held at Radlett Library in partnership with Barclays Bank. These are continuing in 2025 so keep an eye out for details.

We've visited schools, nurseries and youth clubs to talk about how the police help people, and pass on advice around anti-social behaviour and staying safe through our Mini Police programme. This helps us build positive relationships with younger members of the community.



PCSO Karen Gregson

The team has also attended community events, including the winter fair hosted by Aldenham Parish Council and the annual fireworks display at Tabard Rugby Football Club.

Enforcement Officers from the borough council have joined us on several occasions, for school patrols, a week of action against business crime, and sign-up days for the 'Herts Connected' community messaging system.

You can join Herts Connected to keep up to date with what's happening in your local area. Sign up for free at hertsconnected.co.uk

If you have any issues or concerns, you can contact me by emailing karen.gregson@herts.police.uk

Crime prevention

We have received reports of suspected rogue trading offences in Radlett and are offering the following advice to residents:

- Do not accept any services that are offered by people knocking on your door. Instead, find a reliable trader by using the Which? Trusted Traders website at https://trustedtraders.which.co.uk.
- Don't be rushed into a decision about having work done, take your time to speak to friends and family, get their
 opinion, and get other traders to quote and give their opinions before going ahead with work.
- Ensure you have a detailed written contract outlining the work to take place, how long it will take and the materials to be used.
- Make sure that you know where the trader is based traders are legally obliged to include their company's address on contracts.
- Know your rights in relation to cooling off periods and cancellation of contracts.

For more crime prevention advice visit the Herts police website.



PC Jordan Wonnacott



PC Michael Morris



Special Inspector Kaye



PC Andy Perry

PC Mike Morris - Michael.Morris@herts.police.uk Supported by Special Inspector Kaye PC Andy Perry - Andy.perry@herts.police.uk PCSO Karen.Gregson - Karen.Gregson@herts.police.uk https://www.herts.police.uk/













MAY

Thurs 8	Forbidden Nights 7.30pm
Fri 9	Nearly Elton 7.30pm
Sat 10	Everybody Will Sing! 2pm
Sun 11	Totally Tina 7.30pm
Tues 13	Bing's Birthday 4pm

Wed 14 Bing's Birthday 10am, 1pm & 4pm

Thurs 15 Music Club 7.30pm

Wed 21 **Evening with Craig Fairbrass 8pm**

Thurs 22 Sun Records 7.30pm

Tues 27 Ministry of Science 11am & 3pm Wed 28 **Puppet Spectacular Glow Show 2pm**

Fri 30 Pop Princesses 1pm Sat 31 Go Your Own Way 7.30pm

JUNE

Sun 1 Dinosaurs Live 11am & 3pm

Peter Pan 7.30pm Thurs 5 Fri 6 Peter Pan 7.30pm Sat 7 Peter Pan 2pm & 6.30pm Sun 8 Puss in Boots Ballet 1.30pm Tues 17 Worst Princess 1.30pm & 4.30pm **Wed 18** Worst Princess 10.30am & 2pm Thurs 19 50 Years of Fender 7.30pm

JULY

Tues 15 The Koala Who Could 4.30pm **Wed 16** The Koala Who Could 10.30 &

1.30pm

Mon 28 July -**Summer Musical Theatre Workshop**

Fri 1 August Week 1

AUGUST

Tues 5 Spot's Birthday Party 2pm

Wed 6 Spot's Birthday Party 11am & 2pm

Thurs 7 Pop Princesses 1pm

Mon 18 - Fri 22 **Summer Musical Theatre Workshop Week 2**

Thurs 28 Tom Gates 12pm & 3pm

SEPTEMBER

Thurs 4	A Touch of Stardust 7.30pm
Fri 5	Rolling Clones 7.30pm
Sat 6	Magic & Marvels 2pm
Sat 6	Bobby Davro 7.30pm
Sun 7	Neil Diamond Story 7.30pm
Tues 9	Griff Rhys Jones 7.30pm
Wed 10	Beryl Cook 7.30pm
Thurs 11	Paul Zerdin 7.30pm
Fri 12	Live At The Radlett 7.30pm
Sat 13	Opera Boys 7.30pm
Wed 17	Cally Beaton 7.30pm
Thurs 18	DSUK 7.30pm
Fri 19	Phil Collins 7.30pm
Sat 2p0	Best of Tommy Cooper 7.30pm
Mon 29	Evening with Arsenal Legends 8pm
Sat 27	Made in Tennessee 7.30pm

OCTOBER

Sun 28

Fri 3	Emmanuel Sonubi 7.30pm
Wed 8	The Zoots 7.30pm
Thurs 9	Dreamcoat Stars 7.30pm
Fri 10	UB40 7.30pm
Sat 11	Dinosaur that Pooped 11.30am & 2pm
Sat 11	Round the Horne 7.30pm
Tues 14 - Sat 18	42nd Street RMTC 7.45pm + Sat Mat. 2.30pm
Mon 20	Gruffalo's Child 4.30pm
Tues 21	Gruffalo's Child 10.30am & 4.30pm
Wed 22	Gruffalo's Child 10.30am & 1.30pm
Th 00	Stanban V Amas 7 20nm

Hansel & Gretel Ballet 1.30pm

Thurs 23 Stephen K Amos 7.30pm Fri 24 George Michael 7.30pm Mon 27 Tribute to Ms Rachel 12pm

Flowers & Friendship Bracelets 2pm Wed 29

Thurs 30 Magic of Science 2pm Fri 31 Rod Stewart 7.30pm



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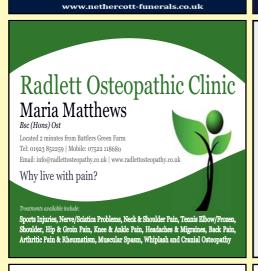


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