



Dursley Matters

Dursley Town Council Newsletter

Winter Edition January 2025

What's on...

Mid-week Mini Market

Wednesdays, 8:15am-10:15am in the Kingshill House Car Park, Kingshill Lane

Free books at St James Church

Saturdays 9:00am-12:00pm, outside on the grass or inside

Barrow Market Car Boot Alternative!

Sundays 2nd & 16th February, 10:00am-12:00pm Indoors at the Chantry Centre

Gloucestershire Constabulary CEV Visit

Saturday 8th February 10:00am-15:00pm outside Dursley Market Place/Bank Cafe

The Dursley Dozen

Sunday 16th February. This multi-terrain 12-mile race will start at the Old Spot & finish at the Market Place. Parsonage St will be closed to traffic from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

February Half Term at Active Lifestyles Dursley

Various activity days - 17th-21st February 2025

'Dursley After Hours' Undercover

Friday 28th February at The Chantry Center 7:00pm - The Skimmity Hickers

Dursley Pancake Race 2025

Tuesday 4th March 12:00pm, on Parsonage Street. Don't miss it! www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Dursley Market Restarts in March!

8th March then 2nd Saturday of the month, 9:00am-1:30pm, Market Place
Bringing the best from local Farmers and Artisans

The Pedersen Gathering

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th April 2025 at the Market Place & Kingshill House. Details & times to be announced.

'Dursley After Hours' Restarts April

Friday 25th April, 7:00pm in the Market Place & Then Monthly.

See: <https://www.facebook.com/DursleyAfterHours>

Annual Assembly 2025

Tuesday 29th April 2025, 7:00pm at The Community Centre, Dursley

Watch this Space - **Speaker to be announced soon!**

Dursley Summer Festival 2025

Saturday 12th July in the town centre

Check out the 'What's on' & 'Discover Dursley' sections of our website for lots more events & activities! www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk

A Fabulous Festive Evening for the Town!

Huge crowds gathered at our annual Christmas lights switch-on this year.

Festive Dursley have put on another fantastic event for the town with the aid of Dursley Town Council and all the other volunteers, groups and sponsors.

Traders stayed open late and we had 23 stalls in the Market Place and along Parsonage Street selling a variety of seasonal crafts, food and beverages.

Visitors were also entertained by Amy Addle's Dancers, the Dursley Rock and Pop Choir and also a wonderful performance by The Good Times Band.



We had another fabulous Festive Dursley Winter Wonderland and Santa's Grotto at Dursley Methodist Church, both wonderfully sponsored this year by Dee & Griffin Solicitors.

Cllr Alex Stennett, our Town Mayor, assisted by MC Boo Radclyffe, switched the lights on at 6:00pm.

The Christmas Tree was kindly sponsored by Spring Villa and installed by Tree Management and Build It Cam.

We also wish to thank Coates Fireworks for a wonderful display at 6:00pm

We are also very grateful to Dursley Town Councillors, Rotary Clubs from Dursley & Cotswold Tyndale, Lions and Air Cadets who helped us on the night keep everything running smoothly.

If you would like to get involved, please contact the Council Office or visit Festive Dursley's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/FestiveDursley>

The 2025 Christmas Lights Switch On Event will take place on Friday 28th November.

New Town Councillor

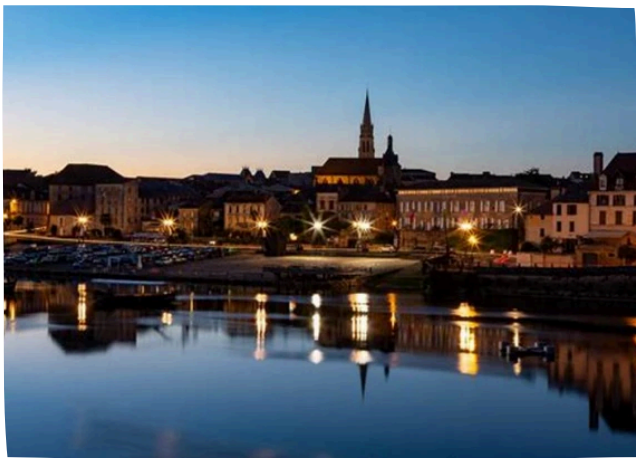
At the Town Council meeting on 14th January, Mr Brian Chambers was co-opted into the vacant Councillor position for Highfields Ward. He has signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and accepted the position of Councillor.

There remains one Councillor vacancy in the Highfields Ward.

Town Twinning Bergerac, France

Dursley Town Council have been approached by a resident of Bergerac in France about the option of twinning with Dursley.

Bergerac (no connection with the 1980's BBC programme!) is situated in South West France, one hour's drive from Bordeaux, three from Toulouse and is home to 27,000 inhabitants, including an active ex-pat community. It's the second largest town of the Dordogne region. Bergerac is surrounded by beautiful countryside, vineyards, woodland and picturesque villages.



The request was considered at the Policy & Finance Committee held in December. The Town Councillors are open minded about the approach and decided to share the twinning request with the residents of Dursley to gauge if there was support from the local community to enter into discussions with the local council authority of Bergerac. This would require some volunteers to step forward and commit to joining a working group to progress the proposal.

At the current time Dursley are not officially linked to any other French towns; Dursley is twinned with Bovenden, in Germany but there are no current active links between the two communities.

If you would like to find out more information on the proposed twinning or would to like register an interest in becoming a member of a working party, please contact the Town Clerk on clerk@dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Discover Dursley Networking Meeting

Around 17 attendees, all interested in tourism and the promotion of Dursley, met at The Engine on 15th January to discuss the development of the new Discover Dursley website and the new Town Map. To get information or find out more, contact the Deputy Clerk on deputyclerk@dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Meet Your New Deputy Mayor....

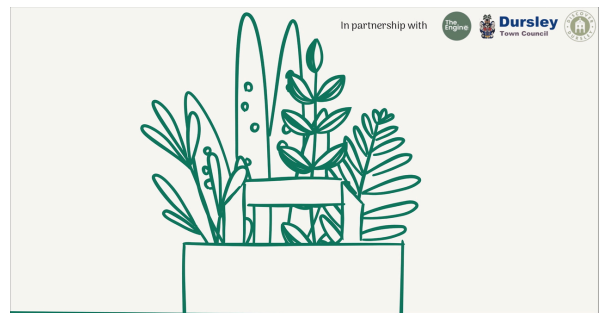


Mayor Cllr Stennett and Deputy Mayor Cllr Patrick

Following the resignation of Cllr Matt Nicholson, Dursley Town Council appointed a new Deputy Mayor at our Council meeting on Tuesday 3rd December. Cllr Loraine Patrick was unanimously voted as the Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the 2024/25 civic year.

Cllr Patrick is currently the longest serving Town Councillor, the Mayor congratulated her on the new role.

Cllr Patrick represents the Kingshill Ward and is also a member of the Planning Committee and represents the Council as a Bridleway Representative, a Rednock School Link Representative and is also a member of the Twinberrow Foundation.



Dursley Market

2nd Saturday of every month



The Dursley Market runs on the 2nd Saturday of each month, March to December, showcasing handmade crafts & food produced locally in the community in Dursley and the surrounding area. We pride ourselves on having small businesses selling their products and produce with something for everyone!

Winning Shop Window

The Winner of the Festive Dursley 2024 Shop Window Competition with a Christmas Songs Theme was Network Care - with The Twelve Days of Christmas



New Bleed Kit Box in Dursley



The Lions Club of Dursley have arranged for a Daniel Baird Foundation Bleed Kit to be added to the Defibrillator in town (in the old phone box by Dursley Methodist Church).

Major injuries can happen in all environments, from car accidents to in-home accidents.

The Bleed Control Kits can handle the most testing of incidents. After a major injury or trauma, it is critical to Control The Bleed until the Ambulance Service can take over and help the patient.

In most cases, the Ambulance will not arrive before the patient has lost a critical amount of blood, it is therefore essential the public intervene to Control The Bleed and in doing so could save a life. None of the medical devices in the Emergency Bleed Control Kit require training to use and the **999 Operator will be able to talk the user through the process.** Instructions are also included inside the cabinet.

New Town Map

The new 'Discover Dursley' town map is now up in the noticeboard in the town centre, it's also available on the Council's website under the Discover Dursley pages. The map has QR codes that link to local visitor information, when the new Discover Dursley (discoverdursley.org.uk) website is ready they will be redirected here. This will help us keep information up to date. The map itself will also be kept under review for updates.



Thank you to all the Discover Dursley volunteers involved in the project. Please contact the Council if you would like to get involved in helping to promote the town.

Leslie D Gale Awards 2025

Nominations for the Leslie D Gale awards 2025 are still open.

The awards will be announced at the town's **Annual Assembly** meeting, taking place on **29th April 2025**, 7:00pm at **The Community Centre, Dursley** with refreshments.

Don't miss this town event!

The Leslie D Gale Award was instituted in 1994, as a tribute to the late Mr Gale, who was the last Chairman of Dursley Parish Council and the first Mayor of Dursley.

The Leslie D Gale Award not only recognises longevity of service to the community but also impact.

Nominations should be sent to the Town Clerk by 28th February 2025 with details of why you believe the person, volunteer, group, team etc deserve recognition.

We will announce more details about this year's Annual Assembly very soon.

Council Budget & Precept Set for 2025/26

Dursley Town Councillors have set the Dursley Town Council budget for the year ahead.

At the meeting on 21st January 2025, Councillors unanimously agreed a modest 3% increase to the precept paid by Dursley residents to fund the Council for the year 2025/26.

The Mayor, Councillor Alex Stennett said "Whilst the Councillors continue to recognise the cost-of-living pressures faced by all of our residents, we have worked exceptionally hard to maintain our level of services provided whilst raising the precept in line with inflation".

The budget agreed will set the Council tax cost for Dursley Town Council at £223.19 per year which equates to a very modest rise of £6.53 per annum on an average Band D household.

The Town Council will continue to manage, maintain and improve facilities at the Kingshill Cemetery and Allotments, St Mark's burial ground, the War Memorial Recreation Ground, Kingshill Play Park, Highfields Play Area and Long Street Car Park.



The planned upgrade to the Pavilion on the War Memorial Recreation Ground, which will include a new public toilet and additional garage/storage space is scheduled for the summer of 2025. The majority of this project will be funded by Council reserves.



The Council will continue to provide Youth sessions at the Vibe Youth Centre and support a number of local tourism projects including the continuation of the Visitor Information Centre based at the Library.

The Council's grant programme will continue to run with an increased budget of £92,000 for 2025/26. Support will continue for local volunteer run groups and organisation with a new Urgent Grant budget being setup.

The 2025/26 Budget Summary Council budgets at a glance for the forthcoming financial year

Expenditure:

Green Spaces Maintenance	£236,570
Town Improvements & Amenities	£70,271
Youth Services	£63,000
Community Grants	£92,000
Council Administration*	£289,466
Other Services	£3,465
TOTAL	£754,772

(*eg. staffing, insurance and overheads)

Income:

Use of Reserves	£175,000
Other Income	£29,772
Council Tax/Precept	£550,000
TOTAL	£754,772

If you have any questions about the Council budget, or any of the services we provide, please contact the Town Clerk, John Kay on 01453 547758 or email - clerk@dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Contact Your Town Council:

Dursley Town Council is open Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 3:00pm. The office is located at Jacob's House, Castle Street, Dursley GL11 4BS. Call us on: 01453 547758 or by email at: clerk@dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk

You can also visit us online at: www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk
Facebook - [@DursleyTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/DursleyTownCouncil) X (Previously Twitter) - [@DursleyTC](https://twitter.com/DursleyTC)

We can help with enquiries related to Kingshill Cemetery, St Mark's Burial Ground, Kingshill Allotments, Kingshill Play Park, the War Memorial Recreation Ground, Highfields Play Area, the VIBE Youth Centre, Long Street Car Park & Town Hall bookings. We can also provide advice & information on local services, including planning application viewing.

Full Dursley Town Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Community Room, Fire Station, Kingshill Lane at 7:00pm. See the Council website for Council & Committee meeting dates, agendas & minutes.

Your Town Councillors:

To email a councillor: first.lastname@dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Highfields Ward

John Rubin	07747 120800
Toby Stride	07543 557521
Ken Eales	07785 516569
Andrew Rowe	07913 087020
Brian Chambers	07770 478400

Central Ward

Colin Sweet	07835 129399
Sue Creswick	01453 548123
Peter Hayes	01453 546009
Darren Horn	07791 120864
Tyler White	07904 040375
Brigid Schoombie	c/o Council

Kingshill Ward

Lorraine Patrick (DM)	07881 581189
Alex Stennett (M)	01453 549813
Melanie Stennett	01453 549813
Matt Patrick	01453 546995
Angela White	07593 273970

Your District Councillors:

Terry Cook	cllr.terry.cook@stroud.gov.uk	07793 117001
Bob Hughes	cllr.bob.hughes@stroud.gov.uk	
Helen Caton Hughes	cllr.helen.caton@stroud.gov.uk	

Your County Councillor:

Wendy Thomas	wendy.thomas@gloucestershire.gov.uk	07570 931816
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Your Member of Parliament:

Dr Simon Opher	simon.opher.mp@parliament.uk	01453 621304
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Please Report Anti-Social Behaviour to Gloucestershire Police

Antisocial behaviour takes many forms, from aggressive, noisy, or abusive behaviour to neighbourhood disturbances involving drugs, abandoned cars or animals. Report using 101 or online at www.gloucestershire.police.uk/ro/report/asb Ring 999 in an emergency.

Cost of Living Support

See the dedicated page under 'community' on our website for information, including support at GL11.

Useful Contacts:

Dursley Visitor Information Centre (at the Library)

01453 543059

The Chantry Centre

01453 542016

The Community Centre

01453 543355

Dursley Library

01453 543059

Active Lifestyles Dursley

Pool, gym & studio

01453 546441

Kingshill House

01453 549133

Dursley Lions Club

Furniture recycling

01453 544471

Vale Community Hospital

0300 421 8494

GL11 Community Hub

Activities, wellbeing, skills, money advice, support & more.

01453 548530

Stroud District Council

Contact Centre

Incl. planning/council

tax/housing/refuse & recycling.

01453 766321

Gloucestershire County Council

Main switchboard

01452 425000

Highways (incl. streetlights)

08000 514514

Adult Social Services

01452 426868

Children's Social Services

01452 426565

Citizens Advice

Stroud District

Freephone helpline - 0808 800

0510 & 0808 800 0511. email:

advice@ca-scd.org.uk

Stroud District Food Bank

Please call 0800 800 0510

(Citizens Advice) or 0808 168

2443 (P3) to speak to someone

who is able to issue a food

bank voucher if necessary.

Stroud District Kids Stuff

Children's items for parents who need some extra help.

www.strouddistrictkidsstuff.org.uk

Dursley & District Good Neighbours

Tel: 07436 430269

Transport help with hospital trips for elderly & disabled people.

Stroud Community Wardens

community.services@stroud.gov.uk

01453 766 321