AYLESTONE PARK NEWSLETTER

Community Newsletter for the Residents' of Aylestone Park - Issue 1 2016

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If you can help please email us @ aylestonenews@hotmail.co.uk

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Residents' Group Speakers

The following speakers will give a short talk at the meetings shown below.

7th April Bill Shelton Local Councillor will be talking about his job

12th May John Noble 2012 Olympics torch bearer

2nd June Anita Clarke LCC Community Development Officer about her role

Saffron Councillors

These are the people to contact if you have a problem:

Bill Shelton - Saffron Ward Tel: 0116 220 1350

Email: bill.shelton@leicester.gov.uk

Elly Cutkelvin - Saffron Ward Tel: 07891 232662 Email elly.cutkelvin@leicester.gov.uk

Your local Labour Councillors hold surgeries at **Saffron Sure Start Children's Centre**, The Crossway LE2 6QW first Tuesday every month 1.30pm -2.30pm

Aylestone Leisure Centre, 2 Knighton Lane East LE2 6LU

Third Saturday of each month 10.00am -11.00am

Aylestone Councillors

Adam Clarke - Aylestone Ward Tel: 07875 546508 adam.clarke@leicester.gov.uk

Surgeries Lansdowne Centre 2nd Tuesday of each month 11.00am -12.00pm

Gilmorton Community Rooms 4th Saturday of each month 11.00am -12.00pm

Aylestone Hall Gardens Bowls Pavilion, Hall Lane 4th Friday of each month. 2pm - 3pm

Nigel Porter Aylestone Ward Tel:0116 233 6150 and 07976 348032.

Email:nigel.porter@leicester.gov.uk

Surgeries Lansdowne Centre 2nd Saturday of eachmonth 11.00am - 12.00pm

Gilmorton Community Rooms 2nd Saturday of each month 12.30pm -1.30pm

JON ASHWORTH

Member of Parliament for Leicester South

Regular advice surgeries held in Constituency Office

For information and appointments and to contact Jon about any local or national issue please get in touch

Address: Floor 10, 60 Charles Street

Leicester, LE1 1FB **Tel:** 0116 251 1927

email: jon.ashworth.mp@parliament.uk

Web: www.jonashworth.org

Local Church Services

St Edwards Roman Catholic Church

655 Aylestone Road, Aylestone

Sunday Mass 9.30am

Blessing and distribution of Palms precedes Sunday Mass on March 20th at 9.30.

Good Friday - March 25th. Our Service of the Passion is at 3pm

The Easter Vigil - Blessing of the Fire, Water, and Sung Mass starts at 8pm

For Weekly Masses, Church fetes and other activities see church noticeboard.

Church of the Nativity

An Anglican/Methodist Partnership Richmond Road/Cavendish Road junction

Sundays 10.30am Morning Service

Further details of all activities are available on the church noticeboard and on the website:

www.nativityleicester.org.uk

Enquiries for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals contact the church warden Patricia Ewen 0116 299 4732

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LOCAL ACTIVITIES

The After School Club

For youngsters 5-11 years of age. Friday during term time 3.30-5.00pm. Church Hall, Cavendish Road. 50p

Aylestone Leisure Centre has too many activities to mention, call in and pick up a leaflet. Fancy a swim or game of squash then come along and afterwards sit and have a chat and cup of tea with the over 55's on a Monday or Thursday am.

Theatre Outings, London and Birmingham. Contact Bill Evitt 0116 247 8531

Knighton Lane Artists Group. Meet at The Studios, 68a Knighton Lane. Contact Deb Ward 07956 590284

Leicester C.H.A. Rambling Club

Ann Burdett 0116 266 1741 will give you details of their walks, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 4 miles, many of them end up at a pub for lunch. www.chaleicester.org.uk

Lancaster Community Choir. Thursday evenings 7.00pm till 8.30pm. The Lancaster School, Knighton. 0116 270 3176 ext 801.

Guided Walks & Tours by Accredited Leicestershire Tour

Guide - Helen's Guided Walks - cover Aylestone Village history, Wigston Magna, Kilby Bridge, Todor Leicester, The Newarke and Castle areas of Leicester

contact 07908 557289 helenbaran@hotmail.co.uk

Railway Society meets at The Cricketers, Grace Road, Contact Brian Holland 0116 236 8328.

Drama Group meets at the Church Hall, Cavendish Road. Contact the Church for details of rehearsals, times and days. Usually a couple of plays a year. 1st Production of 2016 will be on June 24th & 25th.

Running for youngsters 9.00am on a Sunday morning around the Aylestone Recreation ground.

Adult Runs

Braunstone Park every Saturday at 9am Victoria Park every Saturday at 9am

History Society meets regularly at the Aylestone Leisure Centre Contact Gill on 0116 283 6394. The Group is working on local history.

The Tea club takes place at the Aylestone Leisure Centre Thursday ams, ask at the desk where to find the group and join them for tea or coffee and a biscuit or two.

Park Walks contact Sylvia Taberer at the Nativity for details of proposed Park Walks, a nice easy stroll.

1st Walk is on 13th April 2016, 10am meet at the Church. If the weather is bad the walk is cancelled. Further walks will be published on the website.

Golf lessons at Whetstone Golf Course given by the club's Pro, Craig Shave who can help adults and children learn to play and improve their game 0116 286 1424 for more information.

Athletics. Call at the stadium Saffron Lane/MacCaulay Road entrance after 4.00pm and see Roy Cole who will give you information on coaching, training and racing, and use of the stadium. Find out also about the Sunday morning Park Runs.

Space here for your community activity!

MORE LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Imperial Dancing class is using the Church Hall in Cavendish Road, to teach young children to enjoy themselves by learning to dance. To contact for class information ring 07548 208610 I.S.T.D Modern, Tap and Ballet.

Boy Scouts @ The Church of the Nativity young people aged 10 - 14 years are welcome at the Church Hall, Cavendish Road on a Thursday evening at 6:30pm Cub Scouts @The Church of the Nativity Girls and Boys aged 8 - 10 ½ are welcome at the Church Hall, Cavendish Road on a Thursday Evening 5:15pm to 6:45pm.

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Editorial

What an opportunity to write a leader with Leicester City Football Club leading the Premiership table. Congratulations to the management and all the players and supporters, here's hoping it continues for the rest of the season.

Leicestershire County Cricket Club are making great efforrts to encourage people to visit the ground with, of course, Elton John's concert in June being one of the highlights. We attended the meeting at the cricket club where the parking arrangements were displayed. See the LCCC Elton John website for how and where this will be conducted. Residents are going to need a Residents Parking permit. I don't think we will see Elton with a cricket bat but it should be a good entertaining evening.

Knighton Fields Road Primary School are trying to raise money to purchase new playground equipment for the school. If you can make a donation, however small, it will be gratefully accepted by Mrs H Tarokh, the Headmistress. Mrs Tarokh is also looking for parents' thoughts on the school becoming an Academy.

Are there any bee keepers in the local area, I have a prospective keeper who would welcome advice on keeping them?

Ann Sturgess

City Warden

Our City Warden is Noel Cazley.
Unfortunately Noel has to cover a much bigger area than our previous Wardens:Braunstone as well as Saffron.
Remember Street Wardens can deal with dumped rubbish and other complaints

If you need him please email Andrew.Moyse@leicester.gov.uk

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Shedding More Light on Park Hill Drive by Dominic Kealey

In my last article, I wrote about Park Hill House, the Herbert family and the changes seen to this area over time, not always for the best.

A local resident came forward with more pictures of the old house including one taken at what looks like a family wedding with guests boarding a four wheeled Clarence carriage

driven by a top-hat attired

driver.

There is no record of whose wedding it was, but looking further into the history of the old house reveals interesting connections. The Lorrimer family, Scottish hosiery manufacturers, lived there during the late 19th Century. Could it have been the marriage of their eldest daughter, Annie Beatrice who became the second wife of Andrew Charles Armstrong. who was the brother of Sir **Edmund Frederick Armstrong** (2nd Baronet)?

The Cricket Ground was an integral part of the community then, as two of John Lorrimer's sons played First Class Cricket there. Alexander Lorrimer turned out six times for the

County whilst his brother David appeared in nine first class matches. They both made their debut against Warwickshire in 1894.

Around the turn of the 20th century, ownership of the house transferred to the Lawford family. The patriarch James Lawford was General Manager of the Leicestershire Banking Company Ltd whilst other notable family members include

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sons, Lt. Commander Sydney Lionel Kekewich Lawford RN, who Captained Torpedo Boat 92 in 1904 before becoming Justice of the Peace in Nairobi, Kenya; and his brother Charles Hodsoll Lawford, an artist and interior designer who emigrated to America c1900.

For a while the house appeared to have been

empty until 1903, when it was leased to the Royal Infirmary as a home for twenty-two nurses. This continued until expansion of the Hospital required purpose built accommodation nearer to the Infirmary.

The house then passed to Henry Herbert and family, builders from Whetstone. Notable among that family were Albert, a Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. Albert's work includes the design of the Charles Freer Hospital and the Phoenix Assurance Building at the top of Belvoir St. in Leicester; and he created the design of the Church at Mount St. Bernard's Cistercian Abbey

near Coalville. Henry built a house in the grounds for his son Walter and wife Mary; I've discovered a picture of John (shown above), the grandson of Henry Herbert, as he practices cricket in the garden of Meadowbank (now called Kimberley).

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Sat 12 - 4pm & 7pm - Midnight

Sun 12 - 3pm & 7pm - 11pm

Despite all the history associated with Park Hill House and this area, very little remains apart from some brickwork, pillars and pier caps on garden walls where Park Hill House once stood.

The link to the Cricket Club is important and topical. Having allowed our heritage to be taken away and replaced without trace by residential housing and flats, the Council continue to downgrade this once important part of Leicester to spectator status.

Councillors permitted the erection of six enormous, permanent lighting columns that represent a backdrop more akin to an American inner city project, a railway yard or a high security prison block such as Gartree. As the first columns have been installed, and the impact begins to be appreciated, people are wondering why the City Council permitted this development in a residential neighbourhood without a Public Enquiry, or evidence of major local involvement in the planning stage. Was the alternative really worse than this? Our history is important to us if we are to learn lessons for the future; and we need to feel that communities are an important part of the democratic process.

We keep history alive by talking about it with those who were there, and by reminding those who want to forget or deny it when it suits them.

Activists may call for change; but it is the role of councillors to maintain the status quo unless they can show that they have solid evidence of the will of a 'silent majority'.

Leicester City Council has not done well by the people of Aylestone. If you want to express your views about future changes to our area before they occur or just want to be better informed about what's coming our way in Aylestone then why not join our Facebook Group 'Aylestone Community Engagement (ACE)' set up by residents, for residents.



The 14th Nativity Cub and Scout Group

Cub Scouts meet at The Church of the Nativity, Church Hall, Cavendish Road, Leicester on Thursday evenings 5:15pm to 6:45pm. Girls and Boys aged 8 - 10 1/2 are welcome.

Boy Scouts meet at the Church Hall on Thursday evenings. from 6:30pm. Young people aged 10-14 years are welcome.

If you know of any girls or boys 8-14 years of age do send them along. Activities will include camping, canoeing and games to name but a few. We look forward to seeing you, and also our group growing from strength to strength in the coming weeks, months, and years.

Yours in Scouting Skip (Scout Leader)



Tel: 0116 223 9730

Email: ivanbennettsaysgodlovesyou@gmail.com











Hedgehogs

Imagine being safely tucked up in bed, only to be woken with a loud whirring sound and a huge blade moving towards you.

Sadly, this is often the fate of our hedgehogs and other creatures, with the increased use of strimmers and mowers which is often unnecessary. What is worse is that unlike some other animals, hedgehogs are unlikely to run out of the way; any hedgehog that faces danger is programmed to simply curl into a ball, hoping it will go away.

Recently in the neighbourhood, a hedgehog was found stumbling around aimlessly on a garden lawn when it should have been safely asleep during hibernation. The hedgehog had injuries consistent with strimmer damage including its nose sliced off, a back leg missing and a cut down the side of its body - yet it was still alive but severely infected and had to be put down by a vet.

Hedgehogs already have severely declined by around 90%, and one of the reasons aside from intensive farming and roads, is due to many gardens being closed off (you can allow a small space under the fence the size of a CD - speak to your neighbour) so they cannot find sufficient food and a mate - they are known to travel up to 2km per night. Other problems encountered by the hedgehog is insufficient food due to gardens being slabbed over becoming too sterile and the use of slug pellets, which not only kill hedgehogs but also other creatures, eg mice and voles that larger birds such as owls depend on for food.

Even with roads, it is increasingly rare to even see a dead hedgehog on the road which illustrates their further decline. The last thing they need is to be strimmed alive. Whilst we all lead busy lives it only takes a few minutes to check. How you can help:

Walk the area before you strim or mow

- If necessary, use a sweeping brush or large stick to ensure there are no sleeping or hibernating hedgehogs
- Only strim if absolutely necessary and leave the grass longer during autumn and winter
- The hedgehog is a friend of the gardener so there is no need to use slug pellets. Instead encourage hedgehogs into your garden
- Do not feed milk to hedgehogs, non-fish based dog or cat food is fine and always provide WATER, especially in warm weather

For further information on how you can help hedgehogs, visit the local Leicester Hedgehog Rescue website if you find a distressed or injured hedgehog. The Hedgehog Preservation Society and Hedgehog Street are also great sources of information on how you can help.

Hedgehog Street encourages neighbours to talk to each other so that hedgehogs which are wild animals, can be connected through gardens, as one garden is not enough. This is a win-win for everybody including the humble hedgehog.

For further information:

http://leicesterhedgehogrescue.co.uk/ http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/ http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/

Currently an online petition to the government to

consider greater legal protection for hedgehogs as an endangered species.

Visit: https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/121264

Thank you for making a difference and let's ensure that this particular hedgehog and many like it did not die in vain. We owe it to future generations to enjoy these amazing garden visitors and that the hedgehog is here to stay.

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AYLESTONE PARK RESIDENTS GROUP NEWS by Ann Sturgess

The Group continues to meet regularly, and usually on the first Thursday of the month at the Church hall in Cavendish Road, Aylestone Park, at 7:30pm. Meetings last about an hour and a half and, have of late been well attended by residents. Our four Councillors try and attend most meetings with the City Wardens and Police attending when they can.

The Group has representatives attending Ward Committee meetings, Flood meetings, Cricket Club meetings etc.,

A request from a resident to close garden gates is being passed on, as dog owners let their animal use his garden and that of the Church as a toilet. If you visit a house please ensure that you close the garden gate as you leave.

Graffiti, especially on Hughenden Drive is being followed up.

We are always pleased to see new faces at our Thursday meetings.

Residents Focus Group Leicestershire County Cricket Club

Leicestershire County Cricket Club is very keen to engage with the local community and get thoughts on a number of areas, including matchday parking, the Elton John concert and continued ground development work.

Following a number of recent successful residents meetings, the club is setting up a Residents Focus Group to ensure dialogue is ongoing with our local community. The club is keen to bring together a small group of people from roads in the immediate vicinity of the ground.

Leicestershire CCC Chief Executive Wasim Khan MBE said: "Through our residents meetings set up this winter, it has become clear that a Residents Focus Group would benefit both the club

"The club is committed to listening to people and acting on their thoughts, and it is important that we continue the positive discussions we've had in recent months.

"We'd also like to invite local residents to events, such as our Open Day on the first day of the season, and get some thoughts as to how we can put on some events throughout the year to benefit the local community. This is very much a two-way communication process and we'd welcome applications as soon

If you'd like to register your interest in being part of our Residents Focus Group, please email foxes@leicestershireccc.co.uk or send us a letter with your name, street name and a short statement (no more than 150 words) explaining why you'd like to join us.

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Aylestone Tram Terminus

Most people think of the Aylestone Tram Terminus as the corner of Wigston Lane where the 'Rutland Hotel' used to be - but that was from 1904 when the electric trams started.

The horse drawn trams originally ran from Leicester but only came as far as Grace Road.

Legend tells us that there was a coffee house near this tram terminus. But where was it....?

A newspaper article in the Leicester Chronicle 27th August 1898 (see right) proves its existence.

Wrights Directory(1889-90) shows for Grace Road (Knighton Lane) Oliver Abbott, Tram Terminus Coffee House'

In the 1891 Census Grace Road, Aylestone, Blaby, Leics, shows the inhabitants as:

Oliver Abbott Head Married Male 50 1841 Refreshment House Keeper born Sapcote, Leics Ann Abbott Wife Married Female 53 1838 born Sharnford, Leicestershire,

Frederick Master Lodger Single Male 20 1871 Grocer's Assistant Priors Marston, Warwickshire,

By 1901 Oliver & Ann Abbott had moved to Gipsy Lane.

Any help with this would be gratefully received. rowbottomjoan@gmail.com

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St. Mary's Allotments

Leicester City Council is intending to sell part of the former St. Mary's allotments to Westleigh Builders for £4 million. For more information see "Leicester Mercury" article:- http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/allotmentssite-sold-4-million-Leicester-City/story-26685935detail/story.html

More work needs to be done to make the site safe. Work Days

The Conservation Volunteers are intending to work on St. Mary's until summer 2016. No work is done over the summer due to nesting birds. The Work Days are open to everyone and meet at the Aylestone Road entrance at 9.50am.

For more information about volunteering, please contact Friends of St. Mary's on 07514 416698 or e-mail greenspace@gmx.net.

The Friends of St. Mary's Steering Group is hoping to talk with the City Council and the developer to get the best possible outcome for the Community in terms of keeping areas for nature and public green space.

We will keep you updated of any further developments. If you would like to join the Friends of St. Mary's, please contact 07514 416698 or e-mail greenspace@gmx.net.



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East Mids Pet & Reptile Supplies Wordsearch Competition

1. WOOD PIGEON 11. GREAT TIT 2. HOUSE MARTIN 12. KESTREL 3. RAVEN 13. THRUSH 4. ROOK 14. ROBIN 5. BLACKBIRD 15. SISKIN 6. BLUE TIT 16. STARLING 7. FINCH 17. WREN 8. DOVE 18. MAGPIE 9. WOODPECKER 19. CUCKOO

1st Prize - 1 x 20 kg sack of wild bird food, 1 bird feeder, 1 rolypoly suet roll, 1 raisin fat ring, 1 wild bird seed bell and 1 coir bell with mealworms. 2nd Prize - 2 packs of suet pellets, 2 packs of dried mealworms, 1 rolypoly suet roll and 1 coir bell. 3rd Prize - 1 pack of suet pellets, 1 pack of dried mealworms and 1 pack of suet fat balls

20. CROW

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RETURNED TO EAST MIDLAND PET AND REPTILE SUPPLIES BY 30TH APRIL 2016. THE DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE ON 7TH MAY 2016.

NAME

ADDRESS

10. SPARROW

CONTACT NUMBER:

U	N	T	Х	R	0	K	0	0	R	0	Т	E	D	Z	K	N	N	G	С
Y	I	T	N	U	F	Т	S	Т	Α	R	L	I	N	G	N	M	L	P	V
R	В	I	R	Y	V	I	D	N	V	С	Y	P	N	K	F	D	Т	R	R
0	0	I	V	1	V	A	R	I	E	V	D	G	L	V	R	Т	V	N	F
G	R	Е	Α	T	T	I	T	В	N	0	I	Α	В	I	R	Н	T	A	В
V	J	I	Е	E	T	I	L	S	K	R	T	М	Z	R	T	R	С	s	W
0	Т	D	N	L	Е	R	Т	S	E	K	Е	S	Т	С	Α	U	Y	F	W
0	N	0	В	1	L	R	Т	V	С	Е	R	Н	L	Е	S	S	V	Y	0
D	S	L	S	W	Α	F	0	I	U	S	F	0	В	W	M	Н	Х	S	0
Р	В	L	U	Е	T	I	Т	N	I	Т	G	U	W	0	R	М	N	F	D
I	L	L	V	В	L	N	I	V	В	S	Е	S	E	R	С	L	F	С	P
С	Α	E	D	R	T	С	W	I	Н	Е	V	Е	D	С	E	Е	G	В	Е
K	С	V	U	0	S	Н	0	L	P	K	N	М	V	R	L	N	Α	I	С
Е	K	В	D	P	V	X	R	Α	S	Α	S	Α	F	R	Α	N	K	N	K
R	В	Α	х	S	F	Е	R	Т	Х	Α	P	R	Α	С	W	В	Α	S	Е
В	I	L	L	С	L	W	Α	Е	P	0	L	T	T	Y	G	D	V	D	R
Н	R	Е	K	W	E	L	P	D	S	K	T	I	В	F	D	С	L	E	S
Y	D	D	Н	1	W	S	S	ı	S	K	I	N	С	Α	R	D	L	N	N
Α	Y	L	Е	S	Т	0	N	Е	P	Α	R	K	N	Е	w	S	С	U	С
Q	W	0	0	D	P.	I	G	Е	0	N	В	G	I	0	0	K	С	U	С

Useful Contact Numbers

Cut to keep in a safe place

Gas

Emergency (Leaks and Smell of Gas) 0800 111 999

Electricity

Power Cuts Number 0800 6783 105 or visit www.westernpower.co.uk and follow the links for power cuts

Water

Emergency 0800 783 4444

Medical

999 is the telephone number you should call when you need emergency medical assistance following a serious accident, illness or injury - for example, in the event of traumatic blood loss, chest pain or loss of consciousness.

For other medical emergencies either consult your local Doctor, Pharmacist or NHS111

Leicester Medical Group 0116 283 7825 Saffron Group Practice 0116 244 0888 Saffron Surgery 0116 291 1212 The Surgery 0116 367 0012

Pharmacies are available on Saffron Lane and Aylestone Road

Fire

If a person's life or property is in danger, it is appropriate to dial 999. Give full details of the situation to the control operator and they will decide whether or not it is a proper emergency and if firefighters should attend.

Police

You should only ring the 999 system if there is a direct and immediate threat to life / limb or to property. For non emergency calls you should dial 101 or you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Leicester City Council

The council can be contacted on 0116 454 1000 for a more accurate list please visit their website www.leicester.gov.uk/contact-us

Environmental Health Noise Nuisance Team can be contacted on: 0116 454 1001 or email noiseteam@leicester.gov.uk

Samaritans

You can talk to the Samaritans for free on 116 123. Talk to them anytime you like, in your own way and off the record - about whatever's getting to you.



Aylestone and Freeman

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE POLICE

999 in an emergency, when life is in danger or a crime is being committed.

0116 2222222 to contact our local police station

0800 789321 the Anti Terrorist hotline if you have any doubts about any activities around your house or business or a disused factory.

Born in 1778, Sir Robert Peel, a former Prime Minister, is best remembered as the founder of the modern police force.

His idea was a simple one he founded a Police Force on the following principle, that "The police are the public and the public are the police."

I think of this as this morning we arrested a burglar who had forced entry into the victim's home, he was seen in suspicious circumstances by a member of the public who took the time to call us. A number of officers attended and the man was caught running from the scene by one of our local beat team. Without that call the story would have been very different. The owner would have returned later in the day to an empty home, ransacked, valuables taken, and the burglar free to offend again.

We, your policing team, are a small number of members of the public, who, in the words of Sir Robert Peel "are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence" or in other words we all have that responsibility to keep our Neighbourhood safe and free from crime. It is largely through your eyes and ears that we are able to get the evidence and intelligence we need to protect our community.

If you want to report an Emergency please call 999.

If you have any information you want to pass on in confidence please contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

If you need advice or want to report a crime that has already happened contact 101.

Many Thanks Sergeant Liddicott

Aylestone Local Policing team