

Aylesbury Town matters

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine
Issue Twelve March 2009



Serving the people of Aylesbury

'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'

www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



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Contact Details:

Aylesbury Town Council

Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire HP20 2QP

Tel: 01296 425678 Fax: 01296 426134

Email: info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Opening hours:

Monday - Thursday 8.45 am - 5.15 pm

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Front cover photo: Spring daffodils on
Wendover Road. Photo by Margaret Wagstaffe

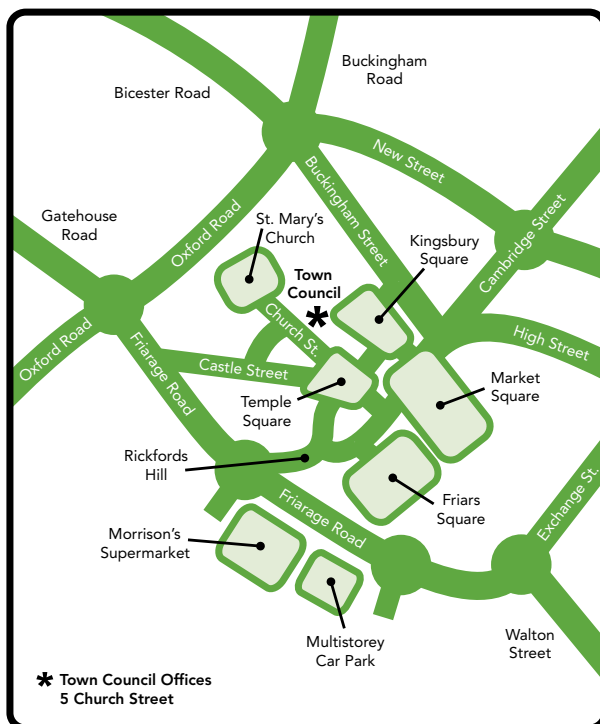
Welcome Note

Welcome to the 12th edition of Aylesbury Town Matters. Spring is very welcome after the cold winter we have had and the Town Council is looking forward to lots of events in the Town Centre over the next few months. Daytime events are mostly free to families so we hope you will come along and enjoy the fun. (See *What's On* on pages 22 and 23).

As usual at this time of year councils are setting their Council Tax for 2009 - 2010. Aylesbury Town Council's share of the tax bill will be an increase of four pence per week for a 'D' Band householder which just about covers for inflation. (You may remember that inflation ran at up to 5% for part of last year). This will allow the Council to continue its work to keep the Town looking its very best for the pleasure of our residents but also, most importantly, to support the local economy and keep the visitors coming. Their spending is very important to our local businesses.

We hope you will enjoy this issue. Please keep those letters, phone calls and emails coming in. We listen very carefully to what you say and when a good idea comes our way, we take it up with enthusiasm.

Cllr Steve Patrick
Leader of the Council



Where to find the Town Council

Members of the public are always welcome at the Town Council offices, however, as we are located through an archway, some people have found us difficult to locate.

If you would like to come in and see us, go to Church Street in the Old Town. Bucks County Museum is our next door neighbour, at number 3 Church Street. We are through the archway at number 5 Church Street and once you have walked through the archway our door is directly facing you.

If you have an issue or problem you would like to discuss, do please call in to see us. **You will be very welcome!**

Margaret Wagstaffe

Aylesbury Town Council is a member of English Historic Towns Forum and twinned with Bourg-en-Bresse.

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine

Britain in Bloom

The Town Council is gearing up for this year's submission to the Royal Horticultural Society's annual Britain in Bloom competition.

Although we shall be providing our usual floral displays, and working with Bucks County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council to make sure these are even better than last year, it isn't only about flowers.

Every Spring the Council takes a hard look at the Town Centre. Then all sorts of jobs are tackled – setts and paving stones are re-laid, street furniture is repainted, graffiti is cleaned up and rubbish and eyesores are tackled.

We hope you agree that the result is a clean and tidy centre, pleasant and enjoyable for residents and visitors alike.

Aylesbury in Bloom

It's that time of year again folks! We are looking for entries for the Aylesbury in Bloom annual garden competition. Hopefully by now you will have sorted out your seeds and bedding and be well on the way to a glorious display.

If you would like to enter this year, please contact the Town Council on 01296 425678 and we will be delighted to send you a form.

We would especially like to hear from gardeners who put on a good show in their front gardens. It doesn't have to be fit for the Chelsea Flower Show, just a nice colourful or original offering that brightens up your street.



Photos by Keith Turner

Past events 2008

GHOULS & VILLAINS

The popular tour of haunted and chilling crime spots of Aylesbury Town Centre took place on 30 and 31 October with two members of the Rebellious Subjects Theatre Company. The event was well attended and everyone, from tiny tots to adults, entered into the 'spirit' of things by dressing up.

Thank you to the Rebellious Subjects Theatre Company, Aylesbury Tourist Information Centre for selling the tickets and the King's Head for use of the courtyard and providing refreshments.



CAROLFEST

On 18 December the traditional annual carol concert took place in Market Square and was attended by 1000 visitors, Aylesbury Festival Choir, St Mary's Church of England School Choir, Bedgrove Juniors and Caduceus Brass.

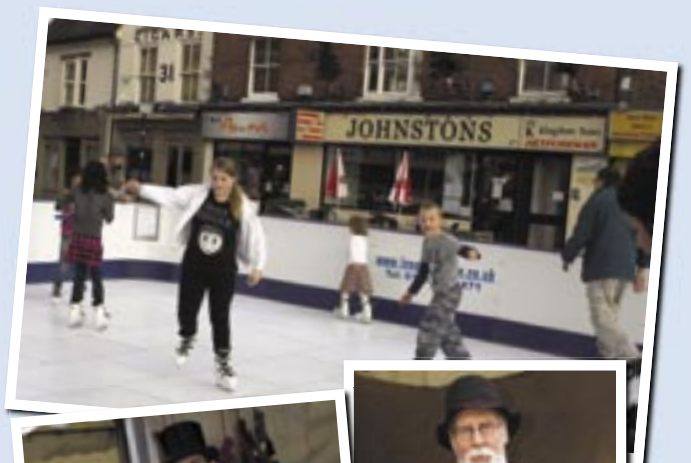
Mix '96 compered the evening and the event was recorded for broadcasting on Christmas Day. The Rotary and The King's Head provided hot chestnuts and soup. Father Christmas stopped by much to the delight of children of all ages. Everyone was in fine voice, and the rain held off for a successful evening.



VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Aylesbury Town Council held its first Victorian Christmas event, in Kingsbury on 20 and 21 December. An artificial ice rink proved very popular with children and adults alike. On Sunday more entertainment was provided with the Snow Queen on stilts and her Snow Elves.

Bernice and Matthew, the Tap Dancing Turkeys, also made an appearance with a feathery combination of turkey talk and dancing, much to the amusement of visitors. Stall demonstrations of many crafts were also there for visitors to experiment with artistry from the Victorian period.



Photos by Ray Ghent and Roger King

Aylesbury's illuminations and Santa's arrival



Aylesbury illuminations just keep getting better!

This Christmas the Town Centre Partnership and the District Council excelled themselves in providing stunning light displays around the Market Square, Kingsbury and the High Street.

Visitors were delighted with the Town looking so sparkly and festive. Crowds flooded the centre for the Christmas carol concert and Santa's arrival.

This year it is hoped to extend the illuminations even further, so please don't forget to come along and join in the fun.



Photo by Maurice Cousins

Illumination photos by Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership

Local news and events

Quarrendon School

Two events on Saturday 13 June 2009 will bring to an end Quarrendon School's 50th Anniversary celebrations. The school, which was opened by the Duke of Edinburgh on 13 June 1958, has been running events all year to commemorate this Golden Anniversary.

We now know that Quarrendon School will close at the end of the summer term, in July 2009, and re-open in September as Buckinghamshire's first academy, to be called Aylesbury Vale Academy. This is an exciting opportunity for current and future students of the school but also a sad time for those who have been associated with Quarrendon School over the last 50 years. To mark these events Quarrendon School will be holding the 'Q Festival' and 50th Anniversary Reunion on 13 June 2009.

The 'Q Festival' will be a free music and dance event for the whole community. Students and staff at the school will be performing on the day and in addition invitations have been sent to some of our local primary schools and clubs to also take part. Many forms of music and dance will be represented and much local talent will be on display.

In the evening Quarrendon will host the Reunion Party for those who have attended and taught at the school in the last 50 years. Flights have been booked and past pupils are flying in from Canada, the USA and Australia for the event. Music on the night will be provided by past pupils, including Mike Carroll. While Mike was at Quarrendon during the 1970s he was part of a popular beat-combo 'As It Is', who represented South East England at the Royal Court Theatre in Liverpool as part of The Boys Club All-England Talent Show in 1975. It is hoped that 'As It Is' will reform for this very special event.

Kim Hopping, Chair of the school's PTA, Friends of Quarrendon, said "The 'Q Festival' will be a fantastic day for the whole family and is our way of thanking the community for all of their support over the last 50 years. The evening reunion will be a chance for all of the people who have past through Quarrendon's gates to say goodbye to a school for which they have such affection and so many good memories."

Tickets for the Reunion are going on sale in April and details of how to get hold of one will be posted on the Quarrendon School website: www.quarrendon.bucks.sch.uk

Anyone who would like to help with sponsorship or who would like to be a part of the 'Q Festival', either by performing, having a stall or just being an extra pair of hands to help set up and clear away should contact Kim Hopping on 07503 473987 or by email at: kim.quarrendon50@hotmail.co.uk

Anyone still wishing to register for the Reunion should also contact Kim.

Buckinghamshire Playing Fields Association

The Buckinghamshire Playing Fields Association is a registered charity that seeks to encourage the provision of recreational facilities across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.

The Association can provide advice and information concerning recreational facilities and, in conjunction with playing field associations in other parts of the country, publishes a quarterly newsletter, "The Playing Field", which contains articles of interest to those involved with recreational facilities.

In addition, the Association has a small grants scheme by which it can make grants of up to £750 available to suitable projects.

Membership of the Association costs £10 for community groups and £20 for parish and town councils.

Further details can be obtained from:
Bridget Grant at Bucks Playing Fields Association
c/o Bucks Community Action, Unit B,
The Firs, Bierton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5DX
Tel: 01296 421036
Email: bridget@bucks-comm-action.org.uk



Spring Fashion Show



Friars Square Shopping Centre
Saturday 21 March 2009

Shows hourly from 11.00am – 4.00pm.
Catwalk will be located opposite Beatties.

Can you help?

Vale Volunteers is a registered charity that supports, develops and promotes voluntary activities which includes a free basic garden maintenance service to older and disabled people living on low incomes. Unfortunately they are currently short of gardening volunteers.

If you enjoy being outside, meeting new people and can spare some time once a week or a fortnight, please get in touch with Samantha on 01296 337456 or 07943 969426. Alternatively send an email to: gardening@valevolunteers.org.uk



Photos by Roger King

Did you know?

You can save about 25% of your weekly fresh meat, fruit and vegetable bill by shopping on Aylesbury market.

Traders are happy to supply your needs, however large or small, at very competitive prices. By shopping in the market you don't only save money, you also save on food miles, plastic and packaging, so it's kind to your purse and kind to the planet!

And you can enjoy a coffee in the sunshine whilst you soak up the atmosphere and enjoy that good feeling that comes from a job well done.

So go on, treat yourself to a trip down to the Market Square and have a great day out.



What's in a name?

Old street names can be used to uncover the history of a town or village and Aylesbury street names are no exception. A few examples follow but the history of many old street or area names have been lost in time. 'Castle Street' was originally the main entrance to the Town from Thame and Oxford. The lower part (beneath the entrance to 'Parsons Fee') was originally called 'Castle Hill'. Eventually the name was shortened to 'Catt Street' giving rise to the supposition that the street was named 'Cattle Street' due to the fact that sheep and cattle were driven to the town market via this route. Was there a castle? No-one knows, as no trace has ever been uncovered.

A 'Fee' was a piece of land held as part or whole of a feudal tenure. Records of old Aylesbury mention a number of these including 'Bawd's Fee', 'Castle Fee' and 'Brand's Fee'. The only remaining survivor of this group is 'Parsons Fee' which runs from 'Castle Street' to 'Church Street', and houses the historic 'St Osyth's' house.

'Common Dunghill' was not somewhere you would want to live. This area was situated at the junction of the 'Oxford Road' and 'Whitehill' and was apparently where the offal and refuse of the town was dumped. It must have stunk to high heaven. And can you imagine the rats?

By the 7th century a system of law and order had evolved that divided a community into 'tithings', or groups of ten men, each member of which was responsible for the conduct of the other members of his group. They were also obliged to ensure that a member charged with a breach of the law would be produced in court. The groups of ten men were then clustered into units of a hundred and from this comes 'Upper Hundreds' which is the road running between 'Cambridge Street' and 'Vale Park Drive'.

'Pitches Hill' is now called 'Rickfords Hill'. 'Pitches' was an old Aylesbury name. William Rickford owned the local bank and eventually became M.P. for Aylesbury. He lived in 'Green End House'. His house was formerly owned by Dr Bates, a prominent local doctor, who is better known as a member of the infamous Hell Fire Club.

There is an old reference to a building in Aylesbury known as 'The Temple'. But it is very unlikely a temple existed. The more likely explanation is that Temple Street and Square were named as a compliment to the Temple-Grenvilles of Stowe, who strove very hard to gain political support in Aylesbury. In the 1840s the family went bankrupt and all their property in Aylesbury was sold at fire sale prices.

'Temple Street' was formerly known as 'Cobbler's Row' or 'Cordwainer's Street' and was named after the number of shoemakers residing there. This makes sense because the animals sold in the market were killed in the nearby slaughterhouses and then the hides tanned at the tannery which also stood nearby. What must the smell have been like?

'Hog Lane' is now called 'George Street'. The original name implies a congregation of piggeries.

The road that runs down the back of 'Kingsbury' was at one time just plain 'Back Street' and a place where the occupants of 'Kingsbury' maintained their dunghills. These were jealously maintained by their owners as when matured (and very ripe) they could be sold. Now the road is called 'Buckingham Street'.

Now called 'Church Street', the former 'Broad Street' was where the doctors, solicitors and moneyed people lived. This included Thomas Hickman, the founder of the Hickman's Trust, which now provides a substantial number of alms houses to the people of Aylesbury.

The road now known as the 'Bicester Road' was once the 'Gallows Road and Corner'. Apparently 'Gallows Corner' was approximately a quarter of a mile from the town, on the west side of the road. It was here that the common gallows was situated, prior to the creation of the new drop at the County Hall.

'Water Street' or 'Waterhouse Street' was named after the horse-powered pump and cistern which was sited there. The water was pumped up from the Friarage brook and it was from this source that the original water supply for the Town was obtained. The name was changed to 'Bourbon Street' in remembrance of the residency of the Bourbon family at Hartwell House. Louis XVIII escaped Paris in 1791 during the French Revolution and moved around Europe for a number of years. Louis landed in England in October 1807 and eventually took up residence in Hartwell House, with a retinue of servants and followers that grew over time to 140.

Louis remained in residence until the British Army entered Paris and Louis was proclaimed King. Louis finally departed from Hartwell House in April 1814.

Keith Turner

Tring Road Cemetery

As part of its continued commitment to both enhance and develop the Tring Road Cemetery the Town Council will undertake two new projects during 2009.

Mausoleums

Following continued demand for mausoleum chambers, the Town Council will build a further two units in the remaining area. These two units, consisting of 12 chambers each, will be the last to be built in the existing area. Some of the new chambers being built have already been reserved and following completion this will bring the total number of chambers provided by the Town Council to 60 since taking over the cemetery.

It is anticipated that these remaining chambers will sustain families wanting this type of interment until the cemetery extension is developed, where it is anticipated that an area for future buildings of this type will be allocated.



Photos by Roger King

Chapel

The cemetery chapel at the Tring Road entrance was built in 1858 and is still in use today. It can accommodate up to 50 mourners and is a most valued facility for families wishing to hold small intimate burial services. The number of mourners attending funerals has greatly increased over the years and the chapel is seldom used these days, however, the Town Council is committed to ensuring this facility continues to be available to every family, and we want to ensure its continued use.

In view of this the Town Council will be undertaking some refurbishment of the chapel. Once completed mourners using this facility will benefit from new heating, modernized cushioned seating and new decoration throughout.

David Cooper
Cemetery Manager

Buckinghamshire County Museum and Roald Dahl Children's Gallery

Located in the heart of historic Aylesbury with a lively programme of exhibitions, events and activities throughout the year. Enjoy our friendly café, relax in our walled garden or browse in our gift shop. Free entry to museum.

NEW for Summer 2009 Museum and Roald Dahl Children's Gallery open on Sundays 2.00pm – 5.00pm Easter to October half term; 12 April – 1 November

Exhibition Scenes of Victorian Life: the paintings of John and Frederick Morgan in Buckinghamshire Art Gallery, 4 April – 11 July 2009. Explore the Victorian town through the paintings of John 'Aylesbury' Morgan, artist of The Jury, portraits of twelve local men about town in 1861.

For hands-on fun and Roald Dahl magic visit the fabulous Roald Dahl Children's Gallery. Admission charge applies and opening hours vary, please contact the museum. For further information ring 01296 331441, email: museum@buckscc.gov.uk or visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/museum We welcome calls via RNID Typetalk 18001 01296 331441



Business in Aylesbury

Aylesbury's two shopping centres have indicated good trading results for Christmas and early January. Some businesses reported their best Christmas ever. One outlet experienced a 100% increase in sales during the run up to Christmas. Clearly this trader has the right product and market.

However, not all was a success, and it was with some sadness that Aylesbury said 'goodbye' to Woolworths. Many Aylesburians (including the Leader of the Town Council) gained their first work experience as a Saturday Girl or Boy (as they were then known) in "Woolies". There are probably many stories to tell about dining in the restaurant or riding up and down the escalators on Saturdays when Woolworths was a three-storey department store – the biggest in Europe – and occupied the library building and all of Beatties.

The downturn in the economy is not affecting only Aylesbury – it is a national trend. The Government has announced plans to help support small and medium-sized businesses under a new scheme to a total of £20 billion. For more information about this contact the Federation of Small Businesses on 01253 336000, or check their website: www.fsb.org.uk

The Town Council would not wish to see retail or industrial businesses in Aylesbury fail, nor would it wish to see the Town Centre lose its vitality. The Council will continue to do whatever it can to support traders in Aylesbury by way of a programme of events to bring people into the Town, and also to work with partner councils and organisations to promote Aylesbury. Councillors ask residents to be positive about Aylesbury and to support the Town by choosing to shop locally and help in every way they can.

Shopkeepers and other businesses will be able to take advantage of the crowds attending Town Centre events. Could more be done to attract them into the shops, to encourage shoppers to buy goods or to gain knowledge of new products?

The new Bourg Walk Bridge is nearing completion, and will clearly become a landmark for the Town. It should also help the Centre to remain lively. The distance and time it takes to reach the Town Centre is important to people. Many residents who live on the south-west side of Aylesbury will find that the bridge reduces travel time for them.

Floral displays last summer attracted shoppers from outside the Town and encouraged many Aylesbury shoppers to spend their money locally. The Town Council received many comments, and letters were published in the Bucks Herald and in the press in other towns, to the effect that the floral displays made Aylesbury a very pleasurable place to be. The Town Council is planning even greater efforts to make Aylesbury look amazing again this year.

Shirley Francis
Deputy Town Clerk

Contact - If you would like any further information on anything in this magazine, or if you would like to contribute to the next issue, please contact: Margaret Wagstaffe, Town Clerk at Aylesbury Town Council Offices, Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP Tel: 01296 425678 or email: m.wagstaffe@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Acknowledgement - I would like to thank the Members and Staff of Aylesbury Town Council for their help in the production of this magazine.

Margaret Wagstaffe, Town Clerk

Shop in Aylesbury



Friars Square

60 stores
800 parking spaces

Monday - Friday

9.00am - 5.30pm

Saturday

9.00am - 6.00pm

Sunday

10.30am - 4.30pm

Hale Leys

24 stores

Monday - Saturday

9.00am - 5.30pm

Sunday

10.30am - 4.30pm



Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr Kevin Peters
07989 892896



Cllr Mrs Pat Jamieson
01296 428275



Cllr Tuffail Hussain
07956 269544

Ward: Quarrendon



Cllr Ray Ghent
01296 489327



Cllr Miss Noreen O'Sullivan
07796 804676

Ward: Oxford Road



Cllr Zulifqar Ahmed
07931 945804



Cllr Mike Smith
01296 421732

Ward: Southcourt



Cllr Mrs Freda Roberts MBE JP
01296 424452



Cllr David Ralph
01296 581975

Ward: Walton Court



Cllr Mrs Ranjula Takodra
07958 423083



Cllr Roger Surguy
01296 425678



Ward: Central



Cllr Steven Mitchell
01296 392096

Ward: Elmhurst



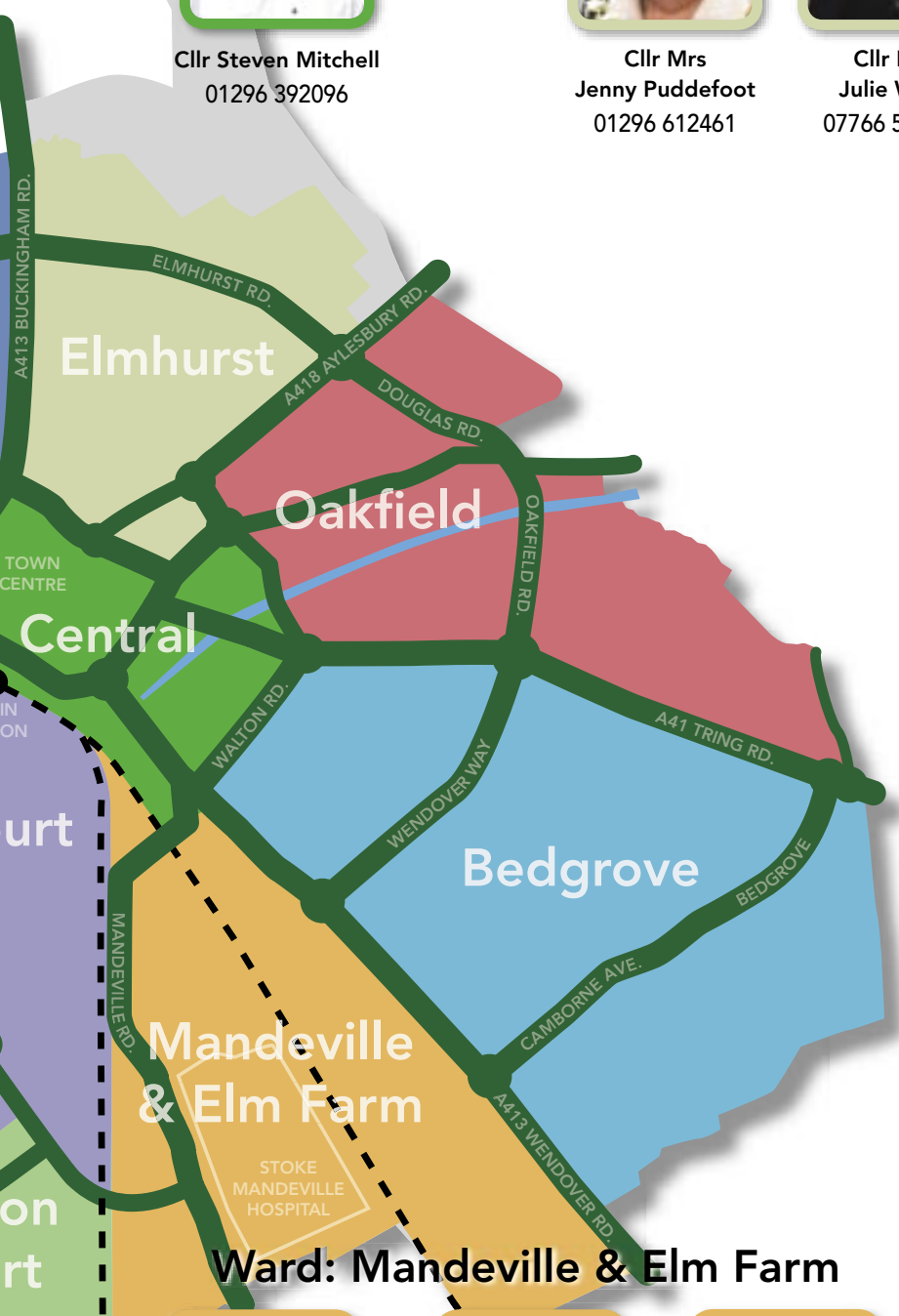
Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot
01296 612461



Cllr Mrs Julie Ward
07766 545236



Cllr Mohammed Amjad
07956 803458



Ward: Oakfield

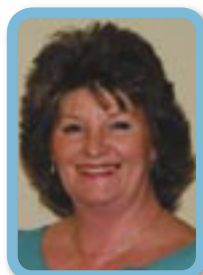


Cllr Graham Webster
01296 483416

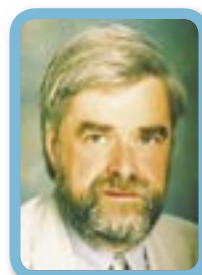


Cllr Steve Patrick
01296 424986

Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr Mrs Jenny Bloom
07729 011501



Cllr Alan Sherwell
01296 420672

Ward: Mandeville & Elm Farm



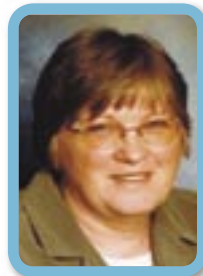
Cllr Mrs Denise Summers
01296 336731



Cllr Mrs Sue Chapple
01296 426814



Cllr Brian Roberts
01296 422881



Cllr Mrs Penni Thorne
01296 422232



Cllr Mark Willis
01296 586109

London 2012: Getting ready to host the world

It is now less than 1300 days to the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games. Although this may seem a long way off, preparations in Buckinghamshire are well underway to make sure that our communities make the most of this once in a lifetime opportunity.

We live in a special county that will have a unique role to play in hosting the Games. The Eton College Rowing Centre at Dorney Lake will be the venue for the rowing and flatwater canoeing events. The Paralympics will be coming home to Great Britain. The first ever disability sports events were held here in Aylesbury in the grounds of Stoke Mandeville Hospital to coincide with the 1948 London Olympic Games.



We will use the power of the games to help build businesses that thrive through innovation and challenge, develop stronger and closer communities and a more active, healthier and successful sporting county. **Fine words I hear you say, but how can I get involved?**

If you are thinking about taking up more sport or exercise in 2009, Bucks Sport are making it easy for you to get active again, regardless of your age, fitness or ability, through their Reactivate Bucks programme. Loads of sports and leisure venues are participating, with activities ranging from buggy walking to ballroom dancing. To find out what's on and to register for regular updates visit: www.buckssport.org/reactivate

To be a volunteer for the Games you can register now at: www.london2012.com but whilst doing that why not help boost your volunteering CV and do something positive for your own community? Call Vale Volunteers in Aylesbury on 01296 337456 or email: administration@valevolunteers.org.uk and see what opportunities they have to put your skills to use straight away.

If you would like your school, nursery or playgroup to be part of the London 2012 celebrations then make sure that they have registered as part of the Get Set programme. The Get Set programme offers a fabulous resource and a huge variety of opportunities for 3 - 19 year olds including a whole range of flexible, interactive learning resources designed to get you thinking about the Olympic and Paralympic values – with games, factsheets, films, news articles and much more. To find out more visit: www.london2012.com/getset

For businesses to be in with a chance of winning one of the thousands of contract opportunities associated with the Games they will need to register with the "Compete For" website which acts as a brokerage service to match buyers with suppliers for London 2012 contracts. Visit: www.london2012.com/business

Coming back to home, this summer will see the 25th anniversary of the last Paralympic Games to be held in this country when Stoke Mandeville jointly hosted the games with New York. This summer a number of international competitions are being held at Stoke Mandeville Stadium to help mark this anniversary including the National Wheelchair Rugby Championships on July 4 & 5 and the Women's European Wheelchair Basketball Championships between August 26 - 31. Check out the full programme of events at: www.wheelpower.org.uk and get down to the stadium – help support the competitions and show our international visitors a real welcome.

Hopefully that has given you a taste of what you can do to be part of the greatest sporting event in the world. There will be loads more opportunities over the next 1300 or so days, so if you would like to be kept informed of the latest opportunities please email me on: ibarham@bucks2012.org or call me on 01296 585184.

Ian Barham
Bucks Manager for the 2012 Games



ATC Grants - December 2008



Cllrs Mark Willis and Kevin Peters present a cheque to St Mary's Church. Photo by Roger King

St Mary's Church was awarded £2,000 to install new 'blowers' for the heaters in the church in order that heat may be more efficiently circulated. St Mary's is a welcoming open church which seeks to serve the diverse needs of the people of Aylesbury. Alongside the daily worship, St Mary's provides a welcome to a wide range of people from drop-in groups for those in need, to activities for the young, elderly and emotionally frail.



Cllrs Mrs Pat Jamieson and Tom Ahmed present a cheque to Home-Start. Photo by Keith Turner

Home-Start received £2,000 to help fund training volunteers. Home-Start support parents with one or more children under 5 years who are struggling to cope due to factors such as financial problems, mental health issues, isolation, cultural issues, lone parenting, disability, lack of support and relationship difficulties.

£2,000 was given to Meadowcroft Pre-School to help fund a Christmas party, outing and equipment. The Pre-School supports children in the Quarrendon and surrounding area between the ages of 2-5 years. Scooters and bicycles were among the items to be purchased.

Bucks Play Association was awarded £1,000 towards The 'All Play Together Project'. The venture will provide play support for community development, fundraising and playschemes. The annual networking day for any charitable or community based groups in Aylesbury will offer advice, information, resources and local support to help plan community activities.

CHAT received a grant of £400 towards a Christmas party. The party was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and was enjoyed by children with special needs who benefit from respite care at the Wing Unit, together with their siblings and parents. This year two families from the Refuge were also invited. The children were entertained by Colonel Custard (Paul Megram, magician), Tic Toc's Tracy Wicks and Karen Evans painted the children's faces. The highlight of the afternoon was a visit from Father Christmas who presented each child with a present. The Wing Unit is a residential Respite Care Unit for children with complex and severe disabilities. It's located on the Manor House site in Aylesbury, and the regular respite care allows the families of these children to have some 'special time' for the rest of the family without the constant concerns for their disabled child.



CHAT children's party. Photo courtesy of CHAT

£2,000 was received by SPACE towards funding three weekly group drop-in sessions. SPACE provides support to those going through life crises including relationship issues, loneliness, bereavement, financial difficulties, homelessness and mental health problems.

Hazells Bowls Club was awarded £1,250 towards carrying out work in the kitchen and disabled toilet at their clubhouse. The Club provides bowling and social facilities for their members. By making improvements to the kitchen and disabled toilet the hall can be used by local community groups on a more regular basis as well as achieving a high standard of Health and Safety.

The New Roxette has revived a free local music magazine and were awarded £1,000. The magazine will publicise and encourage the music scene at venues in Aylesbury and the surrounding area.

If you belong to a non-profit-making organisation which provides a service for a section of the community, you may qualify for a grant. Please contact Mrs. Pat Phillips at Aylesbury Town Council, Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP Telephone: 01296 425678 or email: info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk for application forms or further information.

Eating in Aylesbury

Rockwood Burgers or Drunken Cow – what's it to be for lunch today?

These are just two items on the menu in two of Aylesbury's most popular town centre pubs. Rockwood Burgers are available at The Rockwood in Kingsbury. Drunken Cow, meanwhile, is a burger served with Chiltern ale chutney and is on the menu at The King's Head in Market Square. Both are really delicious. Both pubs serve a selection of excellent real ales whilst The King's Head also has an extensive wine list.

These are just two of the many eating places in Aylesbury for busy shoppers and helps to make Aylesbury a special place to visit. Who wants to queue in Milton Keynes waiting for a table at a stereotyped chain restaurant when you can enjoy coffee, or a drink and a hearty bar meal in a cosy traditional inn at a reasonable cost in Aylesbury.

More and more of Aylesbury's pubs are serving delicious wholesome food during lunch time and some have an all-day menu. Some also serve meals during the evening. For instance, The King's Head serves a wonderful tasty steak and ale Yorkshire pudding for £9.50.

Other traditional pubs worth a mention for their good food and fine ales include The Harrow in Buckingham Street and The Queen's Head in Temple Square where they serve a Sunday lunch for a fiver. The Green Man in Market Square has recently got its old name back. Over the past 20 years or so it has been known as Butlers, Saints Wine Bar, Market Tavern and The Square. Here you can get an excellent early morning English breakfast.

Also in the Market Square is the newly owned and refurbished Bell. It was once Aylesbury's premier hotel under the guise of Trust Houses. On offer today is a Sunday Carvery and senior citizens specials. In further issues we will explore pubs in other parts of the town.

Roger King



The courtyard in The King's Head



The Rockwood in Kingsbury



The Queen's Head in Temple Square



Bell Hotel in Market Square

All photos by Roger King

Being young in Aylesbury



I am 14 years old, currently taking part in work experience at the Town Council, and was asked to write an article about being a young person in Aylesbury. I was very excited about the opportunity,

and it originally seemed like an easy task; I consider myself to be a typical teenager, therefore able to voice what I assume would be the opinion of most young people in the area.

However, when I started to put pen to paper I realised how much harder this was going to be than I had anticipated, simply due to the sheer diversity of young people living here. I believe this is one of the things that make Aylesbury a great place to live for younger generations, as well as older ones: we can gain the ability to make friends with people who are very different to ourselves, bringing people together and creating a real feeling of community.

Of course, there are some downsides to living in a fairly small town like Aylesbury for today's generation of teenagers, whose attention spans seem to be decreasing rapidly as time goes by! Does the phrase, "I'm bored" sound familiar? We teenagers are known for using it several times a day; I don't deny being one of the culprits. I have heard the, "When I was your age..." story countless times, and can recall that apparently all my parents needed was a paper bag, a cardboard box, or a piece of string to keep them entertained!

Sadly, it's true that teenagers today are very demanding in terms of needing something to do. And although Aylesbury is hardly buzzing with social activity, we really have nothing to be complaining about.

There is so much available for us; all we have to do is look. Furthermore, the money excuse is not an issue, as there are many great days out in Aylesbury which are free – for example, a trip to the Bucks County Museum, or going on the Aylesbury Riverside Walk with friends. Try to find out what your own interests are by sampling new things: don't just wait for those new things to come to you.

There are many events held in the Town Centre which also don't cost anything. Before Christmas there was a 'Victorian Ice Spectacular', involving an artificial ice rink and a Victorian market being set up in Kingsbury. I went there with a couple of friends, and despite being really quite scared of the giant 'Snow Queen' on stilts, we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves...for free!

This just shows that it is possible for the youth of Aylesbury to have a good time without having to spend lots of money, and there are in fact lots of opportunities for us to have fun. I really enjoy living here; I have done all my life, and can think of very few reasons why the rest of the young people of Aylesbury shouldn't enjoy it too.

Laura Piggford

connexions

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Aged 13 to 19* years? Looking for a job?

Connexions can offer free advice and guidance to young people in making choices, creating CVs and applying for jobs.

www.connexionsbucks.org.uk

*up to 25 years for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities



Visit to Bourg-en-Bresse

Bourg-en-Bresse held a Festival of Science from 18 to 20 November to coincide with the "Week of Europe" and had invited two school youths to participate. The Grammar School accepted the challenge and Andrea Morgan-Thomas accompanied Ryan Lewis and Jordan Allison to the venue where they were accommodated by French families.

Chairman of the Twinning Association David Mummery and committee members Freda Roberts and Paul Battye also travelled to Bourg to support the participants despite having to pay their own fares.



On arrival in Bourg the twinning committee attended a live show of "Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea", the science-fiction work of Jules Verne. It tells the story of Captain Nemo and his submarine Nautilus as seen from the perspective of Professor Pierre Aronnax. The play was an enormous success and appreciated by the audience that filled the theatre. The hosts were particularly pleased to welcome Freda Roberts' return to their town. The British delegation was too exhausted to participate in the cocktails and canapés given after the show and returned to their hotel where they discovered that the hosts had arranged a small supper for them.

The following day we were shown around their Town Hall – a huge complex with every modern facility available. This was followed by a walk around their huge outdoor and indoor markets.

The French then gave an official lunch to the British guests before conveying them on a visit to the Monastery of Brou. A city with a notable past, Bourg has conserved its original heritage including its most famous asset, the Royal Monastery of Brou. A masterpiece in the Flamboyant Gothic style, built from 1513 to 1532, the

Royal Monastery of Brou was the fruit of a beautiful love story between Margaret of Austria, aunt of Charles Quint and François the 1st, and her late husband Philibert the Handsome. From the tombs where peaceful souls exchange glances, to the entwined initials P and M on the church, the traces of passion from this romantic and tragic love story are omnipresent.

The church is mesmerising with its sumptuous decoration and glazed tile roof. The monastery, with its three double-tiered cloisters, a unique feature in France, is home to the museum and its expansive collections of French, Flemish and Italian art from the 15th to 20th centuries. This jewel attracts 75,000 visitors each year and provides Bourg with an international dimension.

Following this visit, we strolled through the historical centre, stopping off at the medieval timber homes with Renaissance façades. Built around the ducal castle, the medieval city was surrounded by ramparts. Despite the upheavals of history, its ancient quarters have kept many ruins intact. We discovered the Jacobean door, the half-timbered homes from the 15th and 16th centuries, the cathedral Notre-Dame built on posts, Hôtel Marron de Meillonas built in 1774, and the theatre built in grand style.

We attended a lecture on the advances made in the search for a cure for cancer by the European team situated at Alimentec. Here, Freda met Dominique St Pierre with whom she had worked to bring about the twinning of the two towns. We were treated to a further dinner – this time at 10.00pm after the lecture!

We were free to wander about on the Thursday morning, and the town of Bourg is fascinating with wonderful shops. David Mummery gave a dinner for his compatriots and for some members of the community who would be involved in exchanges in the future.

We returned to the UK on Friday 21 November, proud of our association with the people of Bourg. Once we had paid our fares, the French had met our entertainment and refreshment costs. It will be the same for any of the Association's members, and in these days of financial crises, it would be an option for all.

For those interested, Bourg has a web site in English at: www.ville-bourg-en-bresse.fr/homepage.

David J Mummery



'Bourg Walk' bridges the Channel



From left to right: Cllr Mrs Freda Roberts, Mme Suzanne Moccozet, Mayor Msr Guillaume Lacroix, Mme Charlotte Dominjon, Aylesbury's Mayor Cllr Mrs Penni Thorne, Mayoral Consort Joanne Potts, County Cllr Mrs Val Letheren and Ms Marie Vincent. Photo by David Mummery.

The new pedestrian bridge, named 'Bourg Walk' by Cllr Mrs Val Letheren, Chair of Transportation at Bucks County Council, was visited on Saturday 31 January by a delegation from Aylesbury's Twin Town, Bourgen-Bresse, in the South of France.

Msr Guillaume Lacroix (Maire Ajoint of Bourg), accompanied by Mme Suzanne Moccozet (President of International Relations, Bourg Council), Mme Charlotte Dominjon, (Municipal Advisor, International Relations) and Ms Marie Vincent, (also of the International Relations Department) joined Mayor Cllr Mrs Penni Thorne of Aylesbury and her Consort, together with Cllr Mrs Val Letheren, Cllr Mrs Freda Roberts and Mr David Mummery, (Chair of Aylesbury Twinning Association) for a walk along the new construction. The wind, whistling down from Siberia, was cutting, but the sun shone and the delegates were delighted with the experience.

The visit was arranged by Aylesbury Twinning, supported by Aylesbury Town Council. For a number of years now our schools have been exchanging pupils. It is hoped that this visit by Bourg delegates, in reciprocation of one made by Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot, (Town Council Representative on the Twinning

Association Committee) in April last year, and one by Cllr Mrs Freda Roberts and David Mummery in November, to Bourg, will help to create opportunities for exchanges of families in Aylesbury and Bourg. Already Bourg cyclists have arranged to come to Aylesbury next July.

The Town Council hopes that further links will be established between businesses, sports teams and leisure groups; and that both our Towns benefit greatly from this renewed friendship between our communities.

Margaret Wagstaffe
Town Clerk



From left to right: Mme Charlotte Dominjon, Ms Marie Vincent, Mme Suzanne Moccozet, Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot, Mayor Msr Guillaume Lacroix, Cllr Mrs Freda Roberts and David Mummery. Photo by Ray Ghent.

A busy 3 months for the Mayor



Celebration of the Bicentenary of the Napier Company at Buckingham Railway Centre

"As the Town Mayor I have been invited to officiate or attend at a very varied series of events and meetings" said the Town Mayor Cllr Mrs Penni Thorne. "Over the last three months I have been asked to attend over 50 such events."

The Mayor carried out a number of visits to local schools, including year 5 students at Turnfurlong Junior and a production of Oliver at Aylesbury High School. She also greeted exchange students from Bourg-en-Bresse. She was also present at the Junior Games at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, where many children from all over the country contributed to a very happy event.

The Town Council maintains close links with RAF Halton and local cadet groups. Penni attended the annual dinner of 60 (Royal Bucks Hussars) Signal Squadron; Remembrance Day Service; the Mandeville School Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church in Aylesbury, and the British Legion Poppy launch in Friars Square. Cllr Mrs Ranjula Takodra, the Deputy Mayor, attended the RAF High Wycombe Civic Reception, the 2409 Halton Squadron Presentation Evening at the Ex-Services Club and the AGM of the Sea Cadet Unit (at Sivatech).

Christmas is always a busy time for the Mayor. She held her annual Carol Service, which was well attended, at St Mary's Church and following this joined Dez Kay on his Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio show with her ten favourite songs. She went to the Chesham Town Carol Service and joined Santa's Parade. She also visited the MS Society at Wendover to see the work they do, and met many of their members.

Cllr Thorne joined the Aylesbury Festival Choir's Golden Anniversary celebration. (Her late mother was a long term member). A new piece of music was featured at the Aylesbury Festival Choir's Concert at St Mary's Church.

Queens Park Art Centre appeared twice on her agenda: she unveiled a plaque to the Aylesbury poet Vernon Scannell, and visited the Arts and Crafts Fair in November.

The Mayor also represented Aylesbury Town at the High Sheriff's Shriever Service at the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Buckingham, and, at the Chairman of Bucks C.C. Civic Service at the Holy Trinity Church in Penn.

Energy saving light bulb myth buster



Why use them?

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 80% less electricity, save you about £3 a year each, and last up to 12 times longer than old fashioned tungsten bulbs.

What are they?

Think of them as compact versions of the strip lights used in work places since the 1950s.

Have they improved?

You can now get all shapes and sizes, fittings and levels of brightness, including 150W equivalent and dimmable options. A recent survey of 761 shoppers, found that 64% preferred the light from them.

Is it better to leave them running?

No, switching them on uses the equivalent electricity as leaving them on for a few minutes. Most now light instantaneously.

How should I dispose of them?

Use the service your municipal tip provides for the safe disposal of fluorescent tubes.

Is mercury an issue?

Installing CFLs ought to help reduce the need for coal-fired electricity production – a major cause of global mercury emissions. CFLs contain mercury – about 5mg. Locked into its tube, this is harmless.

What should I do if I smash one?

Ventilate the room for 15 minutes. Put on rubber gloves, brush the bits into a bag, seal it and drop it at the tip next time you go.

Are tungsten bulbs banned?

No. Manufacturers have agreed to withdraw them for sale, starting with 100W this year, 60W in 2010 and 40W in 2011.

Where can I find out more?

Contact the Energy Saving Trust on **0800 512 012**.

Photo courtesy of Energy Saving Trust

Greening the Town Hall

In May 2008 a local company, Ardenham Energy, installed and commissioned a 10 kW solar PV array on the roof of Aylesbury Town Council's offices. After 8 months the system has generated 6,700 kWh, and is well on its way to generating 10,000 kWh in the first 12 months of operation. This will have saved 5.68 tonnes of CO₂ and reduced their electricity bill by nearly 60%.

This technology is now becoming more common on residential properties. The average house uses 4000 kWh (Units) each year, and with government grants available the return on investment is currently higher than a bank deposit account. With the available grant, a 2kW Array will cost around £7500 fully installed, and generate approximately 50% of the electricity each year. The energy can be used locally or exported and sold to the grid. The grants will end in 2010, and a mechanism called a "Feed In" tariff which will replace them has been announced by the Government.

A "Feed In" tariff will pay a premium for green generated electricity and by installing now the dual benefits of both grants and a "Feed In" tariff can be attained. Ardenham Energy will offer special terms for any residential property installing a solar PV system in the Aylesbury area.

Typical costs of systems are:

1 kWp £6,000 fully installed, 900 units per annum, Return on investment 3%

2 kWp £8,500 fully installed, 1800 units per annum, Return on investment 3.7%

For more information contact:

Ardenham Energy Ltd on 01296 331362 or info@ardenhamenergy.co.uk

Organising an event?

If you are organising an event for your community or activity group and would like some free publicity, why not put a notice in 'Aylesbury Town Matters'? If you are interested please contact Shirley Francis, Deputy Town Clerk at Aylesbury Town Council, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP. Call on 01296 425678 or email: s.francis@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



What's On March - July 2009

March

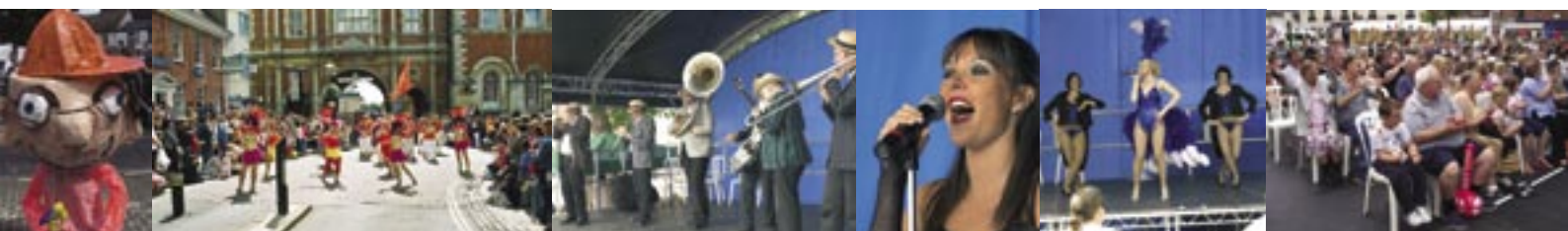
4	How to make a Mummy	Family	FREE		Bucks County Museum
6	Hilary James and Simon Mayor	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
7	Black Poplar and Willow Planting			10.00 - 2.00pm	Meadowcroft
7	Riverside Walk - Volunteers needed				Community Centre
7	Yoga Fundraiser (Tel: 01844 347162)	Adult	£20	2.00 - 5.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
7	Peter Grant		£18	8.00pm	Civic Centre
7	Open Mic Night	Adult	£4	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
7	Circus Workshops and Activities	Family	FREE	11.00 - 3.00pm	Kingsbury
11	Bucks Wildlife Highlights	Family	FREE		Bucks County Museum
14	Auction of Promises in aid of Age Concern	Adult	£10	7.00pm	Stoke Mandeville Community Centre
13	QPC Quiz Night	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
14	Poles Apart	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
18	Roman Mosaics	Adult	FREE		Bucks County Museum
20	Roadhouse	Adult	£8.50	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
21	Litter Picking			10.00 - 2.00pm	Meadowcroft
21	Riverside Walk - Volunteers needed				Community Centre
21	Heartbreak Theatre Co. Emma by Jane Austin	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
21 - 22	Kingsbury Dance Weekend	Family	FREE	11.00 - 3.00pm	Kingsbury
25	A Tudor Story from Bucks	Adult	FREE		Bucks County Museum
27	Katie Buckhaven	Adult	£9	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
28	El Aire (supper included)		£15.50	6.30pm	Queens Park Art Centre
28	Mad Hatters Roadshow	Family	FREE	11.00 - 3.00pm	Kingsbury

April

3	Alan Barnes Trio	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
4	Open Mic Night	Adult	£4	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
4	Scenes of Victorian Life Exhibition				Bucks County Museum
5	Music in Kingsbury		FREE	11.00 - 3.00pm	Kingsbury
6	Street Dance 12 - 17 year olds	Children	£16	10.00 - 3.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
7	Street Dance 7 - 12 year olds	Children	£16	10.00 - 3.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
10 - 11	Easter Egg Trail	Children	£1	11.00 - 3.00pm	King's Head
18	St George's Day	Family	FREE	11.00 - 4.00pm	Market Square
19	St George's Day Parade	Family	FREE	2.30pm	Town Centre
24	Mick Abrahams Band	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
25 - 26	Farmyard Funtime and Crafts	Children	FREE	11.00 - 4.00pm	Kingsbury
25	Uiscedwr	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
26	Strings and Things...and sealing wax		£8	7.30pm	Queens Park Art Centre

May

1	Aylesbury Comedy Club	Adult	£8	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
2	Open Mic Night	Adult	£4	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
3	The Green Fair	Family	FREE	11.00 - 3.00pm	Market Square
8	John Otway	Adult	£12.50	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
9	Funeral Games	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
10	Robot Wars	Family	FREE	11.00 - 3.00pm	Kingsbury



What's On March - July 2009

May (continued)

15	The Gary Fletcher Band	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
16	Quiz Night	Adult	£6	7.30pm	Queens Park Art Centre
17	Chiltern Hills Vintage Vehicle Rally	Family	Enquiries: 01296 631666		
17	Pottery Festival	Family		10.00 - 4.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
17	Music in Kingsbury African Adventure	Family	FREE	11.00 - 3.00pm	Kingsbury
24	Georgian Garden Party	Details: TBA			
26	Magic Streets Revealed 8 years+	Children	£23	10.00 - 3.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
26 - 27	Rubber Band Challenge 7 - 11 years	Children	£40	10.00 - 3.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
30	Jump	Adult	£8	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre

June

5	Tim Garland – The Lighthouse project	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
6	Open Mic Night	Adult	£4	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
6	Music on Summer Evening Aylesbury Choral Society for Age Concern	Family	£12	7.30pm	St Mary's Church
7	Music in Kingsbury	Family	FREE	11.00 - 1.30pm	Kingsbury
13 - 14	Italian Market	Family	FREE	9.00 - 4.00pm	Kingsbury
13	Dick Gaughan	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
19	Larry Miller Band	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
20	El Moreno – The Spanish Guitar	Adult	£9	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
20	On Two Wheels	Family	FREE	10.00 - 4.00pm	Kingsbury
21	Music in Kingsbury	Family	FREE	11.00 - 1.30pm	Kingsbury
26	Gig Night	Adult	£6	7.30pm	Queens Park Art Centre
27	QPC Race Night	Adult	£5	7.30pm	Queens Park Art Centre

July

3	Tanglefoot	Adult	£12	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
4	Roald Dahl Festival	Family	FREE	11.00am	Town Centre
4	Open Mic Night	Adult	£4	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
4 - 19	Aylesbury Festival - various cultural events at different venues in Aylesbury				
4 - 18	King's Head Festival (formerly Literary Festival)				
10	Storm Warning & Friends	Adult	£8.50	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
11	Musical Extravaganza Weekend	Family	FREE		Kingsbury
11	James Bond Themed Night	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
17	Bellydancing Showcase	Adult		8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre Tel: 07815 785779
18	Summer Ceilidh - Amber Willow	Family	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
19	Aylesbury On Sea	Family	FREE		Kingsbury
26	Jazz Festival	Family	FREE	11.00 - 3.00pm	Kingsbury

For details of events at Bucks County Museum Tel: 01296 331441, The King's Head Tel: 01296 718812,
The Civic Centre Tel: 01296 486009, Limelight Theatre Queens Park Art Centre Tel: 01296 424332

It's free, it's fun and fantastic for all!!

Please join us...

St George's Fun Day & Parade - Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 April

St George and the Dragon will be coming to Aylesbury on Saturday 18 April in Kingsbury from 10.00am – 4.00pm. Free entertainment will be provided for the event by Aylesbury Town Council. Celebrating St George's Day in traditional style the event will include Morris dancing, Clog dancing, Old English Folk songs, and the battle between St George and the Dragon.

The St George's Day Parade will take place on Sunday 19 April. Scouts, Councillors and Dignitaries will parade to St Mary's Church for a 3.00pm service.



Green Fair - Sunday 3 May

Aylesbury Town Council will be holding its second Green Fair this year in the Market Square from 11.00am – 4.00pm. The idea behind this event is to promote a more sustainable way of living and we hope to have local organisations represented, with everyone coming primarily from within Buckinghamshire. We would like to see representatives from locally produced food and drink, alternative energy, transport and insulation companies – the list is endless.



Farmyard Fun - Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 April

The countryside comes to town to give everyone the chance to feed, stroke and learn more about ducks, lambs, rabbits and many more farmyard animals.



Robot Wars - Sunday 10 May

Robot Wars is a 'must see' event. Come along and experience the carnage for yourself as the robots battle it out in the Kingsbury Arena. You can also meet the creators behind the robots and see the machines close up and personal. 'Smashing'!

Photos by Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership,
Aylesbury Town Council and Ray Ghent

Aylesbury Town Council

Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP
Tel: **01296 425678** Fax: **01296 426134**
Email: **info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk**
www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

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