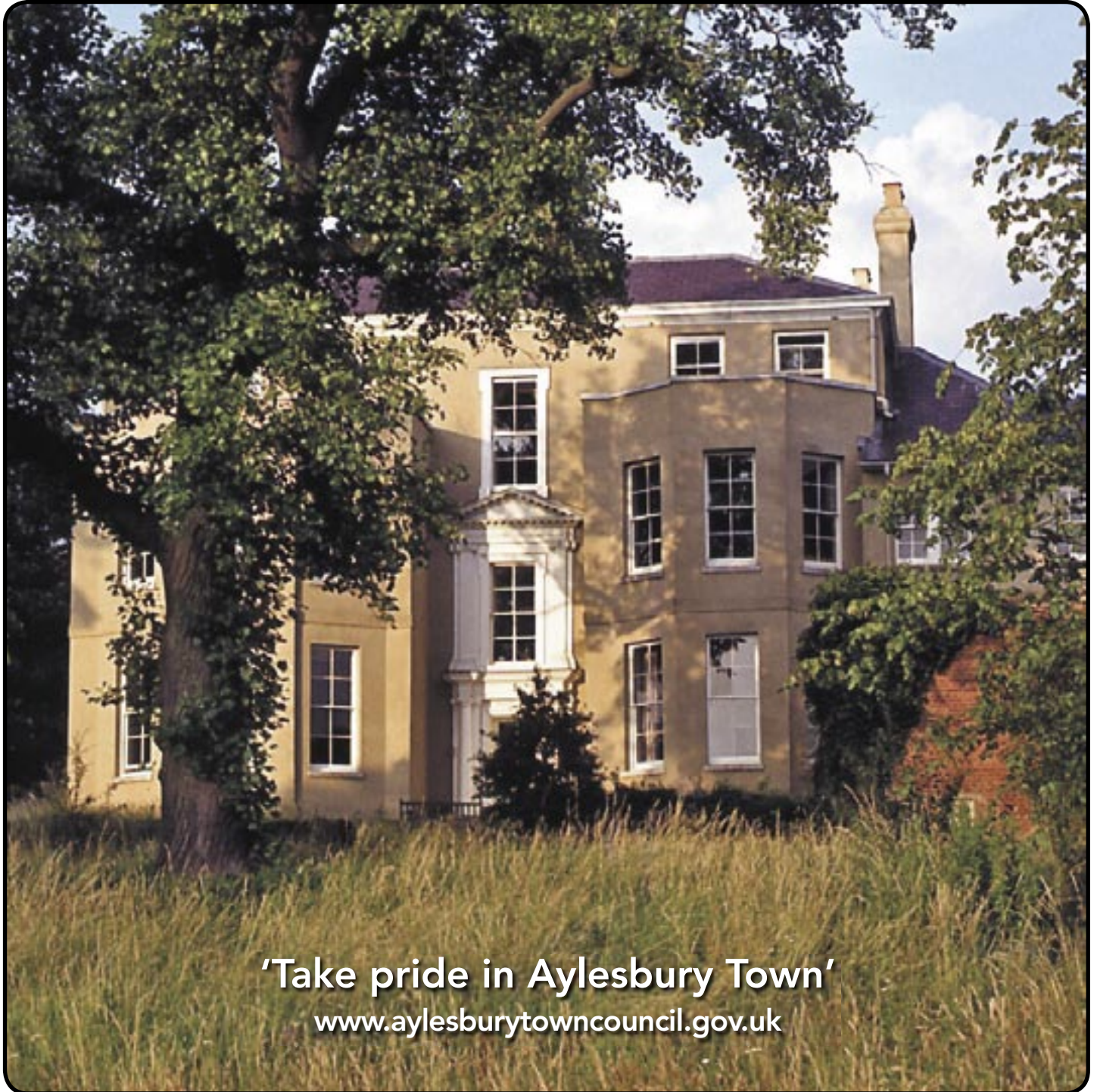


Aylesbury Town matters

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine
Issue Thirteen June 2009



Serving the people of Aylesbury



'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'

www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Inside this issue...

- Forthcoming events on page 4 • Bearbrook challenge on page 6
- Reactivate Bucks! on page 16 • Quarrendon Leas on page 17 • ATC Grants on page 20
- What's On June - September on page 22



Welcome Note

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of Aylesbury Town Matters. When the Town Council started to publish this magazine, its intention was to keep residents informed about what was happening in and around Aylesbury. Members felt that with national media outlets often focussing on bad news, it would be useful to spread some happier stories now and again, so that is what we do.

Good news for local people is that Aylesbury Town Council has only increased its precept by four pence per week to a 'D' Band householder for 2009 - 2010. The extra money raised by the Council will be invested in making our streets look cleaner and more attractive than ever.

Contents:

	Page
Welcome Note	Inside front cover
Aylesbury in Bloom / Britain in Bloom	3
Forthcoming events	4
Bearbrook challenge	6
Local news and events	8
Bourg Walk Bridge	10
Cycle Aylesbury	10
Community news	11
Town Councillors and Ward Map	12
Connexions	14
Cemetery Chapel re-opens and cemetery spring clean	15
Reactivate Bucks!	16
Quarrendon Leas	17
Bucks Fifty Plus Forum	18
Bucks County Council Drop-in Surgeries	18
How smart is your driving?	18
New Public Art	19
ATC Grants - March 2009	20
Mayoral Engagements	21
What's on June - September 2009	22
Tuesday market	Inside back cover
Aylesbury Showcase	Back cover

Front cover photo: One of Aylesbury's hidden gems – Prebendal House in Parson's Fee, formerly the home of John Wilkes, one-time radical MP of Aylesbury and known as the 'Father of English Liberty'. Photo taken in 1980 courtesy of The Aylesbury Society.

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

Last summer many of you wrote in to tell us how much you enjoyed the flower displays provided by the Town Council in the centre of Aylesbury. This year we hope to improve even more.

Although we are conscious of the need to spend ratepayers money carefully, we are also very conscious of the need to keep the Town centre alive.

To avoid losing shops and services we have to keep shoppers and visitors coming to Aylesbury, and the way the Town Council can help to do that is by making the centre look as beautiful as possible. We hope you will feel your money is being well spent.

The Town Council is committed to reducing Aylesbury's carbon footprint. One way to do this is to encourage people to leave their cars at home and to walk or cycle instead. The new Bourg Walk Bridge is featured inside, together with tips for lower-emission driving.

In this issue you will find lots of information about events in the centre this summer. Entertainments in Kingsbury, the Market Square and Vale Park are all free, so please do come along with the family and join in the fun.

We also have articles on the California Brook spring clean, Quarrendon Leas Ancient Memorial, how Buckinghamshire County hopes to give support to and benefit from the 2012 Olympics and much, much more, so read on and enjoy.

We have been getting some very positive feedback from our readers and we know you enjoy the magazine. We are always delighted to hear from you, so please keep sending the feedback. It is much appreciated.

Cllr Steve Patrick
Leader of the Council



All photos by Keith Turner



Aylesbury in Bloom

**Are you a keen gardener?
Is your front garden bright
and colourful?**

If so, why not enter Aylesbury in Bloom. It's fun, you make new friends and there are some very good prizes to be won. For more information please contact Shirley Francis on 01296 425678 or email: s.francis@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Britain in Bloom

Throughout the year Aylesbury Town Council provides floral displays on roundabouts and in flower troughs in the Town Centre, and this winter has been no exception. Residents have commented on the gorgeous displays of pansies in the troughs and daffodils and polyanthus on the verges and roundabouts.

Now, however, we are getting ready for the big event of the summer – Aylesbury's entry to Britain in Bloom. First things first, so we started with conditioning the soil. ATC was contacted and was offered 20 tons of horse manure for free if arrangements could be made to collect it.

Into the breach stepped Clancy Docwra, a major supplier of services to Utilities, Civil Engineering, Rail and the Building industry, who immediately agreed to help. On an overcast Wednesday morning a Clancy Docwra lorry turned up before 8.00am and decanted 20 tons of fine manure.

Within hours the manure had been distributed around the allotment site by keen plot holders wishing to improve their soil in order to grow bigger and tastier crops.

Margaret Wagstaffe



Forthcoming events

Aylesbury Town Centre comes into its own once spring arrives and the weather gets warmer. Residents sit outside the cafés in the Town's squares, enjoying a break in the sun, and if it gets too warm, children take advantage of the fountains to cool down.



The Centre will have lots to offer visitors and shoppers this summer. **Aylesbury Festival** starts with the **Roald Dahl Procession** on Saturday 4 July at about 11.00am.

The pageant will wind through Market Square and Kingsbury and the theme this year is **Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator**, much beloved of children and their parents throughout the country.



Aylesbury Festival runs from the 4 - 19 July. Events around the Town include a **Musical Extravaganza Weekend** in Kingsbury 11 - 12 July. For more information visit: www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

The annual visit to **Aylesbury on Sea**, will be on Sunday 19 July from 11.00am to 4.00pm. All the usual seaside treats, plus the 'End of the Pier' show.

This entertainment has become more and more popular every year since it first started.



Aylesbury's brilliant **Summer Music Festival** starts on Saturday 25 July and provides music to suit a variety of tastes in the Town Centre every Saturday and Sunday through to the end of August.

Also, not to be missed is **Proms in the Park** on Saturday 5 September at 7.30pm. A programme of classical music will be played by Aylesbury Concert Orchestra.



The popular **Charter Day** is on Sunday 13 September from 11.00am to 4.00pm when Aylesbury holds a mediaeval fair to celebrate the granting of its Charter.

Family favourites like the Ratcatcher, the Plague Singers and the Body Snatchers will be on hand, together with a variety of craftspeople demonstrating how different artefacts were made in days of yore.



Photos courtesy of Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership, Ray Ghent and Maurice Cousins.

Bearbrook challenge



The new Bourg Walk Bridge links the centre of Town with Southcourt and Aylesbury College. A substantial amount of money was invested in the path from the end of the bridge to the College, improving lighting and surfaces, but the area remained unattractive.

In the weeks before the official opening of the new bridge, Aylesbury Town Council was already auditing various walking routes into the Town Centre. One of them particularly stood out as needing attention. This was the path to the College, which also provides a route for Henry Floyd pupils and many commuters.

The Town Council surveyed the site and realised that a number of projects would have to be undertaken to ensure that the walk and cycle way would be considered safe and provide a pleasant route to travel along. These pictures show how overgrown the brook was and how much rubbish had accumulated on its banks.

A meeting of Town Council Officers with the PCSOs (Police Community Support Officer) for the area established that they and Aylesbury College were in the process of organising a clean-up. Together they contacted Aylesbury Constabulary, the Environment Agency, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust, the Fire Service and the local Residents' Association. The group decided to tackle all the problems and an overall plan for the area was agreed.

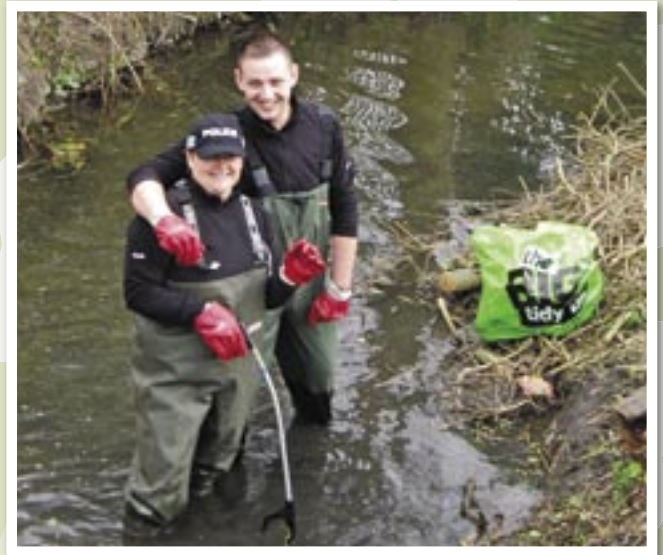
On 26 March Aylesbury Town Council supplied men and machines to cut back the matted banks and the overhanging trees and hedges. Cleared green waste was chipped on site and given to the horticultural section of the College.

The Environment Agency collected some of the rubbish (including shopping trolleys and old tyres) which were disposed of by AVDC. Aylesbury Police Officers, PCSOs, members of the Fire Authority, ATC staff and College students pulled on their waders and set about clearing the banks of the stream of many years worth of accumulated litter.

Benches were given a fresh coat of paint and ugly graffiti was removed. Members of the Residents' Association litter-picked the area. AVDC put up new bird boxes. In the autumn the Town Council will provide shrubs and bulbs as part of an on-going programme of improvement.

The path is now much cleaner and brighter, allowing residents to enjoy a brisk walk or cycle ride into Town in pleasant, attractive surroundings.

Keith Turner and Margaret Wagstaffe



The final result!



All photos by Margaret Wagstaffe

Local news and events

Aylesbury College Green Day

Aylesbury College held a 'green' Open Day on 26 March to emphasise the College's commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of Aylesbury. Cllr Mrs Penni Thorne, Mayor of Aylesbury, planted the first of 75 sponsored trees in the College grounds.

Inside the huge glass atrium was a range of exhibitions, with stands demonstrating composting and home food production and others supporting car sharing, recycling and fair trade. Cycle Aylesbury were there, convincing visitors of the convenience and health benefits of cycling. A free bike repair service was on offer.

BCTV, the charity for environmental and conservation volunteering throughout the UK were present, as were Oxfam. There were organic food cookery demonstrations and those present could visit the College's new wildlife centre. If you would like to sponsor a tree in the College grounds contact Kerry Marchant by email: greenspace@aylesbury.ac.uk or call 01296 588523.

Margaret Wagstaffe



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, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP. Call on 01296 425678 or email: s.francis@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Keeping up Appearances

As part of a Town Centre Action Group initiative Aylesbury Town Council will be giving the bollards in the Market Square a fresh coat of paint, ready for the summer. The Market Square has also benefited from re-laying of some of the cobbles where very uneven patches had developed, and the replacement of some patches of tarmac with Denner Hill setts. The statues have had a wash, whether they needed it or not, and pretty floral hanging baskets will add a splash of colour to the Square.

February newsletter from the Walton Court, Southcourt and Hawkslade Neighbourhood Policing Team

In response to problems with speeding, eight speed monitoring operations have taken place, focussed on Ellen Road and Churchill Avenue. Results include vehicle seizures, fifteen fines and two court cases.

Operation Falcon relating to tackling drug crime resulted in one hundred and forty subjects searched with two males being sentenced to between four and a half to six and a half years imprisonment, and an eviction from a Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust Property.

Other operations included Operation Blunt, which was carried out at one school and Aylesbury College. This is aimed at tackling knife crime culture, and reducing the number of youngsters carrying knives. Working in partnership with New Destiny Trust, the Team have now been able to educate three more schools. They hope to deliver this message to more schools during the year.

Crime prevention advice has been given, as well as timer light bulbs, to assist the Team with Operation Accurist to target night-time burglars.

Over the past year the Team have taken part in as much community engagement as possible, becoming involved with the Muslim ladies group at the Healthy Living Centre on Walton Court; Aylesbury Youth for Christ; Southcourt music studios and the 'Fatal Distraction' production at Mandeville School. Two PCSOs have been adopted by area churches and eight police surgeries were conducted for residents to ask questions and voice their opinions.

Crime prevention initiatives included seventy four bicycles being permanently marked at Ashmead Combined School; three truancy sweeps, and five new Neighbourhood Watch schemes being set up.



With the help of partner agencies Oak Green alleyway was cleared of graffiti and drugs paraphernalia, hedges were trimmed on Hawkslade estate, and four antisocial behavioural contracts have been given by the Housing Trust.

The Team welcome any new ideas the public may have for the forthcoming year that will enable them to continue to engage well within the community. Residents can contact any of the Team on 08458 505 505, or email via the details on the Thames Valley Police website. Please don't hesitate to report crime, or problems in your area.

Lastly the Team would like to inform people about a scheme for residents over 60 that offers home security checks. If you are interested please contact your local crime reduction department or neighbourhood officer on 08458 505 505.

**PCSO Katie Massey C9425
Walton Court & Hawkslade**

Message in a Bottle

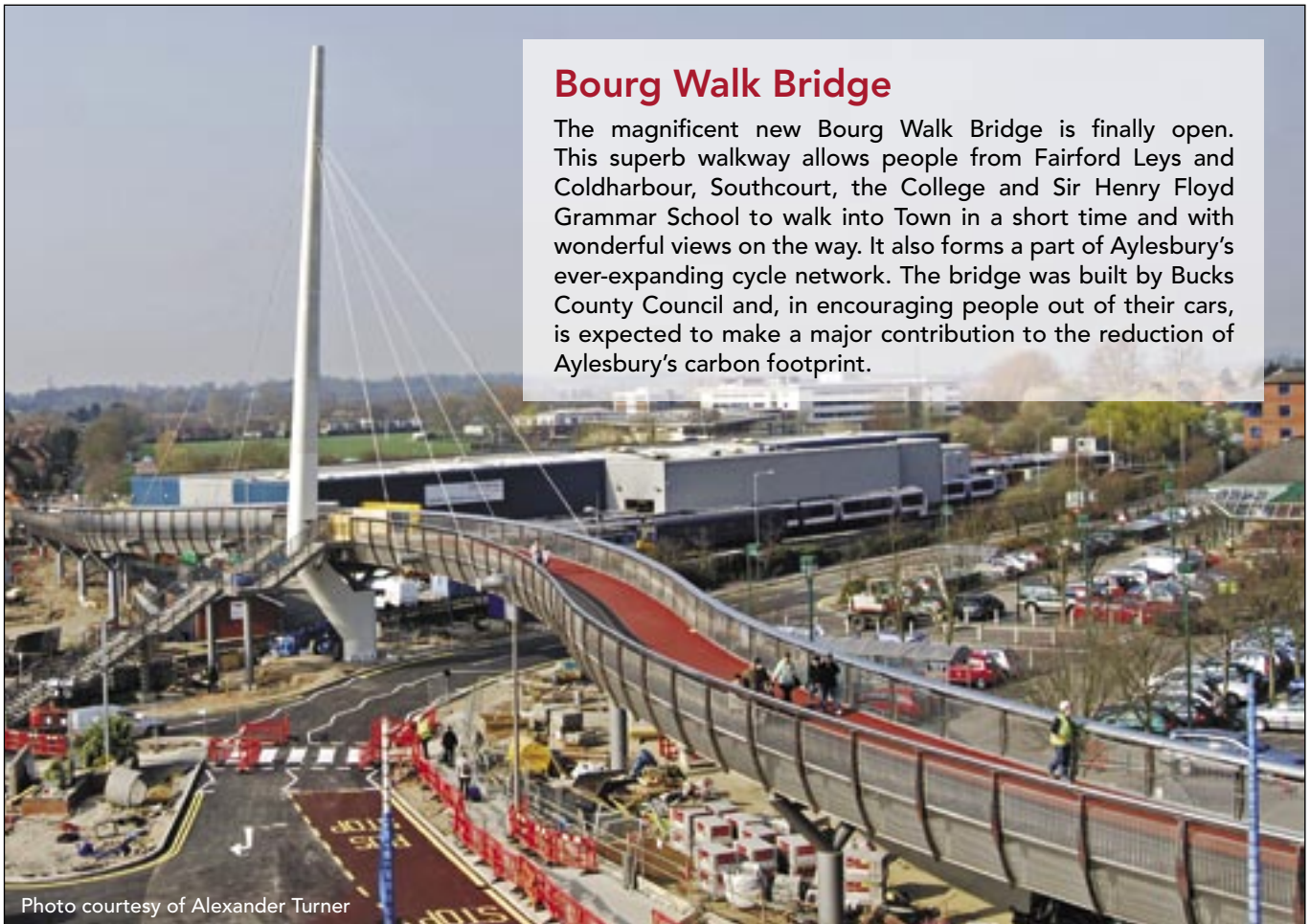
You may or may not have heard of the 'Message in a Bottle' scheme, but it basically consists of a plastic bottle containing a leaflet on which you can write your emergency contact details and medical history. The bottle is then placed prominently in your home refrigerator. Fire and ambulance services are well aware of it. It is simply a time saving and life saving idea.

Go to: www.lions.org.uk/health/miab/index.php or for further information contact Debbie Brown, Projects Officer, Adult Social Care, Bucks County Council, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1YU

Volunteers needed...

Thames Valley Police are recruiting volunteers from the community to join the Police Volunteer Support Team. Volunteers undertake a wide range of roles for Thames Valley Police, which are designed to enhance and complement the roles of Police Officers and Police Staff. These include Administration, CCTV Support, Community Safety, Front Counter, Neighbourhood Policing, Roads Policing Administration, Neighbourhood Watch, Horsecatch and many more!

If you have some time to spare and are interested in supporting your local police service, please telephone Sandra Cook, Volunteers Co-ordinator for Bucks on 08458 505 505 or email: sandra.cook@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk



Cycle Aylesbury – Raised Crossings and Cycle Crossovers

As part of our commitment to improving cycling facilities in Aylesbury, the Cycle Aylesbury team have been making a number of improvements to the continuity and profile of the Gemstone cycle network.

Taking advice from Sustrans and Cycling England and adapting examples used at other towns across the country, a number of new cycling crossovers and raised crossings have been installed. We have responded to comments from residents and cycling groups with concerns that cyclists were not safely crossing roads on the Gemstone cycle routes.

The following information describes the role of red surfacing and raised crossings and provides information on how they should be used:

Red surfacing has been applied across roads to show the continuation of the cycle ways. The routes are now complete and the red surfacing lets drivers see cyclists and pedestrians approaching. It is hoped that motorists will be more considerate and allow them to cross when they are waiting. The red surfacing does not provide increased priority for cyclists but it does show that a crossing is approaching. The 'SLOW'



markings, give way triangles and paving on the cycle ways are all refreshed to make it clearer to cyclists that they are approaching a crossing and that they will need to take care as they cross the road.

Raised crossings raise the profile of the road to the same height as the cycle way and provide a level crossing point. Red surfacing shows that cyclists will be crossing but does not give extra priority for cyclists. Motorists should see cyclists and pedestrians approaching the crossing point and allow them to cross when they are waiting. For more information please visit: www.cycleaylesbury.co.uk

Community news

Off to France to show them how the 'Beautiful Game' is played!

Young footballers from Aylesbury are off to Bourg-en-Bresse in the summer, to play fixtures with Bourg pupils. The team is mainly self financing, with funds being raised from parents and families, but the Town Council has helped with a grant for travelling and accommodation. We hope they have a wonderful time, make lots of new French friends and come home having achieved sporting glory!

Want to Beat the Cowboys? - Buy With Confidence

The **Buy With Confidence** scheme provides Buckinghamshire residents with a list of local businesses that have been vetted and approved by Trading Standards. Consumers can have peace of mind when using an approved member because they have all been individually checked for trustworthiness and compliance with consumer protection laws. In the unlikely event of a problem arising approved members abide with the Scheme's Code of Practice, which defines the minimum standards required to deliver good customer service. To find a tradesman you can trust visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or call 08454 04 05 06. If you think your business could make the grade and would like more information contact Gina Green at ggreen@buckscc.gov.uk or call 01296 383919.

Are you cultivating a future champion?

Do you know a youngster who is a potential world beater? Whether you are a parent, relation, teacher, sports leader or just an interested neighbour, we'd like to hear from you. Young athletes need mentors and facilities. They also need to pay competition entrance fees, accommodation costs and travel expenses, and buy good equipment. It all costs a lot of money and it would be a great shame if a future medallist was unable to develop his or her talent through lack of funds.

Aylesbury Town Council is considering making grants to assist young athletes of proven ability to develop their sporting careers. If you believe you know someone who warrants assistance, contact the Council on 01296 425678 for further information.

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is an active partnership with the police and one of the biggest and most successful crime prevention initiatives. Neighbourhood Watch schemes can cut crime and the opportunities for crime; help and reassure those who live in the area and encourage people to become neighbourly, resulting in closer communities.

If you would like to get involved in Neighbourhood Watch you will want to find out about other schemes and how they operate. Your local police will tell you if there is a scheme in your area or help you set up one of your own. Please contact your local PCSO or telephone on 08458 505 505.

Become a Volunteer School Governor

Aylesbury and its surrounding area schools need people like you. Buckinghamshire at present has more than 100 governor vacancies in infant, junior and senior schools and Aylesbury schools are particularly in need. If you would like to make a contribution to your local community you could consider volunteering to become a school governor.

School governors undertake a range of responsibilities including allocating budgets, appointing senior staff, making decisions on the school's policies and planning its future direction. Anyone over 18 is welcome to apply. You do not need to have any specific skills or prior knowledge of the education system.

Remember that as well as helping local children you will have the chance to develop your own skills and experiences. If you are interested in this challenging and rewarding role and would like more information about the role and vacancies in your area please contact **The School Governors' One-Stop Shop** on 020 7354 9805, email: info@sgoss.org.uk or go to: www.sgoss.org.uk

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



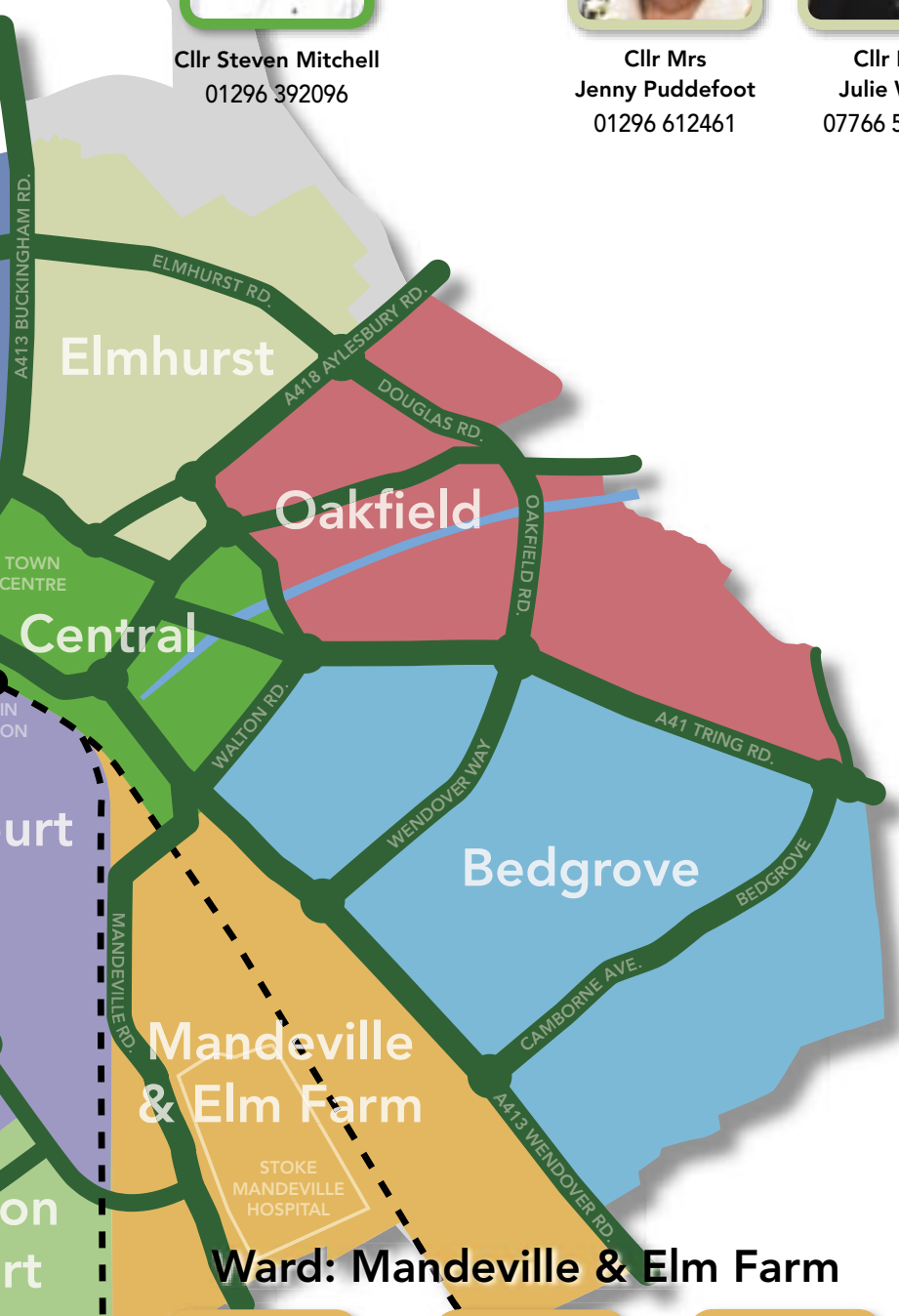
Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot
01296 612461



Cllr Mrs Julie Ward
07766 545236



Cllr Mohammed Amjad
07956 803458



Ward: Oakfield

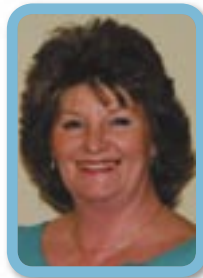


Cllr Graham Webster
01296 483416



Cllr Steve Patrick
01296 424986

Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr Mrs Jenny Bloom
07729 011501



Cllr Alan Sherwell
01296 420672

Ward: Mandeville & Elm Farm



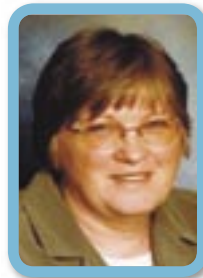
Cllr Mrs Denise Summers
01296 336731



Cllr Mrs Sue Chapple
01296 426814



Cllr Brian Roberts
01296 422881



Cllr Mrs Penni Thorne
01296 422232



Cllr Mark Willis
01296 586109

Connexions offers support for young people at exam time



With exam results day looming, young people's advice and support service Connexions is able to offer advice if your results are higher or lower than expected or if you don't have any final plans in place.

There is a range of options to consider before taking the next step, including the world of work, apprenticeships, taking a gap year, volunteering or higher education. If your results are higher than you expected and if you haven't already applied to university, it's not too late – there are places available through clearing.

If you have applied to a higher education institute and your grades are lower than your offer, call the admissions team as soon as you can to see whether they will still accept you.

You shouldn't feel pressurised into going to University just because everyone else seems to be. There is the option to explore courses in colleges or to take the two-year Diploma in a range of subject areas to gain valuable practical and theoretical skills for entering the workplace.

Want to start earning?

If you can't wait to get out and start earning, it's possible in certain jobs to gain further qualifications or to study for a degree whilst working either part or full-time. Apprenticeships allow you to start work and earn a decent wage, while learning new skills that will lead to nationally recognised qualifications. The new Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching System enables you to search and apply online. For more information visit: www.apprenticeships.org.uk.

If you know the kind of work you want to get into, you may already have done some work experience

and have contacts in the industry. You can use these alongside Connexions to explore local and further afield options.

Although there are jobs out there, it is important that you choose a job with prospects, enabling you to continue to train and learn essential new skills whilst earning.

Connexions Personal Advisers (PAs) are available throughout the summer at the Connexions centre in Temple Street, Aylesbury and can help you make

your choice by discussing your skills and listening to your ideas and then agreeing some possible careers to investigate.

PAs can:

- Provide you with all the information and options available to help you decide which career may suit you best
- Help you to use careers guidance computer packages
- Help you to access careers information resources
- Provide you with current job vacancy lists
- Support you in writing a CV or application letter
- Help you to apply for jobs
- Give you tips on how to succeed at job interviews
- Provide you with internet access to help you with your job search.

Connexions works closely with local employers which gives us access to many job vacancies not advertised in the local media.

To find out more contact the Connexions centre in Temple Street, Aylesbury. You can just drop in or if you would prefer to make an appointment call 0845 217 1366. For more information visit: www.connexionsbucks.org.uk



Contact us

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, 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

Cemetery Chapel re-opens

Chapel refurbishment

Following on from the article in our March issue the Cemetery Chapel refurbishment is now complete. The ceramic radiant heaters have been re-positioned to provide better localised area heating, whilst both the new Lincoln green carpets and seating complement the interior re-decoration.

New floral displays have been provided by Valerie the Florist (High Street) and the Chaplain from Stoke Mandeville Hospital kindly donated an alter cloth to complete the transformation.

The project took less than one month, and although the seating had to be sourced from a specialist manufacturer, all other work was undertaken by local trades and suppliers.

David Cooper
Cemetery Manager



Photo by Roger King

Cemetery spring clean

Regular visitors to the Cemetery will have noticed that it is looking manicured. This is down to the efforts of the Town Council's Direct Labour team, managed by Robert Taft. The Cemetery team consists of Daniel Dew, Aaron Poulton and David Daley.



Photos by Margaret Wagstaffe

Reactivate Bucks! Community Challenge



Would you like to *Reactivate* your community or workplace?

'Reactivate Bucks!' is a campaign to use the power and inspiration of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to get more people in Bucks participating in sport.

The Community and Workplace Challenge is a key element of the campaign and challenges local businesses and communities to get more active, backed up by a package of support, resources and incentives provided by Bucks Sport and our partners.

The Challenge:

Businesses, Parish and Town Councils, and other relevant community groups are invited to take up the Reactivate Bucks! Community Challenge. You will need to identify a member of the community to be our contact person and the voluntary 'Reactivator' for your area, who will help identify and promote existing opportunities to get active in your community.

It is hoped that you will establish at least 1 new activity per year in your area, identify people who would like to gain a skill through training to lead sessions, and provide monitoring information to feed back to our funders as appropriate.

Our Offer:

Bucks Sport, in partnership with Aylesbury Town Council and your Local Authority Sports Development team, will provide an allocated project officer to provide advice and guidance on identifying community needs, applying for funding and grants, and generating ideas for developing new activities, promotion and health and safety, etc.

In addition, we have a number of opportunities for your area to link into elements of the campaign. For example, session leaders/coaches are available through our coach agency, Impact Sports Coaching. Everyone has an opportunity to join in our Reactivate Bucks! 'Try it Weeks' and 'Return to Sport' activities. If you have access to a local pool, why not join our 'Make a Splash' swimming and aquatics project. For older people in your community, join our Active4life campaign, providing activities for 50+, or for younger people, funding may be available through our Sport Unlimited project. We can offer support to establish a new mass participation event as part of our 'Take to the Streets' campaign. We will provide training and mentoring support for sports leadership and coaching.

To register interest or for more information contact Bucks Sport on 01296 585215 or email: info@buckssport.org. This is initially a pilot project and we will work with the first 10 organisations who respond. So don't delay, get in touch today!



Quarrendon Leas

To many, Quarrendon is a suburb of Aylesbury built in the 1950s and extended in the 1980s, but, in fact, the name comes from a deserted village situated on the other side of the River Thames. It may have derived from the Old English Cweorndun meaning 'hill where mill stones are obtained'. There is evidence to suggest that the village dates back to Anglo Saxon times, as the village was reputedly the birthplace of local saint St Osyth.

Quarrendon is an outstanding example of an English village that was depopulated in the 16th century and redeveloped in Tudor times with the construction of a grand manor with moat and landscape incorporating much of the site of the village and its chapel. Fortunately, because the area has been maintained as grassland for over three centuries, the outline of these features has largely been preserved.

Quarrendon Leas is protected by law as a scheduled ancient monument, but over the next few years will be affected by housing developments at Berryfields to the west and Weedon Hill to the east. However, a legal agreement allows Quarrendon Leas to be transferred from its current owners, Taylor-Wimpey, to the newly formed Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust once 300 houses have been occupied at Berryfields.

The Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust has been set up by Buckinghamshire County Council, with the support of Aylesbury Town Council and the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, to help conserve and enhance the County's historic and natural heritage, and promote public appreciation of this rich inheritance. Its first project is to care for the ancient monument at Quarrendon Leas, and with funding from Aylesbury Vale Advantage, Buckinghamshire County Council and English Heritage, work is underway to improve public access within the site with a new path. This will be suitable for disabled users and will run for 700m from the eastern edge of the new Berryfields development, past the ruined church of St Peter, to a

water-filled moat, which is believed to have encircled a mansion built by Sir Henry Lee in the 16th century. The new path follows the historic road into Quarrendon from Berryfields Lane, which before the 18th century was the main Aylesbury to Buckingham Road.

Sir Henry Lee used this approach to show off his wealth to best effect. The Lee family had become wealthy through the cattle business and as a consequence, gained access to the royal court enabling Sir Henry to become a favourite of Elizabeth I. She was reputedly entertained at Quarrendon Manor by Sir Henry in 1592. At Quarrendon, the Lees replaced the old mediaeval village with a mansion, a grand water garden featuring high embanked walkways, and an elaborate rabbit warren, making it a pleasure-ground fit to entertain royalty.



Sir Henry eventually went bankrupt, leaving the mansion and gardens to fall into disrepair but, unlike most grand Tudor houses, nothing was constructed over it so the historic ruins and gardens are still visible. A farm replaced the mansion, but this was eventually demolished in the 1970s.

The only remaining building in the old village is the ruined church of St Peter which in an early 19th century magazine article was described as 'a melancholy object of contemplation'. Until the 1930s there were substantial remains – old aisles with octagonal piers and double-chamfered arches. All that remains now are two low sections of wall and the foot of one of the south aisle buttresses.

Over the next few years Quarrendon Leas will be enhanced with interpretation boards and will prove to be a great asset to the people of Aylesbury.

Roger King

With thanks to Sandy Kidd, County Archaeologist

Photos by Roger King

Bucks Fifty Plus Forum

The Bucks Fifty Plus Forum is an umbrella organisation for a number of autonomous older people's action groups around the county of Buckinghamshire.

A recent report written by John Elbourne, 'Review of Older People's engagement with Government', made a number of key recommendations and the subsequent Government response, 'Empowering Engagement: A stronger voice for older people', reports their vision for future strategy. At the heart of the response, the Government supports the case for a new 'UK Advisory Council on Ageing' to provide a stronger, clearer and louder voice for older people at a National level. Regional Forums on Ageing will be set up, where they do not already exist. The Government also plans to strengthen the network of local authority Forums; to encourage the appointment of local authority champions, and to support the setting up of local forums where none exist. This will help to ensure that older people can have real influence on the development of local services and policies.

This structure already exists in Buckinghamshire and the Bucks Fifty Plus Forum is cited as a respondent to the original report by John Elbourne. Groups already exist in Burnham, Chesham, Marlow, Marlow Bottom, Chalfont St Peter, Old Amersham, Stokenchurch and Lane End and are involved in a diverse range of campaigns to ensure good service provision for the elderly in their areas.

If you would like to know more please contact Lynne Kuschel, MBE., 59 Stanley Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks. HP7 9BB, Telephone: 01494 433551.



Buckinghamshire County Council Adult Social Care department are holding a series of 'drop-in surgeries' across the county. The surgeries are for members of the public to come and ask the department for advice and guidance about what is currently available to them, a family member or a member of their community.

Also present will be the local Police Community Support Officer offering crime prevention and reduction advice, and the Local Area Technician from the Transportation Department who will be able to discuss issues relating to the county's highways.

If you are interested please pop along to the next surgery being held at The Healthy Living Centre Walton Court from 12 noon – 2.00pm on 4th June 2009.

If you would like to have more information please contact Karen Adamson on 0845 370 8090 or: kadamson@buckscc.gov.uk or www.buckscc.gov.uk

How smart is your driving?

Most car drivers could be travelling a lot further on a tank of fuel. No new car is required – just a change to smarter driving. Try these tips:

- Shift up the gears earlier (between 2000 and 2500rpm). Cruising comfortably in 5th gear is the best place to be.
- Cut your top speed. Wind resistance increases significantly with speed. The optimum speed for fuel efficiency is 45 – 50mph.
- Avoid unnecessary braking by anticipating the traffic ahead. Fluid motion is better than stop start.
- When slowing down, stay in gear and take your foot off the accelerator as early as possible. This reduces fuel consumption to near zero.
- Plan your route to avoid congestion or getting lost.

Smarter driving could save you the equivalent of about one months worth of fuel each year. For more money saving tips, contact the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012.



Photo by Keith Turner



New Public Art

Bucks County Council has commissioned the largest piece of ceramic art in Europe to enhance Aylesbury Bus Station. Instead of the old grimy brick walls that used to greet travellers, this creation offers passengers a sunny vista of blue skies, rolling hills and green dales. It all helps to make the use of public transport more attractive and enjoyable. The design, which was financed by funding from a variety of organisations, was created by Laura Boswell and the project was managed by Dan Clucas.



Photos by Margaret Wagstaffe

ATC Grants - March 2009

Aylesbury Vale Youth Theatre is a theatre company involving people aged between 16 and 21 years in every aspect of theatre-making, from acting, directing and music to technical, stage management and production. They aim to provide training through workshops and short courses. Involvement in the company activities is free. They received a grant for £2,000. This year they are staging productions of Mack and Mabel and Last Easter, together with a performance with Jigsaw Theatre Company.

Queens Park Arts Centre staged their 2nd Pottery Festival which took place in April and May. There were talks by well-known potters, exhibitions, demonstrations, competitions and children's workshops. £2,000 was granted.

Ryder Cheshire Volunteers received a grant of £2,000 to help fund volunteer recruitment and training. Ryder Cheshire Volunteers provide opportunities for people with physical disabilities to take up leisure, sporting and educational activities which may be based in their own homes. These include computer skills, art, swimming, knitting, ten pin bowling and many more activities. They arrange coach outings to places such as the London Eye or Kew Gardens and regularly meet up for pub lunches.

Blues and Twos Community Tag Rugby is a sports initiative created by two PCSOs covering the Elm Farm and Mandeville areas. They received £2,000 to stage a Tag Rugby Festival and buy equipment. The first event of Tag Rugby held in July 2008 attracted 38 young people from the age of 5 to 16 years old who were split into different age groups. Parents of the children and residents were able to actively get involved and some sessions had up to 80 people playing.

Shakti Women's Group were awarded £300 to take members on a theatre trip. The group promote multi-cultural activities and are working towards raising the profile of women who do not have a voice of their own. They are affiliated to the Indian Cultural Society. The group meet monthly and it's an opportunity for ladies to socialize, develop new hobbies and develop organisational skills. They have a membership of 50 ladies and raise money for charity through the production of their own cookery book.

Bucks Association for the Blind and Partially Sighted People received £750 towards funding their annual DeFraigne Competition. Members of the association submitted arts and crafts at this special day and trophies were presented.

The **Aylesbury Methodist Church** have recently had new and improvement work carried out. They received £800 towards new furniture for the entrance hall. The building is not only used for church activities but is also hired out to many community groups.

Bucks CC Football Club (under 12 colts) are to visit Aylesbury's twin town of Bourg-en-Bresse in the summer for 4 days and play three football matches. They received £2,000 towards travel and accommodation costs.

Future Inspirations are starting up coffee mornings fortnightly and requested funding for equipment and new toys. These will be used as a tool to support women with personal, isolation and health issues. Aylesbury Town Council granted them £1,000.

Neighbourhood Police Team received a grant of £589 to purchase three bicycles for PCSOs in the Central Ward. The area covered is quite extensive and it will be really useful for them to be able to travel more quickly, especially when following suspects.

The **New Roxette** received a further £1,000 towards the cost of producing their newsletter which highlights the music scene around Aylesbury.

Pat Phillips

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.



Cllrs Mrs Pat Jamieson and Tom Ahmed present a cheque to Hazells Bowls Club for alterations to the kitchen and disabled toilet.
Photo by Keith Turner



Mayor's Charity Dinner February 2009 at Aylesbury College. From left to right: Peter Thorogood, High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, Paul Rushton, Clare Strong, Paralympic Competitor, Cllr Mrs Penni Thorne, Mike Brace OBE, Cllr Mrs Ranjula Takodra and Mrs L Thorogood. Photo courtesy of The Bucks Herald.

Mayoral Engagements

On 14 February, Aylesbury Town Mayor Cllr Mrs Penni Thorne attended the Lions Bowls & Quiz Night at Stoke Mandeville Stadium Bowls Centre where she and other visitors joined in the quiz. Mrs Thorne once again enjoyed meeting some of the GB archers she had first encountered when she opened their last international event before the Beijing Paralympics.

On 20 February Cllr Thorne attended the Lions Club Charity Concert at Stoke Mandeville Community Centre. The enjoyable concert was given by a male voice choir formed from a school formerly based in Chesham.

The Mayor's Annual Charity Dinner was held on 21 February at Aylesbury College. A superb meal, co-ordinated by College Master Chef Toby Hall (two Michelin Star rated), was cooked and presented by Catering Students. £1,000 was raised for WheelPower, the British Wheelchair Sports Association (see photo above).

On 22 February Penni attended the Girlguiding World Thinking Day at St. Mary's Church. The object of the event was to consider aspects of disease and how it spreads. Guides, Brownies and Rainbows from all over Aylesbury attended.

28 February brought the Aylesbury Club Annual Duck Dinner, which was held at the TA Centre. Again, the meal was cooked and served by Aylesbury College and the duck was brought into the dining room, accompanied by a piper, toasted and ceremoniously carved at the start of the meal. Those dining reported that the meal with the special club sauce was delicious.

On 1 March Cllr Thorne attended the Mayor of Leighton Linlade's Civic Service and on 2nd the Rotary Annual Technology Tournament at Aylesbury College, where she presented the prizes. The Rotary challenge this year was to create a structure to fire a small ball up vertically. There proved to be various innovative ways to achieve this but unfortunately they did not all perform perfectly at the allotted time. Nonetheless the competition was great fun and enjoyed by all of the competing teams.

The 5 March brought the Samaritans AGM at Dr. Challoner's Grammar School and the next day Cllr Thorne attended the Womens World Day of Prayer at the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

On the 7 March Cllr Thorne attended a fund-raising dinner, prepared by the Business students of Aylesbury College. Aylesbury College Business Foundation Degree students were given an assignment: to devise and hold an event to raise money for a charity. They chose Youth Concern, and arranged and cooked a splendid dinner which was served in the Hardings Restaurant. After dining the Mayor went into the kitchens to congratulate the student chefs.

On 11 March Penni attended the Soroptimist International Women's Day at Aylesbury College.

Margaret Wagstaffe



What's On June - September 2009

June

1	The Friars Aylesbury: Anniversary Concert	Family		8.00pm	Civic Centre
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	Family	£12	7.30pm	St Mary's Church
	Aylesbury Choral Society for Age Concern				
7	Music in Kingsbury	Family	FREE	11.00 - 1.30pm	Kingsbury
11	Ralph McTell	Adult	£18.50	8.00pm	Civic Centre
11	Victorian Home and Hearth	Family	£7.50	6.30pm	Bucks County Museum
12	Comedy Club	Adult	£9/£8	8.00pm	Civic Centre
13 - 14	Italian Market	Family	FREE	9.00 - 4.00pm	Kingsbury
13	Dick Gaughan	Adult	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
14	Back to Broadway	Adult	£15	7.30pm	Civic 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
26	The Electric Light Orchestra Greatest Hits Tour	Adult	£16	8.00pm	Civic Centre
27	QPC Race Night	Adult	£5	7.30pm	Queens Park Art Centre
27	The Tales of Peter Rabbit	Family	£7.50/£26	2.30pm	Civic Centre

July

1	Five Star Swing	Family	£9.50	2.30pm	Civic Centre
3	Tanglefoot	Adult	£12	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
4	Roald Dahl Festival	Family	FREE	11.00am	Town Centre
	Roald Dahl Day (small charge for some activities*)	Family	FREE*	11.00 - 3.00pm	The King's Head
4	Cancer Research Relay for Life Fete	Family		12.00 - 4.00pm	Aylesbury Rugby Club
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)				
5	That'll be the Day	Adult	£18.50	7.30pm	Civic Centre
9	An Evening of Music - details TBA	Adult - For details call 01296 381501			The King's Head
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
11	Art and Craft Day	Family	FREE	11.00 - 3.00pm	The King's Head
12	Sally Morgan	Adult	£19.50	7.30pm	The King's Head
16	An Evening of Music - details TBA	Adult - For details call 01296 381501			The King's Head
17	Bellydancing Showcase	Adult		8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre Tel: 07815 785779
18	Food Fair	Family	FREE	11.00am	The King's Head
18	Summer Ceilidh - Amber Willow	Family	£10	8.00pm	Queens Park Art Centre
19	Aylesbury On Sea	Family	FREE		Kingsbury
25	Summer Music Festival	Family	FREE	Lunchtimes	Kingsbury
26	Jazz Festival	Family	FREE	11.00 - 3.00pm	Kingsbury



What's On June - September 2009

August

5	Play in the Park	Family	FREE	11.00 - 3.00pm	Vale Park
23	Hobble on the Cobbles	Family	FREE	12.00 - 7.00pm	Market Square & Kingsbury

September

4 - 5	French Market	Family		10.00 - 4.00pm	Market Square
5 - 6	Parklife	Family	FREE		Vale Park
5	Proms in the Park	Family	FREE	7.30pm	Vale Park
13	Charter Day - Tudor Fayre	Family	FREE	11.00 - 4.00pm	Market Square
23	An Evening with Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson	Adult	£24.50	7.30pm	Civic Centre
27	Music in Kingsbury	Family	FREE	11.00 - 1.30pm	Kingsbury

For details of events at Bucks County Museum Tel: 01296 331441, The King's Head Tel: 01296 381501, The Civic Centre Tel: 01296 486009, Limelight Theatre Queens Park Art Centre Tel: 01296 424332

All details correct at time of going to press.



Tuesday is the day for bric-a-brac hunters in Aylesbury

The lively Flea Market offers everything for the collector from china through coins and medals to antique furniture and artefacts.

On a sunny day, pottering round the stalls in search of a find or just a good bargain is thoroughly entertaining. And who knows – if you do discover an unrecognised gem, you might make a tidy bob or two.



Aylesbury Showcase promises a summer of fun, music and live entertainment!

Local events team Aylesbury Showcase are working hard to organise and arrange another fantastic music extravaganza for the people of Aylesbury this summer...

JUNE 2009 sees a revival of **FRIARS**, for one night, with a very special gig at the Aylesbury Civic Centre to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the famous club, which first opened its doors in Aylesbury on 2 June 1969.

Working closely with original promoter and organiser David Stopps, Aylesbury Showcase MD Stuart Robb explains there will be an exclusive gig on Monday 1 June, featuring some very special bands, all of whom previously played at the Friars Club during 'Phase One' (1969 - 1970). More events are scheduled for later in the year. Full details and further information will be released on the official Friars website shortly:

www.Aylesburyfriars.co.uk

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 JULY sees the return of the popular Aylesbury Festival. This two-day music event will feature a number of school bands performing live on the Saturday, with the Sunday event being similar to a 'mini Hobble on the Cobbles', whereby a number of local up-and-coming bands will appear across the two stages, to perform between 11.00am – 4.00pm in Kingsbury in the centre of town.

Aylesbury Showcase have selected a number of key emerging bands to perform over the two-days including *The Red Bullets*, *Slashed Seat Affair*, *Civilized Tears*, *Claire Batchelor*, *Reason 6*, *The Bad Habits* and *Lightbox* to name but a few of the fantastic bands already confirmed. For full details visit:

www.AylesburyFestival.com



This **AUGUST** the Hobble on the Cobbles music festival will take place in Aylesbury Market Square and Kingsbury on Sunday 23 August, commencing at midday and running till 7.00pm.

HOTC will be headlined this year by popular local 80s electro-pop band **Kajagoogoo**, who have recently reformed with their original line-up after 25 years, giving Aylesbury another major coup, following the unforgettable 'one-off' reunion in 2007, which saw **Fish** reunite with his former band-mates **Marillion** to perform their debut single 'Market Square Heroes' to an emotional and enthusiastic Aylesbury crowd.

This year HOTC will also be helping to raise money for a local charity: **The Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust**. Donations can be made quickly, easily and are totally secure via the official fundraising website: www.justgiving.com/HobbleOnTheCobbles



For full details visit: www.AylesburyShowcase.com

FREE local music magazine The New Roxette will be available each month with all the latest news, reviews and interviews from all the bands performing throughout the summer, and is available from Aylesbury Music, Civic Centre, The Harrow, and numerous other bars, venues, cafés and studios throughout Buckinghamshire. For full details visit: www.theNewRoxette.com

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

Designed and printed by

bluepepperdesigns
creative design and print

Telephone. **01296 424699** Website. www.bpdesigns.co.uk