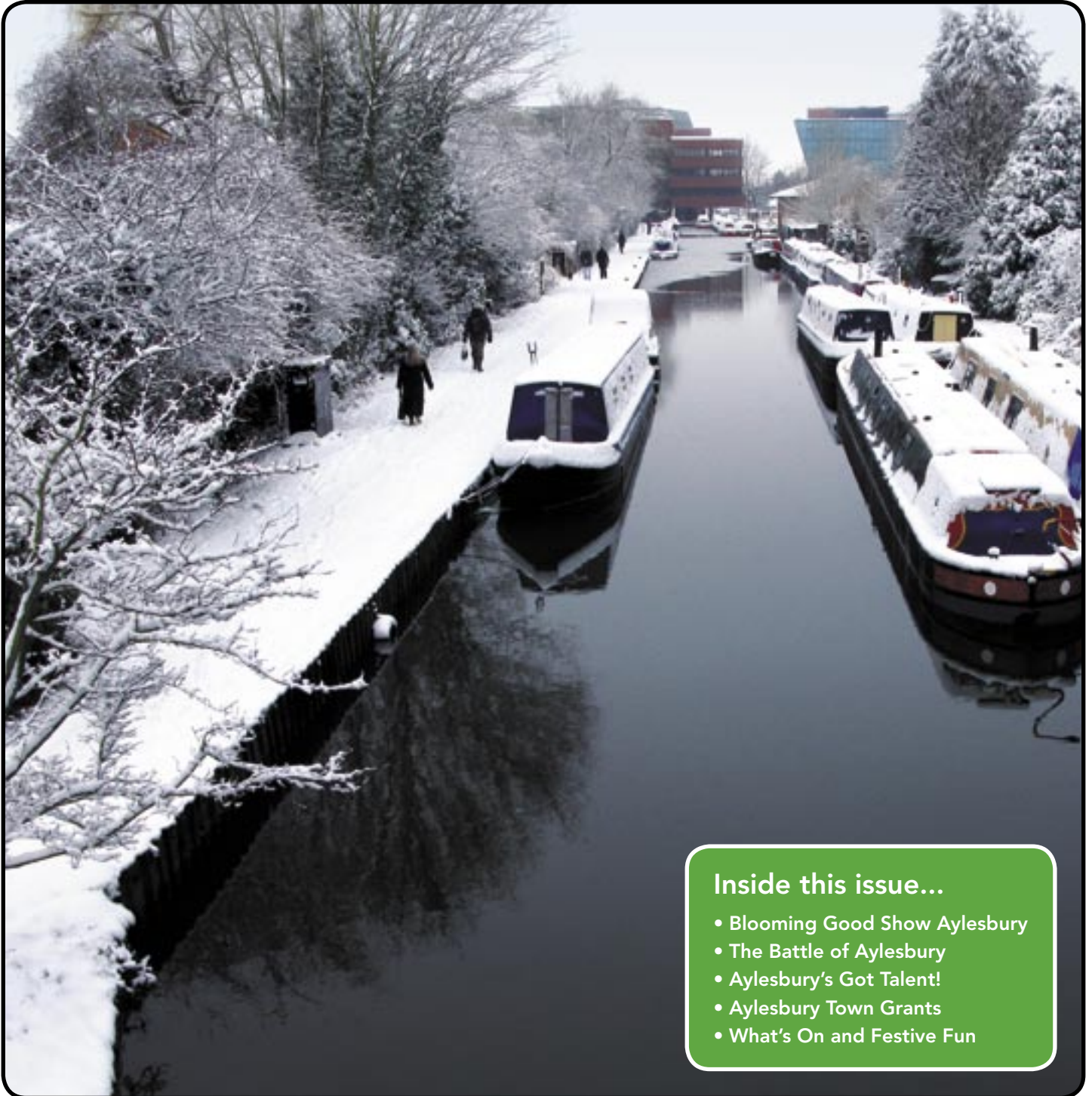


Aylesbury Town matters

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine
Issue Fifteen December 2009



Serving the people of Aylesbury



Inside this issue...

- Blooming Good Show Aylesbury
- The Battle of Aylesbury
- Aylesbury's Got Talent!
- Aylesbury Town Grants
- What's On and Festive Fun



'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'

www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Welcome Note

Welcome to the 15th edition of Aylesbury Town Matters. I hope you will enjoy reading your Christmas edition of the magazine. We do try to make it more interesting and informative each time and welcome ideas concerning what you would like to see featured in forthcoming issues.

The magazine is delivered free, four times a year, to every household in Aylesbury to keep residents up-to-date about what is happening in Aylesbury, to pass on items of interest and news concerning the community, and to update residents on the work the Town Council undertakes.

We are aware that copies are not always delivered to each and every household. Perhaps this is the first time you have seen a copy of this magazine, or maybe you have received each issue but members of your family, friends or neighbours have not. If so, please let us know, or ask anyone that you know who lives in Aylesbury but doesn't get a copy to contact the Town Council office on 01296 425678.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Cllr Steve Patrick
Leader of the Council

Aylesbury Town Council 2008/09		
Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended		
31st March 2009		
31st March 2008 £		31st March 2009 £
	Income Summary	
666,059	Precept	903,402
666,059	Sub Total	903,402
	Operating Income	
42,713	Administration	9,396
44,290	Building	37,108
907,273	Capital Reserves/Income	0
7,402	Allotments	8,317
5,725	Environment	26,346
6,254	Roundabouts (incl in Environment)	0
0	Events	1,062
156,068	Cemetery Management	191,658
1,835,784	Total Income	1,177,289
	Running Costs	
235,593	Administration	247,005
141,661	Building	113,988
29,408	Mayoral Expenses	35,946
1,208	Functions	0
897,832	Capital Reserves	7,000
29,697	Grants	34,365
63,648	Allotments	32,115
110,019	Environment	216,789
38	Twinning	895
11,701	Roundabouts (incl in Environment)	0
71,593	Events	93,431
31,646	Partnership Projects	28,479
17,001	Planning	14,736
193,394	Cemetery Management	220,707
1,834,438	Total Expenditure	1,045,457
	General Fund Analysis	
£181,999	Opening Balance	£183,345
1,835,784	Plus : Income for Year	1,177,289
2,017,783		1,360,633
1,834,438	Less : Expenditure for Year	1,045,457
183,345		315,177
£0	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	£0
183,345	Closing Balance	315,177

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Friday 8.45 am - 4.45 pm

Front cover image: Aylesbury Canal
Photo by Mark Rutland

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Photos by Margaret Wagstaffe

Blooming Good Show Aylesbury

September arrived, and once again it was the time of year when we hear from the Britain in Bloom Royal Horticultural judges about what they think of Aylesbury in terms of floral displays, cleanliness, recycling, sustainability, Agenda 21, community working and so on.

This time the awards were held in Newbury. Once again representatives of many of the towns in the South East of England duly made their way there to find out how their efforts had fared.

This was the 4th year that Aylesbury had entered into the competition. In 2006 we scraped a Silver Award, 2007 Silver Award again and more points, 2008 a Silver Gilt Award and this year... a Silver Gilt with enough additional points to be close to a Gold Award – which we hope to achieve in the next year or two.

Congratulations to all those involved in making a success of this competition and thank you for all the hard work that you have put into increasing the quality of living in Aylesbury.

Keith Turner



Summer in the Streets

As many visitors observed, it's always worth dropping into the Town Centre. You can guarantee there will be something special happening. This summer and autumn in Aylesbury offered a wide variety of entertainment for both residents and visitors. There was enjoyment for all the family, from farmyard fun for small children to climbing walls and bungee jumping for older boys and girls, and a full range of musical happenings for the adults. As usual local people turned out in force to enjoy the sun and the shows.



Hobble on the Cobbles was a great favourite, as was Aylesbury-on-Sea. In fact every weekend saw some sort of event, whether it was a musical extravaganza, a craft fair or a traditional celebration. Proms in the Park had a very appreciative audience and Charter Day, with the added charm of participating local infant schools, was busy from opening to closing. There is a great programme for the coming months, and we hope you and your friends and relatives will come along and enjoy the free entertainment.

Charter Day



Aylesbury-on-Sea



Armed Forces Day



Music in Kingsbury

All photos by Maurice Cousins and Russ Naylor



*Aylesbury
Showcase
Street Festival*



Hobble on the Cobbles



The Battle of Aylesbury

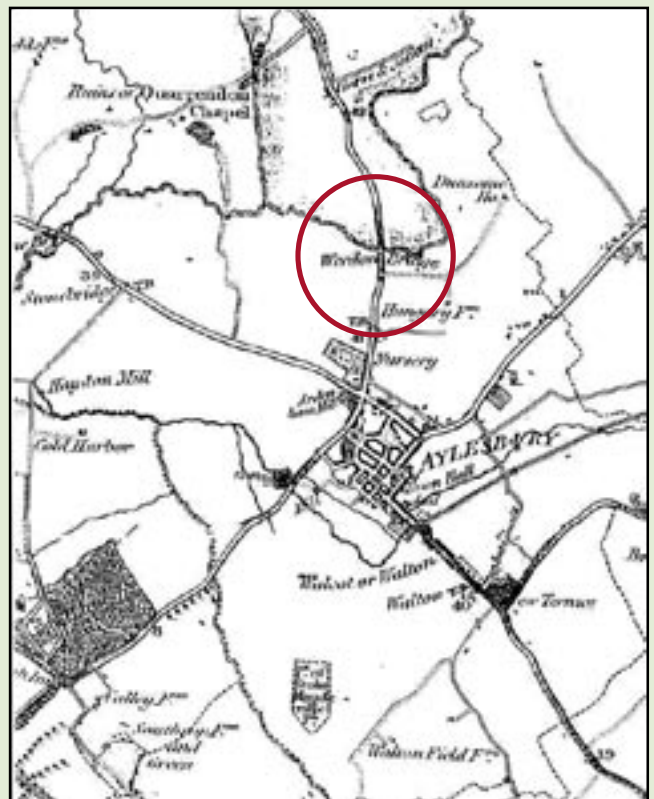
Was Oliver Cromwell really there?

On the 1st November 1642 the Royalist garrison stationed in Aylesbury went out to meet the forces of Parliament. Holman's Bridge, which crosses the river Thames on the modern A413 road north of Aylesbury, is said to be the site of the battle. Aylesbury was at the time firmly for Parliament and against King Charles I. It is perhaps for this reason that Prince Rupert's forces chose to ride out, away from the hostile townsfolk, rather than defend Aylesbury in a siege. Also, since Rupert was a cavalryman of renown, the temptation must have been strong to fight in open country rather than from behind walls. The Royalists were numerically superior to Parliamentary commander Sir William Balfour's detachment of around 1,500 men. Sir William's force had been deployed to contain the threat posed by Prince Rupert.

Containment of the Royalists was particularly urgent as Prince Rupert was implementing a 'scorched earth' policy in Buckinghamshire. One contemporary chronicler put it *"Thither Prince Rupert marched with a force of some thousands of horse and foot, and, after some days past in securing for the King's use much of the produce of the Vale and despoiling and laying waste much more than he secured, entered and possessed himself of the town"*. Incidentally many a cellar in the old part of town may well be a remnant of the tunnel network built at this time which supposedly had something to do with the town's defences.

Having received intelligence of a Parliamentary force approaching from Stony Stratford, Prince Rupert left a troop of horse and a couple of companies of foot to hold down the unruly town while he rode out with his army to meet Sir William Balfour. Just beyond Holman's Bridge, near the swollen river that had been fed by recent rains, the two forces met. Prince Rupert was first checked by a combination of horse and infantry. After receiving two volleys of musket shot he then charged and broke through the initial first two ranks of Parliamentarian infantry. The musket of the day could take several minutes to reload so pikemen were essential in keeping cavalry at a distance.

A rugby scrum is perhaps the closest modern equivalent to the pike bloc, where one formation of men come crashing into one another, except that rugby players of today do not have fifteen foot pikestaves with lethal axes on their ends being thrust



into the melee. This close quarter butchery was something that the King's forces had no stomach for, and they began to retreat across the ford, where the Prince tried to rally his forces, but to no avail.

This was by no means the end of the battle. The townsfolk, perhaps goaded by outrages committed by Rupert's men during their stay, sought revenge on the fleeing King's men, and attacked the broken force as it came away from the battle. After this mauling Prince Rupert made his way to Thames. On the King's side, 200 hundred lay dead; whereas on Parliament's side, a mere 90. In 1818 the bones of 247 men were discovered in a mass grave close to Holman's Bridge. These were moved to St Mary's Churchyard at Hardwick at the request of Lord Nugent of Lilies. A tablet marks their common grave.

Now as to the intriguing mystery as to whether Oliver Cromwell was present at this battle. There are tantalising references in a number of works but could these be mistakes? Cromwell was a Cambridgeshire man, but he did have relatives in Buckinghamshire. According to research done by Robert Hammond of the Cromwell Association, Cromwell was in Chalfont St



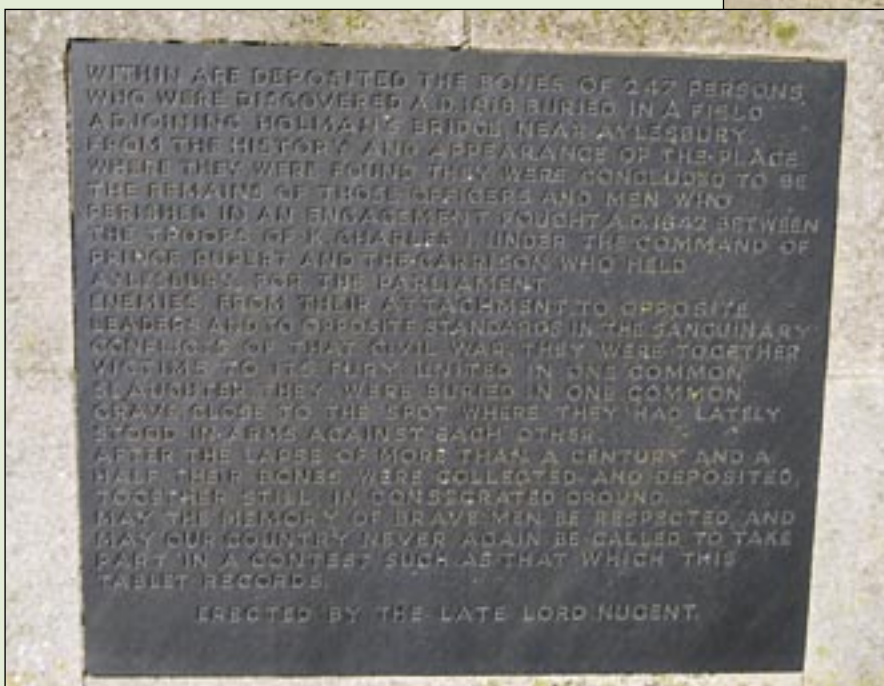
Holman's Bridge on Buckingham Road which is situated before the entrance to Watermead. All photos by Keith Turner.

Giles with the Ratcliffe family shortly after the Battle. Here the matter gets tied up with John Hampden who was a kinsman of Cromwell. Hampden did not take part in the Battle, as his eldest son had just been killed. A young man of eighteen, he died defending Chenies from a Royalist raiding party which may have been part of Prince Rupert's Aylesbury force. The main Royalist army was travelling south to London in the aftermath of Edgehill. Cromwell could just have been scouting out any Royalist stragglers.

What is beyond doubt is that Oliver Cromwell came back to Aylesbury after the Battle of Worcester, and that he stayed in the King's Head. On arrival he received a Vote of Thanks from Parliament, in the

King's Head. The National Trust has a number of artefacts dating from the Civil War. These include anti-monarchy tokens given out by the then landlord which could be exchanged for ale, and the chair said to have been used by Cromwell during his stay. We shall probably never know for certain whether Oliver Cromwell was at the battle of Holman's Bridge, but his association with the town has echoes that reverberate even today. For example Rutland Boughton's No 1 Symphony 'Oliver Cromwell' can still be obtained on the Dutton Epoch label. Boughton, born and raised in Aylesbury, where his father had a grocers shop, was inspired by the history of the war to celebrate Cromwell's rise.

Kevin Peters



St Mary's Church, Hardwick
Monument to the dead of the Civil War.

Local News and Events



Photos by Keith Turner

The Grange School

Last year the Town Council was approached by Wendy Jakeman of The Grange School for help in getting a vegetable garden started to use for science, eco-projects and for projects which involve pastoral care. The garden of the caretaker's house was chosen as the site. The only problem was the garden had not been cultivated for many years and was completely overgrown.

So the first thing that the Town Council Team had to do was to clear away the years of neglect. This included felling trees, cutting back hedges and a significant amount of brush cutting and rotovating which all took place on the hottest two days of the year! Once this was completed it was left until the work that was being undertaken to convert the old caretaker's house into a study centre was finished.

This summer further clearance work was undertaken and raised beds were installed which meant barrowing huge amounts of top soil down the side of the house.

The Headteacher commented what a good job the lads had done with the former caretaker's

garden and what a pleasure it was to have them on site.



Our team was delighted and the result is a valuable resource for the school and its pupils.

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

*Bedgrove
Christmas Fayre*

**Saturday 5th December
12.00pm - 3.00pm**

Bedgrove Infant School
Ingram Avenue Bedgrove
Aylesbury HP21 9DJ

Entrance for adults is 50p
children are free.

It's a Win-Win Situation

Fly tipping is a nightmare for all towns and villages, but the lads on the Council's outside work force have had a brilliant idea. In the course of a day they may come across any amount of fly tipped rubbish, some of which is metal. Instead of taking it all to the tip, they have been sorting out and collecting abandoned sheets of corrugated iron and all sorts of other metal. This is then taken to be weighed in as scrap. The money they collect is used to buy new tools for their work. Their target was £350 for a new drill and within a few weeks they reached their target. The benefits are obvious: rubbish is cleared away, the metal is recycled and they save ratepayers money. So well done them!

Margaret Wagstaffe

www.walkinginbucks.co.uk

More than 230 Buckinghamshire walks to download and print FREE!

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of well being! Strong scientific evidence now supports the many benefits to health of regular walking – it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day.

Studies show that walking can: reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke; lower blood pressure; reduce high cholesterol; reduce body fat and enhance mental well being.

Walking offers a great way to help kids get the active habit. If parents express excitement about the prospect of a walk in the countryside, they are more likely to transmit this feeling to their children. It's important to treat the walk as an exploration or adventure and to go at the child's pace, no matter how often they want to stop and look at things; take treats to eat and plenty to drink; and head for some landmark that will appeal to them such as a castle, a playground, an ice cream van or a boating pond. If children experience walking as part of a fun activity they are more likely to want to go again.

So, how do you find out what is on offer? John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the county. So he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for – he had better create it himself!

Thus www.walkinginbucks.co.uk came into being.

This website gives you all the information you need for the best walking in the county. Details of more than 230 walks to download and print free, details of all the Buckinghamshire walking groups, maps and walk books – plus loads more information. So check out the website and get walking!



Planting Trees

Planting trees is one of the easiest ways to offset your carbon footprint and become carbon neutral. Trees absorb carbon dioxide to produce oxygen and wood, both of which are very useful for humans and other animals. They also help:

- Offset CO₂ emissions
- Provide wildlife habitats
- Enhance the Aylesbury urban landscape

As part of the process of photosynthesis, carbon dioxide is converted into stored carbon and oxygen is released. This is why trees are sometimes referred to as 'carbon sinks'. By taking this carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, trees clean the air, and offset our polluting lifestyles.

Each tree planted 'offsets' your environmental impact by 'breathing' in about one tonne of CO₂ emissions over its lifetime of 100 years. It is estimated that the average person needs to save about 7,000 kg of CO₂ per year so planting trees each year is one way of reducing an individual's effect on the world we all live in.

There are a number of companies and trusts which will plant trees for you including www.carbonfootprint.com, www.woodlandtrust.org.uk and www.carbonzerostore.com However if you believe your road, street or green space would be a good place to plant a tree, or even trees, please contact us and we will see if it is feasible. There are sometimes good reasons not to plant trees in some locations due to underground utilities such as gas mains, sewers, electrical supply cables and drains.

The Town Council is keen to increase the number of trees planted in Aylesbury and will sponsor the purchase and planting. Contact Keith Turner on 01296 425678 or email: k.turner@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Community News

Spring Bulb Planting



On a sunny Sunday morning Aylesbury Town Council staff with residents of Thame Road and Battersby Mews set out to plant 3,000 spring bulbs. "It sounded daunting," said a local resident "but actually it went very smoothly and I now can't wait for spring".

Two years ago local groups and Town Council staff planted around 50,000 bulbs along the main entrances to the town. A representative of the Town Council said "It's really fantastic when people show that they care about their surroundings and are prepared to give up their time to help enhance it."

Aylesbury Town Council would welcome a call from any groups or residents' associations that would like to help plant bulbs next year. Please contact Keith Turner on 01296 425678 or email: k.turner@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Volunteers Needed

The Aylesbury Fair Trade Initiative (AFTI) would like to hear from anyone who has an interest in fair trade to join them to further promote the scheme and to contribute ideas.

If you have some free time and would like to become involved, please contact the Co-ordinator on 07952 733346, or e-mail:

afti.coordinator@sky.com

For more information please visit their website:

www.aylesburyfairtrade.net

Shirley Francis
Deputy Town Clerk

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 T: 01296 425678 e: 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

Riverside Walk Volunteers

Forthcoming projects for Autumn/Winter 2009. Aylesbury Vale Countryside Service and BTCV are working in partnership to deliver a programme of practical conservation activities along the Riverside Walk.

Saturday 5th December 2009 - Tree and shrub planting. Meet at Meadowcroft Community Centre, 10.00am to 2.00pm. Help create a native woodland.

Saturday 16th January 2010 - Tree and shrub planting. Meet at Meadowcroft Community Centre, 10.00am to 2.00pm. Help create a native woodland.

Come along and help to improve the Riverside Walk for wildlife. Tools and training will be provided. All you need is old clothes, sturdy footwear and plenty of enthusiasm. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please contact: Andrew Plowman on 01296 331664 or email: andrew.w.plowman@btinternet.com

Give Us A Chance!

Aylesbury now has a new way of dealing with minor offences. A discretionary yellow card scheme has been brought into the town allowing a warning to be given in the first instance for a minor offence. Obviously more serious offences or repeat offenders will still be dealt with using other policing methods but the yellow card system has the advantage of allowing minor offenders to realise their behaviour will not be accepted without having to suffer the future consequences of a permanent record.



PCSO Warning

Purse dipping is always an issue in areas where people come to shop as they will generally be carrying cash or other means of accessing money, but more so in the time leading up to Christmas. Aylesbury Town PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) Rose Paton mentioned particular concern for elderly and vulnerable people who could have the festive season ruined by the theft of their Christmas money. She advises ensuring handbags are done up and inside pockets are used. Rose also recommended vigilance while using cash machines, receiving cash back and making purchases. **Have a lovely Christmas and keep safe!**

Aylesbury Town PCSO Rose Paton



Aylesbury Town PCSOs Dawn and Gary holding the new yellow cards

Operation Breaker

Police in Aylesbury have arrested 15 people recently as part of Operation Breaker, a Force-wide campaign aimed at reducing the number of burglaries across the Thames Valley area.

Offenders were arrested for various crimes including burglary, distraction burglary, handling stolen goods and possession with intent to supply class A drugs. Officers also executed four search warrants in the Vale, where they recovered class A and B drugs and property believed to be stolen.

Det Sgt Iain Jones said "We have had a very successful period where we have continued to disrupt criminal activity across the Vale. Investigations are continuing and we will be carrying out further arrests and warrants during the operation".

If you have any information about any criminal activity in your neighbourhood, contact Thames Valley Police via the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 0845 8 505 505. If you do not want to talk to the police, call the Crimestoppers charity anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Keep Your Home Secure

As winter approaches and the nights draw in, it's an ideal time to look at your home security. If you're not at home during the hours of darkness you may be at an increased risk of burglary.

If no light is on in your home, curtains are not drawn, and no car is in the drive, it's an obvious sign to an opportunist burglar that no-one is in. At this time of the year more than any other it pays to secure your home. There are a number of simple and free ways to do this, all of which will help reduce the chance of your home being the next target. So here's what to do:

- Visit the community safety shop in Hale Leys Shopping Centre, AVDC's 66 High Street office, or your local police station for a light timer switch and a property marking kit.
- Contact our home service, a free home security improvements scheme for over 60s on 01296 585100.
- Ensure your doors and windows are locked and in good condition. Even when you're home you should keep your doors locked.

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



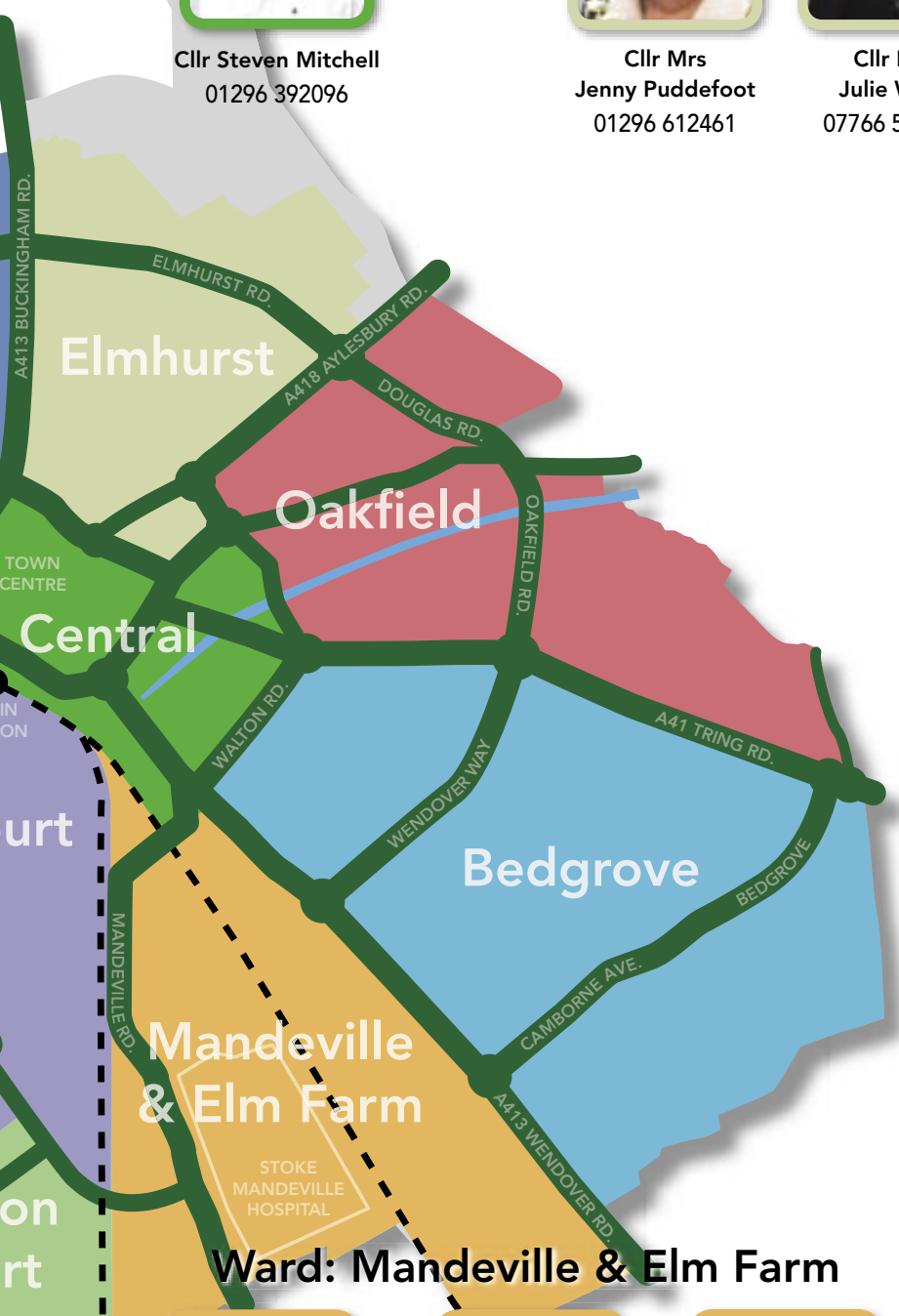
Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot
01296 612461



Cllr Mrs Julie Ward
07766 545236



Cllr Mohammed Amjad
07956 803458



Ward: Oakfield

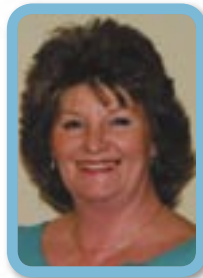


Cllr Graham Webster
01296 483416



Cllr Steve Patrick
01296 424986

Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr Mrs Jenny Bloom
07729 011501



Cllr Alan Sherwell
01296 420672

Ward: Mandeville & Elm Farm



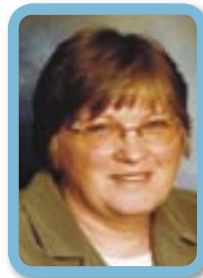
Cllr Mrs Denise Summers
01296 336731



Cllr Mrs Sue Chapple
01296 426814



Cllr Brian Roberts
01296 422881



Cllr Mrs Penni Thorne
01296 422232



Cllr Mark Willis
01296 586109

Aylesbury's Got Talent!



Cllrs Mark Willis, Kevin Peters and Pat Jamieson present Sam Ridgway with a cheque for £800

Sam Ridgway

Just to keep you all up to date on Sam's progress. Sam represented the south east of England in the UK school games in Cardiff on the 5th September. He had the daunting task of being team captain and managed to finish an impressive 4th in the under 17's hammer event.

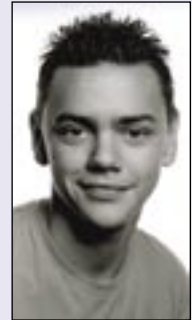
On the 19th of September he travelled all the way to Liverpool for their prestigious throws and jumps meeting. He was awarded a silver salver for his fantastic achievement. He fought off stiff high-class competition which included the UK number 1 under 15's athlete and the UK number 7 (adult). Sam was the only thrower to exceed 60 metres, which he managed with both his first and last throws – his throw of 60.18 resulted in an under 17 win in the hammer event.

Success also followed at the Biggleswade Open in Sandy, Bedfordshire on the 26th September with another win in the hammer event.

Sam is a member of the Marshall Milton Keynes Athletics Club which has many of the UK's top young athletes. Sam was awarded the trophy for the under 17 male athlete of the year at the Marshall Milton Keynes Athletics Club presentation night on the 2nd October 2009.

Claire Bignell

Ryan Treter



Aylesbury should be proud of its latest star in the making. Ryan Treter is not only very talented but is extremely motivated and is already proving he can show us 'how it's done!' Previously a student at The Grange School, he is now in his final year at Amersham & Wycombe College studying a BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts Acting. He is signed with the Ray Knight Casting Agency and to date has appeared in Eastenders, The Bill, five episodes of the BBC comedy Coming of Age and twice in Lewis where he played the Grim Reaper, as well as background work in the new series of Peep Show.

Ryan has had some amazing experiences and is excited about the future. The new Harry Potter film (Harry and the Deathly Hallows) gave Ryan the opportunity to be a stand in for Mundungus Fletcher and to get a taste of how a high profile set operates. Moving on from film and television Ryan has also appeared in the BBC's teen internet soap 'The Cut' and several stage/theatre shows.



Earlier this year Ryan was part of a 22 strong cast in the theatre production of Oedipus Rex at the 'Theatre on the Hill',

Amersham and played the vulnerable side of the main character Oedipus, a story from Greek mythology. In November, at the same theatre, they are showing 'A Clockwork Orange' where Ryan's parts include Joe, the lodger and a policeman. Next year he will take part in George Orwell's Animal Farm, again at Amersham's 'Theatre on the Hill'.

Ryan's ambition is to do a BA honours in Acting and contemporary theatre.

Claire Bignell



John Wilkes 1727-1797

"A friend to liberty" (Epitaph on Wilkes' tomb).

The ancient town of Aylesbury has a habit of commemorating local heroes by erecting their statues. At the top end of the Market Place both Hampden and Disraeli watch resplendently from their plinths whilst the world walks past their feet. Fifty yards away, at the bottom end of the square, Major General Charles Compton PC, KCB stands holding his riding whip.

But there is no statue to John Wilkes, who died on 26th December 1797. Wilkes was an extraordinary man. He seemed to have no fixed principles. He came from a wealthy London family and initially sat in the House of Commons as Member for this Town. He was a Colonel in the Buckinghamshire Militia. For several years he lived with his wife Mary at Prebendal House in St Mary's Square.

As a member of the dissolute Buckinghamshire gentry he played a leading part in the orgies of the Hell Fire Club. These were held in the ruined abbey of Medmenham and in the caves of West Wycombe. He wrote salacious poetry. Even today his 'Essay on Woman' is kept under lock and key in some book shops.

Yet this man surely merits the inscription on his tomb in Grosvenor Chapel. At various times in his life he was declared an outlaw, exiled, imprisoned in London's Fleet Prison, sat in the House of Commons and was Lord Mayor of the City of London. It was he that established that an arrest warrant must specify the name of the accused person and should clearly indicate what offence he is charged with.

To the working people of London he was a hero. When the Government threatened him with imprisonment in 1768 he was returned as Member of Parliament for Middlesex by an immense majority. Middlesex, unlike Aylesbury, was one of the few 18th century constituencies which refused to be cowed by either the Government or the local gentry.

Although Aylesbury has no statue to this remarkable man it does have a very touching and largely unknown memorial which was erected by him. This is an epitaph on the wall between Prebendal House and St Mary's Churchyard, composed by Wilkes when his gardener died. It reads as follows:

To the Memory

Of

JOHN SMART Gardener

Who died the 16th day of Novr' 1754

Aged 54 years

Illum etiam lauri illum etiam flevire myricae

VIRG.

The last line translates as "even the laurel and the myrtle wept for him". We know that Wilkes composed this epitaph because on 15th March 1765 Wilkes and James Boswell set out from Naples, riding on asses, to inspect an Italian villa. As they jogged along they chatted and Wilkes told Boswell how this inscription came to be written. The vicar of St Mary's church had been angry at a proposal to put a heathen inscription by Virgil in a Christian churchyard. But Wilkes assured the vicar that Virgil had prophesied Christ's coming and so all was made easy. Boswell always wrote everything down in his famous journals which were discovered in an Irish Castle in the 1930s. So, in this very round about way, we know that an Aylesbury Churchyard wall bears an inscription composed by John Wilkes. The inscription is a touching one. It shows the respect which Wilkes had for a humble gardener.

Despite his showmanship and his debauchery, he really was a friend to liberty.

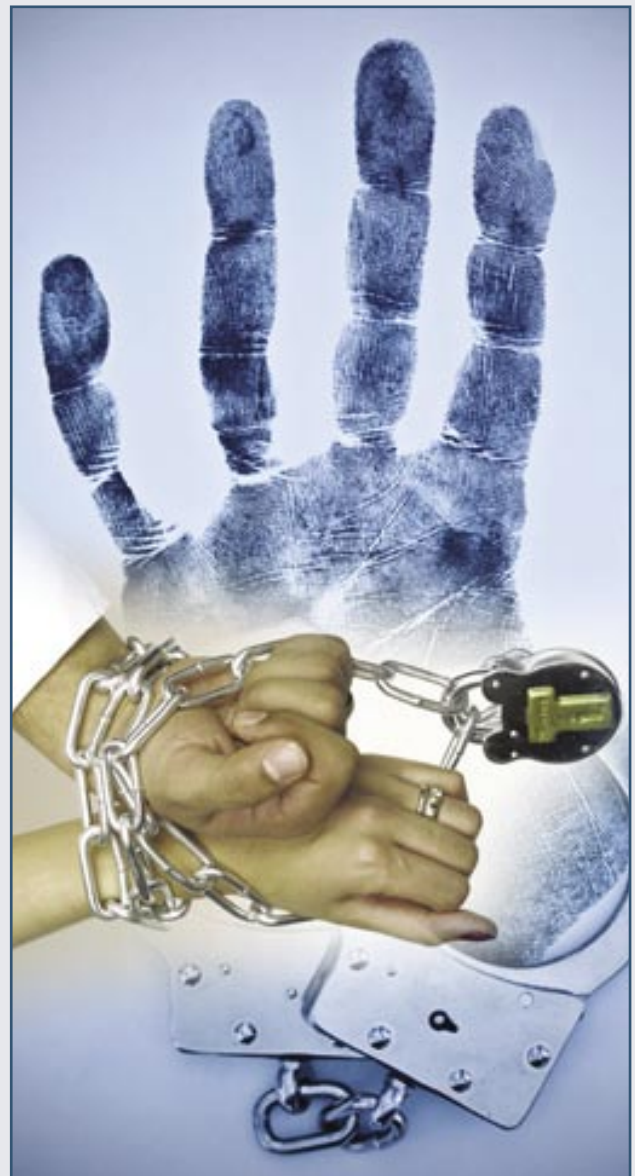
**Taken from an article by
the late Hugh Norwood
Edited by Roger King**

Local Charity Assists Victims of Forced Marriages

During the last decade the issues of honour crime and forced marriage have come into the public consciousness and also to the notice of central government. This has been most significantly demonstrated by the advent of the Forced Marriage (Civil) Protection Act 2007 which changed the law at the end of last year.

The new legislation enables courts to prevent forced marriages and provide recourse for those already in forced marriages. The definition of 'forced marriage' adopted generally by statutory agencies is 'a marriage without consent of one or both parties and where duress is a factor'. The courts also have the power to make 'Forced Marriage Protection Orders' to protect individuals against conduct that may lead to them being forced to marry; or to protect a person who has already been forced into a marriage.


One of the first such orders under the new law was served on the family of Dr Humayra Abedin, a trainee GP based in London. In August 2008 Dr Abedin flew to Bangladesh believing that her mother was very ill. Once there she was imprisoned by members of her family in their home and her travel documents were taken from her. She managed to alert friends in Britain by text message but that prompted her family to confiscate her phone. She was bound, gagged and taken to a psychiatric hospital in Dhaka where she was injected daily with mood stabilisers. Dr Abedin entered into a marriage against her will and under duress. Subsequently, the High Court in London issued an injunction under the new legislation against the perpetrators of this forced marriage and with the co-operation of the Bangladeshi courts the doctor was able to return to Britain.



The extent of the problem should not be underestimated. In 2008, the joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Forced Marriage Unit stated that they had encountered over 1,600 cases of forced marriage. Academic studies, however, indicate that the figure is more likely to be between 3,000 to 4,000 cases per year in the UK.

A local charity, Save Your Rights is campaigning both nationally and internationally to raise awareness about forced marriage and to assist victims and potential victims. For more information on the work of the charity see the website at: www.saveyourrights.org or for general advice call (07988) 841 228.

Lynne Townley
Barrister and Trustee of Save Your Rights Charity



SAVE YOUR RIGHTS

www.saveyourrights.org
E-mail: info@saveyourrights.org
Call/Text: +44 (0) 7988 841 228
Registered Charity Number - 1130378

Thinking of Fostering?

In Buckinghamshire there is a shortage of foster carers. More are needed so that children and young people in care can be placed closer to their community and maintain vital links with family and friends.

We are looking for people with a spare room, along with the skills and experience to meet the needs of the children and young people – no formal qualifications needed.

We need carers from a wide range of backgrounds and life experience who can provide a safe, warm environment. You can apply to foster regardless of your age, marital status, sexuality or residential status.

Foster carers receive professional support and will be provided with an allowance to cover the needs of the child or young person in your care.

If you would like more information regarding fostering a child or young person, please call the Buckinghamshire Family Placement Recruitment Team on **01296 382 555** or visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/fostering

Beat the (credit) Freeze this Winter

If you are getting poor returns on your investments, why not try energy saving? One of the biggest savers, cavity wall insulation, is very likely to cost nothing if you are 70 or over.

Energy Saving Trust estimates that simple changes could save most households £300 a year. Try the on-line home energy check at www.est.org.uk/check and see if this applies to you, or call **0800 512 012**.



Estimated yearly savings from energy saving improvements	£s
Loft insulation when none	150
Cavity wall insulation	115
Thermostat turned down 1°C *	55
Loft insulation top up to 270mm	45
A/A+ fridge freezer	36
Hot water tank jacket	35
Appliances taken off standby	33
Tumble drying stopped in summer	15
A/A+ dishwasher	12
Clothes washed at 30°C	10
Energy saving bulb	2.5

Source: Energy Saving Trust, October 2009
 * Older persons should keep their sitting room at 21°C

Aylesbury Repertory Company

The Aylesbury Repertory Company probably deserves more of an honourable mention in the show business hall of fame than it will ever receive. The Market Theatre first opened in 1911. It is hard for us today, with a myriad forms of entertainment, to understand the importance of live stage performances in the social life of the Edwardian town.

Hilary Mason writing in 1973 for 'Buckinghamshire and Chiltern's Life' complained of the problems confronting young actresses trying to launch their careers in 1939. Once they left stage school they were deemed to be fully trained, but were completely lacking in experience. Of course, without that vital experience, employment would be out of the question. The novel solution to this conundrum for Hilary was provided by her agent who asked her if she had a spare £25. The answer was initially a flat 'No'. This was a pity, he pointed out, as a Rep Company would re-pay her over a ten week period at £2.10s 0d per week, in the form of wages. Thus it was that Hilary came to Aylesbury clutching five white five pound notes.

She approached the Borough Assembly Room, which was situated at the end of an alley running between the Green Man and what is now the Halifax in Market Square. It was, Hilary wrote, a very hot day. On arrival she found, in the box office, a woman clad only in a pair of khaki trousers and a brassiere. Without batting an eyelid she passed over the cash and so became a member of Aylesbury Rep.

Hilary's digs were obtained for 25s a week, (including meals), but occasionally she dined out at the 'Old Beams' opposite the theatre which provided a two course meal for 1s 3d, or three courses for 1s 6d. The 'Bull's Head' offered more princely 'Theatre Dinners' at 4s 6d each.

Actors in those days were expected to provide their own costumes unless they were doing a period drama. Hilary tells how the problem with one play in Aylesbury was resolved when her landlady bought, for 6d per yard, a length of 'crash linen' off the market, and for half-a-crown (about twelve pence in modern currency), made a beautiful flowing gown.

Hilary recalled Peter Ustinov playing Colonel Pickering in 'Pygmalion' for Aylesbury Rep, but remembered his most disconcerting performance as that of a seedy doctor in a story of Empire called 'White Cargo'. This was about the effects of a beautiful black girl by the name of 'Tondeleyo' on the white men in a far flung outpost. Peter kept on changing his accent from one performance to another – one day French, then German, the next Italian etc., and even crisp upper-class English. This disconcerted the other performers, so the director asked Peter what his game was. Peter explained: "If I cannot experiment in weekly

rep, then where can I do so?" Unanswerable logic, but a trifle unnerving for the rest of the cast, so they made small bets on what accent he would use next.

Eventually World War II put a complete stop to the theatre, as the building was requisitioned by the Ministry of Food, and turned into warehousing for the duration.



In spring 1947 moves were made to reinstate the theatre. Bill Stephens of the famous wartime BBC radio programme 'ITMA', ('It's That Man Again'), took on the project of rebuilding the Aylesbury Repertory Company. Once the Ministry of Food had moved out all he had were four bare walls. No stage. It was a mad rush to get the theatre open again with builders, electricians, plasterers and painters working against the tight deadline of 9th September. The actors themselves were decanted to a nearby hotel for rehearsals. Stephens radically proposed a "peoples' theatre" in which the opening programme of plays was to be decided by public ballot. Favourite choices turned out to be hits from the West End and those books that had been adapted into films, like 'Rebecca'.

In 1948, a young Ronald Barker wrote asking for a place with what was now the 'Manchester Rep'. His first performance was in 'Quality Street' by Sir J M Barry. In this he played the part of 'Lieutenant Spicer'. Ronnie would have fulfilled a similar role to that of Hilary before him, as the most junior member of the cast. He would have been an assistant stage director as well as an actor and when not performing, acted as prompt for the others. He would also have been delegated to scrounge whatever props he could lay his hands on from the shopkeepers of the town. Imagine him wandering into Jowitts in Kingsbury, which sold all manner of hardware goods. Perhaps here was sown the seed for the 'Four Candles' sketch. Maybe even Arkwright from 'Open All Hours' was based on an opportunist Aylesbury merchant.

The Borough Assembly Rooms were pulled down in 1980 to make way for Hale Leys. Aylesbury today has a new theatre in the making on the site of the old Bucks Herald building on Exchange Street, a mere stone's throw from the site of the old Borough Assembly Rooms. It remains to be seen whether the new venue will live up to its illustrious ancestry.

Kevin Peters

Aces Wheelchair Basketball Club

Buckinghamshire based Aces Wheelchair Basketball Club provides opportunities for people to play wheelchair basketball. The club was established in 1984 by Nigel Smith and Martin McElhatton. In 25 years Aces has grown into the largest club in the country and one of the most successful in both domestic and international competitions. Last year Aces acquired charitable status.

Aces currently run 4 senior and 2 junior teams who all compete in the National League. Our Super League team plays at European level and in 2009 finished 2nd in the Andre Vergawan Cup (10th in Europe). Also the club has a partnership with the regional Women's League team, 'Vixens'. Aces have a Paralympics heritage, consistently producing medal winners at the highest level. Currently Aces has 5 players who competed in Beijing: Simon Munn, Simon Brown, Andy Blake, Clare Strange and Louise Sugden. We also have Simon Gibbs, Matt Sealy and Gaz Choudray who are all members of the GB Development Squad.

In 2008 Aces founded a junior section with 5 members and in one season this has grown to over 20 regular attendees. An important aspect of the sport is inclusion and social interaction for newly disabled and junior players. This season we are starting a 3rd Division team to meet the needs of our stronger juniors and new players. As successful as this development has been, it has led to such an increase in numbers that the club has outgrown its resources. The club funds itself through sponsorship, players subscriptions and fundraising events but as costs increase and our club grows we are finding it much harder to cover costs.

Despite successes at the highest level, in recent years we have struggled to compete in the top tier of the European Cup. This is due to the development in Continental Europe of professional teams. Players at Aces are more than capable of competing at this level but shortages of resources prevent the team from reaching their full potential. Last year to enable the club to afford to compete, 6 weeks of training had to be cancelled: training that would have been vital for success.

Running such a large club is very expensive and we are always looking for new ways to recruit sponsors, develop a support network and raise funds. We have

recently lost our long-term sponsor and are currently looking for ways to identify and establish potential partnerships with companies and local organisations, in order to gain funds, resources, use of facilities and expertise. Some of the areas we are looking to expand with this support are the development of non playing coaches; a kit sponsor (currently all teams are playing in different colour/design of vest); a home base for the club (Stoke Mandeville stadium?); promotion and marketing; website development; providing financial stability and making the club and sport accessible for all, especially including the high percentage of local low-income families.

Clare Strange

If you can help or would like to join any of our teams, please contact Clare Strange at the address below.

ACES WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CLUB
Clare Strange, 50 Peatey Court, Princes Gate
High Wycombe, Bucks. HP13 7AY
Tel: 07894 718610 email: c_strange@hotmail.com



Photo courtesy of The Bucks Herald

Aylesbury Town Grants



Cllr Mark Willis and Mayor Mrs Ranjula Takodra present a cheque to Southcourt & Walton Court Community Project.
Photo by Roger King.

The **Southcourt & Walton Court Community Project** is a local charity that runs a term time Saturday club and holiday playschemes for children from the Southcourt, Walton Court & Mandeville estates aged 4 - 12. This year a grant of £2,000 from Aylesbury Town Council helped towards the running of the playscheme which ran for 4 weeks during the summer holidays.

There were plenty of craft activities for the children to enjoy such as badge making, cooking, jewellery making and the children also enjoyed several bouncy castles and free sports sessions provided by Bucks Play Association. Free play activities were available such as puzzles, board games, a home corner, Magnetix, Lego, messy play and a games table. Both boys and girls had fun having their hair braided, temporary tattoos applied and their nails painted!

The project holds playschemes during every half term. If you are interested in booking on the February half term playscheme please call Helen White on 01296 435844 for more details.

Hercules Lions Football Club were awarded a Grant of £1,000 to assist with this season's indoor football training costs at the Guttman Centre.

Founded in 2005 by one of Aylesbury's football legends, Cliff Hercules, Hercules Lions Football Club looks to instil traits and characteristics dear to Cliff's heart. Throughout his career of over 800 games, he was never booked for dissent or bad behaviour. It is virtues such as these that the Club has instilled as part of its ethos, alongside the overriding aim of simply allowing children to have fun, be expressive, be sporting, appreciate winning is not everything, and enjoy the game.

Testament to the Club's approach was borne out in its first season in the South Bucks Mini Football League, as the then Under 8s were recognised and rewarded at the end of the season, as 'The Fair Play' winners. The Fair Play League is not only based around the children's attitude and behaviour, but just as importantly, that of the parents.



Cllr Mark Willis and Cllr Mrs Pat Jamieson with Hercules Lions Football Club with a cheque for £1000. Photo by Pat Phillips.

To encourage **Thomas Hickman Schools** 430 pupils to get out of their parents' cars and either walk, cycle or scoot to school, the school ran the 'Go For Gold' incentive scheme organised by Travel Choice at Bucks County Council. The scheme involved the children completing three passports (Bronze, Silver & Gold) and they had to collect 40 stamps on each passport (1 for each journey). The prizes included a free swim at Aqua Vale, a game at Jardines Tenpin Bowling, free entry into Zoomania and many others.

The BIG prize was only available to those who completed all three passports! This prize was an invitation to the 'Go For Gold Party' during the summer term which was partly funded by a grant for £250 from Aylesbury Town Council. For one afternoon all those children would not have to go to lessons but could go out onto the field and have fun!!! Games were organised like hook the duck, straws in the sand, and face painting. A bouncy castle and an inflatable assault course were also available and a 'Go for Gold' cake was especially made. The day was a huge success with approximately 180 pupils getting a special invitation!

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.

Mayoral Engagements

Celebration at the Holiday Inn

The Holiday Inn, Aylesbury held a grand celebration on the 6th July to mark the completion by all of their staff of a core Holiday Inn training course. They were joined by Cllr Mrs Ranjula Takodra, Mayor of Aylesbury, who congratulated them on their achievements.

Action4Youth AGM

Deputy Mayor Cllr Graham Webster attended the Annual General Meeting of Action4Youth, also on the 6th July. Presentations were given on a range of projects and events generated by Action4Youth. They were followed by an awards ceremony where Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher gave certificates to young people who had completed the Young Leader Award Scheme.

Bedgrove Family Fun Day

Bedgrove Residents' Association invited the Mayor to open their Family Fun Day in the Park on the 11th July. There was entertainment for all ages, including a variety of stalls and fun activities for children.

Multicultural Centre Open Day

The Multicultural Centre held an Open Day on the 18th July. The Mayor attended what proved to be a very enjoyable day for the whole family. The afternoon was devoted to exhibitions created by many of the Centre's regular groups, together with non-stop entertainment.

Sunshine Rally

The Mayor was asked to cut the ribbon at the start of the Sunshine Rally held at Quarrendon Community Centre on the 19th July. This was a community fun day enjoyed by more than 350 people, and included exhibitions showing their work created by local PCSOs and the Fire Brigade.

Gandhi Jayanti & Independence Day

The Indian Cultural Society invited the Mayor to join their celebrations to mark the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, also the birthday of independent India. The objective of the event was to bring awareness among younger generations living in the UK of the life and great work of Gandhi, and of other great men in the history of India. Programmes were designed to be informative and entertaining.

Bucks Army Cadet Force Annual Camp

The Mayor was invited to attend the Territorial Army's Official Visitors Day on the 19th August at Shorncliffe Garrison in Folkestone. The Territorial Army Cadets were at Shorncliffe for a week. One of their challenges was to plan and execute attack exercises. A ceremony was held at the end of the week to present the cadets with their awards.

Aylesbury Vale Academy

The Mayor was invited to the official opening of Aylesbury Vale Academy on the 7th September. After an introduction by the Principal, Buckinghamshire's first Academy was officially opened by the Rt Reverend Dr A T L Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham.

The Queen's Award for Enterprise: Innovation

The Mayor was invited to attend 'The Queen's Award for Enterprise: Innovation' held at Possum on the 14th September. Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire presented Possum with a crystal bowl engraved with The Queen's Awards Emblem as a symbol of outstanding business success.

Ground Breaking Ceremony

The Mayor attended the 'Ground Breaking Ceremony' for the new Multiple Sclerosis Centre on the 18th September. Sir David Jason OBE performed the Ceremony. The aim of the centre is to improve the lives of people who have MS, by helping them to control and manage their symptoms, and by giving support to their families and carers.



Celia McCrea
Mayoral Assistant

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor attended 'Saris and Samosas' held at the Holiday Inn to raise money for the Mayor's charity. Photo by Maurice Cousins.



What's On December 2009 - March 2010

December

4	Abakus	Adult	FREE			The Aristocrat
4 - 19	Christmas Party Nights	Adult	£25	7.30pm		Civic Centre
5	Abakus	Adult	FREE			The Bell
5	Christmas Gift and Craft Fair	Family	FREE			Market Square
5	Fun Christmas Exhibition	Family	FREE	11.00am - 3.00pm		County Museum
5	Bedgrove Christmas Fayre	Family	FREE for Children/ 50p Adults			Bedgrove Infant School Ingram Ave, HP21 9DJ
6	Christmas Gift and Craft Fair	Family	FREE	11.00am - 3.00pm		Market Square
6	Lantern Procession and Mayoral Party	Family	FREE	6.00pm		Town Hall
8 - 30	Jack and The Beanstalk	Family	£9.50+	Various		Civic Centre
10	Carols for Everyone	Family	FREE	7.30pm		Civic Centre
10	Festive Family Fun	Family	FREE	6.00pm - 8.00pm		Library
11	The Observers	Adult	FREE			The Aristocrat
12	French Market	Family	FREE	9.00am - 5.30pm		Kingsbury
13	French Market	Family	FREE	10.00am - 4.30pm		Kingsbury
13	Santa Dash	Family	£5+	10.00am		Vale Park
17	Town Centre Carol Fest	Family	FREE	6.30pm		Market Square
18	The Red Bullets	Adult	FREE			Slug & Lettuce
19	The Observers	Adult	FREE			The Bell
19 - 20	A Very Victorian Christmas	Family	FREE	10.00am - 4.00pm		Market Square
22	Christmas Farmers' Market	Family	FREE	9.00am - 2.00pm		Market Square
24	Crib Service	Family	FREE	4.00pm		St Mary's Church
26	Maximum Feedback	Adult	FREE			The Bell
31	New Year's Eve Party	Adult	£35	8.30pm		Civic Centre

January

15	Stephen K Amos	Adult	£16.50	8.00pm		Civic Centre
24	Red Bus – soft play, mask making, clown	Young Children	FREE	11.00am - 3.00pm		Market Square
26	Farmers' Market, activities and fresh produce	Adult	FREE	9.00am - 2.00pm		Market Square

February

4	Rockin' on Heaven's Door	Adult	£17.50	8.00pm		Civic Centre
11	Tim Vine	Adult	£16	8.00pm		Civic Centre
18	Half Term Fun, climbing wall, bungee trampoline, inflatables	Children	FREE	11.00am - 3.00pm		Kingsbury
23	Farmers' Market, activities and fresh produce	Adult	FREE	9.00am - 2.00pm		Market Square

March

18	Alvin as Elvis in an American Trilogy	Adult	£19	8.00pm		Civic Centre
23	Farmers' Market, activities and fresh produce	Adult	FREE	9.00am - 2.00pm		Market Square

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 See: www.aylesburyvibe.info and www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Festive Fun 2009

Visit Santa's Grotto

Sunday 22 November - Thursday 24 December
Visit Santa in Friars Square Shopping Centre and receive a lovely gift (FREE).

Town and Country Christmas

Thursday 26 November (3.00pm - 8.00pm)
The King's Head. Enjoy a relaxed afternoon/evening of retail and refreshments in historic surroundings.

Christmas Charity Market

Sunday 29 November (11.00am - 3.00pm)
in Market Square.

Fun Christmas Exhibition

Saturday 5 December (11.00am - 3.00pm)
Come and see the new toy exhibition and make a Christmas tree decoration in the County Museum.

Christmas Gift and Craft Fayre

Sunday 6 December (11.00am - 3.00pm)
in Market Square.

Lantern Procession and Carol Service

Sunday 6 December
The Mayoral party leaves the Town Hall, Church Street at 5.30pm. Parade to The King's Head courtyard where carols will be sung. Then to St Mary's Church for the Town Mayor's Carol Service.

Festive Family Fun

Thursday 10 December (6.00pm - 8.00pm)
Aylesbury Library, Walton Street. Christmas Story Time with Santa, crafts, free prize draw and more.

Carols for Everyone

Thursday 10 December
Popular concert of familiar and less known carols at the Civic Centre.

French Market

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 December
Saturday in Kingsbury: 9.00am - 5.30pm
Sunday in Market Square: 10.00am - 4.30pm

Santa Dash

Sunday 13 December starting at 10.00am at Vale Park. A 3.5km fun run round Aylesbury.

Town Centre Carol Fest

Thursday 17 December (6.30pm)
A feel good traditional carol concert in the wonderful setting of the Market Square.

A Very Victorian Christmas

Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 December (10.00am - 4.00pm)
Story-telling, craft making and free festive entertainment for all the family in the Market Square.

Christmas Farmers' Market

Tuesday 22 December (9.00am - 2.00pm)
in Market Square.

Crib Service

Thursday 24 December (4.00pm onwards)
at St Mary's Church with a real life donkey!

Christmas Lights Switch-On

Thursday 19 November from 5.30pm
in Market Square.
Come and enjoy this firm family favourite. Music, fun and games start on stage at 5.30pm. Music will be provided by popular band Platform Soul and school choirs. Lights switch-on by some of our popular panto stars at 6.50pm, followed by amazing fireworks and of course more from the funky Platform Soul. Don't forget to visit the funfair in Kingsbury. Late night shopping in Friars Square and Hale Leys until 8.00pm.

Santa's Parade

Sunday 22 November at 10.30am
Santa's arrival is always very exciting. Santa will be joined by jolly Christmas characters, members of the Jack & the Beanstalk panto, a jazz band, cheerleaders, his elves and the Mix Monster.
The parade starts from the Hale Leys Service Area and winds its way up the High Street, around the Market Square into Bourbon Street and on to Santa's Grotto in Friars Square Shopping Centre. So come along and wave him on his way and don't forget you can visit Santa in his Grotto for FREE right up until Christmas Eve.



Christmas Opening Hours for Friars Square and Hale Leys

Free Parking in Aylesbury this Festive Season

FREE after 4.00pm on Thursdays from 19th November
FREE all day on every Saturday in December.

Sunday trading every week 10.30am - 4.30pm.
Late night shopping until 8.00pm every Thursday
from 12th November up to Christmas.

Monday 7 to Wednesday 9 December	9.00am - 7.00pm
Thursday 10 December	9.00am - 8.00pm
Friday 11 December	9.00am - 7.00pm
Monday 14 to Wednesday 23 December	9.00am - 8.00pm
Christmas Eve	9.00am - 4.30pm
Christmas Day	CLOSED
Boxing Day (26 December)	10.00am - 5.00pm
Bank Holiday Monday 28 December	10.00am - 5.00pm
New Year's Day	10.00am - 5.00pm

Some individual store times may differ.

For assistance getting around Aylesbury contact Shopmobility 01296 336725.

Friars Square aylesbury
shopping

HALE LEYS
THE SHOPPING CENTRE

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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