AYLESBURY TOWN Aylesbury Town Council Magazine Issue Twenty Two September 2011



Serving the people of Aylesbury

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Inside this issue...

- Win tickets to the Limelight Theatre
- New Councillors
- Your Chance to have Your Say
- Community News







Welcome Note

In May the local elections were held and a new Town Council was formed. Of the 25 councillors who represent the wards of Aylesbury Town eleven new councillors were elected. The Council said goodbye to a number of councillors whose knowledge and experience will be missed. However we welcome the new councillors who bring new skills, views and knowledge.

With the new Council a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor have been elected and more information is contained within this magazine. We also said goodbye to Graham Webster who served as Mayor during 2010-11 who worked tirelessly in promoting the town itself on behalf of the residents.

The new Council this year will face new challenges and, of course, opportunities. Reductions in local government funding will inevitably result in cut backs in services the local councils provide. Aylesbury Town Council this year kept their share of the council tax at the same level as the previous year. The previous year the increase in ATC's share of council tax was also minimal. As all residents of Aylesbury know, the cost of living is increasing whilst income is not increasing at the same pace, if at all. The Town Council has to deal with the same problem. However we are always looking at reducing costs whilst finding other ways of providing improved services.

I hope you find this version of Aylesbury Town Matters useful and informative. We do always try to make each edition of the magazine better than the previous one and welcome new ideas or comments from residents of the town, so please contact us however 'off the wall' you may think your comments are.

> Keith Turner Town Clerk

New Look Website coming soon



Aylesbury Town Council will soon have a new look website, thanks to a free update from our website providers, e-mango. The new design will look wider, be easier to navigate and will feature improved news and gallery sections. (N.B. The website pictured is just an example of how it may look).

For up to the minute news, why not connect with us on social media, or sign up for our monthly e-news?



www.twitter.com/aylesburytc www.facebook.com/aylesburytc www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



To check which Town Councillor represents your area, take a look at our Ward Map on page 12. Contact details for Aylesbury Town Councillors can also be found there.

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Front cover photo Miss Ballooniverse at Aylesbury-on-Sea by Claire Bignell

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





Aylesbury in Bloom 2011

Judging for the Annual Aylesbury in Bloom competition took place in June, with sections for organisations, residents and schools. The judges were very impressed with the standard of the gardens presented and enjoyed the variety of ideas on offer.

Worthy winners included: Sandra Ferguson (Best Back Garden and Overall Winner - Residents, *top left*); Bedgrove Infant School (Best Vegetable Garden, *left*); Occupational Therapy Centre, Stoke Mandeville Spinal Injuries Unit (Best Communal Garden, *top right*) and Evan Fearn (Young Gardener of the Year, *right*).



Details of all the winners can be found on our website.

The Annual Awards Ceremony for Schools took place on Thursday 7th July 2011 at Worlds End Garden Centre and many a smiling face was seen, particularly during the awards presentation!



"Many thanks for all your sterling work in organising the Awards last evening at Worlds End.

I realise, only too well, the time and effort involved but just wanted to say you did so much good for the children of our garden club.

They are absolutely over the moon with the prizes and delighted to have some recognition of all those muddy Tuesdays shivering in the garden."

> Marian Colyer Turnfurlong Junior School

What's on this Autumn...

Even though the days are getting shorter and the weather getting cooler, there's no excuse for staying in as there is heaps to do this Autumn in Aylesbury town.

September kicks off with a magic show from the fabulous Colonel Custard in the town centre on the 1st, followed by a weekend of Activities in Vale Park, including Aylesbury Town Council's popular Proms in the Park on the 3rd, an evening of patriotic entertainment with lots of flag waving. Picnicking recommended! The weekend also includes a Family Fun Day and 'Valestock', a day of music from local youth bands and groups, organised by Aylesbury Vale Youth For Christ.

Later, on September 11th, the historic **Tudor Fayre** in Market Square takes place, marking the granting of the Charter to Aylesbury, which allowed the town to hold 'Market' status. The day includes Tudor entertainment and activities for all the family. See back cover for more details.



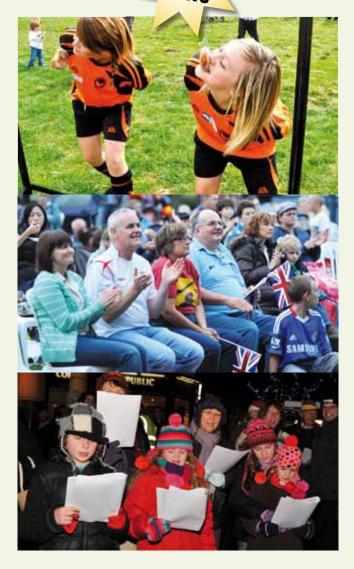
Then dig out your pink outfits and accessories for **'Wear it Pink Day'**, taking place in the High Street on the 24th to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness. There'll also be a **fashion show** in Friars Square that day so plenty to see and do in town!

There's also lots going on at Aylesbury Library in September, with Chatterbooks Children's Reading Groups for all ages and Storytime and Craft events. See the listings at the back of the magazine for more details.



October brings Half Term Fun in Kingsbury on the 27th, with free fun on climbing walls, trampolines and ball pits organised by Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership. At the end of the month Halloween themed entertainment

comes to Aylesbury in the form of **Ghouls and Villains**, an interactive play telling some of the most gruesome and ghoulish stories about Aylesbury's past. The event



takes place on 28th and 29th October and tickets will be available at the Tourist Information Centre.

Into November and the spirit of Christmas is just starting to occupy the air! The **Christmas Lights Switch On**, with special guests, takes place on 17th November, and is followed by the arrival of the big man himself at **Santa's Parade** on the 20th. Don't miss the Christmas Special Continental, Farmers' and Charity markets also in November – perfect for pressie ideas!

Don't forget to check the listings in the back for more ideas about what to do this Autumn with ideas for all ages. Or why not sign up to Aylesbury Town Council's e-news for news and updates about Aylesbury town, straight to your inbox? Sign up at www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Summer Review...

If you live in or around Aylesbury you were spoilt for choice this Summer – there was so much going on!

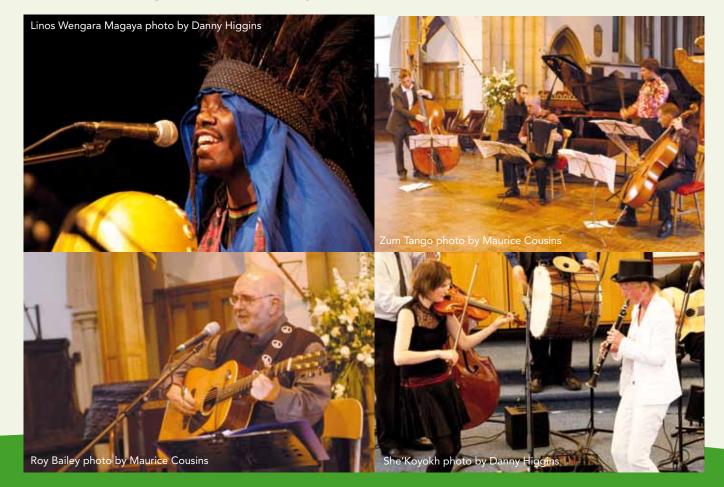
July enjoyed two weeks of a diverse range of music as the brand new **Aylesbury Festival** took place in the town. Crowds to the Roald Dahl Festival enjoyed the Cosmic Sausages in Kingsbury, the Limelight Theatre rang to the African sounds of Linos Wengara Magaya, there was gospel music from the London Community Gospel Choir in the Methodist Church, folk from Roy Bailey in St Mary's and the Albert Hall came to Aylesbury for a 'Last Night of the Proms' concert on the closing night.

One of the main highlights of the Festival was a visit from high class Slovenian Orchestra 'Festine', who had travelled to Aylesbury to play courtesy of the Slovenian Government. Members of the Orchestra were delighted to be welcomed by Aylesbury's Mayor, Cllr Jenny Puddefoot, at a reception held in their honour before their opening concert in the Methodist Church.

Two weeks of excellent music drew to a close with a weekend of more modern music in Kingsbury from Aylesbury's Guitar Academy and 'Girls who Rock', organised by Aylesbury Showcase. **Aylesbury looks** forward to welcoming the Festival back next year!



Festine photo by Maurice Cousins



Aylesbury-on-Sea 2011

The Aylesbury-on-Sea event once again enjoyed wonderful sunny weather, with an excess of 4,500 people attending throughout the day to enjoy Pirate Punch and Judy, sandpits, donkey rides, an octopus bouncy castle, face painting, fairground games and amazing balloon models from Miss Ballooniverse. More than 1,000 people played the games on the day, including 'Feed the Frog', 'Animal Derby' with 'Hook-an-Aylesbury-Duck' being particularly popular! The event was completely free, and we are already looking forward to it next year!





AN AN AN AN A

Rubens Close



Hath Close



Wymering Road



Royal Wedding Celebrations

Spirits across town were high on Friday 29th April as many of the townsfolk took to the streets in celebration of the Royal Wedding between Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

Numerous residents were keen to re-enact the street parties their parents and grandparents so fondly remember from previous Royal occasions, and the nuptial ceremony offered a chance not to be missed.

Aylesbury Town Council was keen to support the town's desire to celebrate the joyous day and specially commissioned a Travelling Troupe of entertainers who journeyed the length and breadth of the town to make the street parties that extra bit special.

The Troupe were led by past Mayor of Aylesbury, Graham Webster. The face painting, magic and entertainment, especially Sheridan the animatronic dog, were popular with all!

Aylesbury Town Council visited the following street parties: Morris Court, Heath Close, Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Wymering Road, Hughenden Green and Rubens Close.

Ashby vs White: The Aylesbury Case of Electoral Fraud

By now, the town and district council ballots will seem a distant memory. Today, we take it for granted that we have the ability to exercise our democratic right in free and fair elections.

Mr Ashby, a Burgess of Aylesbury, was not so fortunate in 1701 when he went to cast his vote. The Aylesbury case of electoral fraud, of which Mr Ashby was a victim, resulted in a bitter standoff between judiciary and parliament which was to lay the foundation for modern electoral fairness that still has relevance to this day more than 300 years after the event.

Corrupt Politics in the Town of Aylesbury

The 1701 election battle between Sir Thomas Lee, James Herbert Esq. and Simon Mayne Esq. was particularly bloody. Sir Thomas was the incumbent while Mr Herbert had previously unseated Mr Mayne as second member for Aylesbury. Elections of this time were bought not won, and according to local historian Gibbs, 'corruption was reduced to an open and avowed commerce. Had not the people been so universally venal and profligate that no sense of shame remained, the victors must have blushed for their success.'

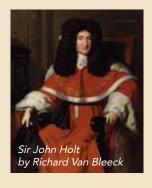
Mr Ashby was a Burgess, or freeman. Despite wide ranging political corruption, the population of Aylesbury had a wide franchise with all householders and freemen eligible to vote. Mr Ashby, choosing to support Sir Thomas and Mr Mayne was stopped from voting by the returning officer Mr White.

It's believed that Mr Ashby was prevented from voting because this would have legitimised his status as a resident of the parish of Aylesbury, of which many believed he was to soon become a burden. Sharp practices were regular in elections following the Civil War, with both sides equally guilty, but this was seen as a particularly flagrant act. Parliament though, now firmly in Tory hands, had ruled that the returning officer was acting well within his rights to ban Mr Ashby, and all other Burgesses, from voting in Parliamentary elections.

This presented the Whig interest with a problem as they dearly wanted to overturn the result. Because of Tory Parliamentary control, they resorted to the courts and a case was brought against the biased returning officer. The House of Commons got wind of this move and in 1703 tried to ban any court from trying this case with the threat of imprisonment for any lawyer or judge that dared defy them. They argued that this was a breach of Parliamentary privilege so no court could interfere. These tactics would have frightened off lesser men, but Sir John Holt presiding in his splendour set to do battle with the House of Commons.

Sir John Holt, Lord Chief Justice

The unwavering Sir John Holt was a commendable fellow. His determined judicial independence was at odds with an age which saw the likes of the infamous Judge Jeffries hang men on a whim and deport them to the Americas for a profit. Sir John Holt set himself apart from political intrigues and thereby set the model for the modern judiciary.



Born in 1644 to Sir Thomas Holt of Banbury, who had been Sergeant at Arms for the House of Commons, he managed to stay on the right side of Cromwell's Commonwealth and was made a Judge. By James II's rein his career progressed, and the new King made him Recorder of London

throwing a knighthood into the bargain. Finally he was promoted to the exulted post of Lord Chief Justice of England when William of Orange and Mary replaced James on the throne after the Glorious Revolution of 1688.

Holt ruled in one case that "No slave say from Northern Canada could breathe England's free air and still remain in chains as the English would never tolerate it", so setting in train a process which would lead ultimately to the abolition of slavery. Sir John was a rational man who opposed the trial of women on the spurious grounds of witchcraft.

The Commons vs Sir John

Sir John had a strong character, and despite Whig sympathies, maintained strict political impartiality on the bench. This case particularly riled against his views. When the House of Commons heard that the case against the returning officer was being tried against their wishes it despatched the Sergeant at Arms to bring the errant judge before the House of Commons



The King's bench deliberate

to explain himself. The hapless Parliamentary functionary was listened to in polite silence before being told to go about his business – not once but five times. Finally the speaker himself was dispatched, supported by a cohort of MPs, to summon Sir John before the Commons.

The scene can only be imagined now. The glittering golden and black gown of the Speaker with a full bottom periwig with some of the most powerful men in the Kingdom at his back facing the authority of the Lord Chief Justice of England with his scarlet robes. Once again the House of Commons was listened to in polite silence by the bench. Then finally Sir John spoke, "I am the arbitrator of justice and I sit here dispensing the law, I do not care if you have the entire House of Commons in your belly Mr Speaker if you are not gone in a few minutes you shall find yourself in Newgate."

With that, the case of Aylesbury's Ashby vs White resumed, as the court stared in amazement at the scene. The Speaker and his cohorts found it prudent at this point to withdraw and forget the matter. Eventually Sir John ruled in favour of Mr Ashby, however the case was not fully resolved until it went before the House of Lords where the peers voted fifty votes to sixteen in favour of the verdict given by Sir John.

The Aylesbury case as it became known set forth the legal principle that no official could arbitrarily misuse his powers to deprive a man of his lawful right to vote and that such abuse in itself could be challenged through the courts. Students reading law today in this country and America can find reference to Ashby vs White in their textbooks. Indeed, in the recent trial of Watkins vs Woolas, where the MP for Oldham East and Saddleworth had his Parliamentary seat taken away from him last year by the High Court, mention of our old friend the Aylesbury case can be found.

Sir John died seven years after this case but he has a legacy that lives on. With only two thirds of the Aylesbury electorate exercising their democratic right in 2010 it seems as though most are unaware of the literal trials through which these rights have passed. It is a shame that his name, and that of Aylesbury's Mr Ashby, are not better remembered.

Kevin Peters

Community News & Events

Rock in the Square

On Sunday 4th September 2011, Market Square will be rocking to the sounds of five original bands in a free event to raise money for charity.

'Rock for Thembalitsha', organised by STN Music will be raising money for Thembalitsha UK, a small charity working with HIV/AIDS orphans in South Africa. The event, which runs from 2.00pm - 7.00pm is free to attend, but bucket collections will be made throughout. Bands appearing include Duke of Marmalade, The Unchosen and Skyskratcher (pictured).

AIDS Charity Thembalitsha was set up by Whitchurch residents Tim and Marion Walker in 2009, after they purchased a smallholding outside of Cape Town, moving there with their teenage son Aaron to set up the 'Thembalitsha Village of Hope'.

The Village of Hope looks after children who have been treated for HIV/AIDS in the main ThembaCare clinic. Although the children are well enough to no longer remain in hospital, they will continue to have the illness throughout their lives, and are being offered much needed care by Thembalitsha.





Relay for Life

The weekend of 2nd - 3rd July 2011 saw the third annual Relay for Life in aid of Cancer Research UK take place. What a fantastic event, the sun shone and everybody was in fine spirits; the atmosphere was amazing.

12 valiant teams with over 250 members, ranging from 4 weeks old to 84 years old were raring to go. The event started with an opening lap by survivors of cancer – which is what this event is all about, raising money to ensure more survivors in the future.

During the 24 hours the teams and supporters were entertained with various dressing up rounds (depict a film, punks, recycled outfits just to name a few!) and some fantastic music from live bands and DJs, dancing rounds from Jazzercise, line dancing and Zumba. Every team also ran a stall to add to the fundraising.

The event so far has raised a fantastic $\pm 34,348$ with money still coming in – donations still gratefully accepted. Next year's dates have been set as 7th - 8th July 2012 at Aylesbury Rugby Club in Weston Turville. Would you like to enter a team and help raise money for this great cause? Just go online at www.relayforlifeaylesbury.org to find out more.

Ashmead School wins Silver Bike-It Award

Mayor Cllr Jenny Puddefoot was recently proud to present the Silver Bike-It Schoolmark Award to Ashmead School. The silver schoolmark is awarded to schools showing a continuous and independent commitment to the promotion of cycling to school. Cllr Puddefoot was hugely impressed with the dedication of the school children and felt that the award was very well deserved. Pictured are Mayor Cllr Jenny Puddefoot, Sustrans Bike-It Officer Lucie Taylor, Miss Shepherd the school cycling champion and members of the Bike-It crew.



Open Gardens

Four mature town gardens opened in Aylesbury under the National Gardens Scheme on Sunday 26th June 2011. With a £4 entry (children free) and all proceeds going towards various national charities including Marie Curie Cancer Care & Crossroads there was a steady flow of visitors from Aylesbury, the surrounding villages and beyond.

With fine weather also being a feature of the day it was an afternoon for visitors ranging from expert gardeners to the just curious guests. The hosts were on hand to give advice and information and all thoroughly enjoyed having their gardens inspected and enjoyed by such a wide audience. **All in all a good day out!**

Gardens opening up this year were:

13 Walton Dene - Winner of Best Front and Best Vegetable Garden in Aylesbury in Bloom 2010, this garden combines a mixture of alpines, perennials, shrubs, ferns and exotics.

2 Spenser Road - Homemade teas were on offer at this tranquil cottage style garden with a Victorian greenhouse, containing ornamental trees, pelargoniums and tender plants.

110 Tring Road - Winner of Best Formal Garden in Aylesbury in Bloom 2010, this is an established suburban garden with mature trees, perennials, rose bed, gazebo, pond and alpine raised beds.

90 Walton Way - This was an interesting town garden featuring large, well stocked ornamental fish ponds and a wildlife pond.





Age Concern becomes AgeUK in Bucks

On Saturday 9th July Age Concern Bucks changed its identity to become AgeUK, to fit in with the National Charity's re-brand. The launch went off with a bang, with local celebrity John Otway doing the honours of cutting the ribbon. Zumba, Tai Chi and a tombola were among the activities on offer. For more information about the services AgeUK Bucks provides visit www.ageukbucks.org.uk



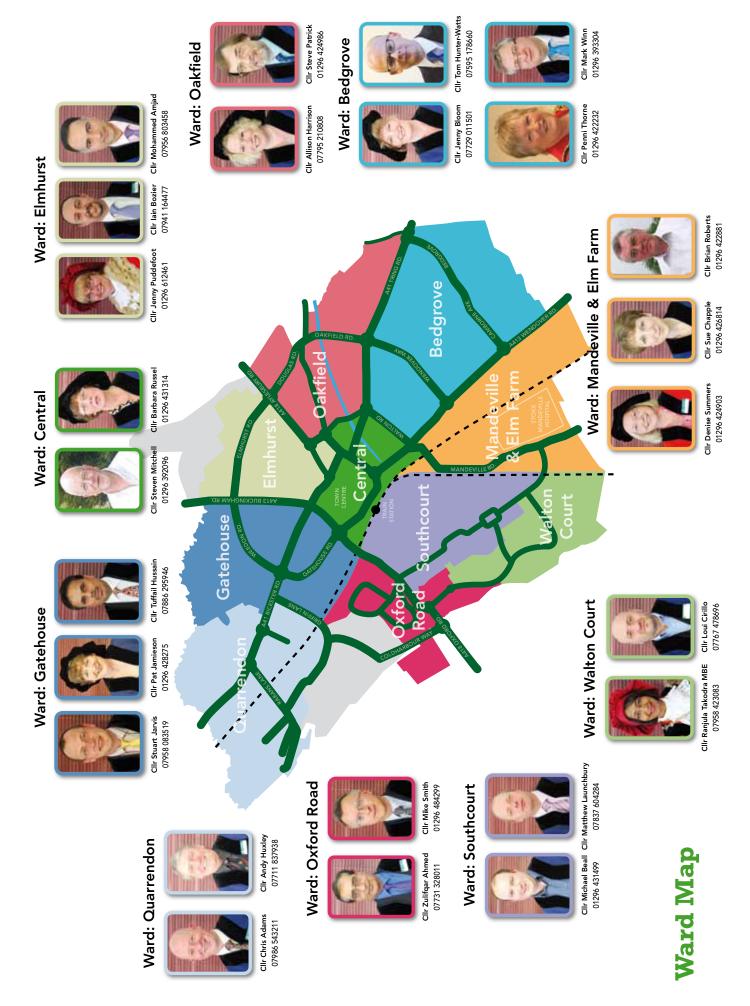
Badminton is booming in Aylesbury!

This summer even more people have been playing badminton with Bedgrove Badminton Club! The club ran 'Back 2 Badminton', which is a 10 week coaching course for adult beginners. The course has been a great success with 15 completely new players coming into the game.

Graham Double, club chairman said "It's great to see so many new players enjoying badminton and our Thursday sessions are ideal for players that haven't been on court in years and fancy giving it a go again. We're always on the lookout for new players and our doors are open on a Thursday evening to anyone wanting to come along".

Stoke Mandeville Stadium is also running twice weekly session of 'No Strings Badminton', a fun and friendly social badminton session for adult casual players. Sunday 'No Strings' sessions are open to the whole family, so if you feel like burning off those Sunday dinner calories, why not try it out!

Contact Nina Bridge on 07901 005 320 or email: ninabridge@badmintonengland.co.uk for more information.



Aylesbury Town Council: 2011-2014

On the 5th May, many of the town's residents took to the polling booth in exercise of their democratic rights. While the local elections rightly featured key debates about the governance of the town, a faltering national economy and an historic coalition government, a feature not seen on the Westminster political map since Churchill's wartime cabinet, provided a rich national backdrop.

We are pleased to now introduce to you the new Aylesbury Town Council. A map of wards and those representing each area can be found opposite.

2011-2014: New Beginnings

The 2011 Town Council elections proved to be an event of substantial change, and we welcome eleven new faces to the council chambers. Our new members share great enthusiasm and have high expectations for what the Town Council can achieve on behalf of Aylesbury's residents. Three have jumped straight into the deep end by taking the chair of one of Aylesbury Town Council's committees. The scrutiny of key areas by committees is essential to the timely management of the Council's overall work.

Our new councillors are:

Cllr Barbara Russel, Cllr Iain Bozier, Cllr Allison Harrison, Cllr Tom Hunter-Watts, Cllr Mark Winn, Cllr Loui Cirillo, Cllr Matthew Launchbury, Cllr Michael Beall, Cllr Chris Adams, Cllr Andy Huxley and Cllr Stuart Jarvis

One of the first tasks for the new Council was to appoint one of their peers to the Office of Mayor. Both the Mayor and Deputy were appointed at a special civic ceremony held at Aylesbury College.

Mayor

Cllr Jenny Puddefoot

In election of a new Mayor, the Town Council were keen to draw on past experience. Fitting the bill exactly, Cllr Jenny Puddefoot graciously accepted the office, returning to a role she previously held between 2007-2008.



Having taught children for a number of years, Jenny is keen to support the young people of our town, nominating Aylesbury Youth Action and Youth Concern Aylesbury as her two official charities. The Council look forward to her office with great optimism, safe in the knowledge that Aylesbury will be well represented.

Deputy Mayor

Cllr Ranjula Takodra MBE

The Town Council is also privileged to welcome back former Mayor, Cllr Ranjula Takodra MBE to the position of Deputy Mayor. During her term as Mayor between 2009-2010, Ranjula worked tirelessly in support of the town, its residents and her nominated

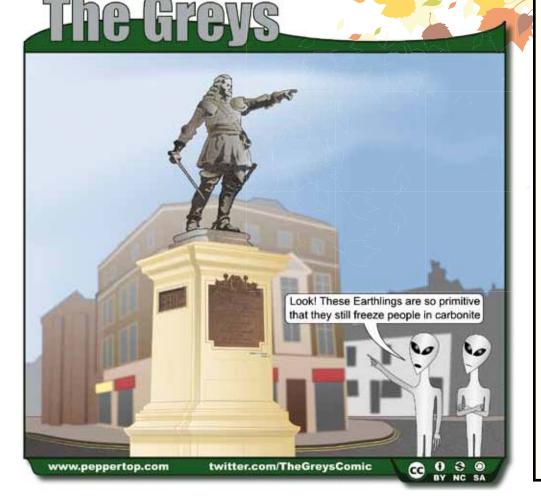


charity, The Cancer Care and Haematology Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, attending over 200 functions.

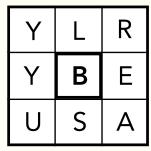
She has already assisted the Mayor on a number of occasions and hopes to continue the positive work she achieved in her last office. Aylesbury Town Council wishes her well and is completely confident of her future success as Deputy Mayor.

A full list of election results, including wards, turnout and number of votes cast can be found our website.

Sutumn Fun...



Word Puzzle



Find as many words as you can which include the centre letter 'B'.

Words must be three letters or more, plurals are allowed, and there is one nine letter word.

Our computer tells us there are 76 words to be found (including plurals). In the Town Council Offices we found 32 words – can you beat us?

Win tickets to the Limelight Theatre



The devil, as they say, is always in the detail. Aylesbury has a multitude of hidden features you may have missed on your day to day travels.

Can you work out where this close up comes from? If your photographic memory can come up with the answer, contact us for your chance to win tickets to a show of your choice at the Limelight Theatre, Queen's Park Art Centre.

Post your answers to: Aylesbury Town Council, Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP or email: info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Closing date for entries 31st October 2011. Only one entry per person. The winner will be chosen at random and will be notified by email or post.

Buckinghamshire Ambassador's Enterprise Awards

On 9th June, Officers and Councillors from Aylesbury Town Council attended the glamorous Buckinghamshire Ambassador's Enterprise Awards after being shortlisted for one of the categories. Heading to Marlow for the exciting event, the Town Council were represented in reward of the entire organisation's hard work over the last year.

The Buckinghamshire Ambassadors bring together key people from all walks of life to raise the profile of Buckinghamshire and promote economic growth in the county. Every year they hold awards to celebrate organisations who support and demonstrate this ethos.

The Council is very proud to have achieved 'Highly Commended' in the Corporate Social Responsibility category. This is one way of benchmarking against not only other local councils but more importantly other local organisations.

In order to achieve the Bucks Enterprise Award we had to demonstrate: understanding communities in and around Aylesbury, support for young people and education, workplace skills development, encouraging work for all, our commitment to improving and protecting the environment and understanding the voluntary sector.

Completing the award application was an interesting process which helped us to internally evaluate our standards and current achievements and we hope this will help us to formalise future planning.

We strive to support and represent you, our residents, and will continue to work to these ideals.

If you would like to read the full details of our application, please contact Claire Bignell on 01296 425678 or c.bignell@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Town Council representatives celebrate their success. Photo by Dave Marriott



Celia waves goodbye to her colleagues

Goodbye to Celia

It was with great sadness that the Aylesbury Town Council team was given the news that Celia McCrea had decided to retire after nearly three years working for Aylesbury Town Council.

Celia's primary job was to assist the Town Mayor. 'Assisting' probably does not do justice to the actual position. A Mayor can attend over 200 appointments a year, sometimes three or four a day. And for every request for the Mayor to attend an opening, annual general meeting, school, event, fête and many other functions, there are usually one or two that the Mayor physically cannot attend. This requires a significant amount of administration and organisation, telephone calls, letters and meetings. Many of these appointments are sometimes not set in stone and times, dates and venues can change at any point. So the Mayor's Assistant needs to be flexible and be very organised.

However, the Town Council is a relatively small council who support many very different services so Celia could be asked to deal with subjects ranging from burials to allotments. So similar to most of the council staff Celia had to maintain at least a basic knowledge of many of these services.

Celia was born in London but moved to the Aylesbury area at a young age and continues to live in Aylesbury as do her two children and four grandchildren.

Mayor Cllr Jenny Puddefoot said "It was sad to see Celia go. She was not only efficient and helpful but also is a very nice person. I wish her well in her retirement."

Your Chance to have Your Say



The Localism Bill will permit local communities to have more say in how their town or village is developed in future years.

To do this in Aylesbury the Town Council has been asked, with assistance from Aylesbury Vale District Council, to produce a Town Plan based on input from as many residents, residents' associations and other organisations as possible.

This is your chance to have your say.

This will done by way of a survey. It's too big to include in this magazine but it actually only takes a few minutes to complete. You don't have to comment on everything, just the areas that interest you.

You can access the survey on our Town Council website at: www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk or if you prefer, contact us by phone or email and we will post or email a copy to you.

The major issues are:

New housing within Aylesbury parish boundaries In practice there is very limited opportunity to find new sites for houses or apartments in Aylesbury itself without using sites that have been or continue to be used for industry, retail or warehousing. However if used for housing there will be limited opportunities for new businesses to move into the town and of course a subsequent potential reduction in job opportunities.

Development of the town centre and facilities

Similar to most towns Aylesbury town centre has suffered from the current economic downturn. The move towards buying off the internet and from out of town centre retail parks doesn't help, but we must retain a vibrant town centre.

We need to plan for the future and this survey gives all Aylesbury residents a chance to outline what facilities they would like to access.

New developments adjacent to the town

Due to changes by the new government the District Council withdrew their Core Strategy (the document which projected large growth levels of housing around Aylesbury). The outcome of this will probably be a significant reduction in the housing projections but it does not mean some of the sites will not be used at some time in the future.

The Town Plan will be produced using local residents comments as a base so it is important you have your say now.

If you require any further information please contact the Town Clerk, Keith Turner on 01296 425678 or email: k.turner@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk or contact your local councillor. Details of which councillor represents each area of the town can be found on the Ward Map on page 12 of this magazine.

The Italian Taste of Success

On a somewhat gloomy looking Sunday morning in early May this year I headed up to Aylesbury College for my first cookery lesson in more than 35 years. The college is providing a number of new cookery courses designed to broaden the institution's appeal and get people interested and excited in food. Under the expert guiding hand of Toby Hill in the excellent kitchens, I was to be instructed in Italian cookery.

My compatriots on the course were Eddie, a bespectacled softly spoken Scot, and Paul who had attended the previous week's course on Michelin cookery where eleven people had taken part.

Toby has a wealth of anecdotes about his early career and he told us about Franco Taruschio who owed and ran The Walnut Tree pub in North Wales where Toby had spent some of his early training. Franco is an excellent chef but a tad unconventional as he never sought the prestigious Michelin stars.

This fact did not stop customers flying their helicopters up from London and landing in the pub car park to sample his outstanding food. Franco even entrusted the young Toby with a suitcase full of cash to go and buy a brand new DB6 MG motor car for him from a dealership in a nearby town.

One of the primary lessons Franco instilled in Toby was the importance of taste and texture. This may sound obvious but over complication and fussiness over a dish's appearance are a byword at the high end of the restaurant trade which Toby Hill disdains. As he said many of these dishes were of humble peasant origins.

Perhaps to reinforce the point our first dish to prepare was Minestra Affumicata which was a smoked salmon, leek, potato and rice soup. Aylesbury College's cookery courses offer an excellent new insight into the possibilities of the kitchen and provide an inspiring starting point to take one's interests further or rekindle old passions. Toby gave the average baked bean cook like me the confidence to take on something more adventurous. For more about this worthwhile course which I can thoroughly recommend, please visit the Aylesbury College website: www.aylesbury.ac.uk or telephone 01296 780295.

Kevin Peters



Risotta Alla Porcini Mushroom Risotto

Serves 2

Ingredients

25g butter, plus extra to serve

- 1/2 onion, finely chopped 150g superfine carnaroli rice
- 3 tbsp white wine
- 10g dried porcini, soaked in warm water for 20 minutes
- 1 litre hot chicken or vegetable stock, preferably homemade
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 100g wild mushrooms
- 10g finely grated parmesan
- 4 tbsp chopped parsley
- Sea salt and black pepper

Method

- Melt the butter in a heavy based casserole dish over medium heat. Add the onion and cook very slowly for 5 - 7 minutes until soft.
- Add the rice and stir for a few minutes until heated through and well-coated with butter.
- Stirring continuously, add the white wine and cook for a few minutes to allow the alcohol to evaporate.
- Drain the dried porcini, squeeze out any excess moisture and add them to the rice.
- Add a ladleful of hot stock and stir until absorbed. Continue to add the stock a ladleful at a time, stirring continuously until all the stock is absorbed. When cooked, around 15 - 17 minutes later, the rice should be 'al dente' – tender but firm in the centre.
- Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add the garlic and gently fry for a few seconds until transparent, taking care not to let it colour.
- Add all the mushrooms and season with salt and pepper to taste. Fry for about 5 minutes, stirring, until the mushrooms start to release their juice.
- When the rice is cooked, stir in the mushrooms. Leave to stand for 1 minute.
- Add the butter, parmesan and parsley, stirring vigorously with a wooden spoon. Season to taste and serve.

Cemetery Extension Programme a Success









Since taking over the Tring Road Cemetery in 2007, improvement has progressed at a steady rate. Aylesbury Town Council regards the management of the cemetery as one of its highest priorities and has invested much time and effort in raising standards. The latest development has been the long planned and extensive expansion project which will ensure residents of the town have a site to lay their loved ones to rest for many years to come.

The extension became necessary as the existing cemetery's capacity is slowly being reached. The adjoining Tring Road allotment site, which was only temporarily earmarked for allotment gardens, unfortunately had to bow to its longer term duty. Roughly half of the land was reclaimed to make way for the extension. After clearing the former allotment gardens which took considerable time, work began on addressing the drainage issues.

Owing to thick and heavy clay bedding, the water table of the extension was unworkably high. Without addressing the drainage of water, burials would have been impossible. The solution came in the shape of a three metre deep drainage trench running the length and breadth of the area. This ambitious excavation included two inspection chambers allowing us to monitor progress.

Sadly, the Town Council's hardworking single seated digger wasn't up to the task. Instead, a specialised heavy duty entrenching machine was needed to cut through the earth. So specific was the task at hand, the commissioned entrenching machine had to be bought back from work in Poland especially to labour in the Cemetery. Upon completion, it made its way back to our eastern European friends to resume in its industry.

Popes of Liverpool were the Town Council's nominated contractors for the work who, we are happy to report, were extremely professional in their duties. They worked positively with us to reduce costs, saving the tax payer thousands of pounds. However, thanks must also be given to our dedicated outdoor and cemetery staff who worked overtime, and at weekends, to ensure that the difficult job was completed with minimal fuss and disruption.

Since completion, we have been keeping a close eye on the water levels and are happy to report that drainage work appears to have been successful. Over the summer, water levels on the new cemetery ground have consistently fallen. We will continue to monitor through the winter, but things are looking good.

> Daniel Parslow Project Officer

Bedgrove Carbon Competition



The atmosphere was electric on the 11th May, as Aylesbury Town Council hosted the awards ceremony to celebrate the hard work of participants in the Bedgrove Carbon Contest.

The contest was an innovative scheme designed to help households cut their carbon footprint. The challenge was laid down to residents and schools from the Bedgrove area of Aylesbury to try to cut their carbon emissions as much as possible. As an incentive, they were in

competition against one another.

Over 100 households took part in the contest with an average carbon saving of 11.4%. Encouragingly, 29% of households managed to cut their electricity use by more than 20%. Four households managed a whopping saving of more than 50%! Financially, this represents an average saving of £155 a year per household. No small change!

Feedback from participants was positive, and it was clear that the household and schools involved benefited from the enjoyable contest. Jo Speakman, team leader of the Bedgrove Eco Dynamos commented, 'the contest has opened our eyes to how much energy we used without even realising, and how easy it was to make savings.' Jo was presented with an award for the most CO_2 saved after her, and her team's, outstanding efforts.

With support from the Greater Aylesbury Local Area Forum, the Carbon Contest demonstrated how all tiers of local government can successfully achieve common goals. Aylesbury Town Council worked in close partnership with Aylesbury Vale District Council and Bucks County Council to organise the contest with officers from all three forming a working group. It also demonstrates Aylesbury Town Council's commitment to all areas of the town, not just the centre.

In celebration of the hard work undertaken by households and teams, Aylesbury Town Council hosted an awards ceremony at the Town Hall. There was a diverse range of ecologically sound prizes on offer to the best performers in the contest. These had been generously sponsored by local businesses. The prizes were dished out by former Mayor of Aylesbury, Graham Webster in one of his last public ceremonial duties before stepping down.

In closing the former Mayor commented, 'It's really encouraging to see how hard the households have all worked, particularly the school children who will be making important decisions about their energy use in the future. I congratulate all involved.'

Aylesbury Town Council would like to thank the following businesses for their generosity sponsoring prizes: Bluepepper Designs, Good Energy, Ardenham Energy, So We Create, Mark Gregory, Chiltern Driver Training, Sign Wizzard, Plumb Wise and Zap Carbon.

> Daniel Parslow Project Officer



Prize winners gather at the evening's close. Photo by Maurice Cousins

WINNERS: Most Meter Readings and Actions (Team) - Bedgrove Infant School; Most Meter Readings and Actions (Individual) Joint 1st: Sarah Bateman, Bedgrove Eco Dynamos and Adam Ward, Bedgrove Infant School; Most CO₂ Saved By School - Bedgrove Infant School; Most CO₂ Saved By Class - Earth Team, Turnfurlong Junior School; Certificate Of Merit - St. Edward's Catholic Junior School; Lowest Household Energy Use (Team) - Cyclones; Lowest Household Energy Use (Individual) - Emma Bird, Bedgrove Eco Dynamos; Lowest Energy Use Per Person - 1st Place: Colin White, Cyclones; Lowest Energy Use Per Person - 2nd Place: The Travers Family, Turnfurlong Junior School; Biggest Percentage Reduction In Energy Use (Individual) - Carolyne Boyle, Bedgrove Infant School; Most CO₂ Saved (Individual) - Jo Speakman, Bedgrove Eco Dynamos

Aylesbury Town Grants awarded July 2011



Cllrs Pat Jamieson and Ranjula Takodra present Aylesbury Youth Action with a cheque for £1,500 towards their 40th Anniversary.

Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers Bucks

£1400 was awarded to Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers Bucks which will go towards the funding of volunteer recruitment, support and retention within their 'Leisure & Learning' project. The purpose of this project is that disabled members can be given a volunteer to help them do the activities they enjoy such as tennis and basketball.

Queens Park Arts Centre

The £1700 awarded will go towards their Christmas show (Jack and the Beanstalk) which will be held in the Limelight Theatre in December. Tickets will range from £6 for concessions to £25 for a family ticket.

Save Your Rights

The £1600 grant will be used for making an educational film on 'forced marriages' in Aylesbury. Case studies and real life stories will be used in the film.

Hayley Sinclair

A grant of £300 was awarded to Hayley who is working on an audio play which will take you around the Old Town of Aylesbury. Cllrs Penni Thorne and Ranjula Takodra present MS Society with a cheque for £800 towards funding for their quarterly newsletter.

National Spinal Injuries Centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital

A £400 grant was awarded which will be going towards purchasing new garden furniture for the patients, staff and visitors in the Therapy Garden.

Community Unity Projects

The grant was used for a free community fun day in July which was based in Quarrendon. The money went towards the hiring of equipment, advertising and signage. £1175 was awarded.

Sports Grants

£1000 was awarded to the following local athletes towards training costs, travelling expenses and equipment:

Ben Gregory - Decathlon Competitor Craig Gibbons - 50m and 100m Freestyle Swimmer Lauren Thomas - Hockey Lucy Chenery - Disabled Swimmer Penny Anyon - Hockey

If you belong to a non-profit-making organisation which provides a service for a section of the community, or are a dedicated young sportsperson based in Aylesbury, you may qualify for a grant. Please contact Donna Trichardt on 01296 425678 or email: d.trichardt@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk for more information. Alternatively, information and application forms are available on our website.

Contact us: We value your feedback and invite you to contact us with your comments on the content of this magazine or suggestions for content for the next issue using the following details: Aylesbury Town Council, Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP T: 01296 425678 email: k.turner@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. Keith Turner, Town Clerk

Aylesbury Town Correspondence



At the Town Hall we have been veritably deluged by the regularity of your correspondence. Your views are important to Aylesbury Town Council, so please keep them pouring in. Here's a summary since last issue:

Biodiesel

Dear Aylesbury Town Council,

Good news about the production of biodiesel! But why is this country so far behind other European countries in some things? I lived in Luxembourg for many years and even 15 years ago they were using biodiesel for their public transport.

> Keep up the good work. Mr D Hill

Ed: Thanks for your comments Mr Hill. You will be pleased to note that this project, with the help of GALAF, is rapidly progressing. We hope to tell you more in the next edition.

Mayor's Royal Wedding Celebrations

Dear Town Council,

Everyone in Hughenden Green would especially like to congratulate Hilary the Events Officer, Graham the Mayor and the Travelling Troupe for making our Street Party such a memorable time. Everyone loved the entertainment and we will all remember this as one of the great highlights of our lives.

> Best Wishes Pauline, George and all in Hughenden Green

Hello ATC,

Like many other people across the country, we held a street party to celebrate the Royal Wedding. I would like to say a big thank you for your visit. Our children thoroughly enjoyed the entertainers, jugglers, face painting and of course the talking dog!

> Kind regards Mr Eldridge

Ed: It's fair to say that all enjoyed the Mayor's Travelling Troupe who tirelessly spent the entire Royal Wedding day travelling between street parties the length and breadth of Aylesbury. You can read more about the fun and games laid on by Aylesbury Town Council and see the antics of Sheridan the animatronic dog on page 7.

Incineration and the Environment

Dear Editor,

I try hard to reduce my carbon footprint and recycle all my household waste, saving money and electricity. When I was very small, I used to help my mother with shopping at the local Home and Colonial Stores. In those days, there was no excess packaging. It seems to me that a lot of packaging materials can only be recycled once, such as certain cardboards.

Please note, we reserve the right to edit and shorten any letters, emails or tweets sent to us to meet printing requirements. I wonder if we should think about incineration? In the old days, a good bonfire seemed to do the trick, but nowadays we have to be more careful. There should be technology on hand to reduce carbon emissions while incinerating unrecyclables. New incineration technology would not give out fumes or plumes, and be able to process this type of waste cleanly and effectively. I think that we can find technological solutions to problems like pollution and recycling.

Yours Sincerely Mrs Anderson-Fade

Ed: Mrs Anderson-Fade's email contained much detail about her diligent and committed actions to improve the environment for everybody in Aylesbury for which we give thanks. Her email also highlights some issues surrounding incineration which are pertinent to local public debate. ATC considers it is essential for people to engage into public discussion and debate over such important issues.

In Person

Mrs Walters and her daughter dropped by the ATC stall at the Village Green Fair to say a warm thank you to the Council and its staff for the programme of events we organise. She attends every one and thinks they help keep the town active and interesting.

Twitter

@Good_Energy, co-sponsors of the Bedgrove Carbon Contest, thought ATC's engagement of the community was a brilliant way of helping people understand energy use. @silverfoxmentor considered Romans' Day to be an excellent event. In response, @stevenlambert1 asked what the Romans ever did for us? Apart from sanitation, medicine, education, irrigation, public health, roads, fresh water systems, baths and public order, we're not sure either.

By Phone

Mrs Fortune called to request a large print copy of Aylesbury Town Matters 21. We were more than happy to oblige and dispatched an easy to read copy forthwith.

Our Twitter account grows daily, currently standing at 136 followers, while 93 of you like us on Facebook! Could you be our next online follower? @aylesburytc

or www.facebook.com/aylesburytc Getting in Contact:



Contacting us couldn't be easier, write to: The Editor, Aylesbury Town Council, Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP **Or email:** info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk s on un

September

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October

1 4 - 5	International Older People's Day Essence of Ireland	Celebration Dance	TBC TBC	TBC 7.30pm	Various Waterside Theatre
	Storytime & Crafts			10.30am	
6	,	Family	FREE		Aylesbury Library
6	Judy & Liza	Musical	from £22.00	7.30pm	Waterside Theatre
7	La Traviata - Karkiv Opera	Opera	from £18.50	7.30pm	Waterside Theatre
8	Love your Market	Shopping	FREE	11.00am - 3.00pm	Market Square
8	Madame Butterfly - Karkiv Opera	Opera	from £18.50	7.30pm	Waterside Theatre
10 - 15	Grease	Musical	from £21.50	Various	Waterside Theatre
11	Chatterbooks Children's Reading Group	Ages 10-12	FREE	4.30pm - 5.30pm	Aylesbury Library
16	Bob the Builder	Family	from £13.00	1.00pm and 3.30pm	Waterside Theatre
17 - 22	Dr. Marigold & Mr. Chops	Play	TBC	TBC	Waterside Theatre
25	Farmers' Market Half Term Special	Shopping	FREE	9.00am - 2.00pm	Market Square
25	Chatterbooks Children's Reading Group	Ages 7-10	FREE	4.30pm - 5.30pm	Aylesbury Library
25 - 29	The Nutcracker - Northern Ballet	Ballet	from £17.50	2.30pm and 7.30pm	Waterside Theatre
27	Half Term Fun	Family	FREE	11.00am - 3.00pm	Kingsbury
28	David Nixon OBE, Northern Ballet	Talk	£5.00	6.00pm	Waterside Theatre
28 - 29	Ghouls and Villains	Family	Up to £4.50	6.00pm and 8.00pm	Town Centre
31	Blood Brothers (until 5 Nov)	Musical	from £15.50	2.30pm and 7.30pm	Waterside Theatre

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Event details correct at time of print

November

3 - 5 5 6 8 8 - 12 11 9 10 12 13 13 13 14 - 19 17 18 19 19 20 20 21 22 22 22 22 22 24 25	Christmas Continental Market Art & Craft Fair Omid Djalili Chatterbooks Children's Reading Group The Jungle Book Miranda Sykes & Rex Preston Aylesbury College Open Day Storytime & Crafts Open Mic Night Remembrance Day Service and Parade Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings Calendar Girls Christmas Lights Switch On Moon Dogs Craft Fair Pluckeda true fairy tale Santa's Parade Reginald D Hunter Gilbert O'Sullivan Farmers' Market Chatterbooks Children's Reading Group The Vagina Monologues Gardeners' Question Time Live Dumb Angel	Shopping Shopping Comedy Ages 10-1 Play Folk Conce Education Family Music Ceremony Concert Play Family Concert Shopping Theatre Family Concert Shopping Ages 7-10 Play Radio Broa Concert
22	Chatterbooks Children's Reading Group	Ages 7-10
		Radio Broa
25 26	Dominic Kirwan Fish & Chips Quiz Night	Concert Quiz
26 26	Bright Cecilia Sally Morgan - Psychic Sally	Concert Talk
27 27	Christmas Speciality Charity Gift Market Chris Addison	Shopping Comedy
28 29 30	Steeleye Span Jerry Sadowitz Royal Philharmonic Orchestra - Tchaikovsky Spectacular	Concert Comedy - Concert
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FREE £1.00/£2.00 from £21.50 FREE from £13.50 £10.00/£12.00 FREE FREE £2.00/£4.00 FREE from £21.35 from £17.00 FREE £9.00/£10.00 FREE £9.00/£11.00 FREE from £22.75 from £27.25 FREE FREE from £16.50 from £24.00 £5.00/£6.00 from £17.50 £10.00 £5.00/£8.00 from £26.00 FREE from £22.50 TBC from £18.75 from £23.00

9.00am - 5.30pm 10.00am - 4.00pm 7.30pm 4.30pm - 5.30pm Various 8.00pm 3.30pm - 7.30pm 10.30am 8.00pm 10.45am 8.00pm 2.30pm and 7.30pm from 5.30pm 8.00pm 12.00pm - 3.00pm 8.00pm 10.30am - 3.00pm 8.00pm 8.00pm 9.00am - 2.00pm 4.30pm - 5.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm 7.00pm 7.30pm 7.30pm 11.00am - 3.00pm 8.00pm 7.30pm 8.00pm

7.30pm

Kingsbury Queens Park Centre Waterside Theatre Aylesbury Library Waterside Theatre Queens Park Centre Aylesbury College Aylesbury Library Limelight Theatre Market Square Waterside Theatre Waterside Theatre Market & Friars Square Queens Park Centre Aylesbury Music Centre Limelight Theatre Town Centre & Friars Square Waterside Theatre Waterside Theatre Market Square Aylesbury Library Waterside Theatre Waterside Theatre Limelight Theatre Waterside Theatre Limelight Theatre Aylesbury Music Centre Waterside Theatre Market Square Waterside Theatre Waterside Theatre Waterside Theatre Waterside Theatre

December

For further details of any of these events, please contact: St Mary's Church - 01296 437641 • Aylesbury Waterside Theatre Tickets - 0844 871 7627 Queens Park Centre, incorporating the Limelight Theatre - 01296 424332 • Friars Square Shopping Centre - 01296 483169 Hale Leys Shopping Centre - 01296 429800 • Buckinghamshire County Museum - 01296 331441 • See also: www.buckscc.gov.uk/museum See also: www.aylesburyvibe.info • Aylesbury Town Council - 01296 425678 www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Take a 'Trip Back to Tudor Times' to celebrate...

Aylesbury's Tudor Fayre on Charter Day

Sunday 11th September 2011 11.00am - 4.00pm Market Square, Aylesbury

Come and help celebrate Aylesbury's Historic Charter Day and Tudor Fayre! With entertainment from the Ratcatcher, Peterkin the Fool, Tudor music and activities for all the family and even an appearance by King Henry VIII!

Come and learn all about what it was like to live in Tudor times, while celebrating the granting of the Charter that makes Aylesbury a Market Town – all for FREE.





For more information contact us on 01296 425678 or see www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

