

AYLESBURY TOWN

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine

Issue Twenty Eight March 2013

matters



Serving the people of Aylesbury



Inside this issue...

- Aylesbury in Bloom
 - Queens Park Arts Centre
 - Youth Concern
 - Events for 2013
- and much more...**

'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'

www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



St George's Day Celebrations



Sunday 21st April 2013

**11.00am - 4.00pm
Market Square**

Celebrate the day with traditional dance, music, activities and much more fun.

**Scout Parade & Service
Market Square, 2.40pm**

Representatives from the Scout Association parade through the town in celebration of St George, the Patron Saint of Scouts, before taking part in a service at St Mary's Church.



www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



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The front cover photo is of the Axis in Vale Park, by artist Robert Kilvington. This piece, built in 2002 and commissioned by Aylesbury Vale Arts Council, marks the junction in Vale Park between the Old Victorian formal garden and the new Aqua Vale Swimming and Fitness Centre. It is constructed from 12 intersecting stainless steel 60mm tubes.

Welcome Note

“As you read this I hope the worst of the chilly weather is past us and a pleasant spring is beckoning. The dark winter months were brightened by the much improved Christmas lights in central Aylesbury, which the Town Council was proud to support and contribute to. Further brightness and good cheer was added by the additional hanging baskets and flowers we have provided, which now grace our town centre all year round.

The Town Council has set its budget for the next financial year and I'm pleased to say that our share of your Council Tax bill will not be going up in April; in fact you may not realise that the Town Council's charge to you has not increased at all since April 2010. We felt in these tough economic times for everyone, this was the right thing to do, and in fact we've been able to achieve this without reducing any of the services we provide. We continually seek more competitive suppliers and different ways of doing things to ensure your money is efficiently spent at all times.

The months ahead are the Town Council's busiest, across all of our responsibilities. The events programme builds towards a busy summer with some of your favourites, like Aylesbury-on-Sea. Inside you'll find the dates of some of our most popular days out. Look out for the return of Hobble on the Cobbles too.

The allotments and the cemetery will require a big effort to maintain and administer in the peak growing season. Our officers and outdoor staff will be working hard on your behalf.

The Mayor will be visiting community groups, charities and businesses throughout the year to offer support and encouragement.

We will also be preparing our annual entry into Britain in Bloom. Plans are already underway to identify areas in the town centre and in your neighbourhood that can be improved and perhaps even turned into floral beauty spots. If you'd like to help then read inside about how you can get involved. We'll be looking for grot spots to tidy up too so let us know if you know an area that needs a spring clean.

Together we should all "Take Pride in Aylesbury Town".

We hope you enjoy this edition of Aylesbury Town Matters. ”

Cllr Mike Smith
Leader of the Council

Contact Details

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Opening hours: **Monday - Thursday 8.45am - 5.15pm Friday 8.45am - 4.45pm**

All photos throughout the magazine courtesy of Maurice Cousins, Russ Naylor, Ray Ghent, Alan Norchi and Barbara Cunningham

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



Looking back at Christmas events...



From a freezing cold Carolfest, to a positively balmy (for the time of year) Christmas Fair, Aylesbury residents were out in force to join us as we got into the Christmas spirit.

Carolfest

Everyone sang their hearts out and Market Square resonated with everyone's favourite carols at our annual **Carolfest** on Thursday 13 December.

Dez Kay hosted the evening of song, accompanied by Aylesbury Choral Society and the Caduceus Brass Quintet.

Hot soup and chestnuts – kindly provided by the Scouts and Aylesbury Lions – were on standby to warm us all up, and we were joined by Youth Enterprise who set up their stalls selling all manner of crafts and goods. It was a great evening that also raised funds for the Mayor's charity for 2013, Home-Start Aylesbury.

Christmas Fair

Our **Christmas Fair** on Sunday 16 December was certainly a day to remember. Mr Alexander and his Travelling Show was one of the many highlights of the day. The audience were captivated with his mad cap songs, stunts and unicycling antics.

The LuLaLa's sang vintage hits from the 30s, 40s and 50s; Sunjester played original 78s on an authentic antique gramophone; and Jake the One Man Band entertained the crowd in his own unique way.

Aylesbury Vale Youth For Christ provided hot chestnuts, warm mulled fruit punch, Christmas card making and gift wrapping.

Everyone enjoyed taking their turns on an authentic penny arcade, and there was more fun to be had with free face painting, balloon modelling, stilt walkers, games and Christmas crafts.



Coming up in 2013...

Duelling knights, seaside fun, spooky going ons and a medley of music is just a taster of what Aylesbury Town Council have in store this year.

Most of our town centre events are FREE. To find out what's coming up, visit: www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk, follow us on twitter @AylesburyTC or find us on facebook www.facebook.com/aylesburytc.

Here's some of this year's free events...

St George's Fun Day & Scout Parade

Sunday 21 April, Market Square

Celebrate the day with traditional dance, music, activities and fun. Representatives from the Scout Association will also parade through town in celebration of St George.

Father's Day

Sunday 16 June, Market Square

Celebrate Father's Day and come along to Market Square for a day packed with free fun and activities.

Aylesbury-on-Sea

Sunday 7 July, Kingsbury

'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside'

With entertainment, donkey rides, games, sandpits, bouncy castles, music and fun, enjoy a day out to the seaside without having to leave town.

Hobble on the Cobbles

Sunday 25 August, Market Square & Kingsbury

Hobble on the Cobbles is back after a three year break, with a very special headline act to be announced soon.

Bucks County Show

Thursday 29 August, Weedon

If you're heading to the County Show this year, drop by and see us.

Proms in the Park

Saturday 31 August, Vale Park

Last night of the proms style entertainment in Vale Park. Bring a picnic and the whole family for a free celebration of live music.

NEW EVENT - International Day

Sunday 1 September, Vale Park

A celebration of culture, food, music and dance from all of Aylesbury's colourful communities.

Tudor Fair & Charter Day

Sunday 15 September, Market Square

Take a trip back to Tudor times and celebrate a little bit of history. We'll have music, fun and activities for the whole family.



Gardening Competition

2013 Aylesbury IN BLOOM

Get recognised for your efforts in the garden with the 2013 Aylesbury in Bloom competition.

Free to enter, the competition is open to all residents, organisations and schools in the Parish of Aylesbury Town.

You can pick up an application form at Aylesbury Town Council offices or World's End Garden Centre. Alternatively email: info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01296 425678.



Closing date
for entries
is 17th June

For more information or to download an entry form visit:

www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk





Britain in Bloom 2013

This edition of Aylesbury Town Matters arrives just as the Spring flowers are emerging from the soil, and the fledglings are making their first forays into our gardens, learning quickly from parents how to find the worms and insects that will enable them to build their strength for next winter. It is this need to enhance our local environment for wildlife that is driving our energies for Britain in Bloom.

We at Aylesbury Town Council have already begun preparing our green spaces for new planting. We will be sowing many plant varieties specifically to attract the bees and other insects necessary for pollination, and to sustain the birds and the bats that are so dependent upon them.

It is worth remembering that many garden and farm land bird species are in serious decline and they need your help. By planting some carefully selected varieties of flower you can make a big difference.

As part of our Britain in Bloom programme for this year we will be forming a working group to co-ordinate gardening projects around the town. We will be encouraging the formation of neighbourhood groups who, with the help of the Town Council, will transform the neglected green spaces within their area. Several of our Town Councillors are keen gardeners and they too will be volunteering to help within their wards and around the town centre.

The Royal Horticultural Society, which organises the national Britain in Bloom competition, has created a new scheme called 'It's Your Neighbourhood', and it is within this context that the Town Council, and you the residents, can have a major impact on your local landscape.

There are a multitude of benefits for individuals and communities that get involved in neighbourhood gardening projects: they include creating something beautiful that residents and visitors can enjoy; doing something sociable that benefits everyone in your community; making new friends; getting healthy; and finally, having a wonderful garden party at the end of the summer to celebrate your achievements.



We'd really like you to get involved. Just imagine what a difference it would make to Aylesbury if every neighbourhood in town featured one or two newly created community gardens; spaces where young and old can sit or play, or watch the wildlife. Perhaps we'll even get enough sunshine for a few picnics and barbecues.

It takes one or two willing and energetic individuals to start a project. We're confident others will want to join them and get involved. We'll be looking for business sponsorship too; the evidence is strong that an attractive area is a boost to the local economy.

So what exactly can you do?

Grow your garden – if you have a garden and enjoy getting out then enter our Aylesbury in Bloom Competition and we will visit you later in the summer to judge and admire your work.

Feed the birds – there are two ways to do this: directly by hanging feeders in your garden and indirectly by planting the right flowers to attract the insects. Go a step further by making or buying insect houses – your birds will have a larder on their doorstep. If you install a ladybird house you'll have a friend in your battle against the aphids that eat your plants.

Join in with 'It's Your Neighbourhood' – we'll put you in touch with a local group and you can be a part of making your area a better place to be.

For more information contact Alan Norchi on 01296 425678 or email: a.norchi@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Youth Concern (Aylesbury) Support Charity boosted by £10,000 Grant

A charity to support young people in Aylesbury Vale is to launch a mentoring scheme and take on more counsellors thanks to a £10,000 grant.

Youth Concern (Aylesbury), which is based around a Drop-in Centre in Whitehill Lane, was awarded the money from The Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund. The charity supports young people who are vulnerable, at risk or who are experiencing problems at home or at school, for example. It has seen growing demand for its services as the recession has increased youth unemployment and put more families under strain.

Youth Concern (Aylesbury) has also recently launched Aylesbury Nightstop, an emergency housing project for young people facing a homelessness crisis, aimed at putting an end to the need for young people to sofa-surf or sleep rough.

Chief Executive Fran Borg-Wheeler said: "The grant from Midcounties is fantastic and will make a big difference to our work. We will be able to launch a learning mentor programme to help young people who are struggling at school and at risk of exclusion. We will provide an independent service, liaising with schools and complementing the work of their learning support teachers. Our one to one sessions take the kind of approach that will engage with young people and help them identify where and why they are struggling and how they can achieve their goals."

"The grant also means we can expand our counselling department and provide emotional support fast to young people who really need it. Over the last few years the economic downturn has put more pressure on young people and we, in turn, have seen more young people coming to us with emotional issues and difficulties. This has placed extra demand on our counselling service."

The charity, which was formed in 1979, has two full time and three part time staff and a team of around 15 volunteers. It provides support, advice and guidance for young people aged 13 to 18 and those up to 25 if they have an identified need.

Maxine Sharman, Head of Community Engagement at Midcounties, added: "As a member-owned retailer with strong community links we are delighted to help this local project in this the International Year of the Co-operatives. The fund is for grass roots groups to help them to make a difference."

The fund makes grants twice a year working in partnership with nine Community Foundations covering the areas where Midcounties trades, including Buckinghamshire. The current round of applications opened in January. For more details and the criteria visit the community section on www.midcounties.coop



Youth Concern Annual Review

Youth Concern (Aylesbury) recently held their AGM at their base in Whitehill Lane and we went along to hear about all the good work they've been doing, and what they are planning for the year ahead. The attendees, many of them long term supporters, received a very warm welcome from the staff and young volunteers who use the service. As soon as we sat down we were offered soup and drink and an opportunity to chat with other supporters.

Chief Executive Fran Borg-Wheeler wanted the meeting to "celebrate the achievements of young people." We were provided with a review of the previous year which included the launch of the Nightstop project. The meeting also learned that the charity's finances were secure, at least for a little while, and that they will be able to continue developing existing projects.

In addition to Nightstop, Youth Concern has been able to support young people in a variety of ways, including help in moving on to more stable accommodation. A free youth counselling service is available and young clients are offered a 'humanistic approach which helps them to find their own solutions'.

A particularly exciting initiative is Youth Concern's music studio; small but well equipped and buzzing with creativity. It's free to use and open from 12.00 noon - 6.00pm. They need more volunteers and more hosts for the Nightstop project. You can find out more about Youth Concern and their valuable services to young people at www.youthconcern.org.uk

Alan Norchi

If you wish to refer young people for mentoring/counselling/Nightstop please contact: Fran on 07730 666608 email: fran@youthconcern.org.uk or Paul on 01296 43183 email: paul@youthconcern.org.uk

Bucks Art Event Announced



The Visual Images Group (VIG), an alliance of 600 artists and makers living and working in Buckinghamshire, has announced that it will again be organising its members into the annual Bucks Open Studios. The three week long event will take place from the 8th to 23rd June.

Buckinghamshire was one of the first counties to hold an Open Studios event. Now in its 28th year, Bucks Open Studios is the largest visual arts event in Buckinghamshire and one of the largest in the country.

Over 500 artists and makers from the county including painters, glass workers, basket weavers, metal workers, wood turners, jewellery makers, book makers, print makers and silk makers will be opening their studios to the public for free and showcasing their talent through demonstrations, exhibitions and workshops.

Ben Boswell, Joint Chair of Bucks Open Studios and Photographer said "We are delighted to announce the dates for this year's event and hope to have more participants, new entrants and venues than ever before. We also want to exceed last year's record of just over 38,000 visits made to studios and exhibitions by around 12,000 visitors during the fortnight.

Ben continued "The event spans a huge variety of disciplines and levels of involvement, from professional artists with international reputations to passionate hobbyists. So whether you are an art enthusiast or just casually interested in art, Bucks Open Studios is a great opportunity for a fascinating day out. You can talk directly to artists, watch demonstrations and even be inspired to take up a new hobby and find your own hidden talent."

Meet some of 2013's participating artists:

Aylesbury-based **Graham Turner** will be taking part in Bucks Open Studios for the first time. Graham specialises in historical and sporting themes and has been commissioned by many high profile clients. He takes his art to another level by learning to drive a rally car and taking up the adrenalin-pumping medieval extreme sport of jousting to really understand his subject matter. See www.studio88.co.uk

Stewkley-based **Edward Stamp** will also be taking part in Bucks Open Studios. Edward is a highly regarded artist and is a full member of two National 'Royal' Societies – the RI (Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour) and the RE (the Royal Institute of Painter-Etchers and Engravers). His work is held in a number of public art collections including the Ashmolean Museum. See www.edwardstamp.co.uk

Another first time exhibitor is Aylesbury-based **Tina Blake**. Tina, who works part-time for the NHS, was inspired to take up clay sculpture as a therapy while undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

At the age of 71, Winslow-based **Thommi Freeman** is not only participating in the Bucks Open Studios with her handmade wet felt creations, she is also completing her degree in Fine Art at Oxford Brookes University. Thommi was also chosen as one of the 25 crafts people to join in BBC2's programme Paul Martin's Handmade Revolution.

To find out more about Bucks Open Studios or if you are an artist interested in being part of the event then visit our website at:

www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk

You can also see who is taking part and watch a video of last year's event.

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/bucksopenstudios

or follow on us Twitter:

www.twitter.com/bucksopenstudio

You can also contact

The Visual Images Group by writing to: The VIG Coordinator
c/o Obsidian Art, Layby Farm
Old Risborough Road
Stoke Mandeville
Bucks. HP22 5XJ

email: art@bucksopenstudios.org.uk

Tel: 01296 614283

Don't forget
8th - 23rd
June 2013

Community News & Events



**Are you involved in a local community group or charity in Aylesbury?
Would you like to promote your work and events?**

This magazine is delivered to every household in Aylesbury Town. For more information call Alan on 01296 425678 or alternatively email us at: info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk. There is no charge for community groups and charities.

Serpentine Public Art in Aylesbury



Two new residents in the Serpentine Development enjoying Public Art

The Serpentine sits on the site where the Territorial Army used to be. For this reason the developer of the site was asked to commission, in partnership with Aylesbury Vale District Council and Thames Valley Housing Association, a work of public art to commemorate the links with the TA.

A Public Art Steering Group was set up to consider lots of different ideas. In the end a proposal was accepted from artist Kevin Wilson from the Artpoint Trust in Oxford. To keep a subtle military theme, Kevin designed a series of 'Camoseats'. These impermeable rounded granite benches are in keeping with the heritage of the site with a camouflage pattern set into the polished granite stone. There are eight of the stone benches on site providing functional and distinctive decoration.

Councillor Janet Blake, who chairs the Aylesbury Vale Public Art Steering Group, said: "We were delighted to have the opportunity to work with the artist to create these imaginative yet functional additions to the landscape of the Serpentine. Our hope is that residents will find the seating practical and pleasing, and somewhere that offers an opportunity to take time out to enjoy the local environment whilst pausing, perhaps, to think about their origins, and how time and places move on."

Activate Youth Dance 2013

This year's **Activate Youth Dance Festival** will take place at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre on Sunday 7 April at 7.00pm. Fifteen groups from Aylesbury Vale and the wider Buckinghamshire area are in the process of preparing their performance pieces. Festival favourite guest group FuzzyLogic return for their fourth year whilst Shift dance company, based at The Place in London, will be making their first appearance.

This year, there is an extra opportunity to get involved through the Northern Ballet performance project. Participants will spend a week working on a performance piece which will be premiered at the festival on Sunday evening.

Tickets for Activate Youth Dance Festival cost £10 adult, £6 child, £8.50 with passport to leisure, £26 family ticket (max 2 adults) and are on sale now. They can be purchased through the website at www.atgtickets.com/aylesbury or by calling **0844 8717607** (booking fee) or by visiting the theatre box office.

The Northern Ballet Performance Project costs £100 for five day long workshops (10.00am - 3.00pm). For more details on this project contact **01296 745137** or email: johncoughlan@theambassadors.com

For more information about Activate call **01296 585310** or visit www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/arts



Choose 4 Greater Aylesbury

Choose 4 Greater Aylesbury ran in 2012 and offered residents a say in how they would share £15,000 between eight local groups in Aylesbury.



Ethan, Molly & Holly voting at Mandeville School

Around 2,400 residents voted including young people. A market stall event was held in Aylesbury town centre, supported by the Town Council, and voting also took place at Vale Park.

Mandeville School joined in with students leading the voting at assemblies and young people could also vote at activities held in local youth groups.

Residents could vote online or in ballot boxes placed in locations throughout Aylesbury including shops such as Tesco Broadfields and the Co-op in Hawkslade, the Healthy Living Centre and children's centres, surgeries including Bedgrove, the Library and council offices.

Three projects were awarded £4,000 funding: Identifying children who are young carers (Young Carers Bucks), Boomerang Toy Library which loans toys for families with young children; Nightstop project for young people who need emergency accommodation (Youth Concern Aylesbury). Two further projects were awarded £1,500 funding: Activities for young people in Aylesbury (AVYFC) and the Blue Light Project run by Bucks Fire & Rescue Service.

The Greater Aylesbury Local Area Forum has agreed to allocate a further £15,000 in 2013, so that Choose 4 Greater Aylesbury will run again.

If you are a local group interested in being one of the projects involved and your service links with the local priorities (reducing social isolation, homelessness, anti-social behaviour or activities and facilities for young people aged 11+) please contact: jwesley@buckscc.gov.uk or call **01296 383839** by 15 April 2013.



Bucks Fire & Rescue Service at the Aylesbury Market Stall event

Greater Aylesbury Local Area Forum

Greater Aylesbury Local Area Forum (GALAF) includes local Councils and other agencies including the Police and Fire Services who review and act on local priorities such as parking, health, policing, transport, support for local businesses and young people including unemployment and education.

Meetings are held quarterly and residents are very welcome to come along and find out more.

The meetings in 2013 are being held from 6.30pm on 18 March, 1 July, 9 September and 9 December throughout the area.

For more information on venues please email: locality-services@buckscc.gov.uk or call 01296 383409

Want to promote your group on these pages?

Contact Alan on 01296 425678 or email: info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Aylesbury Men in Sheds made bird boxes to raise funds for the group

Men in Sheds

Men in Sheds is a group of men who meet once a week to take part in activities, similar to what you'd do in your own garden shed, but with other like-minded men supplying good company.

The group started in November 2012 and its first project involved the men making bird boxes to sell and raise funds for the group.

The members decide what they want to do, whether it is woodwork, pottery or other skills such as maybe undertaking metal work in the future.

If you are interested in coming along, please email: samantha@communityimpactbucks.org.uk or telephone 01844 348831 for more information.



The Town Council Ward Map

Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr Stuart Jarvis
07958 083519



Cllr Pat Jamieson
01296 428275



Cllr Tuffail Hussain
07886 295946

Ward: Central

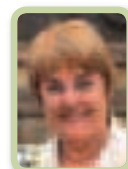


Cllr Steven Mitchell
01296 392096

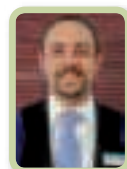


Cllr Barbara Russel
01296 431314

Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr Jenny Puddefoot
01296 612461



Cllr Iain Bozier
07941 164477



Cllr Mohammed Amjad
07956 803458

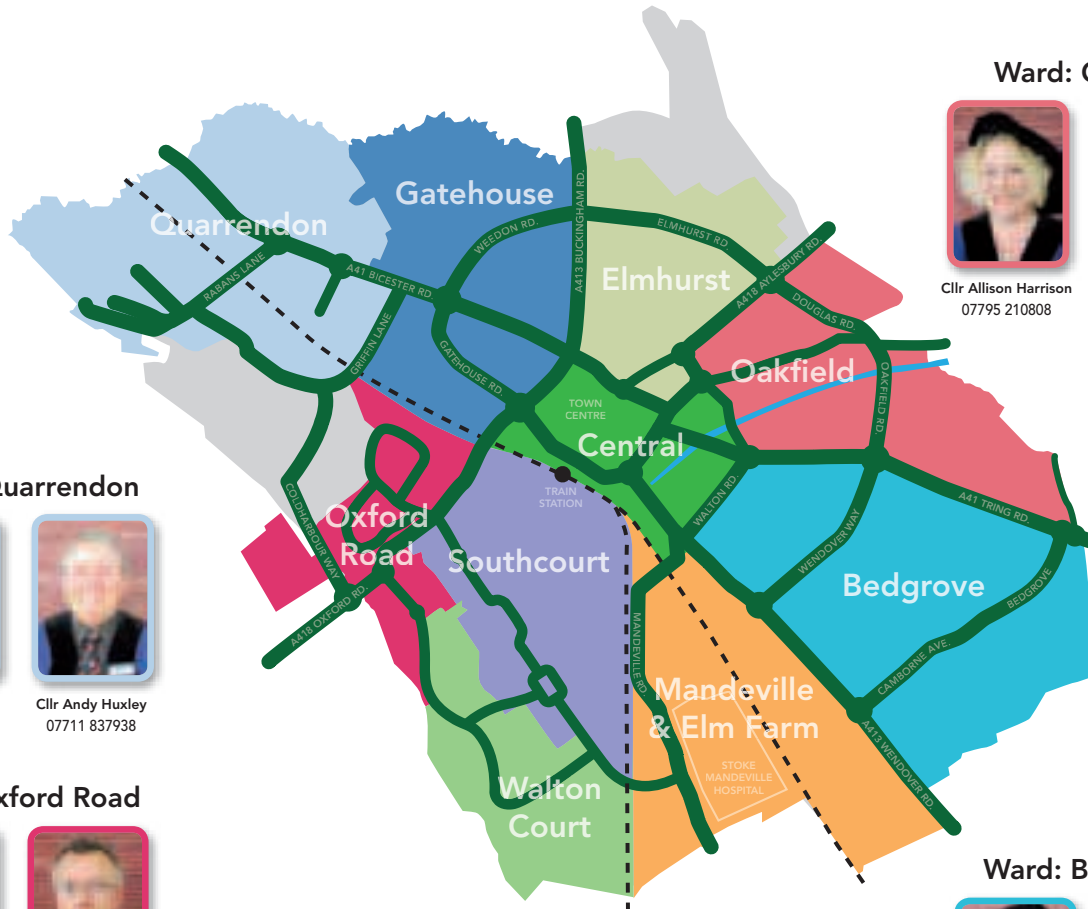
Ward: Oakfield



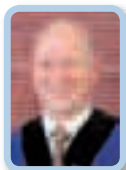
Cllr Allison Harrison
07795 210808



Cllr Steve Patrick
01296 424986



Ward: Quarrendon



Cllr Chris Adams
07986 543211



Cllr Andy Huxley
07711 837938

Ward: Oxford Road



Cllr Zulifqar 'Tom' Ahmed
07731 328011



Cllr Mike Smith
01296 484299

Ward: Southcourt

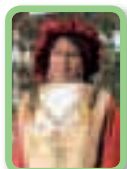


Cllr Michael Beall
01296 431499



Cllr Matthew Launchbury
07837 604284

Ward: Walton Court



Cllr Ranjula Takodra MBE
07958 423083



Cllr Loui Cirillo
07767 478696

Ward: Mandeville & Elm Farm



Cllr Denise Summers
01296 424903



Cllr Sue Chapple
01296 426814



Cllr Brian Roberts
01296 422881

Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr Jenny Bloom
07729 011501



Cllr Tom Hunter-Watts
07595 178660



Cllr Penni Thorne
01296 422232



Cllr Mark Winn
01296 393304



Did you know there are three Councils based in Aylesbury?



AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Aylesbury Town Council is the council closest to the residents in the parish of Aylesbury. The Town Council is here to be a voice for the residents by representing their views on issues affecting them.

Aylesbury Town Council is responsible for:

- The Office of the Mayor and Mayoral engagements
- The management of the seven local allotment sites
- The Tring Road cemetery
- A programme of events throughout the year
- The award of grants to local groups and charities
- The free quarterly magazine, Aylesbury Town Matters
- Britain in Bloom (a partnership project) and Aylesbury in Bloom

Call: 01296 425 678 or visit: www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Aylesbury Vale District Council deal with issues covering the whole of Aylesbury Vale and has a very regulatory remit. AVDC is responsible for:

- The collection of Council Tax and business rates
- Household recycling and waste disposal
- Local planning and building regulations
- Public car parks
- Licensing and Environmental Health
- Leisure Services (including Aqua Vale and all parks)
- Award of grants to local groups and charities

Call: 01296 585 858 or visit: www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk



Bucks County Council is the top tier of local government and provides services on a county-wide basis. Bucks County Council is responsible for:

- Highways
- Education and Libraries
- Social Services
- Trading Standards
- Registrar of births, deaths and marriages
- Waste disposal (excluding household waste)

Call: 01296 395 000 or visit: www.buckscc.gov.uk

Community News & Events

Enjoy MONEY OFF your Favourite Leisure Activities

With a **Passport to Leisure Discount Card** you can get discounts for leisure, sports and arts activities in Aylesbury Vale, so you can keep enjoying your leisure time despite these difficult economic times. If you claim benefits and live in Aylesbury Vale you could be eligible for the card. Discounts are available for people of all ages for a variety of activities including:

Aqua Vale Leisure Centre in Aylesbury • Jonathan Page Play Centre in Aylesbury • Kandez Dance School Bucks Play Association Play Scheme • ZKS Martial Arts • Aylesbury & District Swimming Club and many more...

To check whether you are eligible see www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/passport or phone 01296 585301.

Quarrendon Quackers Group



What are you waiting for... get "quacking" and come along to a fantastic NEW group based at Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre.

Quarrendon Quackers Group is suitable for children from birth to school age. It's a great place for children to have fun and make friends. The little ones will enjoy having fun on the bouncy castle or taking part in some wonderful arts and craft activities. There'll be sing-alongs, story time, and occasional trips to local places.

Weekly sessions take place during term time on Tuesdays between 9.30am and 11.30am. Each session costs £2 for the first child and £1 for each additional sibling. The price includes healthy snacks for the children and refreshments for adults.

To find out more contact Pauline on 01296 330299 or email: Pauline.humm@hotmail.com

Southcourt & Walton Court Community Project

**SATURDAY CLUB FOR CHILDREN
AGED 4 - 11 YEARS**

Southcourt Community Centre, 9.30am - 12 noon

Children can enjoy arts & crafts, games, free play, trips to local areas and special events. So bring your children along to have fun and make new friends!!

£2.40 FOR THE FIRST CHILD, £1.70 FOR SIBLINGS

Passport to Leisure cardholders 50p discount
Optional lunch club £1 for first child, 70p for siblings.

Please call Julie on 01296 435844 or visit www.southcourtwaltoncourtproject.btck.co.uk
Email: scwccp@hotmail.com for details



New Robbery Awareness Film to launch in Aylesbury Vale Secondary Schools

A new film about robbery aims to raise awareness in young people about the risks of showing off their mobile phones whilst walking along underpasses and alleyways. The film was launched on 21st January 2013.

'Snatched' was commissioned by Thames Valley Police, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Bucks County Council and Aylesbury Town Council. It was filmed by the I-Van (Community Impact Bucks) and eight students from the Grange School, Aylesbury in October.

The film features three victims of robbery that get accosted for their mobile phones by a group of youths on bikes. It shows the impact the robbery had on its victims and the consequences faced by the offenders who are caught.

'Snatched' was shown in Aylesbury College and secondary schools across the Vale throughout January and February 2013. The showcasing included crime prevention tips, free gadget marking and a reminder that if students don't want to give information about a crime to police, they can call **Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111** and they won't be asked for their name or personal details.

A poster campaign accompanied the film to remind students of the gamble they take when showing off their gadgets.



For further information and loan of the film contact: Faye Blunstone, AVDC, on 01296 585061. To watch this film on YouTube go to the Aylesbury Vale DC channel.



Alison Perkins



Larry Miller



Chris Bramble



Queens Park Arts Centre

The Queens Park Arts Centre in Aylesbury is more than just a local arts centre; it is also the home of the intimate 120 seat Limelight Theatre. With year round workshops, exhibitions from local artists and a range of entertainment from comedy showcases to the Christmas panto, this little venue and community hub is going from strength to strength.

This success is thanks to the effort of a team of dedicated staff and around 80 volunteers – ranging from bar staff and box office assistants to voluntary tutors who give up their time to teach others their craft.

Whether a workshop, exhibition or performance in the Limelight Theatre, Artistic Director Sarah Lewis ensures that the community will always be at the heart of programming and activities. Since the centre opened in 1980 in the former Queens Park School on Queens Park, 'Arts for All' has been an important element in its existence.

The future of the centre has not always been so rosy, but has survived despite the withdrawal of funding from Bucks County Council in 1998. Now a limited company and registered charity, the Centre is mainly self-financed through income generated, fundraising and donations. Additional financial support is also provided from AVDC and Hardings local educational trust.

The Centre has recently undergone a £260,000 external refurbishment project, the majority of which was made possible thanks to the support of the William Harding's Trust.

The next aim is to raise £50,000 to refurbish the centre internally. And, with the support of the community, Artistic Director Sarah Lewis is confident that they will hit their target.

This combined investment is set to create new opportunities and give greater scope for special projects, and will give the Centre a new lease of life.

Barbara Cunningham

QPA in 2013

As well as a packed programme of events, forthcoming projects include the Centre's second **Textile Festival in May 2013**, organised by the Centre's Exhibition Co-ordinator Irene Scott, the staff team and dedicated volunteers. This celebration of fabrics incorporates a student fashion show, exhibitions, demonstrations, activities and displays.

The Festival highlight on Friday 10th May, 7.30pm is a Student Fashion Show showcasing some of the best work from local school and college students. Entry is £5 for an evening of fun and fashion.

The Festival continues on Sunday 12th May with a day packed full of displays, exhibitions and demonstrations. Entry is £3 / £2 members and concessions (under 14's go free).

Throughout the Festival, between 27th April and 29th May, the Centre's gallery spaces will host some fantastic exhibitions, followed by two Textile Dabble Days on the 28th and 29th May.

Visit www.qpc.org for more information about the current season, workshops, events and voluntary opportunities.

Community News & Events



GP Practice Manager puts Healthy Living Theory into Practice

Last year Janice Barlow, Practice Manager at Denham Medical Centre received what she describes as a wake-up call. "I thought I was healthy and fit, and because of my job I knew all the theory about healthy living – but somehow I persuaded myself to think it just didn't apply to me."

And so when Janice was invited to attend the NHS Health Check at her surgery, she thought it would be a routine outcome. "The check showed I had high blood pressure, high cholesterol and that I was overweight. The results were a real shock."

Janice then had a follow-up consultation with a practice nurse who suggested a range of practical measures to improve her lifestyle. "The experience changed my life completely", says Janice. "I've transformed my diet – I now choose healthier options and smaller portions. I also walk to work every day and I've taken up cycling. I've lost over one stone in weight and I just feel so much better about myself."

And it's clear that Janice's experience is far from unique. "Everyone has a chance of developing heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease," says Gwen Strong, Lead Nurse for the NHS Health Check at NHS Buckinghamshire. "But the sooner your risk is identified, the sooner you can do something about it. So we are urging anyone who receives an invitation to take the opportunity of a free health MOT."

Denham Medical Centre is one of fifty seven GP surgeries across Buckinghamshire that routinely invite patients between the ages of 40 and 74 to attend the NHS Health Check. This year invitations will be sent out to over 30,000 people across the county.

"If you receive an invitation, it's really important that you attend – even if you're feeling well", says Janice. "You never know, it might just change your life."



Women's Enterprise Scheme

This project is helping to deliver the Child Poverty Strategy in Buckinghamshire and aims to give women the skills which will enable them to be financially independent, whilst increasing household income. The project enables participation from women who, due to cultural restraints or caring responsibilities, are unable to seek employment outside their home environment but would like to contribute to the household income and learn some new skills along the way too.

A focus group was held with women during the summer and a First Steps to Childcare course was developed which began in November and ran for 6 weeks with 9 learners for a total of 18 hours.

This course leads to an Entry 3 BTEC qualification in Workskills which includes practice interview techniques and job search skills as well as giving the learners an overview of the different career opportunities available in the childcare sector.

It is anticipated that a sewing for beginners course combined with a small business course will start soon. The course will be open to those who are currently unemployed who may be claiming job seekers allowance or income support, or are dependent of someone claiming these benefits.

For further information contact:

Christine Frost

(Community Learning Coordinator,
Buckinghamshire Adult Learning)

email: cfrost@buckscc.gov.uk

tel: 01296 382033

Claire Paine

(Community Engagement Officer)

email: cpaine@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

tel: 01296 585826

Pam Curtis

(Child Poverty Programme Manager)

email: pcurtis@buckscc.gov.uk

tel: 01296 382995

Poetry Booklet raises over £1000 for Charity



A project led by local poet, Margaret Morgan-Owen, has successfully printed and published a poetry booklet called 'Gloriously Us' to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society in Bucks. Workshops were held to encourage the submission of poems by people with dementia and family carers. Poems were also received from former carers, family carers, medical professionals and social service professionals, and others who had never written poetry before.

A small editorial group including Valerie Robertson, Claire Marriot, Kerry Lee, and Janis Anderson put the booklet together and raised the funds to have it printed. Several local businesses including Caremark Limited of Whitchurch and the Long Dog at Waddesdon contributed towards the cost, thus enabling all the monies raised from sales to be donated to the Alzheimer's Society. Priced at £3.99 the booklet sold well locally, with most people kindly giving £5 for it.

At a meeting before Christmas Margaret was able to hand over a cheque for £1010.45 to the Alzheimer's Society. She said "I am really delighted to be able to do this – it's been a long project but well worthwhile on so many fronts. Writing can be a very cathartic experience and it can relieve a lot of stress. Hopefully the booklet has raised awareness as well as money!"

One reader said "I enjoyed this booklet on so many levels; it was sad and sometimes very moving."

The booklet is still available to buy for £3.99, ("or a fiver will do!") from the Alzheimer's Society in Fairford Leys. **Telephone: 01296 331722.**

Margaret is now working on another project called the Dementia Monologues Theatre Experience with colleagues in Oxfordshire. The project is aimed at raising awareness and reducing stigma for people with dementia by performing and creating an influential space for their voices to be heard.



Margaret Morgan-Owen hands over the cheque to Nicole Palmer and Ellie Hughes of the Alzheimer's Society.



Homeless? – we help

Aylesbury Homeless Action Group (AHAG) is a small, local charity which aims to help those who are homeless, socially disadvantaged or inadequately housed and to raise awareness and understanding of the issues they face. It is funded through grants and donations from national and local organisations, local authorities, local churches and individuals and is staffed by a very small paid team (3 part-time) and a large group of dedicated volunteers.

Our activities...

The Hub Day Centre

From 2009 this has run as a drop-in centre for those affected by homelessness. Our volunteers offer a friendly face, a listening ear and refreshments including lunch. It is run in Walton Hall and clients are also able to wash clothes and use shower facilities.



The Hub Volunteers

Winter Warmth

For the last two winter periods this emergency night shelter has run for a three month period. It offers an evening meal, a bed for the night and breakfast, for up to ten people. It is based in seven different church halls and staffed and run mainly by volunteers, supported and trained by AHAG's project worker. We expect Winter Warmth to begin again in January 2013.

Rent Deposit Scheme

After being successful in an application to Crisis, in 2012 we have been able to help many single people find a home through the private rent sector, by engaging with private landlords who might be uncomfortable accepting tenants from potentially chaotic lifestyles.

Would you be able to support us financially?

Would you like to volunteer?

Please contact us on **01296 435026** or at 2 Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2RX
www.ahag.org.uk

Town Mayor's Update



Carol singing at the King's Head, before processing to the Church

The last few months of 2012 were a busy time for the Mayor of Aylesbury, Cllr Ranjula Takodra MBE.

From October to December the Mayor was delighted to attend a number of events, including being invited to open the new play park in Long Crendon, attending the Remembrance Service held in Market Square, and visiting many local organisations and attending charity events.

Representatives of various faith groups came together for the Mayor's International Evening; a celebration of cultures with performances of English song, Indian and Irish dance and a drumming demonstration. A fabulous array of international dishes were prepared by members of the Aylesbury community.

The Mayor was pleased to lead the Santa's Parade through the town, as well as hosting the Mayor's Carol Service at St Mary's Church, where she was delighted that Broughton Junior School Choir and Aylesbury Concert Band participated in the service.

The congregation enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine following the service, as well as chocolates handed out by Father Shane.



If you would like to invite the Mayor to attend an event you are holding, please contact the Mayor's Assistant Sue Carpenter at the Mayor's Office by calling 01296 425678 or email: s.carpenter@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk





Meet your Councillors

In this and future editions of ATM you will be able to meet your Councillors and learn something about who they are, what they like and what the office of Councillor means to them. Here we meet Cllr Matt Launchbury who is Chairman of the Direct Services Committee, and Cllr Steven Mitchell, Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Cllr Matt Launchbury - Southcourt Ward



I became a member of the Town Council in 2011 as a newly elected member for Southcourt. I have always taken an interest in politics but had never considered getting actively involved until 2010 when I agreed to campaign and post leaflets at the general election. I was then subsequently asked if I would stand for the Town Council the following year, to which I wholeheartedly agreed. At the age of 45, when I was elected, I felt it was time to start giving some of my free time back to the community.

Since joining the Council I have enjoyed my role first as Chairman of Environment and now as Chairman of Direct Services. I have to admit that I didn't expect to be a Chairman so soon into the role and had expected to be just sat at the back saying "Yeh" or "Nah" as the backbenchers do in The Commons for a few years. The Direct Services Chairmanship is challenging but it will be very rewarding as we at the Council plan and proceed with the cemetery extension. Since being on the Council I have also had the privilege of visiting various schools, residents and allotment holders in regards to Aylesbury in Bloom and the Allotment of the Year Award, either judging or presenting awards.

I moved to Aylesbury in 1989. At the time I was working for Tesco on Broadfields as the bakery manager. I have lived in Aylesbury ever since and I'm proud to call it my home. As a child, because of my father's job, I never had a home town as such due to moving around. However, Southend United still holds a passion in the heart as I would regularly stand on the terraces at Roots Hall on a Friday night or Saturday afternoon whilst living in Shoeburyness.

As for my interests out of politics, I enjoy watching local live bands in Aylesbury and enjoy reading historical fiction. A pint of real ale in one of Aylesbury's taverns is also a pleasure accompanied by a newspaper or a bit of banter at the bar. Obviously politics, religion and sport are not discussed, well not often anyway.

Cllr Steven Mitchell - Central Ward



I have been a member of the Council since 2003, and represent the Central Ward, where I live in the Old Town. I am Chairman of the Council's Planning and Licensing Committee, which considers and comments on all planning applications submitted to AVDC in the town and also beyond, if they have an effect on the town.

A Yorkshireman born in a pit village, brought up as much by local community, chapel and school as by my extended family. I remember well the family stories told of my two widowed grandmothers which had great influence. One started school dinners for poorer children in her own kitchen in the 1930's. The other ran the village shop and gave credit through the six month long miners' strike of 1926, so keeping the village fed. Her front room was the Doctor's waiting room and the bedroom above was the consulting room, until a village surgery was built in the late 1950's.

Living in a house without electricity until 1954, my family eventually moved into a brand new Council house with a bathroom in 1956. Childhood experiences led me towards a living philosophy based on love, responsibility and duty. "A decent home is a right!"

After winning a scholarship to Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield, I studied architecture at Liverpool University followed by town planning at Sheffield in the 1960's. I then worked in Derbyshire and Shropshire, mostly designing new housing, before moving to Aylesbury Vale District Council in 1988.

Since retiring I have been able to take a greater interest in the local urban environment, and feel my experience, skills, and political nous can assist in helping the local community come to terms with change and development. I feel strongly that residents must think about their wider local environment, and politicians must think further into the future than the next election.

During the coming year I hope to travel around the UK re-visiting the towns and cities of my past.

Giving a Voice to Young People in Greater Aylesbury!



A **Greater Aylesbury Youth Forum** has launched this year to give young people a voice in the community. Young people from all over Aylesbury are invited to join the forum and participate in a needs survey that will inspire new services and activities for young people!

Any young people aged 13-18 and who live in Greater Aylesbury can get involved. The young people will receive free training to build on their confidence and help them learn new skills. They will be able to represent their local area of Aylesbury and also the school and clubs they attend.

Supported by Aylesbury Vale Youth For Christ (AVYFC), the Youth Forum will link with existing groups including the Youth Cabinet, the Greater Aylesbury Local Area Forum (which has provided funding), local councils and relevant organisations.

AVYFC have a proven track record in providing sustainable youth work in Aylesbury and the surrounding area. Furthermore, in May 2006 AVYFC conducted some extensive research into the needs of youth and

community. This research inspired partnership work and new activities that benefit hundreds of young people every week.

“Since launching the research report in 2006, we have responded to the needs identified by partnering with others to provide new activities and services.

As a result over twenty Youth Cafés have been set up as well as a music facility in Southcourt that enables young people to practice, perform and record music.

All of these projects would not have been possible without the involvement of young people and the support of Aylesbury Town Council, AVDC, VAHT, BCC and other authorities.

The Aylesbury Youth Forum have an amazing opportunity to set in motion new activities and services that will bring about positive change in Aylesbury in the months and years to come.”

David Rollins
Director of AVYFC

To find out more and get involved:

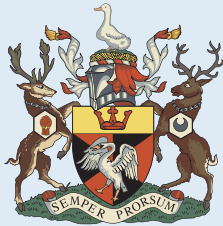
EMAIL Greater Aylesbury Youth Forum: aylesbury@youthforum.co.uk

FOLLOW news and stories on Twitter: [@YouthForumAY](https://twitter.com/YouthForumAY)

READ the 2006 research report on the resources page at www.avyfc.org.uk

Youth Café opening times are at: www.youthcafe.info

Southcourt Studios music facility website: www.southcourtstudios.com



TOWN MAYOR'S AWARDS 2012/2013

Town Mayor Cllr Ranjula Takodra MBE, is delighted to present awards to Aylesbury town residents who have been nominated by persons who have performed an **unusual act of bravery**, an **achievement** (not standard exam passes), a **commitment** or an **act beyond the call of duty** for fellow citizens of the town in general.

CRITERIA

The nominee's contribution to the individual, group or community will be taken into consideration, and the Panel of Judges will also be looking for exceptional effort; innovation or enterprise in the service being offered; outstanding achievement and length of service.

The award will cover two categories:

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT, COMMITMENT OR ACT OF BRAVERY:

Award 1 Child/Youth up to 16 years of age

Award 2 Adult

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY:

Award 3 Group, School or Organisation

Award 4 Individual, Youth/Adult

Closing date for nominations is Friday 29th March 2013

Winners and their guest will be invited by the Mayor to the Annual Mayor Making Reception in May 2013 to receive their awards.

If you know of an Aylesbury Town Resident that you would like to nominate, please visit our website for an entry form or contact Sue Carpenter, Mayor's Assistant on **01296 425678** or email: s.carpenter@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk




Aylesbury Town Council invites your comments and correspondence.

If you have thoughts about the town we'd like you to express them through this magazine. What do you think of the events that take place in the town centre? How do you feel about the town in general? Do you have fresh ideas? What bothers you? We'd like to know.

You can send an email marked 'ATM Letters' to:
info@aylesburytowncouncil.co.uk
or write to us at:

Aylesbury Town Matters Correspondence
Aylesbury Town Council, 5 Church Street
Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP

Tweet, Tweet! We're up to 600 twitter followers, Why not join in the fun? It's a great way to see what the Town Council is up to [@aylesburytc](https://twitter.com/aylesburytc) 



Hire the Chamber

At the Town Hall, Aylesbury Town Council deliberates and discusses policy in the chamber. All full Council and Committee meetings are held here. When not in use during office hours, the Chamber is available to hire for meetings and presentations. There are facilities for refreshments and a projector is available if required.

All the information you will need, and the booking forms to complete, are available on our website (click the button on the home page) www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk.

We have preferential rates for not-for-profit groups but the Chamber is also available to businesses and individuals.

If you require further information please enquire by telephone: **01296 425678** or email us at: info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Aylesbury Football Club

Nicknamed 'The Moles', after the stubborn moles who live under their pitch at Haywood Way, Aylesbury Football Club prides itself on two clear ambitions: To progress to higher league football with squads from local talent; and to work with local community groups and provide excellent club facilities to benefit the people of Aylesbury.

The club has a total of 14 teams under the Aylesbury FC banner, which covers senior, youth and junior teams.

The men's semi-professional senior team play in the Evo-Stik Southern League Division One Central, and the reserve team play in the Molten Sparton South Midlands League, Division Two.

There's also an 18's team, two under 19 academy teams and a Sunday side for men, so there are plenty of opportunities to play and watch football.

Nurturing young local talent is truly at the heart of the club, with four junior teams and four Mini Moles teams, which play in the Mini Conference League. The club's facilities are also used by the Berks and Bucks FA for under-16's youth teams and girl's youth football trials.

Keen on supporting the development of local footballers, the club is always looking for new players interested in joining any of the teams. Or, if you are more of a spectator than a player you can still get involved, by volunteering to lend a hand on match days or behind the scenes.

History of the Club

Originally based in King's Cross, Aylesbury Football Club's history dates back to the 1930s. Then known as Negretti and Zambra FC, the club was founded by workers from the company of the same name.

In 1949 the club moved to Stocklake Industrial Estate, later changing its name to Stocklake FC when Negretti and Zambra sold the company's premises to the local council. The club remained at the same location until they moved to their current home of Haywood Way in 1987.



AFC Fans Action Group donating money to local group Quarrendon Quackers. Haywood and kids, club mascot Haywood Mole, with children from Bedgrove Infant School

Stocklake FC joined the Aylesbury District League in 1954, and has gained numerous honours in ADL's top divisions, Wycombe and District League and Chiltern League, as well as cup successes including Wycombe Senior Cup and the Berks and Bucks Intermediate Cup.

In 2000, Stocklake FC joined forces with Belgrave FC, a local club formed in 1983 by Jim Sullivan, comprising two senior teams and five youth teams which provided football for over 90 boys. Now named Haywood United, the club was soon promoted to Division One of the Spartan South Midlands League and won several league awards.

In the 2006/07 season the club became Aylesbury Vale FC, but it wasn't until 2009 that they finally became Aylesbury FC playing in the Bucks County colours of red, black and gold.

Visit: www.aylesburyfootballclub.co.uk for more information about the club or to find out more about joining as a player or volunteer.

Aylesbury FC XI v Aylesbury United Legends, a match between ex-United players and youth/current players of AFC, organised at Haywood Way to raise money for Help for Heroes





Blueberry Muffins

- 300g self-raising flour
- 150g caster sugar
- 200g fresh blueberries
- 200ml whole milk
- 100ml sunflower oil
- 2 eggs (preferably free-range)
- Half tsp pure vanilla extract (optional)

Great recipe to try!

Preheat oven to 200c/400f. Line a deep muffin tin with 9 paper muffin cases. Place flour and sugar in a large bowl, stirring well with a fork to combine. Add the blueberries and stir again. Pour the milk and oil into a measuring jug, together with the vanilla extract (if using). Break in the eggs and whisk well together. Pour the wet ingredients over the dry and stir with the fork to barely combine. Be careful not to over mix or the cakes will be heavy... the mixture should be lumpy! Divide the mixture evenly between the muffin cases – fill them right to the top. Bake for 10 minutes on the top shelf, then rotate the tin and bake for a further 10 minutes (this ensures that the muffins are evenly cooked). Remove from the oven – the muffins should be risen and brown – and cool slightly on a wire rack. Muffins are best eaten slightly warm, and ideally on the day they are baked.

Variation: this recipe works well with other berries too (though not strawberries)... raspberries are especially good! You can even add them straight from the freezer. Try adding a little grated lemon or orange zest for extra flavour.

Rachel Lucas has been supplying hand-baked cakes and desserts to local businesses for many years, including The Coffee Tree from 2002-2011. She will shortly be launching an online cake company so watch this space! In the meantime, you will find her stall on Aylesbury Farmers' Market on the last Tuesday of every month... and you can read her baking blog at www.browniesformozart.blogspot.com

Aylesbury Town Council encourages you to THINK LOCAL

There are many food producers in the Vale and in the wider area of Buckinghamshire. You will find good quality, high standards and great flavours throughout the region.

www.food-on-our-doorstep.org.uk
www.local-food.net



Do YOU have trouble getting around?

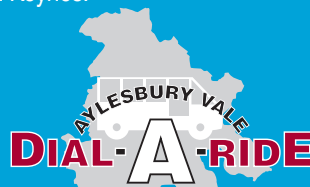
Unable to use public transport?

then WE'RE here to help...

We are a charitable organisation, supported by your local councils, providing a door-to-door minibus service in the Aylesbury Vale area for anyone who finds it difficult to use ordinary transport. Our well-trained friendly drivers will give you the support you need at the beginning and end of your journey. All our vehicles are specially adapted, have passenger lifts and are in radio contact with our base so that wheelchair users can travel safely and in comfort.

Where would Dial-A-Ride take me?

Almost anywhere you wish to go, within Aylesbury Vale. Our members go shopping, go to work, visit friends, attend day centres and many other activities. Although we do not usually travel outside the Vale of Aylesbury we provide a service which travels to hospitals outside of the Vale, e.g. High Wycombe, Oxford, Milton Keynes.



01296 330088

email: root@dialaride.org.uk

www.dialaride.org.uk

Safe, secure and comfortable door-to-door transport in Aylesbury Vale.



Father's Day Fun

Sunday 16 June 2013
11.00am – 4.00pm
Market Square

Celebrate Father's Day and come along to Market Square for a day of **FREE** fun and activities.

There'll be sumo suits, a sports cage, games marquee, face painting, crafts and much more!



www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

