

AYLESBURY TOWN

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine
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December 2013 to February 2014

matters

Serving the people of Aylesbury



'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'

www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Free Festive Fun 2013

16 - 30 November **Off the Wall Art Fair**

County Museum

Exhibition of paintings, ceramics and sculpture.
www.buckscc.gov.uk/museum 01296 331441.

Thursday 21 November

Christmas Light Switch On

Market Square **5.30pm - 7.30pm**

Popular event providing free family entertainment from 5.30pm. The lights will be switched on at 6.50pm, followed by fireworks and music, plus a funfair and late night shopping.

Saturday 23 November **Winter Craft Fair**

St Mary's Church **10.30am - 2pm**

Craft stalls for that original Christmas gift.

Sunday 24 November **Santa's Parade**

Town Centre & Friars Square

Parade starts at 10.30am, activities

11am - 3pm

Santa and all his friends parade through the town from the High Street, around Market Square and into Friars Square. Followed by activities and free face painting.

Saturday 30 November **Literary Day**

Aylesbury library

10.30am - 3.30pm

Authors including S.J. Bolton, Steve Cole and Teri Terry will be with us to discuss their work.
www.buckscc.gov.uk

Saturday 30 November **FREE ENTRY**

Chilterns Christmas Food Fair

Waterside Theatre **11am - 7.30pm**

Breakfast with Santa 9.30am - 11am

Visit the first Chilterns Christmas Food Fair, with produce from the region including suppliers from Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Sunday 1 December

Christmas Craft and Gift Fair

Market Square **11am - 3pm**

An ideal opportunity to buy that extra special present from the wide selection of different handcrafts and gifts on offer.

Sunday 8 December

Christmas Craft and Gift Fair

Market Square **11am - 3pm**

Browse the wide range of stalls to find the perfect treat for yourself or that special someone.

Sunday 8 December **Santa Dash**

Vale Park, Town Centre **11am start**

Watch dozens of Santas running through the streets of Aylesbury to raise money for St John Ambulance and WheelPower. www.aylesburysantadash.org

Sunday 8th December **Carol Service for the Children of the Holy Land**

St Mary's Church **6pm**

An opportunity for the children and young people of Aylesbury to show their support and make a difference to the children of this troubled region.

Tuesday 24 December

Special Christmas Market Trio

Market Square **9am - 2pm**

Buy your veg and all those luxury items that make your Christmas dinner stand out from the rest from our festive market, treat someone to a last minute gift from the Antiques Market, and buy some fabulous local produce in the Farmers' Market for the chance to win a festive hamper!

Wednesday 25 December

Free Community Christmas Lunch

St Mary's Church **Noon**

Especially for those who would normally spend the day alone. Please book in advance if possible.

Thursday 2 January **New Year Kids Event**

Market Square **11am - 3pm**

Celebrate the New Year with free laser quest in the Market Square!



Late night shopping every Thursday in

December up to Christmas! High Street, Market Square, Friars Square and Hale Leys

Free parking in AVDC car parks and Friars Square Shopping Centre from 4.30pm every Thursday from 21 November until 19 December!

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Welcome Note

“ Music – and particularly coming to gigs at the legendary Friars Club in the late 1970s – first brought Aylesbury to my attention many years ago. So I was delighted that the Town Council made music the focus of our wonderful summer, including the welcome return of Hobble on the Cobbles after a two year break. There were large crowds in Kingsbury and Market Square all day, and thousands filled the square in the early evening for headliners The Searchers, joining in enthusiastically with every classic hit delivered. Just a week later the venue switched to a gloriously sunny Vale Park, with three top quality locally-based bands entertaining throughout the afternoon. Not forgetting the Saturday night when Proms in the Park played to its biggest ever audience, a different style of music but enjoyed just as much by a crowd of all ages, with just as much singing along! More details and photos are on page 5.

The Council has once again received high praise from members of the public for its floral displays, extended this year into some parts of town not previously decorated. Once again the Britain in Bloom judges were impressed with our efforts, and equally so with the work done by many community groups who've taken pride in their local areas and made wonderful efforts to tidy them up and bring beauty to former "grot spots".

The entire Council, and the Town, were shocked and deeply saddened by the sudden death of our Mayor Cllr Steve Patrick, in August. Steve served on the Town Council since 2001, and as Leader, Deputy Mayor and Mayor was the driving force of many of our achievements. He was hugely respected on all sides of local politics, and a dear friend as well as colleague to me.

We elected our new Mayor Cllr Tom Hunter-Watts, in September. Tom has made a great start to his term, approaching his duties with energy and enthusiasm, and proving to be a powerful advocate for our Town and all the great things that go on here. You can find out more about Tom on page 16.

A by-election to choose a new Councillor for Oakfield ward (Steve Patrick's former seat) was held in October, I am pleased to welcome Cllr Mark Willis to the Council. Mark had been on the Town Council for six years previously, his great experience will help us all as we work together to deliver the vision and projects that grew from Steve Patrick's passion for his – and my – adopted home town. ”

Cllr Mike Smith
Leader of the Council

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



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Christmas Fair & Carolfest

This year our annual Christmas Fair and Carolfest is taking place on the same day: Sunday 15th December – doubling your festive fun.

The whole family can get into the Christmas spirit at our Christmas Fair, 11.00am – 4.00pm. There'll be magic from Mr Alexander, seasonal songs from the LuLaLas, Sigmund the Singing Reindeer, a traditional Christmas Mummers Play performed by The Haddenham Mummers, and plenty of hands-on arts and crafts fun for the children. There's something for everyone – **and it's completely FREE!**

The day is topped off with Carolfest between 6.00pm – 7.00pm, so warm up those vocal chords! Carolfest is your chance to sing along with all of your favourite Christmas carols, accompanied by the Caduceus Brass Quintet. Grab yourself a free song sheet and sing along to your heart's content. Volunteers will be serving hot chestnuts and hot drinks for a donation to charity.



Past Events

Parklife Weekend

The Town Council and Aylesbury Church Network hosted a weekend of family fun and live music in Vale Park which drew the summer to a memorable close. Throughout each afternoon, visitors to the park enjoyed fine weather, fun activities, games, barbeques and local food. Each day was topped off with an evening of music.

Proms in the Park

Saturday 31 August was a beautiful late summer's evening, and crowds gathered for our very own answer to the Last Night of the Proms. The evening's music performed by the Aylesbury Concert Band was accompanied by wonderful soloists Alison Langer and Lawrence Thackeray. Always a popular event, this year's Proms was greatly enhanced by the addition of a fantastic firework display. And we invited along the Aylesbury Brewhouse, who served delicious local ale and refreshments.

Parklife on Sunday

The main stage on Sunday was host to a variety of entertainment from a number of local groups. The Vitae Drummers opened the afternoon's proceedings, which also included performances and demonstrations from Red Kite Dance Company, Africa Junction and The Black Dragon School of Martial Arts.

The weekend ended with an evening of live music from three local bands; Tinlin, Bustin Loose and The J Fordaway Band, who entertained us until the sun went down. **Our Parklife Weekend brought to a close a fantastic summer of free events and entertainment provided by Aylesbury Town Council.**

Tudor Fayre

Our annual Tudor Fayre and Charter Day took place on Sunday 15 September. Despite initial setbacks due to a poor weather forecast, the event was enjoyed by all who joined us.

The celebrations started in Market Square, as pupils from Broughton Junior School performed an authentic Tudor dance in front of a larger than life King Henry VIII. Court Jester Peterkin the Fool entertained onlookers with his unique madcap style – a hilarious and unmissable performance.

King Henry and Peterkin, accompanied by two brave knights, then escorted us all to Bucks County Museum for the rest of the day's activities.

King Henry took situ in the museum's Tudor Room, telling tales of his life and wives. Wonderful music was provided by Lumina. And throughout the day visitors to the event could learn about Tudor life – playing games, hearing gory facts, watching experiments, meeting birds of prey and more.

Barbara Cunningham

Since going to press, we've also had our very first Halloween Variety Show, and Villains of Aylesbury (formerly Ghouls and Villains). You can read more about them on our website.



Environment



Allotment Competition 2013



The annual Aylesbury Town Council (ATC) Allotments Awards were held at the beginning of October.

The judges were willingly recruited, and we are grateful to Steve Webb (Outdoor Manager), Alderman Ray James (Allotment Warden – Crown Leys), Mrs Wendy Curtis and Joe Benham for two busy days of assessment at all of our allotment sites.

The criteria for judging extended beyond simply considering the general appearance of a plot. They included the desirability for varied planting (a mixture of vegetables, fruits and flowers) and also considered factors such as composting and cleanliness.

A very slow start to the season ended up being a hugely successful year for gardening and growing. All three judges expressed their surprise at the quality and excellent condition of many allotment gardens, and sympathised with those who had abandoned their attempts to feed the family this year. There is no doubt that in difficult weather conditions a gardener needs even more time than usual to make it work.

The judges awarded prizes to the best three plots at each site, with additional prizes for Best Newcomer and Overall Winner. The presentations were given by Mayor Cllr Tom Hunter-Watts. The 1st Prize winners received an engraved shield, and all those awarded received a certificate and vouchers kindly donated by the Aylesbury Gardening Society.

Thanks to World's End Garden Centre for sponsoring and hosting the evening, and to Grammar School pupil Michael Rea who played beautifully on the guitar to welcome us all for a splendid occasion.





Thames & Chilterns in Bloom Awards

Aylesbury has been awarded a Silver Gilt for this year's entry in The Thames and Chilterns in Bloom Regional Awards. Aylesbury Town Clerk Keith Gray, Volunteer Wendy Curtis and Cllr Allison Harrison accepted the Award at a presentations ceremony in Reading on Wednesday 18 September. The event was hosted by the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Marion Livingston, and attended by Mayors and other dignitaries from across the Thames and Chilterns region, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

The annual Britain in Bloom campaign is the largest horticultural event in Europe and attracts nearly 2,000 entries from cities, towns and villages across Britain. The main aim of the campaign is to encourage and celebrate local communities improving their local environments. Over twenty-five cities, towns, urban communities and villages entered the regional Thames and Chilterns campaign. This year there were also fifteen entries for the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood category.

Thames and Chilterns in Bloom judges visited all the entrants throughout July, looking for all-round horticultural achievement including conservation and natural areas; they assessed year-round activities which improve the environment and full community involvement and participation. Aylesbury was particularly noticed for the floral displays throughout the town, from hanging baskets to troughs and containers, as well as our dedication to conservation and biodiversity and the ongoing projects we have created with town residents and volunteers.

Ted Smith, Chairman of Thames and Chilterns in Bloom said "We were delighted by the very high standard across the region, the commitment by all entrants is tremendous and I would like to thank all local Bloom committees for their continued support of the Campaign."



Aylesbury Town Council Grants

If you are involved in a charitable or voluntary organisation in Aylesbury you could apply for a match funded grant from Aylesbury Town Council. Grants can be awarded to support a project, event or service.

We are also keen to support young people in sport. Sports Grants are available to help outstanding individuals fulfil their sporting potential. **To find out more about Aylesbury Town Council Grants visit our website or call 01296 425678.**

Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy

The Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy is an initiative by the local Christian community to help serve their needs. It has been formed as an independent charitable trust and has volunteers serving as trustees, chaplains and street angels drawn from across the town's churches.

During the night-time, Street Angels provide voluntary support and help make the town centre safe and enjoyable for everyone. Since November 2012 a team has been out each weekend engaging with the public.

They can offer a listening ear to help those who are isolated or separated from friends, and on a practical level they give out space blankets on cold nights, flat shoes or wait with someone for a taxi or a lift.

During the day, volunteer chaplains are out and about in the town centre to be a friendly presence for shoppers and others visiting or working in Aylesbury.

A grant of £920 has been awarded to enable Street Angels to provide more practical support to people by funding some of the consumables they give away.



Aylesbury Ghausia Mosque

Established in the late 1980s, Aylesbury Ghausia Mosque is the only purpose built Mosque in Aylesbury Vale. The Mosque hosted a very successful Open Day on 26 August 2013, with many positive comments from the broad spectrum of people that attended.

Thanks go to Aylesbury Town Council who awarded the Mosque a grant of £300, which along with other funding, facilitated the Mosque putting on a high quality professional exhibition as part of the Open Day.

Iftekhar Bashir, President of Aylesbury Ghausia Mosque said: "We hope to make this an annual community event and look forward to the positive impact on our community."



Soroptimist Club

Soroptimist International is a global women's organisation. It has 90,000 members in more than 3,000 Clubs in 123 countries around the world and has consultative status at the United Nations. Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships.

The Soroptimist Club of Aylesbury & District has been running since 1958 and participates in local, national and international campaigns to improve the well-being and status of women and girls.

With the help of a grant from the Town Council, Aylesbury Soroptimists are co-ordinating an exciting programme of events at Aylesbury College to mark International Women's Day on Saturday 8 March 2014. **Visit: www.internationalwomensday.com or www.soroptimistinternational.org**

Should you wish to apply for a grant please contact our Grants Administrator, Belle Daytonn on 01296 425678 or if you prefer email: b.daytonn@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Preparing for Retail Lift Off

Retail Lift Off was an initiative launched by Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership to provide new, local independent traders and entrepreneurs an opportunity to trade and have free business support in the town centre. The initiative was not to install "pop up" businesses but to create sustainable opportunities for new businesses.



Retail Lift Off attracted 35 strong applications of interest from talented people. And, after a rigorous selection process, 5 new local entrepreneurs accepted the offer to kickstart their businesses in the town centre.

These successful entrepreneurs were given six weeks rent-free trading on a market stall, a bespoke retail barrow, shopping centre mall space or an empty shop unit. This was followed by a further six weeks of subsidised rent.

The initiative also provided a network of free support ranging from business and financial advice to marketing and retail advice. Each successful business was provided with a "buddy" – an experienced business person who helped them through the selection process as a mentor and guide. The buddy continues to support them as a helping hand through their business venture.

Diana Fawcett, Town Centre Manager said: "We know the retail environment can be tough, particularly for independents. Retail Lift Off is supporting ambitious independents where it matters. We are delighted with the calibre of new traders and their offers will add more choice for our shoppers."

Keith Gray (Town Clerk) "The Town Council is a committed partner of the Town Centre Partnership and has donated a substantial grant towards the Retail Lift Off initiative. It's important that support is given to local businesses to ensure a vibrant town centre."

Aylesbury Town Partnership would like to say a huge thank you to our key partners and supporters for making Retail Lift Off 2013 a success and we look forward to working with them on future initiatives.

The Partnership are confident that Retail Lift Off can bring more and more new businesses into the town centre thereby further enriching the offer to our shoppers and potential investors.

Particular thanks to Federation of Small Businesses; Aylesbury Vale District Council, Aylesbury Town Council, Greater Local Area Forum, Martin Kemp, Hale Leys Shopping Centre, all business buddies and valued training partners.

For more details contact: Diana Fawcett, Aylesbury Town Centre Manager, 01296 585880 or email: dfawcett@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk



BeCo Chic Accessories

Meet the new businesses in town...

Three of the businesses have already started trading in town: **BeCo Chic Accessories** are two sisters from Aylesbury trading from a portable retail barrow in the Hale Leys Shopping Centre every Wednesday and Friday, offering a variety of affordable fashion items including handbags, scarves and jewellery. The sisters say they are "delighted with how trade is going at the moment. We didn't expect to be so busy and footfall is much higher than anticipated. Taking part in the Retail Lift Off initiative has given us the tools to improve our chance of business success."

Annie's Kitchen Preserves sells homemade jams, jellies, marmalades and chutney at Aylesbury market every Saturday.

Malcolm's Rock of the Raven is also on the market. This Leighton Buzzard artist is selling his unique "shabby chic" upcycled furniture on Wednesdays and Fridays, but long term is looking to move into an empty shop unit.

Andrew Dean's Pogo is set to open in November. It will be the only dedicated children's clothing and accessories shop in the town. All stock will be made or sourced locally.

And finally Princes Risborough resident Michelle Young will be setting up her **Coolberry Café** next year. She'll be selling frozen yoghurts, waffles, milkshakes and smoothies from a mobile unit.

All of the new businesses said that they really benefitted from the Retail Lift Off process, and the training and support from business buddies gave them the confidence and knowledge to move forward with their businesses.

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 Barbara on 01296 425678 or email: b.cunningham@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk. There is no charge for community groups and charities.



CHAT Charity Shop

CHAT (children, health and therapy) is a small charity based in Aylesbury. Our aim is to improve the quality of life for children in Buckinghamshire with complex health needs. Primarily we provide short term respite care packages for these families in times of need. The charity shop which opened in April has made a great difference to the funds we raise and the amount of families we are able to help.

Please visit us at 40a Cambridge Street and come and grab yourself a bargain, or if you are having a clear out please bear us in mind. We are always in need of good quality clothes, bric-a-brac, toys, vinyl, CDs and DVDs.

Thanks to a grant from Aylesbury Town Council CHAT was able to have their logo and name put on the window of their new charity shop in Cambridge Street. This made a huge difference to the promotion of the shop and helps us stand out in the street.



Help us create a Community Garden – volunteers required



Community gardens offer local residents and community groups the opportunity to get together with their neighbours and friends to grow their own food, flowers and plants on former disused pieces of land.

The emphasis is very much on community involvement, from the construction of the garden through to its continued running.

So, if the prospect of a beautiful green space and meeting local people excites you, and if you would like to grow good, healthy, affordable food, **contact Rebecca Henson to find out more on 01296 585188 or email: rhenson@aylesburyvaldec.gov.uk**



Photo courtesy of Contact the Elderly

Contact the Elderly is the only national charity solely dedicated to tackling loneliness and social isolation among older people.

They organise monthly Sunday afternoon tea parties for small groups of older people (aged 75+) who live alone, and volunteers within their local community, offering a regular and vital friendship link every month.

Each older person is collected from their home by a volunteer driver and taken to a volunteer host's home for the afternoon. The group is warmly welcomed by a different host each month, but the drivers remain the same which means that over the months and years, acquaintances turn into friends and loneliness is replaced by companionship.

The tea parties are a real lifeline of friendship for the older members who have little or no contact with any family or friends. They bring people of all ages together, develop fulfilling friendships and support networks, and give everyone involved something to look forward to each month.

Contact the Elderly are looking to recruit more volunteers in the Aylesbury area. If you would like to find out more please visit www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk or contact your local representative Suzan Hyland on 0207 4205811.

Crime Free Christmas



Over the excitement of the festive season it's all too easy to forget about security and personal safety. Here are the Community Safety Partnership's top tips to help keep your Christmas crime free and happy.

Christmas Shopping

- Make sure you park in a well lit area or in an attended car park.
- When Christmas shopping, be aware of how much you are carrying with you. iPods, digital cameras, mobile phones, and extra cash to buy presents means you could be the ideal target for thieves.
- Keep your bag zipped up and facing you. Don't make it easy for pickpockets.

Vehicle Security

- Don't leave presents on the back seat of your vehicle. Don't tempt thieves, put items out of sight and in the boot.
- Never leave your keys in the ignition whilst your vehicle is unattended, even for a few minutes. Opportunist thieves will often steal cars that have been left with the engine running to defrost the windows.

Security of the Home

- Use a timer switch to make your home appear occupied when you are out. Plugging it into a lamp on the upstairs landing ensures your home is not left in darkness.
- Don't encourage thieves to window shop at your home. Keep Christmas gifts and valuables out of sight of windows and doors. Avoid putting presents under the tree until Christmas morning.
- If your front and back doors are not secure, neither is your home. Most burglars gain entry through a door.
- Make sure you security mark your Christmas presents before you wrap them. You can either postcode mark your property with an ultra violet pen, or use a forensic marking solution such as Smartwater. Make a note of all model/serial numbers of electronic goods.
- If you are going on holiday over the festive period, ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your house.
- Dispose of present boxes discretely. Don't make it obvious you've just bought a new 3D television.

The Christmas Party

- Alternate alcoholic drinks with soft drinks or water, and use mixers to dilute your drinks.
- Don't accept drinks from strangers and never leave your drink unattended.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash on you when you go out. Be alert, stick with friends and make sure your purse or wallet is secure and away from view.
- Plan your night before you go out. Think about how you are going to get home; it isn't worth the devastating consequences of drink driving. Ask a family member or friend to pick you up, or pre-book a licensed taxi.

For more information visit:
www.thamesvalley.police.uk/crprev

Important Information for Windows XP Users

At the start of April 2014 Windows XP will no longer be supported by Microsoft and will no longer receive security updates. This isn't something that would usually make it to the pages of Aylesbury Town Matters, but due to XP's prolonged availability and the low uptake of its successor, Windows Vista, it is estimated that nearly a third of PCs are still running this ageing operating system, making it a potential problem for a lot of readers.

Many security experts believe that criminal groups are now starting to stockpile security exploits in preparation for next April. In theory, any bug or exploit revealed after then will not be fixed by Microsoft, making viruses and other malware more dangerous than ever. If you're still running Windows XP you should begin to make contingency plans now:

1) Back-up of all your important data. This goes for every computer user, regardless of their operating system. Ideally you should make multiple backups, and update them regularly. If you can, you should also keep some backups in a different location – perhaps you could partner with a friend or relative to store each other's files. There are also many cloud-based backup services available, but you should always ensure you have a local backup as well.

2) If you can, you should replace your Windows XP system. Many machines that run XP will not be powerful enough to practically run Windows 8, so you may need to consider buying a new machine.

3) If you can't afford to replace your hardware, you could replace XP with something suitable for older machines, such as Lubuntu (www.lubuntu.net) or Xubuntu (www.xubuntu.org). These don't run Windows applications, but do come with dozens of programs and have hundreds more available to download, almost all of them free of charge. If you're not technically minded, however, you should probably get help from someone else if you decide to take this approach.

4) If you continue using Windows XP it is more important than ever to ensure that your anti-virus software is kept up to date. Despite what Hollywood suggests, most viruses don't advertise their presence with a skull and crossbones. Instead they sit silently in the background, recording your keystrokes, or using your PC as part of a swarm of compromised machines in a coordinated attack.

5) Stop using Internet Explorer. Microsoft no longer produce new versions of IE that will work on Windows XP, so it's stuck with IE8 which is already woefully out of date. Install a newer web browser, such as Firefox (www.firefox.com) or Google Chrome (www.google.com/chrome)

6) Back-up your data. Really.

Mark Crutch

Community News & Events

CANCER CARE & HAEMATOLOGY AT STOKE MANDEVILLE HOSPITAL.



The Cancer Care & Haematology Fund at Stoke Mandeville Hospital is the Mayor's Charity for the 2013-14 term. When it opened in 2001, the Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital brought a radical approach to the treatment and care of patients with cancer and blood disorders. It gives treatment in a specialist unit close to patients' homes, saving cancer patients the long journey to specialist centres. The results have been spectacular.

The work of the Unit continues to grow as the variety and complexity of treatments available for both haematology and cancer patients increases and the shift from inpatient to outpatient treatment continues.

For more information visit: www.cchf.org.uk



The Grandparents' Support Group

The Grandparents' Support Group has been running for almost three years, and was set up to support grandparents who are denied contact with their grandchildren. There are estimated to be 14 million grandparents in the UK and over 1 million grandchildren are denied contact with many of them. The group meet at the Holiday Inn, Aston Clinton Road, Aylesbury on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm. Grandparents that have attended the meetings benefit from support, information and advice in a totally confidential environment.

The group recently received a grant from Aylesbury Town Council which will help increase awareness of the support group, and in turn help those grandparents who have been denied contact with their grandchildren. **The group are running a stall in Market Square, Aylesbury on 6th December to help raise awareness of this growing issue.**

For more information contact Suzanne on 07949 640156, email: suzanneviora@hotmail.com or visit www.grandchildrenhaverights.wordpress.com



Photo courtesy of www.superhomes.org.uk

Make your House a SuperHome

SuperHomes is a rapidly expanding network of energy aware households. These pioneering homeowners are redefining green living. All have refurbished their old homes to the highest standards of energy efficiency.

Eco friendly, sustainable, low energy and low carbon – the refurbished houses are least 60% less reliant on fossil fuels. This means that SuperHome owners are really leading the way. We can learn from them.

10 reasons to refurbish an older home

Is it worth the hassle refurbishing an older home to make it much more energy efficient? Here are ten reasons why it may feel like the healthy option:

- 1 Other people's fuel bills go up, yours go down. So you don't dread those winter bills.
- 2 It could increase the value of your house.
- 3 Your home is future-proofed against increasingly scarce energy supply, so you get peace of mind.
- 4 Mould growth is reduced or eliminated, so you breathe better.
- 5 Draught stripping and double glazing insulate you against external noise, so your home is more peaceful.
- 6 Double glazing increases your security.
- 7 Draughts are reduced, so you feel warmer and more comfortable.
- 8 Your home stays warm 24/7, reducing chances of illness. And because all the rooms are warm, you can use all your home.
- 9 Your home produces less environmentally damaging emissions, helping protect the planet and your kids.
- 10 Your home is insulated against summer sun, so it need no longer overheat. Happy days!

To find out more about refurbishing an older home, visit www.superhomes.org.uk



In need of Childcare during the Christmas holidays?

If you're in need of flexible childcare during the school holidays, the Jonathan Page Play Centre could be just what you're looking for.

Our qualified play workers provide excellent childcare for 4 to 12 year olds, from 8.30am to 3.30pm, in our purpose built centre.

This year, we are also offering extended Christmas hours of 3.30pm to 5.00pm for just £3 per child.

Early Bird Booking Discounts:

Book before 1 December

£10 for two children • £8 for one child

Book before 21 December

£15 for two children • £10 for one child

Book after 20 December

£12 each child

Whether your children want to join us for one day, one week or the entire holiday, they will be able to get involved in a range of structured and free choice activities including turning the Play Centre in to a winter wonderland, discovering how Christmas and similar festivals are celebrated around the world, as well as snowman relay races.

Our friendly staff guarantee that every day is bursting full of fun activities to entertain the most creative, sporty, adventurous and imaginative children. Why not visit us before booking to see our excellent centre first hand? Contact our helpful staff using the contact details below and they will schedule a visit for your family.

The Jonathan Page Play Centre also provides after school care that will suit your family's needs. Visit our website for more details.

For more information or to book a place please call 01296 426139 between 2.00pm to 6.00pm or visit www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/jppc

'Ladies Only' Activities

Aylesbury Vale District Council runs a series of ladies only sessions in and around Aylesbury for women who wish to exercise in a private female only environment. Ladies only swimming improver sessions run on a Friday evening from 7.15pm to 8.15pm at the Green Park Centre in Aston Clinton for women who have some experience in swimming but want to increase stamina and technique. All sessions have female lifeguards and teachers and these classes must be booked in advance.

Ladies only yoga runs on a Wednesday evening at Southcourt Community Centre from 7.30pm to 8.30pm during term time only. The sessions cost £4 per week and again are run in a female only environment. Yoga is an effective way to increase physical activity, especially strength, flexibility and balance. There is no need to book these classes, just turn up on the evening.

For further information please call 01296 585195 or go to www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sports and click on regular activities.

New Play Space at The Coppice

This autumn saw the refurbishment of The Coppice play area in Oakfield Ward, one of thirty play areas to be improved as part of Aylesbury Vale District Council's play area improvement programme. The new £71,000 'natural' play area was funded by developer contributions and includes exciting robust wooden equipment and landscape enhancements which connect users to the natural environment.

AVDC officers consulted with pupils from Broughton Junior School whose ideas helped inform the play area's design. **For more information email: communityspaces@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk.**

Eternal Flame

Stoke Mandeville will stage the first ever international leg of a Paralympic Torch Relay next year. The event, which will see the lighting of the flame, will mark the start of the Winter Games, taking place in the Russian city of Sochi.

The Paralympic Heritage Flame will be lit at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the birthplace of the international Paralympic movement, on the evening of Saturday 1 March 2014 and will be beamed around the world, featuring in the Sochi opening ceremony.

The heritage flame, which will now be lit ahead of every summer and winter games, was, of course, lit at Stoke Mandeville to start the torch relay for the London 2012 Games.

Keep checking the AVDC website and local press for details of how you can get involved in the flame lighting and other fantastic celebration events around this date.



Aylesbury 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

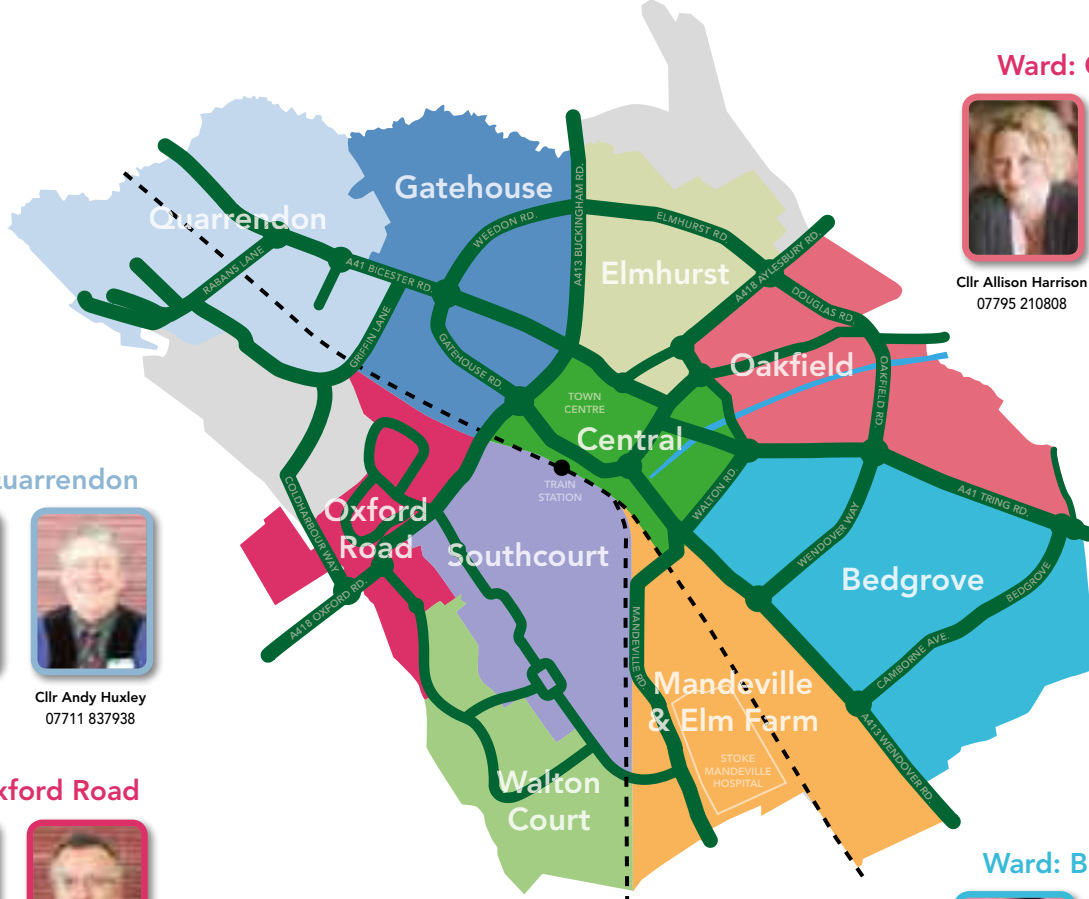
Ward: Oakfield



Cllr Allison Harrison
07795 210808



Cllr Mark Willis
07723 091637



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

Town Mayor's Update

Since becoming Mayor in September, I have been to a huge variety of events and met so many wonderful people. In Halton I attended RAF Halton Engagement Day and watched a flypast by a replica Bleriot biplane, as well as a Spitfire, a Tornado and a Typhoon. I also visited the Trenchard Museum, where a century's worth of RAF history is lovingly preserved by volunteers.



I attended the Malayali Harvest Festival at the Guardian Angels Church in Southcourt. It was delightful to see the grace and ability with which the children danced and sang. I also formally opened the new extension to the Church of the Holy Spirit in Bedgrove, and I saw for myself during the service how strong a community feeling was being sustained there.



Isn't it wonderful how the railways have retained their romance, even in the 21st century? There's something about a railway line which captures the heart and excites young and old. Closing a railway line isn't like closing a road, it's like closing a library or a village pub. People never forget what was there and they don't give up trying to revive it. I had the great pleasure of waving off the first train from Aylesbury to Chinnor in 56 years, hopefully just the start of a revival which will attract visitors from near and far.



J'ai eu le grand plaisir d'accueillir les élèves de l'Ecole Notre Dame de Bourg-en-Bresse à l'hôtel de ville.

I was also delighted to attend the Bucks Healthcare NHS Trust Annual Staff Awards. Health organisations are absolutely vast and involve so many different skills and disciplines. But everyone, whether they are working in a clinical or a non-clinical field, has the power to make a critical difference to patient care. There was a lot of courage and compassion to admire, and a strong feeling of mutual support and solidarity.

And what an evening was had at the Waterside with "Strictly Florence", a dance competition featuring Craig Revel Horwood in aid of the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. The theatre was packed, the audience were amazing, and there was some serious dancing talent on display. I felt lucky to attend.



All in all, it's been wonderful to see how much people have enjoyed all the various events. None of them would have taken place without teams of committed volunteers and the generosity of the public. But what has struck me most is

the love that people dedicate to making and preserving beautiful things. All over the town there are individuals and communities sharing and developing our cultural and historic capital, and most of us have no real idea of how much is going on at any one time. We have so much to be proud of.

I was elected Mayor in the most tragic of circumstances. Cllr Steve Patrick was a passionate advocate for Aylesbury and a devoted servant of the town. A man of utter integrity and decency, he will never be forgotten.

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

Aylesbury Town Twinning

Aylesbury Town Clerk, Keith Gray has recently been appointed as the new Chairman of the Aylesbury Twinning Association. Town twinning is all about bringing people together. It creates opportunities for citizens of member towns to experience and explore other cultures. It nurtures an atmosphere for economic development and trade opportunities and breaks down cultural and social barriers.

Aylesbury is twinned with the French town of Bourg-en-Bresse; a delightful town, easily reached by train, car or air. It is almost mid-way between Geneva and Lyon and is at the southern end of the wine route of Alsace. Many hundreds of Aylesbury children, cyclists and others have visited the colourful capital of the department of Ain, receiving a welcome that has to be experienced to be believed.

Bourg-en-Bresse is a centre of industry and research. The area boasts a huge Renault factory and also specialises in ceramics – including jewellery. The manufactures consist of iron goods, mineral waters, tallow, soap and earthenware. There are flour mills and breweries, and there is considerable trade in grain, cattle and poultry.

Bourg-en-Bresse even have their own equivalent to our famous Aylesbury Duck... The Poulet de Bresse is the only chicken in the world to be protected, like a famous wine, by an Appellation d'Origine Controlée (AOC). It is said that, as a result of that tradition, it has the tastiest, firmest and most succulent flesh of any chicken anywhere.

In 1825, one of the world's first and greatest foodies, the 19th-century epicure and gastronome Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, described the bird as "the queen of chickens, and the chicken of kings".

Growing Bonds

In 2013, our twin ties with Bourg-en-Bresse grew even stronger with the partnership of Turnfurlong Junior School and Notre Dame School. The schools started exchanging videos and greetings before enthusiastically developing further links. On 12 June, forty French children from



Co-cathédrale Notre-Dame de l'Annonciation Bourg-en-Bresse © Remi Mathis



Porte des Jacobins Bourg-en-Bresse © Remi Mathis

Notre Dame School, accompanied by their teachers, were welcomed to Turnfurlong School for the day. They also had the opportunity of meeting the late Cllr Steve Patrick, who welcomed them to the Town Hall.

Year 6 pupils from Aylesbury visited Bourg-en-Bresse later that month, and there will be more opportunities for the children to go to France in 2014.

The Lycée Lalande High School is also interested in organising an exchange with groups of pupils in years 11 to 13.

The Future

In 2014, the Twinning Association will continue to celebrate and encourage international links, helping to improve both the harmony of the Town and its future development.

The committee is keen to raise the profile of Aylesbury and would welcome any ideas and support. Developing these links offers numerous unique opportunities to understand the valuable history of the communities that make up Aylesbury's population.

Membership and More Information

If you are interested in membership or would simply like to find out more about twinning activities, email: aylesburytowntwinning@gmail.com



Préfecture de l'Ain à Bourg-en-Bresse

If you fancy testing out your culinary skills, turn to page 23 for a tasty recipe that uses that special and rare chicken French chefs swear by – the Poulet de Bresse.

Activities for Young People

Music, Photography and Video at Southcourt Studios!

Southcourt Studios is a facility in Aylesbury for young people to develop their musical and creative skills in their own time. The facility has been opened since 2009 and offers quality services and space for young musicians and photographers. The studio has fantastic facilities, but it's more than just a space because the team and session workers offer support, encouragement and advice to those who use the services.

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

- Band rehearsal space
- Recording for individuals, bands and choirs
- Music mixing facilities
- Create your own music video
- Learn how to record at home through a home recording workshop
- Introductory photography and video workshops
- Music gigs and concerts organised by local young musicians

You can contact the studio by phone or email to book the various activities or to find out more: 01296 436000 or email: studio@southcourtstudios.com



Studio Manager
Gary Mullins

HAVE YOUR SAY!

In July 2014 the Studio plans to put on a gig at the Waterside Theatre in partnership with AVDC. A famous artist will be booked to perform alongside two local bands. You can send your ideas, opinions and views to the studio via the website: www.southcourtstudios.com/WatersideGig OR post ideas using twitter @SouthcrtStudios

FIND OUT MORE!

You can check out the most recent music videos created at the studio by visiting: www.southcourtstudios.com/video or scan the QR code! Aylesbury Town Council, VAHT, BCC and AVDC have all supported the Studio project through various grants and initiatives and it is run by the Charity AVYFC who are also based in Southcourt.

Activities for the Youth in Aylesbury Town

YOUTH CAFÉ

Since 2006, Youth Cafés have been set up in and around Aylesbury Vale. Youth Cafés are a space for young people to hang out after school, meet new friends, try lots of new games and activities and have something to eat and drink! Hundreds of young people benefit from the Youth Cafés that have been set-up in various communities.

The cafés are open to young people at secondary school age (years 7-13) and offer a wide range of activities including: snooker, pool, table tennis and wide screen games consoles including the latest PlayStation, X-Box and Nintendo consoles. Many of the venues also have outdoor space where the young people can enjoy sports, skateboarding and other organised activities.

WHERE ARE THE AYLESBURY TOWN YOUTH CAFÉS?

Aylesbury College • Bedgrove • Berryfields (Aylesbury Vale Academy) • Broughton • Prebendal Farm • Southcourt

You can find out venue and opening time information online at: www.youthcafe.info/index



MORE INFO!

There are lots of Youth Cafés in the surrounding villages too which link with various schools and parishes. You can watch a video online with Dave Rollins and Nick Collard to find out information about the Youth Cafés.

The website is www.youthcafe.info/aylesbury or scan the QR code to watch. There's a growing number of activities for youth in Aylesbury Town and to find out about these you can visit the Bucks County Council website: <http://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org>



Activities for Young People



Greater Aylesbury Youth Forum Update!

The voice and opinions of young people is hugely valued by the community leaders. Schools, colleges and councils already have youth councils who offer important views and opinions which help shape the services for the young. The new Greater Aylesbury Youth Forum is for any young people aged 13-19.

HAVE YOUR SAY NOW!

The youth forum is currently researching into the needs of youth and community and everyone can share your views online. To find out more or get involved visit the website: www.youthforum.co.uk/aylesbury OR follow the links from the facebook page www.facebook.com/AylesburyYouthForum. You can also follow on twitter @YouthForumAY



Sports for Youth in Aylesbury

If you're into scooters, skateboards, long boards, blades or BMXing, football or hockey... you may be interested in this!

Skate Bucks is a mobile skate park project, which travels around Aylesbury and offers young people a chance to try their skills. Young people can bring their own equipment or hire skateboards and scooters at the events.

CAGE FOOTBALL AND HOCKEY!

The mobile sports cage is a large cage with two small goals, which is perfect for playing football and hockey. It's been used at large community events, youth groups, school playgrounds during lunch break and also inside community centres.

You can visit the website to watch the sports videos and find out where the events will be happening near you!

If you're planning a school or community event and would like to use these resources, then please get in touch with the charity AVYFC who are the organisers: info@avyfc.org.uk or call 07977 926596.



WWW.SKATEBUCKS.INFO

Schools Page

Welcome to our first Schools Page! This page is your platform to tell us your news. We'd love to hear all about your school clubs, exciting events, special achievements and future plans. You can even show off your class's art, photography or writing skills – just as William Harding Combined School have done in this issue. If you'd like to be featured next time, please get in touch with Barbara on 01296 425678 or email: b.cunningham@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk.

“As the new term started at William Harding Combined School, the children in year 6 thought about the coming year; their final one in primary school.

Having read a poem as a model, they tried to sum up their own thoughts about our school, their learning, the classroom and the year ahead of them. Some of the results blew us away!”

Mrs Jenkins, Year 6 Teacher
William Harding Combined School, Aylesbury

Together we're stronger

This is not a classroom, don't be fooled
It is a journey,
Not just any journey,
A journey of a lifetime,
Leading to our future,
Every stop is a new challenge
That we face, with bravery in our bag.

Be creative,
All day long, non-stop,
Have patience and confidence,
The trust in your heart and soul.

We are a team,
We never give up,
We set no boundaries,
We always take the challenge,
This is our time,
To shine.

Together,
We climb over the mountain,
The sky is no limit,
The practice makes it perfect,
I'll open all the doors,
So I can see my future
And so you can see yours.

If the chain was broken,
It would not work,
And our journey won't continue!

Together we're stronger!

by Amy

This is not a classroom

This is not a classroom,
It is a vast forest,
Where ideas branch out,
Without limits.

Every tree is unique,
Growing different fruit.
Every flower is unique,
Painted in all sorts of colours.
Nothing is the same here,
The trees are always growing,
The flowers are always colourful.

And while these trees are growing,
They wonder what they'll be,
As this forest has no boundaries,
You can fulfil your dreams.
And not the wolves, nor the lumberjack
Can hold you back from that.

by Oliver

Jungle

No way is the classroom a building or a house.
It is a vast jungle, a journey through life.

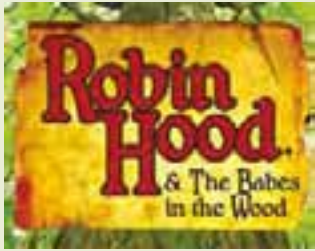
We all start at the crust
Of basic skill,
Bushes of equations and dreams
We fulfil. We ravage on through
Trees like skyscrapers because
Determination is strength,
Courage is a guide and
Every fact is a seed in the ground
On your chosen path waiting
To be found.

I will ride the wind and find the leafy curtains
To the next adventure awaiting me
Open my door to the highest part of the tree.

Determined, I will believe in myself
Break limits, express myself
Because the sky is only the
Beginning.

by Annabel

Christmas Events



Queens Park Arts Centre's pantomime returns with the dastardly Sheriff of Nottingham, who hatches a cunning plan to dispose of his niece and nephew so he can inherit their

fortune. Can our favourite outlaw, Robin Hood, save the day and win the heart of Maid Marian?

Join us for a traditional pantomime, suitable for all the family with lots of audience participation, lovely costumes and sets and guaranteed slapstick fun! Written and directed by Neil Gurney.

Evenings (7.30pm):

Fri 13, Sat 14, Fri 20, Sat 21 & Sat 28 Dec

Matinees (2.30pm): Sat 14, Sun 15, Sat 21, Sun 22, Tue 24, Thu 26, Fri 27, Sat 28 & Sun 29 Dec

Tickets: £12.50 / £8.50 concessions / £6.50 for children (Family ticket: £28 for up to 2 adults and 2 children U16)

For more information visit: www.qpc.org or call 01296 424 332 or 431 272, Queens Park Arts Centre, Queens Park, Aylesbury, HP21 7RT

December at St Mary's Church

Sunday 1st December, 4.00pm - The Mayor's Carol Service (parade starts at 4.00pm, service starts 4.30pm)

Sunday 8th December, 6.00pm - Carol Service for the Children of the Holy Land - being supported by the charity Embrace the Middle East.

Sunday 15th December, 6.00pm - Nine Lessons & Carols. Our famous, traditional, candlelit service for all.

Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24th December

4.00pm - Crib Service. A special service for the whole family. Younger people are invited to come dressed as their favourite character from the Christmas story.

6.00pm - Candlelight Vigil. A watch of prayer, where members of the community are invited to come along and light a candle in memory of a loved one.

11.30pm - Midnight Mass. Celebrating the Holy Mystery of Christmas.

Christmas Day - Wednesday 25th December

8.00am - Holy Communion 1662

10.00am - Sung Eucharist - celebrate the glory of the birth of Jesus

12 noon - Free Community Christmas Lunch. Especially for those who would normally spend the day alone. Please book in advance if possible.

The **Refectory Café** will be extending its opening hours at weekends throughout December. It will be open from 10.30am - 4.00pm on Saturday 7th, 14th and 21st December, and from 1.00pm - 4.00pm on Sunday 8th, 15th and 22nd. They will be serving festive fayre and there will be some craft stalls present on some days.

Rotary Club of Aylesbury

Where will Santa be travelling in Aylesbury this Christmas during December?

Thursday 5th - Southcourt
Friday 6th - Buckingham Park
Saturday 7th - Prebendal Avenue area
Sunday 8th - Bedgrove area
Monday 9th - Haydon Hill
Tuesday 10th - Turnfurlong
Wednesday 11th - Watermead
Thursday 12th - Quarrendon
Friday 13th - Hawkslade
Saturday 14th - Wing
Sunday 15th - Elm Farm
Monday 16th - Hardwick area
Tuesday 17th - Mandeville Road area
Wednesday 18th - The Coppice
Thursday 19th - Broughton Avenue area
Friday 20th - Ingram Avenue area
Saturday 21st - Elmhurst
Sunday 22nd - Weedon Road Area
Monday 23rd - Langdon Avenue area

Cut out and keep this handy guide!

Rotary 



We operate on Santa time! This means we start sometime between 5.00pm and 6.00pm and we must finish by 8.00pm. Santa's progress is always unpredictable.

This Aylesbury Rotary Club Carol Float is a tradition for many people in Aylesbury. It raises money for local charities and brings a smile to many children and parents during the Festive Season.

We are a group of volunteers who organise this activity. We try very hard to make the experience the best we can for children and families. There are limitations, so please bear these in mind if planning to see Santa. We can't guarantee visiting any specific street, and we are unlikely to do the exact same route each year as time is limited and we try to share out the experience. There are other Carol Floats around town so they may be covering your area.

For updates go to www.aylesburyrotary.blogspot.com or [@aylesburyrotary](https://twitter.com/aylesburyrotary)

If you would like to support the Carol Float and local charities by helping in the collections then please contact us at: aylesburyrotary@gmail.com

ATC News & Events

Thanks to our Volunteers

It's been a busy year for the Events Team at Aylesbury Town Council, and we hope you've enjoyed our events, old and new. None of which could have been quite as special without the help of our Volunteer Team. We'd like to say a huge thank you to Lauren, Katherine, Izzy, Gwyn, Richard and Andrew for their help this year.

Whether running arts and crafts activities, stewarding or assisting with road closures, each volunteer has played an important part in our events. Volunteering with the Events Team is fun and rewarding. If you're thinking about getting involved, take a look at what our volunteers Lauren and Katherine had to say...



Katherine

"Events management is what I have wanted to do since I was fifteen years old and volunteering to be on my school prom committee. During the planning and preparing for the prom evening, I realised that I was actually thoroughly enjoying the whole management of putting it together with all the team, and being able to volunteer with the Aylesbury Town Council to assist with the town's yearly events is a great opportunity.

In April I worked on the St George's Day Parade and in the summer Aylesbury on Sea, which involved setting up and getting last minute bits, as well as supervising the different stalls and activities.

I have been so lucky to be able to work with such an amazing group of people who have made me feel so welcome and a part of the team.

I have been able to gain so much experience already, and volunteering during my gap year will give me the chance to get involved even more, so when I go to university next September I can apply what I have learnt with the Town Council."

Lauren

"I've been volunteering at Aylesbury Town Council for a year and a half now and I've volunteered at lots of events like Aylesbury on Sea, St George's Day, Bucks County Show, Proms in the Park, Parklife and Tudor Fayre.

At the majority of these events I help organise and run the crafts stall and help the children who visit the stall to make little souvenirs from their day.

I love receiving feedback from people about how fantastic the event is and how much they enjoyed their day, because it makes me feel proud to be a part of Aylesbury Town Council!

I absolutely love volunteering for them because they are so friendly and they make me feel like part of the team. I love to help putting on events and working with the public.

I'm really looking forward to helping at the many events next year has to offer."

If you'd like to volunteer at our events, please contact Barbara on 01296 425678 or email: b.cunningham@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Great Recipe to Try! Poulet de Bresse a la Crème

Just as wines are linked to government-sanctioned regions, so is a special chicken. Alain Ducasse (Le Relais Plaza, Paris) and Guy Savoy (Restaurant Guy Savoy, Paris) are among the chefs who swear by the white-feathered, blue-footed bird that roams freely and is fed a diet of corn and spring water.

Only five percent of **poulet de bresse** are exported. At Hostellerie Chateau de la Barge (near Macon, France), hotel chefs instruct in how to prepare poulet de bresse. Proper preparation involves retaining most of the bird's water and fat. **Here's their savoury recipe:**

Makes four servings:

- 1 poulet de bresse (or other chicken)
- 4 cups crème fraiche
- 1 cup dry white wine
- ¼ cup butter
- Ground salt and pepper



Clean chicken and cut into eight pieces. Heat butter in casserole dish and cook the chicken in the butter. When the pieces are stiffened, and a golden-brown colour, pour the white wine over and cook until the wine is almost gone.

Cook chicken with the crème fraiche over low heat for about 35 minutes. Remove the chicken pieces. Reduce the cooking until there are only two cups of liquid. Glaze the chicken with the sauce and serve.

Recipe by Kristine Hansen



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

Christmas Gift Ideas...



AYLESBURY CALENDAR

– by Gerald Bright

A new 2014 Aylesbury Calendar is now on sale at Aylesbury Tourist Information Centre, priced £6.99.

The calendar was designed by local artist Gerald Bright, who has utilised his skills and concentrated on producing a unique range of illustrations using line wash treatment.

The calendar contains old and new views of Aylesbury and would make an ideal gift for local residents and visitors to the area.



Gerald has also produced a **new range of Christmas cards**, available from £1.85 per card or £2.10 per set.

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK

Take a ride with Santa around Aylesbury with a new beautifully illustrated book written by **Steve Smallman – Santa is coming to Aylesbury.**



Santa took out his Santa-Nav and soon found his way to Aylesbury to deliver all of his parcels. After travelling through a blizzard, Santa heard the bells of St Mary's Church and eventually

found his way to Market Square. The rest of the story is magical. An ideal bed time read, the book is on sale from the Tourist Information Centre, priced £4.99.

The 2014 calendar, cards and book are all available from Aylesbury Tourist Information Centre at the King's Head, off the top of Market Square. Open Monday to Saturday, 10.00am – 4.30pm. Telephone: 01296 330559 or email: tic@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

Tweet, Tweet! We have over 1000 twitter followers, Why not join in the fun? It's a great way to see what the Town Council is up to @aylesburytc



Christmas Fair & Carolfest



Sunday 15th December, Market Square

Christmas Fair 11am - 4pm

Carolfest 6pm – 7pm

Join us for a day filled with festive fun, music and entertainment. Then wrap up warm for an evening of your favourite carols in the picturesque Market Square.

www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

