

# AYLESBURY TOWN matters

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine  
Issue Thirty Six • Published Quarterly  
March 2015 to May 2015



*Serving the people of Aylesbury*



**'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'**

[www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

'Cut out and keep'



## Events Guide 2015

### ST GEORGE'S FUN DAY AND SCOUT PARADE - FREE

Sunday 26 April, Market Square  
11.00am - 4.00pm. Parade at 3.15pm.

### AYLESBURY'S SOAPBOX DERBY ON FATHER'S DAY - FREE

Sunday 21 June, location tbc, 11.00am - 4.00pm

### AYLESBURY ON SEA - FREE

Sunday 5 July, Kingsbury, 11.00am - 4.00pm

### BUCKS COUNTY SHOW

Thursday 27 August, Bucks Showground, Weedon  
All day event

### PARKLIFE WEEKEND - FREE

Saturday 29 August & Sunday 30 August, Vale Park  
A jam packed programme of live music, family entertainment and great fun throughout the weekend.

#### Live in the Park

Saturday 29 August, Vale Park, 12 noon - 8.30pm

#### Church in the Park

Sunday 30 August, Vale Park, 10.00am - 12 noon

#### Fun in the Park

Sunday 30 August, Vale Park, 12 noon - 4.00pm

#### Proms in the Park

Sunday 30 August, Vale Park, 7.15pm - 9.30pm

### TUDOR FAYRE & CHARTER DAY - FREE

Sunday 13 September, Market Square  
11.00am - 4.00pm

### HALLOWEEN - FREE

Thursday 29 October, Market Square  
3.00pm - 6.30pm

### WALKING PLAY

Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 November  
6.00pm and 8.00pm

### FESTIVE FAMILY FUN & CAROLFEST - FREE

Sunday 13 December, Festive Family Fun,  
Market Square and other locations, 11.00am - 4.00pm  
Carolfest, St Mary's Church, 6.30pm - 7.30pm



## Audio Version of Aylesbury Town Matters now available

NEW

We have teamed up with Aylesbury Talking Newspaper Association, a group of dedicated volunteers who currently read, record and distribute the content of The Bucks Herald to anyone in the Vale who requires an audio version. **As of 2015 our quarterly Parish magazine is also available in audio format.**

ATNA will be recording the magazine and distributing it on a USB stick on the same day as distribution starts of the hard copy. The audio version will be sent to the ATNA's current subscribers who live within the Parish of Aylesbury.

If you wish to receive the magazine in audio format then please contact Christine at ATNA direct on **01296 428861** or email: [aylesburytn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aylesburytn@yahoo.co.uk) who will make the necessary arrangements for you.

Aylesbury Town Matters is also available as a pdf download from our website or you can subscribe to our e-newsletter. Please email: [j.heberer@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:j.heberer@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Town Hall Facilities

The Town Council hires out the Council Chamber for meetings and other similar events and full details can be found here: [www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/the-chamber](http://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/the-chamber). In addition there are several small commercial offices on the second floor of the Town Hall which are rented out, ideal accommodation for small companies.

Presently there is an office available (18.2 sq m) which is available for tenancy. Anyone potentially interested in leasing this part-furnished office is asked to contact the Town Council on **01296 425678**.



## ATC 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](mailto:info@aylesburytowncouncil.co.uk) or write to us at: **Aylesbury Town Matters Correspondence, Aylesbury Town Council, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP**

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## Welcome Note

“ Welcome to the latest issue of Aylesbury Town Matters. As we head into the spring the Town Council's events programme for the year really gets going; details of all our forthcoming (free, as always) events including those for Father's Day and St George's Day are on page 5.

As a bit of an amateur sky-watcher myself, I'm looking forward to the amazing phenomenon of a solar eclipse on 20 March, an event that won't be seen again in this part of the world for another few decades. So make sure you get to see it this time, but please do it safely! We have hints and tips on the best and safest way to view the eclipse on page 8.

The Council manages seven allotment sites all around the town, a great way to encourage healthy eating, care for the local environment and provide regular outdoor exercise for all ages – and saving money on your food bills! The latest news on our allotments is on page 6. If you're interested in taking on an allotment please get in touch with us, although demand is high and there are often waiting lists for plots to become available.

This is the last edition of our magazine before the elections take place in May. Some Councillors are standing down, the rest of us will be campaigning and hoping to be re-elected to serve the town for another four year term. Whether we are successful is – quite rightly – up to you, the voters!

All our Councillors put a lot into helping make the work of the Town Council a great success, and I'd like to thank every one of them for the support they have given us, as well as the work they do for you, the constituents they represent. We do come from different political parties but the real differences between us are few. All sides know they have been elected first and foremost to do their best for the town, and we do work together co-operatively and enthusiastically to achieve that aim. If you came along to one of our meetings (and members of the public are always welcome to attend – our website has a full list of upcoming meetings) you might be quite pleasantly surprised at the low level of political point-scoring and the fact we do work together very well.

We're pleased to announce that Aylesbury Town Matters is now also available in an audio version. If that's an easier format for you, or anyone you know, to get their quarterly fix of news about the town, please contact Aylesbury Talking Newspaper Association to request this. Details are on page 2. ”

Very best wishes to you all.

**Councillor Mike Smith**  
Leader of Aylesbury Town Council

Aylesbury Town Council is twinned with Bourg-en-Bresse.



## Contact Details

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*Photos throughout the magazine courtesy of Maurice Cousins, Russ Naylor, Swale Photography, Derek Pelling, Harmony Naylor, Bucks County Museum, Eloise Dunn, Hannah Neal and Sherron Razey.*

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[www.bpdesigns.co.uk](http://www.bpdesigns.co.uk)



**The autumn and winter months have provided a mixed bag of weather to delight and challenge the events team, with un-seasonal warmth in October and strong winds in December. Your safety and enjoyment is always our priority and we hope that you have enjoyed all the events provided free of charge throughout the year.**

Ghouls, ghost, phantoms, witches and wizards all had a spine tingling, spooktacular fun afternoon just before **Halloween**, with over 600 people taking advantage of the unusually warm day. The Bubble Wizard wowed the crowd with traditional magic and a breath taking array of bubble trickery, including bubble beards, placing children inside giant bubbles as well as covering the excited crowd with thousands of tiny bubbles which danced and shimmered in the late evening sun.



A **Panto-ween**, which was written especially for the evening, was a huge success with children laughing and participating in the gags and songs.

In early November Aylesbury was the scene of a number of gruesome and fictitious murders. Visitors were lead around our historical old town's cobbled streets by a talented team of local actors, following a trail of murdered victims and mysterious clues. The four shows were a sell out and a great night was had by all and of course the murderer was caught in the end.



With gusts of 30mph winds predicted, our **Christmas Fair** had to be moved inside to Friars Square. This meant families were warm and safe whilst they enjoyed a host of free festive fun and entertainment with stilt walkers and a crystal ball manipulator alongside live music, magic, arts, crafts, balloon modelling, hoopla game, a photo booth and lots more.



With thanks to the Aylesbury Lions who braved the winds and served hot roast chestnuts out in Market Square. We were raising funds for the Mayor's charity CHAT and Beth aged 5 from Meadowcroft was the lucky winner of 'Johnathan' the penguin. The Fair combined with the evenings Carolfest raised a fantastic £470 for CHAT.

Due to the weather forecast the **Carolfest** was held at St Mary's Church for the first time. The Wingrave Singers, Caduceus Brass Band and children from Bierton Combined School had the 300 strong audience on their feet singing with gusto and joy to a host of traditional carols.

This last minute change of venue proved very popular with all ages as they enjoyed hot soup, mince pies and roast chestnuts in the warm and welcoming atmosphere of our beautiful local church.



## 2015 events

All that seems like such a long time ago and with spring upon us we look forward to seeing you at our **St George's Fun Day and Scout Parade** on Sunday 26 April from 11.00am until 4.00pm. This free family fun day is a celebration of England's patron saint St George. All of the entertainment, games, craft, activities and inflatables will be free and themed around the 3C's associated with St George – **Courage, Chivalry and Charity.**

Come and meet Dr Julius Drake, a Victorian time traveller, who has encountered dragons and mermaids, marvel at the skills of the sword fighting displays and be entertained by our stilt walking St George. Budding squires can learn the skills needed to defeat any dragon by our fire breathing Knight trainer.

At 3.15pm the annual scout parade, led by The Amersham Marching Band, St George and the school dragon with over 200 Scouts, march from Market Square to St Mary's Church, for the annual affirmation service. They will return at 4.00pm for the Scouts to be formally dismissed by the District Commissioner.

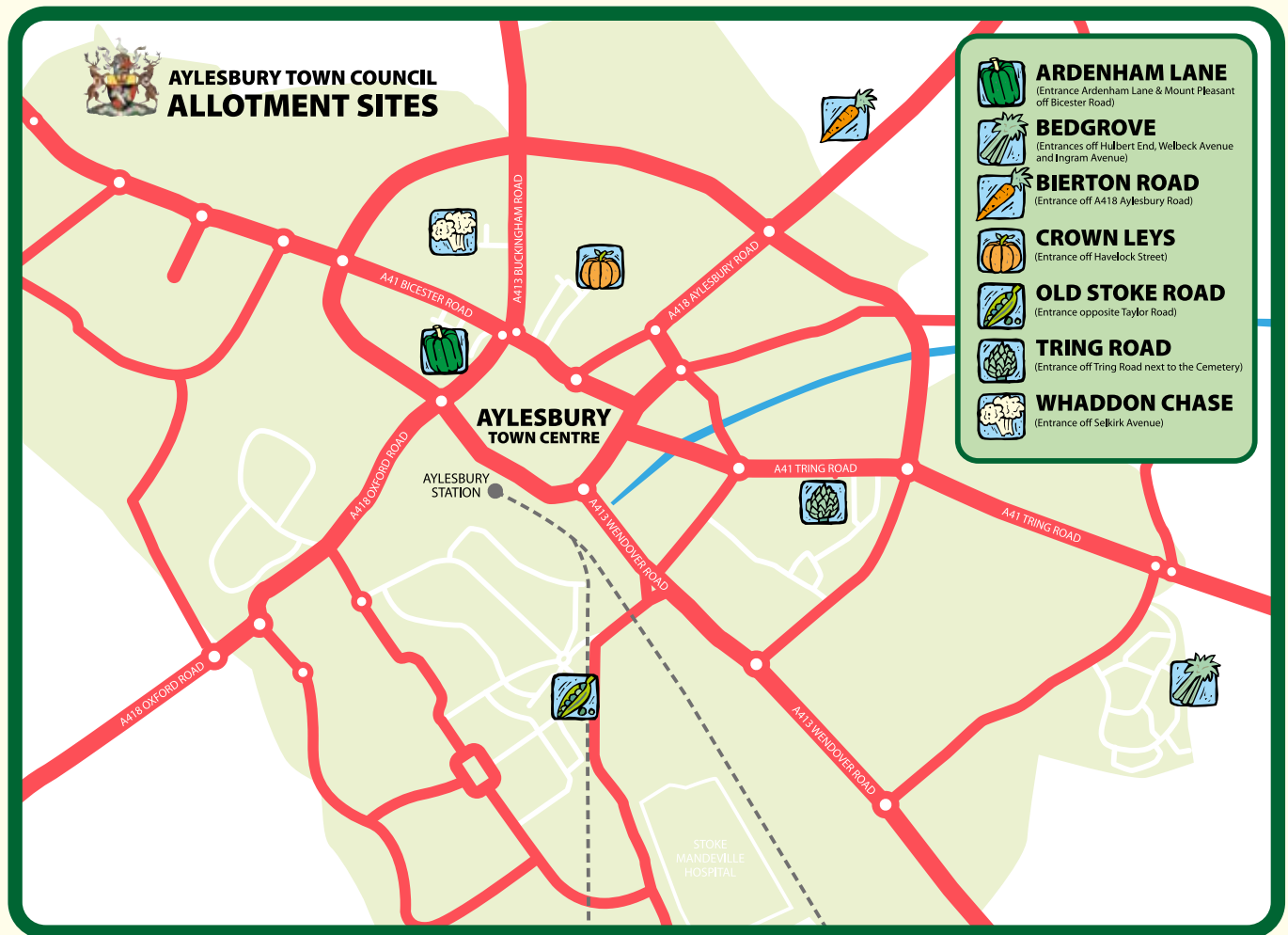
Aylesbury Town Council are very excited to bring a brand new event to the town, on Sunday 21 June, **Father's Day**, we will be hosting the first **Aylesbury Soapbox Derby**. Giving a fantastic opportunity to work together over the half term holidays and weekends with friends and family creating your very own gravity powered 'lean, mean, racing machine' or you might know it better as a Soapbox – a vehicle on wheels powered solely by the slope of a hill and the push you give it at the start.

Will you and your family/friends be the proud winners of the very first Aylesbury Soapbox Trophy? Open to families, individuals, groups and businesses with prizes and trophies to be won. Lots more information to follow once the exciting plans have been confirmed.

**For up-to-date information and news about all of our events please 'like' our Facebook page or visit: [www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/town-council-events](http://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/town-council-events)**

**If you have any comments or suggestions for events we would like to hear from you. Please email Ruth on: [r.mayhew@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:r.mayhew@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)**

# Environment



## Allotments

Aylesbury Town Council manages seven allotment sites in Aylesbury; Ardenham Lane, Bierton Road, Bedgrove, Crown Leys, Old Stoke Road, Tring Road and Whaddon Chase – as shown on the map.

Even though we have over 600 plots, we still have waiting lists on some of our sites with some proving more popular than others!

We manage the list by allowing only one waiting list entry per household, providing a choice of a 2.5, 5 or 10 (maximum) pole plot and encouraging the sharing of plots between family and friends.

Although we are thrilled that gardening shows such as 'The Big Allotment Challenge' have increased interest, there is a concern that it may mislead people into thinking allotment gardening is easy. As any experienced allotment holder will tell you, there are only two things that will get you the allotment garden you want; hard work and patience.

With 'beginners' in mind, we are endeavouring to provide more 2.5 pole plots on all sites, to give the new allotment gardener a manageable piece of land to start with so they can see how they like allotment gardening.

We also have Wardens on each site, who with their wealth of gardening knowledge, will always be able to give advice and answer any questions you may have. If they are not about, having a chat with your neighbours on the site may result in some useful hints and tips!

We carry out regular inspections of the sites to ensure that plots are being worked by allotment holders, address any problems they may have and to make sure all is running well.

The judging for our Annual Allotment Competition takes place at the end of July and as all the plots are considered by our Judges, anyone could be a prize winner. There is even a special prize for the 'Best Newcomer' so there is something for our new gardeners to aim for.

If you are interested in becoming an allotment holder then please call Linda on 01296 425678 or email me on: [l.beaty@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:l.beaty@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)





## Garden Competition

Whilst we are writing this, it is blue sky and sunshine outside but the temperature is less complimentary. Nevertheless the keen and budding gardeners amongst us are already starting to think about what to plant in their gardens this year.

There are so many different ways gardens can be planted, landscaped and made colourful. Even the smallest of spaces can be turned into a paradise.

Our **Annual Garden competition** isn't taking place until July/August time so you still have plenty of time to get planting, pruning, mowing etc. but we wanted to let you know already so that you can start planning.

The competition is open to residents, groups, organisations, schools and businesses within the Parish of Aylesbury.

Last year we had more entries than ever and are hoping to have even more this year. Our three judges are already looking forward to seeing everyone's gardens and to helping with tips and advice. Information on entry categories and the application will be available from our website from 1 March 2015 and will also be in the next issue of Aylesbury Town Matters.

We will be creating a webpage with links for ideas to give you some inspiration and our Facebook page Aylesbury In Bloom will also be full of ideas. **We look forward to receiving your entry, which closes on 19 June.**



## Spring Bulbs at site of previous War Memorial

Last year volunteers from Aylesbury Youth Action together with Town Councillors planted over 200 sunflower seeds on the site where the Hazel, Watson & Viney War Memorial once stood by the Tring Road roundabout.

The young volunteers also continued to look after the area throughout the year ensuring that it is litter and weed free.

They have now passed the area on to a new group of volunteers from the Step Up group at Harding House. One of their first tasks was to remove the sunflowers and dig the patch in order to clear it, ready for over 300 spring bulbs. Over three afternoons the patch was cleared and the bulbs all planted. Everyone had great fun and are looking forward to a magnificent flower display.

The spring bulb patch will be complimented by a patch of wildflowers, which will be sown again by the Town Council's Outdoor Team together with the volunteers. If you ever drive past the area and see them hard at work please do give them a wave.



## New Bulky Household Items Collection Service from AVDC

AVDC have recently introduced a new collection service for unwanted bulky household items. This includes normal household furniture and electrical equipment only, not DIY waste, such as rubble or plaster board. So if you can't get to the tip, you can book them to pick up instead.

This is a paid for service, with up to three items collected for a flat fee of £75. Any additional items are charged at £5 each to a maximum of 8 items in total. They'll also collect small electrical items and textiles such as clothes, towels and linen free of charge whilst at your property.

Find out more about how it works and how to book a collection go to [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/bulkyitems](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/bulkyitems) or email: [bulkyitems@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:bulkyitems@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk) or contact AVDC's waste team on 01296 585515.

Don't miss...  
Friday  
20 March  
2015

## Solar Eclipse



Solar eclipses are a rare, natural and spectacular phenomenon which occur when the Moon comes between the Sun and the Earth and casts the darkest part of its shadow (the umbra) on Earth. The last time this was experienced in southern England was on 11 August 1999. On **Friday 20 March 2015** a total solar eclipse will be visible from the Faroe Islands, which are half way between Scotland and Iceland.

Here in Aylesbury we will experience a partial eclipse with approximately 80% of the sun being obscured by the moon. The next 80% eclipse will be in 11 years' time and we will have to wait 75 years before a total solar eclipse can be visible from the UK.

With fingers crossed for a clear sky, the eclipse starts at 8.25am and will be at its maximum 80% coverage at around 9.30am, with the moon leaving the sun at 10.40am.

### Hints and tips to view the solar eclipse:

- It is essential to view the sun safely, as its rays will seriously damage the eyes.
- Purchase protective glasses. Many are available on the internet, please be wary of very cheap options as the filters may not be strong enough to protect your eyes and always check for scratches and holes on the lenses as they will make the glasses un-safe.
- Make a pinhole viewing box, there are lots of websites which show you how to do this.
- Mention the date and time to your children's school to make sure our younger generation have the opportunity to see this phenomenon.
- Organise a breakfast viewing at your work place.
- Visit [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com) for lots of information. *(This website is external, ATC cannot be accounted for its contents)*

We hope you enjoy this rare experience and if you would like to share any thoughts or photographs after the event, please contact us on: [info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk) and we'll report back on everyone's experience in the next issue.

## Secondary Glazing, not Second Best

If your single glazed windows are characterful and perfectly serviceable then adding secondary glazing might be a better option than replacement. Secondary glazing has numerous benefits:

- Reduces draughts, condensation, and heat loss through windows (by up to 63%)
- Sound insulation can be better than double glazing (if panes are 10cm or more apart)
- Outward appearance of windows is unchanged and home security may be enhanced

Secondary glazing can be temporary or integrated more permanently. Temporary DIY options include lightweight acrylic panes mounted using magnetic strips. Plastic films that can be stuck to the window pane or frame are lower cost options.

Integrated options include heavier glazed units which can be hinged or sliding, allowing you to open your windows. At the top end, custom made timber frame units and those highly rated by the BFRC2 will be more durable and their airtight seals will further reduce heat losses. For the best visual match, align the glazing bars with those on the original window.

Existing windows should be repaired first when fitting secondary glazing and all units should remain closed in winter to discourage condensation on the primary window pane.

For more tips on making an older home more energy efficient visit [www.superhomes.org.uk](http://www.superhomes.org.uk)



Hinged secondary glazing - bar aligned with original windows for a good match. Photo courtesy of [www.superhomes.org.uk](http://www.superhomes.org.uk)





## 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 the Parish of Aylesbury. For more information call Judith on 01296 425678 or email: [j.heberer@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:j.heberer@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk). There is no charge for community groups and charities.

## Aylesbury Old Town Residents Association (AOTRA)

Aylesbury Old Town Residents' Association welcomes town centre residents. AOTRA is pleased that so many people choose to live in the middle of Aylesbury and hopes that all residents enjoy the neighbourhood.

The main aims of the Association are to promote the residential character of the Old Town; to represent the interests of Old Town residents; and to provide a forum for Old Town residents.

Social events are organised from time to time. Details of future activities are given in a newsletter posted through all letterboxes within the Inner Ring Road. Simply living in the area automatically entitles residents to membership of the Association. No subscription is charged but there is sometimes a collection at meetings to cover outgoings, and donations are most welcome.

AOTRA held its 2014 AGM in November and the committee began planning for 2015 in January. We saw out 2014 with Christmas dinners at the Temple Street Wine Bar – as an experiment we booked two dates in December to allow more residents to participate so that we didn't need to say that there was 'no room at the inn' to anyone.

We plan to have more community events in the coming year, including a 'Big Lunch' (7 June) and 'Secret Gardens' (in June or maybe July). As plans develop we will keep residents informed through our newsletter. We now deliver around 400 of these to every property in the Old Town area (some addresses can be difficult to access and we would welcome a volunteer in these to help distribute the newsletters).



## PACE Celebrates 25 years of Transforming Lives

PACE's journey began in 1990 in a small, rented cottage in Cuddington, near Aylesbury with three staff and four children. Twenty five years later, PACE is now a leading charity with an innovative and intensive programme of education and therapy that has transformed the lives of hundreds of children and young people with cerebral palsy and related motor disorders.

Our services support more than 100 young people from the age of 0-18, from baby massage to primary and secondary school places, from feeding and sleeping clinics to outreach services and family support.

Our new Early Intervention & Independence Centre is a model of excellence that is setting new standards for intervention and support for very young children (aged 0-5) with motor disorders such as cerebral palsy.

We rely heavily on the generosity of donors and supporters to sustain our services. In 2013, 58% of PACE's income came from charitable donors.

### JOIN THE PACE BIG WALK! Saturday 9 May 2015

Lace up your walking boots and bring friends and family to have a wonderful day in the Buckinghamshire countryside and raise funds to support our vital services. The walk is 20 miles long and there is also a 10 miles option.

Call 01296 614287 or visit the PACE Big Walk webpage: <http://bit.ly/PACEBigWalk>



## Q&MCAP

### Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Action Partnership

Our meetings take place every second Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm at the Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre. Support your community and tell us of litter, fly tipping or lamp posts not working or staying on all day. Help keep our area a pleasant place to live.

# Community News & Events

## Kids' Events this Spring in Aylesbury Town Centre

### Free Kids' Thursday Events

Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership puts on a free kids' event in Aylesbury Town Centre every Thursday of Bucks CC school holidays – and the fun continues in 2015!

The Easter holidays bring two free kids' events, on Thursday 2 April and Thursday 9 April, including the return of the annual Easter Treasure Hunt, where there are fantastic prizes to be won in both the treasure hunt and the colouring competition. There will also be a free kids' event on Thursday 28 May, during half term.

See [www.facebook.com/aylesburyvale](http://www.facebook.com/aylesburyvale) or [@aylesburyvale](https://twitter.com/aylesburyvale) and [#AylesburyThursdays](https://twitter.com/AylesburyThursdays) on twitter for further information, or see local press nearer the time.

## Bucks County Museum

**Aylesbury Ducklings - New activities for under 5s.** Come along to our exciting programme of workshops for under 5s with their parents and carers to enjoy learning and having fun together.

Each week workshops explore a different theme through simple crafts, storytelling and songs, including Hungry Caterpillars, Spring Flowers, Bugs, Farm Animals and Feathered Friends.

Sessions are every Tuesday and Thursday during Bucks school terms at 11.00am – 12 noon, 1.00pm – 2.00pm and 3.00pm – 4.00pm. £3 per child, includes all materials and snack. Please book in advance on **01296 331441** as places are limited. *Kindly supported by Wilkins Solicitors LLP.*



## Love Your Local Market Fortnight

Previous years have seen a family of Meerkats in Kingsbury, and a visit from some familiar faces from Peckham – what will 2015 bring? **Love Your Local Market Fortnight** runs from **Wednesday 13 May until Wednesday 27 May.**

See [www.facebook.com/aylesburyvale](http://www.facebook.com/aylesburyvale) or [@aylesburyvale](https://twitter.com/aylesburyvale) and [#Aylesburymarket](https://twitter.com/Aylesburymarket) on twitter for further information or see local press closer to the time.



## Bravo 22 Company Buckinghamshire Legacy Project

**Thursday 26 – Saturday 29 March, 7.30pm, Saturday matinee 2.30pm. Tickets £12 (£13.20 online & telephone bookings).**

Following great acclaim from the **Two Worlds of Charlie F** staged in March, Aylesbury Waterside Theatre in collaboration with Bravo 22 Company and The Royal British Legion will present a brand new play based on real life stories from recovering wounded, injured and sick service personnel.

The project has allowed participants to take on-stage roles and positions in sound, lighting, wardrobe, stage management, press and marketing under the professional supervision and guidance from a world class team. The Bravo 22 Buckinghamshire Legacy Project will bring you a groundbreaking production that acts to enable wounded, injured and sick service personnel, veterans, reservists and service families to have their voices heard and stories told.

Join us in celebration and support of the Bravo 22 Buckinghamshire Legacy Project and discover together, the effects of military life in our community. If you want to take part in this project, please email: [bravo22company@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:bravo22company@britishlegion.org.uk) for more information.

## Bedgrove Badminton Club

Established over 25 years Bedgrove Badminton Club is a friendly, social badminton club. We have four courts in the Aylesbury Grammar School Sports facilities (Walton Road, HP21 7RP).

**Tuesday evenings 8.00 - 10.00pm** - Experienced League standard club night.  
**Thursday evenings 8.00 - 10.00pm** - Pay and play sessions. No membership fees, just £5 pay and play! Open to all visitors of ANY standard.

Call: **01296 613599** or **07712 552121** or visit: [www.bedgrovebadmintonclub.co.uk](http://www.bedgrovebadmintonclub.co.uk)





Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society

## HS2 and Buckinghamshire's Heritage

If the HS2 rail line between London and Birmingham is constructed, it will carve its way not only through the ancient Chiltern landscape but a substantial number of historic sites in Buckinghamshire both above and below ground.

Since the announcement of the line's proposed construction, the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society has been active in raising heritage issues with HS2 Ltd and by generally raising public awareness. For instance the society recently arranged an Open Day to view the remains of the church and graveyard of old Stoke Mandeville village, a little known historic feature in the care of the local parish council which would be completely obliterated by the line.

Next on the society's agenda is a whole day conference, with eight speakers, to examine HS2's impact on many other threatened locations, ranging from ancient alluvial deposits where mammoth bones have been discovered, to a Roman small town and parts of two deserted medieval village sites.

The conference **Heritage on the Line** will be held at Weston Turville village hall on Saturday 16 May 2015. All are welcome but see the society's website: [www.bucksas.org.uk](http://www.bucksas.org.uk) for further information about booking.



Above: Visitors at the recent Stoke Mandeville old church open-day. Construction of HS2 would remove the whole of the former church site and its graveyard. Inset: Ice Age bones. A hyena jaw and a bear canine from an old brick pit at Hartwell, Aylesbury on the route of HS2. The bones are in the Buckinghamshire County Museum.



## Nigerian Community Association Aylesbury's (NCAA) Annual Get Together

Our primary focus is supporting people, including but not limited to, people of Nigerian heritage and their families by providing education, training through workshops, meetings and seminars and to develop relationships with other similar groups within the wider community, in order to strengthen and improve their skills in their current surroundings and build confidence within the local community.



Special awards were given to children and adults for exceeding positively in different levels of education, social and welfare aspects.

A National Award of Excellence from the National Association of Nigerian Communities UK (NANC UK) duly signed by the Nigerian High Commissioner to the UK was also presented to the President of the

Nigerian Community Association Aylesbury – Mr Dayo Olowosale (on behalf of the Association) to show appreciation of Brilliant Welfare Services to Nigerians in Diaspora in Aylesbury Community.

In addition to this, special donations of several big boxes of clothing and shoes were also donated to Barnardos Charity to support the less privileged.

# Community News & Events



## Aylesbury Multicultural Community Centre

Friarscroft Way, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2TE

We have had a facelift and are newly decorated and would like to offer a wonderful new addition in the form of our Music Studio which was opened by our Town Mayor at our Open Day on the 12 July 2014.



*Pictured left to right: Chester Jones, Sue Thompson, Tuffail Hussain (Town Mayor), Jan Roffe and Lorrain Tavender*

Please come along and have a look and if you would like to hire the facilities we would welcome any questions.

We have all the facilities a Community Centre could ask for, including rooms ranging from a function room which has a capacity to hold 220 people, to smaller meeting rooms. In total we have seven rooms available to hire.

We also have two kitchens, disability facilities, hearing loop, car parking facilities (Friarscroft Car Park is a stone's throw away) and we are close to the town, railway station and bus station.

We have classes ranging from Tai Chi, Tai Kwondo, Dance Classes for tots to teenagers, Italian Classes for children and parties are held most weekends in our hall, plus much more.

Visit our website: [www.multiculturalcentre.co.uk](http://www.multiculturalcentre.co.uk) call **01296 429364** or come in and have a chat. The office is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am – 4.30pm



## Aylesbury Symphony Orchestra

The Aylesbury Symphony Orchestra continue their 2014-15 season with two more concerts at St Mary's Church, Aylesbury under the baton of acclaimed conductor Ben Palmer.



A Russian themed programme including the popular Rachmaninov's 'Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini' with soloist Chris Hopkins (pictured) and 'Symphony No.5' by Shostakovich will take place at 4.00pm on Sunday 10 May.

Later in the year the orchestra will perform masterpieces from the movies in their bi-annual film music concert on 28 June. Founded in 1949 by Charles Pope, ASO has been at the heart of Aylesbury's musical heritage and has delighted local audiences with their innovative programming and passionate performances.

### Interested in playing?

For further information on vacancies and upcoming concert details please visit: [www.aylesburyorchestra.co.uk](http://www.aylesburyorchestra.co.uk)

## Aylesbury Shopmobility

Helping shoppers get around town



Any reason, any age, residents can loan manual or powered wheelchairs, scooters and other walking aids on a daily basis, free of charge at Aylesbury Shopmobility.

You don't need to be registered disabled or elderly as those with temporary conditions such as a broken leg, pregnancy or illness can loan equipment too. The service is available to both residents and visitors to Aylesbury.

The mobility equipment is easy to use and for your safety, training is given in a practice area by friendly and knowledgeable staff.

Find Shopmobility in Upper Hundreds car park, behind the High Street in Aylesbury. There are a limited number of free parking spaces adjacent to Shopmobility for users.

To find out more phone **01296 336725** or go to: [www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/shopmobility](http://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/shopmobility)

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

1915

FOR 100 YEARS

2015

AYLESBURY TOWN WI

Aylesbury Town WI continue to meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at Granville Street Church.

The highlight of 2014 was when eight of our members spent a muddy afternoon in the moat of the Tower of London. We were invited to help deinstall some of the wonderful ceramic poppies which had made such a stunning tribute to the 888,246 British or Colonial military fatalities during the first world war. It was such a privilege to be part of this historic event.

2015 promises to be an exciting year for all Women's Institutes as we celebrate the Centenary of the start of the WI movement in England and Wales. In 1915 the first WI was formed in LlanfairPG on Anglesey, an idea originating in Ontario, Canada.

Rather like the Olympic torch, a special WI Centenary Baton is travelling, by various forms of transport, the length of England and Wales visiting as many individual WIs as possible.

The Baton will put in an appearance at the Buckinghamshire Federation of WIs' Annual Council Meeting on April 22 at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury.

It will then spend a week in Buckinghamshire being transported around various venues before being handed over to Bedfordshire Federation after a trip up Ivinghoe Beacon. We look forward to taking part in a big Centenary Party at Waddesdon Manor in June.

Aylesbury Town WI welcomes new members, contact Marilyn Jackson, President for further details. Email: [aylesburytownwi@gmail.com](mailto:aylesburytownwi@gmail.com) or telephone 01296 428869.



## Young People Matter to Aylesbury

8 schools, 130 students, 12 new businesses

Resilience, communication, financial capability, initiative, problem solving, teamwork, organisation and confidence... key skills that Year 12 students across schools in Aylesbury Vale gain, through running a real live company through taking part in Young Enterprise Company Programme.

The Local Area Board comprises of local business people whose passion is to see young talent flourish and consider setting up businesses in Aylesbury Vale in the future.

Through bringing employers face to face with the students at the kick off event in September or at the Business Challenge event at Aylesbury College, valuable links are made.

The 'Meet the Experts' panel where the students could interview Sales, Finance, Human Resources, Marketing and Customer Service is especially successful. The YE companies have also tried out their trading skills at a public event in Friars Square in December. A great opportunity to be innovative!

**"The future workforce of Aylesbury is already hard at work"**

**Jackie Bryant, YE Manager  
Young Enterprise**

With so many small businesses in Aylesbury Vale who have a link to a school locally through a relative, YE actively encourages more business support to enable us to offer key skills for life to young people.

The Area Final is in March and if you would like to know more about YE, contact Jackie Bryant, the YE Manager for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes on **07834 606230** or go to: [www.y-e.org.uk](http://www.y-e.org.uk)

# Community News & Events

## Mix96 Tour de Vale 2015

With route changes for 2015, the Mix96 Tour de Vale bike ride is back with more excitement than ever before. On **Sunday 7 June**, our three routes will take you through the delightful Buckinghamshire countryside and villages.



Last year was the largest ever Tour de Vale bike ride with 1,800 riders raising over £46,000. Join us this year to help WheelPower transform the lives of disabled people. Our three signed and marshalled routes all start and finish at Stoke Mandeville Stadium.

- 100k (62 miles) - advanced ride for experienced cyclists
- 55k (35mile) - challenge ride with a few steep hills
- 25k (15 mile) - fun ride for all of the family

Adults £15 and U16 free with an accompanying adult. There are up to 2,000 places available, every rider is given chip timing. Helmets compulsory. Sign up online [www.tourdevale.com](http://www.tourdevale.com)

## Aylesbury Farmers' Market



Market Square hosts a range of local producers at the Farmers' Market on the last Tuesday of every month, from 9.00am until 2.00pm.

Find local cakes, fruit and vegetables, honey and preserves, home-made ready meals, pies and bread and much more.

The Farmers' Market runs in the lower Market Square while the weekly Tuesday Vintage & Craft Bazaar runs in the upper Market Square – why not come along and browse the stalls at both?



## New Adult Short Courses at Aylesbury College

Aylesbury College has an exciting suite of courses for adults. Some are free, and many are offered at a discounted price. With a wide range of courses on offer you're bound to find something that's just right for you.

### Career Change

Thinking of training for a new career? We offer qualifications in Teaching, Accountancy, Counselling and many more.

### Business

Looking to improve your skillset and get that promotion? Maybe you run your own business and need to learn some new skills? Courses include Business Management, Accountancy and Marketing with some delivered online.

### Skills for Life – FREE COURSES

Whatever your reason for wanting to do additional maths or English study – career progression, to increase your confidence, or simply to be able to help your children with homework – these courses are for you.

### Computing and IT

Keeping up with new technology can be a challenge – if you're looking to update your IT skills then these are the courses for you. Our online courses include the Microsoft Office suite.

### Creative

We offer a range of creative courses for beginners and more advanced students. From the basics of using a camera to using Adobe Photoshop – if you're interested in photography, these courses are perfect for you.

### DIY

From carpentry to plumbing, get hands-on with DIY courses designed to teach you the basics. For more advanced students we also offer a range of courses to improve your skills.

**For more information, visit the Aylesbury College website: [www.aylesbury.ac.uk/adultshortcourses](http://www.aylesbury.ac.uk/adultshortcourses)**

## Bucks Open Studios to Celebrate 30th Year



Dorothea Reid

**Bucks Open Studios, the largest visual arts event in Buckinghamshire and one of the biggest in the country, has announced that 2015 will be its 30th year of free events across the county.** Taking place from **6 - 21 June 2015**, Bucks Open Studios will showcase an array of over 500 local artists and makers who will open up their studios to the public for a dazzling line-up of free demonstrations, hands-on workshops and exhibitions.



Jan Ruddock

Talent on show includes painters, ceramicists, glass workers, basket weavers, metal workers, wood turners, jewellery makers, book makers, photographers, print makers and silk makers and organisers are hoping to top the 25,000 visits made by the public during the 2014 event.

Bob and Ann Marshall, the Joint Chairs of Bucks Open Studios said "We are delighted to announce that 2015 will be our 30th year. Buckinghamshire was one of the first ever counties in the UK to hold an Open Studios in 1986

with around 43 exhibiting venues. The event has grown in popularity year on year with both the public and participating artists and we now have over 200 venues spanning the length and breadth of Buckinghamshire.

"Few would have thought in 1986 that Bucks Open Studios would grow to be such a popular and important event for the visual arts and we are delighted that we are still able to offer the public a great way to experience the wealth of creativity that is very much alive and kicking in our towns and villages."

Bob and Ann continued, "We are all extremely grateful for the public's continued support over the years and we really hope that people will join us in celebrating our 30th year by visiting the many venues; just look out for the popular yellow road signs that start springing up in May or visit our website: [www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk](http://www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk) to search for artists and venues."

"It really doesn't matter if you're an art enthusiast or if you just fancy an interesting day out, you can see some fantastic and free demonstrations by talented local craftspeople and maybe even have a go at creating your very own masterpiece."

**To find out more about Bucks Open Studios 2015 and to find participating artists and venues please visit the website: [www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk](http://www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk)**

## Jubilee Players

The Jubilee Players' 2015 spring production is '**A Bad Year For Tomatoes**' by John Patrick, presented in association with Stageplays. It will be performed at the Jubilee Hall, Bierton on Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 April and on each evening supper will be served at 7.00pm, curtain up at 8.00pm.

The play's central character is Myra Marlene, a famous actress. Fed up with the pressures and demands of her acting career, Myra leases a house in the tiny village of Beaver Haven and settles down to write her autobiography. She is successful in turning aside the offers pressed on her by her long-time agent, but dealing with her nosy, omnipresent neighbours is a different matter.

Admission is £11 for adults, £8 for children, which includes supper. Alf Rogers will be manning the Box Office from mid-March, and he can be contacted by email: [alfred.g.rogers@btinternet.com](mailto:alfred.g.rogers@btinternet.com) or by phone on **01296 415565**.

## Bucks County Museum

**Duty and Service: Bucks lives in the Great War.** Exhibition ends on 14 March. Free entry.

**One Hundred Years On** Aylesbury College design students have been inspired by WW1 exhibits to create their own original work. Exhibition runs until 18 April. Free entry.

**Lutes, Lyres and Ukeleles** A lifelong passion for music has given Zachary Taylor a fascinating career researching, making and playing historical stringed instruments. Exhibition runs from 25 April to 22 August. Free entry.

For more details call **01296 331441** or visit our website: [www.buckscountymuseum.org](http://www.buckscountymuseum.org)



# 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 Niknam Hussain  
01296 485847



Cllr Mohammed Amjad  
07956 803458

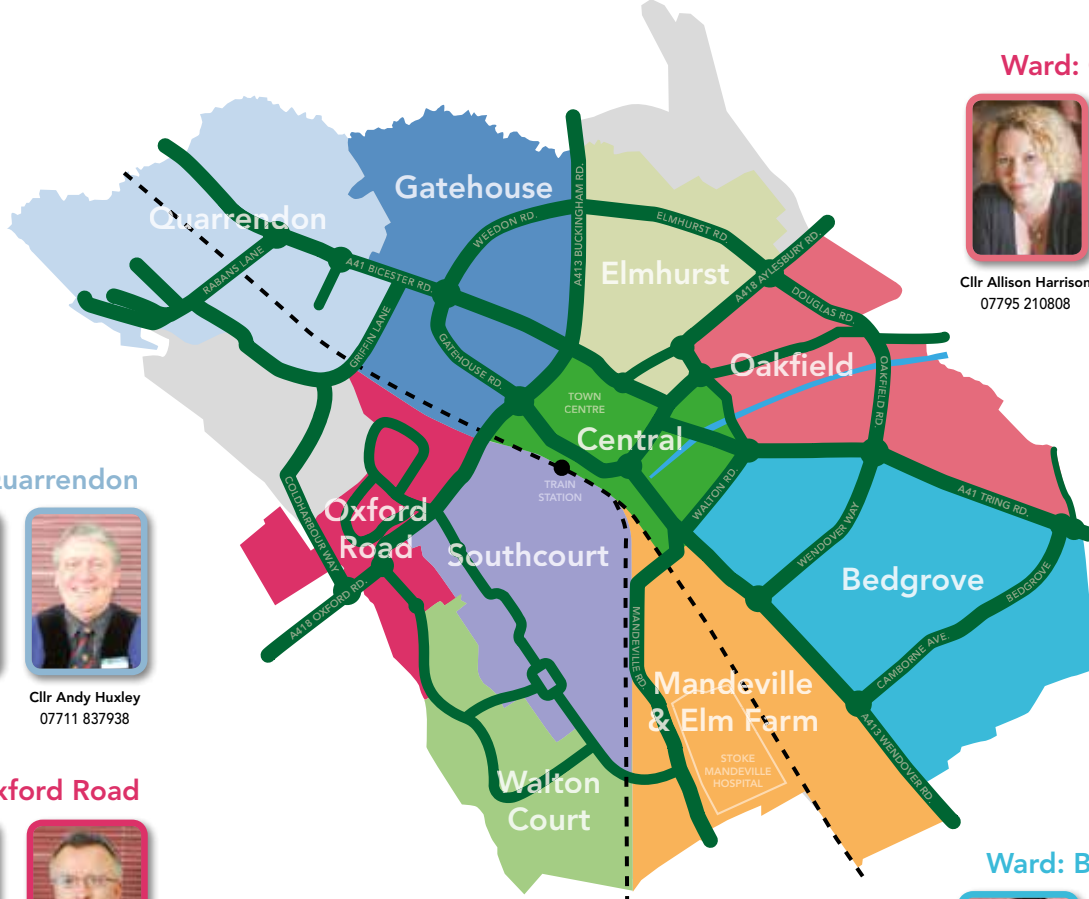
## Ward: Oakfield



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  
07854 178012

## Ward: Walton Court



Cllr Ranjula Takodra MBE  
07958 423083



Cllr Loui Cirillo  
07767 478696

## Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr Jenny Bloom  
07729 011501



Cllr Tom Hunter-Watts  
07595 178660

## Ward: Southcourt



Cllr Matthew Launchbury  
07837 604284



Cllr Peter Agoro  
07548 952762

## Ward: Mandeville & Elm Farm



Cllr Denise Summers  
01296 424903



Cllr Sue Chapple  
01296 426814



Cllr Brian Roberts  
01296 422881



Cllr Penni Thorne  
01296 422232



Cllr Mark Winn  
01296 393304



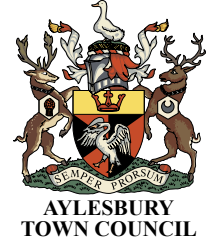


# Council Services

## Who do I talk to about? ...

### AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Office of the Mayor and Mayoral engagements
- Management of the seven allotment sites
- Tring Road Cemetery
- Tree works
- Support Twinning of Aylesbury with Bourg-en-Bresse
- A programme of events throughout the year such as Hobble on the Cobbles, Proms in the Park, Aylesbury on Sea, Christmas and Summer events along with other free events
- Award of grants to local groups and charities
- Free quarterly magazine, Aylesbury Town Matters
- Britain in Bloom (a partnership project) and Aylesbury in Bloom (hanging baskets, planters, floral beds, roundabouts and more)



**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.

Call: **01296 425 678** or visit: [www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

### AVDC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- 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



**Aylesbury Vale District Council** deal with issues covering the whole of Aylesbury Vale and has a very regulatory remit. Call: **01296 585 858** or visit: [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

### 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)



**Bucks County Council** is the top tier of local government and provides services on a county-wide basis. Call: **01296 395 000** or visit: [www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)

# ATC News

## Town Mayor's Update

As we look back at the remaining few months of 2014, it is with pleasure and honour that Mayor Cllr Tuffail Hussain has been able to attend so many events and has also been able to represent the Town and Council at our own Civic Ceremonies.

During November, MK Dons dedicated a special match day fixture called 'The Aylesbury Big Day Out' where many residents and schools benefited from reduced priced tickets for a football match against Swindon Town. The Mayor was delighted to attend along with representatives from his chosen charity CHAT, who were able to benefit from generous donations from the public attending the game as CHAT volunteers waved collection tins at the turnstiles. CHAT also received a signed football from the match that they will be auctioning at a future event (it was also a good result for the MK Dons!).

November was time for Remembrance, when Aylesbury residents came together to remember those who gave their lives in the past and current wars. Tuffail was honoured to launch the start of the Aylesbury Royal British Legion appeal at the end of October in Friars Square and was proud to be part of the Remembrance Service held in Market Square on Sunday 9th. We were delighted to host, in conjunction with Mandeville School and their Head of Music Mrs Sinéad O'Sullivan, a Civic Remembrance Service on the 11th November, whereby pupils, staff and friends of Mandeville School provided a moving and fitting tribute for the occasion.

Many other events and invitations were gratefully accepted, such as the Gateway Club Party for adults with special needs hosted by Aylesbury Soroptimists, attending the PACE Children's Games at Mandeville Stadium, and opening PDI's new office on the High Street along with Elvis!

Early December brought the start of the Christmas celebrations, and it was lovely to see so many people line the streets to watch Santa arrive in Friars Square. Cllr Hussain was also thrilled to hold his own Carol Service at St Mary's Church in early December and was overjoyed to be supported by the Aylesbury Festival Choir, Aylesbury Concert Band, Aylesbury High School and Haydon Abbey School. The congregation enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine at the end of the service as well as chocolates handed out by the Mayor and fellow Councillors, with the help of Aylesbury Lions.

He also visited the 1st Aylesbury Brownies Christmas Fair, attended the opening of the Royal British Legion Pop-in Centre and joined the Tesco/Mix96/Perry's Toy Appeal handover at Tesco, Tring Road.

The Mayor was also very humbled to attend the Community Christmas Lunch organised by Kim Walker and volunteers of St Mary's Church. It was a wonderful warm afternoon, where many members of the public were able to share in the spirit of Christmas together.

Sue Carpenter

**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](mailto:s.carpenter@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)**



# 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 visit our website or call 01296 425678.**

## Prebendal Farm Youth Café

On 20th November 2014 we were officially presented with the very generous grant of £2000 by Aylesbury Town Council for Prebendal Farm Youth Café.

We were so grateful to receive this funding, which will play a vital role in continuing to support the ongoing work of this youth project.

As with all our youth café projects, the aim is to create a space for young people aged 11 - 18 years old (school years 7 - 13) to drop in and hang out, giving them something to do in a place where they can be themselves and experience positive community within their age group.

Prebendal Farm Youth Café has been running since November 2011 and regularly gets 20 to 30 young people visit each week, making use of the space and what it has to offer. A typical youth café consists of table tennis, games consoles, pool tables and food – all completely free!

If you're from the area and of secondary school age, why not come and check it out? Prebendal Farm Youth Café meets at the Community Centre on Somerville Way every Thursday evening in term time, from 4.00pm - 6.00pm.

Contact Nick (Café Manager) on: [nick@avyfc.org.uk](mailto:nick@avyfc.org.uk) or find out more about our projects and what we do via: [www.youthcafe.info](http://www.youthcafe.info)



## Monday Contact Club

A grant of £950 from Aylesbury Town Council has enabled the Monday Contact Club members to go on a Christmas outing.

The group enjoyed a meal and variety show at The Palace of Variety in Wood Green London, which celebrates 'old time' entertainment with fun, singing and humour. The grant supported the outing which for some members was the first time they had been outside the county for some time.



The Monday Contact Club is a local club set up to help the lonely and isolated elderly of Aylesbury. The Club also provides a days respite for carers and a place to gather to enjoy company, activities and good food amongst friends.

The club has been established for four years and for many members it has become an invaluable opportunity to enjoy the friendship the club offers. The club strives to provide a varied programme that the members will enjoy including quizzes and card games.

A team of dedicated volunteers, similar ages to the members, work exceptionally hard to provide a caring and kind environment for all to enjoy.

**Should you wish to apply for a grant please contact our Grants Officer, Belle Daytonn on 01296 425678 or if you prefer email: [b.daytonn@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:b.daytonn@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)**

# Schools

## Local School Embarks on Innovative 'School Dog' Project



A new pilot project at a local school has got tails wagging. Stocklake Park Special School, in Aylesbury, is delighted to welcome their newest classmate, a Labrador cross Golden Retriever called Patience.

Students at the Stocklake Park have severe learning difficulties, or profound

and multiple learning difficulties, or

moderate difficulties with other complex needs. Patience will be attending the school for the next three years, supported by a professional dog handler Nikki Thorpe, and will support learning and therapeutic programmes for the students.

The project, called 'School Dog' is a collaborative scheme with national charity Dogs for the Disabled. The charity has been training assistance dogs to support people with a wide range of physical disabilities for the past 25 years. However, this is a new venture using animal assisted intervention techniques, whereby a dog is placed in a school to work alongside a professional dog handler, teacher and therapists to explore the benefits to learning. This is only the second project of its kind in the UK.

Head of School, Gill Mullis said: "It has been really exciting to see students' responses to this project. Benefits already seen include students choosing to communicate and enthusiastically greet the dog around the school, students reading to the dog and receiving a high five, students becoming calmer when sitting next to the dog and being able to stroke it. Students have also been motivated to take part in physical exercise and to have more independence."

Selina Gibsone, Development Manager at Dogs for the Disabled added: "We hope that Patience will soon become a familiar sight to students and staff at Stocklake Park School. The presence of a well-trained dog in a school can have a dramatic impact on students, helping to increase a student's motivation, improve concentration and reduce anxieties. We believe the impact of a dog is even greater when it is supported by a professional dog trainer working alongside educational professionals."

Parents, friends and local organisations and businesses have been supporting the scheme, to help raise the first year's funding, but more is needed to secure the project for the remaining two years. If you could offer any support to this project, please contact: [gmullis@thevalefederation.com](mailto:gmullis@thevalefederation.com).

## WheelPower's Relay Challenge

WheelPower, the national charity for wheelchair sport have launched a brand new schools challenge for 2015. Our wheelchair roadshow brings the equipment and instructors to any school sports hall in Buckinghamshire.

WheelPower's Relay Challenge is based on the former Paralympic sport Wheelchair Slalom. Students will learn the basics of wheelchair sport and test their skills and speed on our challenging relay course using our sports wheelchairs.

Students will also increase their awareness of disabilities and start to understand the type of training involved to become a Paralympian.

### How is it organised?

A class of 30 students can complete the challenge in one 45 - 60 minute session. Sessions can either be delivered by teachers or WheelPower staff. There are no costs to be paid by the school.

We ask that students raise at least £6 in sponsorship each (with a minimum number of 100 fundraisers) in advance of the challenge. The money raised will be used to help transform the lives of disabled people at Stoke Mandeville Stadium.

Contact Ollie Moore for more information on: [schools@wheelpower.org.uk](mailto:schools@wheelpower.org.uk) or call **01296 395995**.



## BEST appoints General Manager



Ian Harper, Chief Executive of ATG Training in Aylesbury, has been appointed as the first General Manager of Buckinghamshire Education, Skills and Training (BEST), the new partnership venture between Aylesbury College and Buckinghamshire New University.

BEST is jointly owned by the University and College and is a separate company operating alongside the two institutions. It provides a vehicle to pool the partners' leadership, industry links and expertise, and therefore enable a broader range of educational opportunities and meet the region's education and skills needs.

The BEST General Manager post is an entirely new role and Ian's primary responsibilities will be to oversee BEST's projects, and to manage the development of, and recruitment of students to, BEST's new University Campus Aylesbury Vale (UCAV) which is set to open in the autumn of 2015.

Ian, who took up the new role on 3 November 2014, said of his appointment: "I'm delighted to be joining BEST and look forward to establishing it as part of Buckinghamshire's educational offer. The plans for the new higher and professional education campus on the new development at the Waterside in Aylesbury are very exciting, and the modern facility will host education and training opportunities from Bucks New University and Aylesbury College in a striking setting. I look forward to welcoming the first students and delegates in the autumn next year."

Ian has lived and worked in Buckinghamshire for most of his life. After gaining a degree in chemical physics, he started work in the training department of Harrods. After five years he moved to ATG Training in 2000 as a training officer where he benefitted from ATG's support and sponsorship of postgraduate management qualifications, enabling him to rise through the organisation and become Chief Executive in 2010. With interests in education and opportunities for young people, Ian is involved in Young Enterprise in Bucks and is a Governor of Elmhurst School in Aylesbury, where he himself went to school.

## Wycliffe End Community Orchard

The Estate Services team at Vale of Aylesbury Housing have been enhancing some of the Trust's green spaces. They were recently joined by children of Bearbrook School to plant fruit trees and create a community orchard on land between the school and Wycliffe End. The orchard is one of a number of community gardens the Estate Services team has created. The team are happy to hear from groups who have ideas for a similar community garden or orchard. If you are interested, contact Estate Services on email: [info@vaht.co.uk](mailto:info@vaht.co.uk) or 01296 732600.



## Bucks UTC Students' Monologues Published

Five students from Buckinghamshire University Technical College (UTC) are delighted to learn that their written work will be appearing in a Young Writers' book 'Mini Monologues - Southern Authors'.

The successful students, all from year 10, had entered the national Young Writers competition and had to write monologues of not more than 100 words on a real or fictional character. The five students' monologues are based on Kim Kardashian; Professor Stephen Hawking; Michael Jordan, the basketball player; Lord Aleem, a young entrepreneur, and the President of an unnamed Middle Eastern country fighting terrorists.

Peter Allen, Head of English at Bucks UTC, said: "There was a very varied range of characters and all the monologues captured the voice and personality of their subjects. We're really proud of all the students – a great effort".

The book 'Mini Monologues - Southern Authors' will be published in March.

*Back row from left to right: Richard Belovic, Nathaniel Beamon, Doyle Callum. Front row from left to right: Andrew Pullen, Aryanna Cueto*





## Aylesbury & District Swimming Club

2014 marked the 80th anniversary of the town's oldest and largest swimming club and it was a great year for the club in many ways. Despite the increasing pressures on grass roots clubs, like Aylesbury, to meet high quality standards of both management and coaching professionalism, the club remains very much true to its original objectives.

Through a dedicated workforce of volunteers, the swimming club continues to offer an impressive, low cost competitive development environment for its 200 members from the age of 5 through to senior masters. In fact last year alone the team supported over 800 hours of training and 350 hours of competitions between them. If, however, you dig a little deeper into what the club is achieving in the pool and how, it certainly isn't all based on tradition.

With half the pool hours of typical performance swimming clubs, modern training methods are used to improve a swimmer's technique whilst swimming at the pace they would be aiming to do in a race. This approach clearly generated some impressive results in 2014 with the club boasting County Champions, Regional Medallists, Welsh National Medallists and record holders and its first ever male British National Qualifier. Over the year a staggering 140 club records were broken, with several going back to the 1980's.

It is not, however, about just a handful of talented individuals, as their recent club championships demonstrated. With over 120 swimmers taking part the club held its biggest ever event which is, for most swimmers, their first ever swimming competition.

So at 80 years, it is fair to say that there is plenty of life in this dear old club and a place where "better never ends".



## Maxwell Swimmer on the Pathway to Success



Harry Maishman (15) of Maxwell Swimming Club in Aylesbury Vale was selected to attend Phase Two of the National England Talent Programme which took place in the first weekend of January.

The Phase Two programme selects the top 120 young swimmers in the Country and allows them to access specific training and education based on their main event. Harry attended the Sprint Freestyle arm of the programme that took place in Liverpool, giving him access to expert coaching and a greater insight into his preferred event the 50m Freestyle.

Harry first started at Maxwell aged four and has progressed to the Performance Squad where he has qualified for National Championships. Harry will be looking to use the additional education and training to kick start his preparations for the British Championships taking place at the London Aquatics Centre in April. Over the next two years he will be looking to take his time under the qualification standard for the European Junior Championships.

Talking about his experience, Harry said, "I feel my training at Maxwell prepared me well for the England Talent Camp and I was able to fully benefit from the training. The camp has given me great information on how to balance my school work with my swimming training demands and I am now in a great position to put all of this into practice."

In addition to Harry using the information to assist in his own training, Harry will also be helping the younger swimmers at the club by passing on his knowledge and acting as a mentor.



## Aylesbury CTC Group

Aylesbury Cyclists' Touring Club invites you to try our circular rides on Sunday mornings. We are a friendly group that welcomes newcomers and our rides include a café stop for refreshments.

Find Aylesbury CTC group on Facebook or visit: [www.southbuckscycling.org.uk](http://www.southbuckscycling.org.uk). For our programme contact Peter Robinson on 01296 425015 or email: [peter.robinson144@gmail.com](mailto:peter.robinson144@gmail.com)

# Activities for Young People

## Kids can get Arty this Easter at Queens Park!

**Elizabeth Browning** will be leading two pottery workshops; 'Pottery March Hares' on 30 March and 'The Owl and the Pussycat' on 1 April. Artist **Pippa North** will host two arts and crafts workshops; 'Watercolour Bunny Bunting' on 31 March and 'Blossoming Spring Moons' on 2 April. All workshops are suitable for ages 7 and up. Places can be booked at: [www.qpc.org](http://www.qpc.org) or call **01296 424332**.



## National Citizen Service

Young people aged between 16-17 years old from Aylesbury Vale have the amazing opportunity to participate in the National Citizen Service this summer with Action4Youth.

The NCS programme provides young people with the chance to challenge themselves, develop team work, leadership and communication skills, through a range of outdoor adventure activities. Then, with the support of the highly experienced team at Action4Youth, they build and deliver a social action project that makes a real difference to their local community.

The programme is running **THIS** summer and start dates are either **Monday 13 July** or **Monday 27 July** for four consecutive weeks. Week 1 will be at PGL Swindon, week 2 at the Caldecotte Xperience in Milton Keynes and weeks 3 and 4 will be home based with groups meeting on a daily basis during weekdays. The cost for the programme is just £50pp, which includes accommodation, transport, activities and food (bursarys are available for young people for whom cost may be an issue).

NCS aims to be about excitement and adventure, fun and friendship. Young people can add to their CV and learn skills that will improve their chances of going to university, college or getting a job.

If you are interested in taking part this summer please contact Emily Davis on **0845 600 9731** or email: [office@action4youth.org](mailto:office@action4youth.org)

## MUGA Project

Following the successful project last year, AVDC will be running sports sessions in the multi use games areas across Aylesbury from the end of April for 6 weeks. Sports will include basketball, touch rugby and rush hockey.

All sessions will be free of charge. For more information please call **01296 585195**.



## Doorways Dance Class

Doorways is a dance class for young people aged 12+ with disabilities and runs at Aqua Vale Leisure Centre on Wednesdays, term time only from 4.00pm – 5.00pm. Participants explore music and movement and work towards performances at the Activate Dance Festival and the Roald Dahl Festival. For more information please call **01296 585195**.



## Activate Dance Festival

Activate Dance Festival will return to the Waterside Theatre this year on 7 and 8 April at 7.00pm. Thirty one dance groups, with over 450 performers will travel from the Vale and beyond to perform on a professional stage. The annual festival, which has been running for over ten years, aims to provide an opportunity for young people to participate in a showcase which celebrates the diversity and quality of youth dance in Aylesbury Vale.

A number of dance groups from Aylesbury will be taking part, including Elevate Street Dance, Susan Diane School of Dance, Aylesbury Vale Academy and Urban Strides. We are also welcoming Castielli School of Dance and Action Hip Hop/Breakdance, to the festival for the first time.

Tickets are priced between £10 and £15 and can be purchased from the Waterside Box Office or by visiting: [www.atgtickets.com/aylesbury](http://www.atgtickets.com/aylesbury) (booking fee applies). For details about the groups performing on each night or more information about the festival call **01296 585310**.

FREE

# St George's Celebration



**Sunday 26 April 2015**

Fun Day 11am – 4pm in Market Square

Scout Parade leaves Market Square at 3.15pm

- Budding squires can learn to show **“Courage, Chivalry & Charity”** just like St George
- Meet a **Victorian story teller** who has encountered dragons & mermaids
- Stilt walking **St George** will take battle with the **dragon** from Broughton Junior school
- **Knights in Battle** demonstration
- **Towersey Morris** performing at 12.25pm and 1.40pm
- **Crafts, activities and much more**



[www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

